

2014

FP-14-15 Marriage Rate in the U.S., 2013

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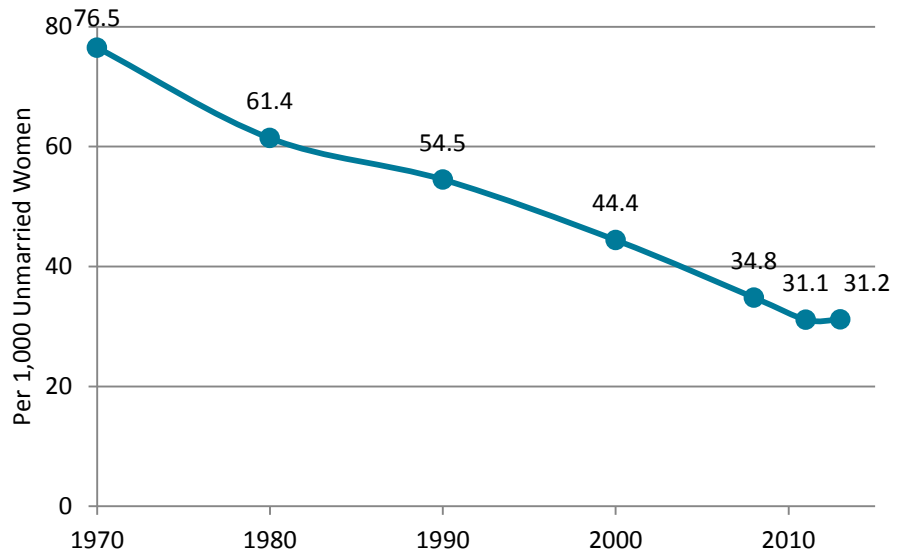
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Change in the Marriage Rate

- As of 2013, the U.S. marriage rate (the estimated proportion of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years and older) remains at a near 40-year low.
- In 2013, about 3.1% of unmarried women aged 15 and older got married. That is roughly 31 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women. From 2011 to 2013, the marriage rate has remained essentially unchanged, increasing by only 0.32% from 31.1 to 31.2.

Figure 1. Marriage Rate in the U.S., 1970-2013



Sources: The 1970, 1980, and 1990 data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics. The 2000 data come from the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC and the Census Bureau, Census 2000. The 2008, 2011 and 2013 data come from the Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008, 2011 and 2013.

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rate, 2013

- In Utah, about 56 women per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 were married in 2013. That is, roughly 5.6% of unmarried women were married in 2013.
- In Rhode Island, about 24 women per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 were married in 2013. About 2.4% of unmarried women were married in that year.
- For a ranking table with all states organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

State Changes in Ranking from 2011 to 2013

- Three out of the five states with the highest marriage rates in 2013 (Utah, North Dakota, and Oklahoma) also had the highest marriage rates in 2011.
- Rhode Island, Washington, DC, New York, and New Jersey were each one of the five states with the lowest marriage rates in 2011 and 2013.
- A slight majority of states (28) experienced decreases in their marriage rates from 2011 to 2013, with rates for Alaska and West Virginia decreasing the most. Twenty-three states experienced increased rates, with South Dakota and Washington, DC experiencing the greatest increases.
 - Alaska moved from 2nd to 11th highest ranking (56.31 to 38.82)
 - West Virginia moved from 18th to 37th highest ranking (35.08 to 29.88)
 - South Dakota moved from 31st to 3rd highest ranking (31.44 to 46.93)
 - Washington, DC moved from 51st to 49th highest ranking (19.24 to 24.70)

Figure 2. Five States with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates

Ranking	State	TMR
1	Utah	55.58
2	North Dakota	49.16
3	South Dakota	46.93
4	Colorado	43.57
5	Oklahoma	42.69
US		31.16
47	Louisiana	25.86
48	New Jersey	25.34
49	Wash, DC	24.70
50	New York	23.99
51	Rhode Island	23.73

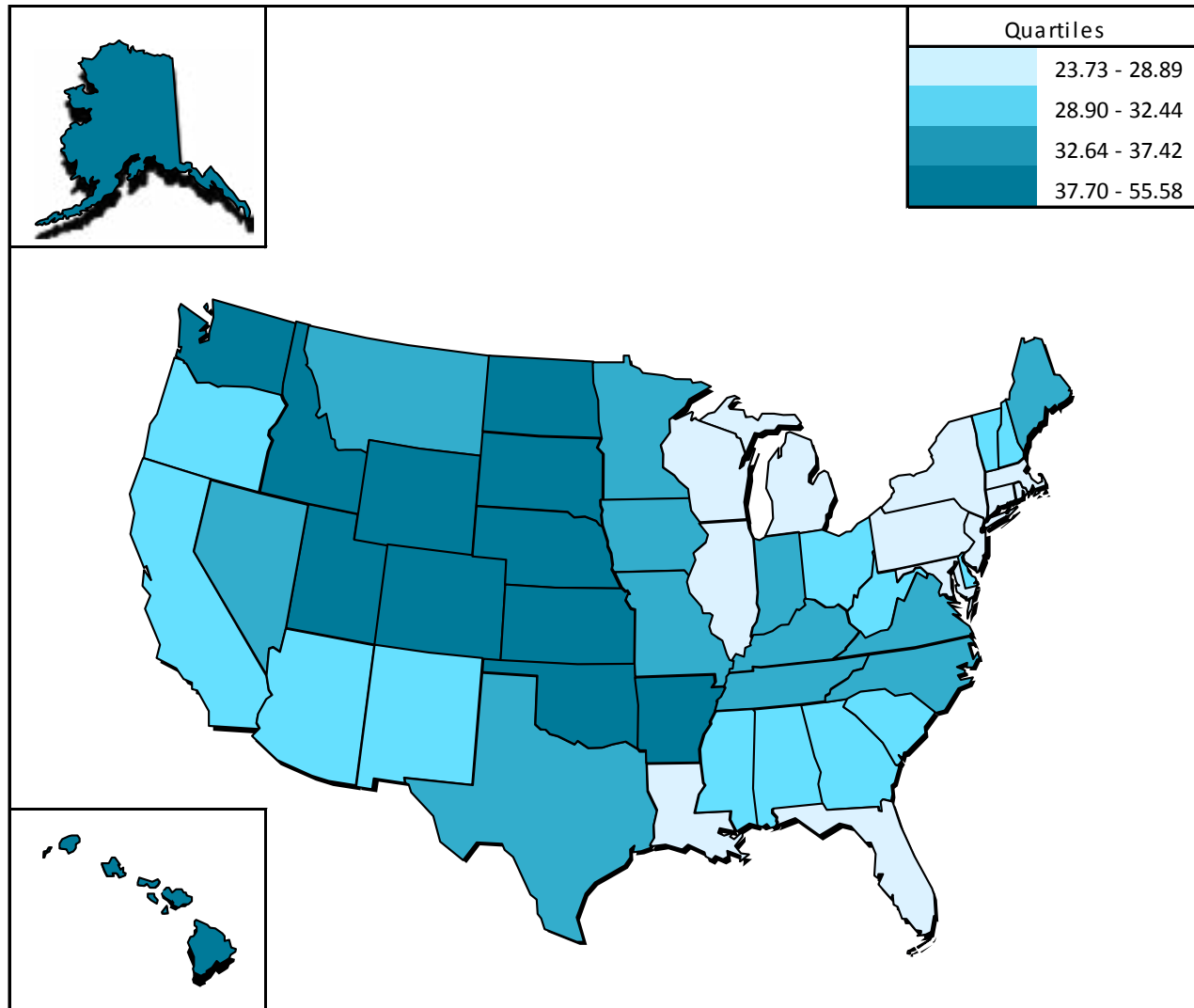
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013

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.

Geographic Variation of the U.S. Marriage Rate, 2013

- Among states with the highest marriage rates, the largest share is located in the western region of the U.S. (Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Hawaii, Alaska, and Washington).
- Among states with the lowest marriage rate, the largest share is located in the northeastern region of the U.S. (Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island).

Figure 3. Geographic Variation of U.S. Marriage Rate Among States



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013

Table 1. Marriage Rate per 1,000
Unmarried Women by State, Organized by
Quartiles, 2013

Rank	State	Rate	MOE
1	Utah	55.58	+/- 6.15
2	North Dakota	49.16	+/- 9.98
3	South Dakota	46.93	+/- 8.20
4	Colorado	43.57	+/- 2.91
5	Oklahoma	42.69	+/- 3.44
6	Idaho	42.55	+/- 6.12
7	Wyoming	41.67	+/- 9.49
8	Kansas	40.58	+/- 3.36
9	Arkansas	40.57	+/- 3.65
10	Hawaii	39.78	+/- 6.26
11	Alaska	38.82	+/- 8.45
12	Washington	38.68	+/- 2.96
13	Nebraska	37.70	+/- 4.47
14	Texas	37.42	+/- 1.15
15	Kentucky	37.21	+/- 3.19
16	Montana	36.26	+/- 6.60
17	Minnesota	35.34	+/- 2.42
18	Nevada	35.16	+/- 4.20
19	Indiana	34.90	+/- 2.56
20	Iowa	34.50	+/- 4.08
21	Tennessee	34.29	+/- 2.86
22	Virginia	33.97	+/- 2.32
23	Missouri	33.54	+/- 2.48
24	Maine	32.70	+/- 5.15
25	North Carolina	32.64	+/- 2.22
26	Mississippi	32.44	+/- 4.01
27	New Mexico	31.71	+/- 3.94
28	Georgia	31.57	+/- 2.00
29	Oregon	31.34	+/- 3.08
30	Alabama	31.17	+/- 2.52
	US	31.16	0.36
31	Vermont	31.09	+/- 6.29
32	Delaware	31.06	+/- 6.91
33	Arizona	30.65	+/- 2.37
34	New Hampshire	30.35	+/- 5.53
35	South Carolina	30.31	+/- 2.67
36	California	30.14	+/- 0.97
37	West Virginia	29.88	+/- 4.25
38	Ohio	28.90	+/- 1.68
39	Wisconsin	28.89	+/- 2.09
40	Maryland	28.17	+/- 1.98
41	Illinois	27.88	+/- 1.68
42	Pennsylvania	27.04	+/- 1.53
43	Connecticut	26.87	+/- 3.11
44	Michigan	26.87	+/- 1.69
45	Florida	25.99	+/- 1.12
46	Massachusetts	25.86	+/- 2.10
47	Louisiana	25.86	+/- 2.91
48	New Jersey	25.34	+/- 1.96
49	Wash, DC	24.70	+/- 5.15
50	New York	23.99	+/- 1.05
51	Rhode Island	23.73	+/- 5.16

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American
Community Survey, 2013

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