

MARRIAGES & DIVORCES



*"Tenakee Wedding"
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MARRIAGES

There were 5,268 marriages performed in Alaska in 2000, involving 4,657 Alaska resident brides and 4,628 Alaska resident grooms. This is a decrease of 3.8 percent from the 5,474 marriages that occurred in 1999. The crude marriage rate in 2000 was 8.4 marriages per 1,000 residents, down from 8.8 marriages per 1,000 in 1999.

Crude marriage rates (the number of marriages occurring in a census area or borough per 1,000 residents) vary widely in Alaska. For instance, the lowest rate of 2.7 marriages per 1,000 residents was in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The highest rate of 12.8 marriages per 1,000 residents was in the Skagway-

Hoonah-Angoon Census Area. Locations that are popular tourist destinations (such as Skagway) may have higher marriage rates because many non-resident couples travel there to get married.

There were 457 marriages in which neither the bride nor the groom was a resident of Alaska, an increase from the 449 nonresident marriages in 1999. The Juneau Borough had the largest number of nonresident marriages in 2000 with 131, which accounted for 39.1 percent of all marriages occurring in Juneau. The Municipality of Anchorage had the second greatest number of nonresident marriages with 124.

DIVORCES

There are three administrative methods for terminating a marriage in Alaska: divorce, dissolution, and annulment.

Divorce is an adversarial process in which the terms of the decree are decided by the courts based upon evidence, testimony, and in accordance with Alaska statutes. These terms include disposition of property, living arrangements, and custody and support for any minor children involved. In 2000, there were 865 divorces granted in Alaska. This represents a 19.8 percent decrease from the 1,079 divorces granted in 1999.

A **dissolution** of marriage is a cooperative agreement between the husband and wife in which both parties agree to the terms for distribution of property, living arrangements, and support and custody of minor children. The agreement is reviewed by the court, which can amend it if it determines the terms are not equitable.

In 2000, there were 1,532 dissolutions of marriage in Alaska. This is a 24.4 percent decrease from the 2,026 dissolutions reported in 1999.

An **annulment** is a judicial pronouncement declaring a marriage never existed. In 2000, there were 9 annulments granted in Alaska, which is 5 more than reported in 1999.

There were 86 instances in which the type of decree was not specified. When not otherwise stated, the term divorce refers to all methods collectively.

In 2000, the total of 2,492 divorces, dissolutions, and annulments resulted in a crude divorce rate of 4.0 divorces per 1,000 population, compared with 5.1 in 1999.

TABLE 27 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ALASKA: 2000 AND 1998-2000

	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE
MARRIAGES	5,268	8.4	15,854	8.5	4,628	14.3	14,022	14.5	4,657	15.4	14,076	15.7
DIVORCES	2,492	4.0	9,047	4.8	2,068	6.4	7,503	7.7	2,129	7.0	7,725	8.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION	1,532	2.4	5,806	3.1	1,280	3.9	4,774	4.9	1,316	4.3	4,967	5.5
DIVORCE	865	1.4	3,074	1.6	707	2.2	2,589	2.7	724	2.4	2,614	2.9
ANNULMENT	9	0.0	22	0.0	7	0.0	18	0.0	9	0.0	18	0.0

TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ALASKA: 2000 AND 1998-2000 BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH

CENSUS AREA/BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE
ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	8	3.0	17	2.4	9	5.1	18	4.4	8	8.4	19	6.6
DIVORCES					1	0.6	11	2.7	0	0.0	12	4.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	7	1.7	0	0.0	8	2.8
DIVORCE					1	0.6	4	1.0	0	0.0	4	1.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
ALEUTIANS WEST CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	24	4.4	55	3.4	21	6.0	58	5.9	21	10.8	56	8.9
DIVORCES					7	2.0	41	4.2	5	2.6	27	4.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	1.1	29	3.0	4	2.0	21	3.3
DIVORCE					3	0.9	11	1.1	1	0.5	5	0.8
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.2
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE												
MARRIAGES	2,173	8.3	6,571	8.5	2,019	15.3	6,111	15.4	2,053	16.0	6,209	16.3
DIVORCES					807	6.1	3,314	8.4	868	6.7	3,541	9.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					488	3.7	2,103	5.3	524	4.1	2,267	6.0
DIVORCE					279	2.1	1,154	2.9	296	2.3	1,210	3.2
ANNULMENT					5	0.0	7	0.0	4	0.0	6	0.0
BETHEL CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	99	6.2	307	6.4	98	11.5	296	11.7	101	13.5	308	13.5
DIVORCES					8	0.9	40	1.6	8	1.1	30	1.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	0.6	26	1.0	5	0.7	19	0.8
DIVORCE					2	0.2	12	0.5	2	0.3	8	0.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	8	6.4	31	8.1	7	10.2	29	14.2	6	10.5	25	14.1
DIVORCES					2	2.9	11	5.4	1	1.7	8	4.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	6	2.9	1	1.7	5	2.8
DIVORCE					2	2.9	5	2.5	0	0.0	3	1.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DENALI BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	19	10.0	60	10.7	19	17.3	55	17.2	17	21.5	52	21.4
DIVORCES					7	6.4	25	7.8	5	6.3	20	8.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	3.6	13	4.1	4	5.1	10	4.1
DIVORCE					3	2.7	12	3.8	1	1.3	10	4.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DILLINGHAM CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	18	3.7	87	6.1	16	6.2	89	11.9	19	8.1	92	13.4
DIVORCES					6	2.3	24	3.2	5	2.1	24	3.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	0.4	8	1.1	2	0.8	11	1.6
DIVORCE					4	1.6	15	2.0	1	0.4	11	1.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	805	9.7	2,356	9.4	764	17.7	2,209	16.9	754	19.0	2,151	18.1
DIVORCES					346	8.0	1,238	9.4	345	8.7	1,236	10.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					209	4.8	792	6.0	202	5.1	797	6.7
DIVORCE					134	3.1	434	3.3	139	3.5	426	3.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.0
HAINES BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	23	9.6	65	8.9	20	16.5	51	13.5	18	15.2	51	14.3
DIVORCES					5	4.1	22	5.8	7	5.9	29	8.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					3	2.5	15	4.0	5	4.2	22	6.2
DIVORCE					1	0.8	6	1.6	1	0.8	5	1.4
ANNULMENT					1	0.8	1	0.3	1	0.8	1	0.3

Rates are per 1,000 residents
Total divorce occurrences by census area or borough are not available.

TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ALASKA: 2000 AND 1998-2000 BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH

CENSUS AREA/BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE
JUNEAU BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	335	10.9	997	11.0	205	13.3	637	13.8	200	13.1	632	14.1
DIVORCES					122	7.9	355	7.7	132	8.7	368	8.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					79	5.1	230	5.0	82	5.4	235	5.2
DIVORCE					36	2.3	110	2.4	41	2.7	114	2.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	513	10.3	1,482	10.1	385	14.9	1,138	14.8	396	16.6	1,157	16.4
DIVORCES					163	6.3	568	7.4	188	7.9	606	8.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					125	4.8	393	5.1	143	6.0	436	6.2
DIVORCE					37	1.4	169	2.2	42	1.8	161	2.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.0
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	112	8.0	420	10.0	79	11.0	317	14.6	77	11.2	315	15.4
DIVORCES					70	9.7	216	9.9	69	10.0	220	10.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					32	4.5	109	5.0	40	5.8	122	6.0
DIVORCE					36	5.0	103	4.7	29	4.2	97	4.8
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	90	6.5	313	7.5	82	11.1	285	12.7	81	12.4	279	14.5
DIVORCES					58	7.9	188	8.4	52	7.9	175	9.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					36	4.9	121	5.4	32	4.9	113	5.9
DIVORCE					16	2.2	61	2.7	13	2.0	55	2.9
ANNULMENT					1	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	5	2.7	11	2.0	9	9.3	22	7.6	10	11.7	22	8.6
DIVORCES					1	1.0	10	3.5	2	2.3	6	2.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	1.0	5	1.7	2	2.3	4	1.6
DIVORCE					0	0.0	4	1.4	0	0.0	1	0.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	531	9.0	1,509	8.9	448	14.5	1,304	14.8	455	16.0	1,323	16.3
DIVORCES					235	7.6	703	8.0	241	8.5	717	8.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					152	4.9	460	5.2	147	5.2	459	5.7
DIVORCE					76	2.5	233	2.6	90	3.2	253	3.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
NOME CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	50	5.4	160	5.7	49	9.9	151	10.2	50	11.8	151	11.6
DIVORCES					17	3.4	52	3.5	19	4.5	55	4.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					9	1.8	32	2.2	11	2.6	33	2.5
DIVORCE					7	1.4	19	1.3	8	1.9	22	1.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	23	3.1	88	4.0	30	7.7	103	8.9	32	9.2	104	10.0
DIVORCES					12	3.1	47	4.0	10	2.9	36	3.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.5	17	1.5	5	1.4	16	1.5
DIVORCE					6	1.5	30	2.6	5	1.4	20	1.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	36	5.0	109	5.2	37	9.6	116	10.6	35	10.4	114	11.4
DIVORCES					8	2.1	17	1.6	10	3.0	22	2.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.6	11	1.0	7	2.1	14	1.4
DIVORCE					1	0.3	5	0.5	1	0.3	6	0.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

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TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ALASKA: 2000 AND 1998-2000 BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH

CENSUS AREA/BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE	2000 NUMBER	2000 RATE	98-00 NUMBER	98-00 RATE
PRINCE OF WALES-OUTER KETCHIKAN CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	36	5.9	115	5.9	38	11.3	114	10.6	38	13.6	112	12.7
DIVORCES					21	6.3	80	7.5	15	5.4	71	8.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					12	3.6	49	4.6	8	2.9	40	4.5
DIVORCE					8	2.4	29	2.7	7	2.5	31	3.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
SITKA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	61	6.9	229	8.7	47	10.4	174	13.0	49	11.3	179	13.9
DIVORCES					38	8.4	103	7.7	37	8.5	110	8.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					27	6.0	74	5.5	29	6.7	81	6.3
DIVORCE					9	2.0	26	1.9	7	1.6	28	2.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
SKAGWAY-HOONAH-ANGOON CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	44	12.8	112	10.5	25	13.5	72	12.6	25	15.7	71	14.5
DIVORCES					11	6.0	37	6.5	7	4.4	26	5.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					10	5.4	27	4.7	5	3.1	19	3.9
DIVORCE					1	0.5	10	1.8	1	0.6	6	1.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	39	6.3	139	7.4	34	10.6	124	12.6	29	9.7	119	13.2
DIVORCES					19	5.9	74	7.5	17	5.7	75	8.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					8	2.5	48	4.9	8	2.7	54	6.0
DIVORCE					11	3.4	25	2.5	9	3.0	21	2.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
VALDEZ-CORDOVA CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	92	9.0	268	8.7	78	14.4	212	12.9	78	16.4	208	14.5
DIVORCES					46	8.5	140	8.5	42	8.8	131	9.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					29	5.3	96	5.8	19	4.0	79	5.5
DIVORCE					16	2.9	39	2.4	23	4.8	50	3.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
WADE HAMPTON CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	23	3.3	80	3.8	26	7.1	92	8.4	26	7.7	89	8.8
DIVORCES					4	1.1	9	0.8	4	1.2	11	1.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	0.5	5	0.5	2	0.6	7	0.7
DIVORCE					2	0.5	4	0.4	2	0.6	4	0.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	53	7.9	145	6.9	49	14.1	140	12.6	46	14.3	137	13.8
DIVORCES					27	7.8	82	7.4	28	8.7	87	8.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					19	5.5	48	4.3	20	6.2	55	5.5
DIVORCE					4	1.2	26	2.3	4	1.2	25	2.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
YAKUTAT BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	5	6.2	13	5.6	5	10.4	9	6.8	4	12.2	9	9.1
DIVORCES					1	2.1	7	5.3	2	6.1	10	10.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	3	2.3	0	0.0	4	4.1
DIVORCE					1	2.1	3	2.3	1	3.0	4	4.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
YUKON-KOYUKUK CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	42	6.4	113	5.8	25	7.0	90	8.5	27	9.0	90	10.2
DIVORCES					8	2.3	34	3.2	7	2.3	32	3.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	1.4	18	1.7	5	1.7	19	2.2
DIVORCE					3	0.8	16	1.5	1	0.3	12	1.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Rates are per 1,000 residents
Total divorce occurrences by census area or borough are not available.

TABLE 29 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ALASKA: 2000 AND 1998–2000 BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2000 NUMBER	98–00 NUMBER	2000 NUMBER	98–00 NUMBER	2000 NUMBER	98–00 NUMBER
AHTNA INCORPORATED						
MARRIAGES	37	103	38	89	37	85
DIVORCES			15	41	9	35
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			9	27	4	20
DIVORCE			6	13	5	15
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
ALEUT CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	32	72	40	99	32	90
DIVORCES			10	60	10	50
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			6	44	7	36
DIVORCE			4	15	3	13
ANNULMENT			0	1	0	1
ARCTIC SLOPE CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	23	88	33	114	35	115
DIVORCES			14	55	11	44
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			8	22	5	21
DIVORCE			6	32	6	23
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	50	160	53	161	54	162
DIVORCES			22	58	22	61
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			14	38	11	36
DIVORCE			7	19	11	25
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	30	128	45	175	47	165
DIVORCES			11	61	15	58
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			3	30	9	32
DIVORCE			7	29	4	23
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
CALISTA CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	122	387	133	406	133	413
DIVORCES			13	56	15	53
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			8	37	7	31
DIVORCE			4	17	7	19
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0

Total divorce occurrences by Native Regional Corporation are not available.

**TABLE 29 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES IN ALASKA: 2000 AND 1998-2000
BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2000 NUMBER	98-00 NUMBER	2000 NUMBER	98-00 NUMBER	2000 NUMBER	98-00 NUMBER
CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	119	358	90	260	89	252
DIVORCES			52	166	49	153
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			33	115	27	101
DIVORCE			18	47	22	50
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
COOK INLET REGIONAL CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	3,156	9,377	2,837	8,490	2,888	8,634
DIVORCES			1,198	4,561	1,289	4,843
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			756	2,931	806	3,141
DIVORCE			394	1,557	428	1,624
ANNULMENT			5	9	6	9
DOYON LIMITED						
MARRIAGES	903	2,661	863	2,545	846	2,467
DIVORCES			389	1,412	387	1,399
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			233	903	227	901
DIVORCE			153	496	155	483
ANNULMENT			3	3	1	4
KONIAG INCORPORATED						
MARRIAGES	91	314	87	293	85	286
DIVORCES			62	197	52	177
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			38	125	32	114
DIVORCE			18	65	13	56
ANNULMENT			1	1	1	1
NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	36	109	42	128	38	125
DIVORCES			12	31	16	33
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			8	19	11	21
DIVORCE			2	10	3	10
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
SEALASKA CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	669	2,096	505	1,595	490	1,582
DIVORCES			308	955	309	972
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			190	594	197	610
DIVORCE			101	327	95	329
ANNULMENT			1	4	1	3

Total divorce occurrences by Native Regional Corporation are not available.