

Scary Statistics about Divorce in the United States

Whether you're on the verge of being divorced and separated – or you're merely researching family law attorneys – you may find the following statistics about divorce in America both compelling and somewhat chilling.

If your parents are still married, that's good news for your marriage: it reduces your chances of splitting up by 14 percent.

- However, if you cohabitated before getting married, this increases your risk of divorce by up to 40 percent.
- Do you know how long the average marriage (that ends in divorce) lasts? 8 years. Most people have heard of the “7-year-itch,” but statistics say that 8 years is the magic number.
- What is the average age for someone to get divorced? 30 years.
- If you marry before 30, the likelihood that your marriage will end in divorce goes up substantially.
- People who live in the Northeast are less likely to marry and also less likely to get divorced; while people who live in the Southeast are more likely to get married AND also more likely to get divorced.

When you read about divorce statistics and trends, analyze reports with a critical eye. For instance, WHY might living together increase your risk for divorce? Perhaps there are economic factors at play. Perhaps couples who lack money cohabit before marrying to conserve money. Research shows that poor people are more likely to split up. So maybe the “cohabitation risk” is a red herring — what we're really seeing is a correlation.

Many news stories about divorce unfortunately conflate correlation and causation. For a classic example, Google the relationship between organic food sales and childhood autism. These two trend lines correlate amazingly over the past decade and a half. But it's obvious that the increase in organic food consumption did not CAUSE the spike in autism: it just correlated with it.

For help understanding what you need to know about your divorce and child custody battle, call the team here at the Toussaint Law Firm, PC today for a free consultation.

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