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## FP-10-01 Marital Status in the U.S., 2008

Krista K. Payne

*Bowling Green State University*, [kristaw@bgsu.edu](mailto:kristaw@bgsu.edu)

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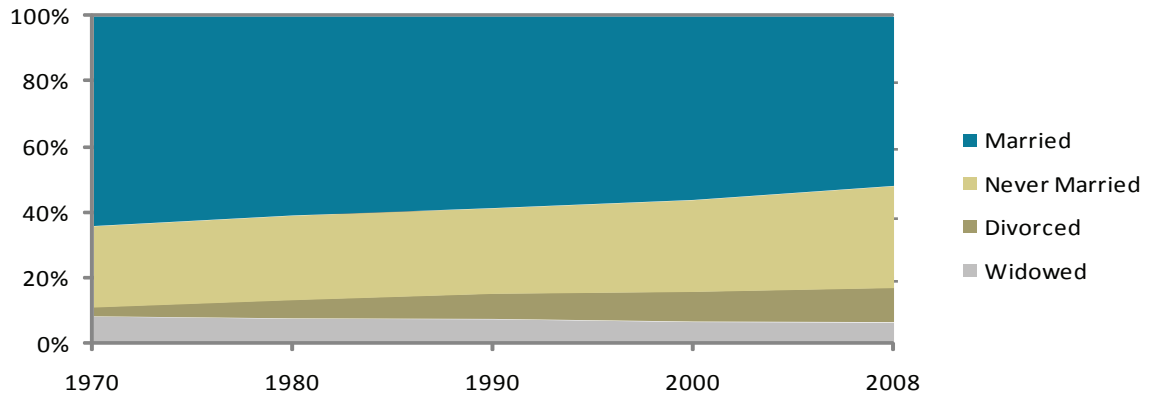
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# Marital Status in the U.S., 2008

## Change in Marital Status in the U.S., 1970-2008

- Since 1970, the percentage of Americans that are married has decreased while the percentage that are divorced has increased (Figure 1).
  - » The percent of Americans that are married has decreased from 64.2 in 1970 to 51.9 in 2008, a 20% decline.
  - » The percent of Americans that are divorced has increased from 2.9 in 1970 to 10.7 in 2008, more than a three-fold increase.
  - » The percent of Americans that are never-married has modestly increased from 24.9 in 1970 to 31.2 in 2008.

Figure 1: Marital Status of U.S. Population Aged 15 and Older, 1970-2008

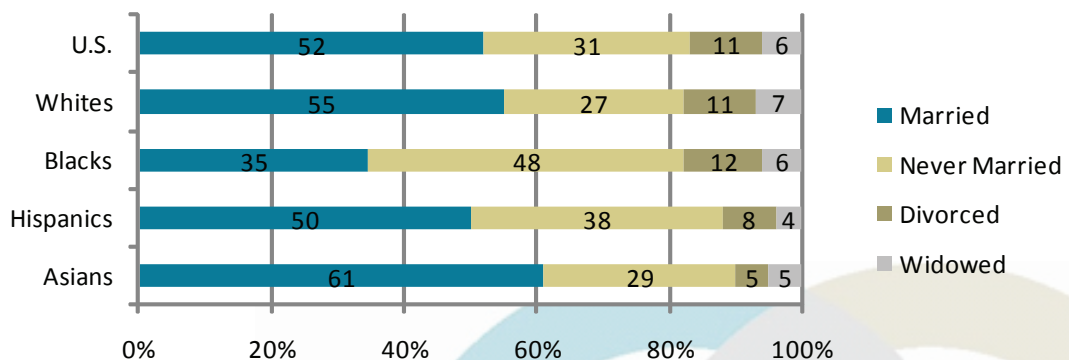


Source: 1970-2000 data, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements; 2008 data, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

## Variation in Marital Status According to Race and Ethnicity, 2008

- Most Asian-Americans (60.7%) and Whites (55.1%) are married. Nearly half of Hispanics (49.9%) and a minority of Blacks (34.6%) are married.
- The percent divorced is lowest among Asian-Americans (5.2), followed by Hispanics (8.1), Whites (11.3), and Blacks (11.7). Blacks and Whites are more than twice as likely as Asians to be divorced.
- Nearly one out of two (47.6%) Blacks are never married, followed by Hispanics (38.4%), and more than one-quarter of Asian-Americans (29.4%), and Whites (26.7%).

Figure 2: Marital Status of U.S. Population Aged 15 and Older by Race and Ethnicity, 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

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.

### Proportion of the U.S. Population Married: Geographic Variation in Marriage

- Among all fifty states, Idaho ranks number one with 58.3% currently married (Table 1).
- States with the highest proportion of their population married tend to be clustered in the West North Central Region (North Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota) (Figure 3).
- States with the lowest proportion of their population married tend to be located in the Western Region of the U.S. (New Mexico, Alaska, California, and Arizona) (Figure 3). Washington, DC, ranks last in terms of the percent of the population married (28.4%) (Table 1).
- For a ranking table with all states (including Washington, DC) organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Figure 3: Geographic Variation of the Proportion of the U.S. Population Married, 2008

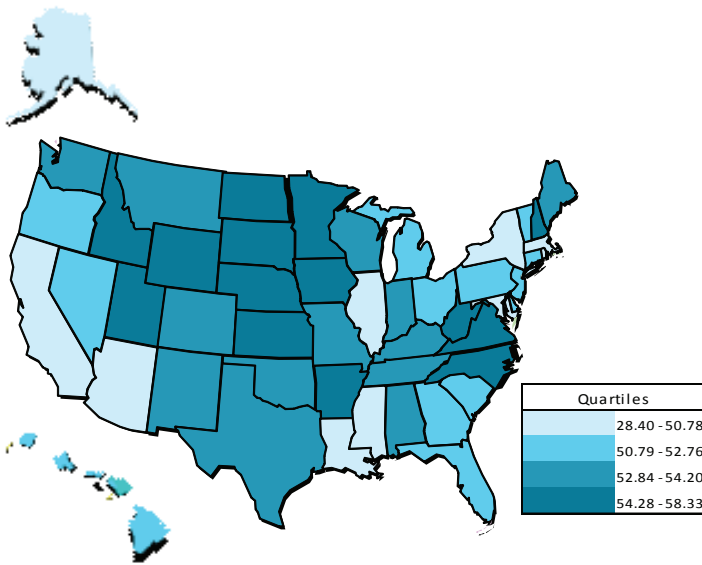


Table 1: Top and Bottom Five Ranking States: Proportion of Population Currently Married, 2008

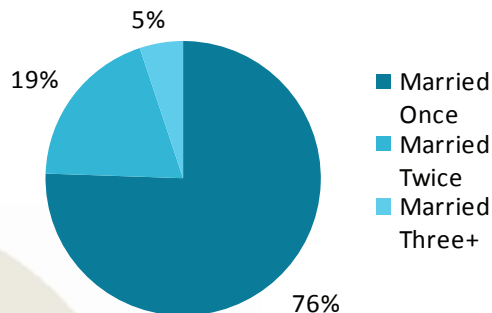
Ranking	State	Percentage
1	Idaho	58.3
2	Utah	57.1
3	Wyoming	56.1
4	North Dakota	55.7
5	Kansas	55.6
<b>U.S.</b>		<b>51.9</b>
47	Louisiana	49.3
48	New Mexico	48.9
49	New York	48.4
50	Rhode Island	47.5
51	Wash, DC	28.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

### Number of Marriages among the Ever-Married Population, 2008

- Three out of four of ever-married Americans have been married only one time, 19% twice, and 5% three times or more (Figure 4).
- Geographic variations exist in the frequency of marriage. Massachusetts and New Jersey both have the highest percent of men and women married only one time (84), while Oklahoma (66.2) and Arkansas (62.2) have the lowest (Table 3). Thirty-five percent of ever-married residents of Oklahoma, and 34% of ever-married residents of Arkansas have been married at least two times.
- For a ranking table of the percentage of the ever-married population married once by state (including Washington, DC) organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Figure 4: Number of Marriages among Ever Married Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

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Table 2: Percentage of U.S. Population 15 and Over Currently Married by State, 2008

Ranking	State	Percentage	ME
1	Idaho	58.3	+/- 0.76
2	Utah	57.1	+/- 0.57
3	Wyoming	56.1	+/- 1.24
4	North Dakota	55.7	+/- 0.96
5	Kansas	55.6	+/- 0.47
5	Iowa	55.6	+/- 0.45
7	Nebraska	55.3	+/- 0.59
8	New Hampshire	54.9	+/- 0.76
9	West Virginia	54.7	+/- 0.71
10	North Carolina	54.6	+/- 0.32
10	South Dakota	54.6	+/- 0.87
12	Virginia	54.5	+/- 0.32
13	Minnesota	54.4	+/- 0.36
14	Arkansas	54.3	+/- 0.55
15	Oklahoma	54.2	+/- 0.45
15	Kentucky	54.2	+/- 0.49
17	Texas	53.8	+/- 0.20
17	Wisconsin	53.8	+/- 0.30
19	Tennessee	53.7	+/- 0.39
20	Colorado	53.6	+/- 0.41
21	Missouri	53.4	+/- 0.37
22	Indiana	53.3	+/- 0.40
23	Montana	53.2	+/- 0.88
23	Washington	53.2	+/- 0.38
25	Maine	53.0	+/- 0.76
26	Alabama	52.8	+/- 0.44
26	Oregon	52.8	+/- 0.48
28	New Jersey	52.6	+/- 0.28
29	Vermont	52.1	+/- 1.02
30	Pennsylvania	52.0	+/- 0.20
	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>+/- 0.07</b>
31	South Carolina	51.9	+/- 0.43
31	Hawaii	51.9	+/- 0.76
33	Connecticut	51.8	+/- 0.45
34	Florida	51.5	+/- 0.22
34	Ohio	51.5	+/- 0.25
36	Georgia	51.2	+/- 0.34
37	Michigan	50.9	+/- 0.27
38	Delaware	50.8	+/- 0.94
38	Nevada	50.8	+/- 0.65
38	Maryland	50.8	+/- 0.39
41	Illinois	50.5	+/- 0.25
42	Arizona	50.4	+/- 0.39
43	Mississippi	50.1	+/- 0.63
44	California	49.8	+/- 0.14
45	Alaska	49.6	+/- 1.06
46	Massachusetts	49.4	+/- 0.35
47	Louisiana	49.3	+/- 0.45
48	New Mexico	48.9	+/- 0.65
49	New York	48.4	+/- 0.21
50	Rhode Island	47.5	+/- 0.90
51	Wash, DC	28.4	+/- 0.99

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

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Table 3: Percentage of Ever-Married Population Married Once by State, 2008

Ranking	State	Percentage	Margin of Error
1	Massachusetts	83.8	+/- 0.30
2	New Jersey	83.7	+/- 0.22
3	New York	82.9	+/- 0.17
4	Wash, DC	82.5	+/- 1.34
5	North Dakota	81.6	+/- 0.80
5	Minnesota	81.6	+/- 0.28
7	Connecticut	80.8	+/- 0.37
8	Rhode Island	80.4	+/- 0.70
9	Hawaii	80.2	+/- 0.68
10	Pennsylvania	80.0	+/- 0.21
11	Wisconsin	79.7	+/- 0.29
12	Illinois	79.2	+/- 0.20
13	California	78.9	+/- 0.16
14	South Dakota	78.8	+/- 0.72
15	Maryland	78.1	+/- 0.35
16	Nebraska	78.0	+/- 0.61
17	Utah	76.9	+/- 0.64
18	Iowa	76.6	+/- 0.48
19	Michigan	76.1	+/- 0.27
20	Vermont	76.0	+/- 0.93
21	Virginia	75.8	+/- 0.38
22	New Hampshire	75.7	+/- 0.80
	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>+/- 0.07</b>
23	Delaware	75.2	+/- 1.06
24	Ohio	74.3	+/- 0.30
25	Texas	74.1	+/- 0.20
26	North Carolina	73.9	+/- 0.32
27	South Carolina	73.5	+/- 0.42
28	Kansas	73.2	+/- 0.55
28	Colorado	73.2	+/- 0.49
30	Louisiana	73.0	+/- 0.48
31	New Mexico	72.9	+/- 0.73
32	Maine	72.7	+/- 0.64
33	West Virginia	72.6	+/- 0.68
33	Georgia	72.6	+/- 0.36
35	Arizona	72.2	+/- 0.44
36	Washington	72.1	+/- 0.41
37	Montana	71.9	+/- 0.87
38	Indiana	71.7	+/- 0.43
39	Missouri	71.1	+/- 0.44
40	Idaho	70.8	+/- 0.81
41	Kentucky	70.3	+/- 0.46
42	Florida	70.1	+/- 0.26
43	Mississippi	70.0	+/- 0.66
44	Alaska	69.9	+/- 1.09
45	Oregon	69.5	+/- 0.46
46	Alabama	68.8	+/- 0.42
47	Tennessee	68.7	+/- 0.41
48	Wyoming	68.4	+/- 1.40
49	Nevada	68.2	+/- 0.65
50	Oklahoma	66.2	+/- 0.43
51	Arkansas	62.2	+/- 0.62

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

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