



Marriage & Divorce

State of Qatar 2016 (Review & Analysis)



وزارة التخطيط التنموي والإحصاء

Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics

Marriage & Divorce

in the State of Qatar, 2016
(Review & Analysis)

September, 2017



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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 first National Development Strategy (2011-2016) and second National Development Strategy (2017-2022). These goals include building a secure and stable society under 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 Qatar.

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 2016, 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 2016, 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 M. 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 2016. 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, mutual divorce "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.

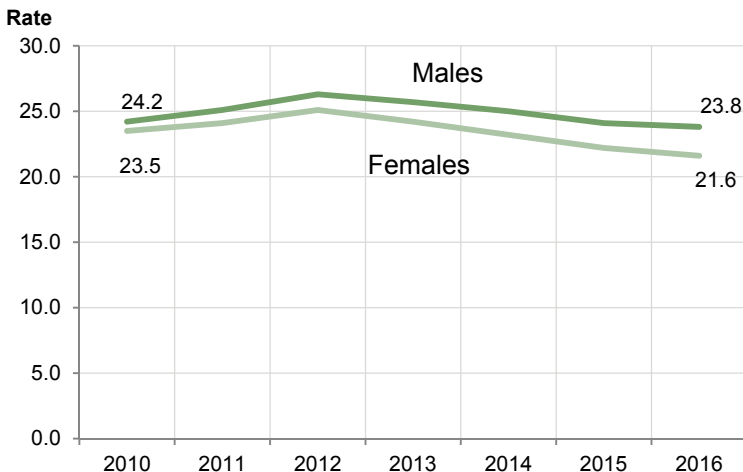
General Marriage Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

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 2010-2016. It decreased for males from 24.2 in 2010 to 23.8 in 2016. Likewise, female rate attained 21.6 in 2016 compared to 23.5 in 2010. 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.

The general marriage rate witnessed a remarkable decrease for males and females alike, during the comparison period (2010 - 2016) with a constant decrease during the last five years

Figure No. (1)

General marriage rate per 1000 Qatari population (15 years & above), 2010–2016



Marriage Contracts by Nationality of Spouses and Place of Residence

Figure 2 indicates that most marriage cases took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality, representing 42.2% of total marriages registered in the State of Qatar. Doha Municipality came second with a percentage of 29.6%,

Most marriages among Qataris and non-Qataris in 2016 took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality

followed by Umm Salal with 7.4%, Al-Wakra with 7.1%, Al-Sheehaniya with 5.4%, and then the rest of municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-Dhaayen) with 5.7%, while marriages outside Qatar accounted for 2.6%.

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 (47%), followed by Doha (24%), Umm Salal and Al-Sheehaniya (8.2%) for each, Al-Wakra (5.7%), Al-Dhaayen (3.7%), Al-Khor (2.7%), and finally Al-Shamal (0.5%).

As for Non-Qatari marriages, most cases were concentrated in Al-Rayyan Municipality (36.6%), followed by Doha (34.2%), Al Wakra (8.3%). Umm Salal (7.3%), Al-Dhaayen (1.8%), Al-Sheehaniya (1.6%) and finally Al Khor and Al-Shamal municipalities (1.7%). The remaining percentage of 8.5% was registered outside Qatar.

Figure No. (2)

Marriage contracts by spouses' nationality and place of residence, 2016

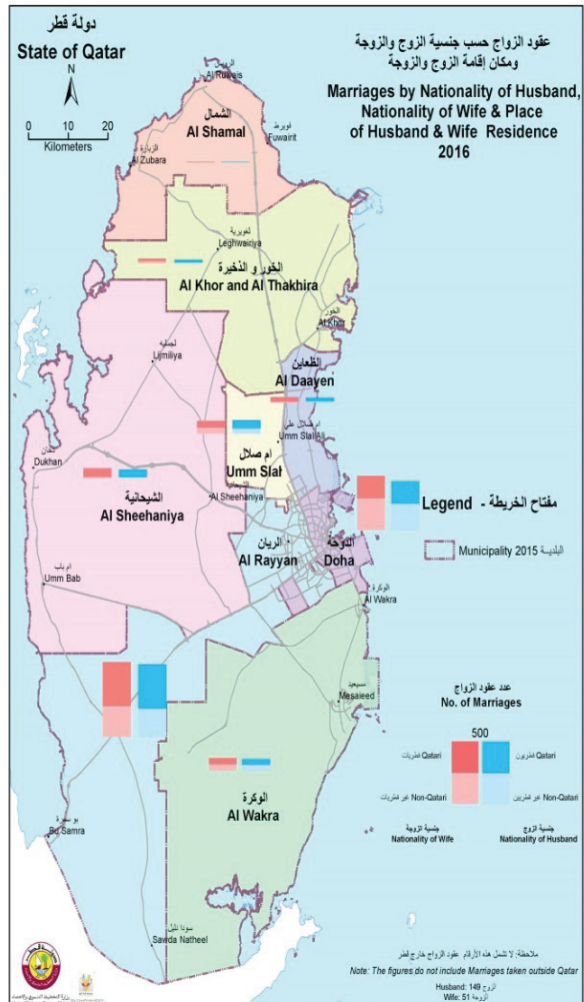


Figure 2 also shows that the highest percentage of Qatari female marriages took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality with 46.4% of total Qatari female marriages in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality (23.7%), Al- Sheehaniya (9%), Umm Salal (6.9%), Al Wakra (6.6%), Al-Dhaayen (4.7%), and finally Al Khor and Al-Shamal municipalities (2.7%).

On the other hand, non-Qatari female marriages were mainly concentrated in Doha Municipality, representing 38.4% of total non-Qatari female marriages, followed by Al Rayyan (37%), Al Wakra (8.3%), Umm Salal (7.3%), Al-Khor (2.7%), Al-Sheehaniya (1.9%) and then by Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen municipalities (1.6%), while 2.8% 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.

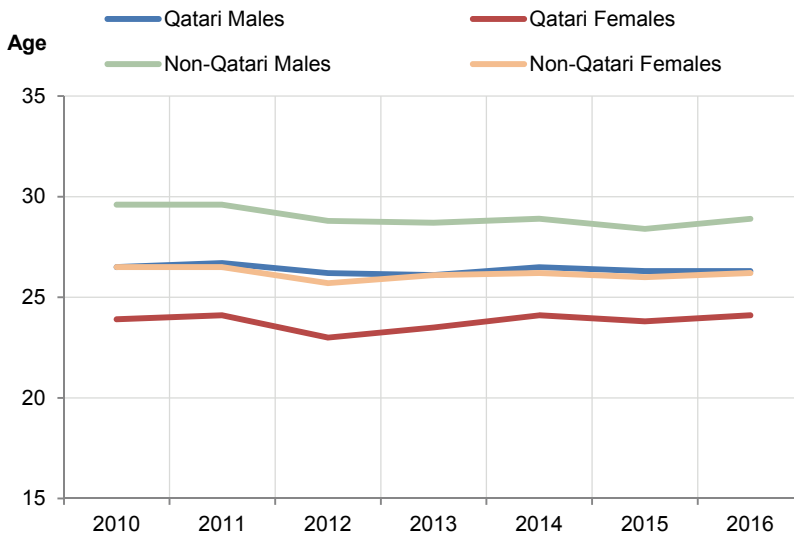
Quasi-decrease of the average age at first marriage among Qatari males to 26.3 years versus an increase among Qatari females to 24.1 years, compared to a decrease for non-Qatari males and females to 28.9 years and 26.2 years respectively.

As for Qataris, Figure 3 shows that the average age at first marriage witnessed a quasi-decrease for males versus the same increase for females during the period (2010-2016); from 26.5 years and 23.9 years in 2010 to 26.3 years and 24.1 years in 2016 for males and females respectively.

The average age at first marriage for non-Qataris also witnessed a slight decrease for both males and females during the period 2010-2016; declining from 29.6 years in 2010 to 28.9 years in 2016.

Figure No. (3)

Average age at first marriage by nationality and sex, during the period 2010–2016



Age Groups of Spouses

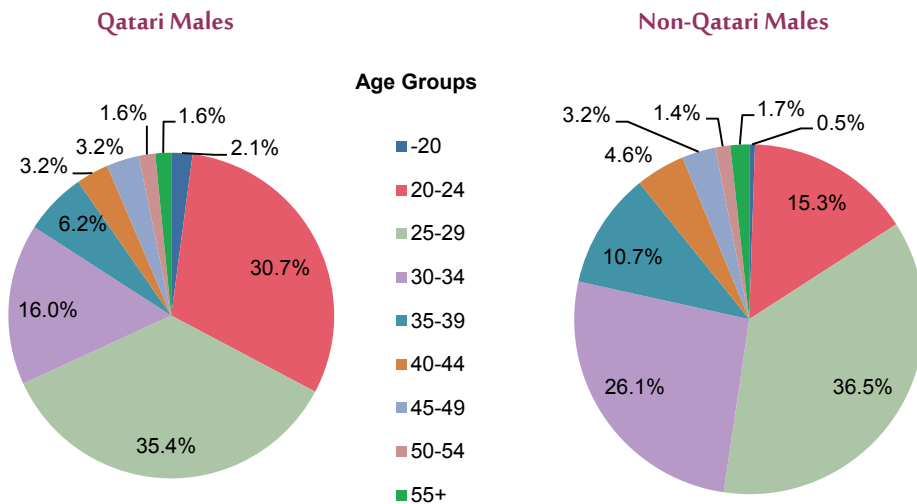
Figure (4-a) shows a rise in the ages of non-Qatari husbands compared to their Qatari counterparts in the age group (20-29 years), accounting for 66.1% of total Qatari husbands versus 51.8% of total non-Qatari husbands for the same age group.

The highest marriage cases took place among Qataris in age group (20-29 years) by 66.1% and among non-Qataris in age group (25-34 years) by 62.6%

On the other hand, the percentage of marriage in the age-group (30-39 years) for non-Qataris increased to 36.8% of total non-Qatari husbands, while the percentage of Qataris for the same age group reached only 22.2% of total Qatari husbands.

Figure No. (4-a)

Marriage contracts by husband's age group and nationality (Qataris and non-Qataris), 2016



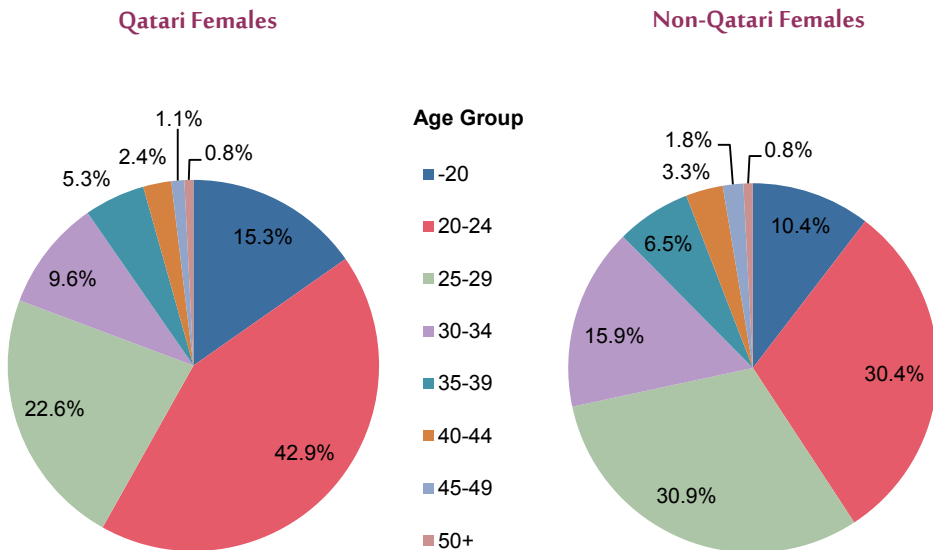
Similarly, Figure (4-b) shows an increase in the ages of non-Qatari wives compared to their Qatari counterparts, where the percentage of Qatari wives in the age-group (20-29 years) was higher than that of non-Qatari wives in the same age group; amounting to 65.5% of total Qatari wives and 61.3% of total non-Qatari wives.

Most marriages for Qatari and non-Qatari females took place in the age-group (20-29 years) by 65.5% and 61.3% 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 22.4% of total non-Qatari wives compared to 14.9% 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 4.4% and 6% respectively.

Figure No. (4-b)

Marriage Contracts by wife's age group and nationality (Qataris and non-Qataris), 2016



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 90.1% of total marriages, compared to about 10% of marriage contracts of husbands with one or more wives under marriage bond.

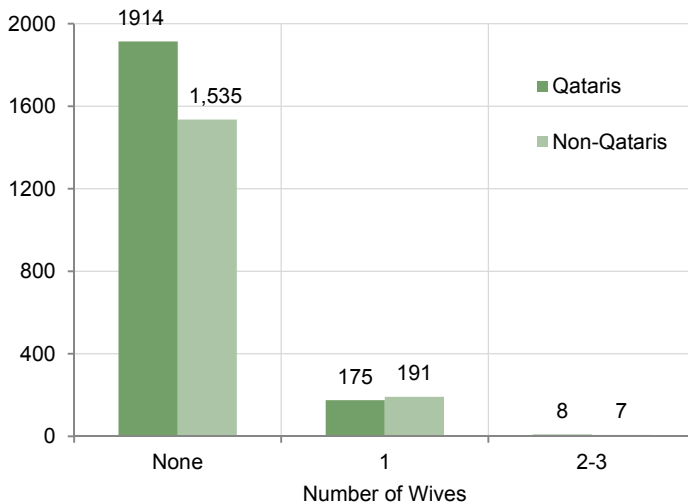
Percentage of marriage contracts of husbands with no other wife under marriage bond amounted to 90.1% of total marriages.

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 91.3% for Qataris and 88.6% for non-Qataris.

As for the percentage of those who had another wife under marriage bond, it amounted to 8.3% for Qataris and 11% for non-Qataris, whereas the percentage of those who had two or three wives under marriage bond did not exceed 0.4% for Qataris and non-Qataris alike.

Figure No. (5)

Marriage contracts by number of wives under marriage bond and by nationality, 2016



Marriage Contracts by Marital Status of Wife

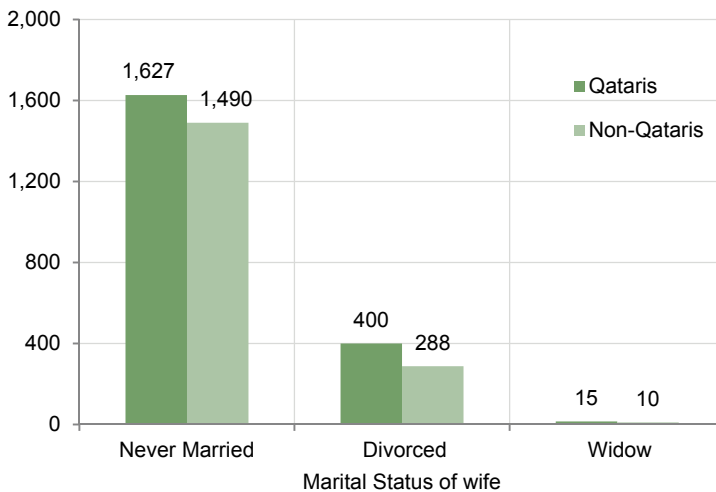
In general, Figure (6) indicates that the marriage percentage among virgin women increased to 81.4% of total marriages, compared to 18.6% of marriages where the wife was a widow or divorced.

Increase of marriage percentage among virgin women to widows and divorced women, amounting to 81.4% of total wives in marriage contracts

The percentage of Qatari virgin wives amounted to 79.7% compared to 19.6% for divorced wives and 0.7% 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.

Figure No. (6)

Marriage contracts by marital status and nationality of wife, 2016



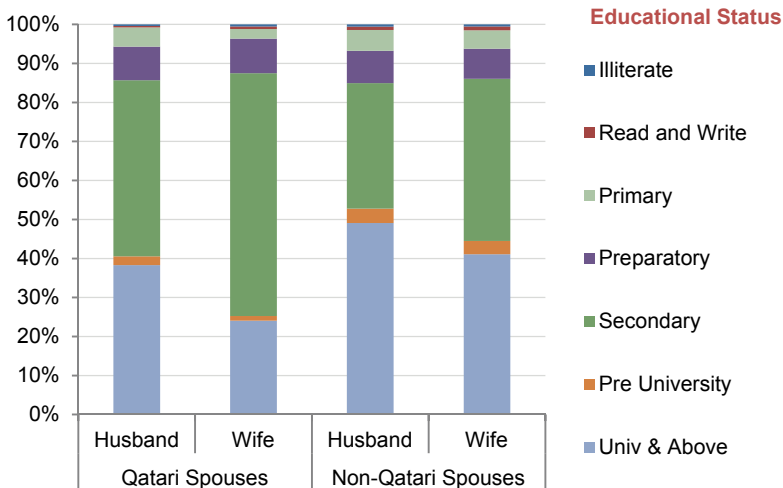
Marriage Contracts by Educational Status of Spouses

Figure (7) shows the percentages of educational status by sex and nationality in marriage contracts of 2016. Marriage contracts for Qatari spouses show a higher percentage for those with secondary education of total marriages by the educational status of Qatari spouses, amounting to 45.1% for males and 62.2% for females. Second came spouses with university degree or above, accounting for 38.2% for males and 24% for females.

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

Concerning marriage contracts of non-Qatari husbands, the higher percentage was for those with university degree and above (49.1%), followed by husbands with secondary education (32.1%) 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 41% and 41.5% 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 Qatari husbands was noted in lower age groups, that is during their university studies and before graduation.

Figure No. (7) *Marriage contracts by educational status and nationality of spouses, 2016*



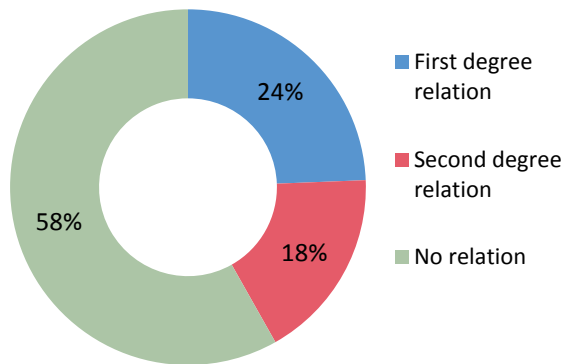
Marriage Contracts by Kinship

Figure (8) indicates the percentage distribution of Qatari marriage contracts by kinship in 2016. It shows that the percentage of consanguineous marriages remained high, reaching 42% of total marriages in 2016 despite the awareness campaigns about the risks of consanguineous marriage. The marriages among first degree relatives amounted to 24%, whereas marriages among second-degree relatives was 18%. The percentage of non-related spouses amounted to 58% in 2016.

Despite the awareness campaigns, consanguineous marriage is still common among Qataris, with a high percentage amounting to 42% of total marriages

Figure No. (8)

Marriage contracts by kinship, 2016



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 slump in divorce cases in 2016 down to 730 cases among Qatari males and 645 cases among Qatari females. The key divorce indicators are as follows:

Divorce cases among Qatari males and females decreased by 11.7% and 13.9% respectively in 2016 compared to 2015

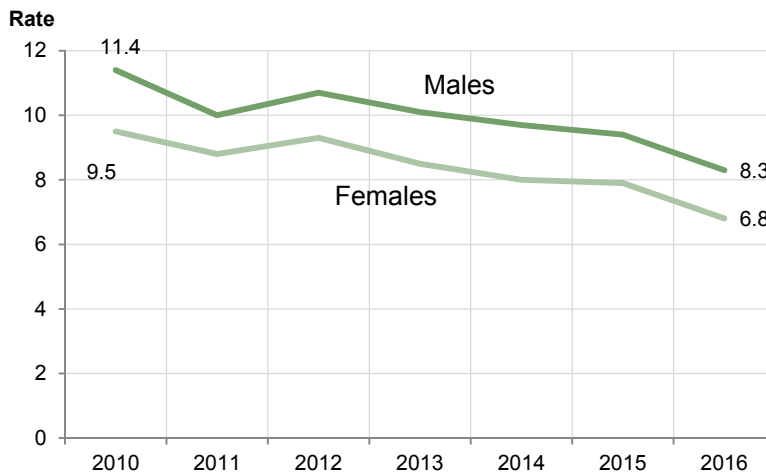
General Divorce Rate per 1000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

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 2010-2016 from 9.5% for Qatari women in 2010 to 6.8% in 2016, at an annual decline rate of 5.6%.

As for Qatari men, the divorce rate also dropped during the period 2010-2016 from 11.4% in 2010 to 8.3% in 2016, at an annual decline rate of 5.3% during the comparison period.

Figure No. (9)

General divorce rate per (1000) Qatari population (15 years & above), 2010-2016



Divorce Declarations by Nationality and Place of Residence of Spouses

Figure 10 indicates that most divorce cases occurred in Al Rayyan Municipality by 44.1% of total divorce cases registered in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality by 28.6%, Umm Salal (6.9%), Al-Sheehaniya (5.2%), Al-Wakra (4.5%), Al-Dhaayen (2.5%), and the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor and Al-Shamal,) by 2.6%. In addition, 5.6% of divorce cases occurred abroad.

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

With regards to divorce declarations by husband's nationality and place of residence, it is noted that most cases of Qatari divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality with 48.6%, followed by Doha (23.4%), Umm Salal (9.7%), Al-Sheehaniya (7.8%), Al-Wakra (3.9%), Al-Khor (3.1%), the remaining municipalities (Al-Shamal and Al-Dhaayen) with 3.4%, and finally divorces abroad (0.1%).

As for non-Qatari divorce declarations by place of residence, they were mostly concentrated in Doha Municipality (40.6%), followed by Al-Rayyan (38%), Al-Wakra (7.8%), Umm Salal (4.5%), and the remaining municipalities (Al-Sheehaniya, Al-Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-Dhaayen) with 4.3%, whereas 4.8% of non-Qatari divorces took place abroad.

Figure No. (10)

Divorce declarations by nationality and place of residence of spouses, 2016

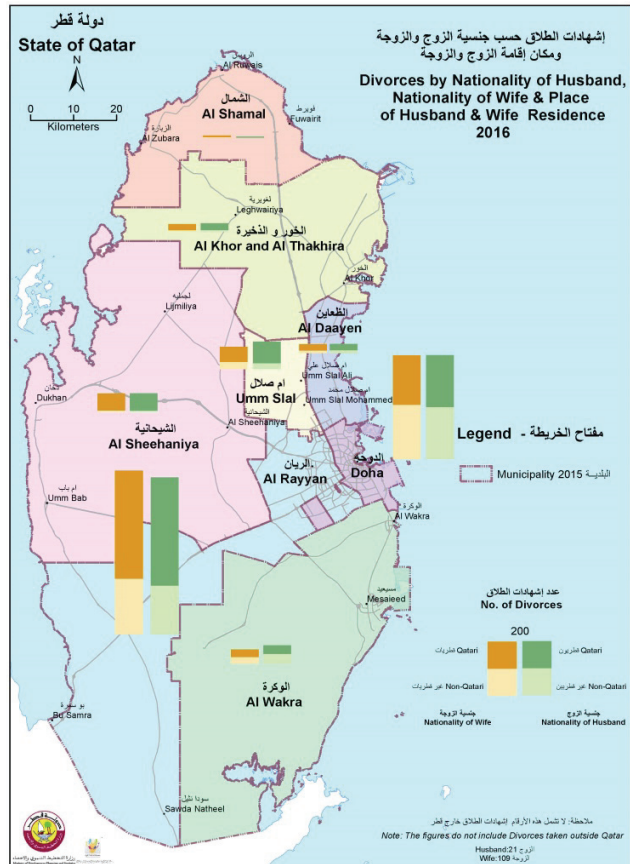


Figure 10 also shows that the majority of Qatari female divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 51.2% of total Qatari female divorces registered in Qatar, followed by Doha (23.4%), Al-Sheehaniya (8%), Umm Salal (7.1%), Al-Wakra (3.6%), Al-Dhaayen (2.9%), and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor and Al-Shamal) by 3.6%. The percentage of Qatari females who were divorced abroad reached 0.2%.

Similar were the figures of non-Qatari female divorces, as they were mainly concentrated in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 33.6% of total non-Qatari female divorces, followed by Doha (32.8%), Al-Wakra (4.3%) with little difference and Umm Salal (4.2%) and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor, Al-Shamal, Al-Dhaayen, Al Sheehaniya) by 3.8%, whereas 21.3% 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 63% 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 21.7%.

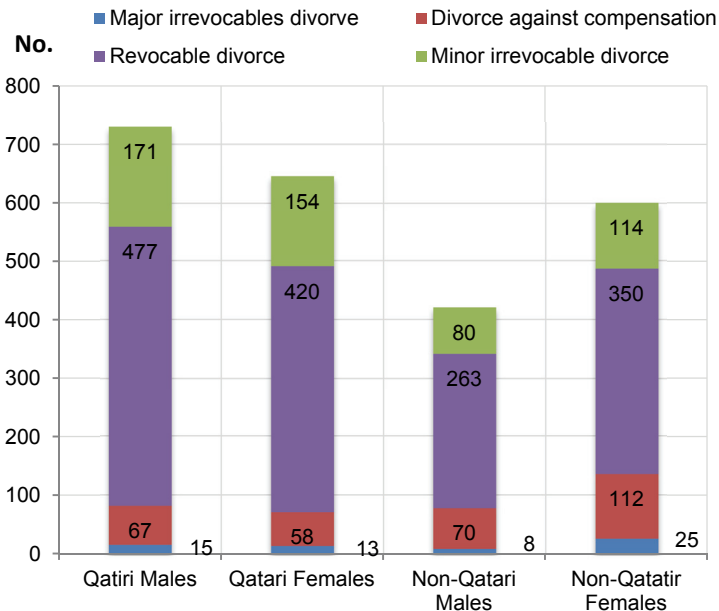
Revocable and minor irrevocable divorce cases represented 84.7% of total types of divorce

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 2.5%, and mutual divorce “Khula” (divorce occurs upon wife’s request in return for an amount of money paid to the husband) to 12.8%.

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, sex and nationality of spouses, 2016



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 42.3% of total Qatari divorce cases by age-group, followed by the age-group (30-39 years), amounting to 32.3%.

The lowest divorce rate was recorded in the age group (under 20 years), reaching 0.8% 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 42.2% of total non-Qatari divorces by age group, followed by the age-groups (40-49 years) and (20-29 years) by 24.5% and 21.9% 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) where no divorces occurred.

Figure No. (12-a)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and husband's age group (Qataris), 2016

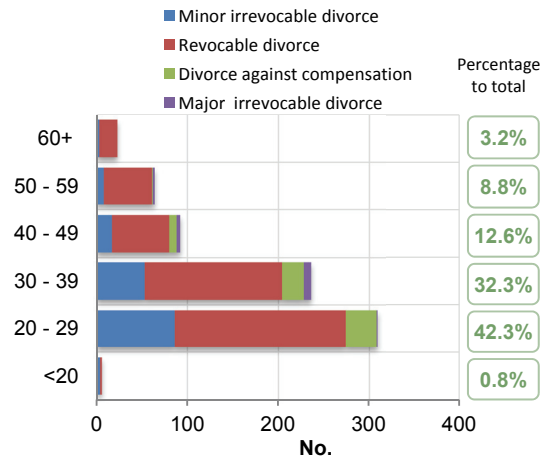
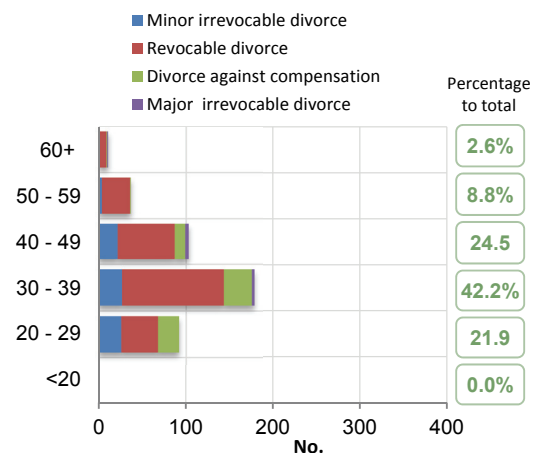


Figure No. (12-b)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and husband's age group (Non-Qataris), 2016



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 54.6% of total divorces by Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age groups (30-39 years) and (40-49 years) with 23.7% and 11.9% respectively. The lowest divorce rate was recorded among the age group (60 years and above) at 0.5%.

As for non-Qatari wives, the highest rate of divorce was among the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 38.8% of total divorces by non-Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age group (30-39 years) at 37.4%.

The lowest percentage was recorded among the age group (60 years and above) at 0.4%.

Figure No. (13-a)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and wife's age group (Qataris), 2016

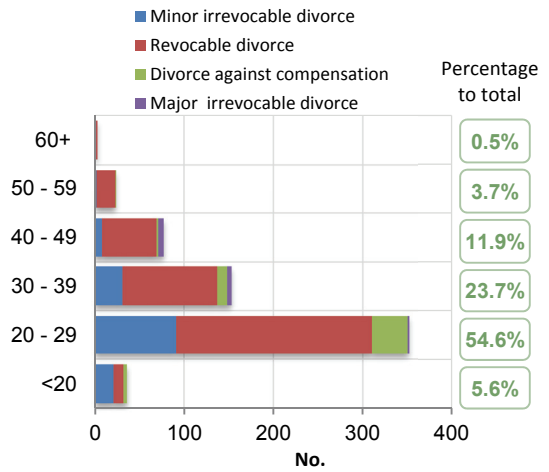
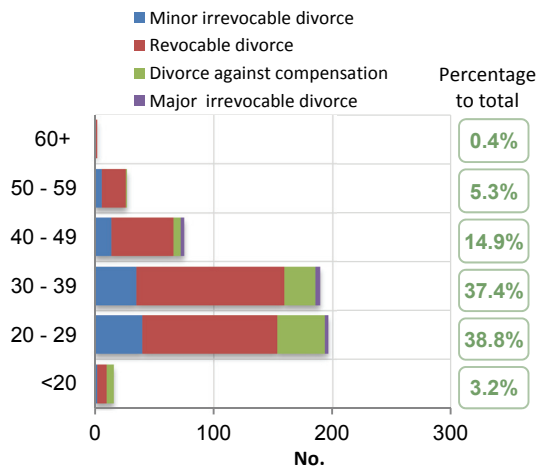


Figure No. (13-b)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce and wife's age group (Non-Qataris), 2016



Divorce Declarations by Duration of Married Life

Figure (14-a) indicates that most divorce cases by duration of married life in 2016 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 amounted to 68.5% 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 14.7% of total divorces in 2016. However, this percentage indicates a decline of 8.1 percentage points compared to 2015.

Figure No. (14-a)

Divorce declarations by duration of wife's married life, 2016

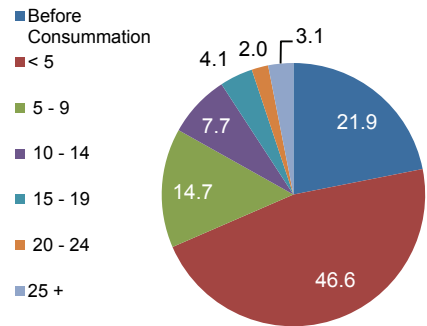


Figure No. (14-b)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce, duration of married life and nationality of husband, 2016

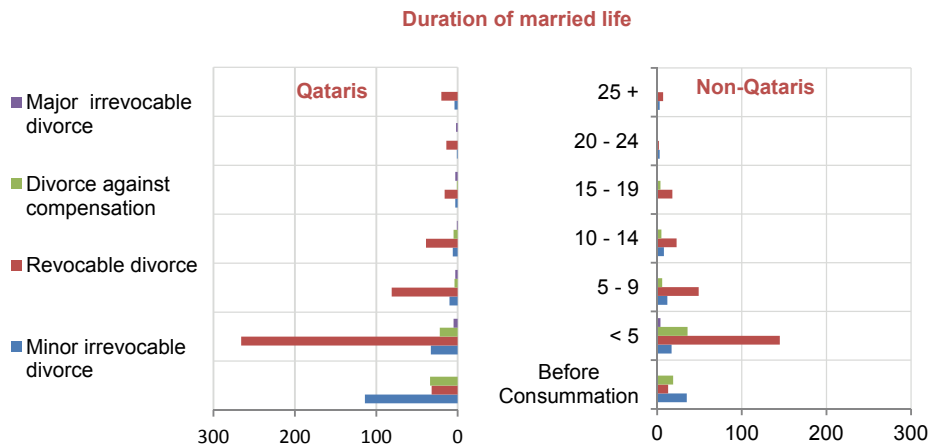


Figure 15 indicates that divorces during the first four years of marriage and before consummation are the highest compared to other periods of married life. 60.1% of divorces that occurred before consummation of marriage were minor irrevocable divorces, whereas revocable divorces made up 18.1%, mutual divorces “khula” 21.4%, and major irrevocable divorces 0.4% 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 77.8%, while minor irrevocable divorces made up 9.5%. Mutual divorces “khula” and major irrevocable divorces constituted 11% and 1.7% respectively.

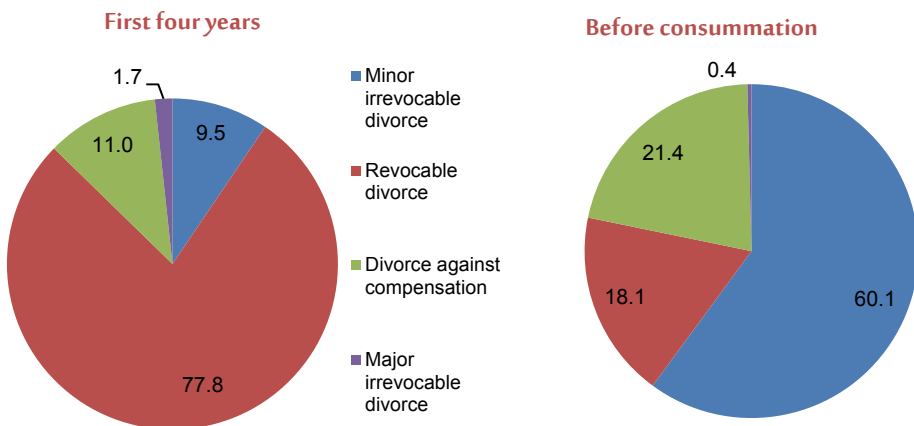
Regarding the age groups, the divorce before consummation of marriage was the highest among the age group (20-24 years) for Qatari and non-Qatari wives alike.

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 (20-24 years) for Qatari males versus the age group (25-29 years) for non-Qatari males.

Figure No. (15)

Divorce declarations by type of divorce during first four years of marriage and before consummation, 2016



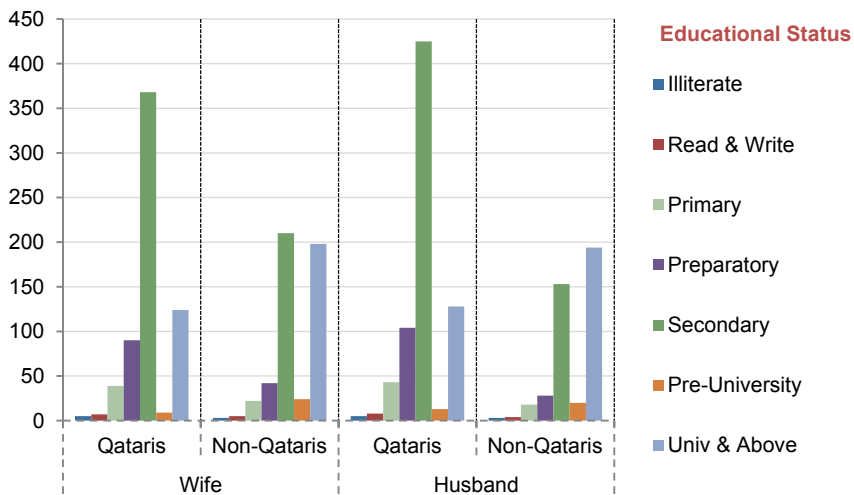
Divorce declarations by Educational Status of Spouses

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 368 cases for Qatari females and 425 for Qatari males (57.1% and 58.2% 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 university graduates.

Figure No. (16)

Divorce declarations by educational status of spouses, 2016



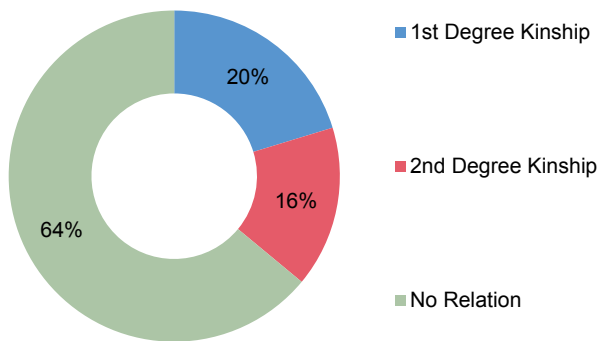
Qatari Divorce Declarations by Kinship

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 (64%), whereas divorce cases among first degree relatives made up 20% of total divorces by kinship, followed by second degree relatives with 16%.

About 36% of Qatari divorce cases were among consanguineous spouses

Figure No. (17)

Divorce declarations by kinship between spouses, 2016



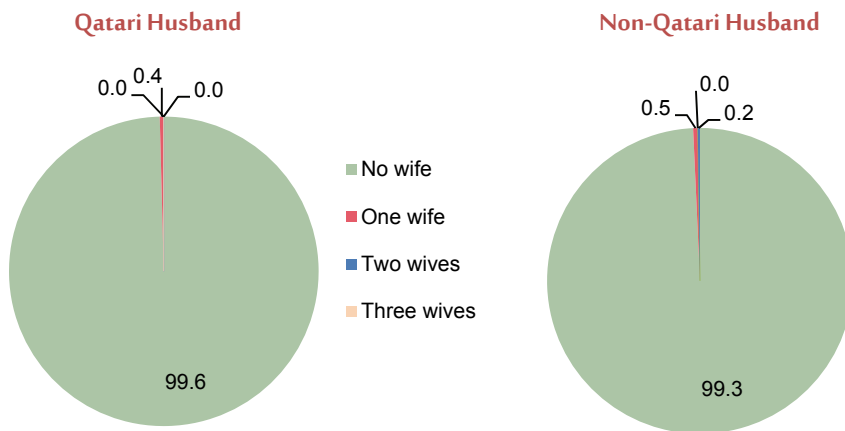
Divorce Declarations by Number of Wives Still Under Marriage Bond

Figure 18 shows the divorce declarations by number of wives still under marriage bond, and indicates that the majority of divorce cases in 2016 took place among those who had no other wives under marriage bond, accounting for 99.6% of total divorce cases for Qatari husbands. Divorces among those who had one more wife under marriage bond made up only 0.4%.

The percentage of non-Qatari husbands was almost the same as that of their Qatari counterparts, amounting to 99.3% for those had no other wife under marriage bond and 0.7% for those who had one or more wives under marriage bond.

Figure No. (18)

Divorce declarations by number of wives still under marriage bond, 2016

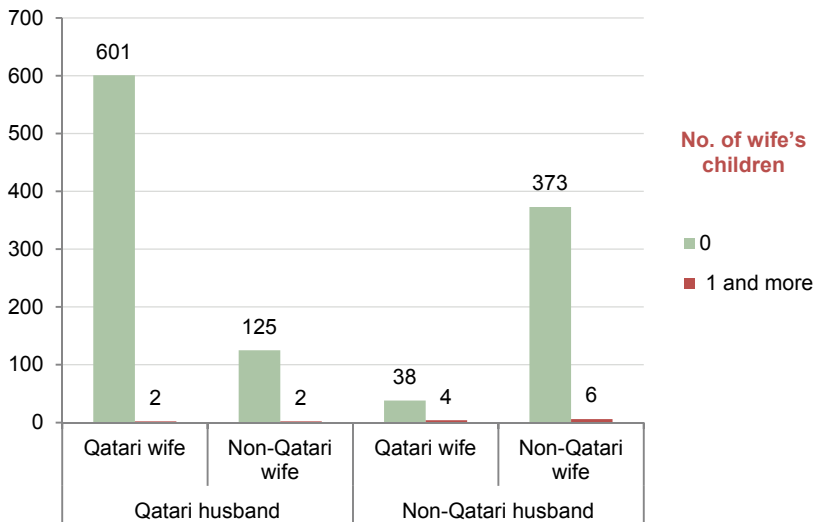


Divorce Declarations by Nationality of Spouses and Number of Wife's Children

Figure 19 shows the divorce declarations by number of children for both Qataris and non-Qataris, indicating that the majority of divorces in 2016 occurred between spouses with no children (98.8% 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.

Figure No. (19)

Divorce declarations by nationality of spouses and number of wife's children, 2016



Tables