

MARRIAGES & DIVORCES



"Tenakee Wedding"
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MARRIAGES

There were 5,336 marriages performed in Alaska in 2002, involving 4,635 Alaska resident brides and 4,634 Alaska resident grooms. The number of marriages in 2002 was almost identical to the 5,359 marriages that occurred in 2001. The crude marriage rate in 2002 was 8.3 marriages per 1,000 residents, down from 8.5 marriages per 1,000 in 2001.

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 0.4 marriages per 1,000 residents was in the Aleutians East borough. The highest rate of 13.3 marriages per 1,000 residents

was in Denali Borough. Locations that are popular tourist destinations (such as Denali National Park) may have higher marriage rates because many non-resident couples travel there to get married.

There were 533 marriages in which neither the bride nor the groom was a resident of Alaska, a 3.7 percent increase from the 514 nonresident marriages in 2001. The Juneau Borough had the largest number of nonresident marriages in 2002 with 163, which accounted for 47.0 percent of all marriages occurring in Juneau. The Municipality of Anchorage had the second greatest number of nonresident marriages with 137.

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 2002, there were 1,028 divorces granted in Alaska. This represents a 4.3 percent decrease from the 1,074 divorces granted in 2001.

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 2002, there were 1,893 dissolutions of marriage in Alaska. This is a 0.8 percent increase from the 1,878 dissolutions reported in 2001.

An annulment is a judicial pronouncement declaring a marriage never existed. In 2002, there were 10 annulments granted in Alaska, which is two less than reported in 2001.

There were 54 instances in which the type of decree was not specified. When not otherwise stated, the term divorce refers to all methods collectively.

In 2002, the total of 2,985 divorces, dissolutions, and annulments resulted in a crude divorce rate of 4.6 divorces per 1,000 population, compared with 4.9 in 2001.

TABLE 27 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES: ALASKA, 2002 AND 2000–2002

	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00–02 NUMBER	00–02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00–02 NUMBER	00–02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00–02 NUMBER	00–02 RATE
MARRIAGES	5,336	8.3	15,965	8.4	4,634	14.0	13,927	14.2	4,635	14.8	13,983	15.2
DIVORCES	2,985	4.6	8,968	4.7	2,475	7.5	7,453	7.6	2,556	8.2	7,705	8.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION	1,893	2.9	5,514	2.9	1,567	4.7	4,591	4.7	1,627	5.2	4,761	5.2
DIVORCE	1,028	1.6	3,124	1.6	859	2.6	2,597	2.6	876	2.8	2,657	2.9
ANNULMENT	10	0.0	35	0.0	7	0.0	27	0.0	7	0.0	28	0.0

Rates are per 1,000 residents

**TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH:
ALASKA, 2002 AND 2000–2002**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00–02 NUMBER	00–02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00–02 NUMBER	00–02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00–02 NUMBER	00–02 RATE
ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	1	0.4	12	1.5	9	5.0	33	6.3	11	11.8	32	11.4
DIVORCES					3	1.7	9	1.7	3	3.2	6	2.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					3	1.7	6	1.1	3	3.2	4	1.4
DIVORCE					0	0.0	3	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
ALEUTIANS WEST CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	20	3.9	62	3.9	24	7.4	78	7.7	26	14.3	69	12.0
DIVORCES					13	4.0	38	3.8	7	3.8	34	5.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.8	20	2.0	3	1.6	17	3.0
DIVORCE					7	2.2	17	1.7	4	2.2	14	2.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE												
MARRIAGES	2,296	8.5	6,736	8.5	2,149	15.8	6,300	15.7	2,182	16.4	6,382	16.3
DIVORCES					1,190	8.7	3,468	8.6	1,273	9.6	3,732	9.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					725	5.3	2,059	5.1	792	6.0	2,235	5.7
DIVORCE					444	3.3	1,256	3.1	458	3.4	1,327	3.4
ANNULMENT					6	0.0	23	0.1	6	0.0	21	0.1
BETHEL CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	70	4.2	227	4.7	80	9.4	247	9.7	81	10.1	248	10.6
DIVORCES					5	0.6	31	1.2	1	0.1	33	1.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					3	0.4	17	0.7	0	0.0	16	0.7
DIVORCE					2	0.2	12	0.5	1	0.1	15	0.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	4	3.5	17	4.7	10	15.6	38	19.3	9	17.3	32	19.8
DIVORCES					7	11.0	19	9.6	5	9.6	17	10.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	3.1	7	3.5	3	5.8	10	6.2
DIVORCE					5	7.8	10	5.1	2	3.8	7	4.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
DENALI BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	25	13.3	60	10.6	16	15.2	45	13.9	15	18.0	43	17.5
DIVORCES					5	4.8	18	5.6	3	3.6	13	5.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	3.8	11	3.4	3	3.6	9	3.7
DIVORCE					1	1.0	7	2.2	0	0.0	4	1.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
DILLINGHAM CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	34	6.9	70	4.7	37	14.5	81	10.5	38	16.0	84	11.8
DIVORCES					5	2.0	24	3.1	11	4.6	30	4.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	1.6	11	1.4	9	3.8	18	2.5
DIVORCE					1	0.4	11	1.4	2	0.8	8	1.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	829	9.8	2,441	9.7	794	18.1	2,338	17.9	749	18.3	2,284	18.9
DIVORCES					366	8.3	1,151	8.8	390	9.5	1,183	9.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					237	5.4	719	5.5	246	6.0	726	6.0
DIVORCE					129	2.9	425	3.3	143	3.5	451	3.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
HAINES BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	19	8.1	67	9.4	16	13.2	63	17.3	15	13.1	58	16.7
DIVORCES					11	9.1	24	6.6	7	6.1	25	7.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					8	6.6	18	4.9	5	4.4	20	5.7
DIVORCE					2	1.6	4	1.1	1	0.9	3	0.9
ANNULMENT					1	0.8	2	0.5	1	0.9	2	0.6

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

**TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH:
ALASKA, 2002 AND 2000-2002**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00-02 NUMBER	00-02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00-02 NUMBER	00-02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00-02 NUMBER	00-02 RATE
JUNEAU BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	347	11.2	1,053	11.4	200	12.9	637	13.7	193	12.5	624	13.6
DIVORCES					138	8.9	384	8.3	144	9.3	401	8.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					97	6.2	257	5.5	102	6.6	269	5.9
DIVORCE					39	2.5	111	2.4	38	2.5	111	2.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	521	10.2	1,536	10.2	389	14.7	1,167	14.9	395	16.0	1,181	16.2
DIVORCES					213	8.1	606	7.7	205	8.3	616	8.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					162	6.1	453	5.8	162	6.5	466	6.4
DIVORCE					49	1.9	145	1.9	41	1.7	138	1.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	128	9.4	386	9.3	77	11.1	262	12.4	79	11.7	261	12.8
DIVORCES					61	8.8	192	9.1	65	9.6	184	9.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					37	5.3	105	5.0	38	5.6	108	5.3
DIVORCE					24	3.5	85	4.0	27	4.0	76	3.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	108	7.8	287	6.8	102	14.1	276	12.5	103	15.6	273	13.7
DIVORCES					50	6.9	185	8.4	50	7.6	159	8.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					23	3.2	103	4.7	26	3.9	91	4.6
DIVORCE					25	3.4	66	3.0	22	3.3	53	2.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	7	4.3	15	2.9	13	15.2	34	12.4	14	17.9	33	13.4
DIVORCES					6	7.0	11	4.0	3	3.8	6	2.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	5.8	6	2.2	1	1.3	3	1.2
DIVORCE					1	1.2	5	1.8	2	2.6	3	1.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	531	8.1	1,613	8.6	443	13.1	1,359	14.0	459	14.6	1,396	15.5
DIVORCES					234	6.9	768	7.9	243	7.7	792	8.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					139	4.1	474	4.9	144	4.6	473	5.3
DIVORCE					78	2.3	260	2.7	81	2.6	284	3.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
NOME CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	30	3.2	129	4.6	38	7.7	142	9.6	37	8.3	138	10.6
DIVORCES					37	7.5	80	5.4	32	7.2	75	5.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					20	4.1	45	3.0	15	3.4	39	3.0
DIVORCE					15	3.1	31	2.1	14	3.2	32	2.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	26	3.6	81	3.7	42	11.1	115	10.0	40	11.6	114	11.0
DIVORCES					8	2.1	35	3.0	8	2.3	30	2.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	1.3	20	1.7	4	1.2	16	1.5
DIVORCE					3	0.8	15	1.3	4	1.2	14	1.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	19	2.6	78	3.6	24	6.4	91	8.1	24	6.8	88	8.4
DIVORCES					13	3.5	35	3.1	17	4.8	43	4.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.6	18	1.6	7	2.0	24	2.3
DIVORCE					6	1.6	13	1.2	10	2.8	16	1.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

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Total divorce occurrences by census area or borough are not available.

**TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH:
ALASKA, 2002 AND 2000-2002**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00-02 NUMBER	00-02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00-02 NUMBER	00-02 RATE	2002 NUMBER	2002 RATE	00-02 NUMBER	00-02 RATE
PRINCE OF WALES-OUTER KETCHIKAN CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	19	3.3	83	4.7	27	8.7	105	10.9	23	8.9	100	12.5
DIVORCES					17	5.5	61	6.3	15	5.8	55	6.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					12	3.9	38	3.9	11	4.3	32	4.0
DIVORCE					5	1.6	22	2.3	4	1.5	23	2.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
SITKA BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	61	6.9	179	6.7	47	10.4	153	11.3	45	10.3	154	11.8
DIVORCES					31	6.9	99	7.3	40	9.1	110	8.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					19	4.2	69	5.1	25	5.7	78	6.0
DIVORCE					11	2.4	27	2.0	15	3.4	31	2.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
SKAGWAY-HOONAH-ANGOON CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	40	12.4	129	12.9	25	14.5	76	14.2	23	15.4	73	15.7
DIVORCES					11	6.4	31	5.8	10	6.7	27	5.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					10	5.8	27	5.0	6	4.0	18	3.9
DIVORCE					1	0.6	4	0.7	4	2.7	6	1.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	35	5.9	119	6.6	37	11.8	110	11.7	35	12.4	112	12.9
DIVORCES					20	6.4	64	6.8	9	3.2	52	6.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					11	3.5	38	4.0	5	1.8	29	3.4
DIVORCE					9	2.9	26	2.8	4	1.4	23	2.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
VALDEZ-CORDOVA CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	68	6.6	261	8.5	48	8.8	233	14.3	51	10.6	229	16.0
DIVORCES					38	6.9	132	8.1	30	6.2	103	7.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					25	4.6	78	4.8	23	4.8	66	4.6
DIVORCE					13	2.4	52	3.2	7	1.5	36	2.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
WADE HAMPTON CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	31	4.3	80	3.7	40	10.5	96	8.6	37	10.6	93	9.0
DIVORCES					3	0.8	14	1.2	3	0.9	15	1.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	6	0.5	1	0.3	5	0.5
DIVORCE					3	0.8	8	0.7	2	0.6	10	1.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	31	4.8	119	6.0	29	8.6	114	11.0	27	8.8	113	12.0
DIVORCES					23	6.8	75	7.3	24	7.8	81	8.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					14	4.1	48	4.6	17	5.5	56	5.9
DIVORCE					9	2.7	21	2.0	7	2.3	19	2.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
YAKUTAT BOROUGH												
MARRIAGES	8	11.0	17	7.6	13	32.9	26	20.6	13	39.5	24	24.6
DIVORCES					5	12.7	7	5.6	2	6.1	12	12.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	12.7	5	4.0	2	6.1	6	6.1
DIVORCE					0	0.0	2	1.6	0	0.0	5	5.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
YUKON-KOYUKUK CENSUS AREA												
MARRIAGES	28	4.4	107	5.5	25	7.3	90	8.6	30	10.3	92	10.3
DIVORCES					9	2.6	35	3.3	8	2.7	24	2.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.7	20	1.9	4	1.4	14	1.6
DIVORCE					3	0.9	13	1.2	4	1.4	9	1.0
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 BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION:
ALASKA, 2002 AND 2000-2002**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2002 NUMBER	00-02 NUMBER	2002 NUMBER	00-02 NUMBER	2002 NUMBER	00-02 NUMBER
AHTNA INCORPORATED						
MARRIAGES	23	101	19	91	19	87
DIVORCES			6	36	5	25
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			3	20	3	17
DIVORCE			3	16	2	8
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
ALEUT CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	21	74	33	111	37	101
DIVORCES			16	47	10	40
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			9	26	6	21
DIVORCE			7	20	4	16
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	26	81	42	115	40	114
DIVORCES			8	35	8	30
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			5	20	4	16
DIVORCE			3	15	4	14
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	30	129	38	142	37	138
DIVORCES			37	80	32	75
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			20	45	15	39
DIVORCE			15	31	14	32
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	44	100	58	150	59	146
DIVORCES			17	53	19	53
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			10	23	13	31
DIVORCE			7	26	6	18
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
CALISTA CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	101	307	120	343	118	341
DIVORCES			8	45	4	48
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			3	23	1	21
DIVORCE			5	20	3	25
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0

Total divorce occurrences by Native Regional Corporation are not available.

TABLE 29

**MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION:
ALASKA, 2002 AND 2000-2002**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2002 NUMBER	00-02 NUMBER	2002 NUMBER	00-02 NUMBER	2002 NUMBER	00-02 NUMBER
CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	105	344	65	262	67	259
DIVORCES			53	157	46	138
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			35	100	36	93
DIVORCE			18	54	10	44
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
COOK INLET REGION INCORPORATED						
MARRIAGES	3,293	9,709	2,951	8,722	3,007	8,855
DIVORCES			1,617	4,785	1,700	5,081
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			1,014	2,946	1,082	3,130
DIVORCE			563	1,645	575	1,734
ANNULMENT			6	23	6	24
DOYON LIMITED						
MARRIAGES	913	2,720	868	2,570	825	2,521
DIVORCES			400	1,265	410	1,271
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			258	787	258	778
DIVORCE			142	469	151	486
ANNULMENT			0	9	0	1
KONIAG INCORPORATED						
MARRIAGES	108	288	102	276	103	273
DIVORCES			50	185	50	159
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			23	103	26	91
DIVORCE			25	66	22	53
ANNULMENT			0	2	0	1
NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	19	78	24	91	24	88
DIVORCES			13	35	17	43
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			6	18	7	24
DIVORCE			6	13	10	16
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
SEALASKA CORPORATION						
MARRIAGES	653	2,033	434	1,436	418	1,407
DIVORCES			297	873	307	895
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			202	567	206	587
DIVORCE			91	276	96	274
ANNULMENT			1	2	1	2

Total divorce occurrences by Native Regional Corporation are not available.