

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2008, 12,353 marriages took place in Nebraska, which is an increase from the 12,163 marriages that occurred here in 2007. The Nebraska resident marriage rate in 2008 was 6.9 marriages per 1,000 population. Long-term trends show that Nebraska's marriage rate rose sharply during the 1960s, peaking in 1970 at 10.6, and has declined steadily ever since.

Age at marriage continues to increase in Nebraska. In 2008, only 5.9% of all Nebraska marriages involved a teenaged bride or groom; thirty years ago, in 1978, 27.4% of all marriages in Nebraska had at least one teenaged bride or groom. Conversely, nearly half (46.7%) of all Nebraska marriages in 2008 involved either a bride or groom who was at least 30 years of age, up from 25.9% in 1978. The most popular ages for marriages taking place in Nebraska during 2008 were 25 for men and 23 for women; in 1978, the same numbers for Nebraska marriages were 22 for men and 19 for women.

There were 5,885 divorces granted in Nebraska in 2008, which is a decrease from the 2007 count of 6,105. The 2008 number translates into a rate of 3.3 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, and has declined steadily since the early 1990s.

More divorces were granted to people in their thirties than in any other decade of life, with 45.2% of Nebraska divorces in 2008 involving at least one person between 30 and 39 years of age. Almost one of every four (24.4%) Nebraska divorces in 2008 terminated marriages lasting three years or less, while almost half (48.6%) ended marriages lasting seven years or less. Just over half (50.6%) of the state's 2008 divorces involved couples with children, and of the 5,442 children affected by these divorces, two-thirds (65.3%) were placed solely in custody of the wife. More than half (56.9%) of the state's 2008 divorces involved a settlement of some type: child support was the most frequent type of settlement and was awarded in 2,314 divorces, followed by property (awarded in 1,581 divorces), medical reimbursement (awarded in 678 divorces), and alimony (awarded in 657 divorces).