

# MARRIAGES & DIVORCES



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## MARRIAGES

There were 5,599 marriages performed in Alaska in 2004, involving 4,797 Alaska resident brides and 4,786 Alaska resident grooms. The number of marriages in 2004 was 6.7 percent higher than the 5,246 marriages that occurred in 2003. The crude marriage rate in 2004 was 8.5 marriages per 1,000 residents, down from 8.1 marriages per 1,000 in 2003.

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 1.9 marriages per 1,000 residents was in the Aleutians East Borough. The highest rate of 17.9 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 602 marriages in which neither the bride nor the groom was a resident of Alaska, a 10.9 percent increase from the 543 nonresident marriages in 2003. The Juneau Borough had the largest number of nonresident marriages in 2004 with 210, which accounted for 51.1 percent of all marriages occurring in Juneau. The Municipality of Anchorage had the second greatest number of nonresident marriages with 139.

# 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 2004, there were 1,067 divorces granted in Alaska. This represents a 6.9 percent increase from the 998 divorces granted in 2003.

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 2004, there were 1,765 dissolutions of marriage in Alaska. This is a 3.4 percent decrease from the 1,828 dissolutions reported in 2003.

An annulment is a judicial pronouncement declaring a marriage never existed. In 2004, there were seven annulments granted in Alaska, which is one more than reported in 2003.

There were 10 instances in which the type of decree was not specified. When not otherwise stated, the term divorce refers to all methods collectively.

In 2004, the total of 2,849 divorces, dissolutions, and annulments resulted in a crude divorce rate of 4.3 divorces per 1,000 population, compared with 4.4 in 2003.

**TABLE 27 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES: ALASKA, 2004 AND 2002–2004**

	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02–04 NUMBER	02–04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02–04 NUMBER	02–04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02–04 NUMBER	02–04 RATE
<b>MARRIAGES</b>	5,599	8.5	16,180	8.3	4,786	14.2	13,953	13.9	4,797	15.1	13,936	14.7
<b>DIVORCES</b>	2,849	4.3	8,711	4.5	2,326	6.9	7,238	7.2	2,418	7.6	7,473	7.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION	1,765	2.7	5,492	2.8	1,450	4.3	4,568	4.6	1,514	4.8	4,730	5.0
DIVORCE	1,067	1.6	3,097	1.6	862	2.6	2,569	2.6	889	2.8	2,640	2.8
ANNULMENT	7	0.0	23	0.0	6	0.0	18	0.0	5	0.0	17	0.0

Rates are per 1,000 residents.

**TABLE 28 MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH:  
ALASKA, 2004 AND 2002–2004**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02–04 NUMBER	02–04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02–04 NUMBER	02–04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02–04 NUMBER	02–04 RATE
<b>ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	5	1.9	10	1.2	5	2.9	14	2.6	7	7.8	16	5.8
DIVORCES					2	1.2	8	1.5	2	2.2	8	2.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	0.6	3	0.6	1	1.1	5	1.8
DIVORCE					1	0.6	5	0.9	1	1.1	3	1.1
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>ALEUTIANS WEST CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	18	3.4	63	4.0	21	6.2	64	6.3	21	11.3	62	11.2
DIVORCES					11	3.3	28	2.8	10	5.4	26	4.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.8	12	1.2	5	2.7	12	2.2
DIVORCE					5	1.5	16	1.6	5	2.7	14	2.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE</b>												
MARRIAGES	2,313	8.3	6,795	8.3	2,121	15.1	6,281	15.1	2,161	15.8	6,373	15.8
DIVORCES					1,128	8.0	3,432	8.3	1,199	8.8	3,653	9.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					702	5.0	2,145	5.2	748	5.5	2,288	5.7
DIVORCE					418	3.0	1,247	3.0	442	3.2	1,318	3.3
ANNULMENT					3	0.0	12	0.0	3	0.0	12	0.0
<b>BETHEL CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	73	4.3	205	4.1	78	8.9	222	8.6	77	9.5	220	9.1
DIVORCES					8	0.9	24	0.9	6	0.7	16	0.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	0.2	7	0.3	3	0.4	8	0.3
DIVORCE					6	0.7	16	0.6	3	0.4	8	0.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	10	9.1	17	5.1	9	15.0	20	10.9	9	18.1	18	11.8
DIVORCES					5	8.3	10	5.4	2	4.0	6	3.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	3.3	3	1.6	2	4.0	3	2.0
DIVORCE					3	5.0	7	3.8	0	0.0	3	2.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>DENALI BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	33	17.9	94	16.7	19	19.0	48	15.3	15	17.9	46	18.4
DIVORCES					10	10.0	24	7.6	9	10.7	20	8.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	4.0	12	3.8	5	6.0	11	4.4
DIVORCE					6	6.0	12	3.8	4	4.8	9	3.6
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>DILLINGHAM CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	19	3.9	82	5.6	23	9.2	81	10.7	19	8.1	79	11.2
DIVORCES					8	3.2	19	2.5	9	3.9	21	3.0
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					4	1.6	13	1.7	4	1.7	11	1.6
DIVORCE					4	1.6	6	0.8	5	2.1	10	1.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	854	10.0	2,462	9.8	805	18.4	2,343	18.0	773	18.8	2,224	18.2
DIVORCES					383	8.7	1,131	8.7	406	9.9	1,181	9.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					252	5.8	720	5.5	268	6.5	754	6.2
DIVORCE					129	2.9	406	3.1	136	3.3	420	3.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>HAINES BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	28	12.5	67	9.7	20	17.4	44	12.4	22	20.1	45	13.4
DIVORCES					5	4.3	15	4.2	6	5.5	14	4.2
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					3	2.6	11	3.1	4	3.7	9	2.7
DIVORCE					2	1.7	3	0.8	2	1.8	4	1.2
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, 2004 AND 2002-2004**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02-04 NUMBER	02-04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02-04 NUMBER	02-04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02-04 NUMBER	02-04 RATE
<b>JUNEAU BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	411	13.3	1,138	12.2	193	12.4	568	12.1	199	12.9	580	12.5
DIVORCES					80	5.1	324	6.9	93	6.0	338	7.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					52	3.3	228	4.9	57	3.7	225	4.9
DIVORCE					26	1.7	90	1.9	34	2.2	105	2.3
ANNULMENT					2	0.1	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	495	9.7	1,503	9.8	358	13.6	1,108	14.0	366	14.8	1,116	15.0
DIVORCES					176	6.7	576	7.3	175	7.1	574	7.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					125	4.8	427	5.4	131	5.3	439	5.9
DIVORCE					51	1.9	143	1.8	44	1.8	132	1.8
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	126	9.7	370	9.2	97	14.6	248	12.1	98	15.4	251	12.7
DIVORCES					49	7.4	170	8.3	52	8.1	186	9.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					24	3.6	98	4.8	22	3.4	100	5.1
DIVORCE					25	3.8	71	3.5	30	4.7	85	4.3
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	115	8.5	324	7.9	104	14.8	299	13.9	101	15.7	297	15.1
DIVORCES					54	7.7	149	6.9	54	8.4	153	7.8
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					33	4.7	89	4.1	31	4.8	92	4.7
DIVORCE					21	3.0	58	2.7	22	3.4	58	3.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
<b>LAKE AND PENINSULA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	6	3.7	23	4.7	5	6.0	23	9.1	7	9.0	26	11.2
DIVORCES					2	2.4	9	3.5	3	3.9	9	3.9
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	1.2	7	2.8	1	1.3	5	2.1
DIVORCE					1	1.2	2	0.8	2	2.6	4	1.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	616	8.8	1,693	8.3	527	14.5	1,442	13.7	533	15.7	1,468	15.0
DIVORCES					230	6.3	740	7.0	225	6.6	740	7.6
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					129	3.6	426	4.1	119	3.5	423	4.3
DIVORCE					100	2.8	282	2.7	106	3.1	290	3.0
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	2	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
<b>NOME CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	40	4.3	114	4.1	41	8.4	117	8.0	40	8.9	116	8.7
DIVORCES					14	2.9	76	5.2	16	3.6	71	5.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					7	1.4	44	3.0	9	2.0	42	3.1
DIVORCE					7	1.4	30	2.0	7	1.6	26	1.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	23	3.2	71	3.3	25	6.8	83	7.4	25	7.3	81	7.8
DIVORCES					6	1.6	17	1.5	4	1.2	15	1.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	0.5	5	0.4	2	0.6	6	0.6
DIVORCE					4	1.1	12	1.1	2	0.6	9	0.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	30	4.1	79	3.6	29	7.7	80	7.1	28	7.9	78	7.4
DIVORCES					11	2.9	28	2.5	6	1.7	27	2.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					5	1.3	15	1.3	2	0.6	11	1.0
DIVORCE					6	1.6	13	1.2	4	1.1	16	1.5
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, 2004 AND 2002-2004**

CENSUS AREA OR BOROUGH	TOTAL OCCURRENCES				TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)				TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)			
	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02-04 NUMBER	02-04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02-04 NUMBER	02-04 RATE	2004 NUMBER	2004 RATE	02-04 NUMBER	02-04 RATE
<b>PRINCE OF WALES-OUTER KETCHIKAN CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	30	5.4	72	4.3	29	9.5	72	7.8	29	11.6	70	9.2
DIVORCES					25	8.2	54	5.9	25	10.0	56	7.4
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					17	5.6	36	3.9	19	7.6	39	5.1
DIVORCE					8	2.6	18	2.0	6	2.4	17	2.2
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>SITKA BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	88	10.0	240	9.0	63	14.2	184	13.7	64	14.6	183	13.9
DIVORCES					27	6.1	84	6.3	27	6.2	94	7.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					19	4.3	58	4.3	20	4.6	71	5.4
DIVORCE					8	1.8	25	1.9	6	1.4	22	1.7
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.1
<b>SKAGWAY-HOONAH-ANGOON CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	32	10.3	105	11.1	14	8.5	51	10.1	14	9.6	48	10.8
DIVORCES					4	2.4	15	3.0	4	2.7	18	4.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					2	1.2	11	2.2	2	1.4	11	2.5
DIVORCE					2	1.2	3	0.6	2	1.4	6	1.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	51	8.2	126	7.0	47	14.5	112	11.8	46	15.6	112	13.1
DIVORCES					18	5.5	59	6.2	18	6.1	45	5.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					11	3.4	35	3.7	14	4.8	33	3.9
DIVORCE					7	2.2	24	2.5	4	1.4	12	1.4
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>VALDEZ-CORDOVA CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	93	9.3	240	7.9	68	12.9	185	11.4	63	13.5	176	12.3
DIVORCES					41	7.8	111	6.9	42	9.0	102	7.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					28	5.3	75	4.6	31	6.6	75	5.2
DIVORCE					13	2.5	36	2.2	11	2.4	27	1.9
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>WADE HAMPTON CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	22	3.0	72	3.3	21	5.5	76	6.6	22	6.2	75	7.0
DIVORCES					1	0.3	2	0.2	0	0.0	5	0.5
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	0.3	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
DIVORCE					0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	5	0.5
ANNULMENT					0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>WRANGELL-PETERSBURG CENSUS AREA</b>												
MARRIAGES	43	6.9	117	6.2	36	11.0	95	9.5	35	11.8	89	9.8
DIVORCES					12	3.7	54	5.4	12	4.0	52	5.7
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					8	2.4	37	3.7	8	2.7	36	4.0
DIVORCE					3	0.9	16	1.6	4	1.3	16	1.8
ANNULMENT					1	0.3	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>YAKUTAT BOROUGH</b>												
MARRIAGES	2	2.9	12	5.7	3	8.3	13	11.6	3	9.4	13	13.4
DIVORCES					2	5.5	7	6.2	0	0.0	2	2.1
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					1	2.8	6	5.3	0	0.0	2	2.1
DIVORCE					1	2.8	1	0.9	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	23	3.7	86	4.5	22	6.5	76	7.4	18	6.2	71	8.1
DIVORCES					10	3.0	33	3.2	6	2.1	20	2.3
TYPE OF DECREE												
DISSOLUTION					6	1.8	21	2.0	2	0.7	8	0.9
DIVORCE					4	1.2	12	1.2	4	1.4	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 BY NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION:  
ALASKA, 2004 AND 2002-2004**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2004 NUMBER	02-04 NUMBER	2004 NUMBER	02-04 NUMBER	2004 NUMBER	02-04 NUMBER
<b>AHTNA INCORPORATED</b>						
MARRIAGES	31	84	25	70	25	65
DIVORCES			14	28	11	21
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			9	16	9	14
DIVORCE			5	12	2	7
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>ALEUT CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	23	73	26	78	28	78
DIVORCES			13	36	12	34
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			7	15	6	17
DIVORCE			6	21	6	17
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	23	71	25	83	25	81
DIVORCES			6	17	4	15
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			2	5	2	6
DIVORCE			4	12	2	9
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	40	114	41	117	40	116
DIVORCES			14	76	16	71
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			7	44	9	42
DIVORCE			7	30	7	26
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	34	118	37	121	34	118
DIVORCES			15	37	14	36
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			7	22	7	19
DIVORCE			8	15	7	17
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>CALISTA CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	95	277	99	298	99	295
DIVORCES			9	26	6	21
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			3	8	3	8
DIVORCE			6	17	3	13
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, 2004 AND 2002–2004**

NATIVE REGIONAL CORPORATION	TOTAL OCCURRENCES		TOTAL RESIDENTS (MALE)		TOTAL RESIDENTS (FEMALE)	
	2004 NUMBER	02–04 NUMBER	2004 NUMBER	02–04 NUMBER	2004 NUMBER	02–04 NUMBER
<b>CHUGACH ALASKA CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	121	325	83	222	80	217
DIVORCES			42	138	47	140
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			28	91	34	102
DIVORCE			14	46	13	37
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>COOK INLET REGION INCORPORATED</b>						
MARRIAGES	3,365	9,832	2,966	8,732	3,020	8,862
DIVORCES			1,520	4,696	1,583	4,908
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			948	2,969	986	3,109
DIVORCE			563	1,650	588	1,723
ANNULMENT			3	14	3	13
<b>DOYON LIMITED</b>						
MARRIAGES	962	2,762	893	2,574	851	2,447
DIVORCES			420	1,245	439	1,266
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			272	786	289	806
DIVORCE			146	454	148	453
ANNULMENT			0	5	0	1
<b>KONIAG INCORPORATED</b>						
MARRIAGES	115	324	104	299	101	297
DIVORCES			54	149	54	153
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			33	89	31	92
DIVORCE			21	58	22	58
ANNULMENT			0	2	1	1
<b>NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	30	79	29	80	28	78
DIVORCES			11	28	6	27
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			5	15	2	11
DIVORCE			6	13	4	16
ANNULMENT			0	0	0	0
<b>SEALASKA CORPORATION</b>						
MARRIAGES	760	2,121	455	1,275	464	1,279
DIVORCES			204	723	219	760
TYPE OF DECREE						
DISSOLUTION			126	485	132	493
DIVORCE			75	227	84	255
ANNULMENT			3	4	1	2

Total divorce occurrences by Native Regional Corporation are not available.