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## FP-15-19 Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S.: Geographic Variation, 2014

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# Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S.

## Geographic Variation, 2014



Kasey J. Eickmeyer

**2,241,036** : **1,145,110**  
 NUMBER of MARRIAGES : NUMBER of DIVORCES

*2 Marriages per every 1 Divorce*



### Marriage-to-Divorce Ratio in the U.S., 2014

- Consistent with estimates of the marriage-to-divorce ratio for 2013, there were almost two marriages for every one divorce in the U.S. in 2014 (FP-14-17).
- Between 1970 and 2011, the marriage-to-divorce ratio has seen an overall decrease. However, since 2012, the overall trend is moving toward nearly two marriages per one divorce.
- Since 1970, 2011 had the lowest marriage to divorce ratio at 1.7 marriages for every one divorce (FP-13-14).

Figure 1. Women's Marriage to Divorce Ratio, 1970 - 2014



Sources: 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008-2014, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-yr est.

### Five Highest and Lowest Marriage to Divorce Ratios, 2014

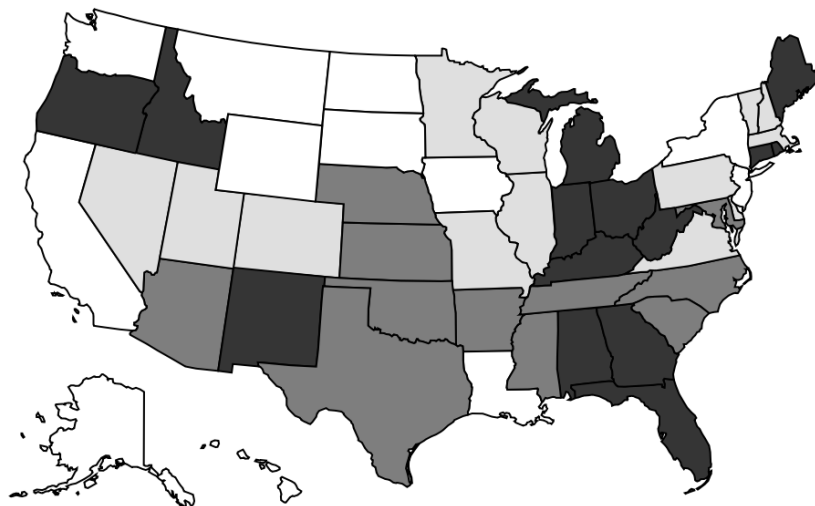
- Most states (94%) have greater numbers of marriages than divorces. The top three are Wyoming (3.25), Hawaii (3.09), and Alaska (2.78).
  - Wyoming has the highest ratio of marriage to divorce in 2014. For every one divorce, there are roughly three marriages.
- Three states have almost equal numbers of marriages and divorces in 2014 (marriage to divorce ratios less than 1.5) – West Virginia, Florida, and Maine.
  - West Virginia has the lowest ratio with 1.37 marriages per one divorce in 2014.

### Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage to Divorce Ratios

1. Wyoming	3.25
2. Hawaii	3.09
3. Alaska	2.78
4. South Dakota	2.76
5. Wash, D.C.	2.75
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>1.96</b>
47. Idaho	1.55
48. Michigan	1.54
49. Maine	1.49
50. Florida	1.44
51. West Virginia	1.37

## State Changes in Rankings, 2013-2014

- Almost 3/4 (71%) of states saw an increase in the marriage-to-divorce ratio.
  - Wyoming experienced the largest increase in the ratio of marriage to divorce with the addition of almost 1.5 marriages (a ratio of 3.25).
- Nine states had virtually the same marriage-to-divorce ratio in 2014 as they did in 2013: these states were West Virginia, Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Kansas, and Nebraska. The Midwest is predominantly represented among these states.
- Consistent with the increase in the divorce rate, 30% of states saw a decrease in their marriage-to-divorce ratio. The three states with the largest decreases were Rhode Island, North Dakota, and Utah.



Rank	State	Marriage Divorce Ratio
1	Wyoming	3.25
2	Hawaii	3.09
3	Alaska	2.78
4	South Dakota	2.76
5	Wash, D.C.	2.75
6	Iowa	2.65
7	Louisiana	2.64
8	New Jersey	2.50
9	North Dakota	2.42
10	Montana	2.40
11	California	2.37
12	Washington	2.28
13	New York	2.27
14	Vermont	2.23
15	Utah	2.21
16	Delaware	2.20
17	Minnesota	2.18
18	Virginia	2.17
19	New Hampshire	2.11
20	Wisconsin	2.09
21	Pennsylvania	2.08
21	Illinois	2.08
23	Nevada	2.04
23	Massachusetts	2.04
25	Colorado	2.00
26	Missouri	1.99
U.S.		1.96
27	Arizona	1.96
28	Tennessee	1.95
29	Mississippi	1.92
30	Texas	1.91
30	North Carolina	1.91
32	South Carolina	1.88
33	Nebraska	1.87
34	Oklahoma	1.81
35	Maryland	1.80
25	Kansas	1.80
37	Arkansas	1.77
38	Ohio	1.75
38	Oregon	1.75
40	New Mexico	1.74
41	Indiana	1.70
42	Connecticut	1.68
43	Georgia	1.65
44	Alabama	1.64
45	Rhode Island	1.63
46	Kentucky	1.58
47	Idaho	1.55
48	Michigan	1.54
49	Maine	1.49
50	Florida	1.44
51	West Virginia	1.37

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