

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

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1981

MARRIAGE

**NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH PLANNING AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
HEALTH DATA SERVICES**

VS30 - 8201

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INTRODUCTION

This report is part of the twentieth series of annual reports summarizing vital statistics in the State of New Jersey. Divorce statistics are being published for the first time with this issue.

Marriage statistics provided in this publication were tabulated from items reported on marriage certificates filed with the New Jersey State Registrar prior to July 1, 1982. Divorce data have been provided by the Superior Court, Chancery Division. Marriages and divorces are recorded by place of occurrence or judgment, so statistics refer to the number of events occurring within the State irrespective of the place of residence of the participants. All individual identifiers were removed prior to tabulation of data for statistical purposes.

Rates published in this report are based on 1980 census of population data.

OVERVIEW

Marriage

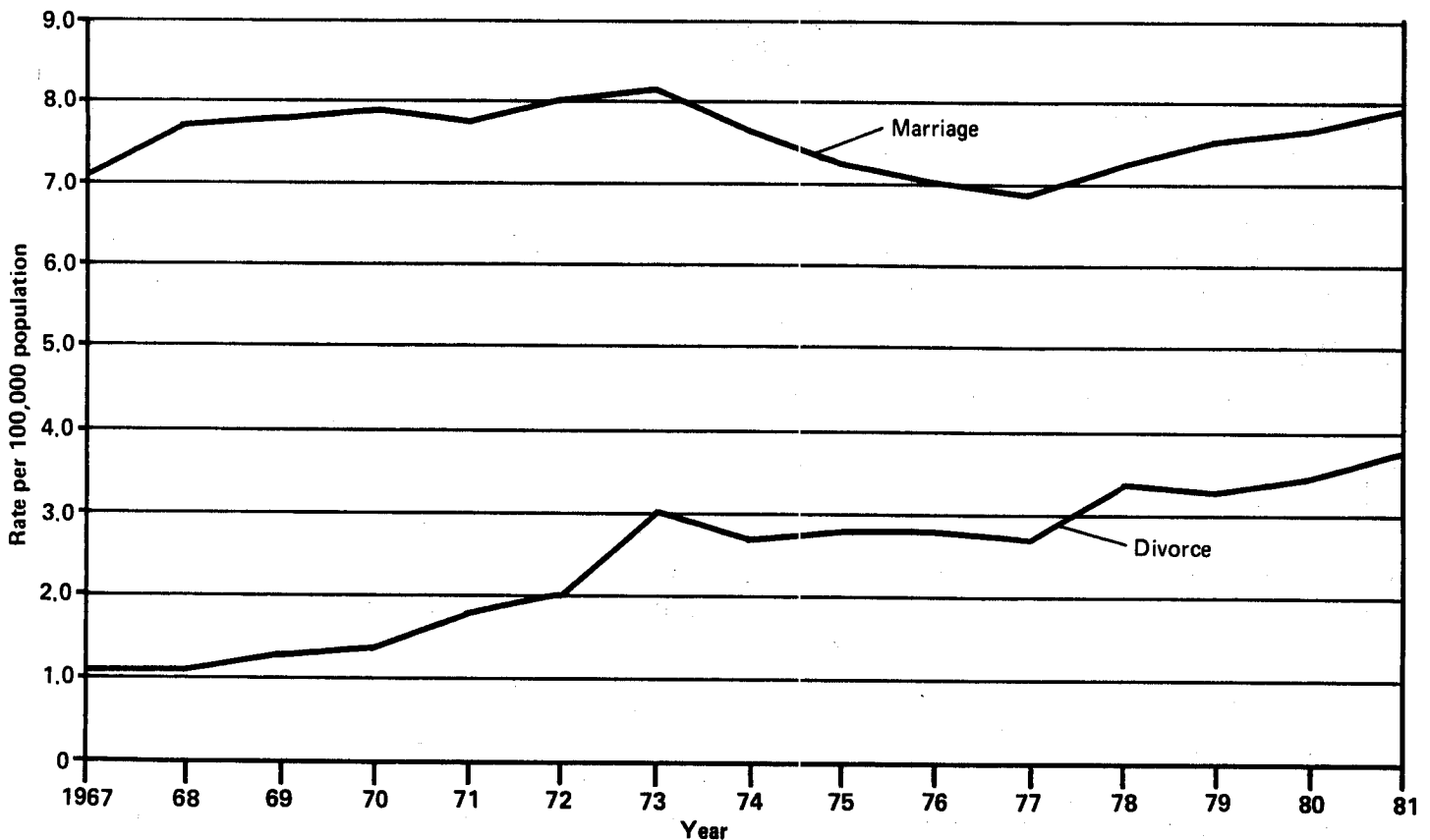
The number of marriages performed in New Jersey in 1981 increased for the fourth consecutive year to the highest level since 1973. The number of marriages increased 2,216 to 58,010 pushing the rate per 1,000 population up 0.3 points to 7.9. Since the low of 1977, the number of marriages has risen 14.5 percent and the rate per 1,000 population has increased one full point. Nationally, the marriage rate in 1981 was 10.6, unchanged from the previous year.

By county, the greatest number of marriages occurred in Essex - 6,778. Cape May County reported the highest marriage rate -

9.2. Other counties reported marriages ranging from a low of 471 in Salem to a high of 6,633 in Bergen and rates ranging from 6.7 in Sussex to 8.6 in Atlantic.

Average age at marriage increased for both men and women. For women the average rose 0.8 to 26.6 years while for men the average age rose 0.4 to 29.4 years. The increase in 1981 reversed the preceding two-year decline. Average age at first marriage remained unchanged from 1980 for both men and women. The first marriage average age for men remained at 25 years and for women it remained at 23 years.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES
1967 - 1981



The number of men and women marrying before age 25 continued to decline. In 1981 51.2% of the women married were under age 25 compared to 54.1% in 1980 and 72.1% in 1970. The percentage of men marrying before age 25 was 35.8% in 1981, down from 38.2% in 1980 and 57.3% in 1970. The number of teenage brides continued to trend downward, comprising 11.1 percent of all brides in 1981.

Data for previous marital status show little change in the proportion of men previously wed but a continuation of the increase in the proportion of women remarrying. In 1981, 27.9% of the men had been married before, a 0.5% increase from the previous year. Over one-fourth of the women (25.3%) marrying in 1981 had been married before, an increase of 0.6% from 1980 and the highest proportion on record. Sixty-two percent of the marriages were between persons marrying for the first time.

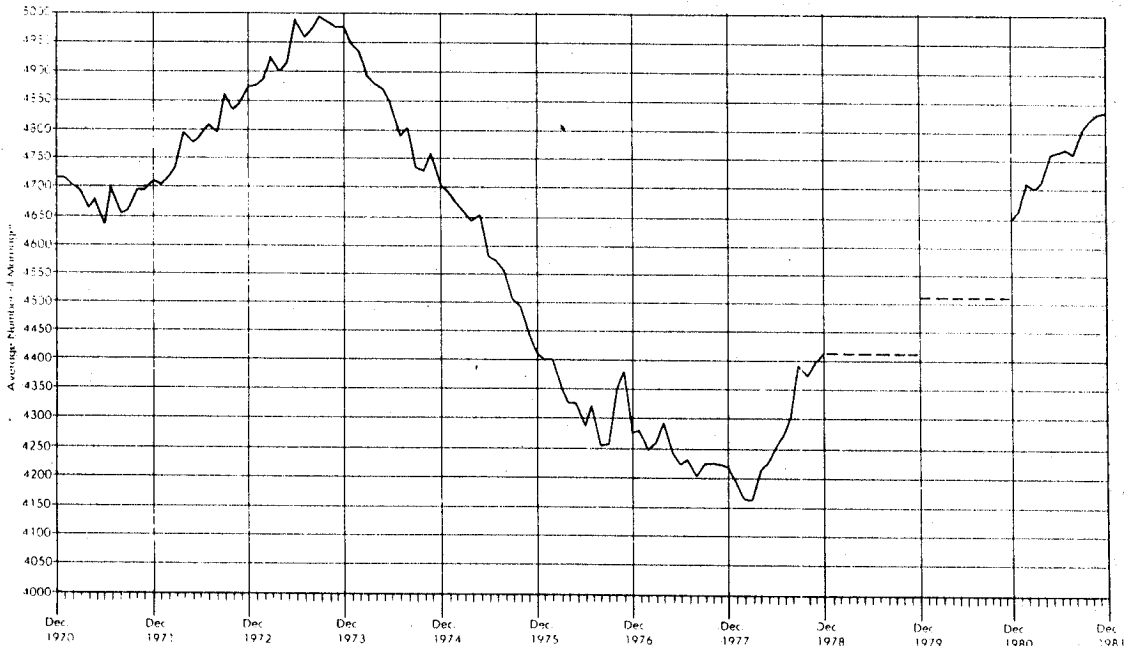
Dissolution of Marriage

For every two marriages contracted in 1981, one was dissolved. There were 27,852 divorces and annulments during the 1980-81 court year*, 2,069 more than the previous year, and the highest annual total on record. Divorces increased at twice the rate of marriages (eight percent vs. four percent) over the year.

The marriage dissolution rate, the number of dissolutions per 1,000 population, reached 3.8, the highest rate on record, in 1981. In the fifteen year period, 1967-1981 the divorce rate has more than tripled. Among counties in New Jersey, Atlantic (4.8) and Hunterdon (5.0) registered the highest marriage dissolution rates in 1981.

*Court year: Sept. 1, 1980 - Aug. 31, 1981

MARRIAGES IN NEW JERSEY
12 MONTH MOVING AVERAGE
1970 - 1981



PAGES A-3 AND A-4 ARE NOT FOUND IN THIS REPORT.

TABLE 1
New Jersey
Estimated Average Age at Marriage and Previous Marital Status: 1967-1981

Year	Marriages		Average Age		Previous Marital Status							
	Number	Rate	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN			MEN				
					Percent Single	Percent Widowed	Percent Divorced	Percent Single	Percent Widowed	Percent Divorced		
1967	49,132	7.1	25.3	27.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1968	53,857	7.7	25.0	27.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1969	55,692	7.8	25.2	27.6	83.7	5.2	11.1	82.5	5.1	5.1	12.4	12.9
1970	56,625	7.9	25.1	27.6	83.3	5.0	11.7	82.1	5.1	5.0	13.8	13.8
1971	56,531	7.8	25.4	27.9	82.5	4.9	12.6	81.1	5.1	5.1	13.8	13.8
1972	58,476	8.0	25.8	28.3	81.2	5.0	13.8	79.3	4.8	4.8	15.9	15.9
1973	59,723	8.1	25.8	28.3	80.1	4.7	15.2	78.2	4.6	4.6	17.2	17.2
1974	56,449	7.6	25.9	28.5	79.3	4.5	16.2	76.8	4.6	4.6	18.6	18.6
1975	53,008	7.2	26.1	28.8	78.0	4.5	17.5	75.4	4.7	4.7	19.9	19.9
1976	51,291	7.0	26.3	28.4	77.2	4.4	18.4	74.6	4.5	4.5	20.9	20.9
1977	50,677	6.9	26.4	29.1	76.8	4.1	19.1	73.9	4.3	4.3	21.8	21.8
1978	52,993	7.2	26.7	29.4	75.7	3.7	20.6	72.9	3.9	3.9	23.2	23.2
1979	54,740	7.5	26.3	29.1	75.4	4.1	20.5	72.4	4.2	4.2	23.5	23.5
*1980	55,794	7.6	25.8	29.0	75.3	3.6	21.2	72.6	3.7	3.7	23.7	23.7
*1981	58,010	7.9	26.7	29.3	74.4	3.3	22.0	71.9	3.5	3.5	24.4	24.4

* April 1, 1980 Census Population used for calculation of rates.

TABLE 2
 MARRIAGES IN NEW JERSEY
 BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF HUSBAND,
 BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF WIFE
 1981

PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF WIFE	PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF HUSBAND											
	TOTAL		SINGLE		WIDOWED		DIVORCED		UNKNOWN			
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT		
SINGLE	43159	74.42	36259	86.95	338	15.87	6482	45.78	90	61.22		
WIDOWED	1923	3.31	323	.77	933	46.58	665	4.70	2	1.36		
DIVORCED	12742	21.97	5026	12.05	725	36.20	6940	49.02	51	34.69		
UNKNOWN	176	.30	94	.23	7	.35	71	.50	4	2.72		
TOTAL	58010	100.00	41702	100.00	2003	100.00	14158	100.00	147	100.00		

TABLE 3

MARRIAGES IN NEW JERSEY
BY AGE OF HUSBAND, BY AGE OF WIFE
1981

AGE GROUP OF WIFE	AGE GROUP OF HUSBAND													65+	UNK			
	TOTAL	-15	15	16	17	18	19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49			50-54	55-59	60-64
-15	17	0	0	0	2	2	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	80	0	1	1	9	16	13	30	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
16	393	0	1	6	33	84	73	158	26	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17	759	0	0	7	39	151	128	355	66	4	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	
18	2221	0	1	4	29	247	348	1283	236	53	15	3	1	0	0	0	0	
19	2950	0	0	2	21	131	333	1885	433	97	34	10	2	1	0	0	1	
20-24	23279	0	0	3	13	130	348	12366	7839	1827	504	154	57	25	6	6	1	
25-29	13917	0	0	0	4	27	42	2025	6620	3430	1122	415	136	73	20	3	0	
30-34	6220	0	0	0	0	6	10	314	1347	2079	1306	648	305	119	55	22	9	
35-39	3061	0	0	0	0	1	2	72	309	560	747	608	387	234	88	41	12	
40-44	1751	0	0	0	0	1	1	15	59	145	261	388	369	289	149	51	23	
45-49	1148	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16	48	71	127	263	292	200	82	43	
50-54	797	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	17	45	80	229	194	136	84	
55-59	525	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	11	29	64	167	126	120	
60-64	425	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4	7	26	69	106	209	
65+	467	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	5	14	60	384	
TOTAL	58010	0	3	23	150	796	1305	18516	16953	8269	4087	2419	1640	1357	963	633	886	0

Table 4

MARRIAGES IN NEW JERSEY
BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS AND AVERAGE AGE
BY COUNTY: 1981

PLACE OF MARRIAGE	Total Marriages	WOMEN						MEN						AVERAGE AGE	
		Single	Widowed	Divorce	Unknown	Single	Widowed	Divorce	Unknown	Single	Widowed	Divorce	Unknown	Women	Men
NEW JERSEY	58,010	43,169	1,923	12,742	176	41,702	2,003	14,158	147	26	29	26	26	29	
ATLANTIC COUNTY	1,662	1,193	67	398	4	1,132	66	461	3	27	30	27	27	30	
BERGEN COUNTY	6,633	5,030	205	1,366	32	4,795	226	1,587	25	27	30	25	27	30	
BURLINGTON COUNTY	2,882	2,051	94	735	2	1,971	98	808	5	26	29	5	26	29	
CAMDEN COUNTY	3,541	2,643	115	775	8	2,569	136	833	3	26	29	3	26	29	
CAPE MAY COUNTY	757	510	45	200	2	496	35	224	2	27	30	2	27	30	
CUMBERLAND COUNTY	986	689	41	255	1	676	39	271	1	26	29	1	26	29	
ESSEX COUNTY	6,778	5,312	218	1,229	19	5,132	215	1,416	15	27	30	15	27	30	
GLOUCESTER COUNTY	1,675	1,195	52	425	3	1,176	60	439	2	26	29	2	26	29	
HUDSON COUNTY	4,670	3,602	114	935	19	3,475	122	1,059	14	27	29	14	27	29	
HUNTERDON COUNTY	684	455	23	205	1	441	25	218	1	26	29	1	26	29	
MERCER COUNTY	2,420	1,806	82	528	4	1,738	78	598	6	27	29	6	27	29	
MIDDLESEX COUNTY	4,626	3,510	150	951	15	3,383	136	1,090	17	26	29	17	26	29	
MONMOUTH COUNTY	3,979	2,858	154	954	13	2,749	170	1,044	16	27	30	16	27	30	
MORRIS COUNTY	2,925	2,188	86	645	6	2,083	87	750	5	26	29	5	26	29	
OCEAN COUNTY	2,348	1,525	134	677	12	1,523	141	680	4	28	31	4	28	31	
PASSAIC COUNTY	3,725	2,860	107	747	11	2,819	113	785	8	26	29	8	26	29	
SALEM COUNTY	471	337	17	115	2	326	17	127	1	25	28	1	25	28	
SOMERSET COUNTY	1,609	1,211	42	352	4	1,171	52	383	3	26	29	3	26	29	
SUSSEX COUNTY	779	531	36	212	4	517	29	230	3	26	29	3	26	29	
UNION COUNTY	3,972	3,031	123	803	15	2,905	143	910	14	27	29	14	27	29	
WARREN COUNTY	662	462	13	185	2	455	11	193	3	25	28	3	25	28	
STATE INSTITUTIONS	4	2		1	1	3		1		33	36		33	36	
MILITARY POSTS	222	168	5	49		167	4	51		24	26		24	26	

Note: Average age is computed excluding State Institutions.

Table 5
 *DIVORCES IN NEW JERSEY: 1965-1981
 By County of Origin

# Year	Atlantic	Bergen	Burlington	Camden	Cape May	Cumberland	Essex	Gloucester	Hudson	Hunterdon	Mercer	Middlesex	Monmouth	Morris	Ocean	Passaic	Salem	Somerset	Sussex	Union	Warren	Total
1965	236	626	204	423	54	162	890	145	550	47	300	275	431	198	100	387	68	118	28	326	48	5616
1966	227	867	244	525	63	173	958	160	643	62	380	499	425	202	113	410	80	165	38	414	35	6683
1967	280	908	269	614	57	225	962	189	527	59	403	495	435	229	147	504	68	177	53	613	56	7270
1968	259	1005	308	649	78	236	979	191	542	72	420	672	610	197	235	546	86	234	40	603	58	7970
1969	282	1318	376	680	70	271	1090	228	661	91	443	796	558	334	267	508	91	241	72	715	76	9168
1970	284	1401	316	796	64	270	1169	230	674	73	565	883	647	450	325	564	105	227	62	831	68	10004
1971	376	1531	514	946	95	298	1484	295	782	127	619	1177	836	566	500	829	108	352	136	1148	128	12847
1972	405	1710	547	958	136	396	1825	332	878	188	830	1364	1123	852	635	926	142	520	163	955	132	15017
1973	585	2431	1078	1418	184	472	2505	485	1477	210	1208	1835	1548	1275	924	1377	181	475	232	1616	538	22054
1974	594	2193	896	1387	194	448	2314	535	1247	221	980	1602	1570	1037	843	1224	184	699	245	1313	254	19880
1975	646	2363	897	1254	178	442	2099	515	1356	259	1183	1582	1665	1281	959	1278	141	598	284	1243	252	20475
1976	753	2407	981	1287	227	443	2263	549	1314	236	1242	1692	1720	1234	968	1197	156	499	298	1279	245	20990
1977	546	1999	1088	1267	241	531	2158	493	1557	253	1005	1558	1377	909	1097	1169	198	659	318	1166	307	19894
1978	746	2370	1209	1473	292	527	2377	672	1826	298	1330	2066	1718	1473	1358	1519	198	717	424	1767	392	24752
1979	570	2530	1381	1596	220	491	2388	657	1601	271	1215	1961	1654	1445	1138	1427	193	769	360	1650	317	23934
1980	676	2734	1386	1635	265	547	2440	850	1846	378	1251	2377	1818	1371	1421	1482	259	849	383	1467	348	25783
1981	938	3104	1551	1906	320	421	2580	815	1931	435	1292	2426	1950	1580	1493	1571	219	691	437	1812	380	27852

*Includes annulments. # Court Year: September 1 through August 31.