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FP-14-07 Marital Status in the U.S., 2012

Esther Lamidi

Krista K. Payne
Bowling Green State University, kristaw@bgsu.edu

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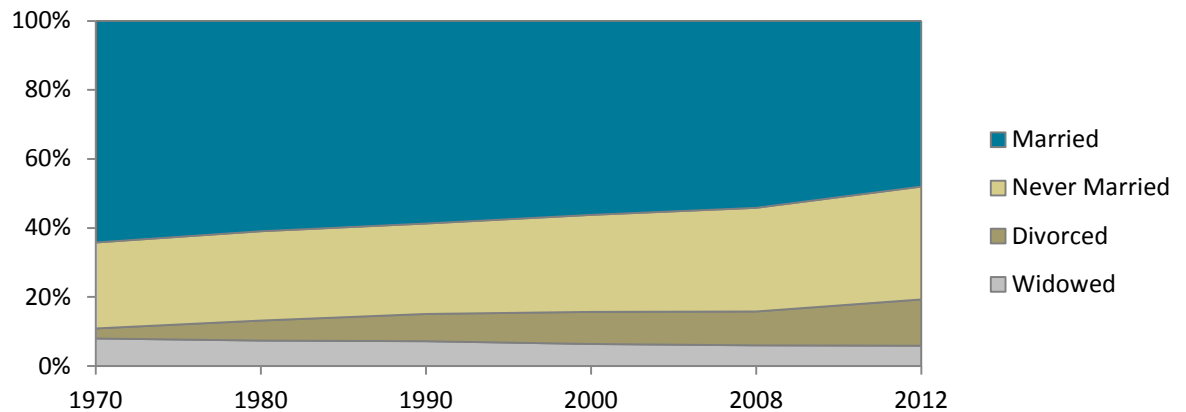
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Change in Current Marital Status in the U.S., 1970-2012

- Less than half of Americans are married, a record low for the past 40 years. The share of Americans divorced—one in eight—is at over a 40-year high point (Figure 1).
 - The percentage of Americans who are married has steadily declined from 64.2 in 1970 to 48.0 in 2012, a 25% decline.
 - The share of Americans who are divorced has increased by more than six-fold since 1970, rising from 2.9 in 1970 to 13.4 in 2012.
 - The percentage of Americans who are never-married grew from 24.9 in 1970 to 32.7 in 2012, a 31% increase.

Figure 1. Marital Status of U.S. Population Aged 15 and Older, 1970-2012

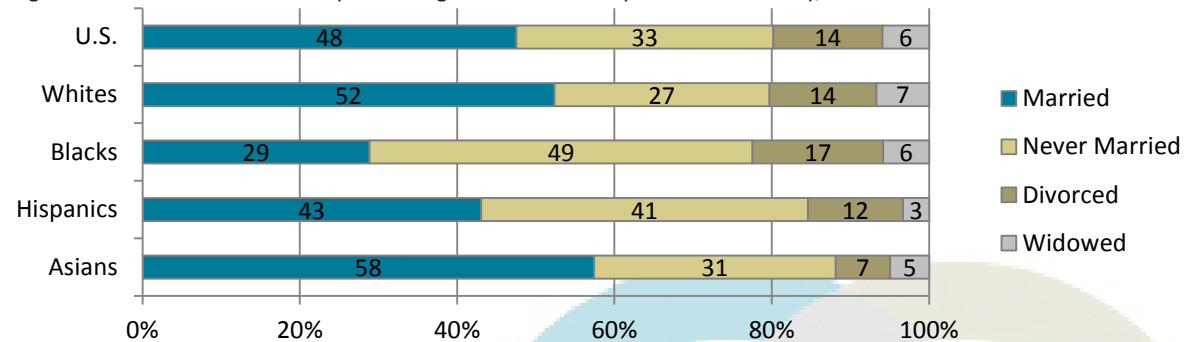


Source: 1970-2000 data, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements. 2008 and 2012 data, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, (IPUMS)

Variation in Current Marital Status According to Race and Ethnicity, 2012

- The proportion of currently married has declined for all race and ethnic groups. More than half of Asian-Americans (57.7%) and Whites (52.4%) are married. About two-fifth of Hispanics (43.2%) and a minority of Blacks (28.9%) are married.
- The share of each race and ethnic group divorced has increased. The percentage divorced is lowest among Asian-Americans (6.5%), followed by Hispanics (12.1%), Whites (13.6%), and Blacks (16.6%). Whites are about twice as likely and Blacks are about three times as likely as Asians to be divorced.
- Nearly one out of two (48.7%) Blacks and two out of five (41.4%) Hispanics are never married. More than one-quarter of Asian-Americans (31.2%) and Whites (27.3%) have never been married.

Figure 2. Marital Status of U.S. Population Aged 15 and Older by Race and Ethnicity, 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 (IPUMS)

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

Proportion of the U.S. Population Married: Geographic Variation in Marriage

- Among all fifty states, Utah ranks number one with 55.6% currently married (Table 1).
- States with the highest proportion of their population married tend to be clustered in the Midwest (Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, North Dakota, and Wisconsin).
- States with the lowest proportion of their population married tend to be located in the South (Delaware, Maryland, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Washington, DC). Washington, DC, ranks last in terms of the percentage of the population married (26.8%) (Table 1).
- For a ranking table with all states (including Washington, DC) organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Figure 3. Geographic Variation of the Proportion of the U.S. Population Married, 2012

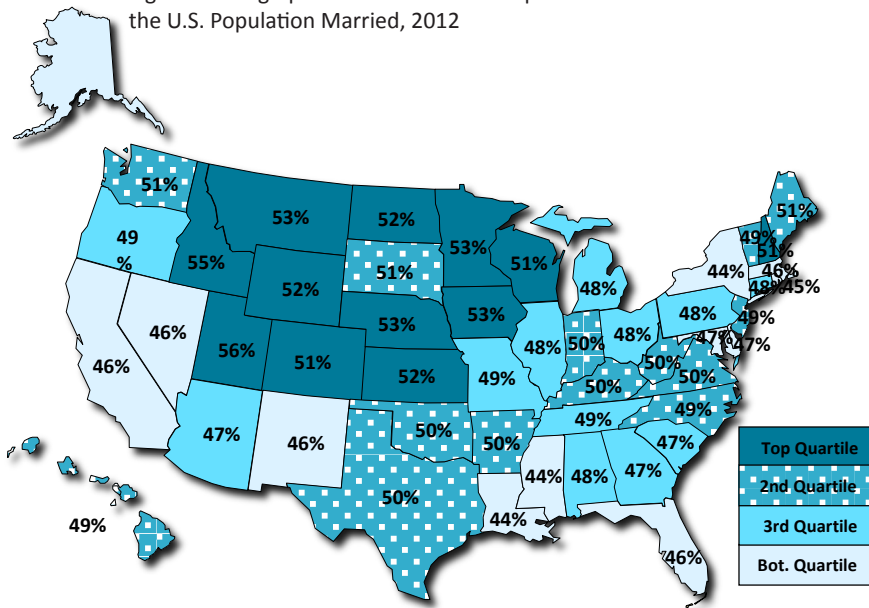


Table 1: Top and Bottom Five Ranking States: Proportion of Population Currently Married, 2012

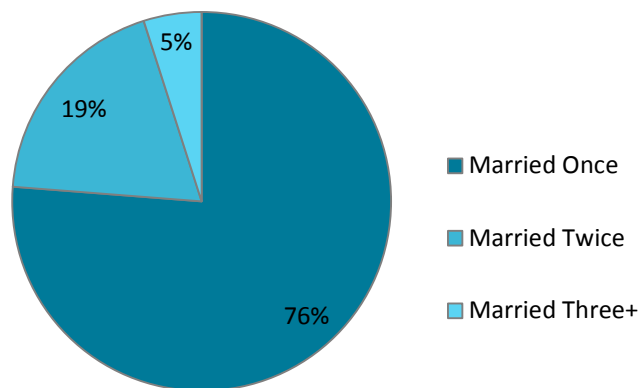
Ranking	State	Percentage
1	Utah	55.6
2	Idaho	54.9
3	Nebraska	53.2
4	Montana	53.1
5	Iowa	52.7
US		48.0
47	Rhode Island	44.5
48	Mississippi	44.2
49	New York	44.1
50	Louisiana	43.8
51	Wash, DC	26.8

Source: American Community Survey, 2012 (IPUMS)

Number of Marriages Among the Ever-Married Population, 2012

- Three out of four of ever-married Americans have been married only one time, 19% twice, and 5% three times or more (Figure 4).
- Geographic variation exists in the frequency of marriage. New Jersey has the highest percentage of men and women married only one time (84%), whereas Arkansas has the lowest (65%). Thirty-five percent of ever-married residents of Arkansas have been married at least two times.
- For a ranking table of the percentage of the ever-married population married once by state (including Washington, DC) organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Figure 4. Number of Marriages Among Ever-Married Population 15 Years and Over



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 (IPUMS)



Table 2. Percentage of Population 15 and Over Currently Married by State, 2012

Ranking	State	Percentage	MOE
1	Utah	55.6	+/- 0.60
2	Idaho	54.9	+/- 1.00
3	Nebraska	53.2	+/- 0.70
4	Montana	53.1	+/- 1.00
5	Iowa	52.7	+/- 0.60
6	Minnesota	52.6	+/- 0.40
7	Wyoming	52.4	+/- 1.60
7	Kansas	52.4	+/- 0.50
7	North Dakota	52.4	+/- 1.20
10	New Hampshire	51.3	+/- 1.00
11	Wisconsin	50.9	+/- 0.40
12	Colorado	50.7	+/- 0.50
13	Maine	50.5	+/- 0.80
13	South Dakota	50.5	+/- 1.10
13	Washington	50.5	+/- 0.40
16	Arkansas	50.2	+/- 0.70
17	Virginia	50.0	+/- 0.40
18	Kentucky	49.9	+/- 0.50
18	West Virginia	49.9	+/- 0.90
20	Oklahoma	49.6	+/- 0.50
20	Indiana	49.6	+/- 0.50
22	Texas	49.5	+/- 0.20
23	Hawaii	49.4	+/- 0.90
23	New Jersey	49.4	+/- 0.30
25	Vermont	49.3	+/- 1.10
26	North Carolina	49.2	+/- 0.40
27	Missouri	49.0	+/- 0.50
27	Oregon	49.0	+/- 0.50
27	Tennessee	49.0	+/- 0.50
30	Pennsylvania	48.2	+/- 0.30
30	Alabama	48.2	+/- 0.50
32	Michigan	48.0	+/- 0.30
	US	48.0	+/- 0.10
32	Connecticut	48.0	+/- 0.60
34	Ohio	47.9	+/- 0.40
35	Illinois	47.7	+/- 0.30
36	Arizona	47.4	+/- 0.50
37	South Carolina	47.3	+/- 0.50
38	Georgia	47.2	+/- 0.40
39	Alaska	47.1	+/- 1.30
40	Delaware	47.0	+/- 1.10
41	Maryland	46.8	+/- 0.40
42	New Mexico	46.2	+/- 0.80
43	California	46.1	+/- 0.20
44	Massachusetts	46.0	+/- 0.40
44	Florida	46.0	+/- 0.30
46	Nevada	45.8	+/- 0.80
47	Rhode Island	44.5	+/- 1.10
48	Mississippi	44.2	+/- 0.70
49	New York	44.1	+/- 0.20
50	Louisiana	43.8	+/- 0.50
51	Wash, DC	26.8	+/- 1.20

Table 3. Percentage of Ever-Married Population Married Once by State, 2012

Ranking	State	Percentage	MOE
1	New Jersey	83.5	+/- 0.20
2	Massachusetts	83.2	+/- 0.30
3	New York	82.7	+/- 0.20
4	Wash, DC	82.4	+/- 1.30
5	Minnesota	81.6	+/- 0.30
6	Connecticut	81.2	+/- 0.40
7	North Dakota	80.8	+/- 0.90
8	Rhode Island	80.2	+/- 0.80
8	Hawaii	80.2	+/- 0.70
10	Pennsylvania	79.8	+/- 0.20
11	California	79.6	+/- 0.20
12	Illinois	79.1	+/- 0.30
12	Wisconsin	79.1	+/- 0.30
14	South Dakota	78.8	+/- 1.00
15	Nebraska	78.3	+/- 0.50
16	Maryland	77.9	+/- 0.40
17	Iowa	77.2	+/- 0.40
18	Utah	76.7	+/- 0.50
	US	76.6	+/- 0.10
19	New Hampshire	76.5	+/- 0.80
20	Virginia	76.0	+/- 0.30
21	Vermont	75.7	+/- 0.90
21	Michigan	75.7	+/- 0.20
23	Delaware	75.0	+/- 0.90
24	Texas	73.9	+/- 0.20
25	Ohio	73.8	+/- 0.20
26	Colorado	73.7	+/- 0.40
27	New Mexico	73.5	+/- 0.70
28	North Carolina	73.2	+/- 0.30
29	Kansas	73.0	+/- 0.50
30	Washington	72.9	+/- 0.30
31	Louisiana	72.3	+/- 0.40
31	Georgia	72.3	+/- 0.30
33	South Carolina	72.1	+/- 0.40
34	Arizona	71.9	+/- 0.50
35	Alaska	71.8	+/- 1.10
35	Maine	71.8	+/- 0.70
37	Indiana	71.1	+/- 0.40
38	Florida	70.5	+/- 0.20
38	West Virginia	70.5	+/- 0.60
40	Missouri	70.3	+/- 0.40
41	Montana	70.0	+/- 0.70
42	Kentucky	69.7	+/- 0.40
43	Mississippi	69.6	+/- 0.70
44	Oregon	69.4	+/- 0.50
45	Alabama	69.3	+/- 0.40
46	Idaho	68.4	+/- 0.80
47	Wyoming	68.3	+/- 1.20
48	Tennessee	68.2	+/- 0.40
48	Nevada	68.2	+/- 0.70
50	Oklahoma	66.4	+/- 0.40
51	Arkansas	64.9	+/- 0.60

Source: American Community Survey, 2012 (IPUMS)

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