

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2007, 12,164 marriages took place in Nebraska, which is an increase from the 12,053 marriages that occurred here in 2006. The Nebraska resident marriage rate in 2007 was 6.9 marriages per 1,000 population, which is the state's second-lowest annual marriage rate since 1925.

Age at marriage continues to increase in Nebraska, although this trend has slowed down in recent years. In 2007, 6.2% of all Nebraska marriages involved a teenaged bride or groom; thirty years ago, in 1977, 29.5% of all marriages in Nebraska had at least one teenaged bride or groom. Conversely, nearly half (45.6%) of all Nebraska marriages in 2007 involved either a bride or groom who was at least 30 years of age, up from 24.5% in 1977. The most popular ages for marriages taking place in Nebraska during 2007 were 24 for men and 23 for women; in 1977, the same numbers for Nebraska marriages were 21 for men and 19 for women.

There were 6,105 divorces granted in Nebraska in 2007, which is an increase from the 2006 count of 6,065. The 2007 number translates into a rate of 3.4 divorces per 1,000 population. Nebraska's divorce rate rose dramatically during the 1960s and 1970s (along with the number of divorces granted), stabilized during the 1980s, declined throughout the 1990s, and has stabilized again during the present decade.

More divorces were granted to people in their thirties than in any other decade of life, with 45.4% of Nebraska divorces in 2007 involving at least one person between 30 and 39 years of age. Almost one of every four (24.1%) Nebraska divorces in 2007 terminated marriages lasting three years or less, while half ended marriages lasting seven years or less. Just over half (51.4%) of the state's 2007 divorces involved couples with children, and custody of some or all of the children was awarded to the wife in about two-thirds (64.1%) of such cases. More than half (56.9%) of the state's 2007 divorces involved a settlement of some type: child support was the most frequent type of settlement and was awarded in 2,480 divorces, followed by property (awarded in 1,602 divorces), medical reimbursement (awarded in 714 divorces), and alimony (awarded in 626 divorces).