

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, 12,338 marriages took place in Nebraska, which is an increase from the 12,119 marriages that occurred here in 2015. The Nebraska marriage rate in 2016 was 6.5 marriages per 1,000 population. Long-term trends show that Nebraska's marriage rate rose sharply during the 1960s, peaking in 1970, and has declined steadily ever since.

Age at marriage continues to increase in Nebraska. In 2016, only 3.5% of all Nebraska marriages involved a teenaged bride or groom. In 1990, 11.8% of all marriages in Nebraska had at least one teenaged bride or groom. Conversely, over one-third (38.3%) of all Nebraska marriages in 2016 involved a bride and groom who were both at least 30 years of age, up from 25.1% in 1990.

There were 5,949 divorces granted in Nebraska in 2016, which is a decrease from the 2015 count of 6,018. The 2016 number translates into a rate of 3.1 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.

The duration of marriage at the time of divorce is longer for couples divorcing in 2016 compared to 1990. One of every four (25.4%) Nebraska divorces granted in 1990 terminated marriages lasting three years or less; this figure fell to 21.2% for divorces granted in 2016. Conversely, the proportion of divorces granted in Nebraska that ended marriages lasting 20 years or more increased from 13.4% in 1990 to 18.1% in 2016. Just over half (50.5%) of the state's 2016 divorces involved couples with children, and 5,562 children were affected by these divorces. At least one type of settlement was awarded in 43.2% of the state's 2016 divorces: child support was the most frequent type of settlement and was awarded in 2,121 divorces, followed by alimony (awarded in 545 divorces), property (awarded in 481 divorces), and medical reimbursement (awarded in 2 divorces).