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FP-22-09 Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2020

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Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2020

Author: Krista K. Westrick-Payne

2,031,107 : **960,014**
 NUMBER of MARRIAGES : NUMBER of DIVORCES

2 Marriages per every 1 Divorce

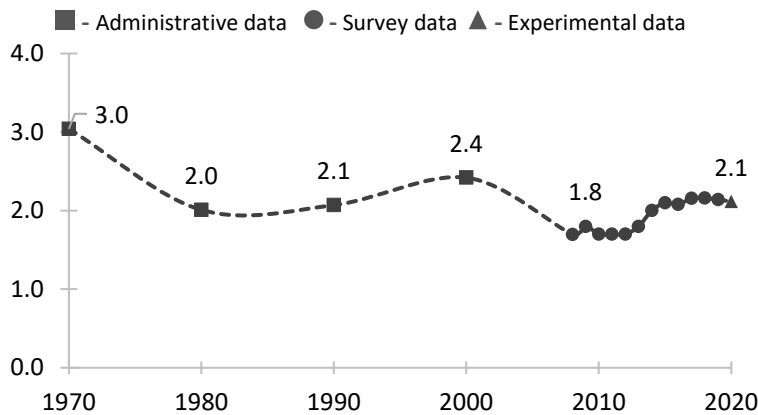


This family profile updates previous profiles on the marriage-to-divorce ratio ([FP-20-26](#); [FP-19-24](#); [FP-19-03](#); [FP-17-01](#); [FP-15-19](#)) and examines state variation in the ratio of marriages to divorces. Please note, the standard 2020 ACS 1-year data products will not be released due to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection and data quality (for more information click [here](#)). As such, the estimates in this report for the year 2020 were derived from NCFMR analyses of ACS 1-year Experimental PUMS data. We calculate national and state level marriage-to-divorce ratios by dividing the number of women’s marriages by the number of women’s divorces in a given year.

The Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio, 2020

- In 2020, there were approximately two marriages per every one divorce in the United States (ratio = 2.12). Specifically, there 2,031,107 marriages and 960,014 divorces.
- The ratio has remained stable since 2014, when it was also approximately two marriages for every one divorce (FP-15-19).

Figure 1. Women’s Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios, 1970 to 2020



Source: NCFMR analyses of 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008-2019, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-yr est., and 2020 American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS

Five Highest and Lowest Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios, 2020

- All states had a greater number of marriages than divorces. Wyoming (5.25), Hawaii (3.58), and District of Columbia (3.57) were the top three states in the marriage-to-divorce ratio in 2020. There were at least 3.5 marriages per every one divorce in these states.
- The states with the lowest marriage-to-divorce ratios were Montana (1.17), Alaska (1.26), and Mississippi (1.30).

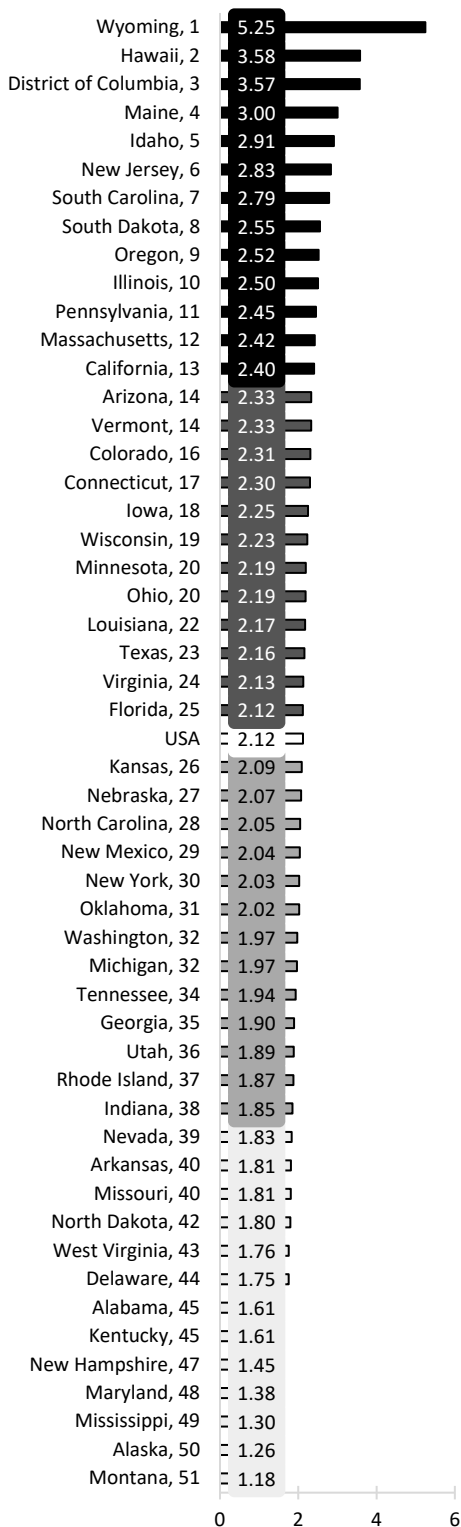
Figure 2. Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios, 2020

Rank	State	Ratio
1	Wyoming	5.25
2	Hawaii	3.58
3	District of Columbia	3.57
4	Maine	3.00
5	Idaho	2.91
	USA	2.12
47	New Hampshire	1.45
48	Maryland	1.38
49	Mississippi	1.30
50	Alaska	1.26
51	Montana	1.18

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS, 2020

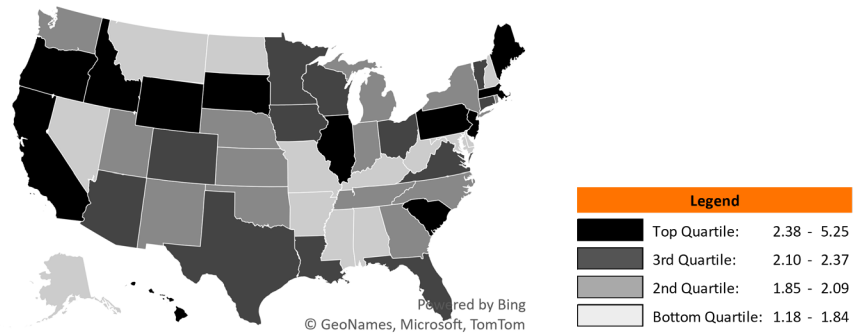
State Rankings, 2020

Figure 3. State-level Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios Among Women Aged 15+ by Quartile, 2020



- Among states in the Northeast, the ratios of most states fell in the top (fourth) quartile (44%), meaning they had some of the largest ratios of marriages-to-divorces in 2020.
- For those in the Western region of the U.S., their ratios most often fell in the top quartile (38%).
- Among states in the South, they were most often found in the bottom (first) quartile (41%), meaning they had some of the smallest ratios of marriages to divorces in 2020.
- Midwestern states tended to cluster in the two middle quartiles, with one-third of their states in each.

Figure 4. Geographic Variation in Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios Among Women Aged 15+, 2020



Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS, 2020

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