

# DELAWARE VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT, 2008



## MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

Photo courtesy of the Delaware Tourism Office

### **Suggested citation:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center. *Delaware Vital Statistics Annual Report, 2008*. Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health: 2010.

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

There were 4828 marriages and 3,057 divorces in Delaware in 2008 (see Tables B-1 and B-11).

### Marriage

#### Male

Youngest: 17  
Oldest: 93

#### Female

Youngest: 17  
Oldest: 83

Marriage with the greatest age difference between bride and groom: 46 years  
Most popular month to get married: June (see Table B-9).

### Divorce

#### Male

Youngest: 18  
Oldest: 90

#### Female

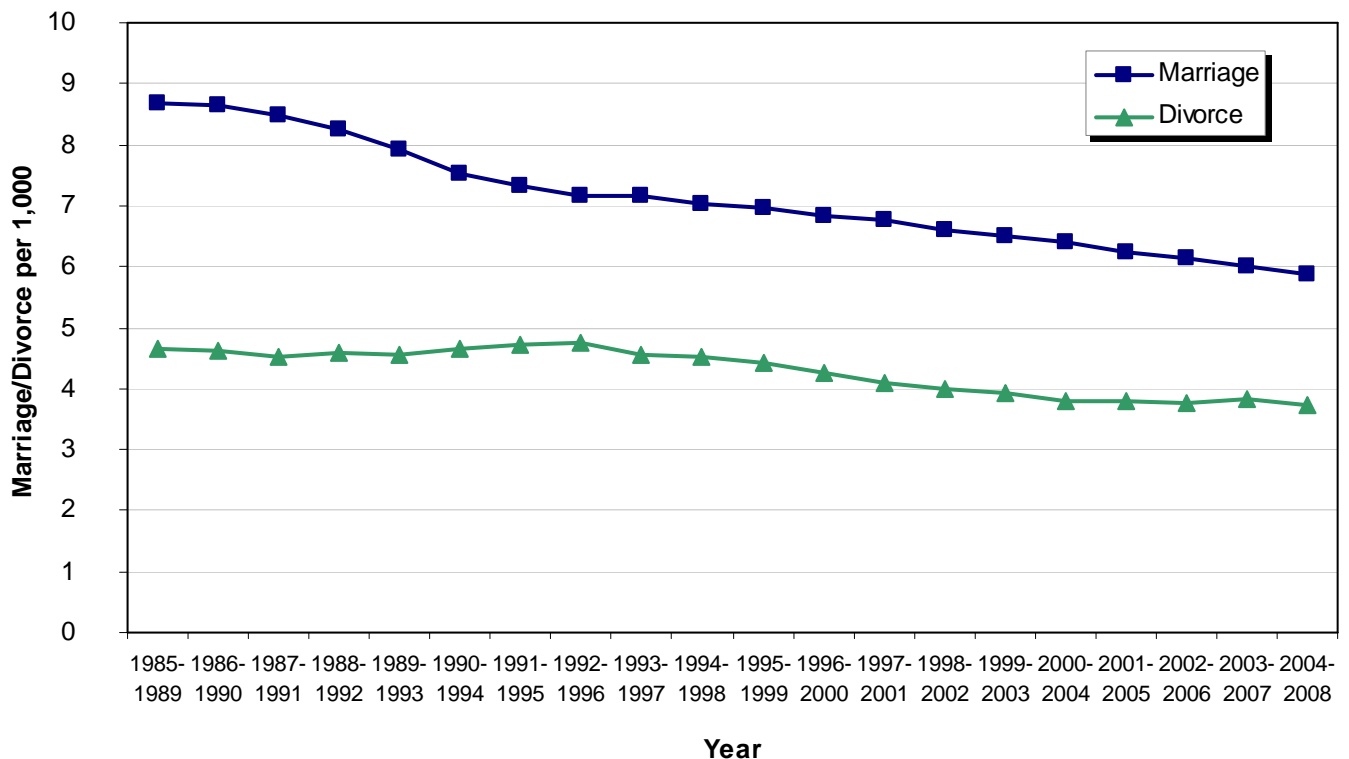
Youngest: 17  
Oldest: 86

Shortest duration of marriage: 25 days  
Longest duration of marriage: 56 years  
Median duration of marriage: 8.4 years (see Table B-16).  
Total children under 18 years of age: 2660 (see Table B-18).

The five-year average marriage rate changed very little from 1982-1986 to 1986-1990. Since that time, marriage rates have decreased 32 percent, from 8.7 to 5.9 marriages per 1,000 population in 2004-2008.

Divorce rates remained fairly stable from 1984-1988 to 1992-1996. From 1992-1996 to 2004-2008, divorce rates declined 21 percent to 3.7 divorces per 1,000 population.

**Five-year Average Marriage and Divorce Rates per 1,000 Population  
Delaware, 1985-2008**



Source: Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-1  
NUMBER OF MARRIAGES BY PLACE OF CEREMONY  
U.S., DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1988-2008

Year	U.S.	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1988	2395926	5645	1114	3512	1019
1989	2403268	5946	1100	3783	1063
1990	2443489	5643	1027	3524	1092
1991	2371000 *	5348	1073	3259	1016
1992	2362000 *	5069	1026	3028	1015
1993	2334000 *	5023	982	3033	1008
1994	2362000 *	5080	1000	3028	1052
1995	2336000 *	5378	1019	3216	1143
1996	2344000 *	5209	980	3081	1148
1997	2384000 *	5372	1017	3154	1201
1998	2244000 *	5023	937	2951	1135
1999	2358000 *	5188	929	3011	1248
2000	2329000 *	5292	957	3117	1218
2001	2345000 *	5279	963	3118	1198
2002	2254000 *	5171	1015	2899	1257
2003	2245000 *	4923	923	2784	1216
2004	2279000 *	5088	998	2801	1289
2005	2249000 *	5018	973	2726	1319
2006	2194000 *	5105	993	2754	1358
2007	2204000 *	4970	944	2670	1356
2008	N/A	4828	984	2429	1415

FYAMAR1

**Note:**

\*Based on National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) estimate.

**Sources:**

National Center for Health Statistics  
Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-2  
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE MARRIAGE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION  
BY PLACE OF CEREMONY

U.S., DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1988-2008

Years	U.S.	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1988-1992	9.6 *	8.2	9.5	7.7	9.0
1989-1993	9.4 *	7.9	9.2	7.4	8.8
1990-1994	9.3 *	7.5	8.8	7.0	8.5
1991-1995	9.1 *	7.3	8.7	6.7	8.3
1992-1996	9.0 *	7.2	8.4	6.6	8.2
1993-1997	9.0 *	7.1	8.3	6.5	8.2
1994-1998	8.8 *	7.0	8.2	6.4	8.1
1995-1999	8.7 *	7.0	7.9	6.4	8.2
1996-2000	8.6 *	6.8	7.8	6.2	8.0
1997-2001	8.5 *	6.8	7.6	6.2	7.9
1998-2002	8.2 *	6.6	7.5	6.0	7.7
1999-2003	8.1 *	6.5	7.4	5.9	7.6
2000-2004	8.0 *	6.4	7.4	5.8	7.5
2001-2005	7.8 *	6.2	7.2	5.6	7.5
2002-2006	7.7 *	6.1	7.1	5.4	7.5
2003-2007	7.6 *	6.0	6.8	5.3	7.4
2004-2008	N/A	5.9	6.7	5.1	7.5

FYAMAR2

**Note:**

\*Based on NCHS estimate.

**Sources:**

National Center for Health Statistics  
Delaware Health Statistics Center







TABLE B-8  
NUMBER OF MARRIAGES BY MARRIAGE ORDER AND AGE OF BRIDE  
BY MARRIAGE ORDER AND AGE OF GROOM

DELAWARE, 2008

Marriage Order of Groom	Age of Groom \ Age of Bride	Marriage Order of Bride													
		First Marriage							Remarriage						
		<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	Unk	<20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	Unk
First Marriage	<20	45	26	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	20-29	111	1565	102	6	0	0	0	0	79	58	12	1	0	0
	30-39	6	406	332	17	1	0	0	0	40	133	40	3	0	0
	40-49	1	16	50	41	1	0	0	0	1	37	46	14	0	0
	50-64	0	1	6	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	7	19	1	0
	65+	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Unk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Remarriage	<20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	20-29	8	63	15	0	0	0	0	0	24	10	0	0	0	0
	30-39	0	124	93	17	1	0	0	0	25	120	38	4	0	0
	40-49	2	30	75	47	4	0	0	0	8	93	201	36	0	0
	50-64	0	9	18	23	22	3	0	0	0	17	128	203	4	0
	65+	0	2	2	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	10	50	43	0
	Unk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Source:**  
Delaware Health Statistics Center

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TABLE B-9  
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF MARRIAGES BY MONTH OF CEREMONY  
DELAWARE, 2008

Month	Number	Percent
January	168	3.5
February	285	5.9
March	251	5.2
April	336	7.0
May	561	11.6
June	569	11.8
July	401	8.3
August	559	11.6
September	558	11.6
October	521	10.8
November	336	7.0
December	283	5.9
Total	4828	100.0

DAYMONT1

**Notes:**

1. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
2. Percentages are calculated based upon the total number of marriages.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-10  
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF MARRIAGES BY DAY OF WEEK CEREMONY PERFORMED  
DELAWARE, 2008

Day	Number	Percent
Sunday	330	6.8
Monday	119	2.5
Tuesday	208	4.3
Wednesday	767	15.9
Thursday	207	4.3
Friday	648	13.4
Saturday	2549	52.8
Total	4828	100.0

DAYMONT2

**Notes:**

1. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
2. Percentages are calculated based upon the total number of marriages.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center



TABLE B-11  
NUMBER OF DIVORCES/ANNULMENTS\* BY PLACE OF DECREE  
DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1988-2008

Year	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1988	3007	646	1835	526
1989	2896	637	1683	576
1990	3034	575	1922	537
1991	3009	646	1724	639
1992	3397	653	2065	679
1993	3175	634	1957	584
1994	3551	707	2152	692
1995	3509	798	2003	708
1996	3405	712	1970	723
1997	3009	647	1700	662
1998	3233	652	1984	597
1999	3482	801	2008	673
2000	3060	674	1808	578
2001	3114	666	1657	791
2002	2792	714	1392	686
2003	3178	673	1834	671
2004	3108	701	1744	663
2005	3250	708	1753	789
2006	3239	673	1836	730
2007	3215	721	1771	723
2008	3057	704	1753	600

FYADIV1

**Note:**  
\*Annulments represent less than 0.3% of the totals.

**Source:**  
Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-12  
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE DIVORCE/ANNULMENT\* RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION  
BY PLACE OF DECREE  
DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1988-2008

Years	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1988-1992	4.6	5.6	4.2	5.1
1989-1993	4.5	5.5	4.2	5.1
1990-1994	4.7	5.6	4.3	5.1
1991-1995	4.7	5.8	4.3	5.2
1992-1996	4.7	5.9	4.3	5.2
1993-1997	4.6	5.8	4.1	5.0
1994-1998	4.5	5.8	4.1	4.9
1995-1999	4.4	5.9	4.0	4.7
1996-2000	4.2	5.6	3.9	4.4
1997-2001	4.1	5.5	3.7	4.3
1998-2002	4.0	5.5	3.5	4.2
1999-2003	3.9	5.5	3.4	4.2
2000-2004	3.8	5.2	3.3	4.1
2001-2005	3.8	5.1	3.3	4.3
2002-2006	3.8	5.0	3.3	4.1
2003-2007	3.8	4.9	3.4	4.1
2004-2008	3.7	4.8	3.4	3.9

FYADIV2

**Note:**  
\*Annulments represent less than 0.3% of the totals.

**Source:**  
Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-13  
NUMBER OF DIVORCES/ANNULMENTS\* BY RACE OF WIFE AND RACE OF HUSBAND  
DELAWARE, 2008

Race of Husband	Race of Wife								
	White	Black	American Indian	Chinese	Hawaiian	Filipino	Other Asian	Other Race	Not Classifiable
White	2115	39	2	5	1	8	17	0	4
Black	71	676	2	0	0	1	2	2	5
American Indian	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chinese	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Hawaiian	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Filipino	3	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Other Asian	15	1	0	1	0	0	19	0	0
Other Race	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
Not Classifiable	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20

RACE

**Notes:**

\*Annulments represent less than 0.3% of the totals.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-14  
MEAN AND MEDIAN AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AT TIME OF DIVORCE DECREE  
BY NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE AND RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE  
DELAWARE, 2008

Number of Marriage	All Races		White		Black	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
<b>Husband</b>						
All Marriages	41	41	41	41	41	41
First Marriage	37	38	38	38	38	38
Second Marriage	46	47	46	47	46	47
Third Marriage+	52	52	52	52	50	51
Not Stated	44	45	46	46	44	43
<b>Wife</b>						
All Marriages	39	39	39	39	39	39
First Marriage	35	36	35	36	37	37
Second Marriage	43	44	43	44	44	45
Third Marriage+	48	48	48	48	47	48
Not Stated	43	44	44	46	43	43

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**Notes:**

1. See Definitions Section for explanation of the mean and median.
2. "All Races" includes "Other" and "Unknown" race categories.
3. "All Marriages" includes unknown number of this marriage.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-15  
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DIVORCES/ANNULMENTS\* BY MARRIAGE ORDER, AGE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE  
AT TIME OF DIVORCE DECREE AND RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

DELAWARE, 2008

Marriage Order	Age	Husband's Race						Wife's Race					
		All Races		White		Black		All Races		White		Black	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Marriages	<20	5	0.2	3	0.1	2	0.3	5	0.2	5	0.2	0	0.0
	20-29	417	13.6	301	13.7	101	13.3	574	18.8	429	19.2	124	17.2
	30-39	962	31.5	679	31.0	239	31.5	1000	32.7	730	32.8	236	32.8
	40-49	980	32.1	704	32.1	248	32.7	949	31.0	677	30.4	239	33.2
	50-64	576	18.8	422	19.3	135	17.8	448	14.7	331	14.8	101	14.0
	65+	76	2.5	55	2.5	21	2.8	38	1.2	32	1.4	5	0.7
	Unk	41	1.3	27	1.2	13	1.7	43	1.4	25	1.1	15	2.1
First Marriage	<20	5	0.2	3	0.2	2	0.4	5	0.2	5	0.3	0	0.0
	20-29	394	19.0	285	19.3	95	18.4	529	26.0	392	26.9	118	23.6
	30-39	781	37.7	550	37.2	195	37.8	758	37.3	546	37.4	187	37.5
	40-49	602	29.1	437	29.6	148	28.7	524	25.8	365	25.0	140	28.1
	50-64	243	11.7	173	11.7	61	11.8	181	8.9	128	8.8	44	8.8
	65+	21	1.0	15	1.0	6	1.2	9	0.4	5	0.3	3	0.6
	Unk	23	1.1	14	0.9	9	1.7	27	1.3	17	1.2	7	1.4
Second Marriage	<20	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	20-29	21	2.9	16	3.1	4	2.2	39	5.6	33	6.3	4	2.8
	30-39	144	20.0	103	19.9	36	19.6	185	26.7	147	27.8	34	23.6
	40-49	286	39.7	204	39.5	76	41.3	282	40.7	206	39.0	67	46.5
	50-64	226	31.4	162	31.3	57	31.0	155	22.4	116	22.0	33	22.9
	65+	35	4.9	26	5.0	9	4.9	20	2.9	18	3.4	2	1.4
	Unk	8	1.1	6	1.2	2	1.1	12	1.7	8	1.5	4	2.8
Third Marriage and more	<20	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	20-29	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.9	2	1.1	0	0.0
	30-39	15	8.2	12	8.3	2	5.7	27	12.1	21	12.0	5	11.1
	40-49	60	33.0	45	31.3	15	42.9	98	43.9	78	44.6	19	42.2
	50-64	84	46.2	70	48.6	13	37.1	86	38.6	67	38.3	18	40.0
	65+	18	9.9	13	9.0	5	14.3	7	3.1	7	4.0	0	0.0
	Unk	5	2.7	4	2.8	0	0.0	3	1.3	0	0.0	3	6.7
Not Stated	<20	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	20-29	2	2.3	0	0.0	2	8.3	4	3.7	2	2.9	2	6.3
	30-39	22	25.6	14	26.4	6	25.0	30	27.8	16	23.5	10	31.3
	40-49	32	37.2	18	34.0	9	37.5	45	41.7	28	41.2	13	40.6
	50-64	23	26.7	17	32.1	4	16.7	26	24.1	20	29.4	6	18.8
	65+	2	2.3	1	1.9	1	4.2	2	1.9	2	2.9	0	0.0
	Unk	5	5.8	3	5.7	2	8.3	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	3.1

**Notes:**

1. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
2. Percentages are calculated based upon the total number of divorces in each marriage order category and race.
3. "All Races" includes "Other" and "Unknown" race categories.
4. "All Marriages" includes unknown number of this marriage.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center

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TABLE B-16  
 MEDIAN AND MEAN DURATION OF MARRIAGE IN YEARS AT TIME OF DIVORCE DECREE  
 BY NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE AND RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

DELAWARE, 2008

Number of Marriage	All Races		White		Black	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
<b>Husband</b>						
All Marriages	8.4	10.7	8.9	11.2	6.9	9.3
First Marriage	8.8	11.4	9.4	11.8	7.5	10.2
Second Marriage	7.6	9.5	8.4	10.2	6.2	7.7
Third Marriage+	6.2	8.0	6.6	8.6	3.4	5.4
Not Stated	8.5	11.4	9.4	12.3	6.6	9.1
<b>Wife</b>						
All Marriages	8.4	10.7	8.7	11.1	7.0	9.5
First Marriage	8.9	11.4	9.3	11.7	8.1	10.2
Second Marriage	7.9	9.8	8.4	10.3	6.2	8.0
Third Marriage+	5.4	7.1	5.9	7.6	4.4	5.4
Not Stated	8.8	12.0	9.6	13.1	6.6	10.1

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**Notes:**

1. See Definitions Section for explanation of the mean and median.
2. "All Races" includes "Other" and "Unknown" race categories.
3. "All Marriages" includes unknown number of this marriage.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-17  
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DIVORCES/ANNULMENTS\* BY MARRIAGE ORDER, DURATION OF THIS MARRIAGE AND  
RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE

DELAWARE, 2008

Marriage Order	Duration of this Marriage	Husband's Race						Wife's Race					
		All Races		White		Black		All Races		White		Black	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Marriages	<1	79	2.6	42	1.9	34	4.5	79	2.6	44	2.0	33	4.6
	1-4	861	28.2	588	26.8	244	32.1	861	28.2	602	27.0	226	31.4
	5-9	817	26.7	576	26.3	205	27.0	817	26.7	601	27.0	193	26.8
	10-14	517	16.9	380	17.3	118	15.5	517	16.9	378	17.0	118	16.4
	15-19	329	10.8	250	11.4	71	9.4	329	10.8	252	11.3	64	8.9
	20-24	218	7.1	163	7.4	49	6.5	218	7.1	161	7.2	49	6.8
	25-29	117	3.8	98	4.5	19	2.5	117	3.8	97	4.4	18	2.5
	30+	106	3.5	86	3.9	14	1.8	106	3.5	86	3.9	14	1.9
	Not Stated	13	0.4	8	0.4	5	0.7	13	0.4	8	0.4	5	0.7
First Marriage	<1	45	2.2	24	1.6	18	3.5	43	2.1	21	1.4	20	4.0
	1-4	543	26.2	377	25.5	150	29.1	538	26.5	380	26.1	136	27.3
	5-9	549	26.5	383	25.9	142	27.5	526	25.9	372	25.5	139	27.9
	10-14	347	16.8	249	16.9	80	15.5	347	17.1	243	16.7	89	17.8
	15-19	227	11.0	171	11.6	51	9.9	238	11.7	179	12.3	50	10.0
	20-24	169	8.2	122	8.3	42	8.1	157	7.7	116	8.0	35	7.0
	25-29	89	4.3	73	4.9	16	3.1	89	4.4	72	4.9	15	3.0
	30+	90	4.3	72	4.9	13	2.5	88	4.3	70	4.8	13	2.6
	Not Stated	10	0.5	6	0.4	4	0.8	7	0.3	5	0.3	2	0.4
Second Marriage	<1	27	3.8	14	2.7	13	7.1	19	2.7	13	2.5	6	4.2
	1-4	223	31.0	148	28.6	66	35.9	201	29.0	138	26.1	57	39.6
	5-9	189	26.3	136	26.3	45	24.5	205	29.6	162	30.7	37	25.7
	10-14	132	18.3	98	19.0	34	18.5	121	17.5	97	18.4	20	13.9
	15-19	79	11.0	58	11.2	19	10.3	65	9.4	50	9.5	12	8.3
	20-24	36	5.0	31	6.0	5	2.7	47	6.8	35	6.6	11	7.6
	25-29	23	3.2	21	4.1	2	1.1	23	3.3	22	4.2	1	0.7
	30+	10	1.4	10	1.9	0	0.0	10	1.4	9	1.7	0	0.0
	Not Stated	1	0.1	1	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.3	2	0.4	0	0.0
Third Marriage and more	<1	6	3.3	4	2.8	2	5.7	13	5.8	9	5.1	4	8.9
	1-4	70	38.5	50	34.7	20	57.1	92	41.3	67	38.3	24	53.3
	5-9	54	29.7	41	28.5	10	28.6	63	28.3	50	28.6	11	24.4
	10-14	26	14.3	25	17.4	1	2.9	31	13.9	27	15.4	4	8.9
	15-19	14	7.7	14	9.7	0	0.0	15	6.7	14	8.0	1	2.2
	20-24	10	5.5	8	5.6	2	5.7	8	3.6	7	4.0	1	2.2
	25-29	2	1.1	2	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	30+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.6	0	0.0
	Not Stated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Not Stated	<1	1	1.2	0	0.0	1	4.2	4	1.8	1	1.5	3	9.4
	1-4	25	29.1	13	24.5	8	33.3	30	13.5	17	25.0	9	28.1
	5-9	25	29.1	16	30.2	8	33.3	23	10.3	17	25.0	6	18.8
	10-14	12	14.0	8	15.1	3	12.5	18	8.1	11	16.2	5	15.6
	15-19	9	10.5	7	13.2	1	4.2	11	4.9	9	13.2	1	3.1
	20-24	3	3.5	2	3.8	0	0.0	6	2.7	3	4.4	2	6.3
	25-29	3	3.5	2	3.8	1	4.2	5	2.2	3	4.4	2	6.3
	30+	6	7.0	4	7.5	1	4.2	7	3.1	6	8.8	1	3.1
Not Stated	2	2.3	1	1.9	1	4.2	4	1.8	1	1.5	3	9.4	

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**Notes:**

1. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
2. Percentages are calculated based upon the total number of divorces in each marriage order category and race.
3. "All Races" includes "Other" and "Unknown" race categories.
4. "All Marriages" includes unknown number of this marriage.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-18  
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DIVORCES BY RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE  
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18

DELAWARE, 2008

Number of Children Under 18	Race							
	All Races		White		Black		Other/Unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Husband</b>	3057	100.0	2191	100.0	759	100.0	107	100.0
None	1586	51.9	1091	49.8	428	56.4	67	62.6
1	627	20.5	479	21.9	128	16.9	20	18.7
2	583	19.1	449	20.5	120	15.8	14	13.1
3	198	6.5	140	6.4	54	7.1	4	3.7
4	41	1.3	21	1.0	20	2.6	0	0.0
5+	21	0.7	11	0.5	8	1.1	2	1.9
Unknown	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
<b>Wife</b>	3057	100.0	2229	100.0	720	100.0	108	100.0
None	1586	51.9	1112	49.9	412	57.2	62	57.4
1	627	20.5	474	21.3	124	17.2	29	26.9
2	583	19.1	458	20.5	112	15.6	13	12.0
3	198	6.5	149	6.7	47	6.5	2	1.9
4	41	1.3	25	1.1	16	2.2	0	0.0
5+	21	0.7	11	0.5	8	1.1	2	1.9
Unknown	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0

CHILD

**Notes:**

1. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
2. Percentages are calculated based upon the total number of divorces in each race category.
3. "All Races" includes "Other" and "Unknown" race categories.

**Source:**

Delaware Health Statistics Center