



MARRIAGE

AND FAMILY



Hot Off The Press

Latest statistics from Statistics New Zealand

Marriages, Civil Unions and Divorces

Year ended December 2006

Highlights

- There were **21,500 resident marriages registered** in New Zealand during the December 2006 year.
- The general **marriage rate was 13.5 marriages per 1,000** not-married population aged 16 years and over in 2006.
- There were **397 resident civil unions registered in 2006**, of which **80 percent were same-sex unions**.

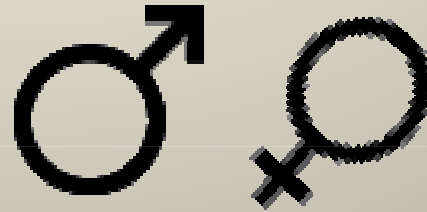
- There were **10,100 orders for dissolution of marriage** granted in New Zealand during the December 2006 year.
- The **divorce rate in 2006 was 12.5 divorces per 1,000** estimated existing marriages.



Remarriages

The number of New Zealand resident marriages **where one or both partners had previously been married was 7,300 in both 2005 and 2006.** The proportion of remarriages remained stable at around 36 percent between 1995 and 2005, but dropped slightly to 34 percent in 2006 due to an increase in first marriages. In 1971, just 16 percent of marriages involved the remarriage of one or both partners. **Twenty-three percent of men and 22 percent of women who married in 2006 were previously divorced.**

About 90 percent of those remarrying in 2006 were divorced, up from 67 percent in 1971. This rise can be partly attributed to the increase in the number of people who are divorced. In 1971, only 4 percent of not-married people were divorced; in 2006, the corresponding figure was 15 percent. **About half of divorced people who remarry marry another divorced person.**



Civil unions

The Civil Union Act 2004 came into force on 26 April 2005 and the first ceremonies were celebrated on 29 April 2005. This Act introduced a new form of legal relationship. **Two people aged 18 years and over, whether of opposite or the same sex, can enter into a civil union.**

In 2006, there were **397 civil unions registered to New Zealand residents.** These comprised **319 same-sex unions (131 male and 188 female).**



Total divorces

In 1981, the number of divorces rose sharply following the passing of the Family Proceedings Act 1980, which allowed for the dissolution of marriage on the grounds of irreconcilable differences.

Divorces recorded a temporary high of 12,400 in 1982. Subsequently, the number fell to a low of 8,600 in 1989. In 2006, there were 10,100 divorces granted by the Family Court, consistent with the annual average for the last decade.

Divorce rate

The divorce rate (number of divorces per 1,000 estimated existing marriages) was 12.5 in 2006, similar to the 2005 rate of 12.4 per 1,000.

Divorces involving people with children.

Less than half of all marriages dissolved in 2006 involved people with children (under 17 years). The proportion of divorces involving children fell from 50 percent in 1996 to 44 percent

in 2006.

The **number of divorces involving children was 5,000 in 1996 and 4,400 in 2006.**

Marriage and the family is in a mess!



God's Plan for a Family

What was God's original design for a family? If we look in(Genesis 2:22-24), we can find His original design.

"Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman" for she was taken out of man.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

(Genesis 4:1-2) says, "Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, 'With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.' Later she gave birth to his brother Abel."

What a beautiful picture we see in Genesis. God designed the family to include a mother and a father. That was His original intention; however, look what happened to the first family. One brother, Cain, killed the other brother, Abel.

Just as the original family was destroyed, or torn apart, many families today are fractured, even Christian families having been influenced by this world. You don't have to be one of those fractured homes.

(Gen 2:18-25) Marriage originated in the mind of God. In giving the marriage relationship God speaks plainly concerning it.

Out of this statement is the clearest possible relationship; a man and his wife, (Vs18).

Moses then writes under inspiration , (vs24) “Two shall become one flesh. “

Wise men and women who desire successful marriages and relationships in the home would be well advised to consult the greatest marriage guidance manual ever, the **Holy Bible, inspired word of God.**

Four guidelines God has given for marriage.

- 1- Guideline of MONOGAMY. (I Corinthians 7:2)
- 2- Guideline of ONENESS. (Gen 2:24)
- 3- Guideline of PERMANENCY. (Mal 2:16)
- 4- Guideline of LOVE & SUBMISSION. (Eph 5:21ff)

In this study of marriage we must begin with the right book, that book is the Bible. Problems faced in marriage are the result of listening to the wrong people and not living the total Christian life. Above all it takes BOTH PARTNERS IN THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE WORK.