



Marriage & Divorce

State of Qatar 2014 (Review & Analysis)



وزارة التخطيط والتنمية والإحصاء

Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics

Marriage & Divorce

in the State of Qatar, 2014

(Review & Analysis)

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Preface

Marriage & Divorce statistics are considered one of the cornerstones of vital statistics which are used as a significant element when making decisions to achieve the goals of Qatar National Strategy 2011-2016. These goals include building a safe, secure and stable society based on strong and effective government and family institutions and setting policies and programs to promote family cohesion. Indicators derived from these data disclose all the aspects surrounding the marriage and divorce phenomena which have gained great interest in the field of population and social studies.

In general, the society's demographical behavior can be identified through statistical analysis of marriage and divorce. Besides, the indicators furnished by the marriage & divorce statistics are used as milestones for attaining short and long term goals and for improving the social and economic conditions for the entire society of Qatar.

This report clarifies the development of both marriage and divorce phenomena and their various components, such as marriage and divorce rates, average age at first marriage as well as the characteristics of marriage and divorce in 2014, in a bid to identify the factors behind late marriage and factors impactful on divorce rates as well as their repercussions on family cohesion.

The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics hopes that the governmental agencies, private institutions of public interest and civil society organizations will benefit from this report including its marriage & divorce indicators of 2014, and to develop plans and policies that encourage the youth to marry, and to eliminate the propagation of divorce phenomena, as well as to find effective solutions among the youth age groups.

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Introduction

Marriage & Divorce statistics are considered one of the most important vital statistics through which the characteristics of marriage and divorce phenomena are studied to determine the family characteristics in the State of Qatar and society's trends on population growth related issues.

This report aims at identifying the evolution of marriage and divorce phenomena in the State of Qatar in 2014. The first section deals with the subject of marriage. It contains data and indicators such as the average age at first marriage, general marriage rate and characteristics of marriage in Qatari society through indicators of first marriage, age groups of spouses and their educational level.

The second section focuses on divorce in Qatari society. It comprises analysis of divorce including general divorce rate per 1000 persons, types of divorce (revocable, minor irrevocable divorce, divorce against compensation and major irrevocable divorce) according to the spouses' age group and duration of marriage and kinship, in addition to divorce by age groups.

It is worth mentioning that the data presented in this report is the outcome of cooperation between Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics and the Supreme Judicial Council.

The data of this report are included events of marriage and divorce that took place and are registered in Qatar, and cover cases of marriage and divorce happened outside the country.

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First: Marriage

Marriage is considered as the legitimate pillar for establishing a family and having children. Moreover, it is considered the means of increasing the natural population growth. This part of the report tackles the analysis of some indicators related to marriage contracts.

General Marriage Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

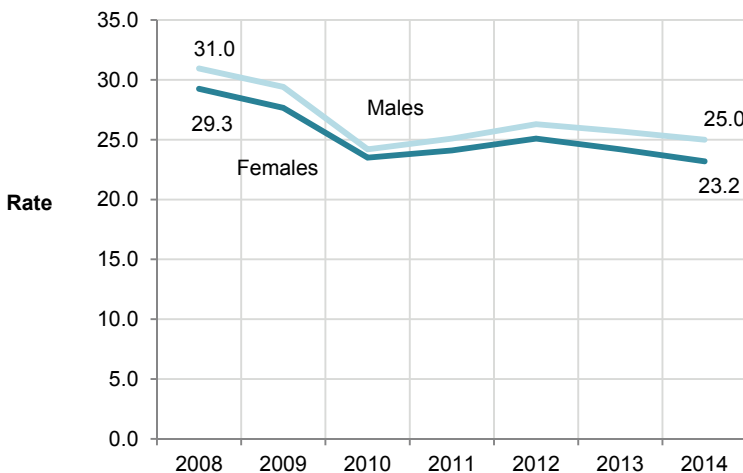
The General marriage rate is the number of marriages per 1000 persons aged 15 years and above in a certain year. Figure 1 indicates that the general marriage rate per 1000 of Qatari population for age group (15 years and above) witnessed a remarkable decrease for both sexes during the period 2008-2014. it decreased from 31.0 for males to 25.0 in 2014.

The general marriage rate witnessed a remarkable decrease, for both males and females, during the comparison period (2008 - 2014) with a constant decrease during the last three years.

Likewise, female rate attained 23.2 in comparison to 29.3 in 2008. This decline can be attributed to the high level of women's education and their large entry into the labor market, in addition to the high expenses of marriage.

Figure No. (1)

General marriage rate per 1000 population (15 years & above) Qataris, (2008 – 2014)



Marriages by Nationality of Spouses and Place Residence

Figure 2 indicates that most of marriage cases have occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality, representing 45.5% of total marriages in the State of Qatar. Doha municipality comes second by a percentage of 31.7%, followed by Al-Wakrah with 7.1%, Umm Salal with 7.0%, and then the rest of the municipalities (Al-Khour, Al Shamal, Al Daayen) with 4.8% and marriages outside Qatar with 3.9%.

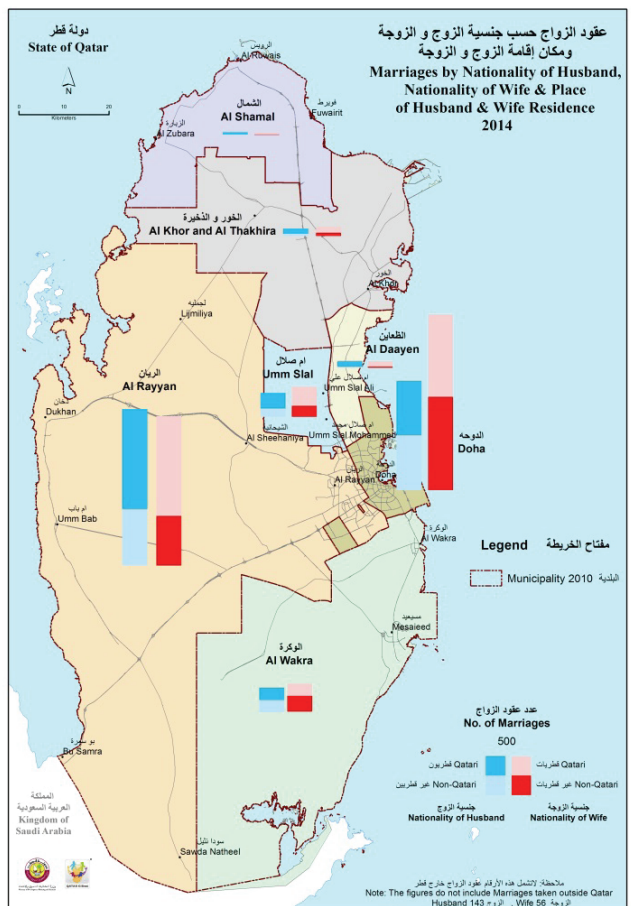
Most marriages among Qataris and non-Qataris in 2014 took place in Al Rayyan municipality

As for marriages according to the nationality and place of residence of the husband, we find out that most cases of Qatari marriage cases occurred at Al-Rayyan municipality with 51.4%, followed by Doha municipality with 27.8%, Umm Salal municipality 8.0%, Al Wakrah municipality 6.3% and then the rest of municipalities with 6.4%. As for the non-Qatari marriage cases, 37.9% was registered in Al-Rayyan municipality, followed by Doha with 36.8%, Al Wakrah 8.1%. Umm Salal with 5.6% and finally the rest of other municipalities (Al Khor, Al Shamal, Al Daayen) with 2.7%, and 8.9% registered outside Qatar.

Figure 2 also shows that the highest marriage percentage of Qatari females took place at Al-Rayyan municipality with 44.0% of total marriage contracts in Qatar, followed by Doha municipality (36.4%), Umm Salal (8.5%), Al Wakra municipality (5.4%), the rest of municipalities (Al Khor, Al Shamal and Al Daayen) with 5.7%.

Figure No. (2)

Marriages by spouses' nationality and place of residence, 2014.



Non-Qatari female marriages were mainly located in Doha municipality, representing 51.6% of total marriages of non-Qatari females, followed by Al Rayyan municipality with 27.4%, Al Wakra 8.7%, Umm Salal 6.2%, and then by the rest of the municipalities (Al Khor, Al Shamal and Al Daayen) with 2.7% and 3.4% outside Qatar.

Average Age at First Marriage

The average age at first marriage is one of the most important indicators that show marriage characteristics in the Qatari society. Data of this indicator show high average age at first marriage for non-Qataris compared to their Qatari counterparts. In general, it is higher by two-years and half for males and two-years and one month for females.

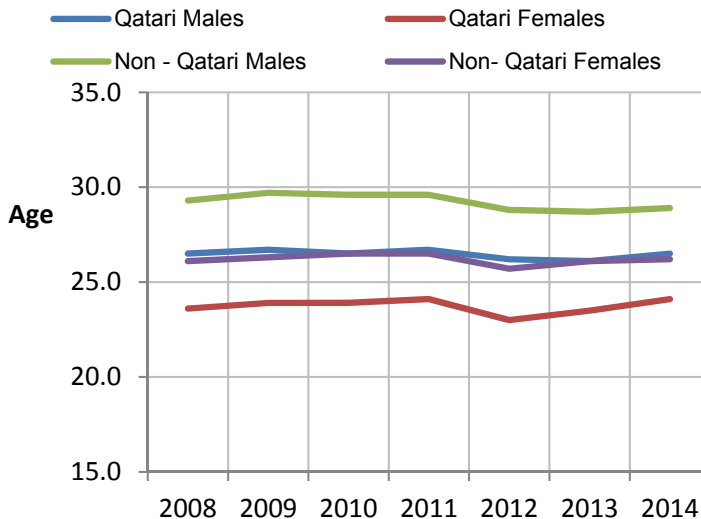
Quasi-stability of the average age at first marriage among Qatari males compared to an increase for females to 24.1. As for Non-Qataris, it decreased to 28.9 for males and 26.2 years for females.

As for Qataris, figure 3 shows that the average age at first marriage increased for females during the period 2008-2014; from 23.6 in 2008 to 24.1 in 2014, whereas it witnessed stability for males; as it fluctuated during the comparison period within the range of 26.5 years.

Concerning non-Qatari, the average age at first marriage for females witnessed a quasi-increase during the period (2008-2014). It increased from 26.1 years in 2008 to 26.2 in 2014, whereas it declined for males from 29.2 to 28.9 years during the same period.

Figure No. (3)

Average age at first marriage by nationality and sex, during the period (2008 – 2014)



Age Groups of Spouses

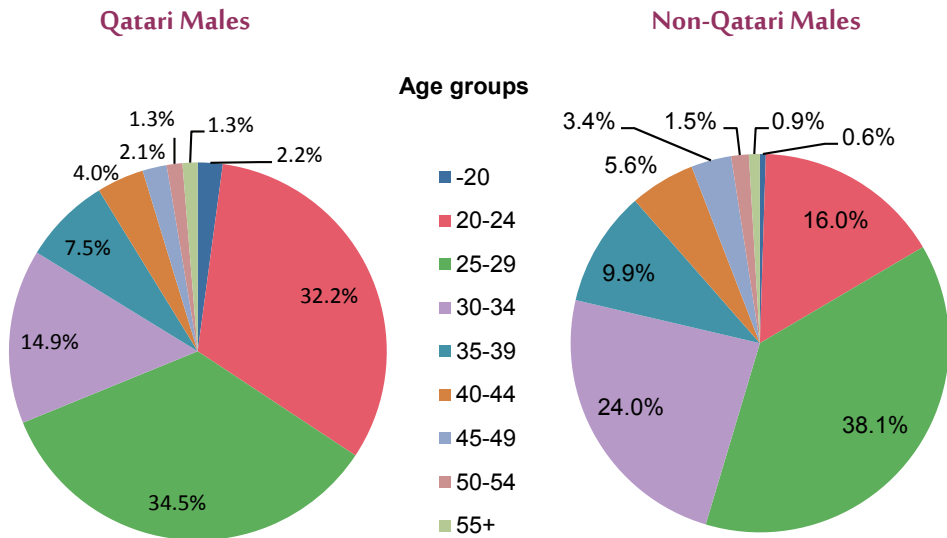
Figure (4-a) shows a rise in the (20-29) age group, as it reached 66.7% of total Qatari husbands and 54.1% of total Non-Qatari husbands.

On the other hand, the figure shows an increase in the age-group (30-39) for non-Qataris by reaching 33.9% of total non-Qatari husbands, while the percentage for the same age group for Qataris attains 22.4% of total Qatari husbands.

Age group (20-29) witnessed highest marriage cases among both Qataris and non-Qataris with percentages of 66.7% and 54.1%, respectively

Figure No. (4-A)

Marriages by husband's age group and nationality (Qatari Males and Non-Qatari Males), 2014.



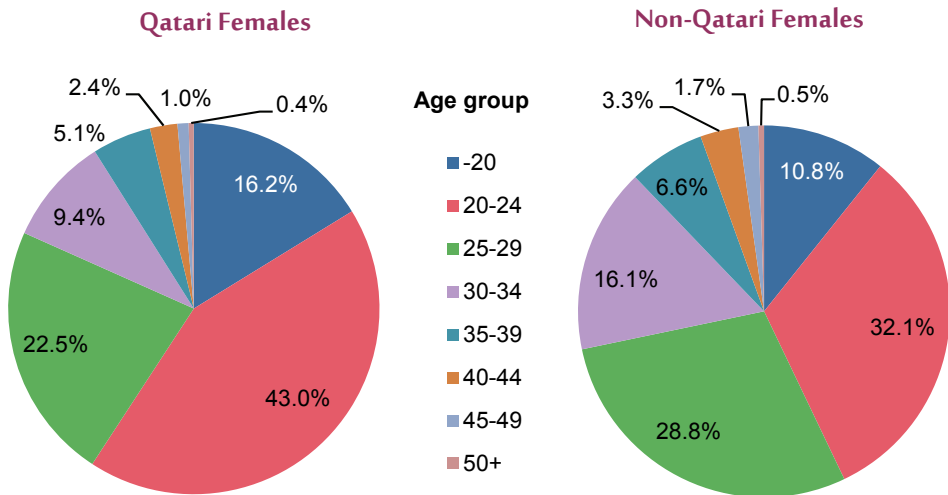
Similarly, the figure (4-b) shows an increase in the ages of non-Qatari wives compared to Qatari wives, where the percentage of Qatari wives in the age-group (20-29) is greater than its equivalent for the non-Qatari wives in the same age group; they are 65.5% for Qatari wives and 60.9% for non-Qatari wives.

Most marriages for Qatari and non-Qatari females took place in the (20-29) age-group with 65.5% and 60.9%, respectively

On the contrast, we notice a rise in the percentage of the age group (30-39) for non-Qatari wives as it amounts to 22.7% of total non-Qatari wives compared to 14.5% of total Qatari wives. Besides, there is an increase in the percentage for the age-group (40-49) for non-Qatari wives with a margin of 1.6 percentage points in comparison with Qatari wives in the same age group.

Figure No. (4-B)

Marriages by wife's age group and nationality (Qatari females and Non-Qatari females), 2014.



Marriages by Number of Current Wives

Figure (5) indicates an increase in the percentage of marriage contracts of husbands who do not have other wives. It amounts to 90.1% of total marriages compared to marriage contracts of husbands who have one or more wives with a percentage of 9.9%.

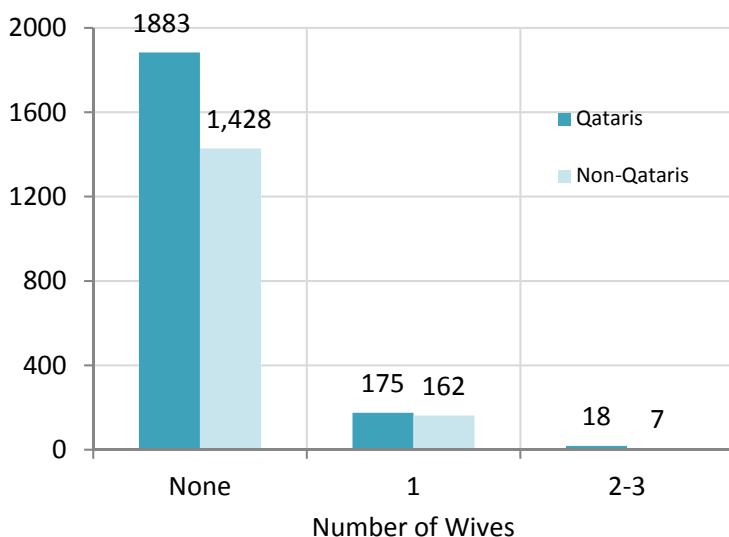
Percentage of Marriage contracts with no other current wives amounts to 90.1% of total marriages.

Moreover, the figure indicates that the percentage of those who do not have another wife ranges from 90.7% to 89.4% for Qataris and non-Qataris, respectively.

The percentage of those who have another wife is 8.4% for Qataris and 10.1% for non-Qataris. The percentage of those who have two or three wives does not exceed 0.9% for Qataris and 0.4% for non-Qataris.

Figure No. (5)

Marriages by number of current wives, 2014.



Marriages by Marital Status of Wife

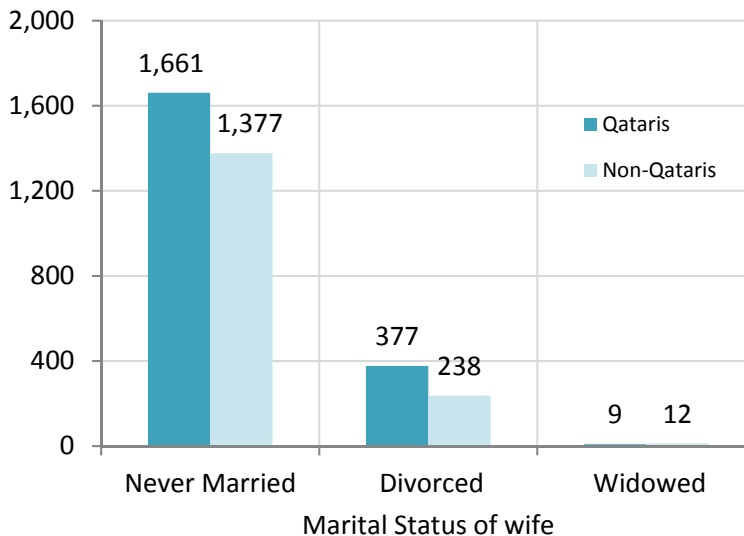
In general, figure (6) indicates that percentage of marriage contracts for wives who have never married before (82.7% of total wives) are higher than marriage contracts for Widows and divorced women (17.3% of total marriages).

Increase of marriage percentage among women, who have never married before; 82.7% of total wives, compared to widows and divorcees

The percentage of Qatari wives who have never married before amounts to 81.1%, whereas 18.4% for the divorced women and 0.4% for widows. As for the non-Qataris, wives who have never married before, marriages amount to 84.6%, whereas 14.6% for the divorced women and 0.7% for widows. It is noted that remarriage of Qatari divorcees is higher by 3.8 percentage points compared to non-Qatari divorcees.

Figure No. (6)

Marriages by marital status of wife, 2014.



Marriages by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure (7) shows the percentage of marriages by educational status, gender and nationality in the marriage contracts of 2014. Marriage contracts for Qatari males and females show a higher percentage for those who have the secondary school certificate from the total marriages, where the percentages amounted to 50.0 % for males and 64.1% for females. These are followed by males and females who have university degree or above, where the percentages reached 29.8% and 22.4%, respectively.

Educational status has a significant role in delaying marriage for the non-Qataris compared to Qataris.

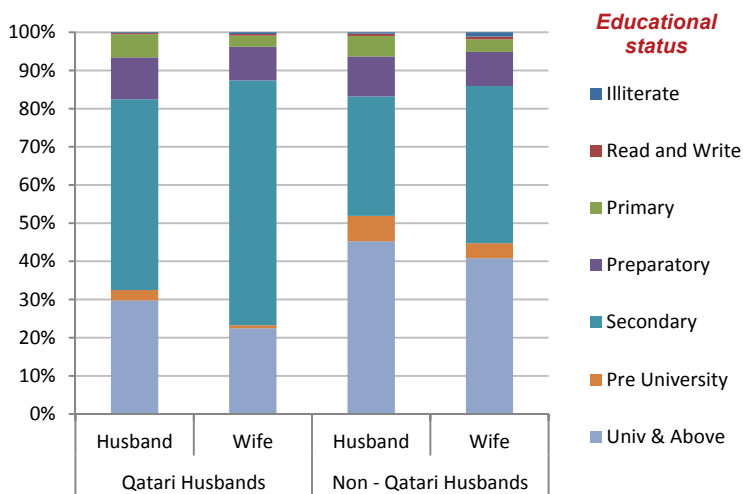
Concerning marriage contracts for Non-Qatari, the higher percentage was for males who have university degree and above; 45.2% followed by non-Qatari males who have secondary school certificate; 31.3% of total contracts.

There are no significant differences in the percentage of non-Qatari wives who have university degree or above and wives with secondary school certificate, as their percentages of the total non-Qatari female marriage contracts by educational status are 40.8% and 41.2%, respectively.

The percentage of marriages is higher among non-Qatari university graduates and post-graduates due to getting married at a late age as aforesaid, whereas the Qataris are getting married at earlier age during university study.

Figure No. (7)

Marriage by educational status and nationality of spouses, 2014



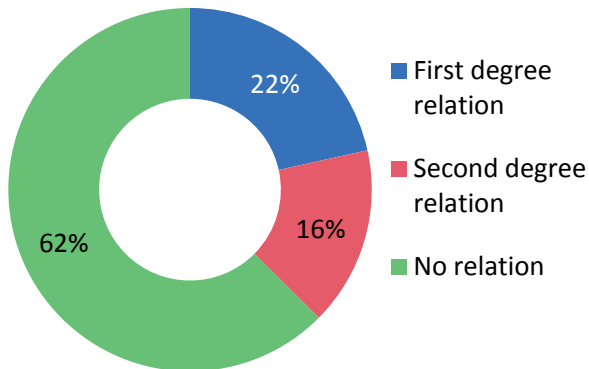
Marriages of Qataris by Kinship

Figure (8) indicates the percentage distribution of marriage contracts of Qataris by kinship for 2014. It shows that the percentage of consanguineous marriages remains high at 38% among Qataris of total marriages in 2014 despite the campaigns that were launched to raise awareness about the risks of consanguineous marriage. The marriages of first degree relatives reached 22%, whereas marriages among second-degree relatives reached 16%. The percentage of spouses, who are not relatives, attains 62% in 2014.

Despite awareness campaigns, consanguineous marriage is still very common among Qataris; it amounts to 38% of total marriages.

Figure No. (8)

Marriages of Qataris according to kinship, 2014.



Second: Divorce

The divorce phenomenon will be addressed through indicators related to divorce rates and factors leading to divorce in Qatari society, e.g. duration of married life, age of spouses, their educational level and polygamy. The Qatari society witnessed a slump in divorce cases in 2014 to reach 803 cases among Qatari males and 710 among Qatari females.

Divorce cases among Qatari males and females decreased by 1.6% and 2.5% respectively in 2014 compared to 2013.

The most important divorce indicators are explained as follows.

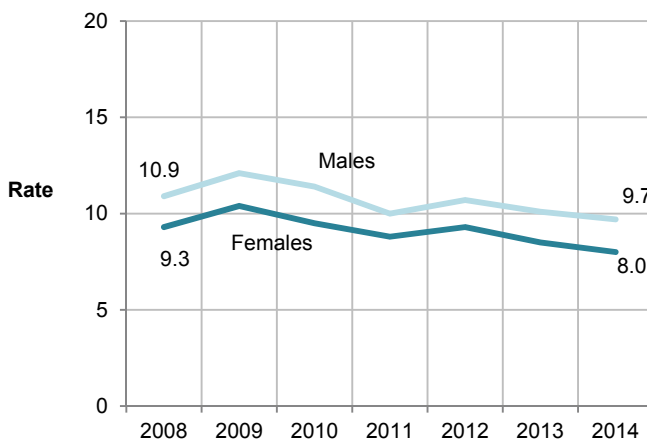
General Divorce Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

The General divorce rate is the number of marriages per 1000 of population aged 15 years and above in a certain year. Figure (9) indicates that the general divorce rate declined among Qatari nationals per 1000 persons during the period 2008-2014. In spite of the fact that the rate rose among Qatari women in the beginning of the period from 9.3 in 2008 to 10.4 in 2010, however, it slumped once again to reach 8.0 in 2014.

As for Qatari men, the general divorce rate also dropped during 2008-2014. It slightly increased from 10.9 in 2008 to 12.1 in 2009, however, it declined once again to reach 9.7 in 2014.

Figure No. (9)

General divorce rate per (1000) population (15 year & above), Qataris (2008- 2014).



Divorce Contracts by Spouses' Nationality and Place of Residence

Figure (10) indicates that most cases of divorce occurred in Al Rayyan Municipality by 42.9% of total divorce cases in Qatar, followed by Doha municipality with 40.5%, Umm Salal (5.6%), Al-Wakra (4.9%), and the rest of municipalities (Al-Khour, Al-Shamal, Al-Daayen) with a percentage of 3.9, whereas 2.1% of divorce cases occurred abroad.

Most of Qataris' divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan municipality, whereas most of non-Qataris' ones were in Doha municipality

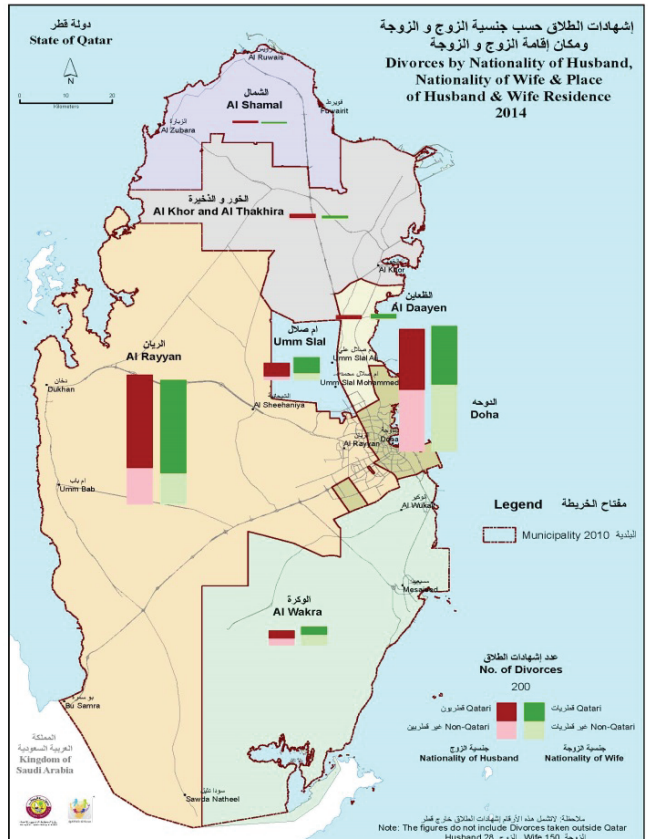
With regard to divorces according to husband's nationality and place of residence, it is observed that most cases of Qataris' divorces occurred in the municipality of Al-Rayyan with 50.4%, followed by Doha (32.9%), Umm Salal (7.1%), Al-Wakra (4.4%) and then by the rest of municipalities (Al-Khour, Al-Shamal and Al-Daayen) with 5.2%.

As for the non-Qataris' divorce cases, they are mostly concentrated in Doha municipality with 52.5%, followed by Al-Rayyan (31.1%), Al-Wakra (5.8%), Umm Salal (3.3%) and then by the rest of the municipalities (Al Khor, Al Shamal and Al Daayen) with 1.8%, whereas 5.5% of cases took place abroad.

The figure also shows that the majority of Qatari female divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan municipality at 50.7% of the total Qatari female divorces registered in Qatar, followed by Doha at 31.8%, Umm Salal (8.6%), Al-Wakra (4.4%) and then by the rest of other municipalities (Al-Khour, Al-Shamal, Al-Dayen) at 4.1%. The percentage of Qatari females' divorced abroad reached 0.4%.

Figure No. (10)

Divorce by spouses' nationality and place of residence, 2014.



Most cases of non-Qatari females' divorce cases were basically concentrated in Doha municipality with 43.0% of the total divorces of non-Qatari females, followed by Al-Rayyan (20.0%), Al-Wakra (6.8%), Umm Salal (4.5%) and then by the other municipalities (Al-Khour, Al-Shamal and Al-Daayen) with a percentage of 1.5%, whereas 24.2% of cases occurred outside Qatar.

Divorces by Type of Divorce and Nationality of Spouses

The results show an increase in “revocable” divorce (the divorce of a wife after consummation or before the third divorce) by 57.6% and minor irrevocable divorce (when the first and second divorce is accomplished) by 25.5%.

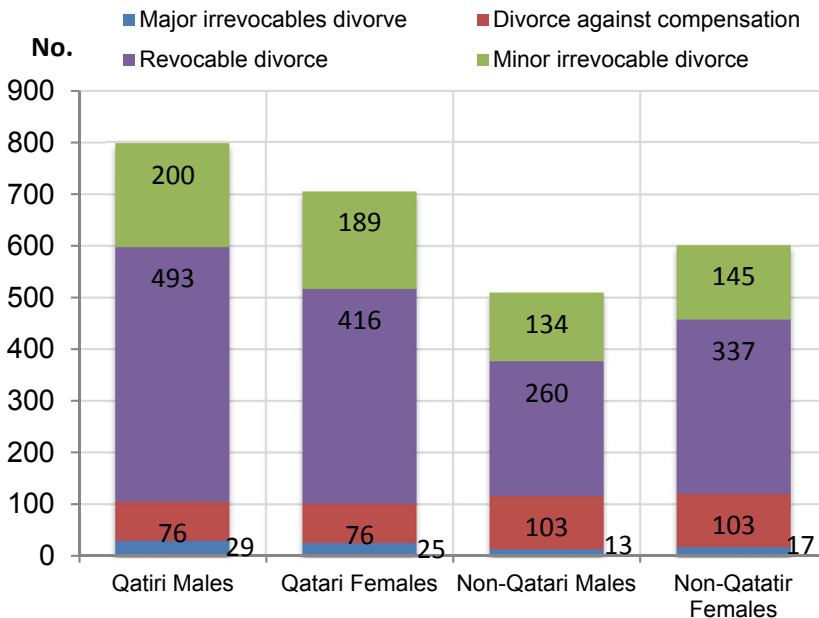
Revocable and minor irrevocable divorce cases represent 83.1% of total types of divorce.

Figure (11) shows a decrease of major irrevocable divorce (the threefold divorce which is irrevocable except the ex-wife is legitimately married to another man and divorces) by 3.2%, and divorce against compensation (divorce occurs upon the wife’s request in return for an amount of money paid to the husband) by 13.7%.

Figure (11) explains, in a detailed way, the number of divorces as per type of divorce and nationality of spouses..

Figure No. (11)

Divorces by type of divorce and nationality of spouses, 2014



Divorces by Type of Divorce and the Husband Age Group

Figure 12-a indicates that divorce cases are higher among Qatari spouses in the age group (20-29) as they amount to 41.0% of total cases by age-group, followed by the age-group (30-39) as they amount to 32.6%.

As for the divorce cases in the under 20 years age group, they reached 0.3% due to the small number of spouses in this age group.

As for the non-Qatari spouses (Figure 12-b), the highest percentage of divorce by age group was among the age-group (30-39) as 40.3% of the total Non-Qatari divorces, followed consecutively by the age-groups (20-29) and (40-49) by 26.9% and 20.6%, respectively.

The lowest percentages among non-Qataris are for the age-group (20 year or less) with 0.0% compared to 2.5% for the age group (60 and above) in 2014.

Figure No. (12-a)

Divorces by type of divorce and husband's age group (Qataris), 2014.

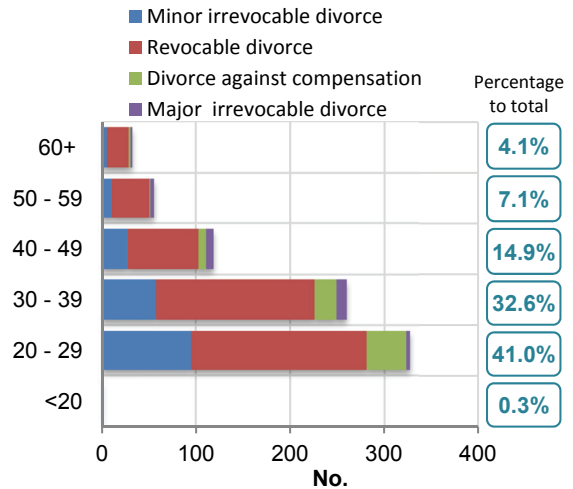
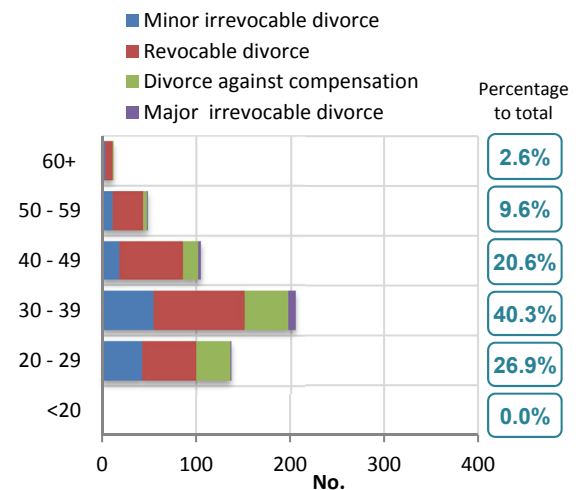


Figure No. (12-b)

Divorces by type of divorce and husband's age group (Non-Qataris), 2014.



Divorces by Type of Divorce and the Wife's Age Group

With regard to the Qatari wives, the figure (13-a) shows that the divorce rate is higher within the age group (20-29); it amounts to 50.6% of total divorces, followed by the age groups (30-39) and (40-49) with 26.5% and 13.5%, respectively. The lowest percentage is recorded among the (60 and above) age group at 0.7%.

As for the non-Qatari wives, the highest percentage of divorce is among the age group (20-29); it amounts to 43.6% of the total divorces, followed by the age group (30-39) at 34.6%.

The lowest percentage is recorded among the age group (60 and above) at 0.2%.

Figure No. (13-a)

Divorces by type of divorce and wife's age group (Qataris), 2014.

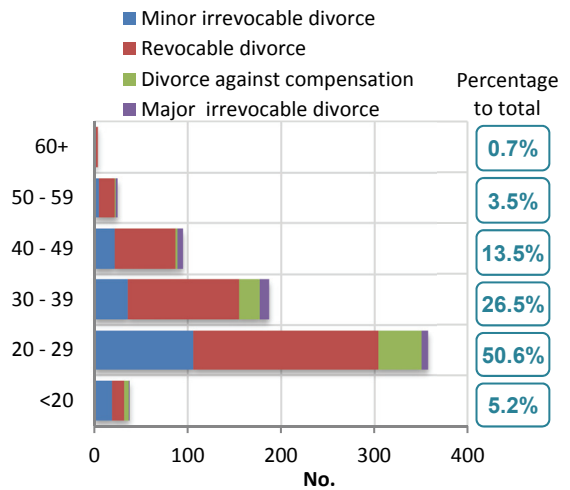
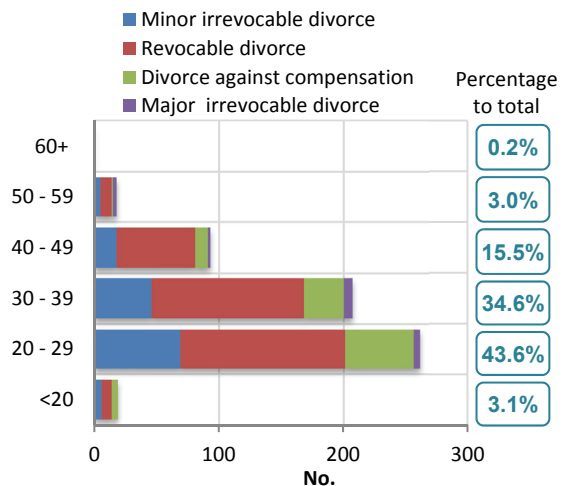


Figure No. (13-b)

Divorces by type of divorce and wife's age group (Non-Qataris), 2014.



Divorces by Duration of Married Life of Spouses

The figure (14-a) indicates that most cases of divorce by duration of spouses' married life in 2014 occurred during the first five years of marriage and before the period of consummation, the fact that accounts for the increase of minor irrevocable divorce and the revocable divorce as previously mentioned

Increase of divorce cases during the first five years of marriage.

Divorce percentage during the first five years and before consummation constitutes 66.8% of total divorces by duration of married life (nearly two

Figure No. (14-a)

Divorces by duration of married life of the wife, 2014.

third of total divorce cases). It is observed that the percentage of divorcees whose married life exceeds 20 years is the lowest compared to the total divorces by duration of married life. Besides, the figure (14-a) shows an increase in 2014 in divorcees' percentage whose married life ranges between 5 and 9 years, representing 17.0% of the total divorces – however with a decline of 1.7 percentage points compared to 2013

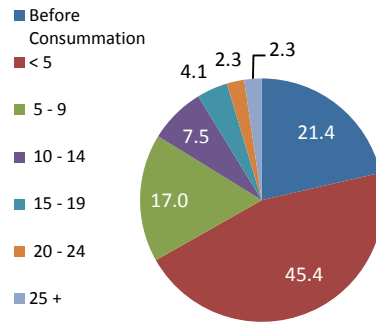
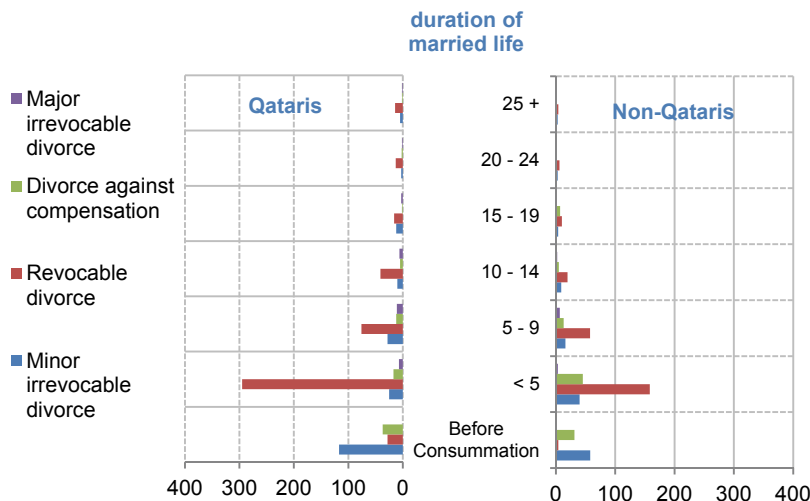


Figure No. (14-b)

Divorces by type of divorce, duration of married life and nationality of husband, 2014.



In a more detailed account of the divorces that occur during the first four years of marriage or before consummation, figure (15) indicates that 63.6% of divorces that occur before consummation are minor irrevocable divorces, whereas the revocable divorce constitutes 11.6%, divorces against compensation 24.7%, and major irrevocable divorce constitute 0.0% of the total divorces before consummation.

As for first four years of marriage, the revocable divorce constitutes the highest percentage of divorce types with 76.6%, while minor irrevocable divorces represent 11.1%. Divorce against compensation and major irrevocable divorce constitute 10.6% and 1.7%, respectively.

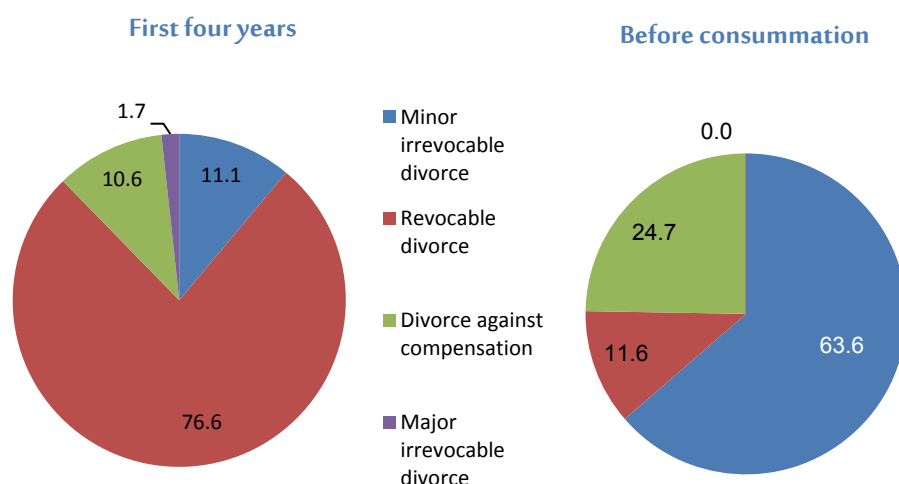
Regarding the age groups, the divorce before consummation for both Qatari and non-Qatari wives recorded the highest number among the age group (20-24).

As for the divorce contracts during the first four years of marriage, the highest number of divorcees was among the age group (20-24) for Qatari females against the (25-29) age group for Qatari males.

Concerning Qatari and Non – Qatari husbands, the highest divorce percentage was among (25-29) age-group, whether it was a divorce before consummation or during the first 4 years of marriage.

Figure No. (15)

Divorces by type of divorce during first 4 years of marriage and before consummation, 2014.



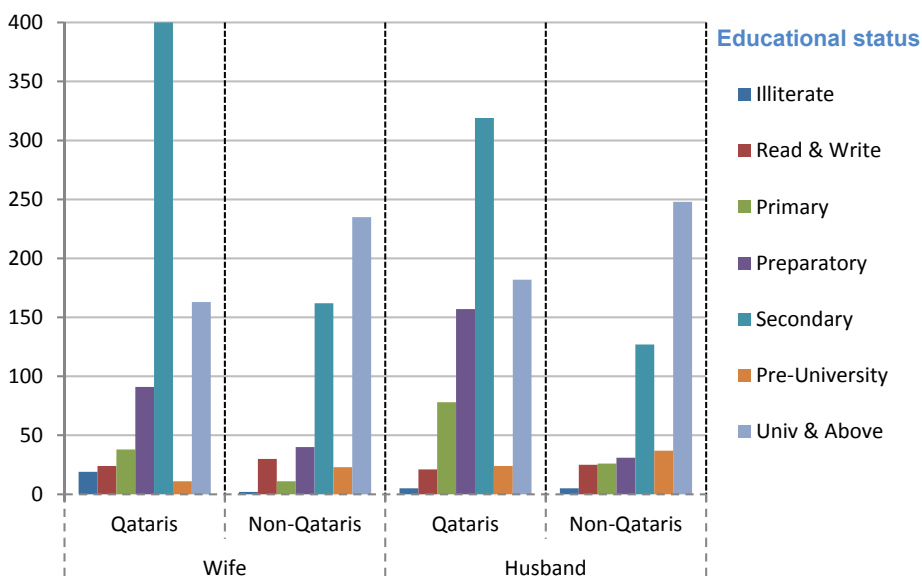
Divorces by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure (16) shows the educational status of divorcees (males and females). It is clear that the highest percentage of Qatari divorcees is among the high school graduates; 393 cases for Qatari females and 319 for Qatari males (55.4% and 39.7%, respectively).

As for the non-Qatari females, the university graduates category represents the highest number of divorcees, and the highest number of non-Qatari male divorcees is recorded among university graduates as well

Figure No. (16)

Divorce by nationality and educational status by spouses, 2014.



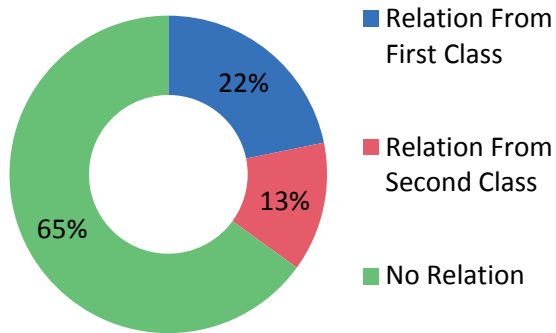
Divorces of Qataris According to Kinship

As shown in Figure 17, divorce which occurs among Qataris who have no blood ties represents the highest percentage of divorces (65%), whereas the first degree relative category constitutes 22% of total divorces by kinship, and second degree relatives represent 13%

About 35% of divorce cases occurred among consanguineous spouses

Figure No. (17)

Divorces of Qataris according to kinship, 2014.



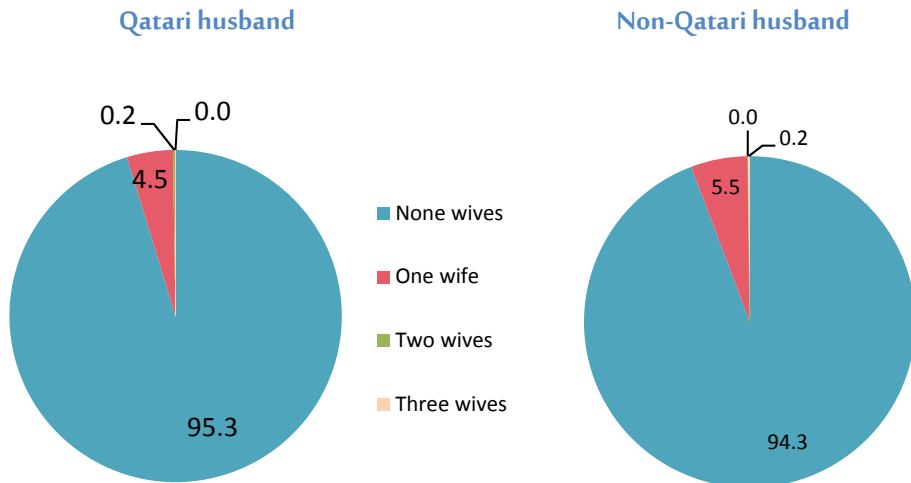
Divorces by Number of Wives Still Under Marriage Bond

Figure (18) showing divorces according to number of wives still under marriage bond shows that the majority of divorce cases in 2014 took place among those who have no other wives under marriage bond, reaching 95.3% of total divorce cases for Qatari husbands, followed by those who have one wife only, with a percentage of 4.5%.

Non-Qatari husbands have almost the same percentage of Qatari husbands.

Figure No. (18)

Divorces by number of wives still under marriage bond and nationality of husband, 2014

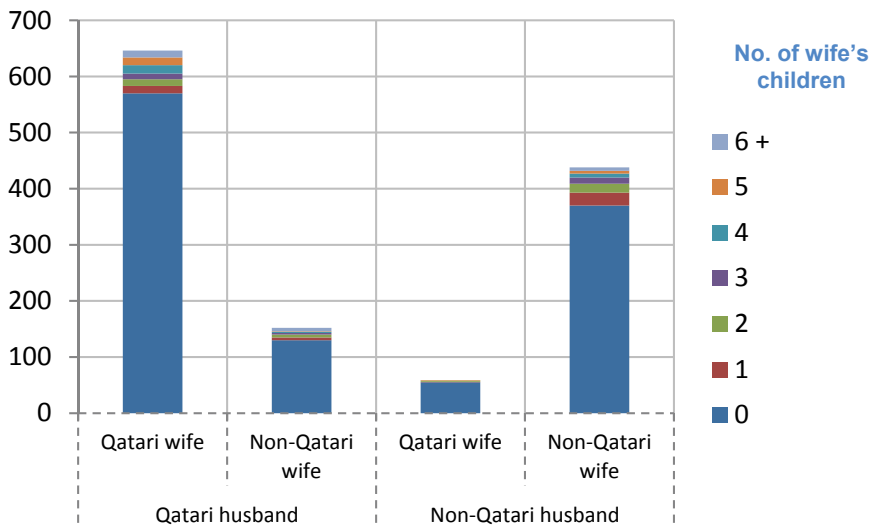


Divorces by the Number of Children and Nationality of Spouses

Figure (19) showing divorces by number of children for Qataris and non-Qataris indicates that the majority of divorces occurred in 2014 were between spouses that have no children (86.9% of total divorces by the number of children), followed by spouses with only one child (3.2%), and spouses with two children (2.7%). Those who have 3 children and more constitute less than 2%. This fact is due to the increase of divorce percentage which occurs before consummation and during the first four years as previously mentioned

Figure No. (19)

Divorces by nationality of spouses and number of wife's children, 2014



Tables

