

Marriage & Family

Marriage & Divorce Statistics

Here's a sampling of some of the most recently available statistics on marriage and divorce in the United States of America:

- There were approximately 2,230,000 **marriages** in 2005 -- down from 2,279,000 the previous year, despite a total population increase of 2.9 million over the same period.
- The **divorce rate** in 2005 (per 1,000 people) was 3.6 -- the **lowest rate since 1970**, and down from 4.2 in 2000 and from 4.7 in 1990. (The peak was at 5.3 in 1981, according to the *Associated Press*.)
- The **marriage rate** in 2005 (per 1,000) was 7.5, down from 7.8 the previous year.
- In 2004, the state with the **highest reported divorce rate** was **Nevada**, at 6.4 (per 1,000). Arkansas was a close second, with a divorce rate of 6.3, followed by Wyoming at 5.3. The **District of Columbia** had the **lowest reported divorce rate**, at 1.7, followed by Massachusetts at 2.2 and Pennsylvania at 2.5. (Figures were not complete for California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, or Oklahoma.)
- 8.1% of coupled households consist of **unmarried heterosexual partners**, according to *The State of Our Unions 2005*, a report issued by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University. The same study said that only 63% of American **children grow up with both biological parents** -- the **lowest figure** in the Western world.
- As of 2003, 43.7% of **custodial mothers** and 56.2% of **custodial fathers** were either **separated or divorced**. And in 2002, 7.8 million Americans paid about \$40 billion in **child and/or spousal support** (84% of the payers were **male**).
- Americans tend to get married more **between June and October** than during the rest of the year. In 2005, **August** had the **most marriages** at about 235,000 or a rate of 9.3 per 1,000 people. The previous year, **July** was the **highest month** at 246,000, or a rate of 9.9; this doubled the **lowest month** in 2004, **January**.

Other Marriage and Divorce Facts (2002)

Percentage of population that is married:

59% (down from 62% in 1990, 72% in 1970)

Percentage of population that has never married:

24%

Percentage of population that is divorced:

10% (up from 8% in 1990, 6% in 1980)

Percentage of population that is widowed:

7%

Median age at first marriage:

Males: 26.9

Females: 25.3

Median age at first divorce:

Males: 30.5

Females: 29

Median age at second marriage:

Males: 34

Females: 32

Median age at second divorce:

Males: 39.3

Females: 37

Median duration of first marriages that end in divorce:

Males: 7.8 years

Females: 7.9 years

Median duration of second marriages that end in divorce:

Males: 7.3 years

Females: 6.8 years

Median number of years people wait to remarry after their first divorce:

Males: 3.3 years

Females: 3.1 years

Percentage of married people who reach their 5th, 10th, and 15th anniversaries:

5th: 82%

10th: 65%

15th: 52%

Percentage of married people who reach their 25th, 35th, and 50th anniversaries:

25th: 33%

35th: 20%

50th: 5%

Percentage of people who have ever been married by the age of 25:

Males: 32%

Females: 50%

Percentage of people who have ever been married by the age of 35:

Males: 77%

Females: 84%

Percentage of people who have ever been married by the age of 45:

Males: 87%

Females: 90%

Percentage of people who have ever been married by the age of 55:

Both males and females: 95%

Number of unmarried couples living together:

5.5 million

Percentage of unmarried couples living together that are male-female unions: 89%

Children/Single parents:

(2000 except where noted)

Percentage of households which are family households:

68.8%

Percentage of households with their own children under 18:

33%

Percentage of married householders with kids:

24%

Percentage of all households run by single moms:

9.2%

Percentage of all households run by single dads:

1.9%

Number of single parents:

Males: 2.04 million

Females: 9.68 million

Percentage of children under 18 years of age living with both parents (2002): 69%

Percentage of children under 18 years of age living with mother only (2002): 23%

Percentage of children under 18 years of age living with father only (2002):

5%

Percentage of children under 18 years of age living with neither parent

4%

(2002):

Total single fathers maintaining their own household:

1.786 million

Total single fathers living in the home of a relative:

240,000

Total single fathers who are divorced:

913,000

Total single fathers never married:

693,000

Total single fathers raising one child:

1,300,000

Total single fathers raising four or more children:

55,000

Total single mothers maintaining their own household:

7.571 million

Total single mothers living in the home of a relative:

1.633 million

Total single mothers who are divorced:

3.392 million

Total single mothers never married:

4.181 million

Total single mothers raising one child:

5.239 million

Total single mothers raising four or more children:

475,000

Fatherless homes account for 63% of youth suicides, 90% of homeless/runaway children, 85% of children with behavior problems, 71% of high school dropouts, 85% of youths in prison, well over 50% of teen mothers.

Miscellaneous:

Married women earning at least \$5,000 a year more than their husbands:

8.408 million (14.9% of all married women)

Unmarried women earning at least \$5,000 a year more than their partners:

821,000 (21.5% of unmarried couples)

Married men earning at least \$5,000 a year more than their wives:

33.228 million (58.8% of all married men)

Unmarried men earning at least \$5,000 a year more than their partners:

2.099 million (54.9% of unmarried couples)

Married couples in which only the husband is employed:

12.642 million (22.4%)

Married couples in which only the wife is employed:

3.855 million (6.8%)

Married couples in which both partners are employed:

30.212 million (53.5%)

Unmarried couples in which only the male is employed:

695,000 (18.2%)

Unmarried couples in which only the female is employed:

410,000 (10.7%)

Unmarried couples in which both partners are employed:

2.484 million (65%)

(Sources: [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [National Center for Health Statistics](#), [Americans for Divorce Reform](#), Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, Institute for Equality in Marriage, American Association for Single People, Ameristat, Public Agenda)

Material taken from Divorcemag.com

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