



Marriage & Divorce in America

General Population Statistics

Percentage of population that is married: (Down from 62% in 1990, 72% in 1970)	59%	
Percentage of population that has never married:	24%	
Percentage of population that is divorced: (Up from 8% in 1990, 6% in 1980)	10%	
Percentage of population that is widowed:	7%	
Number of unmarried couples living together:	5.5 million	
Percentage of unmarried couples living together that are male-female unions:	89%	
Percentage of people who get married by the age of:		
Age 25:	Males: 32%	Females: 50%
Age 35:	Males: 77%	Females: 84%
Age 45:	Males: 87%	Females: 90%
Age 55:	Males: 95%	Females: 95%

Marriage Rates

- 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** (*Source: The State of Our Unions 2005, a report issued by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University.*)



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Divorce Rates

Percentage of married people who reach landmark anniversaries:

5 th anniversary:	82%
10 th anniversary:	65%
15 th anniversary:	52%
25 th anniversary:	33%
35 th anniversary:	20%
50 th anniversary:	5%

1st Marriage vs. 2nd Marriage

Most second marriages fail and there are two basic reasons (*Source: AOL Poll*)

- 1.) The new spouse is too much like the old spouse
- 2.) The raising of step children and dealing with former spouses is too much pressure.

"Fifty percent of first marriages, 67 percent of second and 74 percent of third marriages end in divorce. (*Source: Jennifer Baker, Director of the Post-Graduate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy at Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in Springfield, MO*)

"Second and third marriages are more likely than first marriages to end in divorce. The statistics say the "54% of American women and 61% of American men who wed a second time eventually go through divorce again" (*Source: Study published by Bellarmine College*)

"95 percent of all divorced people eventually remarry . . . 76 percent of second marriages fail within five years . . . 87 per cent of third marriages fail and 93 per cent (*Source: Allaboutfamilies.org*)

Median age at 1 st marriage:	Males: 26.9	Females: 25.3
Median age at 1 st divorce:	Males: 30.5	Females: 29.0
Median age at 2 nd marriage:	Males: 34.0	Females: 32.0
Median age at 2 nd divorce:	Males: 39.3	Females: 37.0
Median duration of 1 st marriages that end in divorce:	Males: 7.8 years	Females: 7.9 years
Median duration of 2 nd 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



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Effects on the Children

- **70% of second marriages that involve stepchildren fail.**
(Source: Honorable Anne Kass, author of the article "Second Marriage Can Be As Difficult As The First One" p. 70)
- **Only 63% of American children grow up with both biological parents -- the lowest figure** in the Western world. *(Source: The State of Our Unions 2005, a report issued by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University)*
- As of 2003, 43.7% of **custodial mothers** and 56.2% of **custodial fathers** were either **separated or divorced**.

Economic Impact

- And in 2002, 7.8 million Americans paid about \$40 billion in **child and/or spousal support** (84% of the payers were **male**).