



جهاز التخطيط والإحصاء  
Planning and Statistics Authority



# MARRIAGE & DIVORCE

State of Qatar 2020



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Planning and Statistics Authority

# Marriage & Divorce

## In the State of Qatar, 2020

( Review & Analysis)

February 2022





**His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani**  
**Emir of the State of Qatar**

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## Preface

Marriage & Divorce statistics are one of the cornerstones of vital statistics that are used as a significant element when making decisions and setting policies 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. The indicators included in this report are useful in achieving the goals of the Second National Development Strategy (2018-2022), in particular building a secure and stable society under effective government and family institutions, and setting policies and programs aimed at strengthening family cohesion in the field of population studies.

This report shows the development of marriage and divorce and their various components, such as marriage and divorce rates and average age at first marriage, as well as the characteristics of marriage and divorce in 2020, in a bid to identify the factors that delay or encourage marriage and those that impact divorce rates as well as their repercussions on family cohesion.

The Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) 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 2020, to develop social plans and policies that encourage the youth to marry and eliminate the spread of divorce, as well as to find effective solutions, especially among the youth age groups.

**Dr. Saleh M. Al-Nabit**  
**President of Planning & Statistics Authority**

# 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 2020. The first section deals with marriage and its data and indicators, such as the average age at first marriage and general marriage rate. It also includes data on marriage characteristics in the Qatari society through indicators of first marriage, age groups and educational levels of spouses.

The second section of this report focuses on divorce in the Qatari society. It comprises analysis of data on divorce, such as general divorce rate per 1,000 population, divorce certificates by type of divorce (revocable divorce, minor irrevocable divorce, Divorce against compensation "Khula" and major irrevocable divorce), spouse's 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 Planning and Statistics Authority and the Supreme Judicial Council.

The data of this report includes cases of marriage and divorce registered in Qatar, and cases of Qatari marriage and divorce abroad.

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# First: Marriage

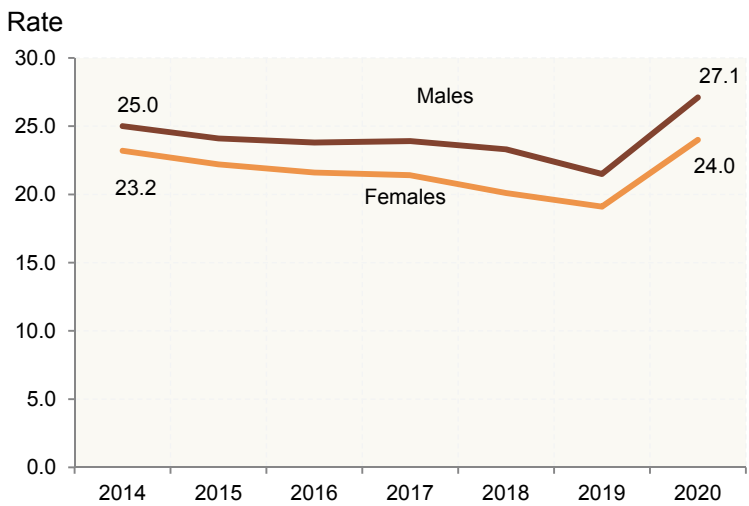
Marriage is the legitimate pillar for establishing a family and having children. Moreover, it is considered the means of the natural population growth. This part of the report analyzes some indicators related to marriage contracts.

## **General Marriage Rate per 1,000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)**

The general marriage rate is the number of marriages per 1,000 population aged 15 years and above in a given year. Figure 1 indicates that the general marriage rate per 1,000 Qatari population of age group (15 years and above) witnessed an almost steady decline during the period 2014-2019. It decreased for males from 25 in 2014 to 21.5 in 2019. Likewise, female rate declined from 23.2 in 2014 to 19.1 in 2019. 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. This is while noting an unexpected sudden increase in the general marriage rate by approximately 26% for males and females each during one year in 2020 compared to 2019.

*The general marriage rate witnessed a remarkable increase in 2020 by 26% for both males and females each compared to 2019.*

**Figure No. (1)** *General marriage rate per 1000 Qatari population (15 years & above), 2014-2020*



## Marriage Contracts by Spouse's Nationality and Place of Residence

Figure 2 indicates that most marriage cases took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality, representing 42.6% of total marriages registered in Qatar. Second came Doha Municipality with 28.6%, followed by Umm-Salal with

Most marriages among Qataris took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality and among non-Qataris in Doha Municipality in 2020

7.7%, Al-Wakra with 7.3%, Al-Dhaayen with 5.5%, Al-Sheehaniya with 4.4%, Al-

Khor with 2.8% and finally Al-Shamal with 0.5%, while marriages outside Qatar accounted for 0.6%.

As for marriage contracts by husband's nationality and place of residence, most cases of Qatari male marriages took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 46.1%, followed by Doha by 23.5%, Umm Salal by 7.9%, Al-Sheehaniya by 7.1%, Al-Wakra by 6.3%, Al-Dhaayen by 5.8%, Al-Khor by 2.7% and finally Al-Shamal by 0.6%.

As for Non-Qatari male marriages, most cases were concentrated in Doha Municipality by 40.8%, followed by Al-Rayyan by 32.3%, Al-Wakra by 9%. Umm-Salal by 7.7%, Al-Dhaayen by 4.4%, Al Khor by 2.2% and then the last two municipalities (Al-Shamal and Al-Sheehaniya) by 2%. The remaining percentage of 1.6% was registered outside Qatar.

**Figure No. (2)** Marriage contracts by spouses' nationality and place of residence, 2020

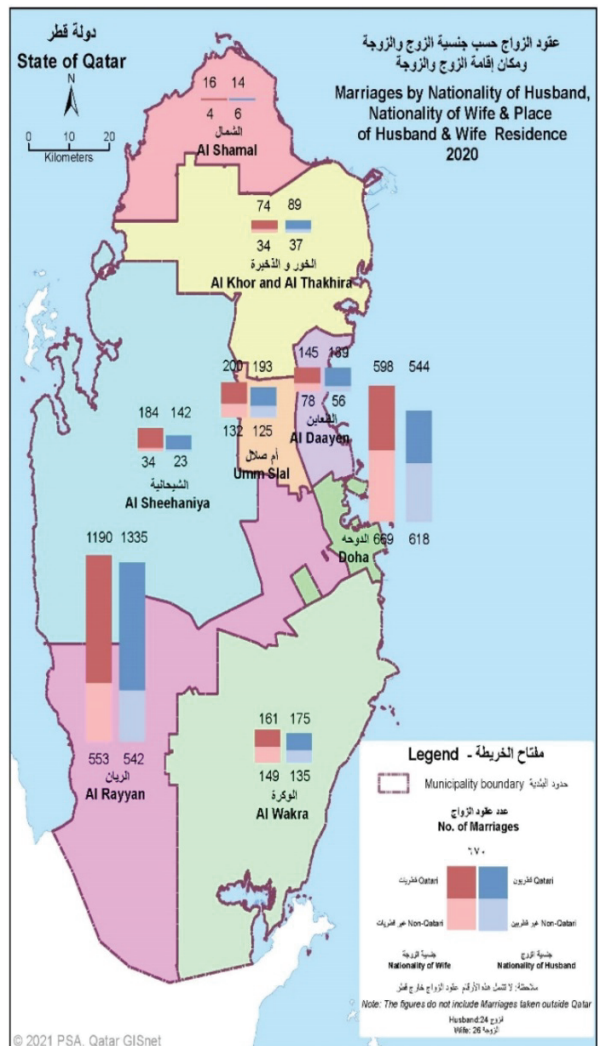


Figure (2) also shows that the highest percentage of Qatari female marriages took place in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 50.6% of total Qatari female marriages in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality by 20.6%, Al-Dhaayen by 6.9%, Umm-Salal by 6.8%, Al-Wakra by 6.4%, Al-Sheehaniya by 4.9% and finally the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor and Al-Shamal) by 3.8%.

On the other hand, non-Qatari female marriages were mainly concentrated in Doha Municipality, representing 37.8% of total non-Qatari female marriages, followed by Al-Rayyan by 34.4%, Al-Wakra by 8.7%, Umm-Salal by 8.5%, Al-Dhaayen by 4.1%, Al-Khor by 2.6% and then the rest of municipalities (Al-Sheehaniya and Al-Shamal) by 2.6%, while 1.3% of marriages took place outside Qatar.

## Average Age at First Marriage by Nationality

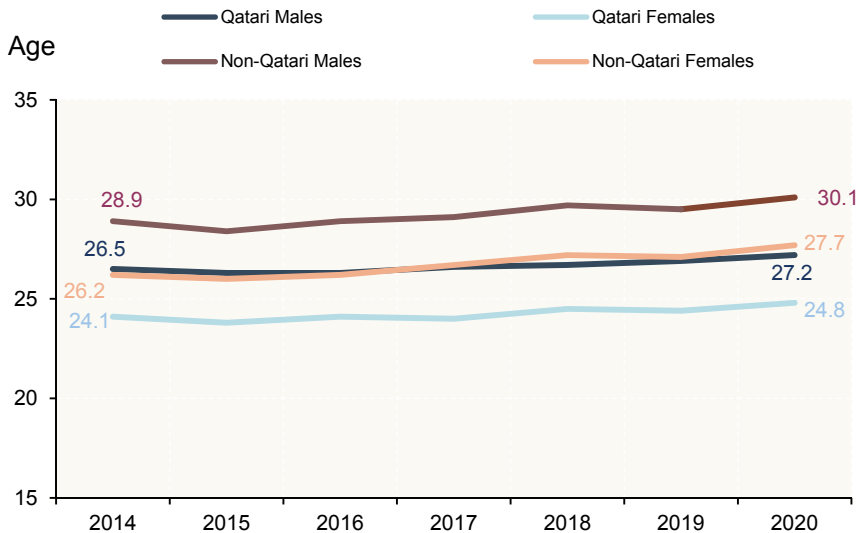
The average age at first marriage is one of the key indicators that show marriage characteristics in the Qatari society. The data of this indicator shows high average age at first marriage for non-Qataris compared to their Qatari counterparts in general. It was higher by almost two years and seven months for males and two years and eight months for females.

*Slight increase of the average age at first marriage among Qatari males to 27.2 years and Qatari females to 24.8 years, compared to an increase for non-Qatari males to 30.1 years and non-Qatari females to 27.7 years.*

As for Qataris, Figure 3 shows that the average age at first marriage witnessed a slight increase for both males and females during the period (2014-2020) from 26.5 years and 24.1 years in 2014 to 27.2 years and 24.8 years in 2020 for males and females, respectively.

The average age at first marriage for non-Qataris also witnessed a slight increase for males during the same period from 28.9 years in 2014 to 30.1 years in 2020. However, the average for non-Qataris females witnessed a significant increase to 27.7 years in 2020 compared to 26.2 years in 2014.

**Figure No. (3)** *Average age at first marriage by nationality and sex, during the period 2014-2020*



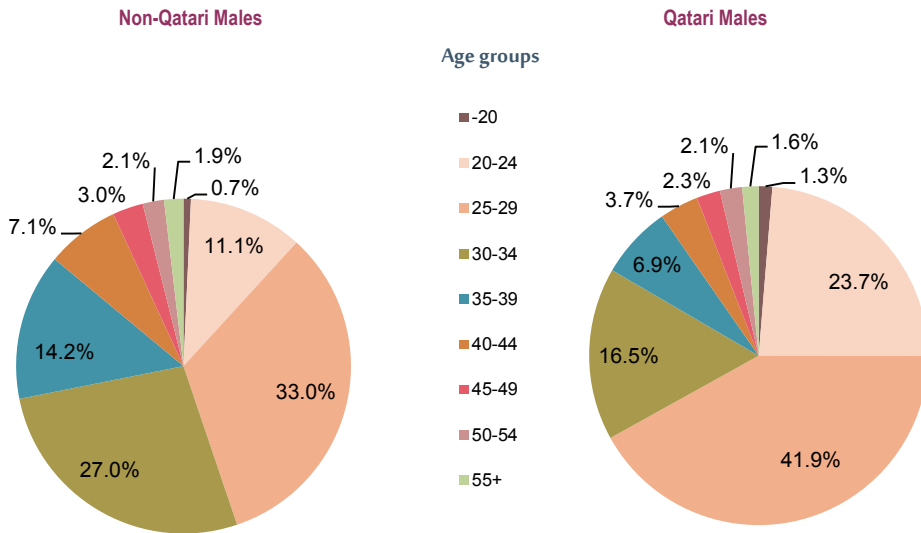
### Spouse's Age Group by Nationality

Figure (4-a) shows a rise in the ages of non-Qatari husbands compared to their Qatari counterparts in the age group (25-29 years), accounting for 41.9% of total Qatari husbands versus 33% of total non-Qatari husbands in the same age group.

*The highest marriage cases took place in the age group (25-29 years) by 41.9% among Qataris and by 33% among non-Qataris*

On the other hand, marriage rates in the age-group (30-34 years) for non-Qataris increased to 27% of total non-Qatari husbands, while the percentage of Qataris in the same age group reached only 16.5% of total Qatari husbands.

**Figure No. (4-a)** *Marriage contracts by husband's age group and nationality (Qataris and non-Qataris), 2020*

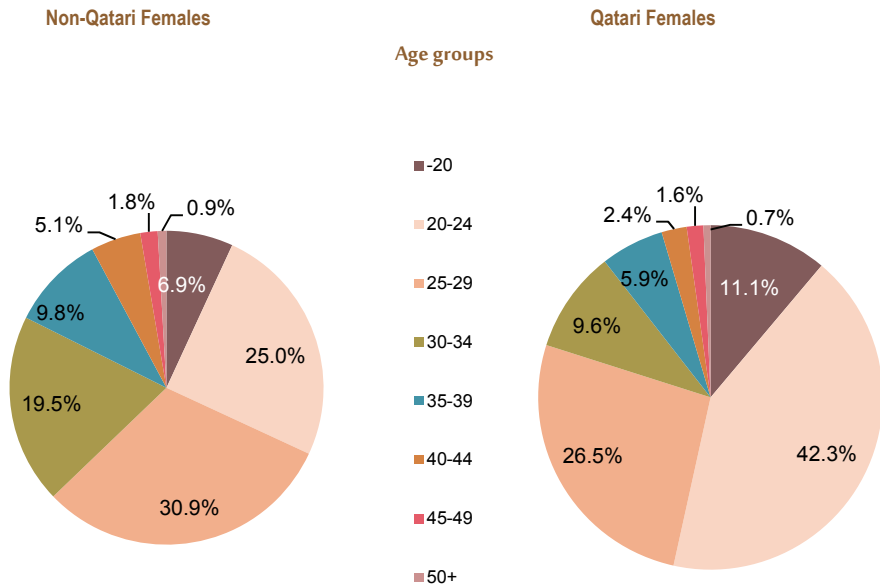


Similarly, Figure (4-b) shows an increase in the ages of non-Qatari wives compared to their Qatari counterparts, where the percentage of Qatari wives in the age-group (20-29 years) was higher than that of non-Qatari wives in the same age group; amounting to 68.8% of total Qatari wives and 55.9% of total non-Qatari wives.

*Most marriages for Qatari and non-Qatari females took place in the age-group (20-29 years) by 68.8% and 55.9%, 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 29.3% of total non-Qatari wives compared to 15.5% of total Qatari wives. Also variation of rates is noticed in the age-group (40-49 years) among Qatari and non-Qatari wives, amounting to 4% and 6.9%, respectively.

**Figure No. (4-B) Marriage Contracts by wife's age group and nationality (Qataris and non-Qataris), 2020**



## Marriage Contracts by Number of Wives still under Marriage Bond and Nationality

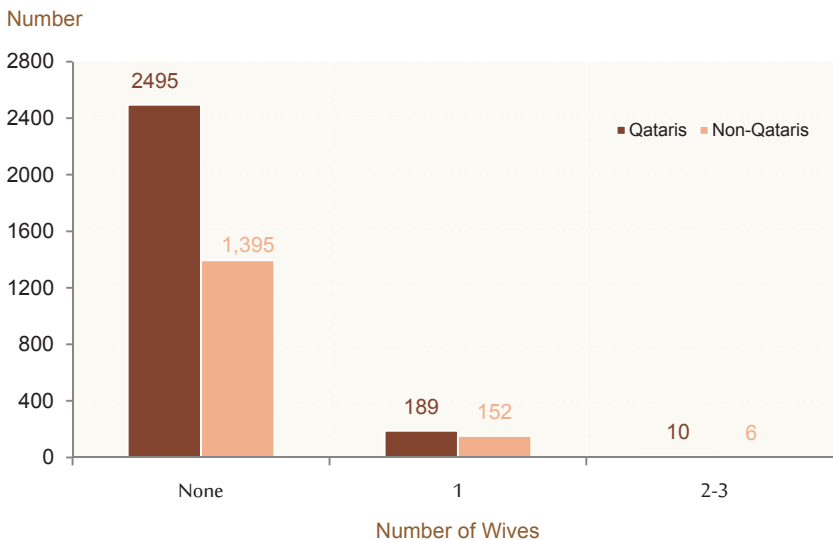
Figure 5 indicates that the percentage of marriage contracts of husbands with no other wife under marriage bond increased to 91.6% of total marriages, compared to about 8.4% of marriage contracts of husbands with one or more wives under marriage bond.

*Percentage of marriage contracts of husbands with no other wife under marriage bond increased to 91.6% 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 92.6% for Qataris and 89.8% for non-Qataris.

As for the percentage of those who had another wife under marriage bond, it amounted to 7% for Qataris and 9.8% 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, 2020*



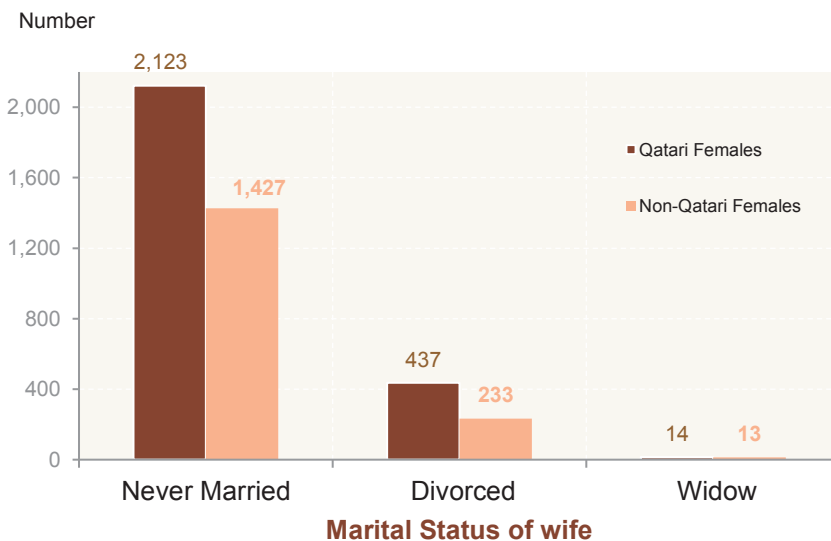
## Marriage Contracts by Wife's Marital Status and Nationality

In general, Figure (6) indicates that virgin wives in marriage contracts increased to 83.6% of total wives, compared to 16.4% of marriage contracts where the wife was a widow or divorced.

*The percentage of virgin wives amounted to 83.6% of total wives in marriage contracts*

The percentage of Qatari virgin wives amounted to 82.5% compared to 17% for divorced women and 0.5% for widows. As for non-Qataris, virgin wives accounted for 85.3%, compared to 13.9% for divorced women and 0.8% for widows. It is noted that re-marriage of Qatari divorced women was higher by 3 percentage points than their non-Qatari counterparts.

**Figure No. (6)** *Marriage contracts by marital status and nationality of wife 2020*





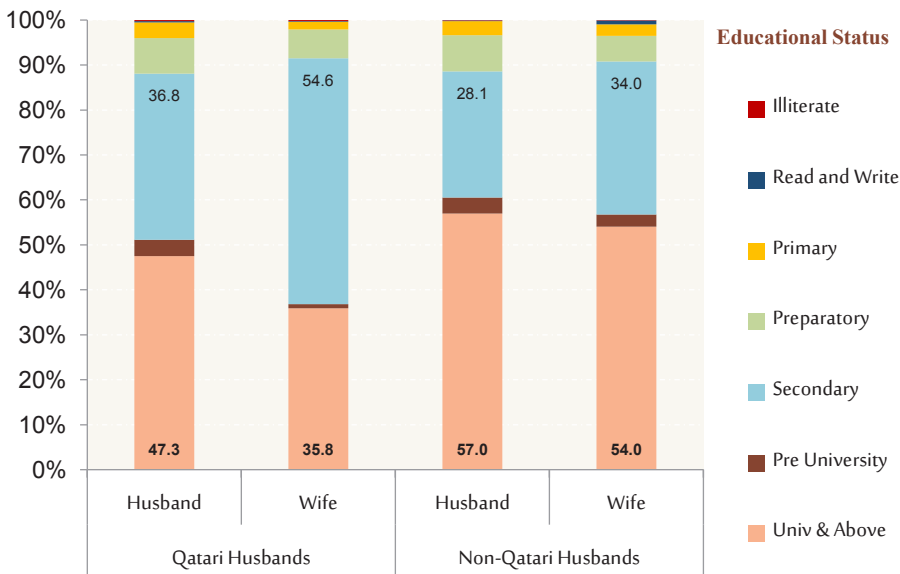
## Marriage Contracts by Spouse's Educational Status and Nationality

Figure (7) shows the percentages of educational status by gender and nationality for marriage contracts in 2020. The marriage contracts of Qataris show an increase in the percentage of husbands with secondary certificates and with university degree and above of total marriage contracts by 54.6% and 47.3%, respectively, followed by wives with university degree and above at 35.8%, and wives with secondary certificate at 36.8% of total marriage contracts by educational status.

*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 husbands with university degree and above (57%), followed by husbands with secondary certificate (28.1%) of total marriage contracts by husband's educational status. The same applies to a lesser degree of disparity for the marriage contracts of non-Qatari wives with university degree and above and wives with secondary certificate, amounting to 54% and 34%, respectively, of total number of non-Qatari wives in marriage contracts by educational status.

**Figure No. (7)** *Marriage contracts by educational status and nationality of spouses, 2020*



## Qatari Marriage Contracts by Kinship

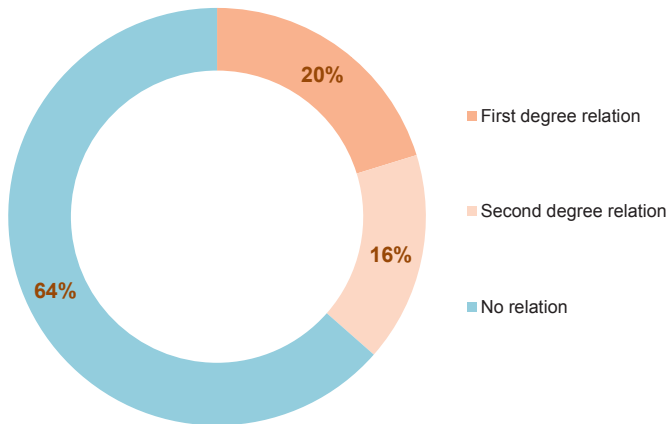
Figure (8) shows the percentage distribution of marriage contracts for Qataris by kinship in 2020, indicating that the percentage of consanguineous marriage tends to decline, reaching 36% of total marriages in 2020 compared to 43% in 2019 with a difference of 7 percentage points. This indicates that the state awareness-raising campaigns about the dangers that may result from consanguineous marriage have borne fruit.

*The percentage of consanguineous marriages among Qataris witnessed a decrease from 43% to 36% of total number of marriages, with a difference of 7 percentage points in 2020 compared to 2019 as a result of awareness campaigns carried out by the state regarding consanguineous marriage.*

The percentage of first-degree relatives marriage reached about 20%, compared to 16% for second-degree relatives marriages, while the percentage of non-related married couples reached about 64% in 2020.

As expected, there was an increase in the percentage of non-related married couples by 7% in 2020 compared to 2019

Figure No. (8) **Marriage contracts by kinship 2020**



## Second: Divorce

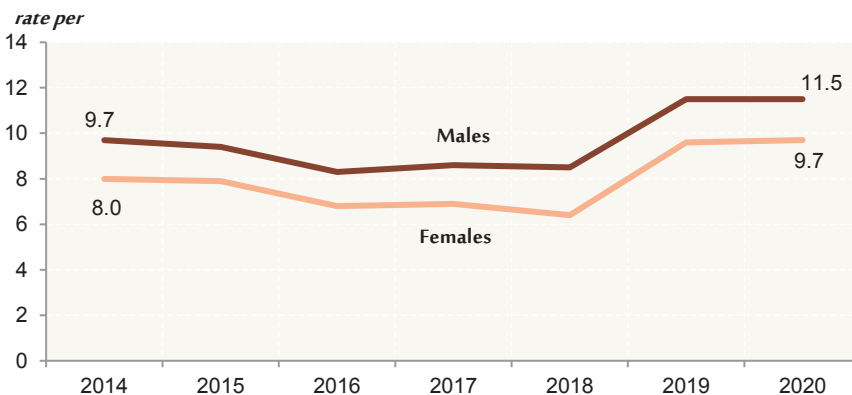
The divorce cases will be addressed through indicators related to divorce rates, duration of married life, age and educational level of spouses and polygamy. The number of divorce cases has increased in Qatari society starting from 2019 compared to previous years. It reached 1,115 divorces among Qatari men and 992 divorces among Qatari women. This rise continued in 2020, reaching 1,144 divorces among Qatari men and 1,037 divorces among Qatari women. The following is an explanation of the most important indicators of divorce:

*The general divorce rate among Qataris was stable in 2020 compared to 2019.*

### General Divorce Rate per 1,000 Qatari Population (15 Years & Above)

The general divorce rate is the number of divorces per 1,000 population aged 15 years and above in a given year. Figure (9) indicates a decline in divorce rate among Qatari citizens per 1,000 population during the period 2014-2018 from 8.0% per 1,000 Qatari women in 2014 to 6.4% per 1,000 Qatari women in 2018. During the period (2019-2020), there was an unexpected sudden rise in the divorce rate, reaching 9.7 per 1,000 Qatari women.

Figure No. (9) *General divorce rate per (1000) Qatari population (15 years & above), 2014-2020*



For Qatari men, the general divorce rate decreased during the period (2014-2018), from 9.7 per 1,000 Qatari men in 2014 to 8.5 in 2018, with an unexpected sudden increase in the years (2019-2020), reaching 11.5 per 1,000 Qatari men in 2020.

## Divorces by Spouse's Nationality and Place of Residence

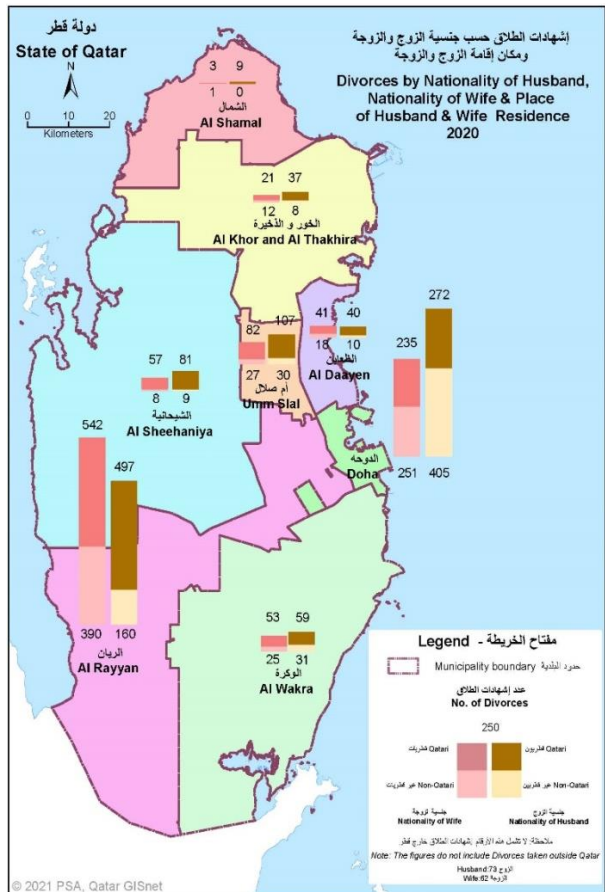
Figure (10) indicates that most divorce cases occurred in Al Rayyan Municipality by 43.5% of total divorce cases registered in Qatar, followed by Doha Municipality by 31.8%, Umm Salal by 6.7%, Al-Wakra by 4.6%, Al-Sheehaniya by 4.2%, Al-Dhaayen by 3% and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor and Al-Shamal,) by 2.5%. In addition, 3.7% of divorce cases occurred abroad.

With regards to divorce cases by husband's nationality and place of residence, most cases of Qatari male divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 51.7%, followed by Doha by 21.7%, Umm Salal by 7.3%, Al-Sheehaniya by 4.9%, Al-Wakra by 4.7%, Al-Dhaayen by 3.7% and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Shamal and Al-Khor) by 2.2%. In addition, 3.8% of divorce cases occurred abroad.

As for non-Qatari male divorce cases by place of residence, around half of them were concentrated in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 49.9%, followed by Doha by 34.8%, Umm-Salal by 3.8%, Al-Wakra by 3.5%, Al-Dhaayen by 2.5% and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor,

*Al Rayyan Municipality witnessed the most divorce cases for Qataris and non-Qatari alike, followed by Doha Municipality in 2020*

**Figure No. (10)** *Divorce declarations by nationality and place of residence of spouses, 2020*



Al-Sheehaniya and Al-Shamal,) by 2.9%, whereas 2.6% of non-Qatari male divorces took place abroad.

Figure (10) also shows that the majority of Qatari female divorces occurred in Al-Rayyan Municipality by 43.5% of total Qatari female divorces registered in Qatar, followed by Doha by 23%, Umm-Salal by 9.2%, Al-Sheehaniya by 6.5%, Al-Wakra by 4.9%, Al-Khor by 3.5%, Al-Dhaayen by 3.1% and finally Al-Shamal by 0.8%. The percentage of Qatari females who were divorced abroad reached 5.5%.

Non-Qatari female divorces were mainly concentrated in Doha Municipality by 55.4% of total non-Qatari female divorces, followed by Al-Rayyan by 26%, Umm-Salal by 5.4%, Al-Wakra by 4.9%, Al-Sheehaniya by 2.9%, Al-Dhaayen by 2.1% and then the remaining municipalities (Al-Khor and Al-Shamal) by 2.3%, whereas 2% of divorce cases occurred outside Qatar.

## Divorces by Type of Divorce and Spouse's Nationality

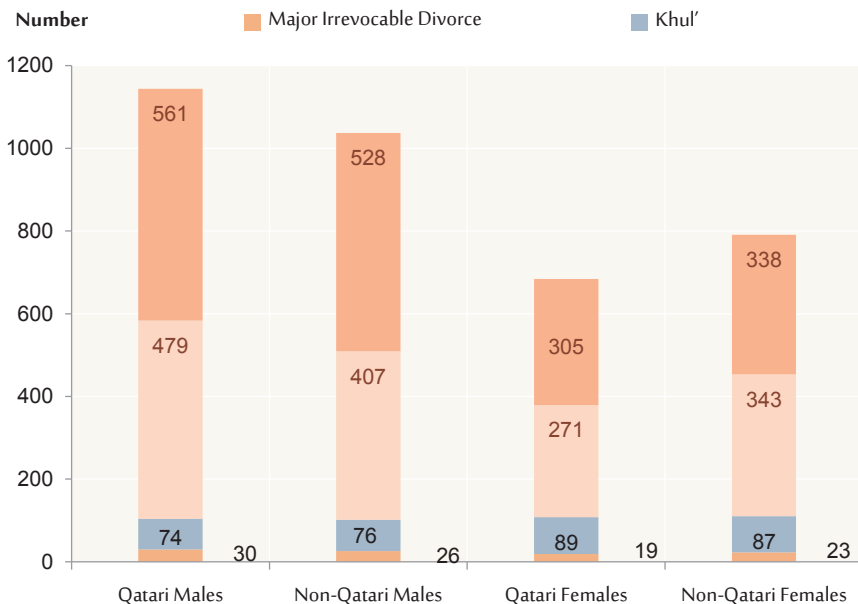
The results show an increase in revocable divorces (divorcing a wife less than three times after consummation of marriage) and minor irrevocable divorces (when the first or second divorce takes place after the end of the wife's "Iddah" period before or after consummation of marriage) reaching 41% and 47.4%, respectively in 2020.

*Revocable and minor irrevocable divorce cases represented 88.4% 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 2.7%, and divorce against compensation "Khula" (divorce occurs upon wife's request in return for an amount of money paid to the husband) to 8.9%.

The figure also details the number of divorces by type of divorce and spouse's nationality.

**Figure No. (11)** *Divorce cases by type of divorce, sex and nationality of spouses, 2020*



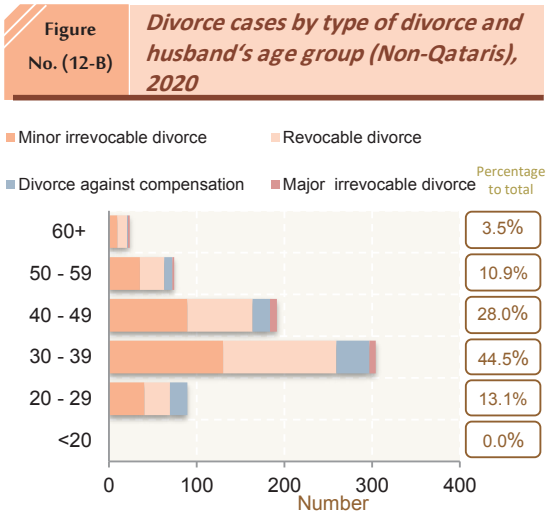
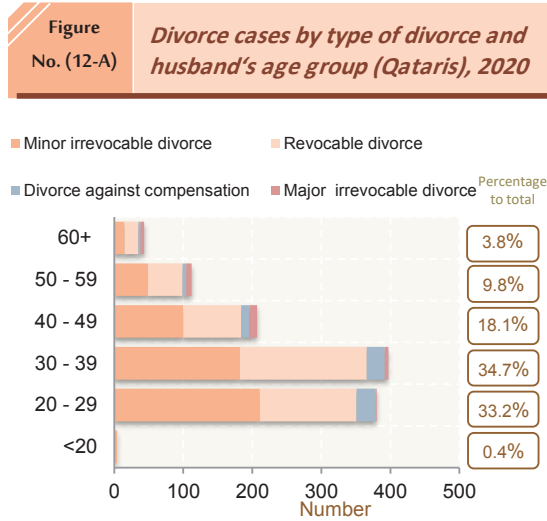
### Divorces by Type of Divorce and Husband's Age Group and Nationality

Figure (12-a) indicates that divorce cases were higher among Qatari husbands in the age group (30-39 years), amounting to 34.7% of total Qatari divorces by age-group, followed by the age-groups (20-29 years) and (40-49 years) amounting to 33.2% and 18.1%, respectively.

The lowest divorce rate was in the age group (under 20 years), reaching 0.4% due to the small number of married couples in this age group.

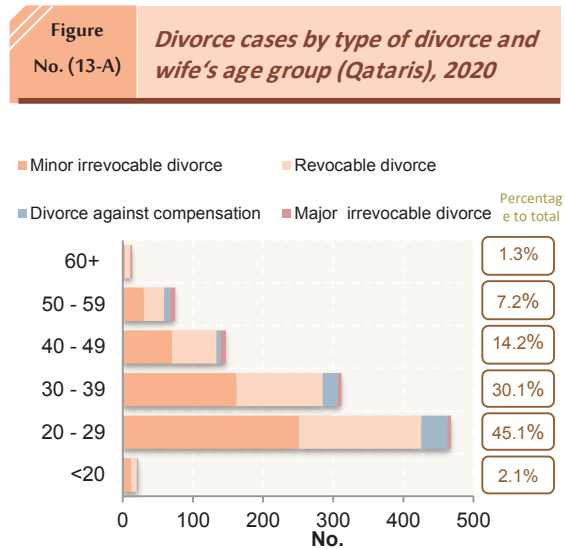
As for non-Qatari husbands, Figure (12-b) shows that the highest percentage of divorces was among the age-group (30-39 years) amounting to 44.5% of total non-Qatari divorces by age group, followed by the age-groups (40-49 years) and (20-29 years) by 28.0% and 13.1%, respectively.

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



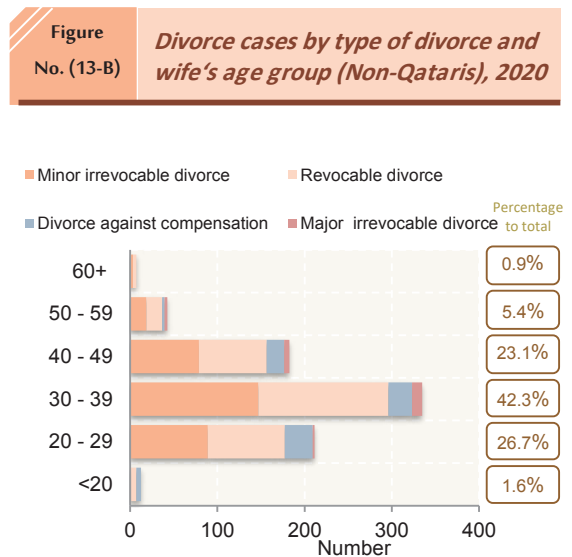
## Divorces by Type of Divorce and Wife's Age Group and Nationality

With regard to Qatari wives, Figure (13-a) shows that the divorce rate was higher among the age group (20-29 years), amounting to 45.1% of total divorces by Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age groups (30-39 years) and (40-49 years) with 30.1% and 14.2%, respectively. The lowest divorce rate was among the age group (60 years and above) at 1.3%.



As for non-Qatari wives, the highest rate of divorce was among the age group (30-39 years), amounting to 42.3% of total divorces by non-Qatari wife's age group, followed by the age group (20-29 years) at 26.7%, and age group (40-49 years) at 23.1%.

The lowest percentage was among the age group (60 years and above) by 0.9%.





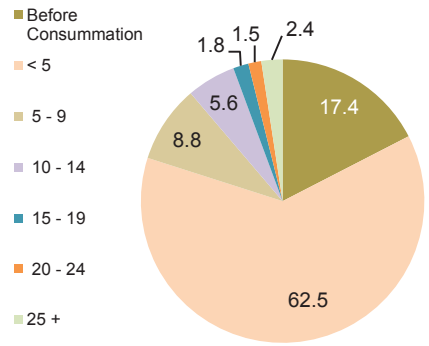
### Divorces by Duration of Wife's Married Life and Husband's Nationality

Figure (14-a) indicates that most divorce cases by duration of married life in 2020 occurred during the first five years of marriage and also before marriage consummation, the fact that accounts for the increase in minor irrevocable divorce and revocable divorce as previously mentioned.

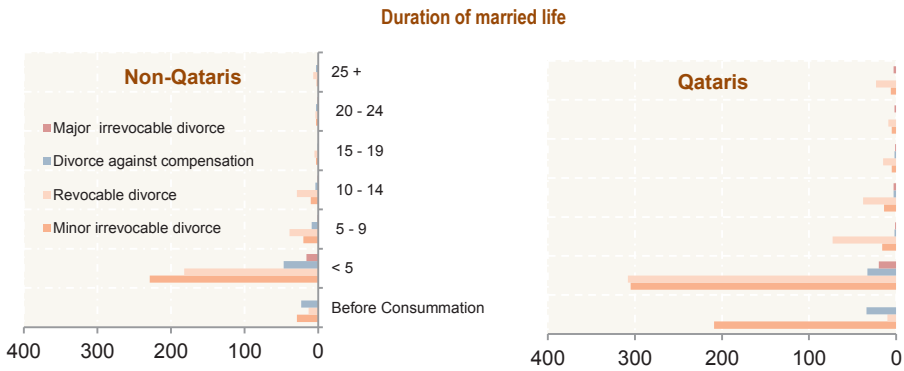
*Increase of divorce cases during the first five years of marriage.*

The divorce rate during the first five years and before marriage consummation amounted to 79.9% 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 divorce cases by duration of married life. The figure further shows a decrease in the percentage of divorcees whose married life ranged between 5 and 9 years, representing 8.8% of total divorces in 2020 compared to 13.4% in 2019. In general, the divorce rates decreased steadily over the course of married life in 2020, as was the case in 2019.

**Figure No. (14-A)** *Divorce cases by duration of wife's married life, 2020*



**Figure No. (14-B)** *Divorce cases by type of divorce, duration of married life and nationality of husband, 2020*



The divorce cases during the first four years of marriage and before marriage consummation were the highest compared to other durations of married life.

Figure (15) indicates that 77.7% of divorces that occurred before marriage consummation were minor irrevocable divorces, whereas revocable divorces made up 4.7% and divorce against compensation “khula” 17.6% of total divorces before marriage consummation, with no major irrevocable divorces before marriage consummation.

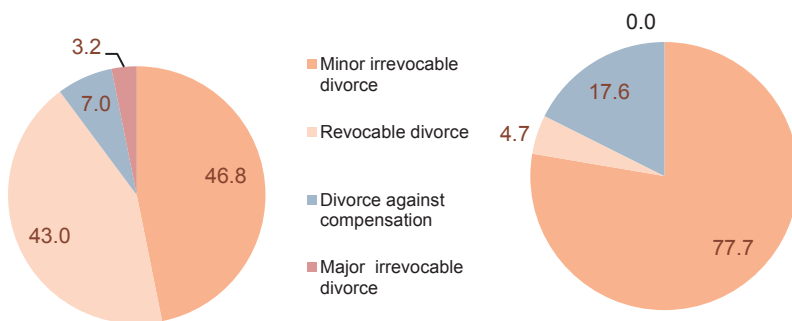
As for the first four years of marriage, minor irrevocable divorces made up the highest percentage of divorce cases with 46.8%, while revocable divorces made up 43%. Divorce against compensation “khula” and major irrevocable divorces constituted 7% and 3.2%, respectively.

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

As for the divorce cases during the first four years of marriage, the highest number of divorces was among age group (25-29 years) for Qatari females and males alike.

With regard to Qatari and non-Qatari husbands, the highest rate of divorce before marriage 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 (35-39 years) for non-Qatari males.

**Figure No. (15)** *Divorce cases by type of divorce during first four years of marriage and before consummation, 2020*

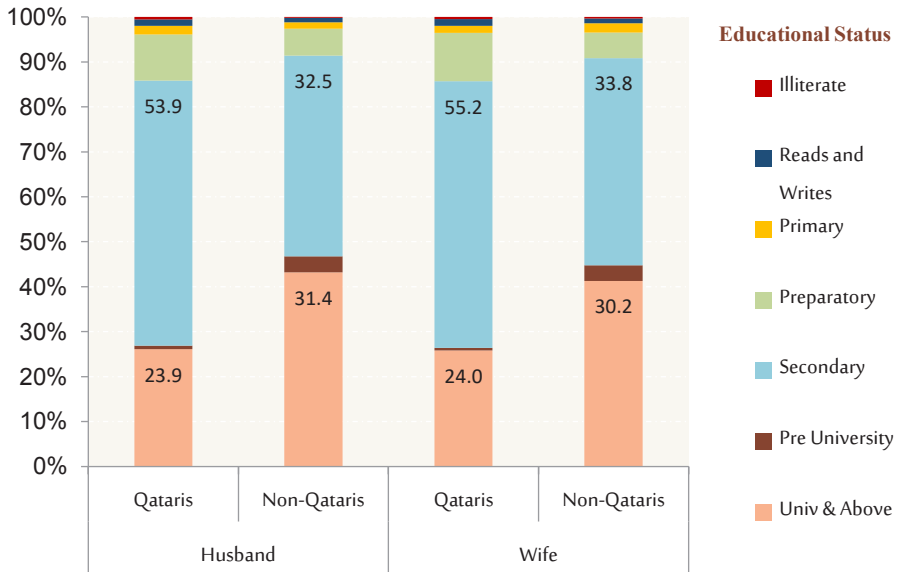


### Divorces by Spouse's Educational Status and Nationality

Figure (16) shows the divorcee's educational status (males and females). It is clear that the highest percentage of Qatari divorcees was among secondary school graduates, with 572 cases for Qatari females and 617 for Qatari males (55.2% and 53.9%, respectively).

As for non-Qatari females, the secondary school graduate category made up the highest percentage of total Non-Qatari divorced women by 33.8%, whereas non-Qatari male divorcees with secondary school certificate made up 32.5% of total non-Qatari male divorcees.

**Figure No. (16)** *Divorce cases by educational status of spouses 2020*

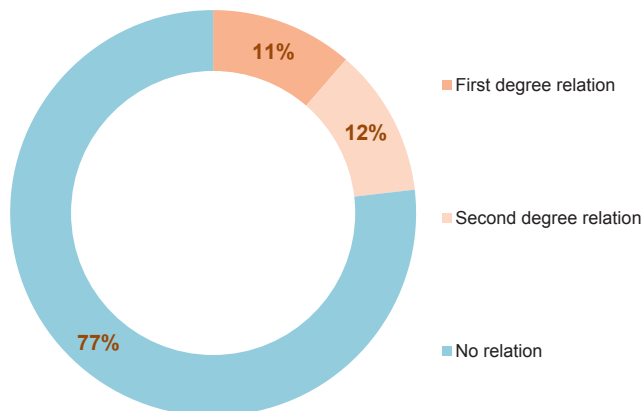


## Divorces among Qataris by Kinship

Figure (17) which indicates the relationship between divorce cases and kinship among Qatari consanguineous spouses, shows that divorce cases among Qatari non-consanguineous spouses were the highest (77%), whereas divorce cases among first degree and second degree relatives made up 23% of total divorces by kinship. The divorce rate decreased as the kinship increased (11% for first degree relatives, compared to 12% for second degree relatives).

*About 23% of Qatari divorce cases were among consanguineous spouses*

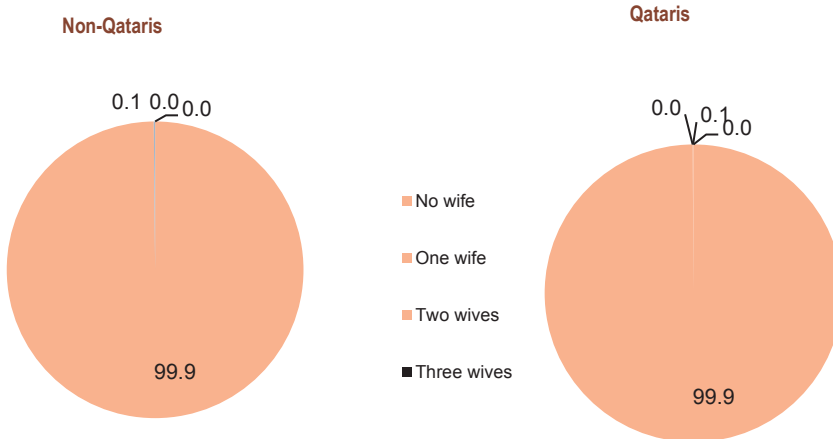
**Figure No. (17)** *Divorce cases by kinship between spouses, 2020*



## Divorces by Number of Wives Still Under Marriage Bond and Nationality

Figure (18) shows the divorce cases by number of wives still under marriage bond, indicating that all divorce cases in 2020 took place among those who had no other wives under marriage bond, accounting for 99.9% of total divorce cases for both Qatari and non-Qatari husbands. Divorce cases among those who had one or more wives under marriage bond made up only 0.1% for both Qatari and non-Qatari husbands in all cases.

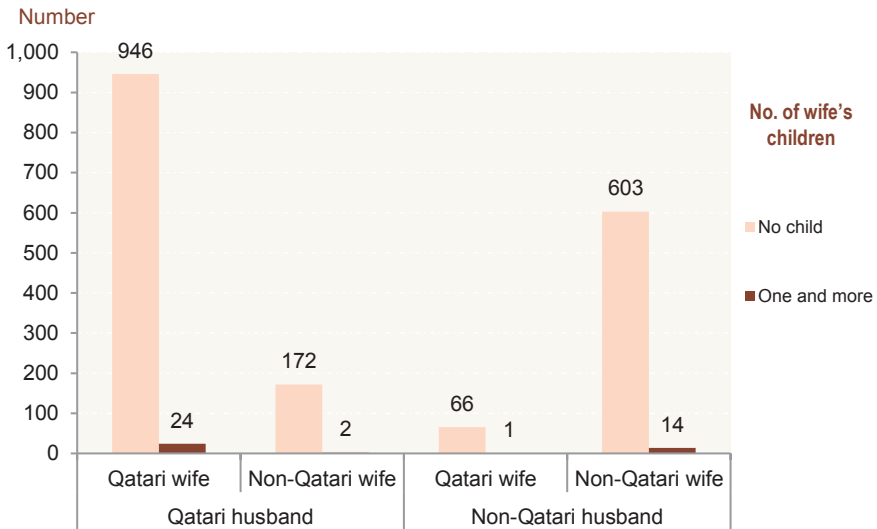
**Figure No. (18)** *Divorce cases by number of wives still under marriage bond, 2020*



## Divorces by Spouse's Nationality and Number of Wife's Children

Figure (19) shows the divorces by number of children for both Qataris and non-Qataris, indicating that the majority of divorces in 2020 occurred between spouses with no children amounting to 97.8% of total divorces by number of children. The divorce rates between spouses who had children were convergent and less than 1%, 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 cases by nationality of spouses and number of wife's children, 2020*





# TABLES



