

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2013, 11,765 marriages took place in Nebraska, which is a decrease from the 12,376 marriages that occurred here in 2012 and the state's lowest single-year marriage tally since 1963. The Nebraska resident marriage rate in 2013 was 6.3 marriages per 1,000 population and is the lowest recorded rate since 1925's rate of 6.0. Long-term trends show that Nebraska's marriage rate rose sharply during the 1960s and has been declining steadily since reaching a rate of 10.6 in 1970.

Age at marriage continues to increase in Nebraska. In 2013, only 4.4% of all Nebraska marriages involved a teenaged bride or groom; twenty-five years ago, in 1988, 11.1% of all marriages in Nebraska had at least one teenaged bride or groom. Conversely, over half (52.8%) of all Nebraska marriages in 2013 involved either a bride or groom who was at least 30 years of age, up from 39.9% in 1988. One in nine (11.1%) Nebraska marriages that took place in 2013 included either a bride or groom who was at least 50 years of age.

There were 6,100 divorces granted in Nebraska in 2013, which is a decrease from the 2012 count of 6,307. The 2013 number translates into a rate of 3.3 divorces per 1,000 population. Nebraska's divorce rate rose dramatically during the 1960s and 1970s, peaking at 4.3 in 1981 (also the state's peak year for the number of divorces granted). Since stabilizing during the 1980s, the divorce rate in Nebraska has been slowly declining since the early 1990s.

Like age at marriage, age at divorce also continues to increase in Nebraska. Twenty-five years ago, in 1988, 18.7% of all Nebraska divorces involved either a husband or wife less than 25 years of age; in 2013, this figure was 8.3%. At the same time, the proportion of all Nebraska divorces involving both a husband and wife 35 years of age or older increased from 36.2% in 1988 to 56.1% in 2013. Almost one of every four (22.9%) Nebraska divorces granted in 2013 terminated marriages lasting three years or less, while just over half (51.4%) ended marriages lasting eight years or less. Just over half (50.7%) of the state's 2013 divorces involved couples with children, and 5,682 children were affected by these divorces. At least one type of settlement was awarded in 44.7% of the state's 2013 divorces: child support was the most frequent type of settlement and was awarded in 2,249 divorces, followed by alimony (awarded in 591 divorces), and property (awarded in 416 divorces).