

Coming to an end.

Divorce and Remarriage in Canada

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- ◆ www.vifamily.ca/library/cft/divorce_05.html

Measuring Divorce

How do we measure divorce?

The most commonly used method to measure divorce for the purpose of international comparison is the yearly **crude** rate for every 1,000 or 100,000 people in the population. In 2002, this rate in Canada was 2.2 per 1,000 people in the population. This method of calculation allows us to say that there are more or fewer divorces in any year per 1,000 or 100,000 population.

Statistics

2003 Stats

- ◆ By 30th anniversary 38% of marriages end in divorce in Canada/ 44% in United States
- ◆ 16% of divorces included husbands who had been in a previous marriage/ 15% of wives had been
- ◆ 49.7% in Quebec/37% in Ontario/17% in Nwflnd
- ◆ Increase rate of divorce after 4th anniversary
- ◆ Average duration of marriages ending in divorce occurs at 14.2 years
- ◆ Average age at divorce is 43 years for men and 40 for women – many are much younger though
- ◆ 70% of men and 58% of women remarry

First Few Years

- ◆ The riskiest year is the fourth year of marriage.
 - ◆ First Year – $1/1000$
 - ◆ Second Year – $5.1/1000$
 - ◆ Third Year – $17/1000$
 - ◆ Fourth Year – $25.5/1000$
- ◆ After that, the chances of divorce decline slowly for each subsequent year of marriage.

Causes of Divorce

Social Influences

- ◆ Social Causes
 - ◆ Secularization and liberalization
 - ◆ Easier divorce laws in 1968 and 1985
 - ◆ Marriage is no longer seen as an institution centered on mutual responsibilities but is now based on the pursuit of happiness, companionship, lower tolerance threshold.

Changes to Divorce Law in Canada

- ◆ Prior to 1968 there was no federal divorce law in Canada.
- ◆ A husband could obtain a divorce on the grounds of his wife's adultery, and a wife to do so provided she could establish that her husband had committed incestuous adultery, rape, sodomy, bestiality, bigamy, or adultery coupled with cruelty or desertion.
- ◆ The grounds for divorce set out in the 1968 *Divorce Act* were equally available to husbands and wives, thus removing the double standard that had existed.
- ◆ The grounds set out in Section 3 of the Act included adultery, rape or another sexual offence such as a homosexual act, bigamy, or physical or mental cruelty.
- ◆ In 1985 the Divorce Act changed to: a divorce may be granted on the ground that there was a breakdown of the marriage.
- ◆ <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/CIR/963-e.htm#A.%20History>

Causes of Divorce

Demographics

- ◆ Youthful marriages are at risk
- ◆ Low Income and Poverty
- ◆ Cohabitation prior to marriage
 - ◆ Less secure cohab. relationships
 - ◆ Problem solving
 - ◆ Higher rates of premarital violence
 - ◆ Less religious
- ◆ Remarriage
- ◆ Working with unmarried individuals
- ◆ Parental Divorce
- ◆ Low religiosity