

2019

FP-19-24 Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018

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Schweizer, Valerie J., "FP-19-24 Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018" (2019).
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Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018

Author: Valerie J. Schweizer

2,268,129 : **1,050,599**
 NUMBER of MARRIAGES : NUMBER of DIVORCES

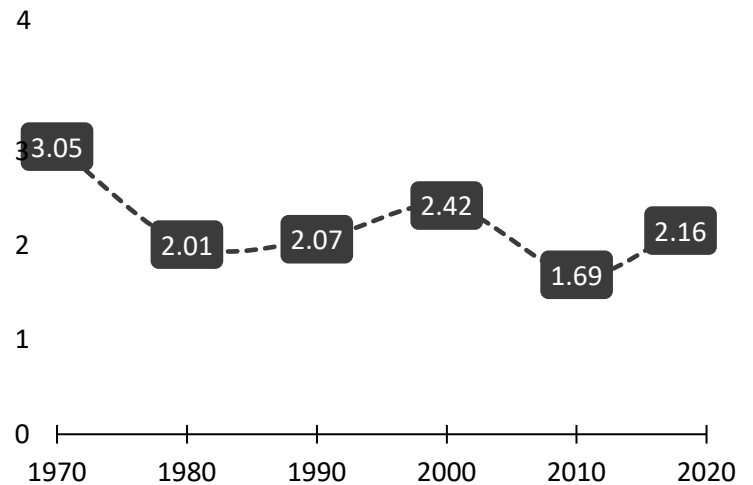
2 Marriages per every 1 Divorce



Marriage to Divorce Ratio, 2018

- In 2018, there were approximately two marriages per every one divorce in the United States (ratio = 2.2), a total of 2,268,129 marriages and 1,050,599 divorces.
- The ratio has remained stable since 2017 when it was also approximately two marriages for every one divorce.

Figure 1. Women's Marriage to Divorce Ratio, 1970 to 2018



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

Five Highest and Lowest Marriage to Divorce Ratios, 2018

- All states have a greater number of marriages than divorces. North Dakota (4.5), the District of Columbia (3.9), and Vermont (3.0) were the top three states in the marriage to divorce ratio in 2018. There were at least three marriages per every one divorce in these states.
- The states with the lowest marriage to divorce ratio were Arkansas (1.4), South Dakota (1.5), and West Virginia (1.6).

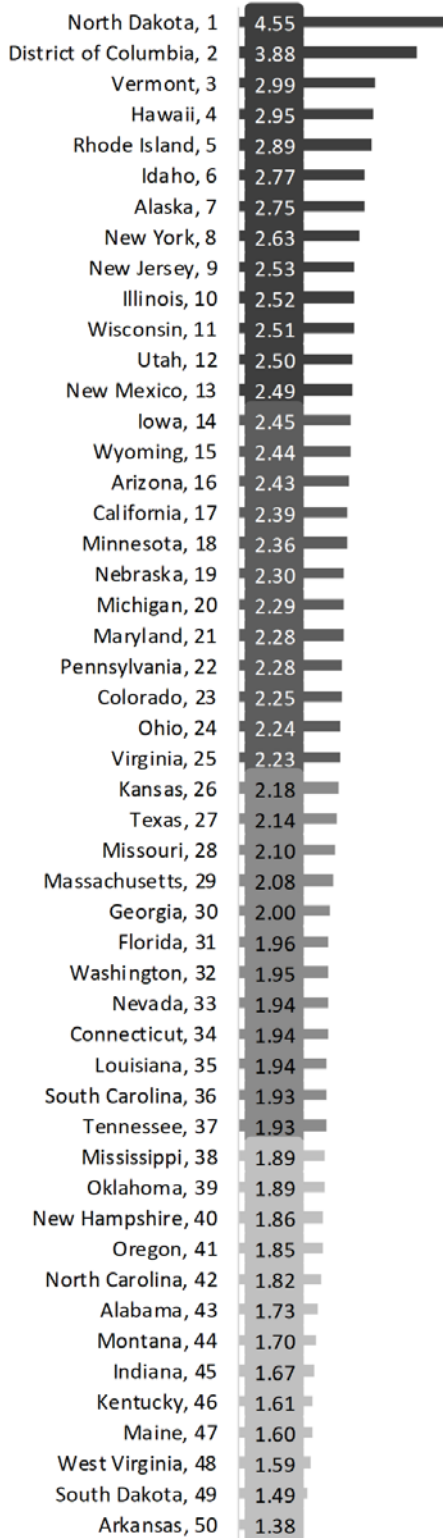
Figure 2. Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage to Divorce Ratios, 2018

Rank & State	Ratio
1. North Dakota	4.5
2. District of Columbia	3.9
3. Vermont	3.0
4. Hawaii	2.9
5. Rhode Island	2.9
USA	2.2
46. Kentucky	1.6
47. Maine	1.6
48. West Virginia	1.6
49. South Dakota	1.5
50. Arkansas	1.4

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

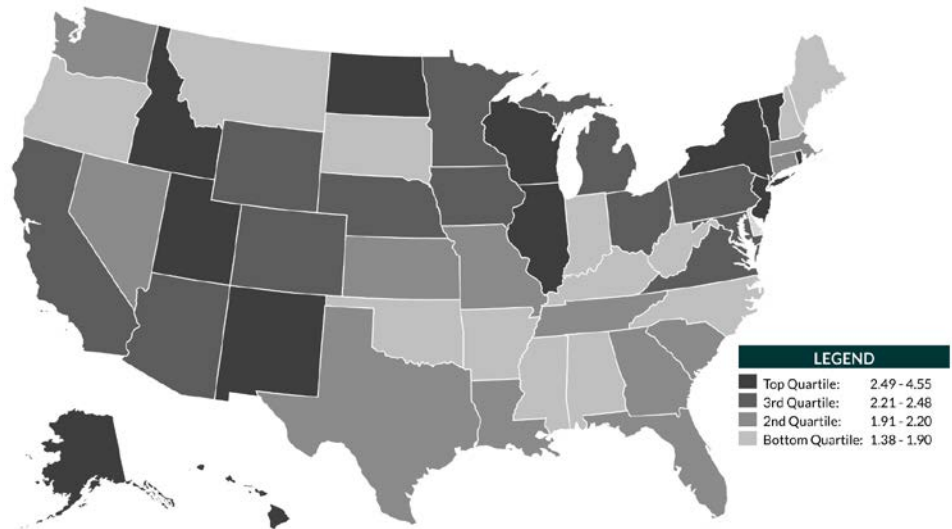
State Rankings and Geographic Variation in Marriage to Divorce Ratios, 2018

Figure 3. State Variation in Women’s Marriage to Divorce Ratio by Quartile, 2018



- Approximately 42% of states experienced an increase in the marriage to divorce ratio from 2017 to 2018. North Dakota had the largest increase from 2.6 in 2017 to 4.6 in 2018. Rhode Island also had a notable increase from 1.5 to 2.9.
- Over one-third of states (34%) saw a decrease in the marriage to divorce ratio. The District of Columbia experienced the largest decrease, dropping from 5.9 in 2017 to 3.9 in 2018.
- Almost one-quarter (24%) of states had almost the same marriage to divorce ratio in 2018 as they did in 2017. These states were California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Figure 4. Geographic Variation in the Marriage to Divorce Ratio Among Women Aged 15+, 2018



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

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Suggested Citation:

Schweizer, V. (2019). Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2018. *Family Profile*, (FP-19-24). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-18-24>