



مركز الإحصاء
STATISTICS CENTRE

Marriage and Divorce Statistics Methodology

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Overview

Marriage is a common social system that represents a socio-religious institution existing in all societies in conformance to multiple forms and functions in whose framework the family is made followed by reproduction and childbirth. It is governed by prevailing laws and dominant customs and traditions in different countries. Often the difference between countries with respect to customs and traditions constitute an obstacle in the way of the opportunity to make international comparisons of the marriage situation of the population and other indicators relating to marriage and divorce. A marriage is solemnized by a contract (*nikah* in the Koran) entailing rights and duties which the spouses are obliged to satisfy in accordance with the laws regulating this relationship in its different forms in different countries and human societies.

Importance

Marriage is one of the demographic phenomena that have a significant impact on the social and economic features of the population. This is so because the marital status affects fertility, mortality, migration and other demographic indicators. To learn about the marital status of society, it is necessary to know the rates of marriage and divorce and changes in those rates from time to time.\

Objectives

Marriage and divorce statistics aim to provide data on the annual number of marriages and divorces, measuring their rates, obtaining data on age at first marriage, measuring this phenomenon annually, the duration of marital life (marriage period) in addition to the end of the relationship, whether by divorce or widowhood. These are all factors relating to childbearing and childbirth and, therefore, affect the age structure of the population and population growth. These statistics help in estimating the number of newly formed families in society in preparation for estimating the annual total number of families until the general population census is conducted.

Concepts and Definitions

Marriage: It is the legitimate and legal bond between the husband and wife, and the legitimacy of this marriage is governed by Islamic laws; it is the phenomenon that establishes the family and confers on it a legal status.

Marriage is classified according to the degree of kinship as follows:

- First-degree consanguinity, which means the marriage of paternal cousins – maternal cousins.
- Second-degree consanguinity, which means marriage with relatives other than what is mentioned in (1), such as the sons of the tribe.
- No kinship, which means that there is no kinship relationship between the husband and wife.

Divorce: It is the form in which the marriage contract legally ends between the two parties, i.e. the husband and wife who are entitled to re-marry under certain conditions.

According to Islamic law, there are four types of divorce, as follows

1. Revocable divorce, which is a divorce from a wife with whom the marriage has been consummated and does not complete the three divorce cases.
2. Minor Baynunah (finality) divorce, which is the first or second divorce after the end of the waiting period for the wife with whom marriage has been consummated or before consummation.
3. An irrevocable, major Baynunah (finality), divorce is a divorce that complements three, i.e. preceded by two divorces, and the divorcé is not entitled to remarry the divorcée until after she has married another person, a valid legal marriage and is then divorced from him.
4. Khul' divorce is a divorce procedure upon the request of the wife in exchange for a sum of money paid to the husband.

Marriage contract: an official document proving the fact of marriage between the two parties (husband and wife) in their names and containing their personal data

Divorce certificate: an official document that proves the occurrence of the divorce between the two parties (husband and wife) in their names and contains their personal data.

Geographical Coverage

Marriage and divorce statistics cover all cases of marriage and divorce that took place and were registered in Sharia courts, during a particular Gregorian year.

Data on marriage and divorce cases that take place within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi are collected in all its regions, which include Abu Dhabi Island, Al Ain, and Al Dhafra.

Frequency

Data on marriage and divorce statistics are collected annually on a regular basis.

Classifications

Classifications agreed upon with the authorities concerned.

Main Data Sources

- **Administrative records:** The data is obtained from the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department
- **Population Census:** The census form includes a question on the marital status of individuals in the age of marriage at the time of the census. This data is used when classified according to the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the population in order to provide detailed data that helps analyze the marital status of the population in the community.

Data Collection Forms/ Questionnaires

- **Marriage Form**

Data related to marriage cases are completed by filling out the marriage form. The form includes a set of questions to be directed to both parties, husband and wife, on the number of the marriage contract and its date, the date of birth of each of the husband and wife by day, month and year, the nationality of the husband and wife, the religion of the husband and wife, the place of residence of the husband and wife, the marital status of the husband and wife at the time of the contract, the status of the wife's guardian, the number of wives in a bond of marriage with the husband, the number of children from other marriages of the husband and wife, the educational status of the husband and wife, the profession of the husband and wife, and the relation of kinship between the spouses.

- **Divorce Form**

The data related to divorce cases are completed by filling out a divorce form, which includes a set of questions that are directed to each of the parties, the **divorcé** and the **divorcée**, about the date of birth of both parties by day, month and year, the nationality of the two parties and the religion of each of them, the place of residence of the two parties, and the relationship between them, the education status of both parties, place and date of the marriage contract, date of divorce certificate, date of proof of divorce, whether divorce took place before or after consummation, type of divorce, status of the **divorcée**, claiming party, whether a marriage fund grant (for citizens) was obtained, number of wives in a bond of marriage with the husband, the number of marriages, the number of children begotten by the two parties, the main occupation of each of the parties and the reason for divorce.

Sample Design

Not Applicable.

Data Collection Methods

- **Administrative records**

This system provides marriage and divorce statistics according to the registration of marriage and divorce contracts whose rules are determined by law in each country the by the Judicial Department and the Family Guidance Centre. These rules must have been agreed upon in advance. These statistics provide data on these events and the demographic, social and economic characteristics of the individuals concerned with these events. The statistics are reviewed, coded, entered and then classified as required.

- **Population**

The census form includes a question on the marital status of individuals of marriageable age at the time of the census, and the data is collected via a personal interview.

Data Editing

- The data are assessed by verifying their logicalness and coherence, besides comparing the results produced by SCAD with those of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD) such data and available data from previous surveys to determine the extent of consistency and differences between them.
- Data totals are checked during the desk editing of the marriage and divorce events' forms to verify the validity and logicalness of the data. In addition, automated editing rules are applying during data entry to ensure that they are error-free.

Indicators Calculation

- **Registered marriage contracts.**
- **Number of registered divorce events**
- **Average age upon first marriage:** This is the likely average age upon first marriage or of age-groups centres upon first marriage together with calculation of the number of married people as weights whereby ages are multiplied by weights and the product is added up and divided by the sum total of weights.
- **Crude marriage rate:** This is the number of marriage cases per one thousand of the population of a particular area during a given year. It is calculated thus:

$$CMR = (M/P)*1000.$$

Where M: is the total marriage cases in a particular area during a given year.

P: Number of population in mid-year.

- **Crude divorce rate:** This is the number of divorce cases per one thousand of the population. It is calculated as follows:

$$CDR = (DIV/P0)*1000$$

Where DIV: is the total number of divorce cases during a particular area during a given year.

P: Number of population in mid-year.

- **Refined divorce rate (RDR):** This is the number of divorce cases occurring during a given year divided by the number of married females in mid-year.

$$RDR = (DIV/MF)*1000$$

Where MF is total number of married females in a particular area in mid-year.

DIV: total number of divorce cases occurring in a particular area in mid-year.

- **General divorce rate:** Number of divorce cases (not the divorcés and divorcées) per 1000 of the population of 15 and more years of age in mid-year.
- **General marriage rate:** mid-year number of marriage cases (not married men and married women) per 1000 population aged 14 and over.

Timeliness

The data is published annually.

Dissemination

Data and indicators are published through the Centre's various publications, such as the Statistical Yearbook, the annual publication 'Abu Dhabi in Figures' and through the Department of Dissemination.



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