

# Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

## Marriages

In 2007, 18,910 marriages occurred in Kansas, an increase of 0.4 percent from the 2006 total of 18,836 marriages. ([Table 63](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,558) occurred in Sedgwick County, but Geary County had the highest marriage rate (22.7 marriages per 1,000 population). Wichita County had the fewest marriages (2) and the lowest marriage rate (0.9). ([Table 63](#), [Figure 35](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2007 was 6.8 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 25.3 percent lower than the 1988 rate of 9.1. The 2007 rate was 6.8 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 7.3 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 2](#), [Figure 37](#))

Eighty-three (83.4) percent of the marriages performed in Kansas in 2007 were between partners of the same population group. The most common population group combination was between a Hispanic groom and a White non-Hispanic bride. ([Table 65](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (13.1 percent) than any other month in 2007. July and September were the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 39](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the ninth consecutive year. In 2007, 56.0 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 67](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1988, 14.6 percent of the brides and 5.5 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2007, only 8.2 percent of the brides and 3.1 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 68](#))

The average age of all brides in 2007 was 29.8 years and that of grooms was 32.0 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 25.2 years while first time grooms averaged 27.2 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2007, women were, on the average, 40.0 years old and men were 42.8 years of age. ([Figure 40](#))

## Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

### Marriage Dissolutions

In 2007, 9,347 marriage dissolutions (9,068 divorces and 279 annulments) occurred in Kansas, an increase of 2.2 percent from the 2006 total of 9,145. ([Tables 64](#) and [70](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,595) occurred in Sedgwick County. Coffey County had the highest marriage dissolution rate (17.5) per 1,000 population. Greeley, Osborne, and Wichita counties had the lowest number of marriage dissolutions in the state (3 each); and Osborne County had the lowest marriage dissolution rate (0.8 per 1,000 population). ([Table 64](#), [Figure 36](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2007 was 3.4 per 1,000 population, which was 32.0 percent lower than the 1988 rate of 5.0. ([Table 2](#), [Figure 38](#))

Kansas reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. from 1952 to 1994. However, in 1995, Kansas' rate (4.3) dropped below the U.S. rate (4.4) and has remained below the national norm each year since 1995. The Kansas rate in 2007 (3.4) was 5.6 percent lower than the U.S. rate (3.6). ([Figure 38](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both 2 to 1 (2.0:1). ([Tables 63](#) and [64](#))

The most common age-group of wives and husbands involved in marriage dissolutions in 2007 was 25-29. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was also 25-29. ([Table 69](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2007 was 36.8 years for wives and 39.0 years for husbands, as compared to 32.7 years for wives and 35.1 years for husbands in 1988. ([Figure 41](#))

In 2007, 37.3 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 70](#))

There were 8,654 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2007. At least one minor child was reported to be involved in half (50.8 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 71](#), [Figure 42](#))

**Note:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate the number of these records not filed. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.