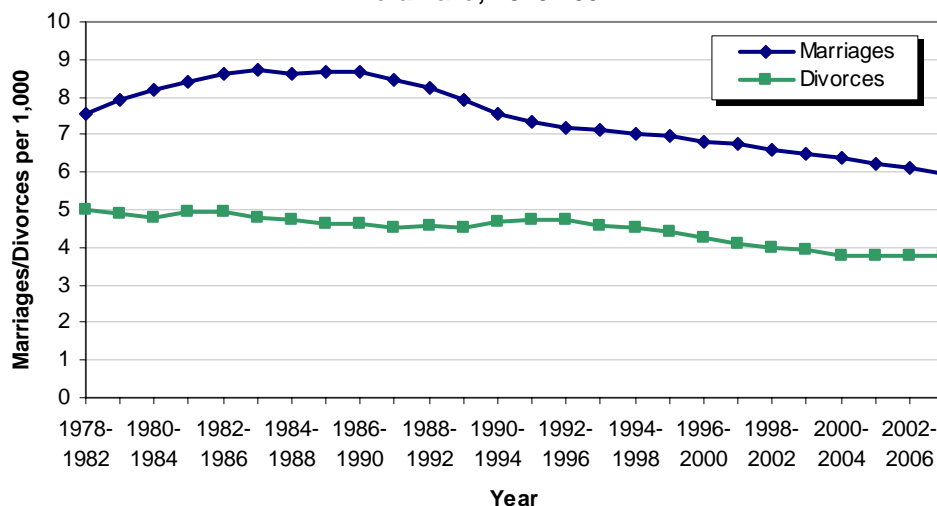


In 2003-2007 the divorce rate in Delaware was 2 percent higher than the US rate.

Divorce in Delaware

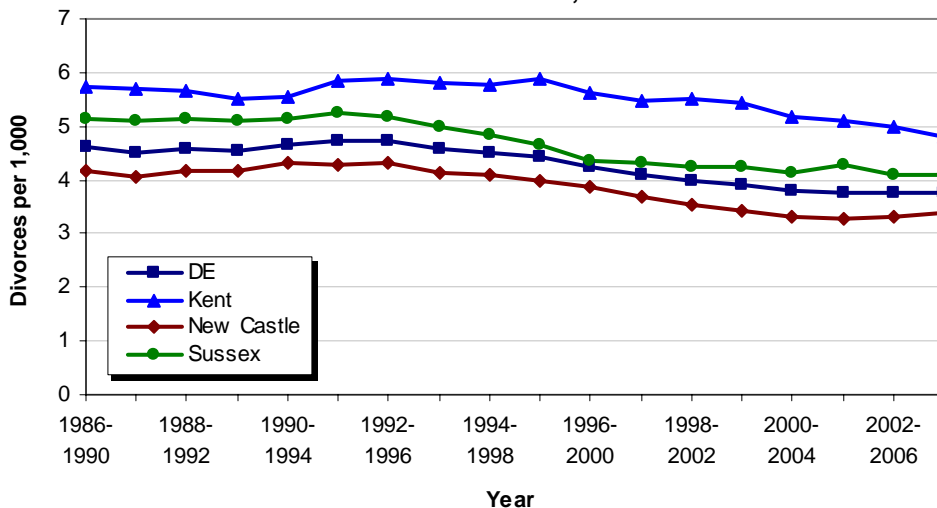
Divorce rates in Delaware remained fairly stable from 1984-1988 to 1992-1996. From 1992-1996 to 2003-2007, divorce rates declined 20 percent to 3.8 divorces per 1,000 population. Marriage rates have been decreasing steadily since 1987-1991; by 2003-2007 the marriage rate had dropped 31%, to 6.0 marriages per population.

Five-year Average Marriage and Divorce Rates
Delaware, 1978-2007

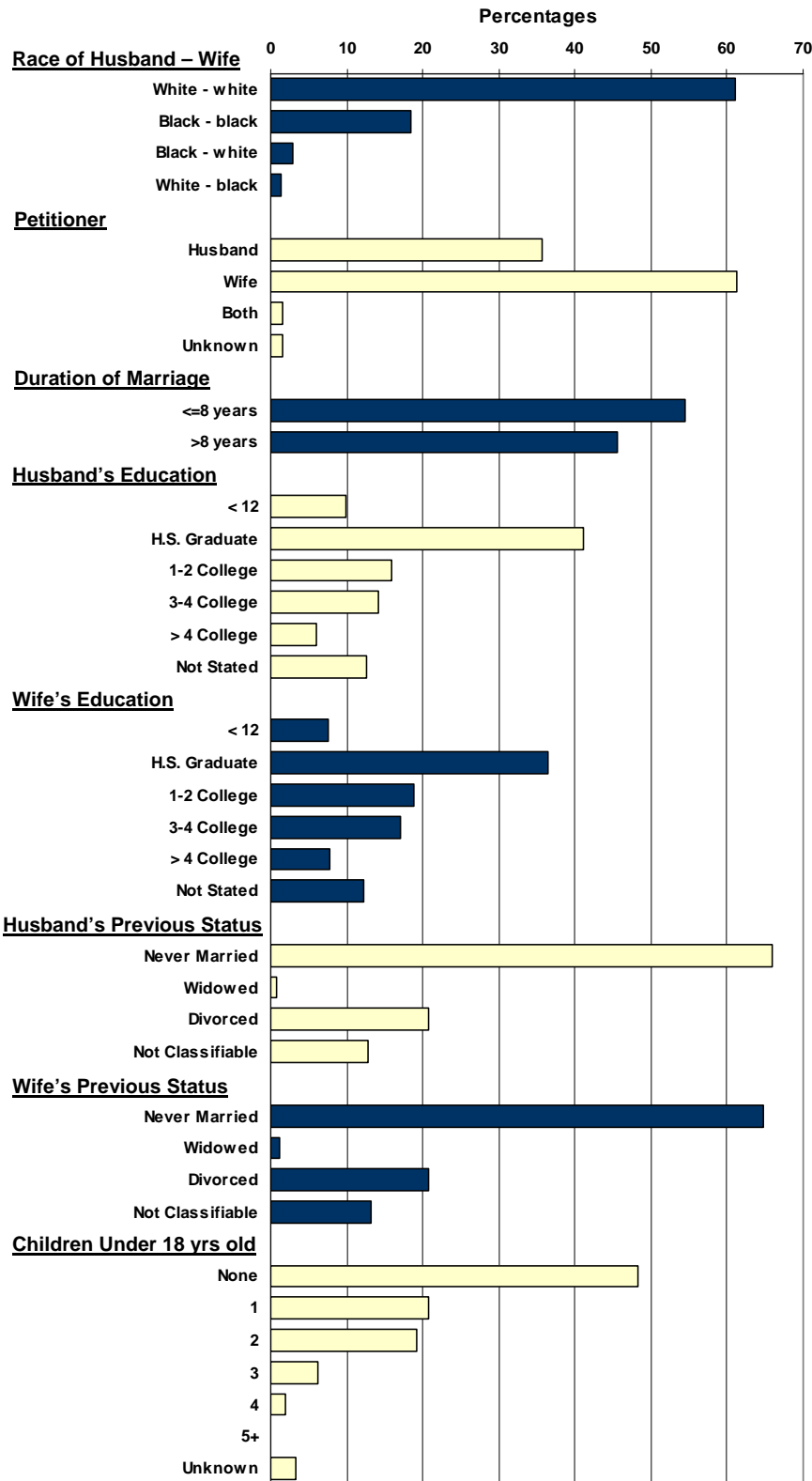


Although divorce rates for Kent county dropped 18.6 percent, from 5.9 in 1995-1999 to 4.8 in 2003-2007, it continued to have the highest divorce rates. New Castle county had the lowest rate, at 3.4 divorces.

Five-year Average Divorce Rates
Delaware and Counties, 1986-2007



Divorce Information Delaware, 2007



Among couples of the same race, whites accounted for 61.1 percent of all divorces in Delaware, while blacks accounted for 18.5 percent.

Nearly 61 percent of Delaware divorces were initiated by the wives.

The median duration of marriage at the time of divorce decree was 8 years. Fifty-four percent of the divorces in Delaware had marriages that lasted 8 years or less.

Forty-one percent of the husbands who divorced were high school graduates.

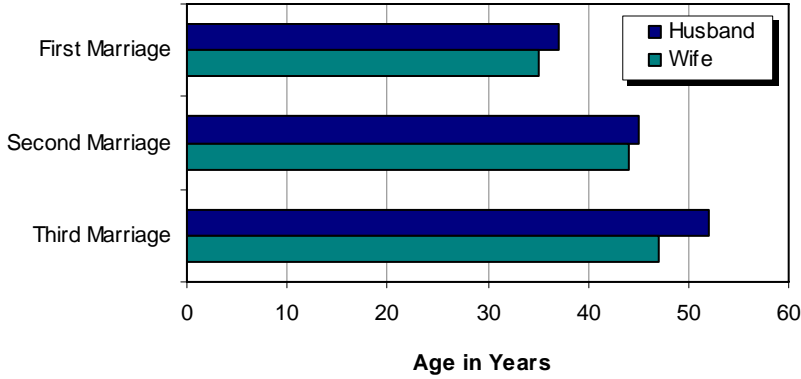
Likewise, a greater percentage (36) of wives who divorced were high school graduates.

Husbands who were married for the first time accounted for 66 percent of the divorces in Delaware. Twenty-one percent were divorces of those who had remarried.

The same trend was observed for wives; 65 percent had never been married before.

Nearly half of the couples who divorced had no children under 18 years of age.

Median Age of Husband and Wife at time of Divorce Decree by Number of this Marriage, Delaware 2007



The median age for husbands and wives varied significantly by the order of marriage. For first marriages, the median age at which couples divorced in Delaware was 37 for the husbands and 35 for the wives. The median ages were higher in successive marriages.

Reference:

National Center for Health Statistics. *National Marriage and Divorce Rate Trends*. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mardiv_tables.htm. Accessed 12/10/2009.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health