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FP-13-14 Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011

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Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011

- Approximately half of all current marriages are expected to end in divorce (Raley & Bumpass 2003).
- In 2011, the divorce rate in the U.S. was 19.4. That is, roughly 19 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2011.
- In any given year, there are more marriages than divorces in the U.S.; there were almost two marriages for every one divorce in 2011.¹

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Divorce Rate, 2011

- In Alaska, roughly 28 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2011.
- In Hawaii, approximately 13 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in 2011.
- For a ranking table with all states, click here.

State Changes in Ranking, 2008 to 2011

- From 2008 to 2011, state's divorce rates changed little. Indeed, the U.S. divorce rate has remained stable at approximately 19.
- The two states with the largest increases in the divorce rate are New Hampshire and New Mexico. The two states with the largest decreases in the divorce rate are Washington, DC and Wyoming.
  - New Hampshire moved from 42nd to 5th highest ranking (17 to 25).
  - New Mexico moved from 27th to 6th highest ranking (20 to 25).
  - Washington, DC moved from 1st to 3rd highest ranking (35 to 26).
  - Wyoming moved from 2nd to 32nd highest ranking (27 to 19).

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Divorce Rate, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>TDR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>27.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wash, DC</td>
<td>25.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>25.43</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>US</td>
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<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>14.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>12.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Changes in Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2008 to 2011

- In 2011, there were many more marriages than divorces in Hawaii, approximately three marriages for every one divorce.
- In New Hampshire, there were approximately equal numbers of marriages and divorces in 2011. For every one marriage, there was one divorce in 2011.
- For a ranking table with all the states, click here.

State Changes in Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2008 to 2011

- The majority of states (36) experienced declines in the ratio of marriages to divorces from 2008 to 2011, indicating fewer marriages occurring per every one divorce.
- Hawaii, in particular, experienced the greatest change in the ratio, increasing from 2.28 in 2008 to 3.32 in 2011.

¹ The U.S. 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
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