DIVORCE IN DELAWARE, 2019

There were 2,839 divorces in Delaware in 2019, a 10% decrease from 2010 (3,152) but a 5% increase from 2018 (2,709). In 2019, Delaware’s divorce rate of 2.9 divorces per 1,000 population was slightly higher than the U.S. rate of 2.7 divorces per 1,000 population.

In 2015-2019, Kent County had the highest five-year average divorce rate of 3.5 divorces per 1,000 population whereas New Castle County had the lowest at 2.8 divorces per 1,000 population. Overall, Delaware’s five-year average divorce rate fell 12% from 3.4 divorces per 1,000 population in 2010-2014 to 3.0 divorces per 1,000 population in 2015-2019.

Figure 1. Five-Year Average Divorce Rates by County, Delaware, 2010-2019

Source: Delaware Department of Social Services, Division of Public Health, Delaware Health Statistics Center

Same race couples made up 80% of the divorces in 2019. Fifty-one percent of divorces occurred among non-Hispanic white couples, 22% of divorces occurred among non-Hispanic black couples, and 7% of divorces occurred among Hispanic couples. Multirace couples accounted for 20% of the divorces for the same time period. The total number of divorces decreased 10% between 2010 and 2019. During the same time period, divorces increased 75% among Hispanic couples and 65% among multirace couples. Non-Hispanic white couples experienced a 16% decrease in divorces from 61% in 2010 to 51% in 2019.

Figure 2. Percentage of Divorces by Race of Couple, Delaware, 2019

Source: Delaware Department of Social Services, Division of Public Health, Delaware Health Statistics Center