

2013

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Cruz, Julissa, "FP-13-14 Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011" (2013). *National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles*. 116.

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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

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

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).

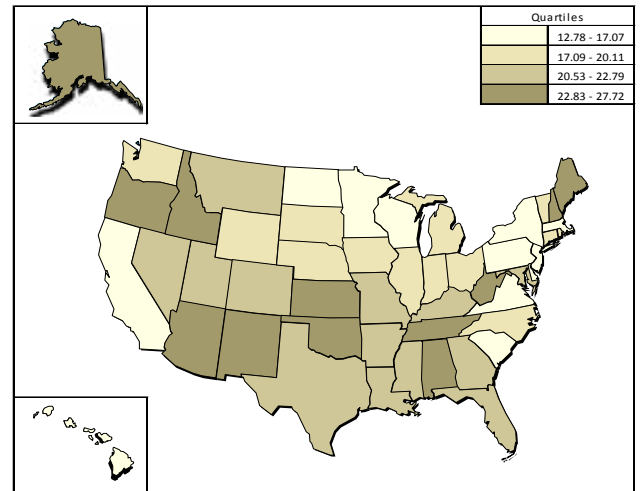
Five States with the Highest and Lowest Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2011

Figure 3. Highest and Lowest Ratios of Marriage to Divorce

| Ranking | State | Ratio |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| 1 | Hawaii | 3.32 |
| 2 | North Dakota | 2.86 |
| 3 | Utah | 2.15 |
| 4 | Wash, DC | 2.15 |
| 5 | Wyoming | 2.11 |
| | US | 1.68 |
| 47 | West Virginia | 1.39 |
| 48 | Oregon | 1.38 |
| 49 | Rhode Island | 1.36 |
| 50 | Alabama | 1.32 |
| 51 | New Hampshire | 1.09 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

Figure 2. Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates

| Ranking | State | TDR |
|---------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | Alaska | 27.72 |
| 2 | Alabama | 27.57 |
| 3 | Wash, DC | 25.81 |
| 4 | Tennessee | 25.43 |
| 5 | New Hampshire | 25.32 |
| | US | 19.44 |
| 47 | Minnesota | 14.73 |
| 48 | North Dakota | 14.52 |
| 49 | Wisconsin | 14.41 |
| 50 | New Jersey | 14.33 |
| 51 | Hawaii | 12.78 |

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

Figure 4. Divorce Rate Per 1,000 Married Women by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2011

| Rank | State | Divorce Rate | MOE |
|------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Alaska | 27.72 | +/- 8.12 |
| 2 | Alabama | 27.57 | +/- 2.53 |
| 3 | Washington, DC | 25.81 | +/- 10.12 |
| 4 | Tennessee | 25.43 | +/- 2.83 |
| 5 | New Hampshire | 25.32 | +/- 5.29 |
| 6 | New Mexico | 25.20 | +/- 4.53 |
| 7 | West Virginia | 25.07 | +/- 4.00 |
| 8 | Oklahoma | 24.11 | +/- 2.49 |
| 9 | Arizona | 23.92 | +/- 2.83 |
| 10 | Idaho | 23.66 | +/- 4.73 |
| 11 | Maine | 23.39 | +/- 4.58 |
| 12 | Oregon | 22.87 | +/- 3.18 |
| 13 | Kansas | 22.83 | +/- 3.40 |
| 14 | Montana | 22.79 | +/- 5.36 |
| 15 | Nevada | 22.72 | +/- 4.43 |
| 16 | Texas | 22.72 | +/- 1.43 |
| 17 | Mississippi | 22.12 | +/- 3.87 |
| 18 | Georgia | 21.85 | +/- 2.28 |
| 19 | Arkansas | 21.83 | +/- 3.25 |
| 20 | Maryland | 21.77 | +/- 2.53 |
| 21 | Colorado | 21.55 | +/- 2.45 |
| 22 | Missouri | 21.52 | +/- 1.91 |
| 23 | Utah | 21.44 | +/- 3.37 |
| 24 | Kentucky | 20.99 | +/- 2.18 |
| 25 | Louisiana | 20.96 | +/- 2.68 |
| 26 | Florida | 20.53 | +/- 1.93 |
| 27 | Indiana | 20.11 | +/- 1.74 |
| 28 | Washington | 20.05 | +/- 1.80 |
| 29 | Ohio | 19.52 | +/- 1.54 |
| 30 | Michigan | 19.45 | +/- 1.26 |
| | US | 19.44 | +/- 0.34 |
| 31 | North Carolina | 19.27 | +/- 2.17 |
| 32 | Wyoming | 18.94 | +/- 5.59 |
| 33 | South Dakota | 18.72 | +/- 5.13 |
| 34 | Rhode Island | 18.27 | +/- 5.13 |
| 35 | Nebraska | 18.12 | +/- 3.37 |
| 36 | Connecticut | 18.11 | +/- 2.42 |
| 37 | Vermont | 18.05 | +/- 6.31 |
| 38 | Iowa | 17.14 | +/- 2.65 |
| 39 | Illinois | 17.09 | +/- 1.26 |
| 40 | Virginia | 17.07 | +/- 1.62 |
| 41 | South Carolina | 17.02 | +/- 2.28 |
| 42 | California | 16.74 | +/- 0.87 |
| 43 | New York | 16.59 | +/- 1.03 |
| 44 | Delaware | 16.08 | +/- 3.86 |
| 45 | Pennsylvania | 15.60 | +/- 1.08 |
| 46 | Massachusetts | 15.32 | +/- 1.79 |
| 47 | Minnesota | 14.73 | +/- 1.70 |
| 48 | North Dakota | 14.52 | +/- 4.04 |
| 49 | Wisconsin | 14.41 | +/- 1.56 |
| 50 | New Jersey | 14.33 | +/- 1.43 |
| 51 | Hawaii | 12.78 | +/- 3.02 |

Figure 5. Ratio of Marriage to Divorce by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2011

| Rank | State | Ratio of marriage to divorce |
|------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Hawaii | 3.32 |
| 2 | North Dakota | 2.86 |
| 3 | Utah | 2.15 |
| 4 | Washington, DC | 2.15 |
| 5 | Wyoming | 2.11 |
| 6 | Wisconsin | 2.08 |
| 7 | Minnesota | 1.96 |
| 8 | Nebraska | 1.96 |
| 9 | Delaware | 1.92 |
| 10 | California | 1.92 |
| 11 | Alaska | 1.91 |
| 12 | Massachusetts | 1.91 |
| 13 | Iowa | 1.83 |
| 14 | Vermont | 1.82 |
| 15 | South Carolina | 1.80 |
| 16 | New York | 1.79 |
| 17 | North Carolina | 1.79 |
| 18 | Colorado | 1.78 |
| 19 | Virginia | 1.76 |
| 20 | Illinois | 1.75 |
| 21 | Oklahoma | 1.74 |
| 22 | New Jersey | 1.72 |
| 23 | Washington | 1.72 |
| 24 | Arkansas | 1.71 |
| 25 | Pennsylvania | 1.71 |
| | US | 1.68 |
| 26 | Texas | 1.67 |
| 27 | Georgia | 1.67 |
| 28 | Indiana | 1.67 |
| 29 | Mississippi | 1.67 |
| 30 | Michigan | 1.63 |
| 31 | Louisiana | 1.61 |
| 32 | Ohio | 1.60 |
| 33 | Montana | 1.57 |
| 34 | Idaho | 1.54 |
| 35 | South Dakota | 1.52 |
| 36 | Kentucky | 1.52 |
| 37 | Arizona | 1.51 |
| 38 | Missouri | 1.46 |
| 39 | Nevada | 1.45 |
| 40 | Connecticut | 1.45 |
| 41 | Maryland | 1.44 |
| 42 | New Mexico | 1.43 |
| 43 | Tennessee | 1.43 |
| 44 | Maine | 1.43 |
| 45 | Florida | 1.41 |
| 46 | Kansas | 1.41 |
| 47 | West Virginia | 1.39 |
| 48 | Oregon | 1.38 |
| 49 | Rhode Island | 1.36 |
| 50 | Alabama | 1.32 |
| 51 | New Hampshire | 1.09 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011

Suggested Citation:
 Cruz, J. (2013). *Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2011*. (FP-13-14). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from <http://www.bgsu.edu/content/dam/BGSU/college-of-arts-and-sciences/NCFMR/documents/FP/FP-13-14.pdf>



This project was supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, grant number 5 UOI AE000001-05. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the federal government.