

Marriage & Divorce

An Overview: 2021	
Marriages:	
Number Occurring in S.D.	5,636
S.D. Rate per 1,000 Population	6.3
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	5.1*
**Divorces:	
Number Occurring in S.D.	2,211
S.D. Rate Per 1,000 Population	2.5
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	2.3*
Years Married Before Termination in S.D.	
Mean	12
Median	9
Mode	3
Range	
Lower	Less Than 1
Upper	58

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 2020.

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

** Divorces include annulments.

Marriages in South Dakota

In 2021, the South Dakota marriage rate increased to 6.3, up from 6.0 in 2020. The marriage rate in 2020 was the lowest ever in South Dakota.

Table 66, below, provides the United States and South Dakota marriage rates from 2007 through 2021.

Table 66
Marriages and Marriage Rates by Occurrence,
South Dakota and United States, 2007-2021

Year	United States*		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2021	NA**	NA**	5,636	6.3
2020	1,676,911	5.1	5,359	6.0
2019	2,015,603	6.1	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

Note: *The marriage data for the United States are provisional for all years. **2021 data are not available at the time of publication. Crude marriage rates are per 1,000 population. 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 67, below, displays marriages by month over the past five years. The most

common time to have a wedding for most years is from June to October.

Table 67
Month of Marriages Occurring in South Dakota, 2017-2021

Year	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
Total	5,862	100	5,757	100	5,403	100	5,359	100	5,636	100
January	211	3.6	217	3.8	204	3.8	209	3.9	212	3.8
February	220	3.8	244	4.2	207	3.8	276	5.2	199	3.5
March	288	4.9	277	4.8	229	4.2	220	4.1	238	4.2
April	340	5.8	329	5.7	245	4.5	217	4.0	282	5.0
May	493	8.4	447	7.8	459	8.5	333	6.2	524	9.3
June	805	13.7	841	14.6	816	15.1	587	11.0	774	13.7
July	761	13.0	609	10.6	584	10.8	545	10.2	710	12.6
August	685	11.7	815	14.2	771	14.3	803	15.0	655	11.6
September	903	15.4	833	14.5	771	14.3	789	14.7	775	13.8
October	548	9.3	587	10.2	538	10.0	761	14.2	658	11.7
November	263	4.5	274	4.8	290	5.4	295	5.5	286	5.1
December	345	5.9	282	4.9	289	5.3	324	6.0	323	5.7

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

Divorces in South Dakota

Table 68, below, lists the divorce rates for South Dakota and the United States. The 2021 South Dakota divorce rate was 2.5

divorces per 1,000 population, which is the lowest divorce rate since 1972.

Table 68
Number and Rate of Divorces by Occurrence, South Dakota and United States, 2007-2021

Year	United States*		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2021	NA**	NA**	2,211	2.5
2020	630,505	2.3	2,226	2.5
2019	746,971	2.7	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

Note: *The U.S. data are provisional for all years. Crude divorce rates are per 1,000 population. **2021 data are not available at time of publication. The years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 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 2007-2012 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 2021 was 12 years, the median duration was nine years, and the modal duration was three years. The length of time before terminating the marriage ranged from less than one year to 58 years for South Dakota divorces in 2021.

Table 69, below, displays the duration of marriages ending in divorce for the past 10 years. In 2021, zero to four years and five to nine years is the length most marriages lasted with 29.5 and 23.7 percent, respectively.

Table 69
Duration of Marriage Ending in Divorce Occurring in South Dakota, 2012-2021

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	%
2021	653	29.5	524	23.7	371	16.8	243	11.0	165	7.5	114	5.2	141	6.4
2020	646	29.0	583	26.2	354	15.9	240	10.8	185	8.3	92	4.1	126	5.7
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

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

Table 70, below, displays the number of children involved in divorces for the past 10

years. Over half (54.2%) of all divorces in 2021 did not involve children.

Table 70
Number of Children Involved in Divorce Occurring in South Dakota, 2012-2021

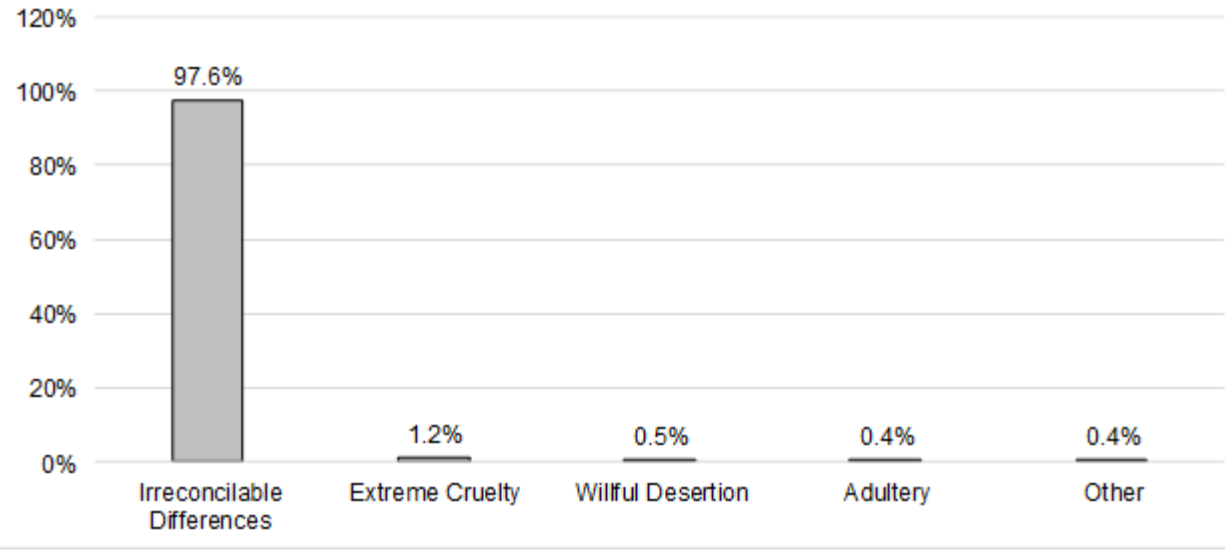
Year	Total		No Children Involved		1 Child Involved		2 Children Involved		3 Children Involved		4 or More Children Involved		Not Stated	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
2021	2,211	100	1,198	54.2	402	18.2	382	17.3	161	7.3	68	3.1	0	-
2020	2,226	100	1,174	52.7	420	18.9	404	18.1	179	8.0	49	2.2	0	-
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	-

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

Figure 33, on the next page, displays causes for the divorce. The majority of

divorces in 2021 stated irreconcilable differences with 97.6 percent.

Figure 33
Causes for Divorce Occurring in South Dakota, 2021



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