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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

Author: Francesca A. Marino & Gabrielle Juteau

**2,052,806** : **948,862**

NUMBER of MARRIAGES

NUMBER of DIVORCES

*2 Marriages per  
every 1 Divorce*

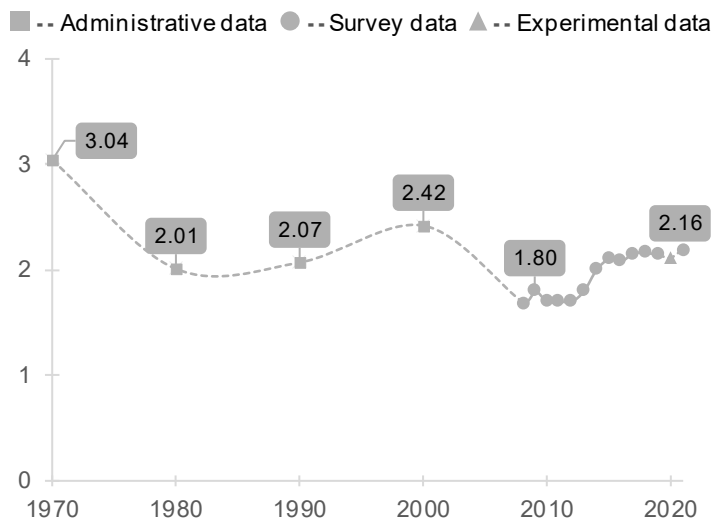


This family profile updates previous profiles on the marriage-to-divorce ratio ([Reynolds, 2020](#); [Schweizer, 2019](#); [Schweizer, 2019b](#); [Wu, 2017](#); [Eickmeyer, 2015](#)) and examines state variation in the ratio of marriages to divorces. Using recent American Community Survey (ACS) data, 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



Source: NCFMR analyses of 1970-2000, National Center for Health Statistics; 2008-2019 and 2021, 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, 2021

- All states had a greater number of marriages than divorces. District of Columbia (3.89), Alaska (3.51), and Utah (3.04) had the highest marriage-to-divorce ratio in 2021. There were at least 3 marriages per every one divorce in these states.
- The states with the lowest marriage-to-divorce ratios were Idaho (1.53), Vermont (1.54), and West Virginia (1.55). In these states there were 1.5 marriages for every one divorce.

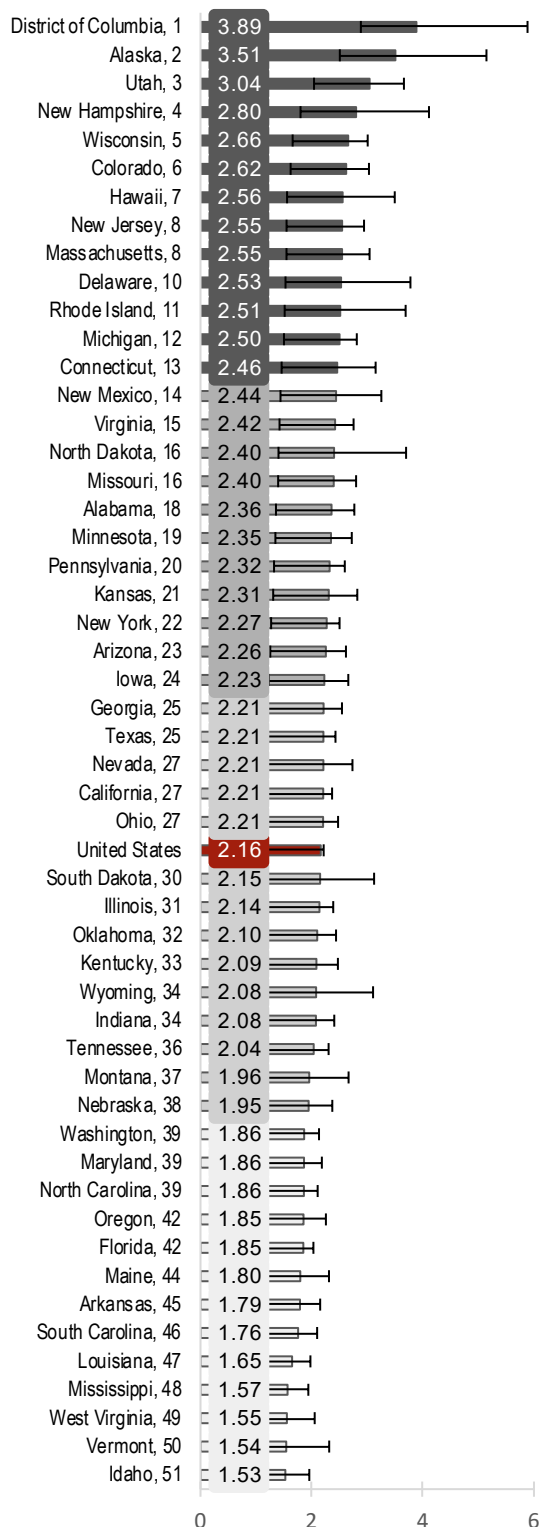
Figure 2. Women's Highest and Lowest Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios, 2021

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

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



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

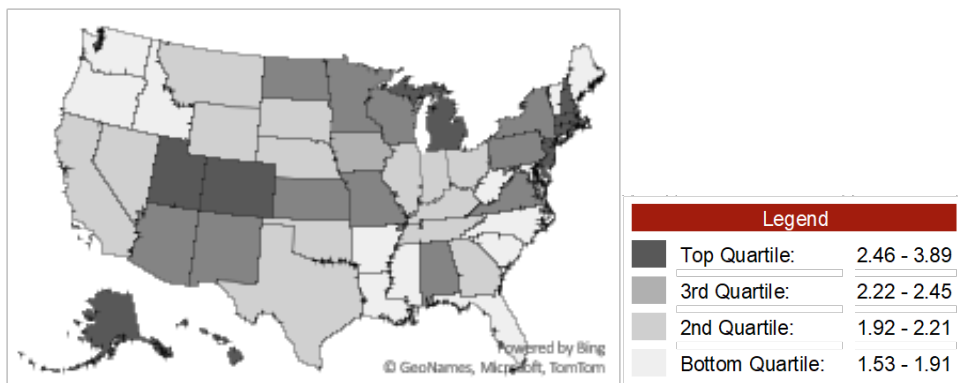
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- Among states in the Northeast, most of the ratios were in the highest quartile, meaning they had some of the largest ratios of marriages-to-divorces in 2021.
- For those in the Western region of the U.S., their ratios most often fell in the lowest 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.

Figure 4. Geographic Variation in Marriage-to-Divorce Ratios Among Women Aged 15+, 2021



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

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