

2005

Wisconsin
Marriages
and Divorces

*Bureau of Health Information and Policy
Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services*

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Introduction

This report presents key information about marriages and divorces that occurred in Wisconsin in 2005. It also contains information from selected previous years, as well as information on the number and rate of marriages and divorces, both in Wisconsin and nationally. The sources of data for Wisconsin are marriage and divorce certificates on file with the Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services.

The collection of marriage and divorce data is mandated by Chapter 69 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 69 authorizes the Department of Health and Family Services to supervise and direct the collection of these data. This statute also specifies how local registrars are to collect and file certificates of marriage.

The Department of Health and Family Services produced this publication. Staff of the Vital Records Registration and Statistics Unit, Bureau of Health Information and Policy, collected and compiled the marriage and divorce records. Joyce Knapton drafted the summaries in this report and produced the computer programs to generate the tables. Patricia Nametz edited the report. The report was prepared under the supervision of John Kiesow, State Registrar, Vital Records Section, and Jane Kraus, Supervisor, Registration and Statistics Unit. Patricia Guhleman, Interim Director, Bureau of Health Information and Policy, provided overall direction.

The Bureau of Health Information and Policy would like to thank the County Clerks for issuing accurate marriage licenses, the local Register of Deeds offices for their accurate recording of all marriage records, and all county Clerks of Court and Clerks of Tribal Court for their timely filing of completed divorce or annulment certificates.

This report is available on the Department of Health and Family Services Web site, at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/stats/>.

Comments, suggestions, and requests for additional marriage or divorce data may be addressed to:

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Key Findings

- A total of 33,876 marriages occurred in Wisconsin in 2005, representing a slight decrease from the 34,056 marriages that occurred in 2004. These counts reflect all marriages that occurred in Wisconsin (of both residents and non-residents of the state).
- Wisconsin's marriage rate in 2005 was 6.1 per 1,000 total population, lower than the 2004 rate (6.2). The marriage rate has gradually declined since 1980, when the rate was 8.7.
- The marriage rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 80 years. The United States provisional marriage rate for the 12 months ending in September 2005 was 7.5 per 1,000 population.
- The median age for first marriages in 2005 was 25.0 years for women and 26.4 years for men. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 20.4 for brides and 22.9 for grooms.
- Since 1960, the bride in a first marriage, on average, has been a year or two younger than the groom.
- In 2005, the months with the highest number of marriages were July, August and September. August was the most popular month to marry.
- Milwaukee County had the highest number of marriages in 2005 (4,773), followed by Dane County (2,721), Waukesha County (2,164), and Brown County (1,635). These are Wisconsin's four most populous counties. All of these counties, except for Brown County, had a decrease in the number of marriages from 2004 to 2005.
- A total of 16,297 divorces occurred in Wisconsin in 2005, for a divorce rate of 2.9 per 1,000 total population. This is lower than the 2004 rate (3.0).
- The divorce rate in Wisconsin has been consistently lower than the national rate for more than 80 years. For the 12 months ending in September 2005, the provisional United States divorce rate was 3.6.
- The total number of Wisconsin divorces that occurred in 2005 was 48 percent of the total number of Wisconsin marriages that occurred. This is slightly lower than the 2004 percentage (49 percent).
- The highest number of divorces occurred in Milwaukee County (2,408 divorces and 13 annulments), followed by Dane County (1,335 divorces and 7 annulments) and Waukesha County (1,051 divorces and 2 annulments), reflecting the large populations of these three counties.
- Fifty-three percent of all Wisconsin divorces in 2005 involved families with children under 18 years of age. Among divorces involving children, an average of 1.8 children were affected by each divorce.

Table 1. Marriages and Marriage Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2005

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of Wisconsin Marriages</u> | <u>Wisconsin Marriage Rate*</u> | <u>United States Marriage Rate*</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1920 | 22,293 | 8.4 | 12.0 |
| 1925 | 16,385 | 5.8 | 10.3 |
| 1930 | 15,328 | 5.2 | 9.2 |
| 1935 | 21,075 | 6.9 | 10.4 |
| 1940 | 23,379 | 7.5 | 12.1 |
| 1945 | 25,269 | 8.5 | 12.2 |
| 1950 | 29,081 | 8.4 | 11.1 |
| 1955 | 25,543 | 7.0 | 9.3 |
| 1960 | 24,573 | 6.2 | 8.5 |
| 1965 | 28,410 | 6.7 | 9.3 |
| 1970 | 34,415 | 7.8 | 10.6 |
| 1975 | 35,888 | 7.9 | 10.0 |
| 1980 | 41,113 | 8.7 | 10.6 |
| 1985 | 40,014 | 8.4 | 10.1 |
| 1990 | 38,934 | 8.0 | 9.8 |
| 1995 | 36,354 | 7.1 | 8.9 |
| 2000 | 36,100 | 6.7 | 8.5 |
| 2001 | 34,790 | 6.5 | 8.4 |
| 2002 | 34,241 | 6.3 | 7.9 |
| 2003 | 34,220 | 6.2 | 7.7 |
| 2004 | 34,056 | 6.2 | 7.8 |
| 2005 | 33,876 | 6.1 | 7.5 |

Source: U.S. marriage rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Wisconsin numbers and rates are from the Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services. The Wisconsin marriage rate for 2005 was calculated using 2004 population figures.

* Rates shown are marriages per 1,000 total population.

Notes: The Wisconsin numbers and rates reflect marriages that occurred in Wisconsin. The U.S. marriage rate for 2004 is provisional based on marriages that occurred in the 12 months ending in December, 2004. The U.S. marriage rate for 2005 is provisional based on marriages that occurred in the 12 months ending in September, 2005.

- A total of 33,876 marriages occurred in Wisconsin in 2005, representing a slight decrease from the 34,056 marriages that occurred in 2004.
- Wisconsin's marriage rate in 2005 was 6.1 per 1,000 total population, lower than the 2004 rate (6.2). The marriage rate has gradually declined since 1980, when the rate was 8.7.

Table 2. Median Age at First Marriage and All Remarriages, Wisconsin 1960-2005

| <u>Year</u> | <u>First Marriages</u> | | <u>All Remarriages</u> | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| | <u>Bride</u> | <u>Groom</u> | <u>Bride</u> | <u>Groom</u> |
| 1960 | 20.4 | 22.9 | 39.9 | 45.1 |
| 1965 | 20.6 | 22.5 | 40.4 | 45.2 |
| 1970 | 20.8 | 22.6 | 37.4 | 42.6 |
| 1975 | 20.8 | 22.7 | 32.4 | 37.1 |
| 1980 | 21.7 | 23.5 | 31.7 | 34.9 |
| 1985 | 22.9 | 24.7 | 33.7 | 36.9 |
| 1990 | 23.8 | 25.5 | 38.3 | 41.6 |
| 1991 | 23.9 | 25.6 | 38.6 | 41.7 |
| 1992 | 24.1 | 25.7 | 38.8 | 42.3 |
| 1993 | 24.2 | 25.8 | 39.0 | 42.0 |
| 1994 | 24.3 | 25.8 | 39.4 | 42.3 |
| 1995 | 24.5 | 26.0 | 39.9 | 42.6 |
| 1996 | 24.6 | 26.2 | 40.4 | 43.6 |
| 1997 | 24.6 | 26.3 | 40.7 | 43.4 |
| 1998 | 24.6 | 26.3 | 41.1 | 43.9 |
| 1999 | 24.6 | 26.3 | 41.6 | 44.5 |
| 2000 | 24.7 | 26.3 | 41.7 | 44.6 |
| 2001 | 24.7 | 26.3 | 42.3 | 45.2 |
| 2002 | 24.8 | 26.3 | 42.9 | 45.5 |
| 2003 | 24.8 | 26.4 | 43.3 | 46.0 |
| 2004 | 24.9 | 26.4 | 43.7 | 46.6 |
| 2005 | 25.0 | 26.4 | 44.4 | 47.1 |

Source: Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: The median age is one way of expressing the average age, and represents the midpoint of all persons in the group (half are older and half are younger than the median age). For example, in 2000 the median age for brides at first marriage was 24.7, meaning that half of all brides being married for the first time in 2000 were younger, and half were older, than 24.7. The numbers in this table reflect all marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in the stated years.

- The median age for first marriages in 2005 was 25.0 years for women and 26.4 years for men. In 1960, the median age at first marriage was 20.4 for brides and 22.9 for grooms.
- Since 1960, the bride in a first marriage, on average, has been a year or two younger than the groom.

Marriages

Table 3. Marriages and Remarriages by Age of Bride and Groom, Wisconsin 2005

| Age in Years | Bride | | | | | Groom | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Total Marriages | First | Second | Third | Fourth or More | Total Marriages | First | Second | Third | Fourth or More |
| | 33,876 | 24,259 | 7,476 | 1,744 | 397 | 33,876 | 24,334 | 7,536 | 1,669 | 337 |
| 16 | 81 | 81 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| 17 | 113 | 113 | | | | 30 | 30 | | | |
| 18 | 501 | 501 | | | | 151 | 151 | | | |
| 19 | 835 | 833 | 2 | | | 368 | 368 | | | |
| 20 | 1,179 | 1,174 | 5 | | | 640 | 635 | 5 | | |
| 21 | 1,475 | 1,458 | 17 | | | 1,014 | 1,009 | 5 | | |
| 22 | 2,132 | 2,098 | 34 | | | 1,353 | 1,346 | 7 | | |
| 23 | 2,460 | 2,405 | 55 | | | 1,895 | 1,880 | 15 | | |
| 24 | 2,544 | 2,471 | 73 | | | 2,240 | 2,193 | 46 | 1 | |
| 25-29 | 9,273 | 8,287 | 949 | 36 | 1 | 9,813 | 9,274 | 525 | 14 | |
| 30-34 | 4,355 | 2,816 | 1,368 | 155 | 16 | 5,433 | 4,147 | 1,210 | 70 | 6 |
| 35-39 | 2,783 | 1,073 | 1,361 | 304 | 45 | 3,361 | 1,754 | 1,397 | 192 | 18 |
| 40-44 | 2,209 | 561 | 1,225 | 359 | 64 | 2,516 | 819 | 1,374 | 286 | 37 |
| 45-49 | 1,695 | 231 | 1,012 | 366 | 86 | 1,939 | 424 | 1,138 | 308 | 69 |
| 50-54 | 1,103 | 112 | 652 | 249 | 90 | 1,351 | 190 | 754 | 336 | 71 |
| 55-59 | 538 | 26 | 329 | 133 | 50 | 805 | 65 | 457 | 223 | 60 |
| 60-64 | 315 | 12 | 188 | 87 | 28 | 432 | 29 | 251 | 116 | 36 |
| 65-69 | 136 | 4 | 88 | 35 | 9 | 255 | 10 | 162 | 64 | 19 |
| 70-74 | 74 | 3 | 60 | 7 | 4 | 123 | 5 | 79 | 28 | 11 |
| 75+ | 75 | | 58 | 13 | 4 | 155 | 3 | 111 | 31 | 10 |

Source: Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: Totals shown represent marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in 2005.

- For first-time brides and grooms, the highest number of marriages occurred between the ages of 22 and 29.

Marriages

Table 4. Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2005

| <u>County</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Jan</u> | <u>Feb</u> | <u>Mar</u> | <u>Apr</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Jun</u> | <u>Jul</u> | <u>Aug</u> | <u>Sep</u> | <u>Oct</u> | <u>Nov</u> | <u>Dec</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| State Total | 33,876 | 1,170 | 1,394 | 1,362 | 2,243 | 3,106 | 4,231 | 4,311 | 4,355 | 4,240 | 4,195 | 1,529 | 1,740 |
| Adams | 117 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 10 |
| Ashland | 104 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 17 | 15 | 21 | 12 | 16 | 2 | 2 |
| Barron | 298 | 11 | 15 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 40 | 52 | 39 | 31 | 38 | 11 | 13 |
| Bayfield | 131 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 27 | 27 | 22 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| Brown | 1,635 | 60 | 64 | 56 | 113 | 146 | 226 | 209 | 198 | 200 | 204 | 68 | 91 |
| Buffalo | 79 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| Burnett | 124 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 10 | 22 | 20 | 9 | 4 | 10 |
| Calumet | 215 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 31 | 34 | 31 | 8 | 10 |
| Chippewa | 425 | 19 | 8 | 17 | 24 | 40 | 55 | 50 | 58 | 52 | 57 | 22 | 23 |
| Clark | 208 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 19 | 19 | 30 | 19 | 28 | 27 | 30 | 4 | 8 |
| Columbia | 393 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 28 | 32 | 49 | 38 | 49 | 54 | 64 | 16 | 25 |
| Crawford | 114 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Dane | 2,721 | 104 | 117 | 110 | 176 | 291 | 344 | 391 | 323 | 305 | 330 | 119 | 111 |
| Dodge | 480 | 16 | 30 | 18 | 40 | 34 | 66 | 56 | 51 | 62 | 53 | 24 | 30 |
| Door | 451 | 16 | 8 | 18 | 15 | 28 | 71 | 60 | 71 | 64 | 66 | 17 | 17 |
| Douglas | 232 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 22 | 28 | 26 | 37 | 35 | 24 | 7 | 12 |
| Dunn | 239 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 31 | 37 | 27 | 30 | 27 | 12 | 11 |
| Eau Claire | 618 | 14 | 30 | 17 | 37 | 76 | 77 | 74 | 85 | 79 | 65 | 26 | 38 |
| Florence | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Fond du Lac | 642 | 21 | 19 | 27 | 46 | 76 | 87 | 79 | 81 | 78 | 80 | 22 | 26 |
| Forest | 60 | 1 | | 4 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| Grant | 315 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 39 | 41 | 41 | 39 | 39 | 46 | 14 | 13 |
| Green | 186 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 24 | 13 | 25 | 25 | 32 | 14 | 9 |
| Green Lake | 170 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 22 | 5 | 9 |
| Iowa | 162 | | 5 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 22 | 30 | 24 | 24 | 6 | 6 |
| Iron | 40 | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| Jackson | 134 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 21 | 18 | 10 | 8 |
| Jefferson | 498 | 16 | 20 | 22 | 30 | 55 | 60 | 43 | 56 | 62 | 78 | 30 | 26 |
| Juneau | 174 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 22 | 21 | 24 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 9 | 5 |
| Kenosha | 782 | 23 | 38 | 40 | 54 | 62 | 96 | 97 | 97 | 95 | 99 | 47 | 34 |
| Kewaunee | 91 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 20 | 4 | 2 |
| La Crosse | 779 | 22 | 23 | 32 | 61 | 74 | 105 | 94 | 106 | 94 | 92 | 36 | 40 |
| Lafayette | 72 | | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| Langlade | 108 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 21 | 17 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| Lincoln | 207 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 32 | 28 | 6 | 13 |
| Manitowoc | 525 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 37 | 49 | 59 | 66 | 66 | 64 | 78 | 27 | 24 |
| Marathon | 846 | 28 | 36 | 34 | 44 | 76 | 121 | 97 | 125 | 107 | 109 | 26 | 43 |
| Marinette | 281 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 18 | 31 | 34 | 40 | 45 | 28 | 36 | 9 | 10 |
| Marquette | 117 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 18 | 13 | 16 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Menominee | 31 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Milwaukee | 4,773 | 196 | 237 | 251 | 348 | 417 | 535 | 591 | 542 | 589 | 528 | 278 | 261 |
| Monroe | 264 | 14 | 16 | 13 | 16 | 19 | 29 | 31 | 34 | 35 | 32 | 11 | 14 |

Marriages

Table 4. Monthly Marriage Totals by County, Wisconsin 2005

| <u>County</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Jan</u> | <u>Feb</u> | <u>Mar</u> | <u>Apr</u> | <u>May</u> | <u>Jun</u> | <u>Jul</u> | <u>Aug</u> | <u>Sep</u> | <u>Oct</u> | <u>Nov</u> | <u>Dec</u> |
|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Oconto | 199 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 20 | 31 | 23 | 31 | 28 | 8 | 12 |
| Oneida | 275 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 20 | 38 | 35 | 36 | 47 | 38 | 5 | 13 |
| Outagamie | 1,309 | 54 | 53 | 51 | 88 | 114 | 157 | 155 | 177 | 155 | 181 | 57 | 67 |
| Ozaukee | 486 | 13 | 13 | 21 | 25 | 41 | 64 | 75 | 59 | 52 | 74 | 23 | 26 |
| Pepin | 42 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Pierce | 176 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 15 | 23 | 17 | 28 | 18 | 22 | 5 | 8 |
| Polk | 282 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 19 | 22 | 34 | 39 | 33 | 34 | 34 | 12 | 17 |
| Portage | 418 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 27 | 38 | 50 | 55 | 63 | 46 | 51 | 14 | 21 |
| Price | 98 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 13 | 10 | 16 | 3 | 4 |
| Racine | 1,023 | 36 | 48 | 43 | 70 | 100 | 127 | 132 | 135 | 133 | 103 | 56 | 40 |
| Richland | 130 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 18 | 12 | 17 | 18 | 5 | 8 |
| Rock | 869 | 23 | 40 | 41 | 67 | 79 | 104 | 123 | 114 | 95 | 101 | 36 | 46 |
| Rusk | 97 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 11 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 3 | 5 |
| St. Croix | 398 | 9 | 17 | 8 | 33 | 22 | 52 | 42 | 58 | 52 | 66 | 14 | 25 |
| Sauk | 561 | 17 | 31 | 30 | 37 | 59 | 62 | 50 | 61 | 74 | 85 | 25 | 30 |
| Sawyer | 137 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 28 | 20 | 18 | 3 | 5 |
| Shawano | 245 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 30 | 28 | 33 | 25 | 30 | 32 | 11 | 15 |
| Sheboygan | 792 | 29 | 31 | 29 | 54 | 69 | 83 | 106 | 107 | 94 | 117 | 32 | 41 |
| Taylor | 124 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 22 | 18 | 13 | 15 | 2 | 10 |
| Trempealeau | 168 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 25 | 17 | 15 | 27 | 23 | 6 | 11 |
| Vernon | 201 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 20 | 12 | 6 |
| Vilas | 141 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 17 | 14 | 27 | 34 | 13 | 5 | 5 |
| Walworth | 825 | 25 | 28 | 33 | 55 | 66 | 122 | 125 | 105 | 111 | 95 | 31 | 29 |
| Washburn | 134 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 17 | 28 | 17 | 16 | 3 | 8 |
| Washington | 666 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 47 | 63 | 90 | 74 | 73 | 86 | 75 | 33 | 50 |
| Waukesha | 2,164 | 63 | 63 | 60 | 132 | 223 | 290 | 285 | 273 | 288 | 264 | 107 | 116 |
| Waupaca | 410 | 15 | 19 | 11 | 30 | 35 | 43 | 62 | 60 | 53 | 50 | 14 | 18 |
| Waushara | 161 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 18 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 17 | 14 | 4 | 11 |
| Winnebago | 958 | 37 | 46 | 35 | 53 | 92 | 121 | 131 | 128 | 104 | 110 | 44 | 57 |
| Wood | 516 | 21 | 21 | 16 | 31 | 47 | 57 | 82 | 70 | 58 | 57 | 25 | 31 |

Source: Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent marriages that occurred in Wisconsin in 2005.

- In 2005, the months with the highest number of marriages were July, August and September. August was the most popular month to marry.
- Milwaukee County had the highest number of marriages in 2005 (4,773), followed by Dane County (2,721), Waukesha County (2,164), and Brown County (1,635). These are Wisconsin's four most populous counties. Each of these counties had a decrease in the number of marriages from 2004 to 2005 except for Brown County, whose number of marriages increased slightly.
- The lowest number of marriages occurred in the counties of Florence (30), Menominee (31) and Iron (40).

Table 5. Divorces and Divorce Rates, Wisconsin and United States, Selected Years, 1920-2005

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of Wisconsin Divorces</u> | <u>Wisconsin Divorce Rate*</u> | <u>United States Divorce Rate*</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1920 | 2,425 | 0.9 | 1.6 |
| 1925 | 2,467 | 0.9 | 1.5 |
| 1930 | 2,553 | 0.9 | 1.6 |
| 1935 | 3,543 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| 1940 | 3,599 | 1.1 | 2.0 |
| 1945 | 6,393 | 2.2 | 3.5 |
| 1950 | 4,845 | 1.4 | 2.6 |
| 1955 | 4,720 | 1.3 | 2.3 |
| 1960 | 3,672 | 0.9 | 2.2 |
| 1965 | 5,232 | 1.2 | 2.5 |
| 1970 | 8,930 | 2.0 | 3.5 |
| 1975 | 13,187 | 2.9 | 4.8 |
| 1980 | 17,589 | 3.7 | 5.2 |
| 1985 | 16,596 | 3.5 | 5.0 |
| 1990 | 17,727 | 3.6 | 4.7 |
| 1995 | 17,313 | 3.4 | 4.4 |
| 2000 | 17,388 | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| 2001 | 17,457 | 3.3 | 4.0 |
| 2002 | 17,471 | 3.2 | 4.0 |
| 2003 | 17,150 | 3.1 | 3.8 |
| 2004 | 16,802 | 3.0 | 3.7 |
| 2005 | 16,297 | 2.9 | 3.6 |

Source: U.S. divorce rates are from the National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*. Wisconsin numbers and rates are from the Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services. The Wisconsin divorce rate for 2005 was calculated using 2004 population figures.

* Rates shown are divorces and annulments per 1,000 total population.

Notes: The Wisconsin numbers and rates represent divorces and annulments occurring in Wisconsin. The U.S. divorce rate for 2004 is provisional based on divorces that occurred in the 12 months ending in September, 2004. The U.S. divorce rate for 2005 is provisional based on divorces that occurred in the 12 months ending in September, 2005.

- A total of 16,297 divorces occurred in Wisconsin in 2005, for a divorce rate of 2.9 per 1,000 population. This is lower than the 2004 rate (3.0).
- The total number of Wisconsin divorces that occurred in 2005 was 48 percent of the total number of Wisconsin marriages that occurred. This is slightly lower than the 2004 percentage (49 percent).

Divorces

Table 6. Divorces and Annulments by County, Wisconsin 2005

| <u>County</u> | <u>Divorces</u> | <u>Annulments</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Divorces</u> | <u>Annulments</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Total | 16,237 | 60 | | | |
| Adams | 56 | | Marathon | 295 | |
| Ashland | 44 | | Marinette | 127 | |
| Barron | 170 | 1 | Marquette | 44 | 1 |
| Bayfield | 50 | | Menominee | 1 | |
| Brown | 740 | | Milwaukee | 2,408 | 13 |
| Buffalo | 41 | | Monroe | 161 | |
| Burnett | 60 | | Oconto | 116 | |
| Calumet | 120 | | Oneida | 127 | |
| Chippewa | 184 | 1 | Outagamie | 551 | 1 |
| Clark | 89 | | Ozaukee | 205 | |
| Columbia | 184 | | Pepin | 14 | |
| Crawford | 47 | | Pierce | 107 | |
| Dane | 1,335 | 7 | Polk | 147 | |
| Dodge | 259 | 3 | Portage | 190 | |
| Door | 96 | | Price | 46 | |
| Douglas | 150 | | Racine | 451 | 1 |
| Dunn | 84 | | Richland | 45 | |
| Eau Claire | 319 | 2 | Rock | 557 | 3 |
| Florence | 13 | | Rusk | 63 | |
| Fond du Lac | 282 | 2 | St. Croix | 212 | |
| Forest | 34 | | Sauk | 221 | 2 |
| Grant | 117 | 1 | Sawyer | 53 | |
| Green | 151 | 1 | Shawano | 121 | |
| Green Lake | 65 | | Sheboygan | 321 | |
| Iowa | 62 | | Taylor | 55 | |
| Iron | 20 | | Trempealeau | 86 | 1 |
| Jackson | 68 | | Vernon | 75 | |
| Jefferson | 240 | | Vilas | 72 | |
| Juneau | 101 | | Walworth | 292 | 1 |
| Kenosha | 626 | 7 | Washburn | 74 | |
| Kewaunee | 47 | 1 | Washington | 378 | 2 |
| La Crosse | 292 | 1 | Waukesha | 1,051 | 2 |
| Lafayette | 39 | | Waupaca | 190 | |
| Langlade | 66 | 1 | Waushara | 92 | |
| Lincoln | 70 | | Winnebago | 517 | 2 |
| Manitowoc | 194 | 1 | Wood | 257 | 2 |

Source: Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent divorces and annulments that occurred in Wisconsin in 2005.

- The highest number of divorces occurred in Milwaukee County (2,408 divorces and 13 annulments), followed by Dane County (1,335 divorces and 7 annulments) and Waukesha County (1,051 divorces and 2 annulments), reflecting the large populations of these three counties.
- The lowest number of divorces occurred in the counties of Menominee (1 divorce), Florence (13 divorces) and Pepin (14 divorces).

Divorces

Table 7. Divorces Affecting Children Under 18 Years of Age by County, Wisconsin 2005

| <u>County</u> | <u>Divorces Granted</u> | <u>Those Affecting Children < 18</u> | <u>No. of Children < 18 Affected</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Divorces Granted</u> | <u>Those Affecting Children < 18</u> | <u>No. of Children < 18 Affected</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| State Total | 16,297 | 8,673 | 16,038 | | | | |
| Adams | 56 | 31 | 59 | Marathon | 295 | 176 | 342 |
| Ashland | 44 | 17 | 30 | Marinette | 127 | 67 | 111 |
| Barron | 171 | 102 | 201 | Marquette | 45 | 25 | 51 |
| Bayfield | 50 | 20 | 35 | Menominee | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Brown | 740 | 402 | 740 | Milwaukee | 2,421 | 1,132 | 2,057 |
| Buffalo | 41 | 21 | 46 | Monroe | 161 | 99 | 180 |
| Burnett | 60 | 37 | 77 | Oconto | 116 | 62 | 115 |
| Calumet | 120 | 65 | 125 | Oneida | 127 | 69 | 125 |
| Chippewa | 185 | 99 | 187 | Outagamie | 552 | 326 | 621 |
| Clark | 89 | 48 | 100 | Ozaukee | 205 | 100 | 189 |
| Columbia | 184 | 90 | 166 | Pepin | 14 | 7 | 14 |
| Crawford | 47 | 26 | 45 | Pierce | 107 | 51 | 85 |
| Dane | 1,342 | 692 | 1,243 | Polk | 147 | 80 | 156 |
| Dodge | 262 | 141 | 259 | Portage | 190 | 96 | 179 |
| Door | 96 | 47 | 84 | Price | 46 | 21 | 40 |
| Douglas | 150 | 72 | 124 | Racine | 452 | 249 | 445 |
| Dunn | 84 | 47 | 96 | Richland | 45 | 24 | 46 |
| Eau Claire | 321 | 167 | 331 | Rock | 560 | 324 | 600 |
| Florence | 13 | 4 | 7 | Rusk | 63 | 39 | 67 |
| Fond du Lac | 284 | 146 | 272 | St. Croix | 212 | 109 | 184 |
| Forest | 34 | 20 | 46 | Sauk | 223 | 105 | 209 |
| Grant | 118 | 64 | 135 | Sawyer | 53 | 31 | 56 |
| Green | 152 | 97 | 178 | Shawano | 121 | 67 | 128 |
| Green Lake | 65 | 37 | 71 | Sheboygan | 321 | 176 | 327 |
| Iowa | 62 | 31 | 59 | Taylor | 55 | 32 | 50 |
| Iron | 20 | 10 | 25 | Trempealeau | 87 | 57 | 95 |
| Jackson | 68 | 34 | 62 | Vernon | 75 | 48 | 81 |
| Jefferson | 240 | 146 | 272 | Vilas | 72 | 38 | 63 |
| Juneau | 101 | 55 | 104 | Walworth | 293 | 154 | 278 |
| Kenosha | 633 | 349 | 652 | Washburn | 74 | 41 | 75 |
| Kewaunee | 48 | 26 | 52 | Washington | 380 | 218 | 415 |
| La Crosse | 293 | 167 | 329 | Waukesha | 1,053 | 558 | 1,022 |
| Lafayette | 39 | 21 | 44 | Waupaca | 190 | 108 | 189 |
| Langlade | 67 | 36 | 64 | Waushara | 92 | 53 | 95 |
| Lincoln | 70 | 39 | 60 | Winnebago | 519 | 286 | 525 |
| Manitowoc | 195 | 91 | 163 | Wood | 259 | 147 | 278 |

Source: Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services.

Note: These numbers represent divorces and annulments that occurred in Wisconsin in 2005.

- Fifty-three percent of all Wisconsin divorces in 2005 involved couples with children under 18 years of age. Among divorces involving children, an average of 1.8 children were affected by each divorce.

Technical Notes

Marriage Reporting Requirements

As specified in Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following is a brief outline of the sequence of events which take place when a marriage occurs in Wisconsin:

- The filing party (officiant) must register the certificate of marriage with the local Register of Deeds (where the marriage took place) within 3 days after the event.
- The local Register of Deeds must transmit the marriage certificate to the State Registrar within 10 working days after its receipt.

Divorce Reporting Requirements

As specified in Chapter 69, Wisconsin Statutes, the following is what takes place when a divorce occurs in Wisconsin:

- At the end of every biweekly period the filing party (clerk of any court) must send to the State Registrar a report of every divorce or annulment of marriage granted during that period.