



Charting Marriage & Divorce in the U.S.: The Refined Marriage Rate, 2008-2023

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Beginning in 2008, the U.S. Census Bureau began asking respondents of the American Community Survey about events experienced in the past 12 months including marriages and divorces. In the same year, they also began asking respondents to report on the number of times they had been married. In conjunction with information on respondents' marital status, the NCFMR has been calculating and reporting on marriage and divorce rates in the U.S. from the time these variables were first made available to the public. In a special release series, we provide single-year estimates charting marriage and divorce rates spanning the years 2008-2023. In this release, we focus on the refined marriage rate.

Refined Marriage Rate

$$\left[\frac{\text{number married in the past 12 months}}{\text{(number married in the past 12 months + the currently unmarried population aged 15 or older)}} \right] \times 1,000$$

Table 1. Marriages in the Last Year and Refined Marriage Rates: United States, 2008-2023

Year	Number of Women ¹	Rate per 1,000 unmarried women 15 years of age and over ²	MOE	Number of Men ¹	Rate per 1,000 unmarried men 15 years of age and over ²	MOE	Total Number ¹	Rate per 1,000 unmarried men and women 15 years of age and over ²	MOE
2023	2,361,030	31.5	+/- 0.43	2,445,632	35.8	+/- 0.52	4,806,662	33.6	+/- 0.30
2022	2,322,727	31.2	+/- 0.41	2,419,384	35.5	+/- 0.37	4,742,111	33.3	+/- 0.30
2021	2,052,806	28.0	+/- 0.38	2,111,366	31.4	+/- 0.38	4,164,172	29.3	+/- 0.30
2020 ³	2,031,107	28.1	N.C.	2,033,481	30.7	N.C.	4,064,588	29.3	N.C.
2019	2,231,263	30.5	+/- 0.38	2,261,617	33.9	+/- 0.48	4,492,880	32.1	+/- 0.30
2018	2,268,129	31.3	+/- 0.37	2,293,282	34.7	+/- 0.43	4,561,411	32.9	+/- 0.28
2017	2,319,672	32.2	+/- 0.36	2,348,243	35.7	+/- 0.42	4,667,915	33.9	+/- 0.27
2016	2,286,230	31.9	+/- 0.36	2,321,487	35.6	+/- 0.41	4,607,717	33.6	+/- 0.27
2015	2,298,977	32.3	+/- 0.36	2,348,113	36.3	+/- 0.37	4,647,090	34.2	+/- 0.26
2014	2,241,036	31.9	+/- 0.35	2,280,174	35.9	+/- 0.37	4,521,210	33.8	+/- 0.25
2013	2,155,669	31.2	+/- 0.37	2,215,659	35.4	+/- 0.45	4,371,328	33.2	+/- 0.29
2012	2,156,833	31.5	+/- 0.33	2,208,051	35.8	+/- 0.43	4,364,884	33.5	+/- 0.27
2011	2,096,359	31.1	+/- 0.37	2,144,467	35.3	+/- 0.48	4,240,826	33.1	+/- 0.30
2010	2,113,521	31.9	+/- 0.34	2,142,639	36.0	+/- 0.41	4,256,160	33.8	+/- 0.26
2009	2,208,971	34.0	+/- 0.37	2,286,750	39.0	+/- 0.45	4,495,721	36.4	+/- 0.29
2008	2,227,084	34.8	+/- 0.37	2,327,018	40.5	+/- 0.44	4,554,102	37.5	+/- 0.29

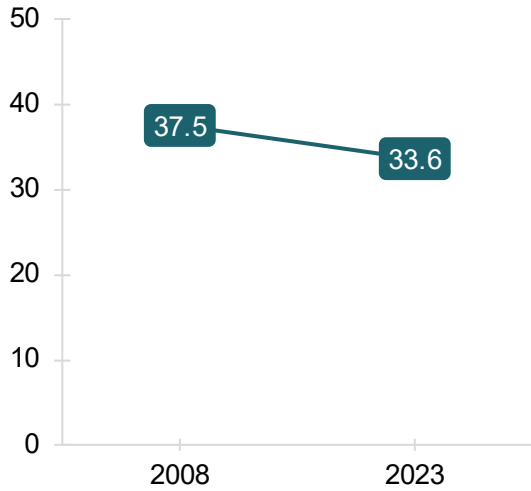
Note: MOE = Margin of Error is a measure of sampling error and expresses the maximum range in which the rate is expected to differ from the actual population. The MOE is calculated for the derived estimates at the 90% confidence level.

Sources: ¹The numerator is from table B12501. MARRIAGES IN THE LAST YEAR BY SEX BY MARITAL STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER. Universe: Population 15 years and over. 2008-2019 & 2021-2023 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates. ²The denominator is from table B12001. SEX BY MARITAL STATUS FOR THE POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER. Universe: Population 15 years and over. 2008-2019 & 2021-2023 American Community Survey, 1-year estimates. ³All estimates related to the year 2020 were drawn from NCFMR analyses of American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS data, as such MOEs are not reported because comparable estimation to prior years is not possible. The standard 2020 ACS 1-year data products will not be released due to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection and data quality.

U.S. Refined Marriage Rate

- The marriage rate has declined since 2008 for men and women aged 15 and older in the U.S.—a drop of 11.2% overall.

Figure 1. Refined Marriage Rate, 2008 & 2023



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2008 & 2023

Data Citation:

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008- 2019 & 2021-2023

American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B12501. Marriages in the Last Year by Sex by Marital Status for the Population 15 Years and Over.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2008- 2019 & 2021-2023

American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, Table B12001. Sex by Marital Status for the Population 15 Years and Over.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS.

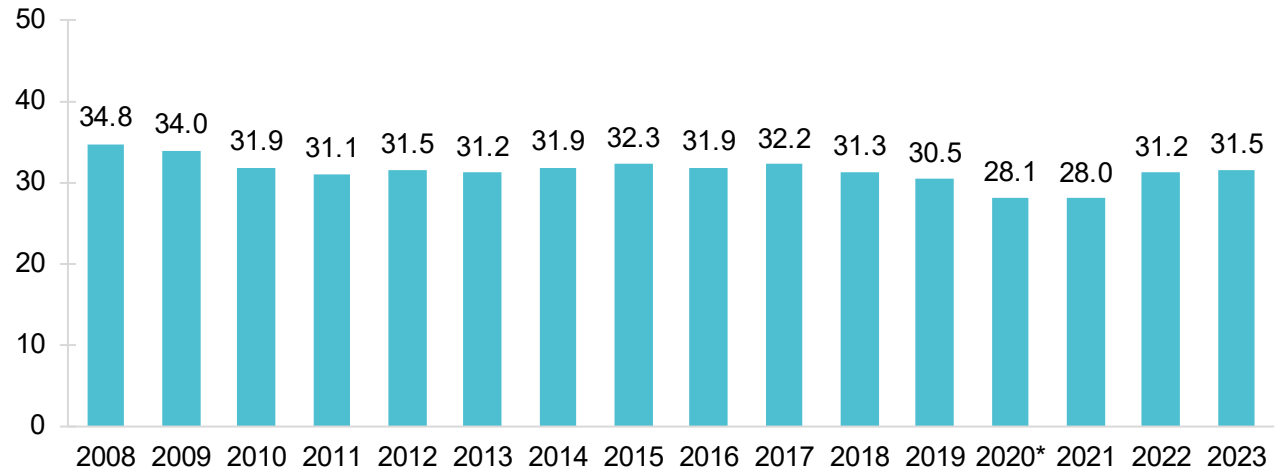
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Women's Refined Marriage Rate

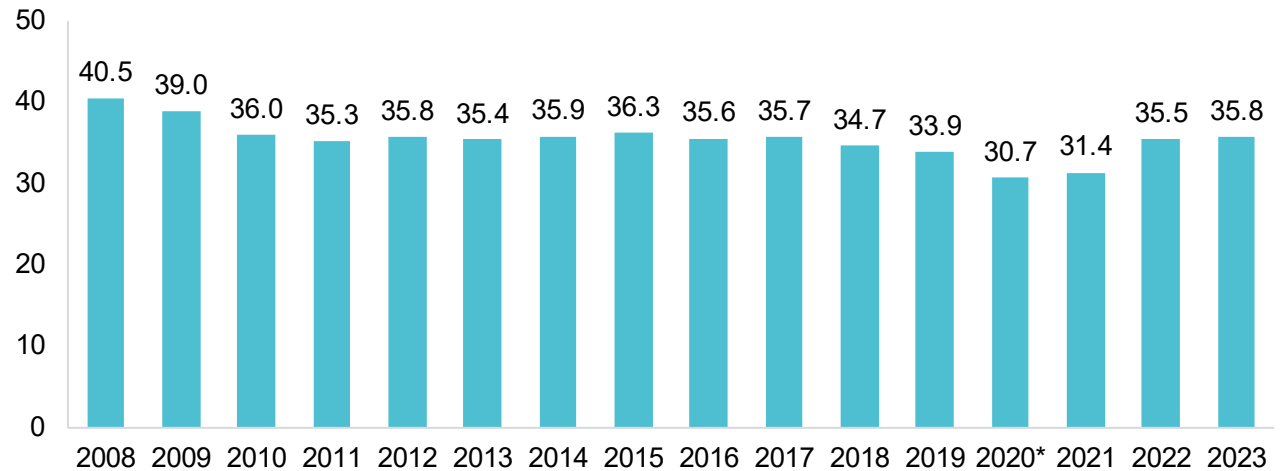
Figure 2. Women's Refined Marriage Rate, 2008-2023



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2008-2019 & 2021-2023; American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS, 2020*

Men's Refined Marriage Rate

Figure 3. Men's Refined Marriage Rate, 2008-2023



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year estimates, 2008-2019 & 2021-2023; American Community Survey, 1-year Experimental PUMS, 2020*