

State-Level Monthly Marriage and Divorce Counts, 2017–2022

Codebook

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Project Overview

These data consist of monthly state-level marriage and divorce counts compiled from original datasets obtained as text, CSV, or Excel files from state health department websites, online query systems, or through direct communication with public health and vital statistics officials. The goal of this project is to provide monthly counts of marriage and divorce by state from 2017 through 2022. To compute rates populations at risk of experiencing an event need to be included as denominators. This project was supported by a grant from NIH. All source files were imported into Stata for processing after initial transcription into excel.

Consistent with best practices for data archiving, datasets were documented and preserved in the form in which they were originally acquired. Subsequent revisions, corrections, or updates made by data-producing agencies after the acquisition dates are not incorporated into these files.

Data Construction Methods

Monthly marriage and divorce counts were compiled at the state level for the years 2017–2022. We collected all publicly available files containing monthly state-level marriage and divorce data published by departments of health, state vital statistics, county clerks' offices, and offices of the courts. Some states published at least one year of monthly data during this period, while others provided multiple years of data.

For states with missing data, additional efforts were made to obtain records via emails or phone communication with state vital statistics or health departments. Some states declined or were unable to release their data, and a small number of states do not collect monthly marriage or divorce counts.

Data preparation involved an initial data entry phase conducted in Excel. Because manual transcription is subject to error, all entered values were independently verified by a second individual against the original source files. In parallel with data compilation, source documentation associated with each state's marriage and divorce counts was collected and archived. As counts were transposed to Excel, any relevant contextual or methodological information was recorded and linked to observations using the state's unique identifiers (STATEFP, YEAR, MONTH).

Examples of documented information include whether events were counted by place of occurrence or residence, whether annulments were included in divorce totals, and whether reported counts were designated as preliminary or final by the data-producing agency. Source citations and documentation for each data series were also recorded.

Variable labels and formats used in internal processing files (e.g., Stata) are documented in this codebook but are not embedded in the distributed CSV files due to format limitations.

Primary Data Sources

Monthly marriage and divorce counts were obtained from publicly available datasets released by state health departments, state vital statistics offices, county clerks' offices, and offices of the courts. Data were accessed through official agency websites, online query systems, or provided directly by state agencies in response to email or telephone requests. There is complete monthly marriage data for the period of interest for 43 states and complete divorce data for 41 states. Only one state—Tennessee—did not have any data available; the remaining states have partial or incomplete coverage.

The availability, format, and scope of reported data varied across states. Some states publish monthly marriage and divorce counts routinely, while others release data intermittently or only for select years. In cases where public datasets were incomplete or unavailable, additional efforts were made to obtain records directly from the data-producing agencies. Some states declined to release data, were unable to provide monthly counts, or do not collect marriage or divorce statistics at a monthly cadence.

Source files were obtained in multiple formats, including text files, CSVs, and Excel workbooks. All datasets were presented in their original form at the time of acquisition. Revisions or updates issued by data-producing agencies after the acquisition dates are not reflected in this archive.

State-Level Data Sources

State-specific source information is documented below. For each state, marriage and divorce counts were obtained from publicly available reports, administrative records, or direct communication with the responsible state agency.

Alaska – AK (STATEFP = 02)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Alabama – AL (STATEFP = 01)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/avs2017.pdf>

2018: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/avs2018.pdf>

2019: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/2019avs.pdf>

2020: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/avs2020.pdf>

2021: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthstats/assets/avs2021.pdf>

2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Arkansas – AR (STATEFP = 05)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Arizona – AZ (STATEFP = 04)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/avs/avs17/pdf/avs2017.pdf>

2018: <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/avs/avs18/pdf/avs2018.pdf>

2019: <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/avs/avs19/pdf/avs2019.pdf>

2020: <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/avs/avs20/pdf/avs2020.pdf>

2021: <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/avs/avs21/pdf/avs2021.pdf>

2022: <https://pub.azdhs.gov/health-stats/report/avs/avs22/pdf/avs2022.pdf>

California – CA (STATEFP = 06)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Colorado – CO (STATEFP = 08)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Connecticut – CT (STATEFP = 09)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Washington, D. C. – DC (STATEFP = 11)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Delaware – DE (STATEFP = 10)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017: https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/files/m_d17.pdf

2018: https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/files/m_d18.pdf

2019: https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/files/m_d19.pdf

2020: https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/files/m_d20.pdf

2021: <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/2021.html>

2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Florida – FL (STATEFP = 12)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2017/Marriage.pdf>

2018: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2018/Marriage.pdf>

2019: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2019/Marriage.pdf>

2020: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2020/Marriage.pdf>

2021: <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2021/Marriage.pdf>

2022: Retrieved via the Florida Department of Health’s publicly available data query system, FLHealthCHARTS <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Retrieved via the Florida Department of Health’s publicly available data query system, FLHealthCHARTS <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov>

Georgia – GA (STATEFP = 13)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Hawaii – HI (STATEFP = 15)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: <https://health.hawaii.gov/vitalstatistics/preliminary-marriage-total-same-sex/>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Not available

Iowa – IA (STATEFP = 19)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017:

https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/68/healthstats/vital_stats_2017-20200811.pdf

2018:

https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/68/healthstats/vital_stats_2018-20200811.pdf

2019:

https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/68/healthstats/vital_stats_2019-20201022.pdf

2020:

https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/portals/1/userfiles/68/healthstats/vital_stats_2020-20211117.pdf

2021: https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/idphfiles/vital_stats_2021-20230407.pdf

2022: https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/idphfiles/vital_stats_2022-20230929.pdf

Idaho – ID (STATEFP = 16)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022:

<https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=7262&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS>

Illinois – IL (STATEFP = 17)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2020: Personal communication with state agency staff

2021–2022: Not available

Indiana – IN (STATEFP = 18)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://www.in.gov/health/vital-records/files/2017-Marriage-Report.pdf>

2018: <https://www.in.gov/health/vital-records/files/2018-Indiana-Marriage-Report.pdf>

2019:

<https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/legacy/search.aspx?index=2&search=2019&results=1&searchfields=24&limit=20&page=1&exact=true>

2020:

<https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/legacy/search.aspx?index=2&search=2020&results=1&searchfields=24&limit=20&page=1&exact=true>

2021:

<https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/legacy/search.aspx?index=2&search=2021&results=1&searchfields=24&limit=20&page=1&exact=true>

2022:

<https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/legacy/search.aspx?index=2&search=2022&results=1&searchfields=24&limit=20&page=1&exact=true>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Kansas – KS (STATEFP = 20)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12586/2017-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-PDF>

2018: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12588/2018-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-PDF>

2019: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12590/2019-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-PDF>

2020: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15354/2020-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-PDF>

2021: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25772/2021-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-?bidId=>

2022: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31759/2022-Annual-Summary-Full-Report-PDF>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017: <http://kic.kdheks.gov/OHA/anntable17.html>

2018: <http://kic.kdheks.gov/OHA/anntable18.html>

2019–2022: Not available

Kentucky – KY (STATEFP = 21)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Louisiana – LA (STATEFP = 22)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2020: Personal communication with state agency staff

2021–2022: Not available

Massachusetts – MA (STATEFP = 25)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2020: Personal communication with state agency staff

2021–2022: Not available

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Maryland – MD (STATEFP = 24)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Maine – ME (STATEFP = 23)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/data/documents/marriages2013_2022.pdf

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/data-research/data/documents/divorces2013_2022.pdf

Michigan – MI (STATEFP = 26)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Minnesota – MN (STATEFP = 27)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Missouri – MO (STATEFP = 29)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/mvs17/2017MissouriVitalStatistics.pdf>

2018: <https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/mvs18/2018MissouriVitalStatistics.pdf>

2019: <https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/mvs19/2019MissouriVitalStatistics.pdf>

2020: <https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/mvs20/2020MissouriVitalStatistics.pdf>

2021: <https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/mvs21/2021MissouriVitalStatistics.pdf>

2022: <https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/data.php>

Mississippi – MS (STATEFP = 28)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Montana – MT (STATEFP = 30)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

North Carolina – NC (STATEFP = 37)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017:

https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/marriage_divorce_rpts/2017%20Marriage%20and%20Divorce%20Rates%20by%20Month.html

2018:

https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/marriage_divorce_rpts/2018%20Marriage%20and%20Divorce%20Rates%20by%20Month.html

2019:

https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/marriage_divorce_rpts/2019%20Marriage%20and%20Divorce%20Rates%20by%20Month.html

2020: https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/marriage_divorce_rpts/2020-MarriageAndDivorceRatesByMonth.html

2021–2022: Not available

North Dakota – ND (STATEFP = 38)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Nebraska – NE (STATEFP = 31)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

New Hampshire – NH (STATEFP = 33)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: https://nhvrinweb.sos.nh.gov/nhivs_marriage_query2.aspx

New Jersey – NJ (STATEFP = 34)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: <https://www-doh.state.nj.us/doh-shad/view/sharedstatic/Marriages.xlsx>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

New Mexico – NM (STATEFP = 35)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff; data were not available for all counties (data for 24 out of 33 counties were obtained)

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Not available

Nevada – NV (STATEFP = 32)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

New York – NY (STATEFP = 36)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017: https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2017/table47.htm

2018: https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2018/table47.htm

2019: https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2019/table47.htm

2020: https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2020/table47.htm

2021: https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2021/table47.htm

2022: https://health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2022/table47.htm

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Not available

Ohio – OH (STATEFP = 39)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Oklahoma – OK (STATEFP = 40)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Oregon – OR (STATEFP = 41)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/MarriageData/marr17.pdf>

2018:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/MarriageData/marr18.pdf>

2019:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/MarriageData/marr19.pdf>

2020:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/MarriageData/marr20.pdf>

2021:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/MarriageData/marr21.pdf>

2022:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/MarriageData/marr22.pdf>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DivorceData/divmon17.pdf>

2018:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DivorceData/divmon18.pdf>

2019:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DivorceData/divmon19.pdf>

2020:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DivorceData/divmon20.pdf>

2021:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DivorceData/divmon21.pdf>

2022:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/DivorceData/divmon22.pdf>

Pennsylvania – PA (STATEFP = 42)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/MarriageDivorce/Documents/Marriage_Divorce_2017.pdf

2018:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/MarriageDivorce/Documents/Marriage_Divorce_2018.pdf

2019:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/MarriageDivorce/Documents/Marriage_Divorce_2019.pdf

2020:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/MarriageDivorce/Documents/Marriage_Divorce_2020.pdf

2021:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/MarriageDivorce/Documents/Marriage_Divorce_2021.pdf

2022:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/HealthStatistics/VitalStatistics/MarriageDivorce/Documents/Marriage_Divorce_2022.pdf

Rhode Island – RI (STATEFP = 44)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

South Carolina – SC (STATEFP = 45)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

South Dakota – SD (STATEFP = 46)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://doh.sd.gov/media/2iybgyw4/vital-statistics-report-2017.pdf>

2018: <https://doh.sd.gov/media/h5zjzc5w/vital-statistics-report-2018.pdf>

2019: <https://doh.sd.gov/media/vwqpbvlvj/vitalstatistics-2019.pdf>
2020: <https://doh.sd.gov/media/zonlwkha/vitalstatistics-2020.pdf>
2021: <https://doh.sd.gov/media/cqdiy2tq/vitalstatistics-2021.pdf>
2022: <https://doh.sd.gov/media/x2katkvm/2022-vital-statistics-report.pdf>

Tennessee – TN (STATEFP = 47)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Not available

Texas – TX (STATEFP = 48)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2019: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vital-statistics/marriage-divorce-records/marriage-divorce-indexes>

2020–2022: Not available

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vital-statistics/marriage-divorce-records/marriage-divorce-indexes>

2018–2022: Not available

Utah – UT (STATEFP = 49)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Virginia – VA (STATEFP = 51)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Vermont – VT (STATEFP = 50)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Vital%20Statistics%20Bulletin%202017.pdf>

2018:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Vital%20Statistics%20Bulletin%202018.pdf>

2019: https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/HS-VR-2019VSB_final.pdf

2020:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Vital%20Statistics%20Bulletin%202020.pdf>

2021: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/document/hsi-vital-records-2021-annual-report.pdf>

2022: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/document/hsi-vital-records-2022-annual-report%20%282%29.pdf>

Washington – WA (STATEFP = 53)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Wisconsin – WI (STATEFP = 55)

Marriage sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/stats/marriages.htm>

Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

West Virginia – WV (STATEFP = 54)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017: https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital_Statistics/Documents/Vital2017.pdf

2018: https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital_Statistics/Documents/Vital2018.pdf

2019: https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital_Statistics/Documents/Vital2019.pdf

2020: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/VR/CR/Documents/2020Vital.pdf>

2021–2022: Not available

Wyoming – WY (STATEFP = 56)

Marriage & Divorce sources (monthly counts):

2017–2022: Personal communication with state agency staff

Abbreviations, Rate Definitions, & Computation Methods

Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)

Definition. A set of standardized numeric codes developed by the U.S. federal government to uniquely identify geographic entities such as states and counties. In this dataset, state FIPS codes are provided in numeric formats. When used in tandem with YEAR and MONTH variables, these identifiers uniquely identify states and support consistent merging, sorting, and cross-dataset compatibility across similarly structured data products.

Marriage Counts

Definition. Marriage counts represent the number of marriages recorded in state administrative systems and are based on marriage licenses issued and/or marriage certificates filed within each state. Counts are attributed to the state in which the marriage license or certificate was issued, regardless of the current state of residence of either party.

These data differ conceptually from survey-based estimates (e.g., the American Community Survey), which capture self-reported marital events among residents and do not identify the exact calendar date or state in which a marriage occurred. In contrast, the administrative counts compiled here reflect documented marital events recorded by state authorities, typically tied to the legal jurisdiction responsible for issuing and registering marriage records.

Monthly marriage counts reflect the timing of administrative recording as defined by each state's reporting system and may be based on licenses issued, certificates returned, or finalized records, depending on state practices and documentation.

Divorce Counts

Definition. Divorce counts represent the number of divorces recorded in state administrative systems and are attributed to the state in which the divorce decree was issued. Because divorce proceedings are generally subject to state-specific residency and jurisdictional requirements, these counts closely correspond to the legal dissolution of marriages with each state.

As with marriage counts, these administrative records differ from survey-based estimates. Survey data may reflect self-reported divorce experiences within a recent reference period and may include individuals whose divorces were pending, not finalized, or reported by proxy respondents within a household. The administrative divorce counts compiled here are limited to divorces recorded by the responsible state authority and reflect finalized legal actions as defined by each reporting jurisdiction.

Where noted in state documentation, divorce counts may include related legal decrees such as dissolutions, legal separations, or annulments.

Scope and Comparability

Together, these marriage and divorce counts provide a consistent administrative record of marital events as documented by state agencies. While definitions and reporting practices vary somewhat by state, all counts are based on official administrative records, not survey responses, and are therefore conceptually distinct from population-based estimates derived from household surveys.

File Layout

The dataset is provided in long format. The long format files are intended for longitudinal and panel-based analysis.

Long Format

The long format file is structured to represent one record per state-month observation. The theoretical universe of the data includes 3,672 possible state-month observations (51 states x 6 years x 12 months). State-months for which no data were reported are retained in the file and coded as missing ("."). In addition, in one state, some records were reported without a known month and are included in the file with the month coded as –99. As a result, the long format file contains 3,675 rows.

Each row contains the following types of variables:

- Identification variables
 - statefp: FIPS state code (numeric)
 - state: State abbreviation (USPS)
 - year: Calendar year
 - month: Calendar month
 - time: Sequential month index
- Analytic variables:
 - marriages: Monthly marriages
 - divorces: Monthly divorces

Using the Data

The data files associated with this release are distributed in comma-separated values (CSV) format for broad compatibility across statistical software packages. Variable names in the CSV files correspond exactly to those documented in this codebook. Due to format limitations, variable labels, units, and descriptive metadata are not embedded in the CSV files and should be applied by users after import as needed. All variable definitions, construction details, and summary statistics are provided in this codebook, which serves as the authoritative metadata reference for this data product.

State-Specific Data Notes and Limitations

The following notes apply only to the nine states listed below. All other states have no known state-specific reporting limitations beyond those described in the Project Overview and Methods sections.

Alabama (STATEFP = 01)

Marriage and divorce counts for 2022 are provisional

Arizona (STATEFP = 04)

All counts are derived from county-level totals aggregated within year. For marriage counts, select months are reported without rounding (2017-3, 2017-4, 2017-10, 2018-11, 2019-3, 2019-4, 2019-5, 2020-6, 2020-8, 2020-10, 2020-12, 2021-4, 2021-10, 2021-11).

Divorce counts for 2017-2022 are rounded to the nearest tens unit.

Arkansas (STATEFP = 05)

Marriage counts for 2018-2022 and divorce counts for 2017-2020 are provisional.

California (STATEFP = 06)

Marriage counts represent marriage licenses issued rather than marriages occurring.

Connecticut (STATEFP = 09)

Divorce counts for 2017-2022 reflect dissolutions only. For April and May 2020, data are incomplete due to missing county reports.

Georgia (STATEFP = 13)

Divorce counts for 2017 are grouped by the month received by Vital Records rather than by the month the divorce occurred.

Illinois (STATEFP = 17)

Marriage and divorce counts from March 2020 through December 2020 may reflect reporting interruptions at the county level related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Massachusetts (STATEFP = 25)

Divorce counts for 2017–2019 include months for which the specific month of occurrence is unknown.

Missouri (STATEFP = 29)

Divorce counts include total decrees, encompassing dissolutions, legal separations, and annulments, as specified in the source documentation.

Texas (STATEFP = 48)

Marriage counts for November and December 2018 are unusually low relative to adjacent months and surrounding years. These values reflect the figures reported in the Texas Department of State Health Services (DHS) *Marriage License Application Index* files as downloaded and verified by the research team.

According to DSHS documentation, Texas marriage indexes are compiled from records submitted by county clerks and are not considered comprehensive counts of all marriages occurring in the state. The index files may contain missing, delayed, misreported, or data entry errors, and ongoing corrections to original records may not be reflected in the publicly available files. As such, marriage counts for these months should be interpreted with caution.

Missing Values

0	Data were reported for this state for this year, and value was 0
“.”	Data were not reported for this year in this state
-99	Month of data are unknown

Variable Descriptions & Summary Statistics

statefp	FIPS state code (numeric)
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type: numeric

range: [1,56]

units: 1

unique values: 51

missing . : 0/ 3,675

STATEFP reports the state in which the event occurred/ was issued, using the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) coding scheme. The FIPS scheme orders the states alphabetically.

In its original form STATEFIP is a 2-digit numeric variable, however given conventions of statistical software any leading zeros may have been removed when data were stored as numeric.

Code	Label	Code	Label
01	Alabama	30	Montana
02	Alaska	31	Nebraska
04	Arizona	32	Nevada
05	Arkansas	33	New Hampshire
06	California	34	New Jersey
08	Colorado	35	New Mexico
09	Connecticut	36	New York
10	Delaware	37	North Carolina
11	District of Columbia	38	North Dakota
12	Florida	39	Ohio
13	Georgia	40	Oklahoma
15	Hawaii	41	Oregon
16	Idaho	42	Pennsylvania
17	Illinois	44	Rhode Island
18	Indiana	45	South Carolina
19	Iowa	46	South Dakota
20	Kansas	47	Tennessee
21	Kentucky	48	Texas
22	Louisiana	49	Utah
23	Maine	50	Vermont
24	Maryland	51	Virginia
25	Massachusetts	53	Washington
26	Michigan	54	West Virginia
27	Minnesota	55	Wisconsin
28	Mississippi	56	Wyoming
29	Missouri		

state	State abbreviation (USPS)
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type: string (str2)
 unique values: 51 missing "" : 0/3,675
 examples: "GA"
 "MD"
 "NH"
 "SC"

year	Calendar year
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type: numeric (int)
 range: [2017, 2022] units: 1
 unique values: 6 missing . : 0/3,675
 tabulation:

Freq.	Value
613	2017
613	2018
613	2019
612	2020
612	2021
612	2022

month	Calendar month (1-12)
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type: numeric (byte)
 range: [-99,12] units: 1
 unique values: 13 missing . : 22/3,675

time	Sequential month index				
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type: numeric (byte)
 range: [-99,72] units: 1
 unique values: 73 missing . : 0/3,675

marriages	Monthly marriages				
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type: numeric (int)
 range: [12, 24965] units: 1
 unique values: 2,610 missing . : 219/3,675
 mean: 3137.14
 std. dev: 3659.54
 percentiles: 10% 25% 50% 75% 90%
 378 841.5 1997.5 3851.5 7077

divorces	Monthly divorces				
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type: numeric (int)
 range: [1, 12604] units: 1
 unique values: 1,800 missing . : 480/3,675
 mean: 1393.48
 std. dev: 1687.93
 percentiles: 10% 25% 50% 75% 90%
 184 379 1025 1724 2478

Documentation Notes and Citation

Version History / Release Notes

Version 1.0 (February 2026). Initial public release of monthly state-level marriage and divorce counts for the United States, 2017–2022.

Suggested Citation

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Responsibility for the content and any errors remains with the author.