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FP-09-01 Marriage Rate in the U.S., 2008

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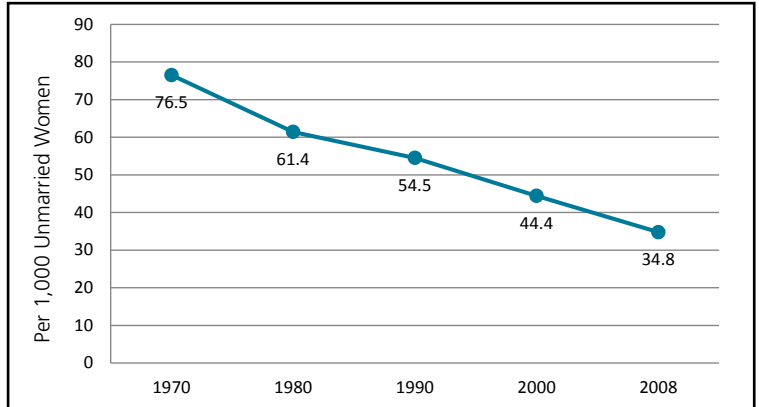
Marriage Rate in the U.S., 2008

Krista K. Payne

Change in Marriage Rate in the U.S., 1970 - 2008

- Since 1970, the marriage rate in the U.S. has been declining. This is estimated as the proportion of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years and over.
- Last year, 4,554,102 individuals aged 15 and older married.
- In 2008, about 3.5% of unmarried women got married. That is roughly 35 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women.

Marriage Rate in the U.S., 1970 - 2008



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 data come from the Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008.

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rate, 2008

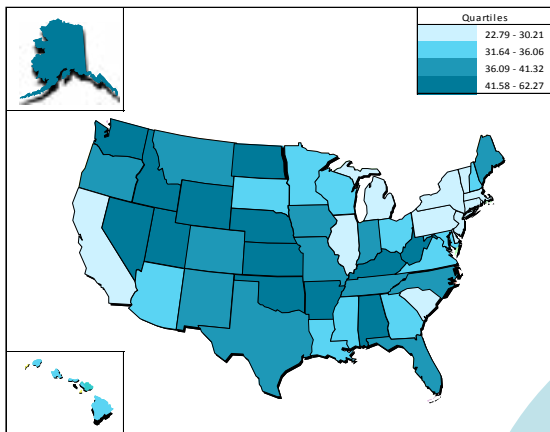
- In Utah, about 62 women per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 got married in 2008. In other words, roughly 6.2% of unmarried women got married in that year.
- In Washington DC, about 23 women per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 got married in 2008. About 2.3% of unmarried women got married in that year.
- For a ranking table with all states organized by quartiles, [click here](#).

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rate

Ranking	State	TMR
1	Utah	62.27
2	Wyoming	59.43
3	Idaho	56.57
4	North Dakota	51.09
5	Nebraska	49.24
US		34.78
47	New York	26.59
48	Delaware	26.54
49	Massachusetts	24.81
50	Rhode Island	24.73
51	Wash, DC	22.79

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

Geographic Variation of U.S. Marriage Rate Among States



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

Geographic Variation of the U.S. Marriage Rate, 2008

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

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.

Marriage Rate per 1,000 Unmarried Women by State, Organized by Quartiles, 2008

[Return to previous page](#)

Ranking	State	Marriage Rate	Margin of Error
1	Utah	62.27	+/- 6.5
2	Wyoming	59.43	+/- 11.5
3	Idaho	56.57	+/- 6.5
4	North Dakota	51.09	+/- 9.2
5	Nebraska	49.24	+/- 5.5
6	Arkansas	48.69	+/- 4.3
7	Alaska	47.81	+/- 9.1
8	Oklahoma	46.24	+/- 3.8
9	Kansas	45.85	+/- 4.7
10	Colorado	42.75	+/- 3.9
11	Nevada	42.5	+/- 5.1
12	Washington	42.43	+/- 2.8
13	Texas	41.58	+/- 1.9
14	Iowa	41.32	+/- 4.1
15	Kentucky	40.23	+/- 3.9
16	Alabama	40.22	+/- 3.0
17	New Mexico	40.04	+/- 5.1
18	Oregon	38.24	+/- 4.0
19	Montana	38.05	+/- 5.9
20	North Carolina	37.7	+/- 2.7
21	Virginia	37.69	+/- 2.2
22	Wisconsin	37.66	+/- 2.9
23	Missouri	37.47	+/- 2.8
24	Minnesota	37.24	+/- 2.8
25	Indiana	36.77	+/- 2.5
26	Tennessee	36.09	+/- 3.1
27	West Virginia	36.06	+/- 5.1
28	Georgia	35.98	+/- 2.3
29	Louisiana	35.62	+/- 3.1
30	South Dakota	35.44	+/- 8.1
31	Hawaii	35.36	+/- 6.0
32	Mississippi	35.31	+/- 3.6
	US	34.78	+/- 0.4
33	Maryland	34.2	+/- 3.1
34	California	33.42	+/- 1.1
35	Florida	33.12	+/- 1.4
36	Maine	32.68	+/- 4.9
37	New Hampshire	32.56	+/- 5.2
38	Arizona	32.16	+/- 2.4
39	Ohio	31.64	+/- 1.8
40	New Jersey	30.21	+/- 2.2
41	Connecticut	30.1	+/- 3.4
42	Michigan	30.02	+/- 1.7
43	South Carolina	29.83	+/- 3.0
44	Illinois	28.68	+/- 1.7
45	Vermont	28.63	+/- 6.7
46	Pennsylvania	27.8	+/- 1.5
47	New York	26.59	+/- 1.4
48	Delaware	26.54	+/- 6.0
49	Massachusetts	24.81	+/- 2.2
50	Rhode Island	24.73	+/- 4.7
51	Wash, DC	22.79	+/- 5.0

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

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