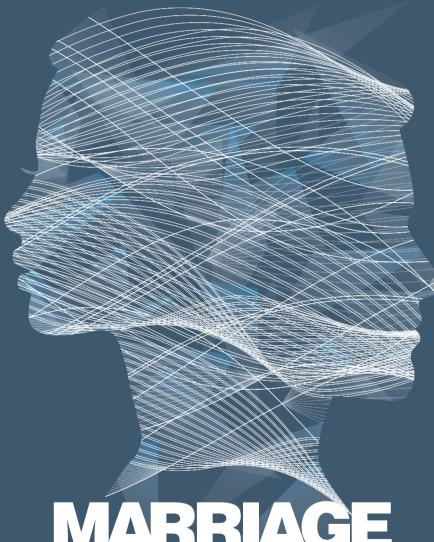


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Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics



MARRIAGE 8 DIVERCE State of Qatar 2017



Marriage & Divorce In the State of Qatar, 2017

(Review & Analysis)



H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani Emir of the State of Qatar

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PREFACE

Marriage & Divorce statistics are considered one of the cornerstones of vital statistics that are used as a significant element when making decisions to achieve the goals of Qatar's Second National Development Strategy (2018-2022). These goals include building a secure and stable society under the umbrella effective government and family institutions, and setting policies and programs that promote family cohesion. Indicators derived from these data reveal all the aspects surrounding marriage and divorce which have gained great attention 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 of all society members in Oatar.

This report clarifies the development of marriage and divorce 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 2017, in a bid to identify the factors that delay or encourage marriage and the factors that impact divorce rates as well as their repercussions on family cohesion.

The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) hopes that the government agencies, private institutions of public interest and civil society organizations will all benefit from this report's indicators of marriage & divorce in 2017, to develop social plans and policies that encourage the youth to marry, and eliminate the spread of divorce, as well as find effective solutions, especially among the youth age groups.

Dr. Saleh bin Mohamed Al-Nabit Minister of Development Planning & Statistics

INTRODUCTION

Marriage & Divorce statistics are one of the most vital statistics through which the characteristics of marriage and divorce are studied to determine the family characteristics in the State of Qatar and the society's pathways for population growth-related issues.

This report aims at identifying the evolution of cases of marriage and divorce in the State of Qatar in 2017. The first section deals with the issue of marriage. It contains data and indicators, such as the average age at first marriage and general marriage rate. It also contains data on marriage characteristics in the Qatari society through indicators of first marriage and age groups and educational levels of spouses.

The second section of this report focuses on divorce in Qatari society. It comprises analysis of data on divorce, such as general divorce rate per 1000 population, divorce certificates by type of divorce (revocable divorce, minor irrevocable divorce, Divorce against compensation "Khula" and major irrevocable divorce), spouses' age group, duration of marriage and kinship, in addition to divorce certificates by age groups.

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

The data of this report include cases of marriage and divorce that took place and were registered in Qatar, and cases of Qatari marriage and divorce that took place abroad.

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FIRST: MARRIAGE

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

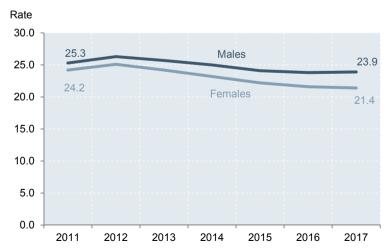
General Marriage Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

The general marriage rate is the number of marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above in a given year. Figure 1 indicates that the general marriage rate per 1000 Qatari population of age group (15 years and above) witnessed a decrease during the period 2011-2017. It decreased for males from 25.3 in 2011 to 23.9 in

The general marriage rate witnessed a remarkable decrease for males and females alike, during the comparison period (2011 - 2017) with a constant decrease during the last five years

2017. Likewise, female rate attained 21.4 in 2017 compared to 24.2 in 2011. This decline can be attributed to the high level of women's education and their large participation in labor market, in addition to the high expenses of marriage.





Marriage Contracts by Nationality of Spouses and Place of Residence

Figure 2 indicates that most marriage cases took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality, representing 43.1% of total marriages registered in the State of Qatar. Doha Municipality came second with a percentage of 29.1%, followed by Umm-Salal with 7.6%, Al-Wakra and Al-

Most marriages among Qataris and non-Qataris in 2017 took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality

Sheehaniya with 6.4% each, Al-Dhaayen with 2.9% and then the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor,

Al-Shamal,) with 2.8%, while marriages outside Qatar accounted for 1.7%.

As for marriage contracts by husband's nationality and place of residence, we find that most cases of Qatari marriages took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality 46.8%, followed by Doha 23.9%, Al-Sheehaniya 8,8%, Umm Salal 8.5%, Al-Wakra 4.7%, Al-Dhaayen 3.6%, Al-Khor 3.2%, and finally Al-Shamal 0.5%.

As for Non-Qatari marriages, most cases were concentrated in Al-Rayyan Municipality 36.5%, followed by Doha 35.9%, Al-Wakra 9.2%. Umm-Salal 6.5%, Al-Sheehaniya 2.3 Al-Dhaayen 2.2%, and finally Al Khor and Al-Shamal municipalities 1.8%. The remaining percentage of 5.6% was registered outside Qatar.

Figure Marriage contracts by spouses' nationality and place of residence, 2017

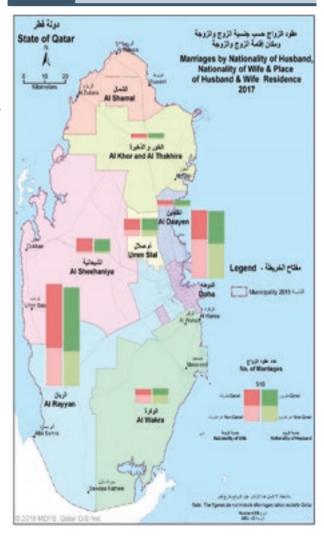


Figure (2) also shows that the highest percentage of Qatari female marriages took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality with 48.6% of total Qatari female marriages in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality 22.1%, Al-Sheehaniya 9.9%, Umm-Salal 8.4%, Al-Wakra 4.4%, Al-Dhaayen 3.4%, and finally Al-Khor and Al-Shamal municipalities 3.2%.

On the other hand, non-Qatari female marriages were mainly concentrated in Doha Municipality, representing 38.3% of total non-Qatari female marriages, followed by Al-Rayyan 37,4%, Al-Wakra 8.5%, Umm-Salal 6.4%, Al-Sheehaniya 2.5%, Al-Dhaayen 2.1 and then by Al-Khor and Al-Shamal municipalities 2.2%, while 2.6% of marriages took place outside Qatar.

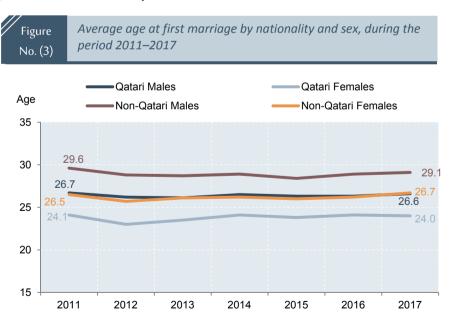
Average Age at First Marriage by Nationality

The average age at first marriage is one of the key indicators that show marriage characteristics in 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 almost two-years and seven months for males and two-years and one month for females.

Quasi-decrease of the average age at first marriage among Qatari males to 26.6 years versus and Qatari females to 24 years, compared to a decrease for non-Qatari males to 29.1 years and an increase among non-Qatari females to 26.7 years.

As for Qataris, Figure 3 shows that the average age at first marriage witnessed a slight decrease for males and females during the period (2011-2017); from 26.7 years and 24.1 years in 2011 to 26.6 years and 24 years in 2017 for males and females respectively.

During the period 2011-2017, the average age at first marriage for non-Qataris also witnessed a slight decrease for males; declining from 29.6 years in 2011 to 29.1 years in 2017. However, the average for non-Qataris females witnessed a slight increase to 26.7 years in 2017 from 26.5 years in 2011.

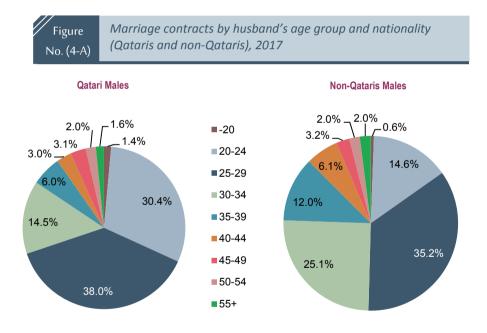


Age Groups of Spouses

Figure (4-a) shows a rise in the ages of non-Qatari husbands compared to their Qatari counterparts in the age group (20-29 years), accounting for 68.4% of total Qatari husbands versus 60.3% of total non-Qatari husbands for the same age group.

The highest marriage cases took place in age group (20-29 years) by 68.4% among Qataris and by 60.3% among non-Qataris

On the other hand, the percentage of marriage in the age-group (30-39 years) for non-Qataris increased to 37.1% of total non-Qatari husbands, while the percentage of Qataris for the same age group reached only 20.5% of total Qatari husbands.

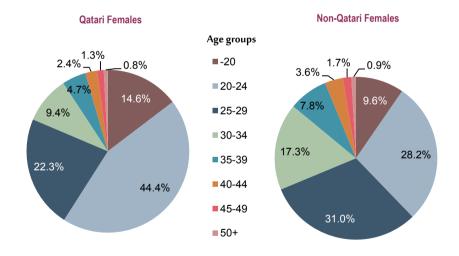


Similarly, Figure (4-b) shows an increase in the ages of non-Qatari wives compared to their Qatari counterparts, where the percentage of Qatari wives in the age-group (20-29 years) was higher than that of non-Qatari wives in the same age group; amounting to 66.7% of total Qatari wives and 59.2% of total non-Qatari wives.

Most marriages for Qatari and non-Qatari females took place in the age-group (20-29 years) by 66.7% and 59.2%, respectively

On the other hand, we notice a rise in the percentage of the age group (30-39 years) for non-Qatari wives, amounting to 25.1% of total non-Qatari wives compared to 14.1% of total Qatari wives. A slight variation of rates is noticed in the age-group (40-49 years) between Qatari and non-Qatari wives, amounting to 5.3% and 3.5%, respectively.





Marriage Contracts by Number of Wives still under Marriage Bond

Figure 5 indicates that the percentage of marriage contracts of husbands with no other wife under marriage bond increased to 91% of total marriages, compared to about 9% of marriage contracts of husbands with one or more wives under marriage bond.

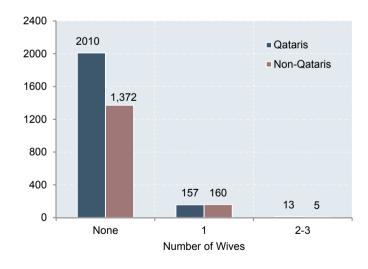
Percentage of marriage contracts of husbands with no other wife under marriage bond amounted to 91% of total marriages.

Moreover, the figure indicates that the percentages of Qatari and non-Qatari husbands who had no other wife under marriage bond were very close, ranging from 92.2% for Qataris and 89.3% for non-Qataris.

As for the percentage of those who had another wife under marriage bond, it amounted to 7.2% for Qataris and 10.4% for non-Qataris, whereas the percentage of those who had two or three wives under marriage bond did not exceed 0.6% for Qataris and 0.3% for non-Qataris.

Figure
No. (5)

Marriage contracts by number of wives under marriage bond and by nationality, 2017

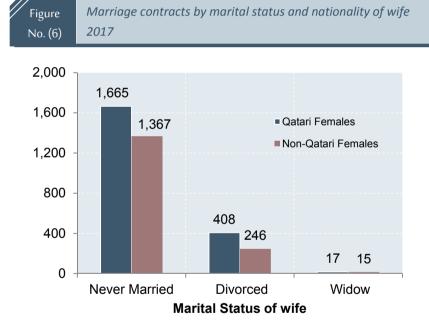


Marriage Contracts by Marital Status of Wife

In general, Figure (6) indicates that the marriage percentage among virgin women increased to 81.5% of total marriages, compared to 18.5% of marriages where the wife was a widow or divorced.

Marriage percentage among virgin women accounted to 81.5% of total wives in marriage contracts

The percentage of Qatari virgin wives amounted to 79.7% compared to 19.5% for divorced wives and 0.8% for widows. As for non-Qataris, virgin wives accounted for 83.3%, whereas divorced women and widows accounted for 16.1% and 0.6% respectively. It is noted that re-marriage of Qatari divorced women was higher by 3.5 percentage points than their non-Qatari counterparts.



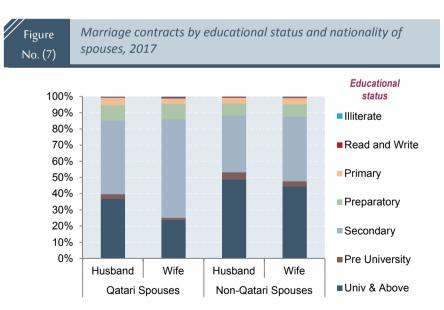
Marriage Contracts by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure (7) shows the percentages of educational status by gender and nationality in marriage contracts of 2017. Marriage contracts for Qatari spouses show a higher percentage for those with secondary education of total marriages by the educational status of Qatari spouses,

Educational status plays a key role in marriage delay for non-Qataris compared to Qataris

amounting to 45.6% for husbands and 60.7% for wives. Spouses with university degree or above came in the second place, accounting for 36.8% for husbands and 23.9% for wives.

Concerning marriage contracts of non-Qatari husbands, the higher percentage was for those with university degree and above (48.9%), followed by husbands with secondary education (35.1%) of total marriage contracts by educational status of the husband. There are no significant differences in the percentage of non-Qatari wives with university degree or above and wives with secondary education, accounting for 44.6% and 39.8% respectively of total non-Qatari females in marriage contracts by educational status. The high rate of marriage contracts for non-Qatari university graduates was due to the high age at first marriage, as mentioned earlier. On the other hand, the high rate of marriage among Qataris was noted in lower age groups, that is during their university studies and before graduation.

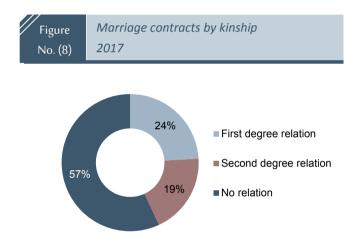


Marriage Contracts by Kinship

Figure (8) indicates the percentage distribution of Qatari marriage contracts by kinship in 2017. It shows that the percentage of consanguineous marriages remained high, reaching 43% of total marriages in 2017 despite the awareness campaigns about the risks of consanguineous marriage. The marriages among first degree relatives amounted to 24%, whereas marriages among second-

Despite the awareness campaigns, consanguineous marriage is still common among Qataris, with a high percentage amounting to 43% of total marriages

degree relatives was 19%. The percentage of non-related spouses amounted to 57% in 2017.



SECOND: DIVORCE

The divorce cases will be addressed through indicators related to divorce rates and factors leading to divorce in Qatari society, such as the duration of married life, age and educational level of spouses and polygamy. The Qatari society witnessed a rise in divorce cases in 2017

Divorce cases among Qatari males and females increased by 3.6% and 1.5% respectively in 2017 compared to 2016

compared to 2016, reaching 786 cases among Qatari males and 673 cases among Qatari females. The key divorce indicators are as follows:

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

The general divorcee rate is the number of divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above in a given year. Figure (9) indicates a decline in divorce rate among Qatari citizens per 1000 population during the period 2011-2017 from 8.8% for Qatari women in 2011 to 6.9% in 2017, at an annual decline rate of 4.1%.

As for Qatari men, the divorce rate also dropped during the period 2011-2017 from 10% in 2011 to 8.6% in 2017, at an annual decline rate of 2.5% during the comparison period.





Divorce Declarations by Nationality and Place of Residence of Spouses

Figure (10) indicates that most divorce cases occurred in Al Rayyan Municipality by 43.4% of total divorce cases registered in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality by 28.3%, Al-Wakra 6.3%, Umm Salal 6%, Al-Sheehaniya 5.5%, Al-Dhaayen 2.4%, and the remaining municipalities

Most of Qatari divorces were in Al-Rayyan Municipality, whereas most of non-Qatari divorces were in Doha Municipality

(Al-Khor and Al-Shamal,) by 2.5%. In addition, 5.6% of divorce cases occurred abroad.

With regards to divorce declarations bγ husband's nationality and place of residence. it is noted that most cases of Qatari divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality with 49%, followed by Doha 21.9%, Al-Sheehaniya 8.1%, Umm Salal 7.8%. Al-Wakra 6.9%. Al-Khor 2.8%. the remaining municipalities (Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) with 3.5%.

As for non-Qatari divorce cases by place of residence, they were mostly concentrated in Doha Municipality by 40.6%, followed by Al-Rayyan 35.4%, Al-Wakra 7.7%, Umm-Salal 4.6%, Dhaayen 2.4 and the remaining municipalities (Al-Sheehaniya, Al-Khor. Al-Shamal.) with 3%. whereas 6.3% of non-Qatari divorces took place abroad.

Figure Divorce declarations by nationality and place of residence of spouses, 2017

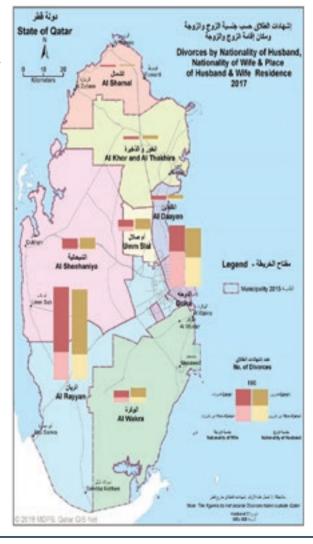


Figure (10) also shows that the majority of Qatari female divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 53.3% of total Qatari female divorces registered in Qatar, followed by Doha 21%, Al-Sheehaniya (8%), Umm-Salal 5.8%, Al-Wakra 5.3%, Al-Dhaayen (3%), and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor and Al-Shamal) by 3.2%. The percentage of Qatari females who were divorced abroad reached 0.4%.

The figures of non-Qatari female divorces were mainly concentrated in Doha Municipality by 37.1% of total non-Qatari female divorces, followed by Al-Rayyan 29.2%, Al-Wakra 5.6%, Umm-Salal 4.7% and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-Dhaayen, Al-Sheehaniya) by 3.7%, whereas 19.7% of divorce cases occurred outside Qatar.

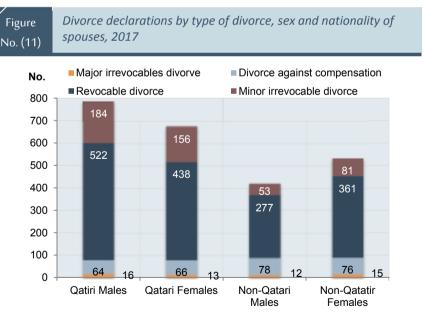
Divorce Declarations by Type of Divorce and Nationality of Spouses

The results show an increase in revocable divorce (divorcing a wife less than three times after consummation of marriage) and minor irrevocable divorce (when the first or second divorce takes place after the end of the wife's "Iddah" period before or after consummation of marriage) by 66.3% and 19.7%, respectively.

Revocable and minor irrevocable divorce cases represented 85.9% of total types of divorce

Figure (11) shows also a decrease in major irrevocable divorce (the threefold divorce which is irrevocable except if the divorced wife legitimately marries another man and then divorces him) to 2.3%, and Divorce against compensation "Khula" (divorce occurs upon wife's request in return for an amount of money paid to the husband) to 11.8%.

Figure (11) details the number of divorce declarations by type of divorce and nationality of spouses.



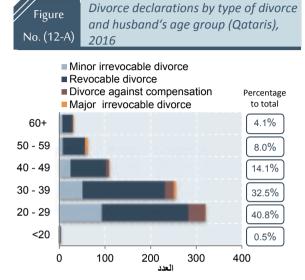
Divorce Declarations by Type of Divorce and Husband's Age Group

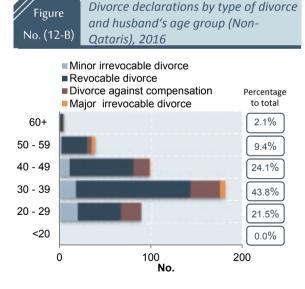
Figure (12-a) indicates that divorce cases were higher among Qatari spouses in the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 40.8% of total Qatari divorce cases by age-group, followed by the age-group (30-39 years), amounting to 32.5%.

The lowest divorce rate was recorded in the age group (under 20 years), reaching 0.5% due to the small number of married couples in this age group.

As for non-Qatari spouses (Figure 12-b), the highest percentage of divorce was among the age-group (30-39 years) by 43.8% of total non-Qatari divorces by age group, followed by the age-groups (40-49 years) and (20-29 years) by 24.1% and 21.5%, respectively.

The lowest divorce rate among non-Qataris was for the age-group (60 year and above) with the exception of the age group (less than 20 years).



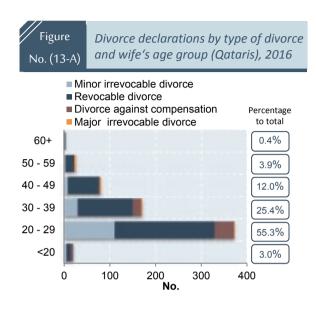


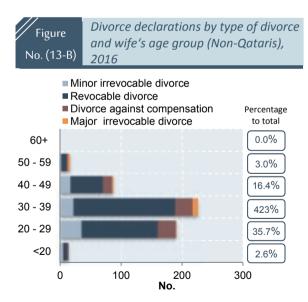
Divorce Declarations by Type of Divorce and Wife's Age Group

With regard to Qatari wives, Figure (13-a) shows that the divorce rate was higher among the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 55.3% of total divorces by Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age groups (30-39 years) and (40-49 years) with 25.4% and 12%, respectively. The lowest divorce rate was recorded among the age group (60 years and above) at 0.4%.

As for non-Qatari wives, the highest rate of divorce was among the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 42.3% of total divorces by non-Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age group (30-39 years) at 35.7%.

The lowest percentage was recorded among the age group (50-59), at 0.3%, with the exception of the age group (60 years and above) where no divorce cases were registered.





Divorce Declarations by Duration of Married Life

Figure (14-a) indicates that most divorce cases by duration of married life in 2017 occurred during the first five years of marriage and also before the period of consummation, the fact that accounts for the increase in minor irrevocable divorce and

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

the revocable divorce as previously mentioned

The divorce rate during the first five years and before consummation amounted to 69.5% of total divorces by duration of married life (more than two thirds of total divorce cases). It is also observed that the percentage of divorcees whose married life exceeded 20 years was the lowest of total divorces by duration of married life. Figure (14-a) further shows an increase in the percentage of divorcees whose married life ranged between 5 and 9 years, representing 14% of total divorces in 2017. However, this percentage indicates а decline percentage points compared to 2016.

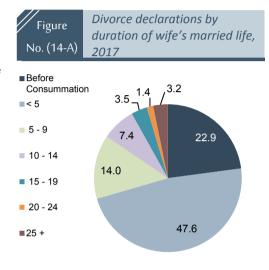


Figure No. (14-B) Divorce declarations by type of divorce, duration of married life and nationality of husband, 2017



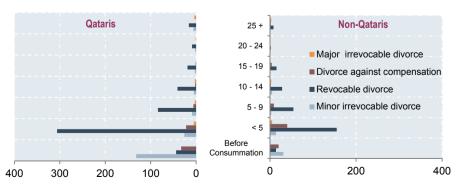


Figure (15) indicates that divorces during the first four years of marriage and before consummation are the highest compared to other periods of married life.

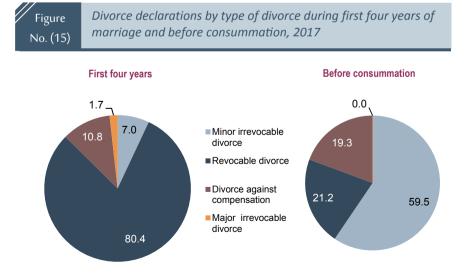
It indicated that 59.5% of divorces that occurred before consummation of marriage were minor irrevocable divorces, whereas revocable divorces made up 21.2%, Divorce against compensation "khula" 19.3%, and major irrevocable divorces accounted for 0% of total divorces before consummation of marriage.

As for the first four years of marriage, revocable divorces made up the highest percentage of divorce types with 80.4%, while minor irrevocable divorces made up 7%. Divorce against compensation "khula" and major irrevocable divorces constituted 10.8% and 1.7%, respectively.

Regarding the age groups, the divorce before consummation of marriage was the highest among the age group (20-24 years) for Qatari and non-Qatari wives alike.

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

With regard to Qatari and non–Qatari males, the highest rate of divorce before consummation was among the age-group (25-29 years) for Qatari and non-Qatari males alike, whereas the highest rate of divorce during the first four years of marriage was among the age group (25-29 years) for Qatari males versus the age group (30-34 years) for non-Qatari males.

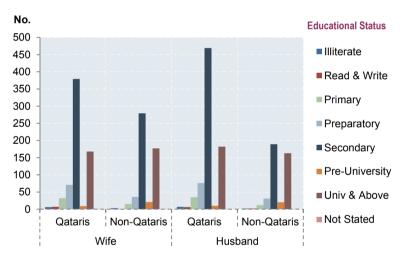


Divorce declarations by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure (16) shows the educational status of divorcees (males and females). It is clear that the highest percentage of Qatari divorcees was among secondary school graduates, with 379 cases for Qatari females and 469 for Qatari males (56.3% and 59.7%, respectively).

As for non-Qatari females, the secondary school graduates category made up the highest percentage of total Non-Qatari divorced women, whereas the highest percentage of Non-Qatari male divorcees was recorded among secondary school graduates.



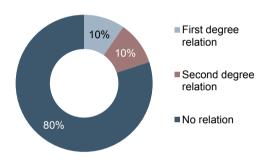


Qatari Divorce Declarations by Kinship

Figure (17) which indicates the relationship between divorce and Qatari kinship, shows that divorce cases among Qatari males and females who had no blood ties were the highest (80%), whereas divorce cases among first degree and second degree relatives made up 20% of total divorces (10% each).

About 20% of Qatari divorce cases were among consanguineous spouses



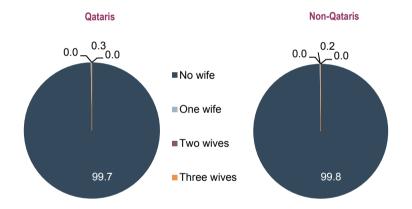


Divorce Declarations by Number of Wives Still Under Marriage Bond

Figure (18) shows the divorce declarations by number of wives still under marriage bond, and indicates that the majority of divorce cases in 2017 took place among those who had no other wives under marriage bond, accounting for 99.7% of total divorce cases for Qatari husbands. Divorces among those who had one or more wives under marriage bond made up only 0.3%.

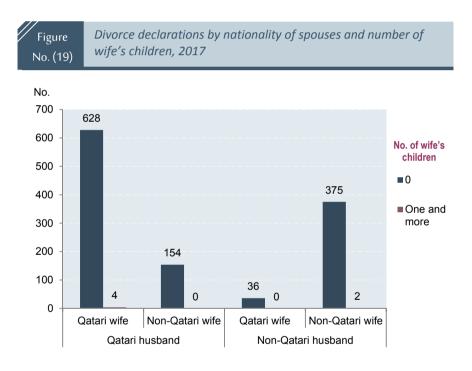
The percentage of non-Qatari husbands was almost the same as that of their Qatari counterparts, amounting to 99.8% for those had no other wife under marriage bond and 0.2% for those who had one or more wives under marriage bond.





Divorce Declarations by Nationality of Spouses and Number of Wife's Children

Figure (19) shows the divorce declarations by number of children for both Qataris and non-Qataris, indicating that the majority of divorces in 2017 occurred between spouses with no children (99.4% of total divorces by number of children). The divorce rates between spouses who had children were convergent and did not exceed 0.3%, regardless of the number of children. This is due to the high rate of divorce before consummation of marriage and during the first four years of marriage as mentioned earlier.



Marriage & Divorce in State of Qatar 2017	

TABLES