

# Marriage & Divorce

## An Overview: 2009

### Marriages:

Number Occurring in S.D.	5,887
S.D. Rate per 1,000 Population	7.8
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	6.8
Age of Bride for South Dakota Residents (Years)	
Mean	30
Median	26
Mode	24
Range	
Lower	16
Upper	87
Age of Groom for South Dakota Residents (Years)	
Mean	32
Median	28
Mode	25
Range	
Lower	16
Upper	93

### Divorces and Annulments:

Number Occurring in S.D.	2,686
S.D. Rate Per 1,000 Population	3.6
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	3.4
Years Married Before Termination in S.D.	
Mean	10
Median	7
Mode	1
Range	
Lower	Less Than 1
Upper	53

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Data, Statistics, and Vital Records

## Marriages in South Dakota

In the last 30 years, marriage rates in South Dakota reached their peak in 1980 with a rate of 12.7. In 2009, the South Dakota marriage rate was 7.8, down slightly from 8.1 in 2008. On the following page is Table

74, which provides the United States and South Dakota marriage rates from 1980 through 2009. Figure 27, on the next page, illustrates the changes in these rates over this same time period.

**Table 74**  
**Marriages and Marriage Rates by Occurrence,**  
**South Dakota and United States, 1980-2009**

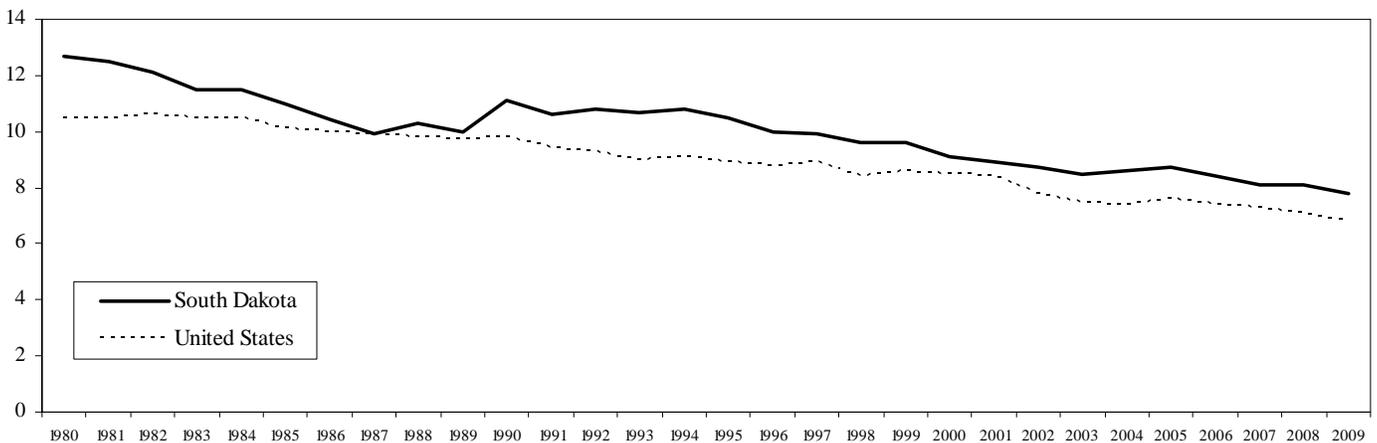
Year	United States		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2009	2,077,000	6.8	5,887	7.8
2008	2,157,000	7.1	6,148	8.1
2007	2,197,000	7.3	6,138	8.1
2006	2,193,000	7.4	6,303	8.4
2005	2,249,000	7.6	6,551	8.7
2004	2,279,000	7.8	6,485	8.6
2003	2,187,000	7.5	6,427	8.5
2002	2,254,000	7.8	6,585	8.7
2001	2,327,000	8.4	6,719	8.9
2000	2,329,000	8.5	6,882	9.1
1999	2,358,000	8.6	6,863	9.9
1998	2,256,000	8.4	6,705	9.6
1997	2,384,000	8.9	6,867	9.9
1996	2,344,000	8.8	6,991	10.0
1995	2,336,000	8.9	7,283	10.5
1994	2,362,000	9.1	7,528	10.8
1993	2,334,000	9.0	7,413	10.7
1992	2,362,000	9.3	7,549	10.8
1991	2,371,000	9.4	7,374	10.6
1990	2,443,489	9.8	7,716	11.1
1989	2,403,268	9.7	7,108	10.0
1988	2,395,926	9.8	7,328	10.3
1987	2,403,378	9.9	6,996	9.9
1986	2,407,099	10.0	7,386	10.4
1985	2,412,625	10.1	7,793	11.0
1984	2,477,192	10.5	8,057	11.5
1983	2,445,604	10.5	8,013	11.5
1982	2,456,278	10.6	8,353	12.1
1981	2,422,145	10.5	8,662	12.5
1980	2,390,252	10.5	8,800	12.7

Note: Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

South Dakota Department of Health , Office of Data, Statistics, and Vital Records

**Figure 27**  
**Marriages Occurring in South Dakota and United States, 1980-2009**



Note: Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

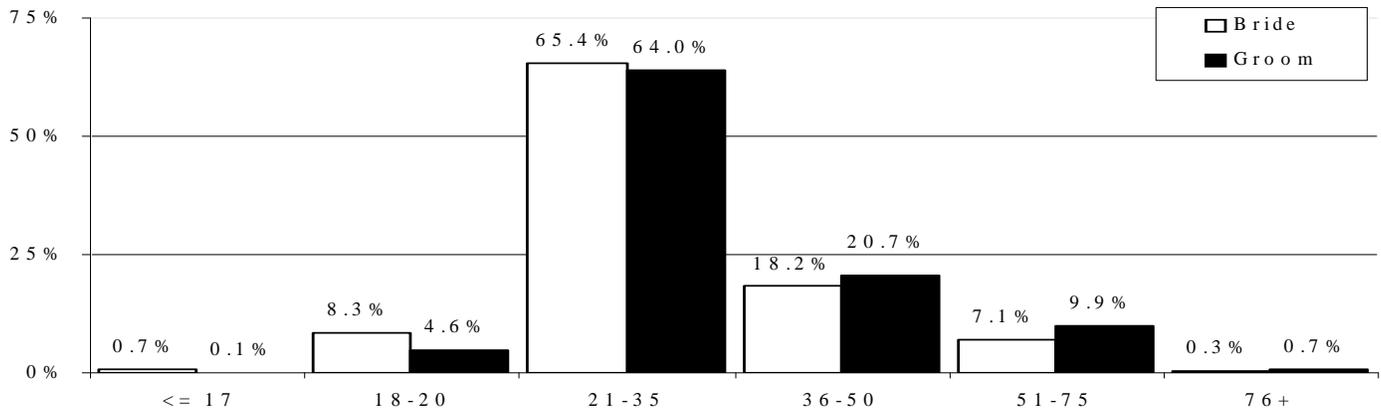
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Data, Statistics, and Vital Records

For South Dakota residents, the mean or average age of brides in 2009 was 30 years of age, the median age was 26, and the modal age was 24. The age of brides in 2009 ranged from a low of 16 to a high of

87. The mean age of South Dakota resident grooms in 2009 was 32 years of age, the median age was 28, and the modal age was 25. The age of grooms in 2009 ranged from a low of 16 to a high of 93.

**Figure 28**  
**Brides and Grooms by Age Group for Marriages Occurring in South Dakota, 2009**



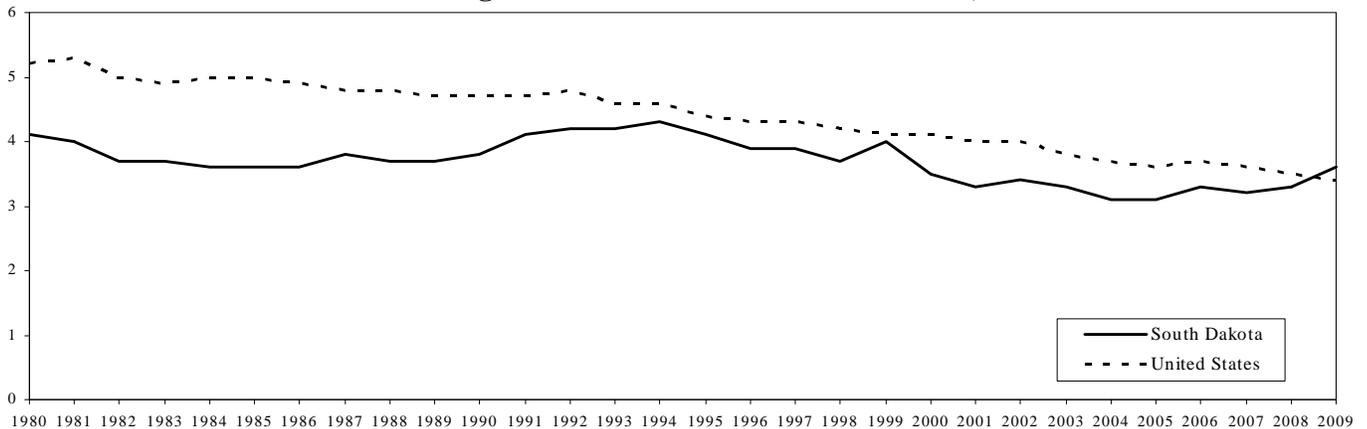
Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Data, Statistics, and Vital Records

### Divorces in South Dakota

For comparisons over time, Figure 29, below, illustrates the rates for South Dakota and national divorce rates from 1980 to 2009. Table 75, on the next page, lists the rates for South Dakota and the United

States. As displayed, the 2009 South Dakota divorce rate was 3.6 divorces per 1,000 population, which increased slightly from 3.3 in 2008.

**Figure 29**  
**Divorces Occurring in South Dakota and United States, 1980-2009**



Note: Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Data, Statistics, and Vital Records

**Table 75**  
**Number and Rate of Divorces and Annulments by Occurrence,**  
**South Dakota and United States, 1980-2009**

Year	United States		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2009	**	3.4	2,686	3.6
2008	**	3.5	2,459	3.3
2007	**	3.6	2,438	3.2
2006	**	3.7	2,465	3.3
2005	**	3.6	2,354	3.1
2004	**	3.7	2,358	3.1
2003	**	3.8	2,502	3.3
2002	**	4.0	2,561	3.4
2001	**	4.0	2,522	3.3
2000	**	4.1	2,678	3.5
1999	**	4.1	2,750	4.0
1998	1,135,000	4.2	2,581	3.7
1997	1,163,000	4.3	2,738	3.9
1996	1,150,000	4.3	2,749	3.9
1995	1,169,000	4.4	2,879	4.1
1994	1,191,000	4.6	2,969	4.3
1993	1,187,000	4.6	2,895	4.2
1992	1,215,000	4.8	2,932	4.2
1991	1,187,000	4.7	2,859	4.1
1990	1,182,000	4.7	2,651	3.8
1989	1,157,000	4.7	2,624	3.7
1988	1,167,000	4.8	2,649	3.7
1987	1,166,000	4.8	2,696	3.8
1986	1,178,000	4.9	2,585	3.6
1985	1,190,000	5.0	2,566	3.6
1984	1,169,000	5.0	2,498	3.6
1983	1,158,000	4.9	2,556	3.7
1982	1,170,000	5.0	2,564	3.7
1981	1,213,000	5.3	2,772	4.0
1980	1,189,000	5.2	2,811	4.1

Note: \*\*U.S. data are not available.

Crude divorce rates are per 1,000 population.

Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Data, Statistics, and Vital Records

For South Dakota divorces, the mean or average duration of the marriages ending in divorce during 2009 was ten years, the median duration was seven years, and the

modal duration was one year. The length of time before terminating the marriage ranged from less than one year to 53 years for 2009 South Dakota divorces.