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## FP-09-02 Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2008

S. Kawamura

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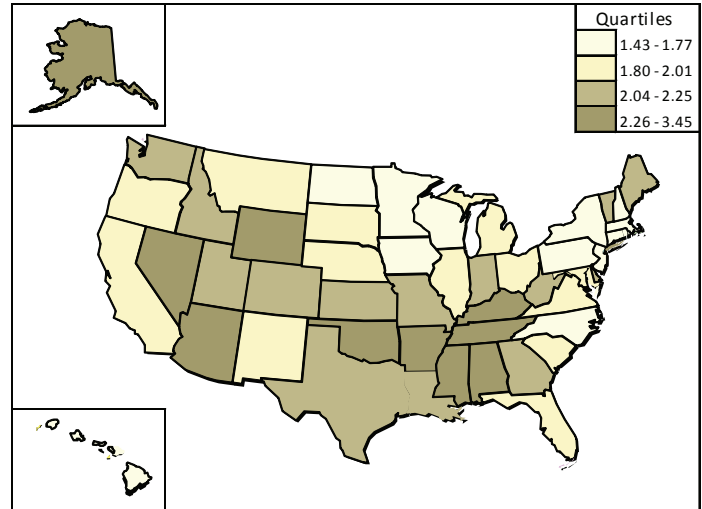
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# Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2008

## Divorce Rate in the U.S., 2008

- The proportion of marriages that end through divorce has been stable over the last 20 years in the U.S. It is estimated that about half of all marriages end in divorce (Raley & Bumpass, 2003).
- In 2008, about 1.9% of marriages ended in divorce in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> That is, roughly 19 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in that year.
- More marriages occur than divorces in the U.S. There were approximately two marriages for every one divorce in the U.S. in 2008.



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

<sup>1</sup>The divorce rate = [(number of men and women divorced in the past 12 months) / (number of men and women divorced in the past 12 months + number of currently married men and women)]\*100

## Five States with the Highest and Lowest Divorce Rate, 2008

- In Washington, DC, about 3.5% of marriages ended in divorce in 2008. In other words, roughly 35 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce in that year.
- In North Dakota, roughly 1.4% of marriages ended in divorce in 2008. About 14 per 1,000 marriages ended in divorce.
- For a ranking table with all states, [click here](#).

Ranking	State	Divorce Rate
1	Wash, DC	3.45
2	Wyoming	2.72
3	Oklahoma	2.71
4	Kentucky	2.54
5	Alaska	2.53
<b>United States</b>		<b>1.94</b>
47	Pennsylvania	1.53
47	Hawaii	1.53
49	New Jersey	1.47
50	New York	1.44
51	North Dakota	1.43

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

Ranking	State	Ratio of marriage to divorce
1	North Dakota	3.10
2	Idaho	2.31
3	Hawaii	2.28
4	New Mexico	2.25
5	New York	2.24
5	Nebraska	2.24
<b>United States</b>		<b>1.83</b>
47	Tennessee	1.50
48	Kentucky	1.49
49	Vermont	1.41
50	Maine	1.37
51	Delaware	1.30

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

## Five States with the Highest and Lowest Ratio of Marriage to Divorce, 2008

- In 2008, there were many more marriages than divorces in North Dakota. There were approximately three marriages for every one divorce.
- In Delaware, marriages and divorces occurred at a similar pace. There was roughly one marriage for every one divorce in 2008.
- For a ranking table with all states, [click here](#).

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.

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**Ranking Table for Divorce Rate**

Ranking	State	Divorce Rate	Margin of Error
1	Wash, DC	3.45	+/- 8.4
2	Wyoming	2.72	+/- 5.8
3	Oklahoma	2.71	+/- 2.0
4	Kentucky	2.54	+/- 2.4
5	Alaska	2.53	+/- 5.9
6	Alabama	2.51	+/- 1.9
7	Mississippi	2.48	+/- 2.6
8	Tennessee	2.33	+/- 1.6
8	Nevada	2.33	+/- 2.8
10	Arkansas	2.28	+/- 2.2
11	Arizona	2.26	+/- 1.9
12	Colorado	2.25	+/- 1.9
12	Maine	2.25	+/- 3.2
14	Kansas	2.23	+/- 2.2
14	Utah	2.23	+/- 2.4
16	Indiana	2.22	+/- 1.5
17	Washington	2.21	+/- 1.5
18	Georgia	2.20	+/- 1.4
18	Delaware	2.20	+/- 4.3
20	Texas	2.15	+/- 1.0
21	Idaho	2.08	+/- 2.8
22	West Virginia	2.07	+/- 2.8
22	Louisiana	2.07	+/- 1.9
24	Missouri	2.06	+/- 1.4
25	Vermont	2.04	+/- 4.0
26	Oregon	2.01	+/- 2.2
27	New Mexico	1.99	+/- 2.6
28	Florida	1.97	+/- 0.9
29	Maryland	1.95	+/- 1.6
29	Nebraska	1.95	+/- 2.4
	<b>United States</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>+/- 0.2</b>
31	Michigan	1.94	+/- 1.2
32	Virginia	1.89	+/- 1.3
33	Ohio	1.88	+/- 1.0
34	Montana	1.83	+/- 3.0
34	South Carolina	1.83	+/- 1.5
36	South Dakota	1.81	+/- 4.2
37	California	1.80	+/- 0.7
37	Illinois	1.80	+/- 1.0
39	North Carolina	1.77	+/- 1.3
40	Rhode Island	1.74	+/- 3.4
41	Iowa	1.70	+/- 1.6
42	New Hampshire	1.69	+/- 2.5
42	Connecticut	1.69	+/- 1.7
44	Minnesota	1.67	+/- 1.3
44	Wisconsin	1.67	+/- 1.2
46	Massachusetts	1.66	+/- 1.3
47	Pennsylvania	1.53	+/- 0.8
47	Hawaii	1.53	+/- 2.9
49	New Jersey	1.47	+/- 1.0
50	New York	1.44	+/- 0.7
51	North Dakota	1.43	+/- 3.3

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

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**Ranking Table for Ratio of Marriage to Divorce**

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5	New York	2.24
5	Nebraska	2.24
7	Utah	2.15
8	New Jersey	2.08
9	Alaska	2.05
10	California	2.04
11	Wisconsin	2.03
12	Iowa	2.02
13	North Carolina	2.01
14	Louisiana	1.98
14	Minnesota	1.98
14	Arkansas	1.98
17	South Dakota	1.94
18	Maryland	1.90
19	Virginia	1.88
20	Pennsylvania	1.87
20	Montana	1.87
22	Connecticut	1.85
23	Kansas	1.84
	<b>United States</b>	<b>1.83</b>
24	Oregon	1.83
25	Texas	1.81
25	Washington	1.81
25	Nevada	1.81
25	DC	1.81
29	Rhode Island	1.79
30	Missouri	1.77
30	Wyoming	1.77
32	Illinois	1.76
33	New Hampshire	1.75
34	Ohio	1.74
35	Colorado	1.73
36	Georgia	1.71
37	Massachusetts	1.70
37	Florida	1.70
39	South Carolina	1.61
39	Michigan	1.61
39	Indiana	1.61
42	West Virginia	1.59
42	Mississippi	1.59
44	Alabama	1.58
45	Oklahoma	1.57
46	Arizona	1.52
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