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

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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 were 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**

- Administrative data
- Survey data
- Experimental data

**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 (1.18), Alaska (1.26), and Mississippi (1.30).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>5.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>3.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>1.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

References:

Suggested Citation:

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