

2019

FP-19-22 Marriage Rate in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018

Colette Allred
Bowling Green State University

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Marriage Rate in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018

Author: Colette Allred

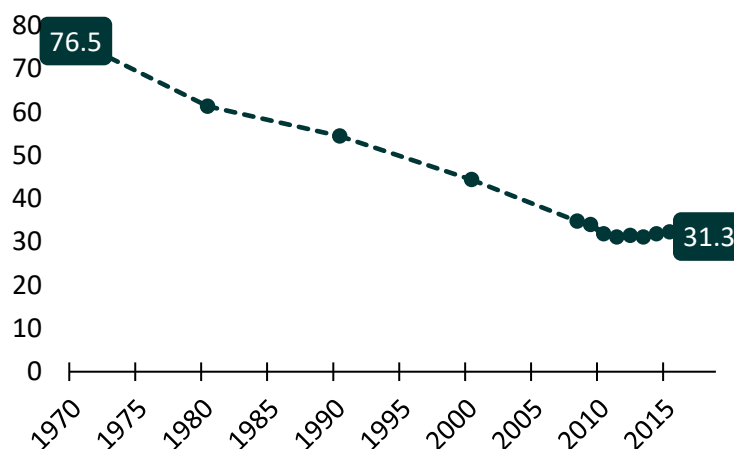
U.S. Marriage Rate, 2018*

- Although the marriage rate has fallen by 59% since 1970, it has been stable since 2010, remaining at a 45-year low.
 - In 2018, there were 31.3 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women, similar to the 2017 marriage rate of 32.2 (FP-18-20).
- Nearly 2.3 million women (2,268,129) married in 2018.

Source: NCFMR analyses of 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008-2018, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est.

*Rates are represented as the number of women aged 15 or older who married in the past year per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 or older.

Figure 1. Women's Adjusted Marriage Rate, 1990-2018



Five Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates, 2018

- Utah continued to have the highest marriage rate in the United States. More than 50 per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 married in 2018.
 - Utah's marriage rate was also the highest in 2017, with nearly 60 (59.4) marriages per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 (FP-18-20).
- Rhode Island continued to have the lowest marriage rate, with 24 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15.
 - Rhode Island also held the lowest marriage rate in 2017, with 19 women marrying per 1,000 unmarried women over the age of 15 (FP-18-20).

Figure 2. Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage Rates

Rank & State	Marriage Rate	MOE*
1. Utah	50.6	+/- 5.2
2. Idaho	48.1	+/- 6.8
3. Wyoming	47.8	+/- 9.9
4. North Dakota	44.8	+/- 10.7
5. Alaska	41.4	+/- 7.8
USA	31.3	+/- 0.4
47. South Carolina	26.7	+/- 2.3
48. Louisiana	25.9	+/- 2.6
49. Maine	25.6	+/- 4.2
50. Connecticut	24.1	+/- 3.0
51. Rhode Island	24.0	+/- 5.3

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-yr est.

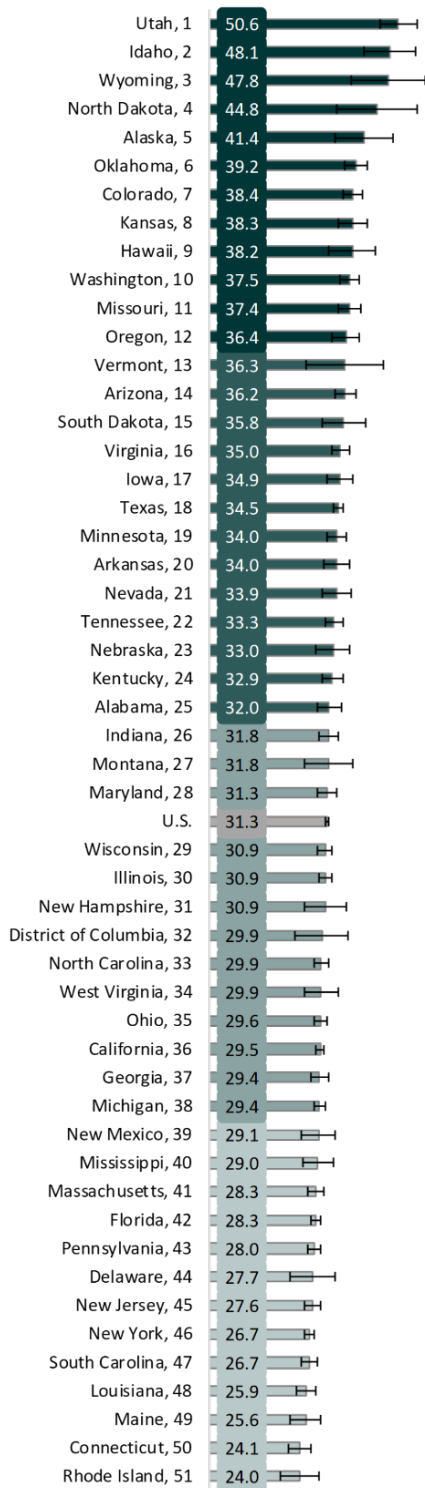
*MOE = Margin of Error. The MOE is a measure of sampling error and expresses the maximum range in which the rate is expected to differ from the actual proportion. The MOE is calculated for the derived estimates at the 90% confidence level.

Data Sources:

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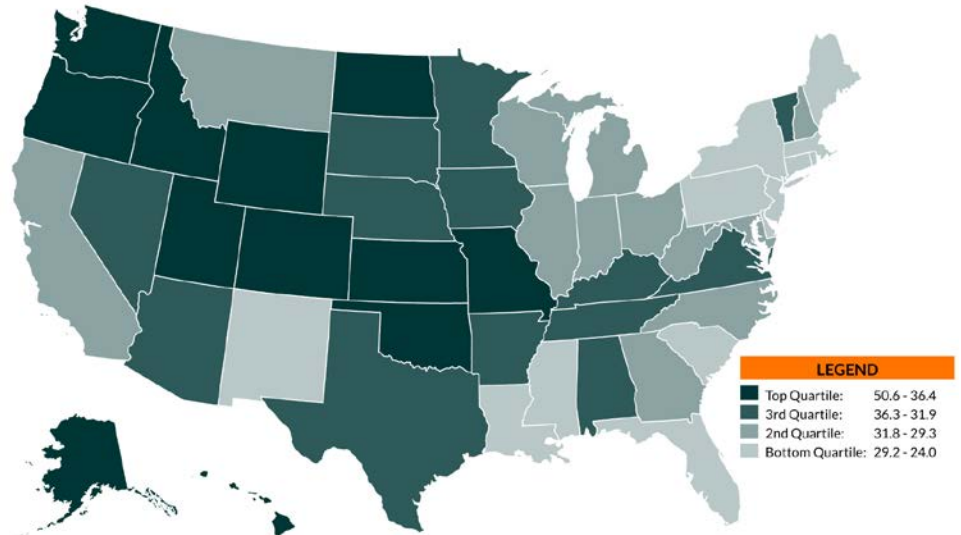
State Rankings and Geographic Variation in Marriage Rates, 2018

Figure 3. State Variation in the Adjusted Marriage Rate per 1,000 Unmarried Women Aged 15+ by Quartile, 2018



- The 12 states that experienced the highest marriage rates (making up the top quartile) in 2018 had rates of at least 36.3 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and older.
- The 13 states with the lowest marriage rates (making up the bottom quartile) had fewer than 29.2 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 and older.

Figure 4. Geographic Variation of Women’s Adjusted Marriage Rate Among States, 2018



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 1-yr est.

- Most states in the Western region of the country had high marriage rates (top or third quartile).
 - Exceptions include Montana, California, and New Mexico.
- States in the Midwestern region of the country all exhibited marriage rates in the top three quartiles, with the largest share found in the second quartile.
- Most states in the Southern region of the country had marriage rates in the bottom three quartiles
 - Oklahoma, which was in the top quartile, was the only exception.
- Almost all states in the Northeastern region of the country had low marriage rates (second or bottom quartile).
 - The only exception was Vermont, where the marriage rate was in the third quartile.

References:

Schweizer, V. (2018). Marriage rate in the U.S.: Geographic variation, 2017. *Family Profiles*, FP-18-20. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-18-20>.

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