

CANADIAN DIVORCE STATISTICS

Updated June 2, 2010

Do 50 per cent of all marriages end in divorce? While divorce rates have increased greatly since the introduction of Divorce Laws in 1968, actual divorce rates have been *decreasing* in Canada since the 1990's. The 50 per cent fallacy is false because it compares incompatible numbers.

- The crude divorce rate (number of divorces in Canada per population in Canada in a given year) has decreased (per 100,000 population) from a high of 362.3 in 1987 to 220.7 in 2005. [1]
- In Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia, the Yukon, and Nunavut the total number of new divorce cases has declined 6% over the four year period ending in 2008/2009. [2]
- The percentage of marriages in a given year that will end in divorce before their 30th wedding anniversary has increased slightly from 36.1 per cent in 1998 to 37.9 per cent in 2004. [3]
- In 2003, the risk of divorce decreased slowly the longer a couple stayed married beyond three years. [4]
- The divorce rate for first marriages is lower than the divorce rate for all marriages (including second, third and so on); "first marriages have a 67% chance of lasting a lifetime." [5]
- "20% of all divorces in Canada are a repeat divorce for at least one of the spouses." [6]
- In 2002, the average age at divorce was 43.1 for men and 40.5 for women. [7]
- On average, men who divorced in 2002 were married at the age of 28.9, while women had married at the age of 26.3. [8]

Endnotes

[1] Lambert, Anne-Marie. (2009). *Divorce: Facts, Causes and Consequences*. 3rd Edition. Ottawa: Vanier Institute of the Family. Table 2. Retrieved June 2, 2010 from http://www.vifamily.ca/library/cft/divorce_09.pdf Crude divorce rate is arrived at by dividing the number of divorces in Canada by Canada's population in a given year.

[2] Kelly, M.B. (2010). *The processing of divorce cases through civil court in seven provinces and territories*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. pp. 5, 20. Retrieved June 2, 2010 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2010001/article/11158-eng.pdf>

[3] Lambert. (2009). Table 1.

[4] Statistics Canada. (March 9, 2005). *Divorces: The Daily*. Retrieved June 2, 2010 from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/050309/dq050309b-eng.htm>

[5] Lambert. (2009). p. 6.

[6] Ibid., p. 9.

[7] Statistics Canada. (May 4, 2004). *Divorces: The Daily*. Retrieved June 2, 2010 from <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040504/d040504a.htm>

[8] Ibid.