

## **South Carolina Divorce Statistics**

According to CDC statistics, there were over two million marriages in the United States in 2012. In that same year, 851,000 divorces and annulments occurred. While couples enter into a marriage with the intention of a forever romance, statistics make it clear that many marriages end in divorce every year in South Carolina and across the nation as a whole. Understanding that divorce is far from unlikely should help separating spouses understand that they are not alone in the process. Millions of other marriages have ended in divorce as well, and while the circumstances of the divorce may differ, taking a look at divorce data can help destigmatize the notion of a divorce. Census data shows that divorce rates can and do vary by state, year and gender, but understanding and grappling with these numbers can be helpful for all parties involved. To this end, this webpage provides the latest national marriage and divorce statistics and the divorce statistics for the nation as well as South Carolina, providing a comprehensive statistical overview of both national and local divorce.

### **South Carolina Divorce Rates**

Note: 2012 is the most recently available statistics.

- In 2012, South Carolina recorded a divorce rate of 3.2 per 1,000 South Carolina citizens.
- South Carolina's divorce rate was less than 3.2 from 2005-2011, as the divorce rate hovered from 2.8-3.2 depending on the year in question.
- Prior to 2005, the divorce rate in South Carolina was much higher, with the highest recorded divorce rate being 1990's 4.5 divorces per 1,000 South Carolina residents.
- In total, South Carolina divorce data indicates a trend towards a reduction in the divorce rate over the past two decades.

### **2012 National Marriage and Divorce Rates**

- In 2012, there were 2,131,000 recorded marriages.
- The 2012 marriage rate was 6.8 marriages per 1,000 American citizens.
- In 2012, there were also 851,000 recorded divorces and annulments.
- The 2012 divorce rate was 3.4 divorces per 1,000 members of the population.

### **2011 National Marriage and Divorce Rates**

- 2,118,000 marriages were recorded in 2011, almost identically matching the marriage numbers from 2012.
- The marriage rate of 2011 was identical to 2012, with 6.8 marriages per 1,000 American citizens.
- 877,000 divorces and annulments were recorded in 2011, and the divorce rate was higher than 2012 as a result, with 3.6 divorces per 1,000 Americans.

### **2010 National Marriage and Divorce Rates**

- 2,096,000 marriages were recorded in 2010, showing a slight decline from 2012 and 2011.
- The 2010 marriage rate matched the 2011 and 2012 rates despite the slight decline in overall marriages. The marriage rate was 6.8 marriages per 1,000 Americans.
- 872,000 divorces and annulments were recorded in 2010, and the 3.6 divorces per 1,000 Americans matched the 2011 divorce rate.

### **2009 National Marriage and Divorce Rates**

- 2,080,000 marriages transpired in 2009, which was less than the recorded marriage data of 2010-2012.
- Despite the slight decline, the marriage rate was 6.8. As such, through 2009-2012 the marriage rate remained entirely stable with the 6.8 figure not changing over the four-year period.
- 840,000 divorces and annulments were recorded in 2009, resulting in a divorce rate of 3.5.

#### **National Divorce Data Trends**

- Similar to South Carolina, the past two decades has seen a decline in the divorce rate.
- From 2,000 onward, the national divorce rate has either remained constant from year-to-year or declined.
- While the divorce rate has declined, so too have marriages. In 2000, the marriage rate was 8.2, but in 2012, the rate declined to 6.8.
- In sum, it appears safe to conclude that there is a general trend towards fewer marriages, which seems to have resulted in fewer divorces as well.
- 

#### **If You Need a Charleston area Divorce, Our Expert Divorce Attorneys Are Here to Help**

We are an experienced law firm that will help you with every aspect of your divorce. After receiving your legal consultation, you will have a better understanding of how to optimally proceed with your divorce. Contact our experienced divorce attorneys now to receive the legal advice and representation you need during the trying times of separation.