

2014

FP-14-10 Remarriage Rate in the U.S., 2012

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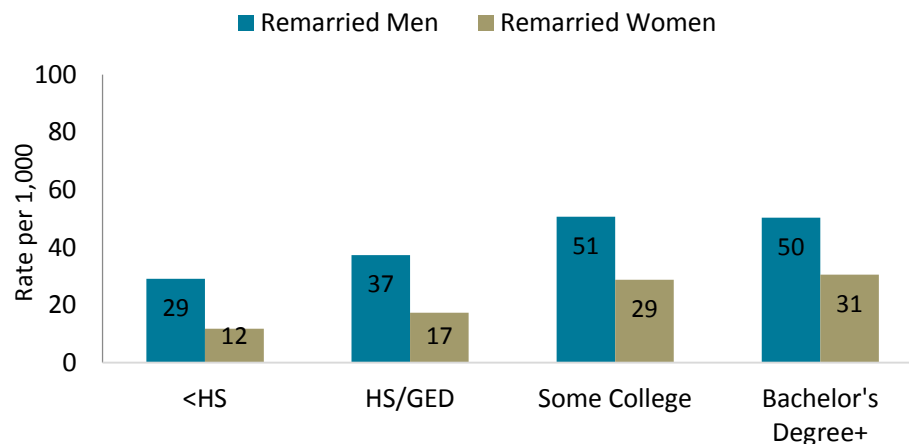
With almost half of all marriages ending in divorce, the U.S. claims the highest divorce rate in the world (Amato, 2010; Cherlin, 2010). Most divorced individuals do not stay single (Sweeney 2010). Data from the mid-1990s indicate 69% of women and 78% of men remarry after a divorce (Schoen and Standish, 2001). Although remarriage rates were declining in the 1980s and 1990s, recent estimates have not been available due to a lack of appropriate data (Sweeney, 2010). The 2012 ACS offers a unique opportunity to estimate the current remarriage rate.

- In 2012, the overall marriage rate was approximately 37 per 1,000—37 marriages occurred per 1,000 unmarried men and women aged 18 and older.
 - The marriage rate was higher for men (39 per 1,000) than for women (34 per 1,000).
- Among all marriages in 2012, nearly one in three (31%) were remarriages.
- The remarriage rate in 2012 was approximately 30 per 1,000—30 remarriages occurred per 1,000 men and women aged 18 and older who were eligible for a remarriage (see *Note* below).
 - The remarriage rate was much higher for men (43 per 1,000) than for women (23 per 1,000).

Educational Attainment of Men and Women Who Remarried, 2012

- There is an educational gradient in the remarriage rate such that remarriage is most common among those with at least some college education.
 - Among those at risk of a remarriage, 51 per 1,000 men and 29 per 1,000 women with at least some college education remarry, whereas less than 38 per 1,000 men and 18 per 1,000 women with a high school degree or less remarry.

Figure 1. Remarriage Rates per 1,000 Men and Women by Educational Attainment, 2012



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

Note: This profile limits analyses to ever married respondents aged 18 and older at risk of a remarriage in the past 12 months. This excludes respondents who indicate being currently married or separated and did not experience a marriage, divorce, or become widowed within the past 12 months. Additionally, this profile excludes respondents who are currently married or separated whose first marriage occurred within the past 12 months.

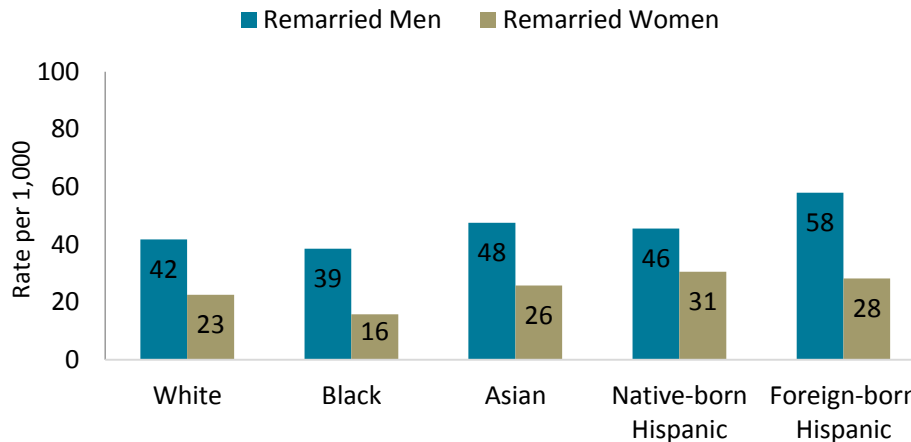
This profile draws on research published in the following articles:

- Amato, P. R. (2010). Research on divorce: Continuing trends and new developments. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72(3), 650-666. DOI: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00723.x
- Cherlin, A. (2010). Demographic trends in the United States: A review of research in the 2000s. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72(3), 403-419. DOI: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00710.x
- Ruggles, S. J., Alexander, T., Genadek, K., Goeken, R., Schroeder, M. B., & Sobek, M. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 5.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2012
- Schoen, R., & Standish, N. (2001). The retrenchment of marriage: Results from marital status life tables for the United States, 1995. *Population and Development Review*, 27(3), 553-563. DOI: 10.1111/j.1728-4457.2001.00553.x
- Sweeney, M. (2010). Remarriage and stepfamilies: Strategic sites for family scholarship in the 21st century. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72(3), 667-684. DOI: 10.1111/j.1741-3737.2010.00724.x

Race, Ethnicity, and Hispanic Nativity of Men and Women Who Remarried, 2012

- Among all race and ethnic groups examined, men were more likely than women to remarry in 2012.
 - Among men, foreign-born Hispanics have the highest rate of remarriage (58 per 1,000), whereas Black men have the lowest (39 per 1,000). In other words, roughly 5.8% of foreign-born Hispanic men eligible for remarriage did so in 2012 compared to 3.9% of eligible Black men.
 - Among women, native-born Hispanics have the highest rate of remarriage (31 per 1,000) followed closely by foreign-born Hispanic women (28 per 1,000), whereas Black women have the lowest rate (16 per 1,000).

Figure 2. Remarriage Rates per 1,000 Men and Women by Race, Ethnicity, and Hispanic Nativity, 2012

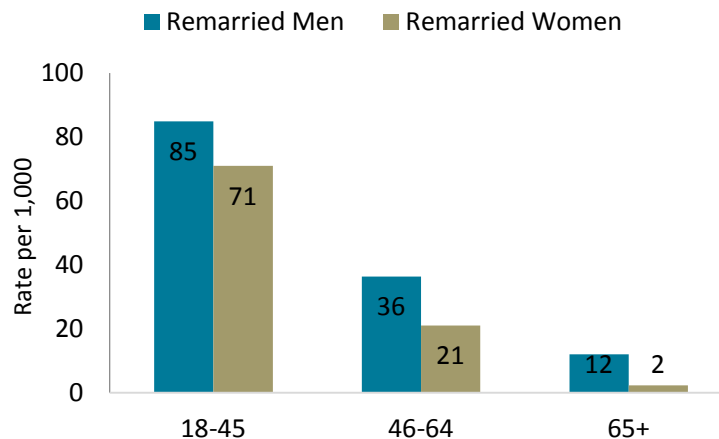


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012 (IPUMS)

Age Distribution of Men and Women Who Remarried, 2012

- The proportion of individuals who remarry declines with age.
 - Among men, those in the youngest age group (18-45) have the highest remarriage rate (85 per 1,000). Men in the oldest age group (65+) have the lowest (12 per 1,000).
 - Among women, those in the youngest age group also have the highest remarriage rate (71 per 1,000), whereas only 2 per 1,000 women aged 65+ remarried in 2012.
- Although more men than women remarry within each age group, the gender gap in remarriage rises with age.
 - There is an 18% difference between the remarriage rates of men and women aged 18-45. This percentage increases to 53% among Baby Boomers (ages 46-64) and 143% among those aged 65 and older.

Figure 3. Remarriage Rates per 1,000 Men and Women by Age, 2012



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

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