



Marriage & Divorce

State of Qatar 2015 (Review & Analysis)



وزارة التخطيط التنموي والإحصاء

Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics

Marriage & Divorce

in the State of Qatar, 2015
(Review & Analysis)

September, 2016

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 secure and stable society under a strong and effective government and family institutions, and setting policies and programs to promote family cohesion. Indicators derived from these data reveal all the aspects surrounding the marriage and divorce cases 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 for the entire society of Qatar.

This report clarifies the development of both marriage and divorce cases 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 2015, 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 2015, to develop plans and policies that encourage the youth to marry, and eliminate the spread of divorce cases, 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 phenomena are studied to determine the household characteristics in the State of Qatar and the society's pathways for population growth-related issues.

This report aims at identifying the evolution of marriage and divorce cases in the State of Qatar in 2015. The first section deals with the issue of marriage. It contains data and indicators, such as the average age at first marriage, general marriage rate and marriage characteristics in the Qatari society through indicators of first marriage and age groups and educational levels of spouses.

The second section focuses on divorce in the 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 spouses' age group, 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 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.

Index

Subject	Page No.
Preface	3
Introduction	5
First: Marriage	
General marriage rate per 1000 Qatari population (15 years & above)	6
Marriage by nationality of spouses and place of residence	7
Average age at first marriage by nationality	9
Age groups of spouses	11
Marriage Contracts by number of wives Still under Marriage Bond	12
Marriage Contracts by marital status of wife	13
Marriage Contracts by educational status of spouses	14
Qatari Marriage Contracts by kinship	15
Second: Divorce	
General divorce rate per 1000 Qatari population (15 years & above)	16
Divorces by nationality of spouses and place of residence of husband	17
Divorces by type of divorce and nationality of spouses	19
Divorces by type of divorce and husband's age group	20
Divorces by type of divorce and wife's age group	21
Divorces by duration of married life of spouses and husband's nationality	22
Divorces by educational status of spouses	24
Divorces of Qataris by kinship	25
Divorces by number of wives still under marriage bond	26
Divorces by nationality of spouses and number of wife's children	27
Third: Tables	28

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.

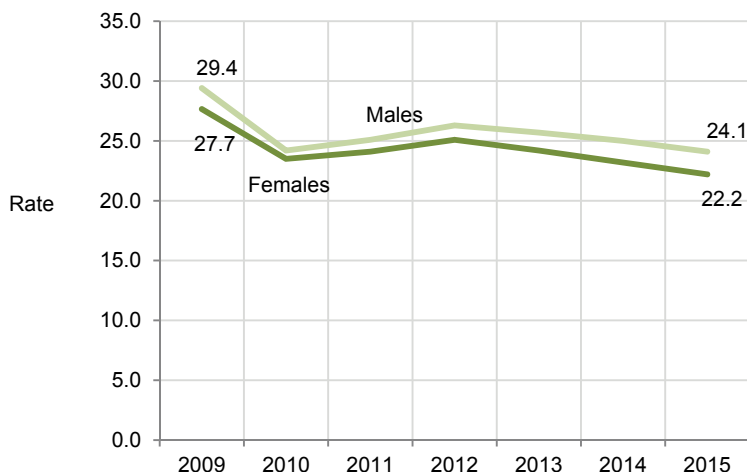
General Marriage Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

The General marriage rate is the number of marriages per 1000 persons aged 15 years and above in a certain year. Figure 1 indicates that the general marriage rate per 1000 Qatari population of age group (15 years and above) witnessed a remarkable decrease during the period 2009-2015. It decreased for males from 29.4 in 2009 to 24.1 in 2015. Likewise, female rate attained 22.2 in comparison to 27.7 in 2009. This decline can be attributed to the high level of women’s education and their large participation in the labor market, in addition to the high expenses of marriage.

The general marriage rate witnessed a remarkable decrease for males and females alike, during the comparison period (2009 - 2015) with a constant decrease during the last four years

Figure No. (1)

General marriage rate per 1000 Qatari population (15 years & above), (2009 – 2015)



Marriage Contracts by Nationality of Spouses and Place Residence

Figure 2 indicates that most of marriage cases took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality, representing 43.8% of total marriages registered in the State of Qatar. Doha Municipality comes second with a percentage of 30.1%, followed by Umm Salal with 6.7%, Al-Wakra with 6.3%, Al-Sheehaniya with 5.0%, and then the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-Dhaayen) with 5.6%, while marriages outside Qatar accounted for 2.5%.

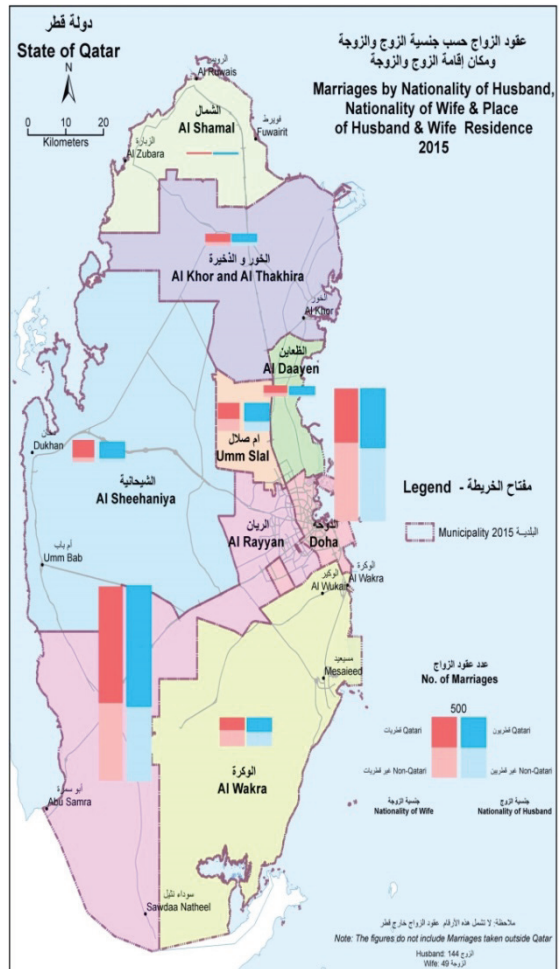
Most marriages among Qataris and non-Qataris in 2015 took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality

As for marriages by husband's nationality and place of residence, we find that most cases of Qatari marriages took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality (48.9%), followed by Doha Municipality (24.0%), Umm Salal Municipality (7.4%), Al-Sheehaniya Municipality (6.6%), Al-Wakra Municipality (5.7%), Al-Dhaayen (3.4%), Al-Khor (3.3%), and finally Al-Shamal (0.7%). As for the non-Qatari marriages, most cases were concentrated in Al-Rayyan Municipality (37.5%), followed by Doha (36.8%), Al Wakra (7.2%). Umm Salal (5.0%), Al-Sheehaniya (2.0%), and the rest of municipalities (Al Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-Dhaayen) (3.0%), and the remaining percentage of 8.5% was registered outside Qatar.

Figure 2 also shows that the highest percentage of Qatari female marriages took place at Al-Rayyan Municipality with 49.1% of total Qatari female marriages in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality (23.2%), Al-Sheehaniya (8.2%), Umm Salal (7.5%), Al Wakra (5.1%), Al-Khor and Al-Dhaayen (3.2% for each) and finally Al Shamal (0.5%).

Figure No. (2)

Marriages by spouses' nationality and place of residence, 2015



Marriage & Divorce in the state of Qatar, 2015

On the other hand, non-Qatari female marriages were mainly concentrated in Doha Municipality, representing 38.8% of total non-Qatari female marriages, followed by Al Rayyan Municipality with 37.8%, Al Wakra 7.6%, Umm Salal 6.5%, Al-Sheehaniya 2.5%, and then by the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) with 4.1%, while 2.7% 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 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 almost two-years and one month for males and about two-years and two months for females.

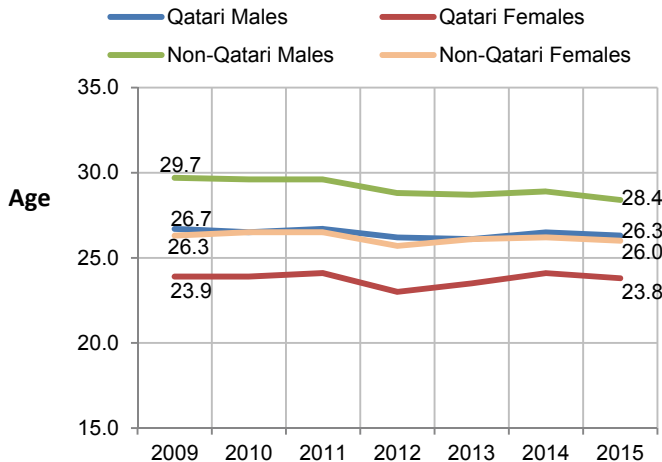
Quasi-decrease of the average age at first marriage among Qatari males and females to 26.3 and 23.8 years respectively, compared to a decrease for their non-Qatari counterparts to 28.4 and 26.0 years respectively.

As for Qataris, Figure 3 shows that the average age at first marriage witnessed a quasi-decrease for males and females during the period 2009-2015; from 26.7 and 23.9 years respectively to 26.3 and 23.8 years in 2015.

The average age at first marriage for non-Qataris also witnessed a slight decrease for both females and males during the period 2009-2015; as it declined from 29.7 years in 2009 to 28.4 years in 2015 (ie almost one year and three months) compared to a decline for females from 26.3 years in 2009 to 26.0 years in 2015 (ie about three and a half months).

Figure No. (3)

Average age at first marriage by nationality and sex, during the period 2009 – 2015



Age Groups of Spouses

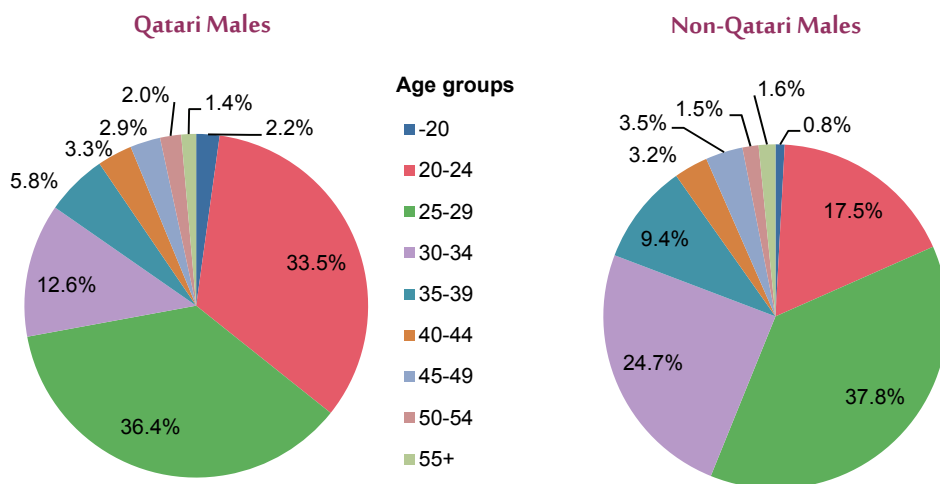
Figure (4-a) shows a rise in the age group (20-29 years), as the percentage of husbands accounts for 69.9% of total Qatari husbands and 55.3% of total non-Qatari husbands for the same age group.

Age group (20-29) witnessed the highest marriage cases among both Qataris and non-Qataris with percentages of 69.9% and 55.3% respectively

On the other hand, the figure shows an increase in the age-group (30-39 years) for non-Qataris, reaching 34.1% of total non-Qatari husbands, while the percentage for the same age group for Qataris accounts for 18.4% of total Qatari husbands.

Figure No. (4-a)

Marriage contracts by husband's age group and nationality (Qataris and non-Qataris), 2015



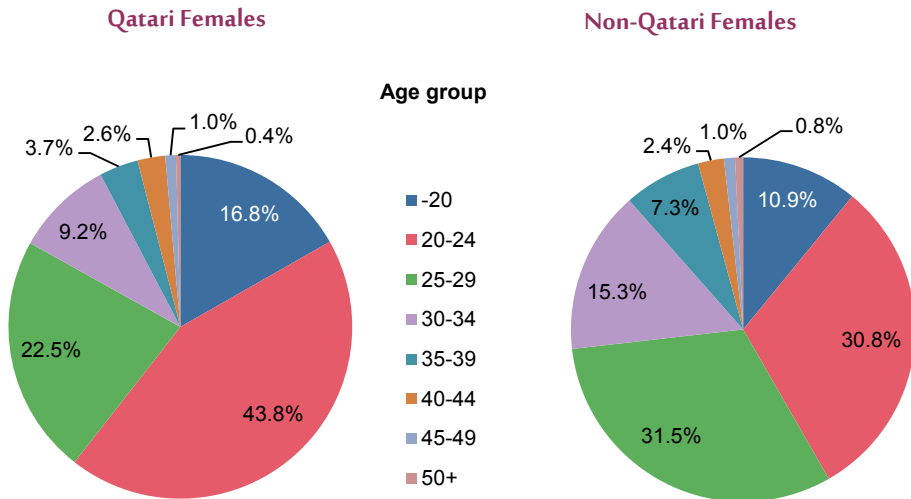
Similarly, Figure (4-b) shows an increase in the ages of non-Qatari wives compared to their Qatari counterparts, where the percentage of Qatari wives in the age-group (20-29 years) is greater than that of non-Qatari wives in the same age group; amounting to 66.3% for Qatari wives and 62.3% for non-Qatari wives.

Most marriages for Qatari and non-Qatari females took place in the age-group (15-24 years) with 66.3% and 62.3% 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 22.6% of total non-Qatari wives compared to 12.9% of total Qatari wives. One can notice a convergence of rates in the age-group (40-49 years) between Qatari and non-Qatari wives amounting to 3.6% and 3.4% respectively.

Figure No. (4-b)

Marriage Contracts by wife's age group and nationality (Qataris and non-Qataris), 2015



Marriage Contracts by Number of Wives still under Marriage Bond

Figure 5 indicates an increase in the percentage of marriage contracts of husbands who have no other wife under marriage bond, amounting to 91.2% of total marriages, compared to 8.8% of marriage contracts of husbands who have other wife/wives under marriage bond.

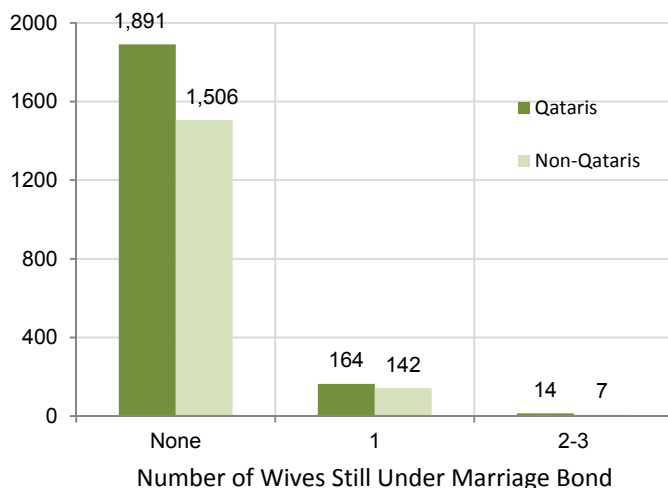
Percentage of marriage contracts with no other wives under marriage bond amounts to 91.2% of total marriages.

Moreover, the figure indicates that the percentages of Qatari and non-Qatari husbands who do not have other wife under marriage bond were very close, ranging from 91.4% for Qataris and 91.0% for non-Qataris.

As for the percentage of those who have another wife under marriage bond, it amounts to 7.9% for Qataris and 8.6% for non-Qataris, whereas the percentage of those who have two or three wives under marriage bond does not exceed 0.7% for Qataris and 0.4% for non-Qataris.

Figure No. (5)

Marriage contracts by number of wives under marriage bond and by nationality, 2015



Marriage Contracts by Marital Status of Wife

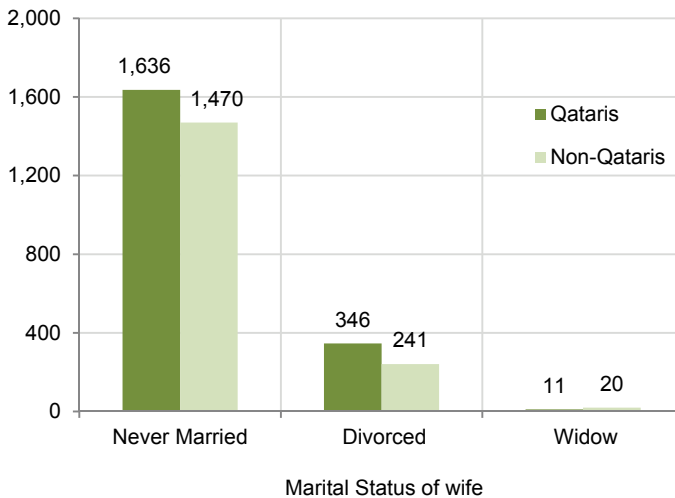
In general, Figure (6) indicates an increase in the percentage of wives who have never married before, amounting to 83.4% of total wives, compared to 16.6% of widows/divorced women.

Increase of marriage percentage among women who have never married before; amounting to 83.4% of total wives in marriage contracts

The percentage of Qatari wives who have never married before amounts to 82.1%, whereas it amounts to 17.3% for divorced women and 0.6% for widows. As for non-Qatari wives, those who have never married before account for 84.9%, whereas divorced women accounts for 13.9% and widows 1.2%. It is noted that re-marriage of Qatari divorced wives is higher by 3.4 percentage points than non-Qatari divorced wives.

Figure No. (6)

Marriage contracts by marital status and nationality of wife, 2015



Marriage Contracts by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure (7) shows the percentage of marriages by educational status, gender and nationality in the marriage contracts of 2015. Marriage contracts for Qatari males and females show a higher percentage for those who have secondary education of the total marriages, where the percentages amounted to 45.0% for males and 63.3% for females. These are followed by males and females who have university degree or above, where the percentages reached 35.6% and 21.0% respectively.

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

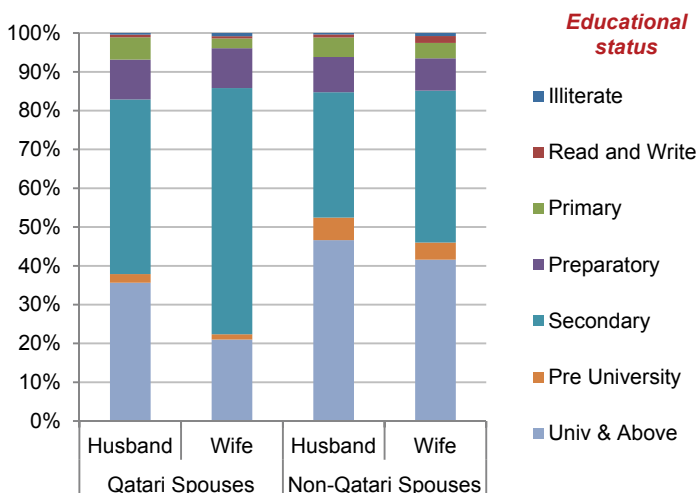
Concerning marriage contracts for Non-Qataris, the higher percentage was for males who have university degree and above (46.6%), followed by non-Qatari males who have secondary education (32.3%) of total contracts.

There are no significant differences in the percentage of non-Qatari wives with university degree or above and wives with secondary education, as the percentages of the total non-Qatari female marriage contracts by educational status are 41.5% and 39.0% respectively.

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

Figure No. (7)

Marriage contracts by educational status and nationality of spouses, 2015



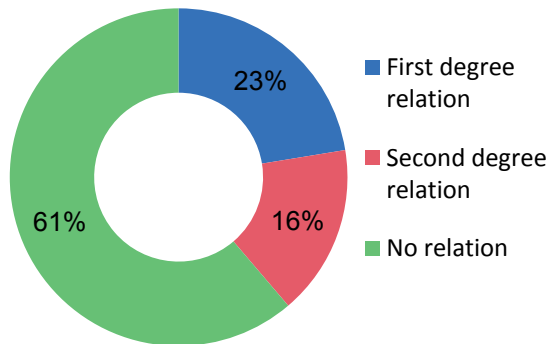
Marriage Contracts by Kinship

Figure (8) indicates the percentage distribution of Qatari marriage contracts by kinship in 2015. It shows that the percentage of consanguineous marriages remains high at 39% among Qataris of total marriages in 2015 despite the awareness campaigns about the risks of consanguineous marriage. The marriages of first degree relatives reached 23%, whereas marriages among second-degree relatives reached 16%. The percentage of non-related spouses amounted to 61% in 2015.

Despite awareness campaigns, consanguineous marriage is still common among Qataris, amounting to 39% of total marriages

Figure No. (8)

Marriage contracts by kinship, 2015



Second: Divorce

The divorce phenomenon 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 slump in divorce cases in 2015 to reach 807 cases among Qatari males and 706 cases among Qatari females. The key divorce indicators are as follows:

Divorce cases among Qatari males and females decreased by 1.1% and 3.0% respectively in 2015 compared to 2013

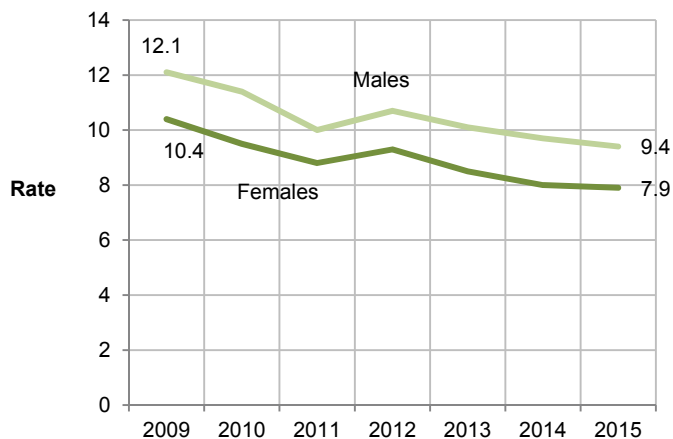
General Divorce Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

The General divorcee rate is the number of marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above in a given year. Figure 9 indicates a decline by almost 24% in divorce rate among Qatari citizens per 1000 population during the period 2009-2015 from 10.4% for Qatari women in 2009 to 7.9% in 2015.

As for Qatari men, the divorce rate also dropped by 22.3% during the period 2009-2015 from 12.1% in 2009 to 9.4% in 2015.

Figure No. (9)

General divorce rate per (1000) Qatari population (15 years & above), 2009-2015



Divorce Declarations by Nationality and Place of Residence of Spouses

Figure 10 indicates that most divorce cases occurred in Al Rayyan Municipality by 43.3% of total divorce cases registered in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality by 29.2%, Al-Wakra (5.9%), Umm Salal (5.2%), Al-Sheehaniya (4.5%), and the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-

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

Dhaayen) by 4.3%. In addition, 7.6% of divorce cases occurred abroad.

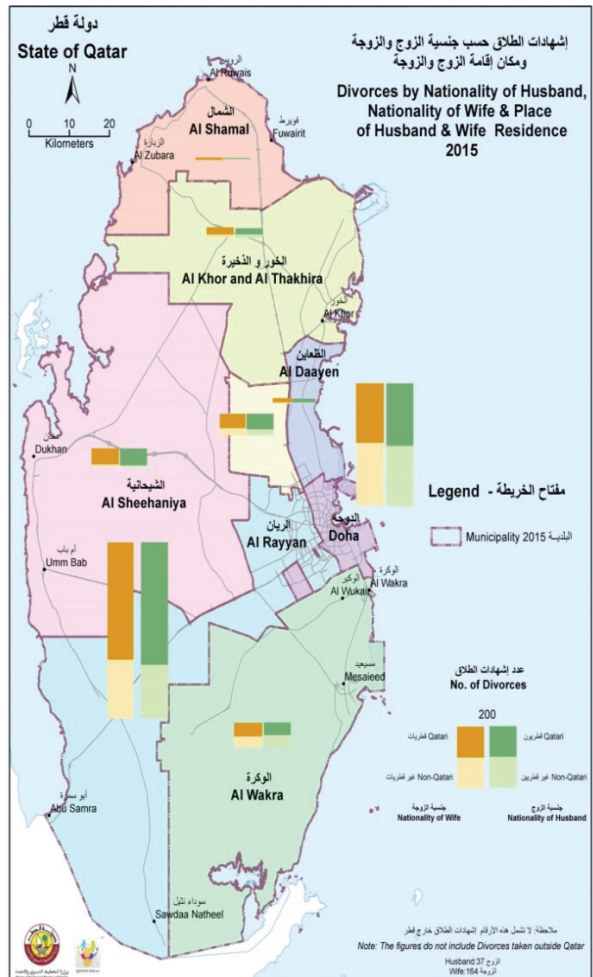
Figure No. (10)

Divorce declarations by nationality and place of residence of spouses, 2015

With regard to divorce declarations by husband's nationality and place of residence, it is noted that most cases of Qataris' divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality with 50.7%, followed by Doha (25.9%), Al-Sheehaniya (7.1%), Umm Salal (6.4%), Al-Wakra (5.2%), the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) with 4.6%, and finally divorces abroad (0.1%).

As for non-Qataris' divorce declarations, they are mostly concentrated in Doha Municipality (40.4%), followed by Al-Rayyan (35.8%), Al-Wakra (8.4%), Umm Salal (3.8%), Al-Khor (2.0%), and the rest of municipalities (Al-Sheehaniya, Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) with 2.4%, whereas 7.2% of non-Qatari divorces took place abroad.

Figure 10 also shows that the majority of Qatari female divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 51.3% of the total Qatari female divorces registered in Qatar,



followed by Doha (24.2%), Al-Sheehaniya (6.7%), Umm Salal (6.2%), Al-Wakra (5.4%) and then the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) by 6.1%. The percentage of Qatari females who were divorced abroad reached 0.1%.

Most cases of non-Qatari females' divorce cases were basically concentrated in Doha Municipality by 30.3% of total non-Qatari female divorces, followed by Al-Rayyan (30.1%), Al-Wakra (5.2%), Umm Salal (3.7%) and then by remaining municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) by 3.7%, whereas 27.0% 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) by 58.7% 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 22.1%.

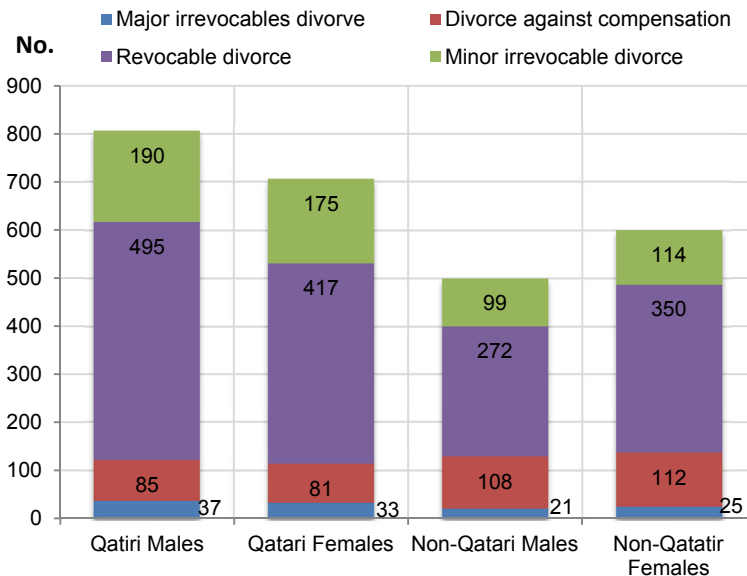
Revocable and minor irrevocable divorce cases represent 80.8% of total types of divorce.

Figure (11) shows also a decrease in major irrevocable divorce (the threefold divorce which is irrevocable except if the ex-wife is legitimately married to another man and then divorces him) to 4.4%, and divorce against compensation (divorce occurs upon wife’s request in return for an amount of money paid to the husband) to 14.8%.

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

Figure No. (11)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and nationality of spouses, 2015



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

Figure 12-a indicates that divorce cases are higher among Qatari spouses in the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 42.0% of total Qatari divorce cases by age-group, followed by the age-group (30-39 years), amounting to 31.2%.

The lowest divorce rate was in the age group (under 20 years), reaching 0.1% 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 41.0% of the total non-Qatari divorces by age group, followed by the age-groups (20-29 years) and (40-49 years) by 25.0% and 20.6% respectively.

The lowest divorce rate among non-Qataris are for the age-group (60 year and above) in 2015.

Figure No. (12-a)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and husband's age group (Qataris), 2015

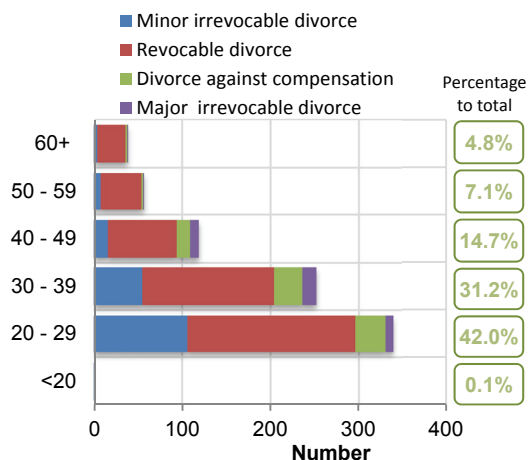
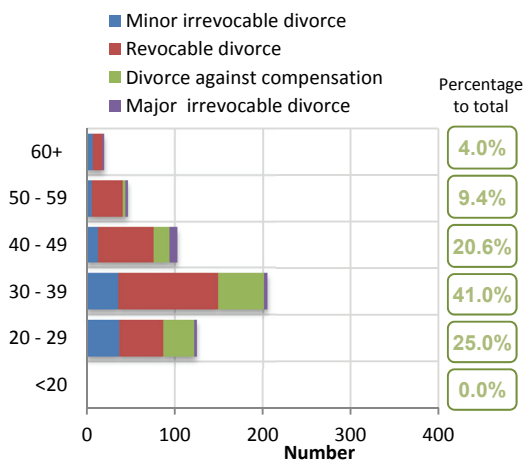


Figure No. (12-b)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and husband's age group (Non-Qataris), 2015



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

With regard to Qatari wives, Figure 13-a shows that the divorce rate is higher among the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 51.3% of total divorces by Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age groups (30-39 years) and (40-49 years) with 25.2% and 12.3% respectively. The lowest divorce rate is recorded among the age group (60 years and above) at 0.8%.

As for non-Qatari wives, the highest rate of divorce is among the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 43.9% of total divorces by non-Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age group (30-39 years) at 37.6%.

The lowest percentage is recorded among the age group (60 years and above) at 0.5%.

Figure No. (13-a)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and wife's age group (Qataris), 2015

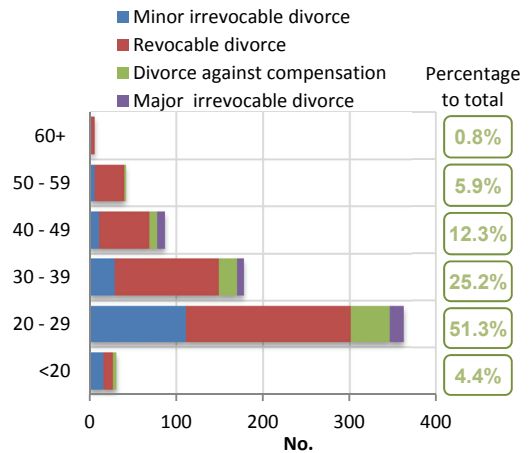
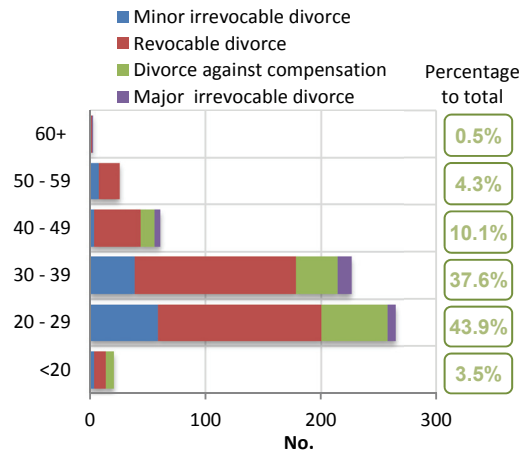


Figure No. (13-b)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and wife's age group (Non-Qataris), 2015



Divorce Declarations by Duration of Spouses' Married Life

Figure 14-a indicates that most divorce cases by duration of spouses' married life in 2015 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 the revocable divorce as previously mentioned.

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

The divorce rate during the first five years and before consummation constitutes 65.4% of total divorces by duration of married life (nearly two thirds of total divorce cases). It is observed that the percentage of divorcees whose married life exceeded 20 years is the lowest compared to the total divorcees by duration of married life. Figure 14-a also shows an increase in 2015 in percentage of divorcees whose married life ranged between 5 and 9 years, representing 16.0% of total divorces. However, this percentage indicates a decline of 2.7 percentage points compared to 2013.

Figure No. (14-a) *Divorce declarations by duration of wife's married life, 2015*

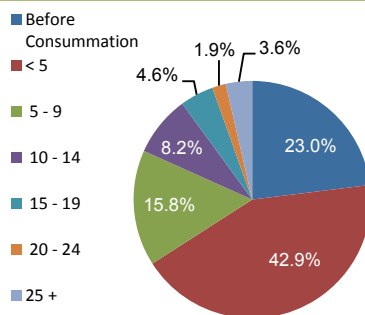
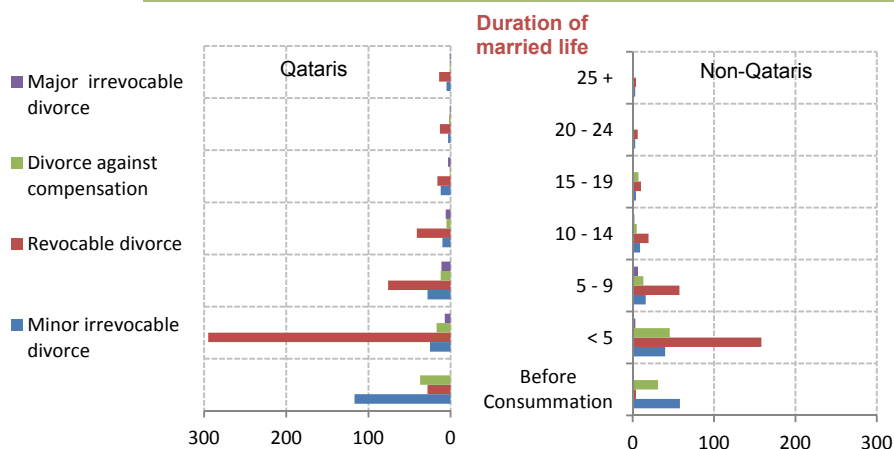


Figure No. (14-b) *Divorce declarations by type of divorce, duration of married life and nationality of husband, 2015*



In a more detailed account of the divorce cases that occur during the first four years of marriage and before consummation, Figure 15 indicates that 66.2% of divorces that occur before consummation of marriage are minor irrevocable divorces, whereas revocable divorces make up 8.4%, divorces against compensation 25.0%, and major irrevocable divorces 0.4% of total divorces before consummation of marriage.

As for the first four years of marriage, revocable divorces make up the highest percentage of divorce types with 77.7%, while minor irrevocable divorces make up 7.6%. Divorces against compensation and major irrevocable divorces constitute 11.1% and 3.6% respectively.

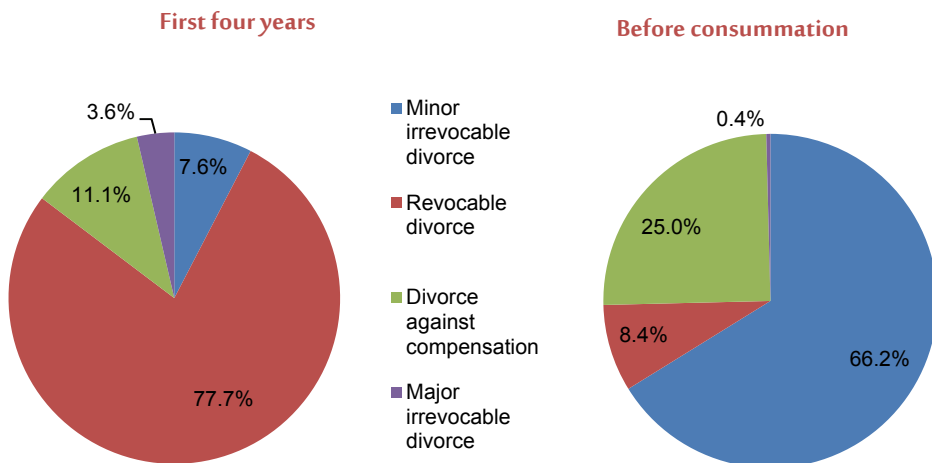
Regarding the age groups, the divorce before consummation for Qatari wives recorded the highest number among the age group (20-24 years), whereas for non-Qatari wives, it was the highest among the age group (25-29 years).

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 husbands, the highest divorce rate is among the age-group (25-29 years), whether it was a divorce before consummation or during the first four years of marriage.

Figure No. (15)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce during first four years of marriage and before consummation, 2015



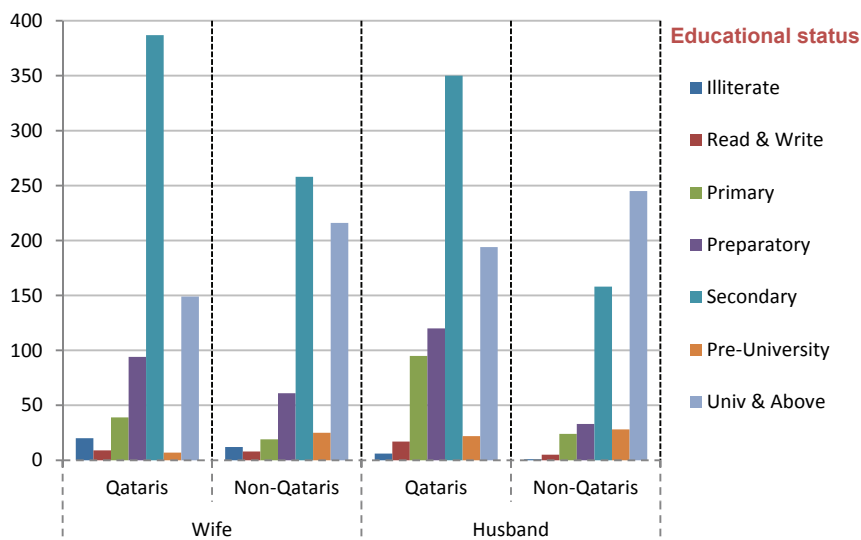
Divorce declarations by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure 16 shows the educational status of divorcees (males and females). It is clear that the highest percentage of Qatari divorcees is among secondary school graduates, with 387 cases for Qatari females and 350 for Qatari males (54.8% and 43.4% respectively).

As for non-Qatari females, the secondary school graduates category represents the highest number of non-Qatari divorced women, whereas the highest number of non-Qatari male divorcees is recorded among university graduates.

Figure No. (16)

Divorce declarations by nationality and educational status of spouses, 2015



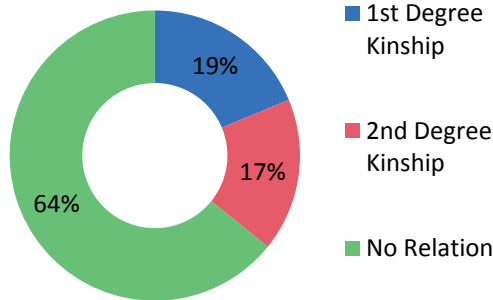
Qatari Divorce Declarations by Kinship

As shown in Figure 17, divorce among Qataris who have no blood ties represents the highest percentage of divorces (64%), whereas divorce among first degree relative category constitutes 19% of total divorces by kinship, followed by second degree relatives with 17%.

About 36% of divorce cases occurred among consanguineous spouses

Figure No. (17)

Divorce declarations by kinship between spouses, 2015



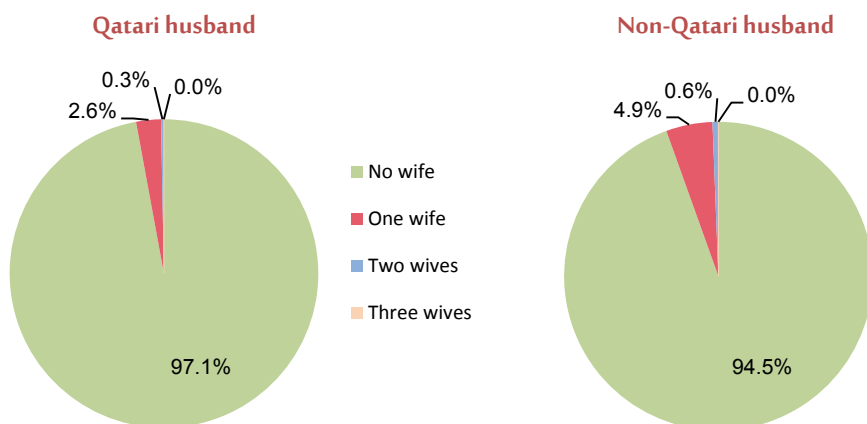
Divorce Declarations by Number of Wives Still Under Marriage Bond

Figure 18 shows divorce declarations by number of wives still under marriage bond, and indicates that the majority of divorce cases in 2015 took place among those who have no other wives under marriage bond, reaching 97.1% of total divorce cases for Qatari husbands, followed by those who have one or two more wives under marriage bond with a percentage of 2.6% and 0.3% respectively.

The percentage of non-Qatari husbands is almost the same as that of Qatari husbands, amounting 94.5% for those have no other wives under marriage bond, 4.9% for those who have one more wife, and 0.6% for those who have two more wives under marriage bond.

Figure No. (18)

Divorce declarations by number of wives still under marriage bond, 2015

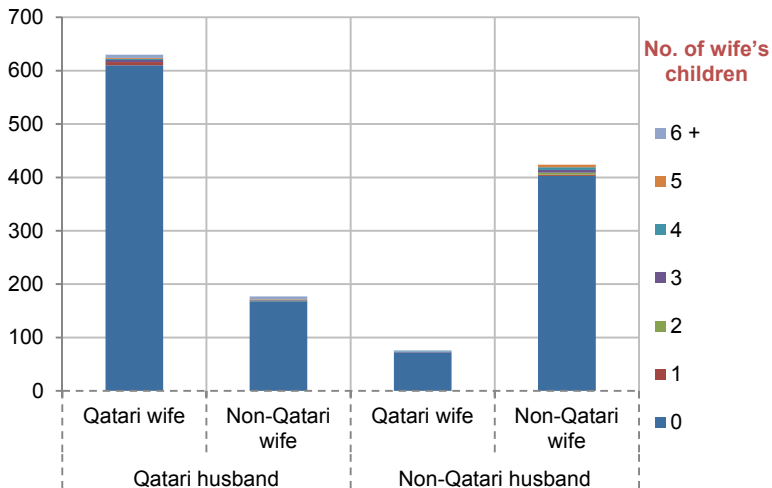


Divorce declarations by Nationality of Spouses and Number of Wife's Children

Figure 19 shows divorce declarations by number of children for Qataris and non-Qataris indicating that the majority of divorces in 2015 occurred between spouses with no children (95.9% of total divorces by number of children). The divorce rates between spouses who have children are convergent and do not exceed 1%, regardless of the number of children. This is due to the high rate of divorce before consummation and during the first four years of marriage as mentioned earlier.

Figure No. (19)

Divorce declarations by nationality of spouses and number of wife's children, 2015



Tables

