

Marriage & Divorce

An Overview: 2019	
Marriages:	
Number Occurring in S.D.	5,403
S.D. Rate per 1,000 Population	6.1
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	6.5*
**Divorces:	
Number Occurring in S.D.	2,308
S.D. Rate Per 1,000 Population	2.6
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	2.9*
Years Married Before Termination in S.D.	
Mean	11
Median	9
Mode	2
Range	
Lower	Less Than 1
Upper	57

Source: National Center for Health Statistics and South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Note: The U.S. marriage and divorce rates are provisional from 2018.

* The U.S. divorce rate only includes 45 reporting states and the District of Columbia.

** Divorces include annulments.

Marriages in South Dakota

In 2019, the South Dakota marriage rate decreased to 6.1, down from 6.5 in 2018. The number of marriages in 2019 (5,403) is the lowest in over 15 years.

Table 67, below, provides the United States and South Dakota marriage rates from 2005 through 2019.

Table 67
Marriages and Marriage Rates by Occurrence,
South Dakota and United States, 2005-2019

Year	United States*		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2019	NA**	NA**	5,403	6.1
2018	2,132,853	6.5	5,757	6.5
2017	2,236,496	6.9	5,862	6.7
2016	2,251,411	7.0	6,271	7.2
2015	2,221,579	6.9	6,195	7.2
2014	2,140,272	6.9	6,040	7.1
2013	2,081,301	6.8	5,919	7.0
2012	2,131,000	6.8	6,236	7.5
2011	2,118,000	6.8	6,145	7.5
2010	2,096,000	6.8	5,939	7.3
2009	2,080,000	6.8	5,887	7.2
2008	2,157,000	7.1	6,148	7.6
2007	2,197,000	7.3	6,138	7.7
2006	2,193,000	7.5	6,303	8.0
2005	2,249,000	7.6	6,551	8.4

Note: *The marriage data for the United States is provisional for all years. **2019 data is not available at the time of publication.

Crude marriage rates are per 1,000 population. The 2006 U.S. number and rate excludes data from Louisiana. The 2013 and 2014 U.S. number and rate excludes data from Georgia.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics and South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Table 68, below, displays marriages by month over the past five years. The most

common time to have a wedding for all years is from June to September.

Table 68
Month of Marriages for Marriages Occurring in South Dakota, 2015-2019

Year	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Total	6,195	100	6,271	100	5,862	100	5,757	100	5,403	100
January	199	3.2	239	3.8	211	3.6	217	3.8	204	3.8
February	232	3.7	247	3.9	220	3.8	244	4.2	207	3.8
March	250	4.0	215	3.4	288	4.9	277	4.8	229	4.2
April	334	5.4	372	5.9	340	5.8	329	5.7	245	4.5
May	585	9.4	546	8.7	493	8.4	447	7.8	459	8.5
June	866	14.0	875	14.0	805	13.7	841	14.6	816	15.1
July	816	13.2	845	13.5	761	13.0	609	10.6	584	10.8
August	972	15.7	805	12.8	685	11.7	815	14.2	771	14.3
September	770	12.4	830	13.2	903	15.4	833	14.5	771	14.3
October	569	9.2	673	10.7	548	9.3	587	10.2	538	10.0
November	283	4.6	290	4.6	263	4.5	274	4.8	290	5.4
December	319	5.1	334	5.3	345	5.9	282	4.9	289	5.3

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Divorces in South Dakota

Table 69, below, lists the divorce rates for South Dakota and the United States. The 2019 South Dakota divorce rate was 2.6

divorces per 1,000 population, which remained the same from 2018.

Table 69
Number and Rate of Divorces by Occurrence, South Dakota and United States, 2005-2019

Year	United States*		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2019	NA**	NA**	2,308	2.6
2018	782,038	2.9	2,265	2.6
2017	787,251	2.9	2,340	2.7
2016	776,288	3.0	2,400	2.8
2015	800,909	3.1	2,252	2.6
2014	813,862	3.2	2,374	2.8
2013	832,157	3.3	2,450	2.9
2012	851,000	3.4	2,550	3.1
2011	877,000	3.6	2,694	3.3
2010	872,000	3.6	2,774	3.4
2009	840,000	3.5	2,686	3.3
2008	844,000	3.5	2,459	3.1
2007	856,000	3.6	2,438	3.1
2006	872,000	3.7	2,465	3.1
2005	847,000	3.6	2,354	3.0

Note: *The U.S. data is provisional for all years. Crude divorce rates are per 1,000 population. **2019 data are not available at time of publication. The years 2017 and 2018 excludes data from California, Hawaii, Indiana, Minnesota, and New Mexico. The year 2016 excludes data for California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Minnesota, and New Mexico. The years 2013-2015 exclude California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, and Minnesota. The years 2005-2012 exclude data for California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics and South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

For South Dakota, the mean or average duration of the marriages ending in divorce during 2019 was 11 years, the median duration was nine years, and the modal duration was two years. The length of time before terminating the marriage ranged from less than one year to 57 years for South Dakota divorces in 2019.

Table 70, below, displays the duration of marriages ending in divorce for the past 10 years. In 2019, zero to four years and five to nine years is the length most marriages lasted with 28.5 and 24.3 percent, respectively.

Table 70
Duration of Marriage Ending in Divorces by Year for Divorces Occurring in South Dakota, 2010-2019

Year	0-4 Years		5-9 Years		10-14 Years		15-19 Years		20-24 Years		25-29 Years		30+ Years	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
2019	658	28.5	560	24.3	410	17.8	259	11.2	169	7.3	100	4.3	152	6.6
2018	692	30.6	563	24.9	368	16.2	276	12.2	165	7.3	98	4.3	103	4.5
2017	719	30.8	543	23.2	374	16.0	278	11.9	178	7.6	115	4.9	131	5.6
2016	791	33.0	553	23.0	386	16.1	253	10.5	175	7.3	105	4.4	137	5.7
2015	735	32.6	528	23.4	355	15.8	231	10.3	182	8.1	94	4.2	127	5.6
2014	755	31.8	591	24.9	359	15.1	235	9.9	193	8.1	114	4.8	127	5.3
2013	783	32.0	626	25.6	389	15.9	266	10.9	167	6.8	109	4.4	110	4.5
2012	845	33.0	648	25.4	387	15.2	235	9.2	198	7.8	119	4.7	121	4.7
2011	884	32.8	686	25.5	415	15.4	285	10.6	184	6.8	119	4.4	121	4.5
2010	951	34.3	703	25.3	431	15.5	281	10.1	178	6.4	106	3.8	124	4.5

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Table 71, below, displays the number of children involved in divorces for the past 10

years. Slightly over half (52.2%) of all divorces in 2019 did not involve children.

Table 71
Number of Children Involved in Divorce by Year for Divorces Occurring in South Dakota, 2010-2019

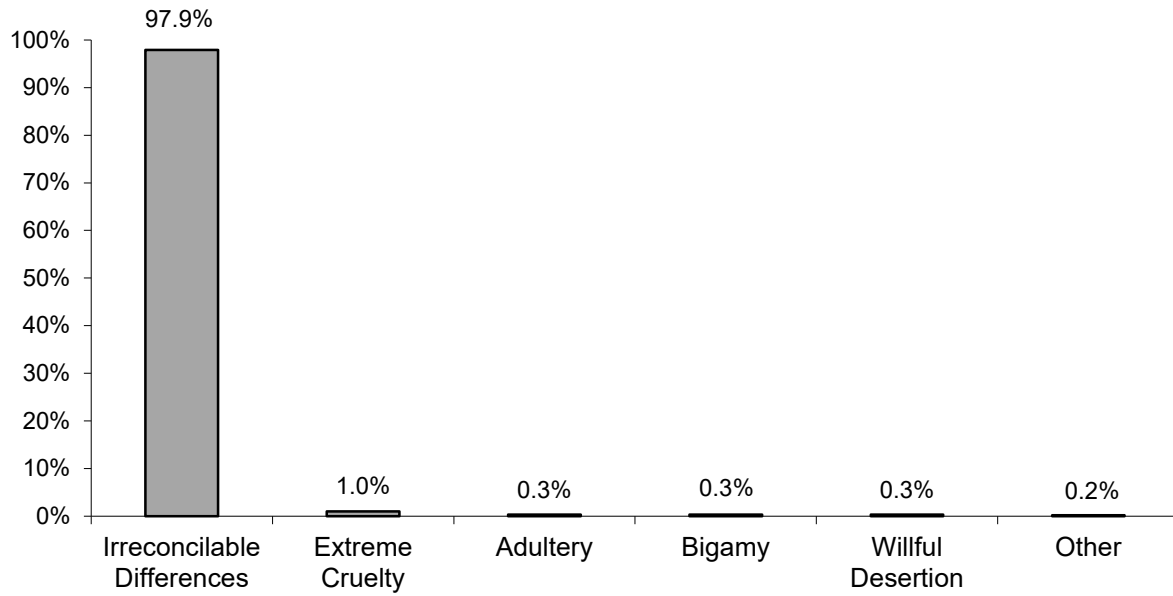
Year	Total		No Children Involved		1 Child Involved		2 Children Involved		3 Children Involved		4 or More Children Involved		Not Stated	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
2019	2,308	100	1,204	52.2	443	19.2	423	18.3	186	8.1	52	2.3	0	-
2018	2,265	100	1,164	51.4	412	18.2	446	19.7	179	7.9	64	2.8	0	-
2017	2,340	100	1,227	52.4	410	17.5	485	20.7	159	6.8	59	2.5	0	-
2016	2,400	100	1,298	54.1	459	19.1	432	18.0	166	6.9	43	1.8	2	-
2015	2,252	100	1,190	52.8	444	19.7	404	17.9	166	7.4	48	2.1	0	-
2014	2,374	100	1,256	52.9	502	21.2	414	17.4	156	6.6	45	1.9	1	-
2013	2,450	100	1,220	49.8	484	19.8	494	20.2	199	8.1	53	2.2	0	-
2012	2,550	100	1,290	50.6	503	19.7	523	20.5	181	7.1	52	2.0	1	-
2011	2,694	100	1,348	50.0	535	19.9	562	20.9	180	6.7	69	2.6	0	-
2010	2,774	100	1,370	49.4	596	21.5	562	20.3	197	7.1	49	1.8	0	-

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics

Figure 35, on the next page, displays causes for the divorce. The majority of

divorces in 2019 stated irreconcilable differences with 97.9 percent.

Figure 35
Causes for Divorce for Divorces Occurring in South Dakota, 2019



Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics