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## FP-14-17 Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2013

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# Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2013

Krista K. Payne

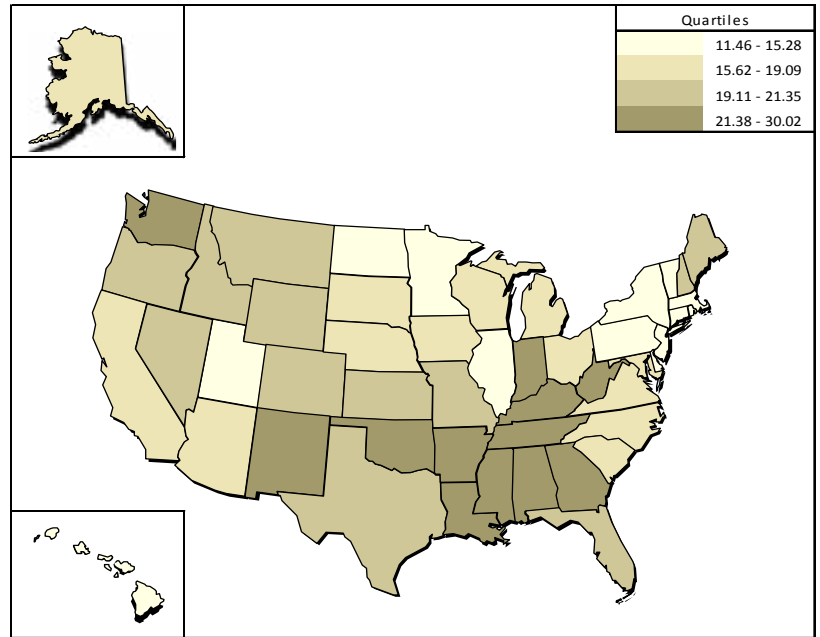
- Approximately half of all current marriages are expected to end in divorce (Kennedy & Ruggles, 2014).
- In 2013, the divorce rate in the U.S. was 18.47. That is, slightly fewer than 19 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2013. This represents a 5% decrease since 2011 when the national divorce rate was 19.44.
- In any given year, there are more marriages than divorces in the U.S. There were almost two marriages for every one divorce in the U.S. in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The divorce rate = [(number of women divorced in the past 12 months) / (number of women divorced in the past 12 months + number of currently married women)] \* 1000

#### Reference:

Kennedy, S., & Ruggles, S. J. (2014). *Breaking Up is Hard to Count: The Rise of Divorce in the United States, 1980-2010*. *Demography*, 51(2), 587-598. doi: 10.1007/s13524-013-0270-9

Figure 1. Geographic Variation of U.S. Divorce Rate Among States\*



### Five States with the Highest and Lowest Divorce Rate, 2013

- In Washington DC, roughly 30 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce.
- In Rhode Island, approximately 12 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce.
- For a ranking table with all states, [click here](#).

Table 1. Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates\*

Rank	State	Divorce Rate
1	Wash, DC	30.02
2	Arkansas	25.09
3	Mississippi	24.98
4	Oklahoma	24.74
5	Alabama	24.46
<b>US</b>		<b>18.47</b>
47	Vermont	13.98
48	Minnesota	13.71
49	Delaware	12.74
50	Hawaii	12.27
51	Rhode Island	11.46

### State Changes in Rankings, 2011 to 2013

- From 2011 to 2013, 70% of state's experienced drops in their divorce rates.
- The two states with the largest decreases in the divorce rate are Rhode Island and Alaska. The two states with the largest increases in the divorce rate are Washington, DC and Louisiana.
  - Rhode Island moved from 34th to 51st highest ranking (18.3 to 11.5).
  - Alaska moved from 1st to 32nd highest ranking (27.7 to 17.8).
  - Washington, DC moved from 3rd to 1st highest ranking (25.8 to 30.0).
  - Louisiana moved from 25th to 6th highest ranking (21.0 to 24.3).

Table 2. Highest and Lowest Ratios of Marriages to Divorces\*

Rank	State	Ratio
1	Hawaii	3.17
2	North Dakota	3.07
3	Utah	2.86
4	Delaware	2.84
5	Rhode Island	2.62
<b>US</b>		<b>1.80</b>
47	Oregon	1.47
48	Florida	1.42
49	Alabama	1.40
50	West Virginia	1.33
51	Louisiana	1.30

### Five States with the Highest and Lowest Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2013

- In 2013, there were many more marriages than divorces in Hawaii. There were approximately three marriages for every one divorce.
- In Louisiana, there were approximately equal numbers of marriages and divorces in 2013. For every one marriage, there was one divorce in 2013.
- For a ranking table with all the states, [click here](#).

### State Changes in Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2011 to 2013

- A minority of states (14) experienced declines in the ratio of marriages to divorces from 2011 to 2013, indicating fewer marriages occurring per every one divorce.
- Rhode Island, in particular, experienced the greatest change in the ratio, increasing from 1.36 in 2011 to 2.62 in 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.

Table 3. Divorce Rate Per 1,000 Married Women by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2013\*

Rank	State	Rate	MOE
1	Wash, DC	30.02	+/- 8.18
2	Arkansas	25.09	+/- 3.23
3	Mississippi	24.98	+/- 3.56
4	Oklahoma	24.74	+/- 2.44
5	Alabama	24.46	+/- 2.84
6	Louisiana	24.32	+/- 2.93
7	Kentucky	23.88	+/- 2.26
8	New Mexico	23.30	+/- 4.48
9	Washington	22.94	+/- 2.08
10	West Virginia	22.88	+/- 3.56
11	Georgia	22.03	+/- 1.97
12	Tennessee	21.50	+/- 1.94
13	Indiana	21.38	+/- 1.86
14	Oregon	21.35	+/- 2.85
15	Florida	20.96	+/- 1.41
16	Idaho	20.91	+/- 4.16
17	Texas	20.35	+/- 1.26
18	Kansas	20.19	+/- 2.55
19	Colorado	19.85	+/- 2.25
20	Missouri	19.84	+/- 2.09
21	Maine	19.75	+/- 3.89
22	Nevada	19.65	+/- 3.45
23	Montana	19.39	+/- 4.99
24	New Hampshire	19.22	+/- 4.41
25	Wyoming	19.11	+/- 5.60
26	South Carolina	19.09	+/- 2.56
27	Michigan	18.82	+/- 1.42
28	Maryland	18.70	+/- 1.89
29	Arizona	18.66	+/- 2.05
30	North Carolina	18.55	+/- 1.73
	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>18.47</b>	<b>+/- 0.30</b>
31	Ohio	18.28	+/- 1.52
32	Alaska	17.78	+/- 5.57
33	Nebraska	17.58	+/- 3.08
34	California	16.83	+/- 0.77
35	Virginia	16.73	+/- 1.74
36	South Dakota	16.49	+/- 4.54
37	Iowa	16.38	+/- 2.03
38	Wisconsin	15.62	+/- 1.51
39	Utah	15.28	+/- 2.47
40	Massachusetts	15.12	+/- 1.52
41	New York	14.64	+/- 0.87
42	North Dakota	14.60	+/- 4.26
43	Pennsylvania	14.44	+/- 1.07
44	Connecticut	14.38	+/- 2.33
45	Illinois	14.23	+/- 1.16
46	New Jersey	14.01	+/- 1.62
47	Vermont	13.98	+/- 5.13
48	Minnesota	13.71	+/- 1.61
49	Delaware	12.74	+/- 4.50
50	Hawaii	12.27	+/- 3.37
51	Rhode Island	11.46	+/- 3.49

Table 4. Ratio of Marriage to Divorce by State Organized by Quartiles, 2013\*

Rank	State	Ratio of marriage to divorce
1	Hawaii	3.17
2	North Dakota	3.07
3	Utah	2.86
4	Delaware	2.84
5	Rhode Island	2.62
6	South Dakota	2.61
7	Minnesota	2.38
8	Vermont	2.29
9	Wash, DC	2.20
10	Illinois	2.14
11	Colorado	2.10
12	Connecticut	2.08
13	Alaska	2.07
14	Pennsylvania	2.06
15	New York	2.01
16	Virginia	2.00
17	California	1.99
18	Massachusetts	1.97
19	Nebraska	1.92
19	Nevada	1.92
19	New Jersey	1.92
22	Iowa	1.89
23	Kansas	1.84
24	Wisconsin	1.83
24	Texas	1.83
26	North Carolina	1.82
27	Wyoming	1.81
	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>1.80</b>
28	Arizona	1.79
28	Montana	1.79
30	Maine	1.72
30	Missouri	1.72
30	Ohio	1.72
30	Maryland	1.72
34	South Carolina	1.71
35	Indiana	1.69
36	Oklahoma	1.67
37	New Mexico	1.66
38	Washington	1.65
39	Idaho	1.63
40	Georgia	1.62
41	Tennessee	1.61
42	Arkansas	1.60
43	Michigan	1.56
44	Mississippi	1.53
45	Kentucky	1.51
46	New Hampshire	1.50
47	Oregon	1.47
48	Florida	1.42
49	Alabama	1.40
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\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013