

# Marriage & Divorce

<b>An Overview: 2017</b>	
<b>Marriages:</b>	
Number Occurring in S.D.	5,862
S.D. Rate per 1,000 Population	6.7
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	6.9*
<b>**Divorces:</b>	
Number Occurring in S.D.	2,340
S.D. Rate Per 1,000 Population	2.7
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population	3.2*
Years Married Before Termination in S.D.	
Mean	11
Median	8
Mode	3
Range	
Lower	Less Than 1
Upper	56

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 2016.

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

\*\* Divorces include annulments.

## Marriages in South Dakota

In 2017, the South Dakota marriage rate decreased to 6.7, down from 7.2 in 2016. The number of marriages in 2017 (5,862) is the lowest in over 14 years.

Table 78, below, provides the United States and South Dakota marriage rates from 2003 through 2017.

**Table 78**  
**Marriages and Marriage Rates by Occurrence,**  
**South Dakota and United States, 2003-2017**

Year	United States*		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2017	NA**	NA**	5,862	6.7
2016	2,245,404	6.9	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
2004	2,279,000	7.8	6,485	8.4
2003	2,245,000	7.7	6,427	8.4

Note: \*The marriage data for the United States is provisional for all years. \*\*2017 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 79, 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 79**  
**Month of Marriages for Marriages Occurring in South Dakota, 2013-2017**

Year	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Num	%								
Total	5,919	100	6,040	100	6,195	100	6,271	100	5,862	100
January	201	3.4	221	3.7	199	3.2	239	3.8	211	3.6
February	237	4.0	267	4.4	232	3.7	247	3.9	220	3.8
March	282	4.8	259	4.3	250	4.0	215	3.4	288	4.9
April	310	5.2	307	5.1	334	5.4	372	5.9	340	5.8
May	517	8.7	592	9.8	585	9.4	546	8.7	493	8.4
June	925	15.6	879	14.6	866	14.0	875	14.0	805	13.7
July	703	11.9	716	11.9	816	13.2	845	13.5	761	13.0
August	857	14.5	891	14.8	972	15.7	805	12.8	685	11.7
September	735	12.4	753	12.5	770	12.4	830	13.2	903	15.4
October	517	8.7	531	8.8	569	9.2	673	10.7	548	9.3
November	335	5.7	258	4.3	283	4.6	290	4.6	263	4.5
December	300	5.1	363	6.0	319	5.1	334	5.3	345	5.9

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

### Divorces in South Dakota

Table 80, below, lists the divorce rates for South Dakota and the United States. The 2017 South Dakota divorce rate was 2.7

divorces per 1,000 population, which decreased slightly from 2.8 in 2016.

**Table 80**  
**Number and Rate of Divorces by Occurrence, South Dakota and United States, 2003-2017**

Year	United States*		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2017	NA**	NA**	2,340	2.7
2016	827,261	3.2	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
2004	879,000	3.7	2,358	3.0
2003	927,000	3.8	2,502	3.3

Note: \*The U.S. data is provisional for all years. Crude divorce rates are per 1,000 population. 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. The year 2004 excludes data for California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, and Louisiana and 2003 excludes data from California, Hawaii, Indiana, and Oklahoma.

\*\*2017 data are not available at time of publication.

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 2017 was 11 years, the median duration was eight years, and the modal duration was three years. The length of time before terminating the marriage ranged from less than one year to 56 years for South Dakota divorces in 2017.

Table 81, below, displays the duration of marriages ending in divorce for the past 10 years. In 2017, zero to four years and five to nine years is the length most marriages lasted with 30.8 and 23.2 percent, respectively.

**Table 81**  
**Duration of Marriage Ending in Divorces by Year for Divorces Occurring in South Dakota, 2008-2017**

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	%
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
2009	916	34.1	693	25.8	384	14.3	261	9.7	194	7.2	114	4.2	124	4.6
2008	858	34.9	618	25.1	368	15.0	214	8.7	165	6.7	110	4.5	126	5.1

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

Table 82, below, displays the number of children involved in divorces for the past 10

years. Slightly over half of all divorces in 2017 did not involve children.

**Table 82**  
**Number of Children Involved in Divorce by Year for Divorces Occurring in South Dakota, 2008-2017**

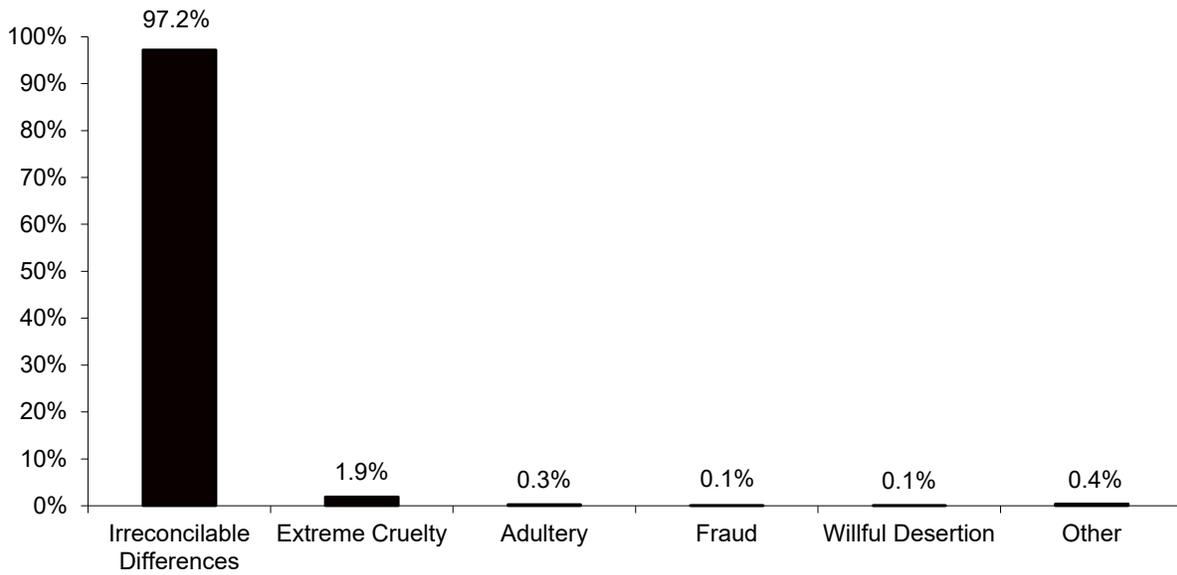
Year	Total		No Children Involved		1 Child Involved		2 Children Involved		3 Children Involved		4 or More Children Involved		Not Stated	
	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%	Num	%
2017	2,340	100	1,227	52.4	410	17.5	485	20.7	159	6.8	59	2.5	0	-
2016	2,400	100	1,298	54.1	459	19.1	432	18.0	166	6.9	43	1.8	2	-
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	-
2009	2,686	100	1,381	51.4	549	20.4	520	19.4	174	6.5	62	2.3	0	-
2008	2,459	100	1,251	50.9	474	19.3	529	21.5	161	6.5	44	1.8	0	-

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

Figure 47, on the next page, displays causes for the divorce. The majority of

divorces in 2017 stated irreconcilable differences with 97.2 percent.

**Figure 47**  
**Causes for Divorce for Divorces Occurring in South Dakota, 2017**



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