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FP-22-27 Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2021

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Family Profile No. 27, 2022

Marriage to Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2021
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This family profile updates previous profiles on the marriage-to-divorce ratio (Reynolds, 2020; Schweizer, 2019; Schweizer, 2019b; Wu, 2017; Eickmeyer, 2015) and examines state variation in the ratio of marriages to divorces. Using recent American Community Survey (ACS) 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 for a given population in a given year.

U.S. Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio
- In 2021, there were approximately two marriages per every one divorce in the United States (ratio = 2.16). Specifically, there 2,052,806 marriages and 948,862 divorces.
- The ratio has remained stable since 2014, when there were approximately two marriages for every one divorce (FP-15-19). This indicates that the changes in marriage are occurring at the same pace as changes in divorce.

Figure 1. Women’s Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios, 1970 to 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>3.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>3.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>1.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>1.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>1.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 1-yr est.
State Rankings and Geographical Variation in Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio, 2021

Figure 3. State-level Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios Among Women Aged 15+ by Quartile, 2021

- Among states in the Northeast, most of the ratios were in the highest quartile, meaning they had some of the largest ratios of marriages-to-divorces in 2021.
- For those in the Western region of the U.S., their ratios most often fell in the lowest quartiles (31% each).
- Among states in the South, most were in the bottom quartile, meaning they had some of the smallest ratios of marriages-to-divorces in 2021.
- Midwestern states tended to cluster in the two middle quartiles, with two-fifth of their states in each.

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 1-yr est.

References:


Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021 1-yr est.

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