

# MARRIAGES & DIVORCES



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## MARRIAGES

There were 5,246 marriages performed in Alaska in 2003, involving 4,505 Alaska resident brides and 4,534 Alaska resident grooms. The number of marriages in 2003 was 1.7 percent lower than the 5,336 marriages that occurred in 2002. The crude marriage rate in 2003 was 8.1 marriages per 1,000 residents, down from 8.3 marriages per 1,000 in 2002.

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 1.5 marriages per 1,000 residents was in the Aleutians East Borough. The highest rate of 18.8 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 non-resident couples travel there to get married.

There were 543 marriages in which neither the bride nor the groom was a resident of Alaska, a 1.9 percent increase from the 533 nonresident marriages in 2002. The Juneau Borough had the largest number of nonresident marriages in 2003 with 181, which accounted for 47.6 percent of all marriages occurring in Juneau. The Municipality of Anchorage had the second greatest number of nonresident marriages with 126.

# 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 2003, there were 998 divorces granted in Alaska. This represents a 2.9 percent decrease from the 1,028 divorces granted in 2002.

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 2003, there were 1,828 dissolutions of marriage in Alaska. This is a 3.4 percent decrease from the 1,893 dissolutions reported in 2002.

An annulment is a judicial pronouncement declaring a marriage never existed. In 2003, there were six annulments granted in Alaska, which is four less than reported in 2002.

There were 35 instances in which the type of decree was not specified. When not otherwise stated, the term divorce refers to all methods collectively.

In 2003, the total of 2,867 divorces, dissolutions, and annulments resulted in a crude divorce rate of 4.4 divorces per 1,000 population, compared with 4.6 in 2002.

**TABLE 27 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES: ALASKA, 2003 AND 2001-2003**

	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01-03 NUMBER	01-03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01-03 NUMBER	01-03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01-03 NUMBER	01-03 RATE
<b>MARRIAGES</b>	5,246	8.1	15,941	8.3	4,534	13.6	13,831	13.9	4,505	14.3	13,829	14.8
<b>DIVORCES</b>	2,867	4.4	8,946	4.6	2,429	7.3	7,490	7.6	2,489	7.9	7,733	8.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION	1,828	2.8	5,599	2.9	1,547	4.6	4,691	4.7	1,583	5.0	4,849	5.2
DIVORCE	998	1.5	3,100	1.6	844	2.5	2,601	2.6	871	2.8	2,673	2.9
ANNULMENT	6	0.0	28	0.0	5	0.0	21	0.0	5	0.0	22	0.0

Rates are per 1,000 residents.

**TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH: ALASKA, 2003 AND 2001–2003**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01–03 NUMBER	01–03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01–03 NUMBER	01–03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01–03 NUMBER	01–03 RATE
<b>ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	4	1.5	8	1.0	5	2.8	15	2.8	5	5.5	14	5.1
DIVORCES					5	2.8	6	1.1	4	4.4	6	2.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	0.6	2	0.4	2	2.2	4	1.4
DIVORCE					4	2.2	4	0.8	2	2.2	2	0.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>ALEUTIANS WEST CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	25	4.7	63	4.0	25	7.2	62	6.2	24	12.8	60	10.6
DIVORCES					9	2.6	30	3.0	9	4.8	27	4.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	0.6	12	1.2	4	2.1	13	2.3
DIVORCE					7	2.0	17	1.7	5	2.7	13	2.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE</b>												
MARRIAGES	2,187	8.0	6,749	8.4	2,022	14.6	6,274	15.3	2,041	15.1	6,346	16.0
DIVORCES					1,118	8.1	3,483	8.5	1,181	8.8	3,730	9.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					720	5.2	2,129	5.2	748	5.5	2,284	5.7
DIVORCE					387	2.8	1,252	3.1	418	3.1	1,327	3.3
ANNULMENT					3	0.0	17	0.0	3	0.0	18	0.0
<b>BETHEL CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	62	3.7	190	3.8	66	7.6	205	8.0	66	8.1	202	8.5
DIVORCES					11	1.3	29	1.1	9	1.1	29	1.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	0.2	12	0.5	5	0.6	15	0.6
DIVORCE					8	0.9	15	0.6	4	0.5	13	0.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	3	2.7	12	3.5	4	6.7	17	9.0	4	7.9	15	9.7
DIVORCES					1	1.7	9	4.8	2	4.0	9	5.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	4	2.1	0	0.0	4	2.6
DIVORCE					1	1.7	4	2.1	2	4.0	5	3.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>DENALI BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	36	18.8	77	13.5	13	11.9	39	12.1	16	19.3	42	16.9
DIVORCES					9	8.3	20	6.2	8	9.7	16	6.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	3.7	11	3.4	3	3.6	8	3.2
DIVORCE					5	4.6	9	2.8	5	6.0	8	3.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>DILLINGHAM CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	29	5.9	81	5.5	26	10.2	78	10.2	27	11.4	79	11.1
DIVORCES					6	2.4	21	2.7	6	2.5	21	3.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	2.0	12	1.6	2	0.8	10	1.4
DIVORCE					1	0.4	8	1.0	4	1.7	10	1.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	779	9.5	2,415	9.6	753	17.8	2,276	17.6	712	17.9	2,192	18.1
DIVORCES					387	9.1	1,158	8.9	388	9.8	1,193	9.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					233	5.5	723	5.6	243	6.1	746	6.2
DIVORCE					151	3.6	428	3.3	141	3.5	441	3.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
<b>HAINES BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	20	8.6	64	9.1	11	9.2	39	10.8	11	9.7	36	10.5
DIVORCES					3	2.5	15	4.1	4	3.5	16	4.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					3	2.5	13	3.6	3	2.7	13	3.8
DIVORCE					0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.9	2	0.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	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 BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH:  
ALASKA, 2003 AND 2001-2003**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01-03 NUMBER	01-03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01-03 NUMBER	01-03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01-03 NUMBER	01-03 RATE
<b>JUNEAU BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	380	12.2	1,097	11.8	186	11.8	588	12.6	196	12.6	595	12.9
DIVORCES					113	7.2	355	7.6	107	6.9	361	7.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					81	5.2	253	5.4	70	4.5	249	5.4
DIVORCE					30	1.9	92	2.0	35	2.3	99	2.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	487	9.5	1,510	9.9	365	13.8	1,130	14.3	360	14.4	1,130	15.3
DIVORCES					187	7.1	612	7.8	191	7.7	614	8.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					139	5.3	460	5.8	143	5.7	465	6.3
DIVORCE					44	1.7	142	1.8	46	1.8	140	1.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	116	8.6	390	9.5	77	11.2	250	12.0	75	11.3	252	12.5
DIVORCES					62	9.0	174	8.3	72	10.8	180	8.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					39	5.7	103	4.9	41	6.2	105	5.2
DIVORCE					22	3.2	70	3.4	30	4.5	74	3.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	101	7.3	297	7.1	94	13.0	278	12.7	95	14.5	278	14.0
DIVORCES					48	6.6	161	7.3	51	7.8	155	7.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					34	4.7	94	4.3	37	5.6	94	4.7
DIVORCE					14	1.9	57	2.6	14	2.1	53	2.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	10	6.1	20	4.0	11	12.9	24	9.1	12	15.5	25	10.5
DIVORCES					1	1.2	10	3.8	4	5.2	7	2.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	1.2	6	2.3	3	3.9	4	1.7
DIVORCE					0	0.0	4	1.5	1	1.3	3	1.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	546	8.1	1,628	8.4	474	13.5	1,376	13.6	478	14.7	1,407	15.0
DIVORCES					277	7.9	794	7.9	275	8.5	813	8.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					158	4.5	476	4.7	162	5.0	482	5.1
DIVORCE					105	3.0	278	2.8	104	3.2	292	3.1
ANNULMENT					2	0.1	2	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
<b>NOME CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	44	4.7	123	4.4	44	9.0	123	8.4	44	9.8	122	9.2
DIVORCES					29	5.9	80	5.4	24	5.4	74	5.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					18	3.7	47	3.2	18	4.0	44	3.3
DIVORCE					11	2.2	30	2.0	6	1.3	26	2.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	22	3.0	80	3.7	24	6.4	94	8.3	23	6.6	91	8.8
DIVORCES					6	1.6	20	1.8	6	1.7	20	1.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	0.3	8	0.7	2	0.6	10	1.0
DIVORCE					5	1.3	12	1.1	4	1.2	10	1.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	30	4.1	72	3.3	33	8.8	75	6.7	31	8.8	73	6.9
DIVORCES					7	1.9	25	2.2	10	2.8	28	2.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	1.3	13	1.2	4	1.1	12	1.1
DIVORCE					2	0.5	11	1.0	6	1.7	15	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 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH: ALASKA, 2003 AND 2001–2003**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01–03 NUMBER	01–03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01–03 NUMBER	01–03 RATE	2003 NUMBER	2003 RATE	01–03 NUMBER	01–03 RATE
<b>PRINCE OF WALES-OUTER KETCHIKAN CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	23	4.1	70	4.1	21	6.9	76	8.1	20	7.9	74	9.5
DIVORCES					15	4.9	49	5.2	17	6.7	52	6.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					9	2.9	30	3.2	10	3.9	30	3.9
DIVORCE					6	2.0	19	2.0	7	2.8	22	2.8
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>SITKA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	91	10.2	209	7.8	74	16.5	168	12.4	75	17.0	168	12.8
DIVORCES					26	5.8	85	6.3	31	7.0	99	7.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					20	4.5	60	4.4	27	6.1	74	5.6
DIVORCE					6	1.3	24	1.8	4	0.9	25	1.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>SKAGWAY-HOONAH-ANGOON CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	33	10.4	118	12.1	18	10.7	54	10.4	14	9.5	54	11.9
DIVORCES					2	1.2	18	3.5	4	2.7	21	4.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	15	2.9	3	2.0	14	3.1
DIVORCE					1	0.6	2	0.4	0	0.0	4	0.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	40	6.8	120	6.7	30	9.6	101	10.8	32	11.4	107	12.6
DIVORCES					23	7.4	65	7.0	20	7.2	50	5.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					15	4.8	42	4.5	15	5.4	33	3.9
DIVORCE					8	2.6	23	2.5	5	1.8	17	2.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>VALDEZ-CORDOVA CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	79	7.7	248	8.1	70	12.9	216	13.3	62	12.9	204	14.2
DIVORCES					36	6.6	107	6.6	31	6.5	89	6.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					25	4.6	67	4.1	21	4.4	66	4.6
DIVORCE					11	2.0	39	2.4	10	2.1	22	1.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>WADE HAMPTON CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	19	2.6	76	3.5	21	5.5	80	7.0	20	5.6	80	7.6
DIVORCES					0	0.0	6	0.5	3	0.8	9	0.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	2	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
DIVORCE					0	0.0	4	0.4	3	0.8	8	0.8
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>WRANGELL-PETERSBURG CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	43	6.8	109	5.6	31	9.4	90	8.8	31	10.3	87	9.4
DIVORCES					19	5.7	63	6.2	17	5.6	64	6.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					15	4.5	42	4.1	13	4.3	45	4.9
DIVORCE					4	1.2	19	1.9	4	1.3	17	1.8
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>YAKUTAT BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	2	2.9	14	6.6	3	8.2	13	11.3	2	6.2	13	13.4
DIVORCES					0	0.0	5	4.4	1	3.1	2	2.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					0	0.0	5	4.4	1	3.1	2	2.1
DIVORCE					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>YUKON-KOYUKUK CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	35	5.5	100	5.2	33	9.6	86	8.3	29	10.0	80	9.1
DIVORCES					15	4.4	36	3.5	8	2.8	20	2.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					10	2.9	23	2.2	3	1.0	9	1.0
DIVORCE					5	1.5	13	1.3	5	1.7	11	1.2
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, 2003 AND 2001–2003**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2003 NUMBER	01–03 NUMBER	2003 NUMBER	01–03 NUMBER	2003 NUMBER	01–03 NUMBER
<b>AHTNA INCORPORATED</b>						
MARRIAGES	30	94	26	79	21	71
DIVORCES			8	28	5	21
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			4	15	2	15
DIVORCE			4	13	3	6
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>ALEUT CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	29	71	30	77	29	74
DIVORCES			14	36	13	33
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			3	14	6	17
DIVORCE			11	21	7	15
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	22	80	24	94	23	91
DIVORCES			6	20	6	20
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			1	8	2	10
DIVORCE			5	12	4	10
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	44	123	44	123	44	122
DIVORCES			29	80	24	74
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			18	47	18	44
DIVORCE			11	30	6	26
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	40	110	40	115	41	114
DIVORCES			8	39	12	37
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			6	21	5	18
DIVORCE			2	16	7	18
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>CALISTA CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	81	266	87	285	86	282
DIVORCES			11	35	12	38
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			2	14	5	16
DIVORCE			8	19	7	21
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, 2003 AND 2001-2003**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2003 NUMBER	01-03 NUMBER	2003 NUMBER	01-03 NUMBER	2003 NUMBER	01-03 NUMBER
<b>CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	99	324	75	244	70	237
DIVORCES			47	141	48	136
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			31	92	32	98
DIVORCE			15	46	15	36
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>COOK INLET REGION INCORPORATED</b>						
MARRIAGES	3,175	9,728	2,832	8,683	2,853	8,789
DIVORCES			1,564	4,829	1,625	5,089
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			1,008	3,027	1,040	3,184
DIVORCE			528	1,652	560	1,739
ANNULMENT			5	19	4	20
<b>DOYON LIMITED</b>						
MARRIAGES	887	2,704	828	2,496	788	2,416
DIVORCES			433	1,278	424	1,279
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			261	798	264	796
DIVORCE			169	473	156	477
ANNULMENT			0	7	1	1
<b>KONIAG INCORPORATED</b>						
MARRIAGES	101	297	94	278	95	278
DIVORCES			48	161	51	155
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			34	94	37	94
DIVORCE			14	57	14	53
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	30	72	33	75	31	73
DIVORCES			7	25	10	28
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			5	13	4	12
DIVORCE			2	11	6	15
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>SEALASKA CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	708	2,071	421	1,278	424	1,279
DIVORCES			240	764	253	795
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			167	521	168	532
DIVORCE			69	227	81	243
ANNULMENT			0	1	0	1

Total divorce occurrences by Native Regional Corporation are not available.