

MARRIAGES & DIVORCES

MARRIAGES

In 2004, 5,836 marriages were performed in Vermont, 152 less than in 2003. The 2004 Vermont rate was 9.4 per 1,000 of population, the lowest rate in Vermont in more than 20 years, but higher than the 2004 U.S. provisional rate of 7.8. Marriages between two out-of-state residents accounted for 33.0 percent of the marriages in Vermont ([Table G-2](#)).

There was the usual seasonal variation with more marriages occurring in summer than in any other season. August (887) was the most popular month for marriages in 2004 ([Table G-7](#)).

Just over half (52.3 percent) of the marriages were firsts for both bride and groom ([Table G-5](#)). For the brides, 63.5 percent were first marriages, and for the grooms, 63.1 percent were first marriages. Remarriages for both bride and groom accounted for 25.6 percent of marriages in Vermont.

The percentage of civil ceremonies decreased to 60.0 percent in 2004 ([Table G-8](#)). This is the first decrease since 1990.

DIVORCES

There were 2,452 divorces granted in 2004, a decrease of 43 from 2003. This represents a rate of 3.9 per 1,000 residents, slightly higher than the 2004 U.S. provisional rate of 3.7.

The median length of marriages ending in divorce was 9 years 6 months, with a range of 1 month to 50 years 0 months. Almost fifty-six percent of divorces followed a separation of a year or longer ([Table H-3](#)). The median age at the time of divorce was 39 for women with a range of 18 to 84 years. The median age at the time of divorce was 41 for men with a range of 19 to 91 years.

In 2004, 49.4 percent of divorces involved at least one child under the age of 18 ([Table H-5](#)), and a total of 2,034 children ([Table H-7](#)) were involved in a divorce. This represents an estimated 1.5 percent of all children residing in Vermont.