

Marriage and Divorce Highlights

<u>Key Indicators</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Delaware</u>	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Recent Trend in Delaware*</u>
Marriages				
• Number of marriages per 1,000 population (See Table B-2)	1998-2002	6.6	8.2	Decreasing
Divorces				
• Number of divorces per 1,000 population (See Table B-6)	1998-2002	4.0	4.0	Decreasing

* Trend over last 3 to 4 time periods.

***U.S. divorce data based on national estimates.**

Key Facts

- There were 5,171 marriages and 2,792 divorces in Delaware in 2002 (see Tables B-1 and B-5, respectively).
- The most popular month to get married in Delaware in 2002 was June (see Table B-3).
- The median duration of marriage for couples divorced in 2002 was 8.5 years (see Table B-7).
- There were a total of 2,514 children under 18 years of age among couples who divorced in 2002 (see Table B-8).

TABLE B-1
NUMBER OF MARRIAGES BY PLACE OF CEREMONY
U.S., DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1982-2002

Year	U.S.	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1982	2456278	4827	978	3057	792
1983	2445604	5569	1162	3472	935
1984	2477192	5461	1038	3434	989
1985	2412625	5356	1063	3443	850
1986	2407099	5484	1142	3433	909
1987	2403378	5410	1001	3429	980
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	2251000 *	5188	929	3011	1248
2000	2376000 *	5292	957	3117	1218
2001	2345000 *	5279	963	3118	1198
2002	2254000 *	5171	1015	2899	1257

Note:

1. *Based on NCHS estimate.

Sources:

National Center for Health Statistics
Delaware Health Statistics Center

FYAMAR1

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

U.S., DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1982-2002

Years	U.S.	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1982-1986	10.3	8.6	10.5	8.1	8.7
1983-1987	10.2	8.7	10.4	8.2	8.9
1984-1988	10.1	8.6	10.2	8.2	8.9
1985-1989	9.9	8.7	10.2	8.2	8.9
1986-1990	9.9	8.7	9.9	8.2	9.2
1987-1991	9.7 *	8.5	9.7	8.0	9.2
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	8.6 *	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

Note:

1. *Based on NCHS estimate.

Sources:

National Center for Health Statistics
Delaware Health Statistics Center

FYAMAR2

TABLE B-3
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF MARRIAGES BY MONTH OF CEREMONY
DELAWARE, 2002

Month	Number	Percent
January	223	4.3
February	322	6.2
March	295	5.7
April	378	7.3
May	568	11.0
June	660	12.8
July	469	9.1
August	554	10.7
September	547	10.6
October	499	9.6
November	381	7.4
December	275	5.3
Total	5171	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-4
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF MARRIAGES BY DAY OF WEEK CEREMONY PERFORMED
DELAWARE, 2002

Day	Number	Percent
Sunday	324	6.3
Monday	74	1.4
Tuesday	189	3.7
Wednesday	256	5.0
Thursday	209	4.0
Friday	966	18.7
Saturday	3153	61.0
Total	5171	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-5
NUMBER OF DIVORCES/ANNULMENTS* BY PLACE OF DECREE
DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1982-2002

Year	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1982	3213	641	2036	536
1983	3060	672	1853	535
1984	2907	602	1785	520
1985	2992	648	1806	538
1986	3093	612	1876	605
1987	2939	630	1729	580
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

Notes:

1. *Annulments represent less than 0.1% of the totals.

FYADIV1

Sources:

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-6
FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE DIVORCE/ANNULMENT* RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION
BY PLACE OF DECREE

DELAWARE AND COUNTIES, 1982-2002

Years	Delaware	Kent	New Castle	Sussex
1982-1986	4.9	6.2	4.5	5.3
1983-1987	4.8	6.1	4.3	5.3
1984-1988	4.7	6.0	4.3	5.2
1985-1989	4.7	5.9	4.2	5.2
1986-1990	4.6	5.7	4.2	5.1
1987-1991	4.5	5.7	4.1	5.1
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

Note:

1. *Annulments represent less than 0.1% of the totals.

FYADIV2

Sources:

Delaware Health Statistics Center

TABLE B-7
 MEDIAN AND MEAN DURATION OF MARRIAGE IN YEARS AT TIME OF DIVORCE DECREE
 BY RACE AND NUMBER OF THIS MARRIAGE

DELAWARE, 2002

Race/ Number of Marriage	Husband		Wife	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
All Races				
All Marriages	8.5	11.0	8.5	11.0
First Marriage	9.4	11.8	9.8	12.0
Second Marriage	7.4	9.3	7.0	8.9
Third Marriage+	6.1	7.8	6.0	7.3
White				
All Marriages	8.7	11.2	8.7	11.2
First Marriage	9.7	12.1	9.9	12.3
Second Marriage	7.4	9.3	7.1	9.0
Third Marriage+	6.5	7.7	6.7	7.7
Black				
All Marriages	7.4	7.4	7.3	9.9
First Marriage	7.9	10.6	8.1	10.7
Second Marriage	5.9	8.4	6.2	7.7
Third Marriage+	4.4	7.3	4.6	5.4

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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-8
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DIVORCES BY RACE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18

DELAWARE, 2002

Number of Children Under 18	Race							
	All Races		White		Black		Other/Unknown	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Husband	2792	100.0	2109	100.0	573	100.0	110	19.2
None	1310	46.9	979	46.4	279	48.7	52	9.1
1	599	21.5	470	22.3	102	17.8	27	4.7
2	574	20.6	452	21.4	100	17.5	22	3.8
3	173	6.2	124	5.9	44	7.7	5	0.9
4	38	1.4	23	1.1	15	2.6	0	0.0
5+	18	0.6	6	0.3	12	2.1	0	0.0
Unknown	80	2.9	55	2.6	21	3.7	4	0.7
Wife	2792	100.0	2110	100.0	551	100.0	131	23.8
None	1310	46.9	983	46.6	263	47.7	64	11.6
1	599	21.5	476	22.6	98	17.8	25	4.5
2	574	20.6	438	20.8	105	19.1	31	5.6
3	173	6.2	128	6.1	40	7.3	5	0.9
4	38	1.4	22	1.0	15	2.7	1	0.2
5+	18	0.6	7	0.3	11	2.0	0	0.0
Unknown	80	2.9	56	2.7	19	3.4	5	0.9

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