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Statistical release

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PREFACE

This statistical release presents information on civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions that were registered in 2013 in the South African national marriage registration systems maintained by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). It highlights trends in the number of marriages and unions as well as demographic and other dynamics amongst married partners. The release also reports on divorces that were granted in 2013 by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD). It focuses on trends in divorces; demographic and occupational characteristics of the plaintiffs; age at the time of divorce; duration of marriage at the time of divorce and divorces involving couples with minor children.

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KEY FINDINGS

1. Introduction

There are three main sources of marriage and divorce statistics in South Africa; namely, those compiled from population censuses; household sample surveys and administrative data (i.e. those compiled from vital registration systems and administrative records). The data from these sources give different aspects of information on marriages and divorces in the country. Census and survey data are by nature subjective individual information that provides cross-sectional data on individuals' marital status (never married, married, divorced, widowed, etc). Therefore, marriages and divorces in this context cover different types of marriages and associated divorces that took place at different periods in people's lives. However, not all types of marriages and divorces are registered.

Unlike in census and survey data, registered marriages and divorces data are based on continuous recording of these events as they take place. Not all marriages are registered in South Africa, as some are not recognised by law. The three types of marriages that are recognised by law are civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions. Marriages concluded in accordance with Hindu, Islamic or other religious rites are excluded. The management of registered marriages and unions is the responsibility of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) under the following legislations:

- Civil marriages are administered through the Marriages Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) as amended, and its associated regulations.
- Customary marriages are governed by the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) that came into effect on 15 November 2000.
- The Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006) governs civil unions and it came into operation on 30 November 2006.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes data on marriages for South African citizens and permanent residents that are collected through the civil registration systems of DHA. Before 2008, the data in the annual release *Marriages and divorces* (P0307) covered only civil marriages. However in 2009, Stats SA started publishing available data on customary marriages and civil unions. The registration of customary marriages and civil unions began in 2003 and 2007 respectively.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD) is responsible for handling matters relating to the dissolution of registered marriages (civil and customary) and civil unions. This responsibility of the department is mandated through:

- The Divorce Act, 1979 (Act No.70 of 1979), as amended; and
- The Jurisdiction of Regional Courts Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No. 31 of 2008), which came into effect on 9 August 2010.

Data on divorces are obtained from the various courts that deal with divorce matters. The data are based on successful divorce cases that have been issued with a decree of divorce. Divorce cases came from marriages that were registered in different years as well as divorce cases that were filed in different years but whose divorce decrees were granted in the same year. It should be noted that although both the data on the marriages and divorces are collected in the same year, the data sets are not linked to each other.

2. Marriages

2.1 Civil marriages

2.1.1 Trends in civil marriages (2003–2013)

Information provided in Table 1 on page 19 shows that a total of 158 642 civil marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents were registered at the Department of Home Affairs in 2013. This number includes 558 (0,4%) marriages of South African citizens and permanent residents that were solemnised outside the borders of South Africa but subsequently registered in South Africa. The table further shows that the number of registered marriages fluctuated between 2003 and 2008, after which there was a consistent decline. During the period 2003 to 2013, the highest number of marriages was recorded in 2008 (186 522) and the lowest number in 2013 (158 642). The 2013 figure of 158 642 civil marriages shows a decrease of 1,5% from the 161 112 marriages recorded in 2012. In 2013, the crude civil marriage rate was 3,0 per 1 000 estimated resident population¹.

The seasonal monthly variation in the registration of civil marriages is observed in Figure 1 on page 9. Generally, the warmer months (beginning from September and peaking in December) are the most popular months for solemnising marriages. The results also show that solemnisation of marriages tend to peak in either March or April depending on the month of Easter holidays for that particular year. In 2013, the highest number of marriages [26 719 (16,8%)] took place in December compared to July, which recorded the lowest number of marriages, [9 776 (6,2%)].

2.1.2 Solemnisation of civil marriages

The Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961) requires that only licensed marriage officers solemnise civil marriages and issue a marriage certificate. Civil marriages are generally solemnised by civil marriage officers at the offices of the DHA and by religious marriage officers at chapels or religious buildings. After a solemnisation ceremony, the marriage officer issues the couple with an abridged hand-written marriage certificate, at no cost, and submits the marriage register at the DHA office where he/she is registered, for the recording of the marriage particulars in the National Population Register (NPR).

Table 2 on page 20 shows the distribution of civil marriages registered in 2013 according to the way in which the marriage was solemnised. Under 'way of solemnisation' the terms: (i) 'DHA' is used for marriages solemnised by civil marriage officers and (ii) 'Religious' for marriages solemnised by priests/religious persons who are marriage officers. It is observed that more than half, 84 702 (53,4%) of the 158 642 marriages were solemnised by DHA marriage officers and 47 748 (30,1%) by 'Religious' rites. The type of solemnisation rite was not specified in 26 192 (16,5%) marriages.

The table also provides information on the province of marriage registration. The province of registration is not necessarily the province of usual residence of the couple since couples could marry at any place of their choice. The results further indicate that, in 2013, the highest number of marriages was registered in Gauteng [36 407 (23,0%)] and the lowest in Northern Cape [4 763 (3,0%)]. North West (76,9%) had the highest proportion of marriages solemnised by civil marriage officers whereas Western Cape recorded the highest proportion (49,9%) of marriages solemnised by religious marriage officers. Wide differences of 'unspecified' way of solemnisation by province were noted. For example, 38,2% of marriages in Mpumalanga had unspecified way of solemnisation compared with 1,6% in North West.

¹ The crude civil marriage rate refers to the number of civil marriages per 1 000 persons in the population

2.1.3 Marital status at the time of civil marriage

Data presented in Table 3 on page 21 indicate that a majority of the marriages in 2013 for both bridegrooms and brides were first-time marriages. For bridegrooms, there were 130 768 (82,4%) bachelors, 5 482 (3,5%) divorcees and 1 888 (1,2%) widowers. For the brides, 137 778 (86,8%) were spinsters whilst 3 705 (2,3%) were divorcees and 1 546 (1,0%) were widows. The marital status of 20 504 (12,9%) bridegrooms and 15 613 (9,8%) brides were unspecified. Provincial distribution shows that all provinces had the highest proportion of both bridegrooms and brides marrying for the first time, particularly brides in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo where 89,9% and 92,2% respectively were spinsters at the time of marriage.

It is also observed from Table 4 on page 22 that irrespective of their marital status, men generally married women who had never been married (spinsters). Thus, 123 078 (94,1%), 1 259 (1,0%) and 1 134 (0,9%) spinsters, divorcees and widowers respectively married bachelors. In addition, irrespective of the fact that more divorcees and widowers married spinsters, the proportion of male divorcees who married female divorcees (17,6%) was higher than the proportion that married widows (1,0%). Similarly, the proportion of widowers who married widows (15,1%) was higher than the proportion that married female divorcees (1,9%).

2.1.4 Age at the time of civil marriage

Population scientists are interested in the age at first marriage or union because of its theoretical link to exposure to the risk of pregnancy, childbearing and ultimately to fertility. This link tends to be weakened in populations where pre-marital fertility is widespread. Nevertheless, age at first marriage or union continues to be a good proxy for measuring not only fertility but other health and socio-economic indicators relating particularly to the role and status of women in society. The importance of this indicator is, to some extent, underscored in South Africa through the marriage legislations that put restrictions on marriages involving minors (persons under 18 years old). These minors require the consent of a parent, a guardian or a Commissioner of Welfare before entering into a marriage. In addition to the above consent, boys under 18 years and girls under 16 years of age require the consent of the Minister of Home Affairs before they can marry.

In 2013, marriages of 14 bridegrooms and 172 brides aged less than 18 years were registered, with 13 bridegrooms and 160 brides marrying for the first time (see Table 5 on page 23). Furthermore, Figure 2 on page 10 indicates that the highest number of bachelors [35 512 (27,2%)] were aged 30–34 years whereas the highest number of spinsters [44 693 (32,4%)] were aged 25–29 years. There were more spinsters compared to bachelors at younger ages (less than 30 years) and vice versa at older ages (30 years and older).

The overall median ages by year of registration presented in Figure 3a on page 11 shows that the median ages have remained constant for brides (30 years) during the years 2009 to 2013 and increased by one year for bridegrooms (35 years) in 2013. Figure 3a to Figure 3d further show that women generally entered marriage at younger ages than men, with wide age difference between spouses depending on the marital status of couples at the time of current marriage. In addition, the median ages at current marriage was lowest for those marrying for the first time, followed by those widowed and highest for divorcees.

For first time marriages, the median ages for bachelors and spinsters were 33 years and 30 years respectively in 2013, giving an age difference of three years (see Figure 3b). The median ages of brides remained at 30 years throughout the 5-year period between 2009 and 2013, while for bridegrooms the median ages was 34 years between 2009 and 2012 and increased to 35 years in 2013. For remarriages, the median ages for widowers and widows in 2013 (Figure 3c) were 50 years and 30 years respectively, resulting in a twenty-year age gap. The median ages for widowers consistently increased every year from 46 years in 2009 to 50 years in 2013 whereas the median ages for widows were quite stable at 30 years from 2009 to 2013. Median ages at marriage for divorcees are shown in Figure 3d. It is observed that the median ages for male divorcees were generally constant over the five-year period, with an increase of one year from 52 between 2009 and 2012 to 53 in 2013.

In comparison, the median age of female divorcee increased from 46 years in 2009 to 48 years in 2013. There was a five-year age difference in the median ages between male and female divorcees in 2013.

Despite the fact that men tend to marry younger women, data in Table 4 on page 22 indicate that in 2013, 23 834 (15,0%) bridegrooms were younger than their brides whilst 12 226 (7,7%) were of the same age as their brides. This observed age pattern is the same irrespective of the marital status of the bridegroom at the time of marriage (see Figures 4a to 4c). However, the magnitude differs by the marital status of the spouses at the time of marriage.

For example, 44,1% of bachelors who married divorcees were younger than their brides (see Figure 4a) and 14,3% of male divorcees who married widowed women were also younger than their brides (see Figure 4c). A relatively smaller percentage (5,8%) was observed for male divorcees marrying spinsters who were older than them (Figure 4c).

2.2 Customary marriages

2.2.1 Trends in the registration of customary marriages (2003–2013)

In 2013, 3 498 customary marriages were registered at the Department of Home Affairs, indicating a decline of 23,2% from 4 555 customary marriages registered in 2012. It is observed from Table 6 on page 26 that the number of registered customary marriages fluctuated between 2003 and 2007 after which there was a consistent decline. The highest number of registered customary marriages was recorded in 2004 (20 301) whilst the least number was recorded in 2013 (3 498). The crude customary marriage rate was 0,1 per 1 000 estimated resident population in 2013².

The Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998) prescribes that customary marriages entered after the commencement of this Act must be registered within a period of three months after the conclusion of the marriage and those entered before the Act to be registered within 12 months of the commencement of the Act. Figure 5 on page 14 shows that the majority of customary marriages were registered later than the year of marriage. During the period from 2009 to 2013, the proportion of marriages that were registered in the same year they took place, ranged from 6,2% in 2009 to 18,6% in 2013, indicating a modest increase over time.

2.2.2 Marital status at the time of customary marriage

Since the Customary Marriages Act of 1998 recognises polygamy, a husband who has registered his marriage under the Act is permitted to register additional marriages under the Act provided he adheres to the regulations under the Act regarding his property. That is, at his own cost, the husband has to get an order from a competent court that will regulate his future matrimonial property system. It would be of interest to distinguish between first-time spouses and those who have married before (i.e. those in polygamous marriages, divorcees, widows and widowers). However, in the absence of data on marital status at the time of the registration of customary marriage, this distinction cannot be made.

2.2.3 Age at the time of customary marriage

The age distribution of bridegrooms and brides at the time of customary marriage is presented on Table 8 on page 28. In 2013, there were 9 (0,3%) bridegrooms and 79 (2,3%) brides who were younger than 18 years. The median ages at the time of customary marriage are presented in Figure 6 on page 15. Similar to civil marriages, bridegrooms were generally older than brides, with an age difference of about five to six years for customary marriages registered between 2009 and 2013.

² The crude customary marriage rate refers to the number of customary marriages per 1 000 persons in the population

For both bridegrooms and brides, median ages at the time of customary marriage increased gradually over time. Median ages of bridegrooms increased from 31 years in 2009 to 33 years in 2013 and those for brides increased from 25 years to 28 years during the same period. A further comparison of the ages of bridegrooms and brides (see Figure 7 on page 15) shows that in 2013, 84,2% of bridegrooms were older than their brides whilst 10,6% were younger than their brides and 5,2% were of the same age.

The results presented in Table 7 on page 27 show that in 2013, the highest number of customary marriages was registered in KwaZulu-Natal [2 391 (68,4%)], followed by Limpopo [312 (8,9%)] and Eastern Cape [281 (8,0%)]. Northern Cape had the lowest number of customary marriages with 100% of bridegrooms older than their brides. Limpopo recorded the second highest number of bridegrooms older than their brides [285 (91,4%)].

2.3 Civil unions

2.3.1 Trends in the registration of civil unions (2009–2013)

Data in Table 9 on page 31 show that in 2013, 993 civil unions were registered (including the registration of four civil unions of South African citizens and permanent residents living outside South Africa). In 2013, the crude civil union rate was 0,02 per 1 000 estimated resident population³. In general, the number of civil unions registered in South Africa increased from 760 in 2009 to 888 in 2010, then declined marginally to 867 in 2011 and increased by 0,6% from 987 in 2012 to 993 in 2013. The provincial distribution of civil unions registered in 2013 indicates that Gauteng (411) and Western Cape (320) were the provinces with the highest number of registrations of civil unions. In total, nearly three quarters (73,6%) of civil unions in 2013 were registered in these two provinces. The lowest number of registered civil unions was recorded in North West from 2009 to 2012 while Limpopo recorded the lowest in 2013, with six civil unions registered.

2.3.2 Marital status at the time of civil union

It would be of interest to distinguish between first time spouses and those who had married before (i.e. divorcees, widows and widowers) and the type of marriage relationship they were in. However, this information is not available at the DHA.

2.3.3 Age at the time of civil union

Spouses are distinguished as spouse-1 and spouse-2, based on the information completed by the spouses at the time of civil union registration. The number of civil unions classified by the ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 at the time of the solemnisation of civil union is presented in Table 10 on page 32. It is observed that there were two spouses-1 and six spouses-2 that were younger than 20 years old.

As observed in Figure 8 on page 16, the median ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 at the time of solemnisation of the civil union declined since 2009. Furthermore, the median ages of spouses-1 were greater than those of spouses-2. Over the five-year period, the yearly differences in the median ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 ranged between two and four years. The median ages of spouses-1 declined by two years from 38 years in 2009 to 36 years in 2013. The median ages of spouses-2 remained the same with 34 years in 2009 to 2013 except in 2012 where the median age of spouses-2 was 33 years. Data in Figure 9 on page 16 further show that spouses-1 were generally older than spouses-2. In 2013, 59,6% of spouses-1 were older than their spouses, whilst 33,1% were younger than their spouses and 7,3% were of the same age as their spouses.

³ The crude civil union rate refers to the number of civil unions per 1 000 persons in the population

3. Divorces

3.1 Trends in divorces (2003 – 2013)

The 2013 divorce data reported in this statistical release are based on 23 885 completed divorce forms that Stats SA had received and processed by the end of December 2014. The crude divorce rate was 0,4 divorces per 1 000 estimated resident population in 2013⁴. The number (23 885) indicates an increase of 1 887 (8,6%) divorces from the 21 998 cases processed in 2012 (see Table 11 on page 35). The table shows that the total number of divorces generally fluctuated over the period 2003 to 2013, with the highest number observed in 2005 (32 484) and the lowest in 2011 (20 980).

Table 11 further provides data on divorces classified by population group and the year in which the divorce was granted. Couples from the white population group dominated the number of divorces from 2003 to 2007; thereafter, the black African couples had the highest number of divorces up until 2013. In 2003, 40,0% of the divorcees were from the white population group whereas 24,3% came from the black African population group.

By 2013, 36,2% of the divorcees were from the black African population group and 31,7% from the white population group. The proportions of the divorcees from the coloured and the Indian/Asian population groups were quite invariable during the eleven-year period. However, there was a notable increase in the proportions of divorcees from the Indian/Asian population group (from 4,7% in 2012 to 6,0% in 2013) which may have affected the results.

3.2 Characteristics of plaintiffs

The 2013 data presented in Table 12 on page 36 show that more wives 12 083 (50,6%) than husbands 8 014 (33,5%) initiated the divorce. The sex of the plaintiff was not specified in 3 788 (15,9%) of divorces. With the exception of women from the black African population who had a lower proportion of plaintiffs (42,9%), the proportion of women plaintiffs from the other population groups was above 50,0%. White population group 56,4%, coloured population group 55,7% and Indian/Asian population group 51,9% were women. However, it should also be noted that the black African population group had a much higher proportion of divorces with unspecified sex of the plaintiff (20,8%).

Table 13 on page 36 provides information on the occupation of the plaintiffs. It is noted that a high proportion of the plaintiffs (13,8% of the men and 20,9% of the women) did not indicate the type of occupation they were engaged in at the time of divorce. In addition, 28,2% and 30,5% of the men and women respectively were not economically active at the time of divorce.

In 2013, most plaintiffs were in clerical and sales occupations (12,7%); managers and administrators (8,9%) and 7,5% in professional, semi-professional and technical occupations. Some differences were observed regarding the type of occupation of men and women. The men who initiated the divorce were largely managers and administrators (14,9%) while the women were mainly in clerical and sales occupations (20,0%).

3.3 Number of divorces by way of solemnisation of marriage

Data presented in Table 14 on page 37 show that 4 499 (18,8%) of the 2013 divorce cases were from marriages that were solemnised by religious rites and 18 371 (76,9%) by 'civil' rites. In comparison, the marriages that were eventually dissolved were mostly solemnised by civil rites, which also follows from the fact that most marriages are solemnised by 'civil' rites. A similar pattern was also found among all population groups, although the magnitude differs. Over 90% of divorces for the black African (92,0%) and the coloured (91,3%) population groups were solemnised by 'civil' rites, compared to 85,8% for Indians/Asians and 52,4% for the white population groups.

⁴ The crude divorce rate refers to the number of divorces per 1 000 persons in the population

3.4 Number of times married

Results presented in Table 15 on page 37 shows that the 2013 divorce cases for both men and women were mainly from individuals who had married once. About 80,0% of divorces for men and women were from first-time marriages compared to about 10,0% from second-time marriages. Around 2,0% of men and women were getting divorced for at least the third time.

3.5 Age at the time of divorce

The median ages at divorce in 2013 were 43 years for men and 39 years for women, indicating that generally, men were older than women, with a difference of about four years. The pattern of median ages in 2013 by population group (see Figure 10 on page 17) shows that black African men had the highest median age of 44 years while women from the Indian/Asian and mixed population groups had the lowest median age (37 years). The difference in the median ages at the time of divorce for men and women was higher among the black African population groups (five years) than among the other population groups.

Detailed information on age by population groups and sex is presented in Figure 11 on page 17 for males and in Figure 12 on page 18 for females as well as in Tables 15 and 16 on pages 37 and 38 respectively. Although there were differences in the ages at which most men and women from the various population groups divorced, the age patterns were quite similar. The data reveal that there were fewer divorces among the younger (less than 25 years old) and the older (65 years and older) divorcees. For men, the peak age group at divorce was 35 to 39 for Indian/Asian population group while the peak for the black African, white and coloured population groups was 40 to 44 (Figure 11). In the case of women, the peak age group for coloured and white population groups was 40 to 44 and the black African and Indian/Asian was 35 to 39 and 30 to 34 respectively (Figure 12).

3.6 Duration of marriage of divorcing couples

Statistics from the annual divorce data do not give a comprehensive picture of the number of marriages ending in divorce. However, the annual divorce Table 18 on page 40 and Table 19 on page 41 show the number of divorces by duration of marriage for divorces granted in 2013 for men and women respectively.

The largest number [6 729 (28,2%)] of the divorces were for marriages that lasted between five and nine years. This group is followed by marriages that lasted less than five years [4 639 (19,4%)]. Thus, almost half (47,6%) of the 23 885 divorces in 2013 were marriages that lasted for less than 10 years.

According to results given in Figure 13 on page 18, irrespective of the population group, the highest proportion of divorces occurred to couples who had married for five to nine years. Thus 33,5% of divorces from the black African; 28,0% from the coloured; 25,1% from the Indian/Asian and 26,4% from the white population groups were marriages that lasted between five and ten years. For the white population an equally high proportion (24,5%) of divorces occurred in the first five years. Furthermore, for all population groups, after nine years of marriage, the proportion of divorces declined as the duration of marriage increased.

3.7 Divorces involving couples with minor children

In 2013, 12 999 (54,4%) of the 23 885 divorces had children younger than 18 years (see Table 20 on page 42). Apart from the mixed population group, the coloured and the white population groups had the highest (64,0%) and the lowest (46,6%) percentages respectively. As provided in Table 21 on page 42, the distribution of the number of children affected by divorce shows that 38,8% were from the black African population group; 27,0% from the white population group and 19,9% from the coloured population group. There were 21 073 children affected by divorce indicating that, on average, there was one child per divorce.

4. Summary and concluding remarks

This statistical release provided information on civil and customary marriages, civil unions and divorces for 2013, based on data from the South African national marriage registration systems of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and data of divorces granted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. The information on marriages and divorces is important for understanding the formation and dissolution of marriage relationships.

In total, 158 642 civil marriages were registered in South Africa in 2013, most of which were solemnised by DHA marriage officers. The highest number of civil marriages was registered in Gauteng, followed by Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, and the lowest was registered in Northern Cape. The majority of civil marriages in 2013 for both brides and bridegrooms were first time marriages, with women generally entering into marriage at younger ages than men.

The number of registered customary marriages was 3 498 in 2013, which declined from a total of 4 555 recorded in 2012. The majority of bridegrooms were older than their brides, with the gap in median ages at registration of customary marriage much wider for customary marriages than other types of marriages. Less than one thousand (993) civil unions were registered in South Africa in 2013, most of which were registered in Gauteng and Western Cape, and lowest in Limpopo. Spouses recorded as spouse-1 were usually older than those recorded as spouse-2.

With regard to divorces, the data from the 55 out of the 62 courts that deal with divorce showed that 23 885 divorces were granted in South Africa in 2013. Among these divorcees, there was an increase in the proportion of divorces for black Africans from 2002 to 2008 while the reverse was true for the white population group. Divorces were mainly from people who had married for the first time. There were more female than male plaintiffs although males generally divorced at a later age than females. About 21 073 children aged less than 18 years were affected by divorces that took place in 2013. The Appendix contains the results from the late divorce forms for 2012. 2013 divorce forms that came in late will be processed and the results published in the 2014 release.

Overall, the information provided in this release showed fluctuations over time in the number of marriages, unions and divorces in the country. Areas of improvement in the quality of data were noted, particularly relating to completeness of information pertaining to unspecified province of registration, way of solemnisation and marital status at time of marriage for the data on marriages and civil unions; and unspecified population group and occupation of plaintiff for the divorces data. Concerted efforts are needed from the public, the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Statistics South Africa to improve the quality and content of information on marriages and divorces in South Africa.

Figure 1 – Number of civil marriages by month of solemnisation, 2009–2013

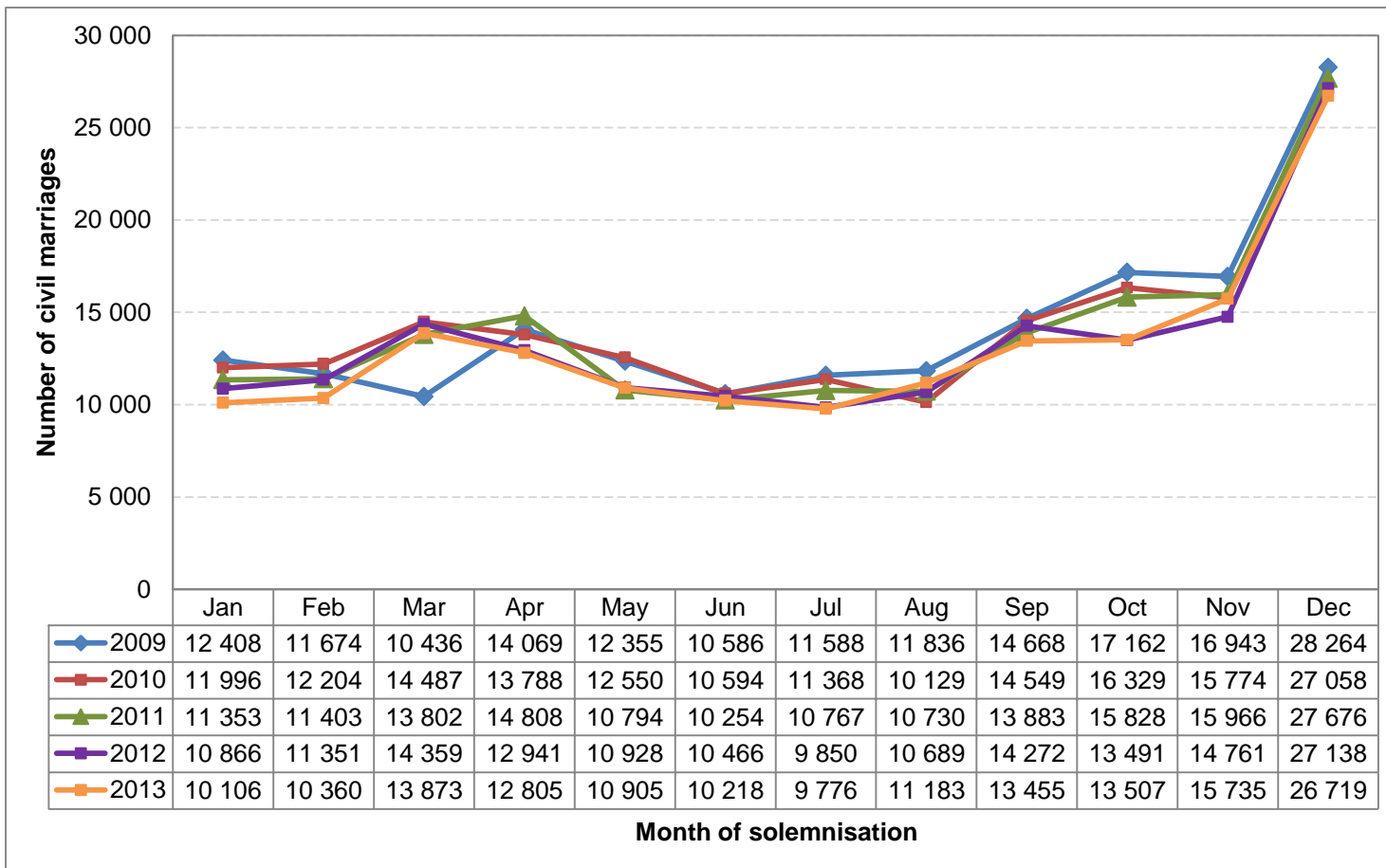
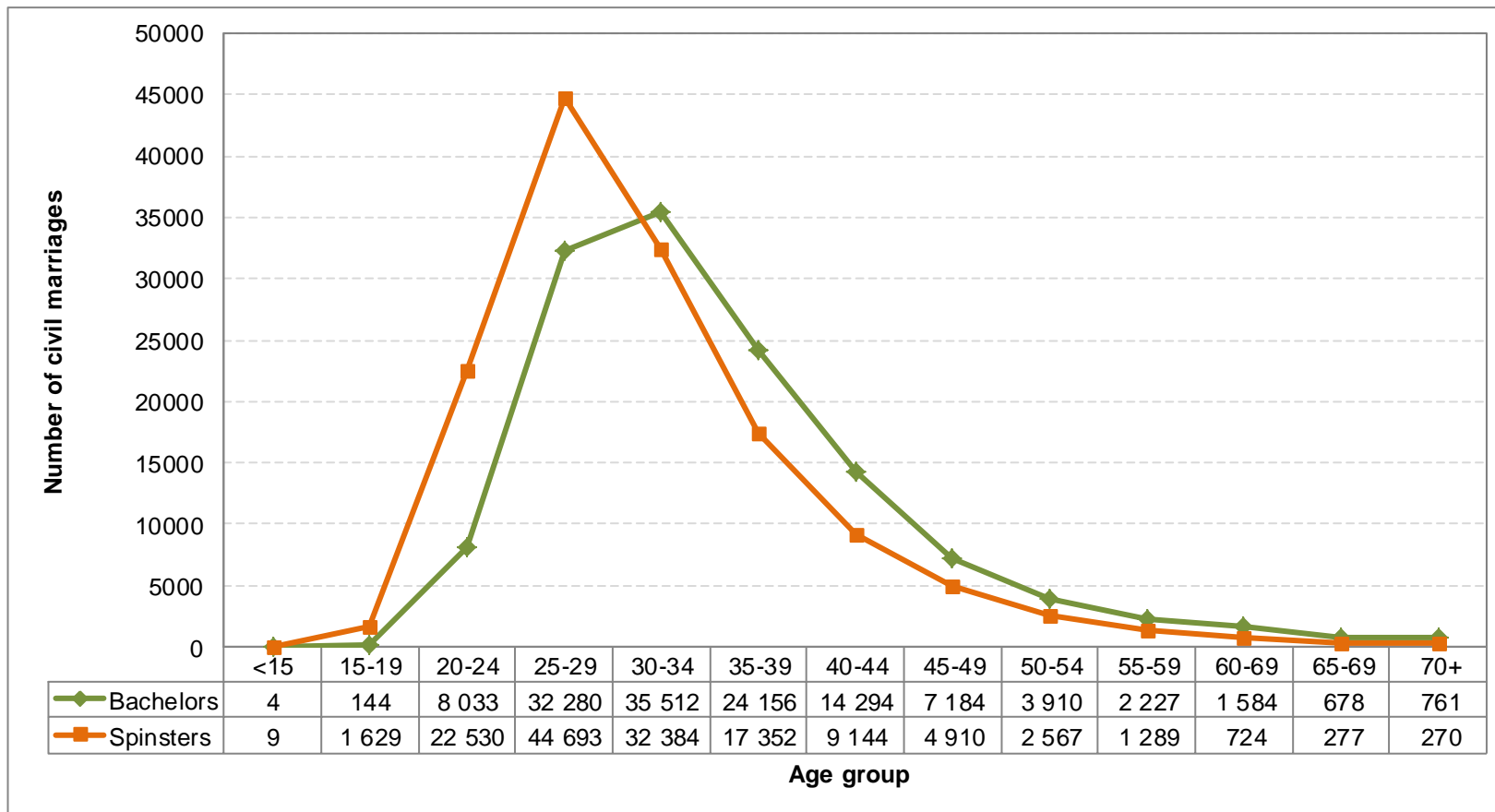


Figure 2 – Number of civil marriages for bachelors and spinsters by age group, 2013



Excluding one case with unspecified age

Figure 3a – Median ages of bridegrooms and brides at the time of civil marriage, 2009–2013

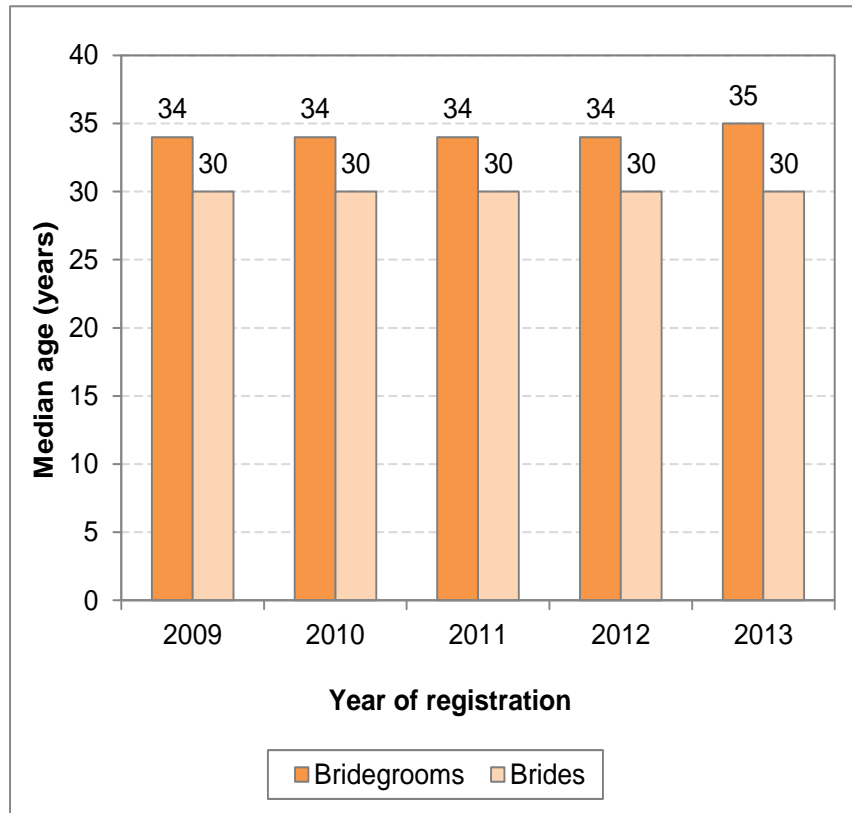


Figure 3b – Median ages of bachelors and spinsters at the time of civil marriage, 2009–2013

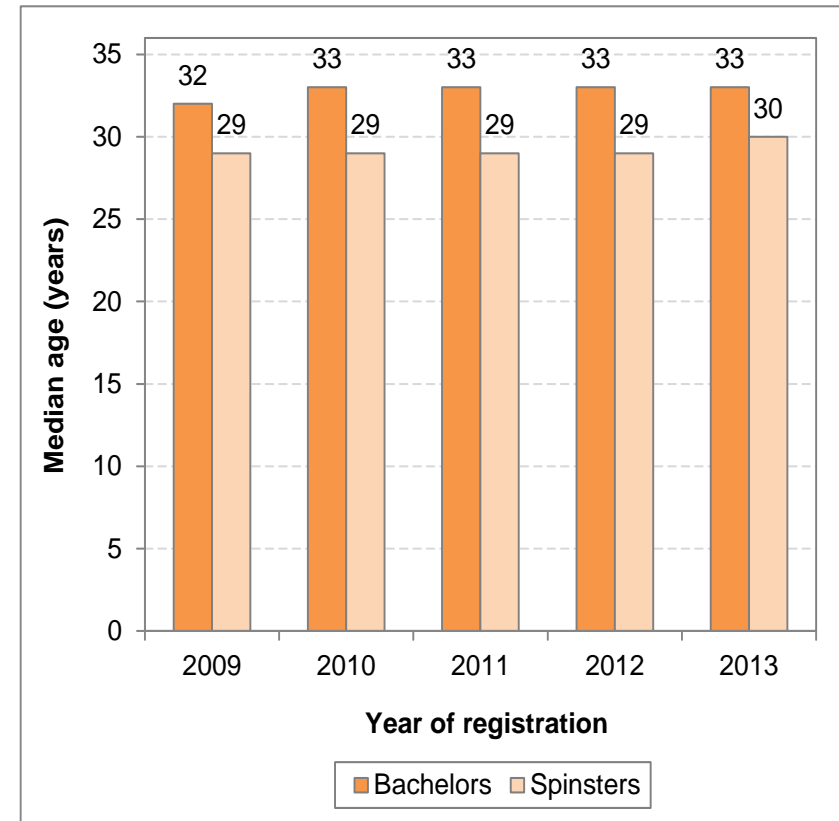


Figure 3c – Median ages of widowers and widows at the time of civil marriage, 2009–2013

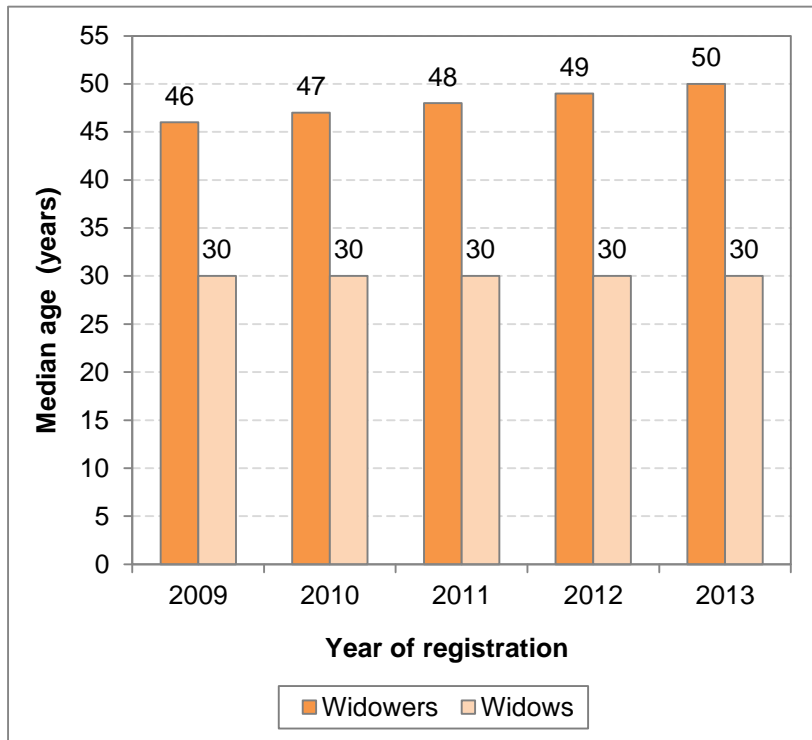


Figure 3d – Median ages of male and female divorcees at the time of civil marriage, 2009–2013

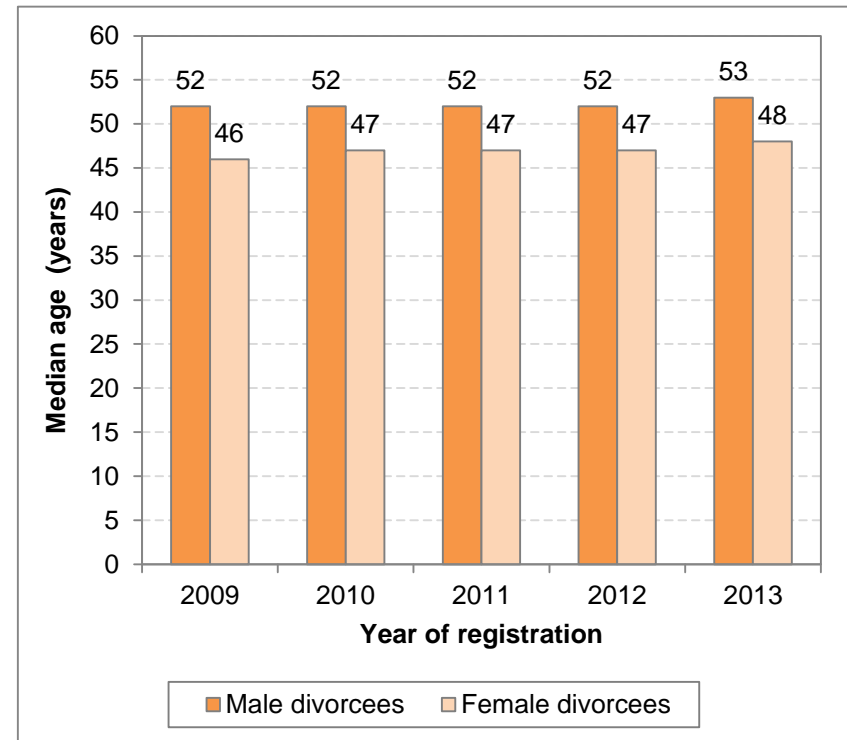
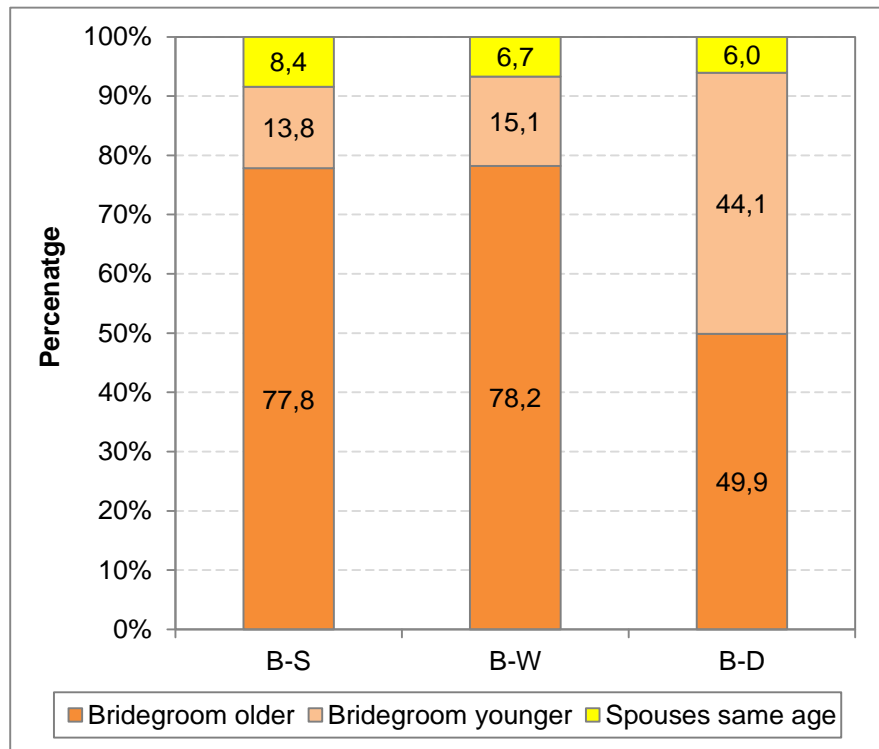
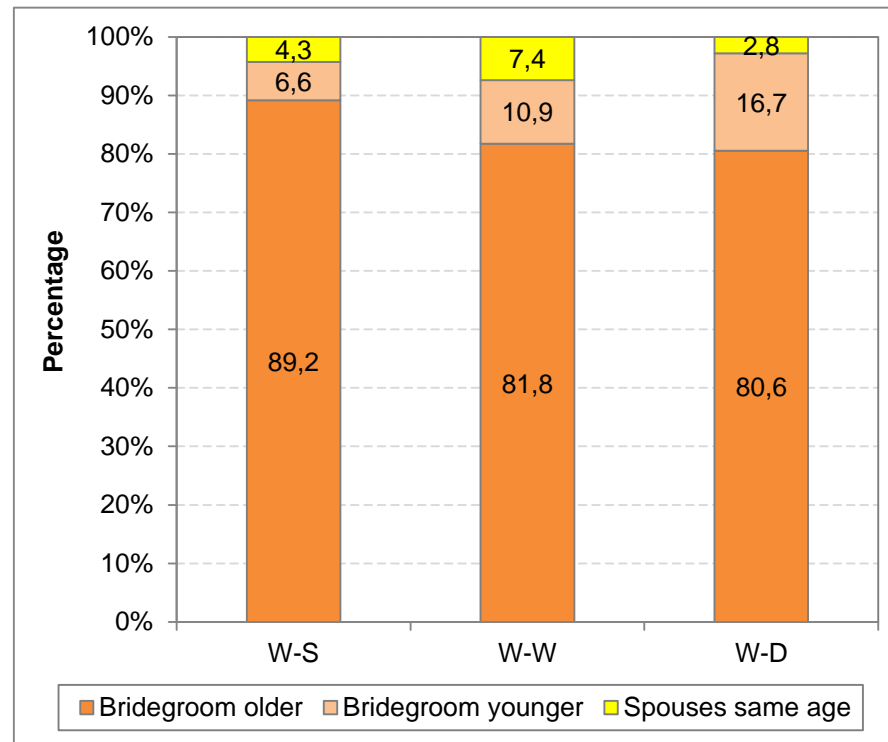


Figure 4a – Percentage distribution of civil marriages by age differences between spouses and marital status at the time of marriage (bachelors), 2013



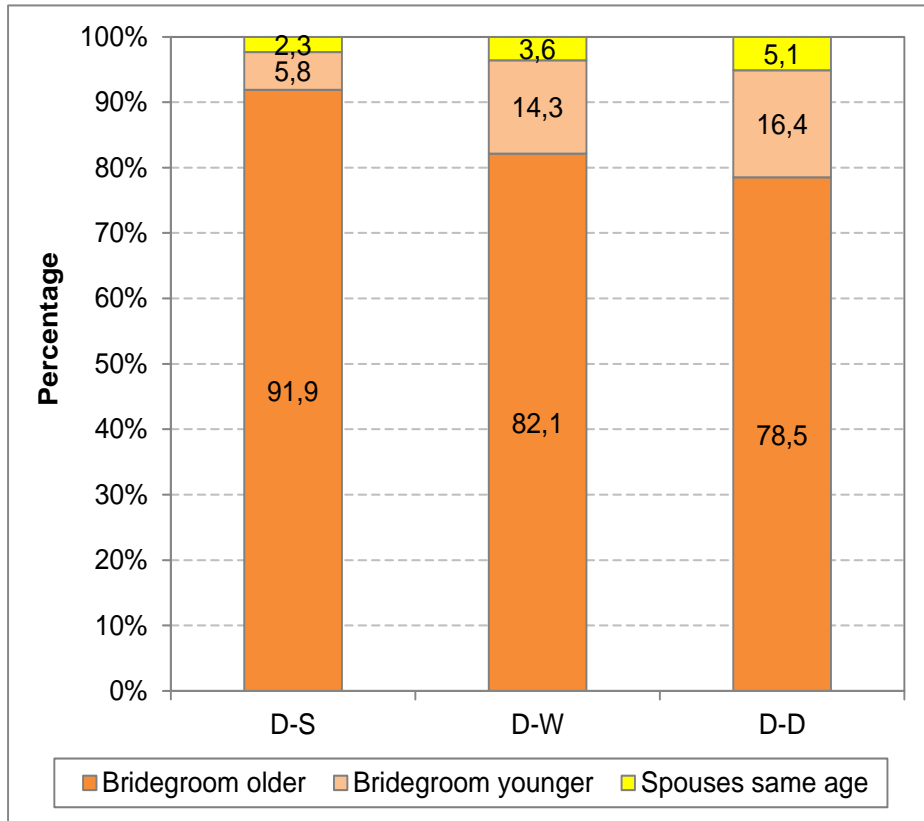
B – S = Bachelor to Spinster
 B – D = Bachelor to Divorcee
 B – W = Bachelor to Widow

Figure 4b – Percentage distribution of civil marriages by age differences between spouses and marital status at the time of marriage (widowers), 2013



W – S = Widower to Spinster
 W – D = Widower to Divorcee
 W – W = Widower to Widow

Figure 4c – Percentage distribution of civil marriages by age differences between spouses and marital status at the time of marriage (male divorcees), 2013



D – S = Divorcee to Spinster
 D – D = Divorcee to Divorcee
 D – W = Divorcees to Widow

Figure 5– Percentage distribution of customary marriages by year of marriage and time it took to register the marriage, 2009–2013



Figure 6 – Median ages of bridegrooms and brides at the time of customary marriage, 2009–2013

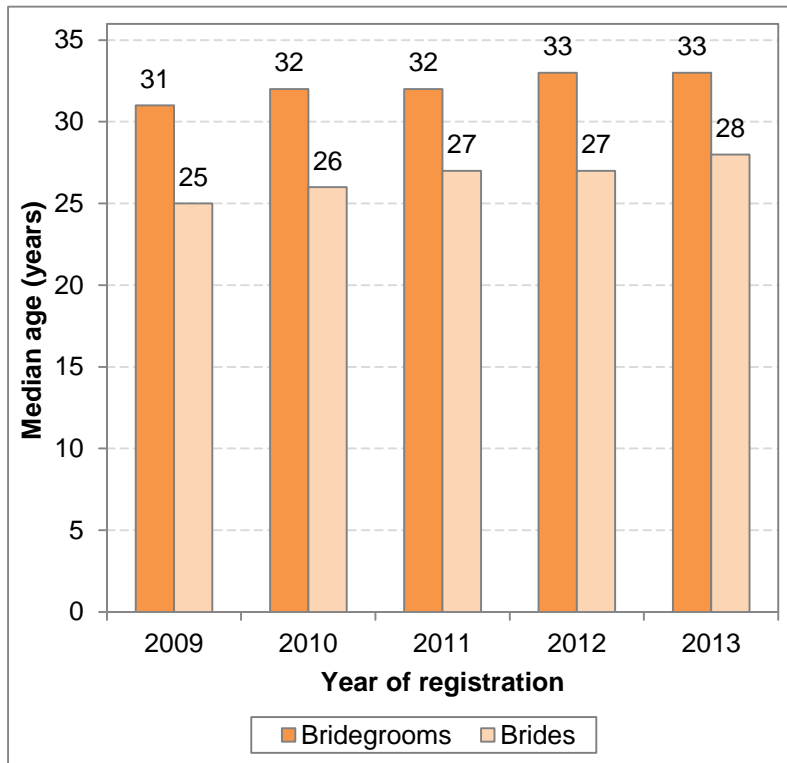


Figure 7 – Percentage distribution of customary marriages by age differences between spouses at the time of marriage, 2009–2013

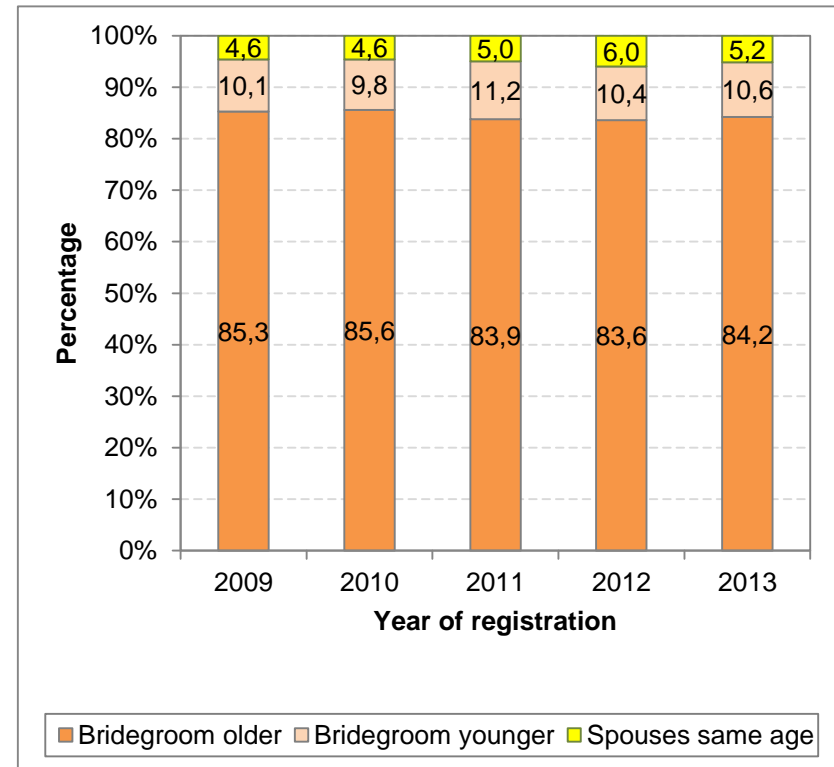


Figure 8 – Median ages of spouses in civil unions, 2009–2013

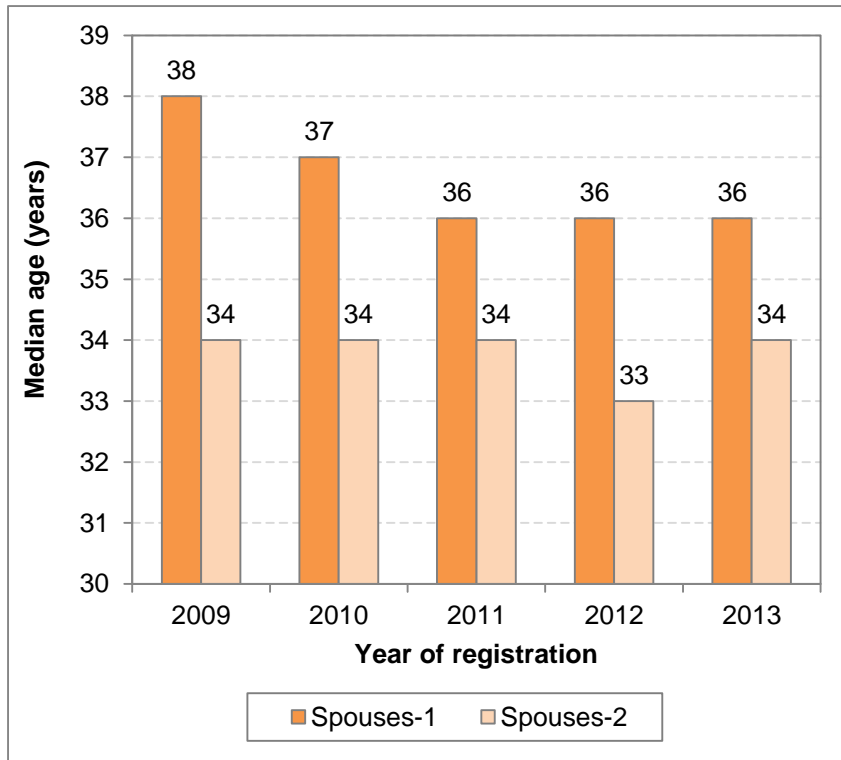


Figure 9 – Percentage distribution of civil unions by age differences between spouses at the time of union, 2009–2013

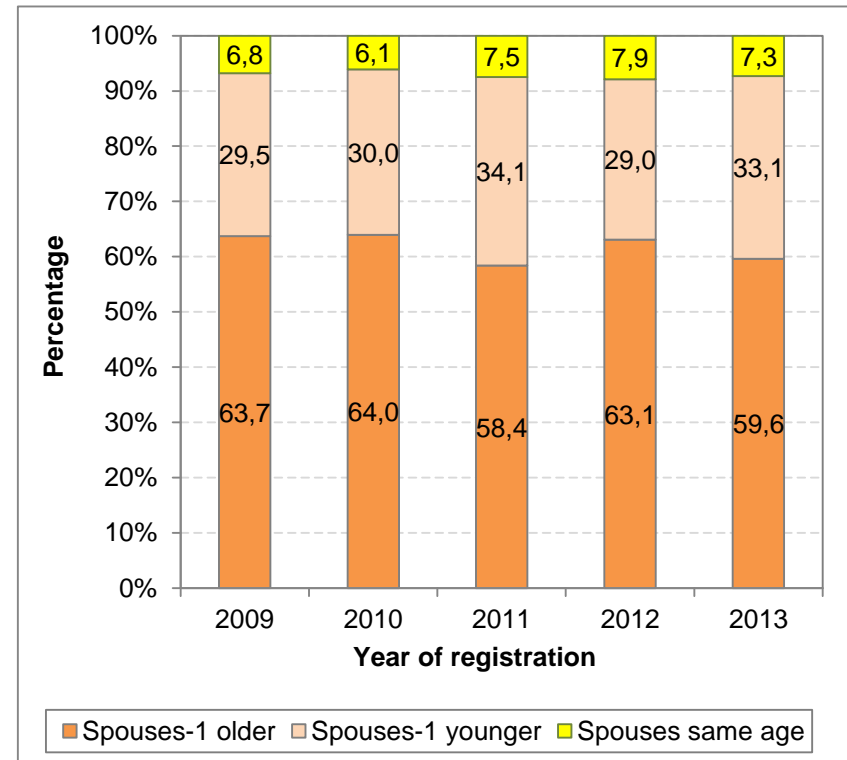


Figure 10 – Median ages of divorcees by sex and population group, 2013

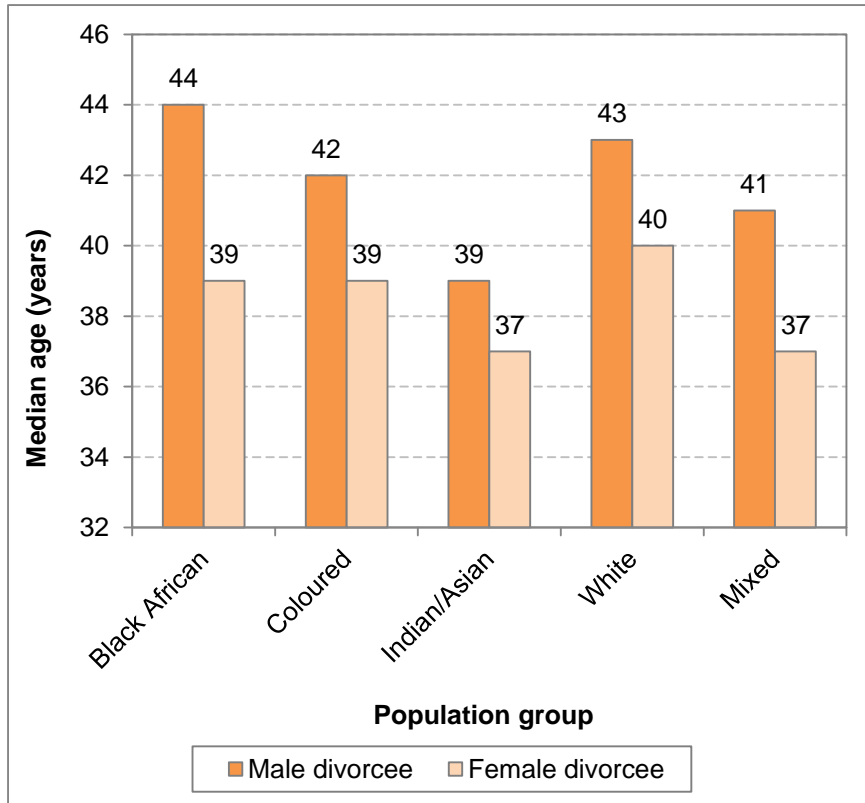


Figure 11 – The proportions of divorces by age and population group (males), 2013

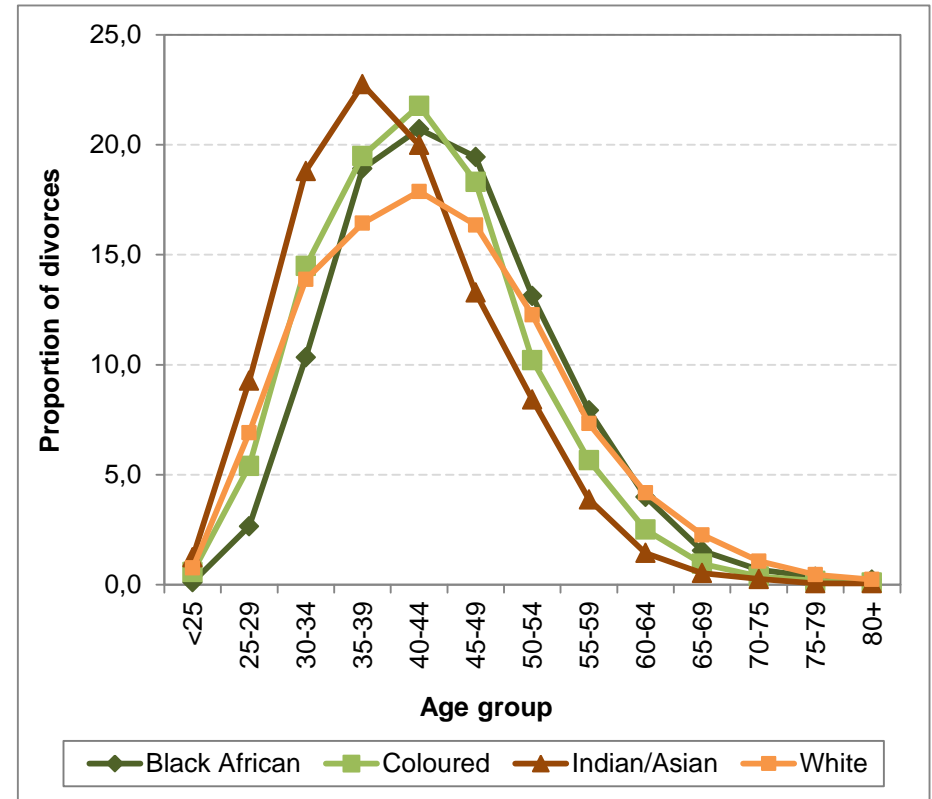


Figure 12– The proportions of divorce by age group and population group (females), 2013

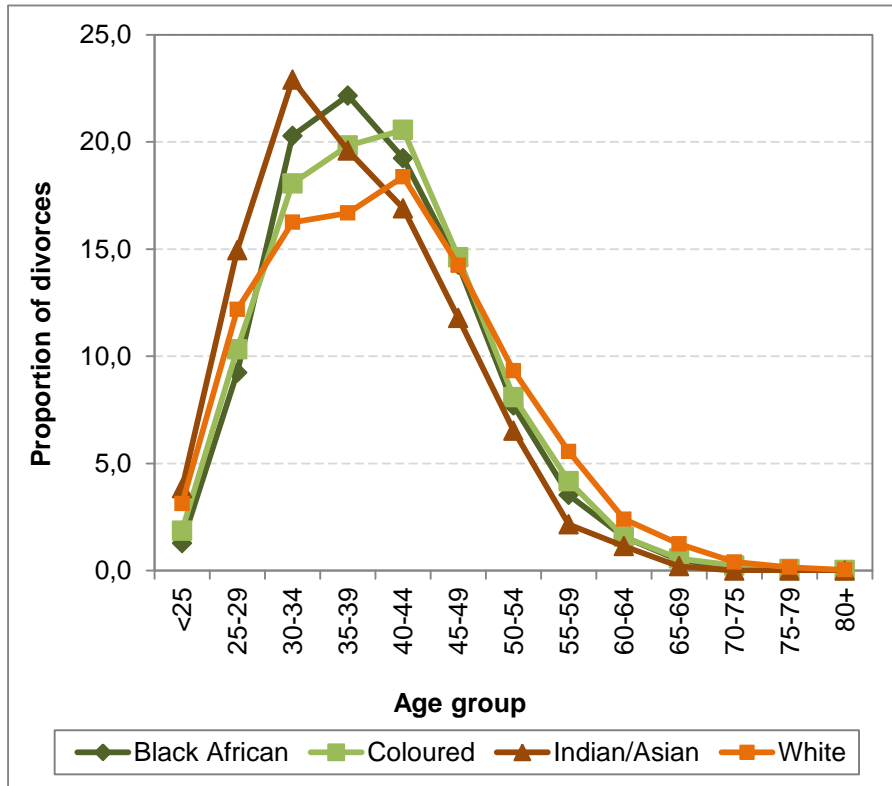


Figure 13 – The proportions of divorces by duration of marriage and population group, 2013

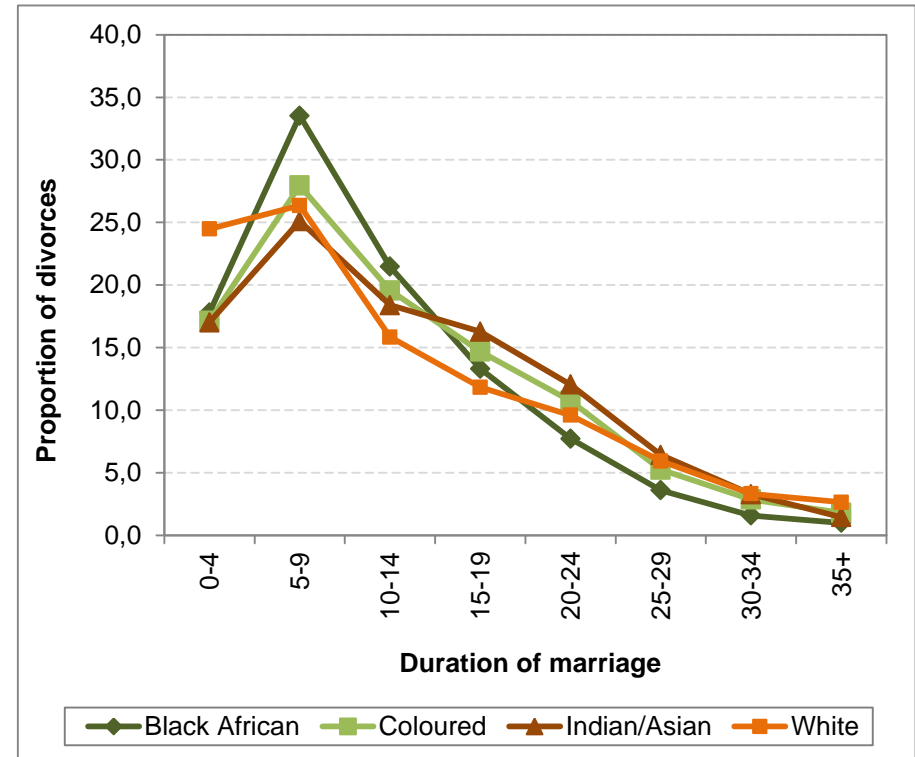


Table 1 – Number of registered civil marriages in South Africa, 2003–2013

Year of registration	Number of civil marriages
2003	178 689
2004	176 521
2005	180 657
2006	184 860
2007	183 030
2008	186 522
2009	171 989
2010	170 826
2011	167 264
2012	161 112
2013	158 642

Table 2 – Number of civil marriages by way of solemnisation and province of marriage registration, 2013

Province of registration	Way of Solemnisation				%			
	Total	DHA	Religious	Unspecified	Total	DHA	Religious	Unspecified
Total	158 642	84 702	47 748	26 192	100,0	53,4	30,1	16,5
Western Cape	25 738	10 264	12 836	2 638	100,0	39,9	49,9	10,3
Eastern Cape	16 970	8 672	5 680	2 618	100,0	51,1	33,5	15,4
Northern Cape	4 763	2 937	1 529	297	100,0	61,7	32,1	6,2
Free State	7 765	5 266	2 293	206	100,0	67,8	29,5	2,7
KwaZulu-Natal	23 739	11 859	7 169	4 711	100,0	50,0	30,2	19,8
North West	10 172	7 821	2 190	161	100,0	76,9	21,5	1,6
Gauteng	36 407	18 123	9 918	8 366	100,0	49,8	27,2	23,0
Mpumalanga	6 675	2 848	1 278	2 549	100,0	42,7	19,2	38,2
Limpopo	9 516	6 568	1 399	1 549	100,0	69,0	14,7	16,3
Outside RSA	558	486	53	19	100,0	87,1	9,5	3,4
Unknown	14 785	8 638	3 343	2 804	100,0	58,4	22,6	19,0
Unspecified	1 554	1 220	60	274	100,0	78,5	3,9	17,6

Table 3 – Number of civil marriages for bridegrooms and brides by marital status at time of marriage and province of marriage registration, 2013

Province of registration	Bridegrooms					Brides				
	Total	Bachelor	Divorcee	Widower	Unspecified	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
Total	158 642	130 768	5 482	1 888	20 504	158 642	137 778	3 705	1 546	15 613
Western Cape	25 738	20 669	851	51	4 167	25 738	21 683	727	35	3 293
Eastern Cape	16 970	14 360	622	180	1 808	16 970	15 184	371	126	1 289
Northern Cape	4 763	3 978	256	18	511	4 763	4 204	141	30	388
Free State	7 765	6 442	312	111	900	7 765	6 742	215	158	650
KwaZulu-Natal	23 739	20 255	826	383	2 275	23 739	21 352	451	279	1 657
North West	10 172	8 457	344	91	1 280	10 172	8 966	265	59	882
Gauteng	36 407	28 810	1 146	434	6 017	36 407	30 240	899	352	4 916
Mpumalanga	6 675	5 485	238	127	825	6 675	5 780	176	93	626
Limpopo	9 516	8 200	250	227	839	9 516	8 771	112	126	507
Outside RSA	558	444	12	3	99	558	470	5	3	80
Unknown	14 785	12270	585	223	1707	14785	12936	320	240	1289
Unspecified	1 554	1 398	40	40	76	1 554	1 450	23	45	36

Table 4 – Number of civil marriages by marital status of husband and age differences between spouses at the time of marriage, 2013

Age difference	Grand Total	Bachelor to					Divorcee to				
		Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
Total	158 642	130 768	123 078	1 259	1 134	5 297	5 482	3 165	963	56	1 298
Bridegroom older	122 582	99 679	95 791	628	887	2 373	4 773	2 909	756	46	1 062
Bridegroom younger	23 834	20 171	16 941	555	171	2 504	521	182	158	8	173
Same age	12 226	10 918	10 346	76	76	420	188	74	49	2	63

Age difference	Widower to					Unspecified to				
	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
Total	1 888	1 524	36	285	43	20 504	10 011	1 447	71	8 975
Bridegroom older	1 657	1 359	29	233	36	16 473	8 912	968	59	6 534
Bridegroom younger	143	100	6	31	6	2 999	740	392	11	1 856
Same age	88	65	1	21	1	1032	359	87	1	585

Table 5 – Number of marriages by marital status at the time of marriage and ages of bridegrooms and brides, 2013

Age	Bridegrooms					Brides				
	Total	Bachelor	Divorcee	Widower	Unspecified	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
Total	158 642	130 768	5 482	1 888	20 504	158 642	137 778	3 705	1 546	15 613
<18	14	13	1	-	-	172	160	2	8	2
18	33	32	-	-	1	468	445	3	18	2
19	108	103	1	4	-	1 067	1 033	1	31	2
18-19	141	135	1	4	1	1 535	1 478	4	49	4
20	332	329	-	3	-	1 882	1 838	4	36	4
21	737	725	-	10	2	2 942	2 869	2	59	12
22	1 399	1 380	-	15	4	4 612	4 493	3	92	24
23	2 346	2 309	1	26	10	6 121	5 961	9	105	46
24	3 342	3 290	1	37	14	7 529	7 369	6	88	66
20-24	8 156	8 033	2	91	30	23 086	22 530	24	380	152
25	4 738	4 662	2	42	32	8 655	8 467	8	84	96
26	5 748	5 615	3	66	64	9 193	8 958	8	74	153
27	6 850	6 724	3	63	60	9 493	9 219	21	69	184
28	7 776	7 588	12	58	118	9 765	9 409	23	64	269
29	7 911	7 691	7	50	163	9 044	8 640	24	45	335
25-29	33 023	32 280	27	279	437	46 150	44 693	84	336	1 037
30	8 173	7 873	15	52	233	8 583	8 088	35	47	413
31	8 196	7 849	21	40	286	8 219	7 662	33	38	486
32	7 526	7 121	18	24	363	6 679	6 095	64	35	485
33	7 036	6 559	26	44	407	6 304	5 673	77	29	525
34	6 613	6 110	30	22	451	5 515	4 866	67	24	558
30-34	37 544	35 512	110	182	1 740	35 300	32 384	276	173	2 467

Table 5 – Number of marriages by marital status at the time of marriage and ages of bridegrooms and brides, 2013 (continued)

Age	Bridegrooms					Brides				
	Total	Bachelor	Divorcee	Widower	Unspecified	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
35	5 984	5 403	43	23	515	4 958	4 307	62	16	573
36	5 890	5 242	62	21	565	4 597	3 858	98	12	629
37	5 652	4 905	62	11	674	4 080	3 365	94	2	619
38	5 411	4 556	79	16	760	3 885	3 149	94	8	634
39	4 911	4 050	114	11	736	3 417	2 673	115	10	619
35-39	27 848	24 156	360	82	3 250	20 937	17 352	463	48	3 074
40	4 606	3 632	124	4	846	3 084	2 355	92	8	629
41	4 409	3 422	122	5	860	2 979	2 162	124	5	688
42	3 540	2 570	136	9	825	2 358	1 629	95	2	632
43	3 546	2 549	161	6	830	2 387	1 598	142	4	643
44	3 103	2 121	161	21	800	2 164	1 400	142	5	617
40-44	19 204	14 294	704	45	4 161	12 972	9 144	595	24	3 209
45	3 130	2 032	174	25	899	2 049	1 384	104	12	549
46	2 468	1 494	139	35	800	1 673	1 012	129	10	522
47	2 360	1 336	154	52	818	1 572	893	137	24	518
48	2 217	1 218	173	51	775	1 531	867	132	22	510
49	2 080	1 104	183	67	726	1 322	754	125	26	417
45-49	12 255	7 184	823	230	4 018	8 147	4 910	627	94	2 516
50	2 119	1 048	214	82	775	1 230	667	101	25	437
51	1 840	927	184	67	662	1 120	603	120	40	357
52	1 482	702	137	67	576	948	460	103	34	351
53	1 514	705	185	65	559	929	476	101	31	321
54	1 305	528	170	48	559	724	361	94	38	231
50-54	8 260	3 910	890	329	3 131	4 951	2 567	519	168	1 697

Table 5 – Number of marriages by marital status at the time of marriage and ages of bridegrooms and brides, 2013 (concluded)

Age	Bridegrooms					Brides				
	Total	Bachelor	Divorcee	Widower	Unspecified	Total	Spinster	Divorcee	Widow	Unspecified
55	1 329	589	171	62	507	700	336	92	40	232
56	1 158	488	150	56	464	629	304	92	27	206
57	1 058	454	154	43	407	513	241	81	33	158
58	857	358	134	55	310	402	191	69	30	112
59	795	338	140	53	264	424	217	78	17	112
55-59	5 197	2 227	749	269	1 952	2 668	1 289	412	147	820
60	904	432	141	56	275	405	226	49	25	105
61	814	380	136	47	251	343	163	59	21	100
62	577	233	132	37	175	237	96	56	15	70
63	654	281	149	44	180	263	151	48	10	54
64	552	258	100	34	160	196	88	48	9	51
60-64	3 501	1 584	658	218	1 041	1 444	724	260	80	380
65	516	235	107	31	143	176	70	53	8	45
66	394	155	115	20	104	135	59	35	6	35
67	301	111	91	19	80	138	50	52	8	28
68	252	95	87	11	59	123	58	32	6	27
69	245	82	93	7	63	105	40	37	0	28
65-69	1 708	678	493	88	449	677	277	209	28	163
70+	1 790	761	664	71	294	603	270	230	11	92
Unspecified	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6 – Number of registered customary marriages in South Africa, 2003–2013

Year of registration	Number of marriages
2003	17 283
2004	20 301
2005	19 252
2006	14 039
2007	20 259
2008	16 003
2009	13 506
2010	9 996
2011	5 084
2012	4 555
2013	3 498

Table 7 – Number of customary marriages by age difference and province of marriage registration, 2013

Province of registration	Number				%			
	Total	Bridegroom older	Bridegroom younger	Spouses same age	Total	Bridegroom older	Bridegroom younger	Spouses same age
Total	3 498	2 944	371	183	100,0	84,2	10,6	5,2
Western Cape	12	10	1	1	100,0	83,3	8,3	8,3
Eastern Cape	281	244	24	13	100,0	86,8	8,5	4,6
Northern Cape	4	4	0	0	100,0	100,0	0,0	0,0
Free State	129	100	21	8	100,0	77,5	16,3	6,2
KwaZulu-Natal	2 391	1 998	260	133	100,0	83,6	10,9	5,6
North West	26	21	3	2	100,0	80,8	11,5	7,7
Gauteng	67	52	11	4	100,0	77,6	16,4	6,0
Mpumalanga	167	140	17	10	100,0	83,8	10,2	6,0
Limpopo	312	285	19	8	100,0	91,4	6,1	2,6
Unknown	12	10	2	0	100,0	83,3	16,7	0,0
Unspecified	97	80	13	4	100,0	82,5	13,4	4,1

Table 8 – Number of customary marriages by ages of bridegrooms and brides at the time of marriage, 2013

Age	Bridegrooms	Brides
Total	3 498	3 498
<18	9	79
18	9	112
19	17	136
18-19	26	248
20	44	176
21	67	179
22	98	182
23	116	171
24	139	197
20-24	464	905
25	139	169
26	153	160
27	145	173
28	156	143
29	151	146
25-29	744	791
30	136	138
31	168	125
32	138	118
33	120	114
34	118	99
30-34	680	594

Table 8 – Number of customary marriages by ages of bridegrooms and brides at the time of marriage, 2013 (continued)

Age	Bridegrooms	Brides
35	123	106
36	91	76
37	111	70
38	90	76
39	96	55
35-39	511	383
40	82	56
41	87	55
42	67	48
43	77	39
44	74	29
40-44	387	227
45	42	31
46	54	25
47	53	24
48	52	19
49	41	15
45-49	242	114
50	54	26
51	36	11
52	31	18
53	35	10
54	29	8
50-54	185	73

Table 8 – Number of customary marriages by ages of bridegrooms and brides at the time of marriage, 2013 (concluded)

Age	Bridegrooms	Brides
55	24	13
56	25	5
57	17	6
58	17	5
59	21	4
55-59	104	33
60	19	12
61	18	8
62	10	5
63	12	4
64	20	2
60-64	79	31
65	9	3
66	6	5
67	8	0
68	8	3
69	3	0
65-69	34	11
70+	33	7
Unspecified	-	2

Table 9 – Number of civil unions registered in South Africa by province of registration, 2009–2013

Province of registration	Number					%				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Grand Total	760	888	867	987	993	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Western Cape	227	261	238	253	320	29,9	29,4	27,5	25,6	32,2
Eastern Cape	30	24	29	38	37	3,9	2,7	3,3	3,9	3,7
Northern Cape	43	75	93	106	87	5,7	8,4	10,7	10,7	8,8
Free State	20	26	28	27	21	2,6	2,9	3,2	2,7	2,1
KwaZulu-Natal	87	79	63	91	81	11,4	8,9	7,3	9,2	8,2
North West	5	9	3	11	10	0,7	1	0,3	1,1	1
Gauteng	324	391	381	425	411	42,6	44	43,9	43,1	41,4
Mpumalanga	11	11	16	12	16	1,4	1,2	1,8	1,2	1,6
Limpopo	10	10	7	13	6	1,3	1,1	0,8	1,3	0,6
Outside South Africa	3	2	9	11	4	0,4	0,2	1	1,1	0,4

Table 10 – Number of civil unions by ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 at the time of civil union, 2013

Age	Spouses-1	Spouses-2
Total	993	993
18	-	-
19	2	6
18-19	2	6
20	4	6
21	7	14
22	13	30
23	18	26
24	20	34
20-24	62	110
25	26	34
26	36	43
27	35	47
28	45	52
29	39	46
25-29	181	222
30	39	40
31	37	36
32	39	46
33	51	32
34	38	41
30-34	204	195

Table 10– Number of civil unions by ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 at the time of civil union, 2013 (continued)

Age	Spouses-1	Spouses-2
35	34	26
36	38	26
37	34	34
38	29	26
39	29	29
35-39	164	141
40	33	28
41	26	27
42	25	25
43	32	21
44	23	24
40-44	139	125
45	25	18
46	28	17
47	20	19
48	18	16
49	18	15
45-49	109	85
50	15	15
51	20	14
52	18	9
53	9	9
54	12	12
50-54	74	59

Table 10 – Number of civil unions by ages of spouses-1 and spouses-2 at the time of civil union, 2013 (concluded)

Age	Spouses-1	Spouses-2
55	5	7
56	4	4
57	8	4
58	7	7
59	4	4
55-59	28	26
60	6	6
61	1	2
62	4	1
63	3	2
64	1	1
60-64	15	12
65	2	2
66	1	1
67	1	3
68	1	-
69	1	-
65-69	6	6
70+	9	6

Table 11 – Number of published divorces in South Africa by population group, 2003–2013

Year	Total	Numbers						%						
		Black African	Coloured	India/Asian	White	Mixed	Unspecified	Total %	Black African	Coloured	India/Asian	White	Mixed	Unspecified
2003	31 566	7 657	3 911	1 508	12 639	532	5 319	100,0	24,3	12,4	4,8	40,0	1,7	16,9
2004	31 768	8 965	3 300	1 648	12 437	594	4 824	100,0	28,2	10,4	5,2	39,1	1,9	15,2
2005	32 484	8 672	3 568	1 635	11 582	538	6 489	100,0	26,7	11,0	5,0	35,7	1,7	20,0
2006	31 270	9 113	3 451	1 676	11 079	613	5 338	100,0	29,1	11,0	5,4	35,4	2,0	17,1
2007	29 639	9 055	3 558	1 715	9 935	865	4 511	100,0	30,6	12,0	5,8	33,5	2,9	15,2
2008	28 924	10 110	3 057	1 802	9 481	902	3 572	100,0	35	10,6	6,2	32,8	3,1	12,3
2009	30 763	10 528	4 016	1 610	9 981	2 912	1 716	100,0	34,2	13,1	5,2	32,4	9,5	5,6
2010	22 936	8 169	3 189	1 294	6 995	31	3 258	100,0	35,6	13,9	5,6	30,5	0,1	14,2
2011	20 980	7 517	3 473	1 359	6 730	-	1 901	100,0	35,8	16,6	6,5	32,1	0,0	9,1
2012	21 998	7 311	3 967	1 036	7 238	22	2 424	100,0	33,2	18,0	4,7	32,9	0,1	11,0
2013	23 885	8 656	3 888	1 425	7 561	24	2 331	100,0	36,2	16,3	6,0	31,7	0,1	9,8

Table 12 – Number of divorces by sex and population group of the plaintiff, 2013

Population group	Number				%			
	Total	Husbands	Wives	Unspecified	Total	Husbands	Wives	Unspecified
Total	23 885	8 014	12 083	3 788	100,0	33,5	50,6	15,9
Black African	8 656	3 140	3 714	1 802	100,0	36,3	42,9	20,8
Coloured	3 888	1 077	2 167	644	100,0	27,7	55,7	16,6
Indian/Asian	1 425	484	739	202	100,0	33,9	51,9	14,2
White	7 561	2 526	4 266	769	100,0	33,4	56,4	10,2
Mixed	24	10	11	3	100,0	41,7	45,8	12,5
Unspecified	2 331	777	1 186	368	100,0	33,3	50,9	15,8

Table 13– Number of divorces by sex and type of occupation of the plaintiff, 2013

Occupation	Number				%			
	Total	Husbands	Wives	Unspecified	Total	Husbands	Wives	Unspecified
Total	23 885	8 014	12 083	3 788	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Professional, semi-professionals and tech occupations	1 790	569	1 221	-	7,5	7,1	10,1	0,0
Managers and administrators	2 131	1 191	940	-	8,9	14,9	7,8	0,0
Clerical and sales occupations	3 044	631	2 413	-	12,7	7,9	20,0	0,0
Transport delivery and communications	296	279	17	-	1,2	3,5	0,1	0,0
Services occupations	1 639	746	893	-	6,9	9,3	7,4	0,0
Farming and related occupations	42	34	8	-	0,2	0,4	0,1	0,0
Artisans apprentice and related occupations	869	707	162	-	3,6	8,8	1,3	0,0
Production foreman mine and quarry worker	716	496	220	-	3,0	6,2	1,8	0,0
Not economically active	5 939	2 258	3 681	-	24,9	28,2	30,5	0,0
Unspecified	7 419	1 103	2 528	3 788	31,1	13,8	20,9	100,0

Table 14 – Number of divorces by population group and way of solemnisation of the marriage, 2013

Population group	Number				%			
	Total	Religious	DHA	Unspecified	Total	Religious	DHA	Unspecified
Total	23 885	4 499	18 371	1 015	100,0	18,8	76,9	4,3
Black African	8 656	361	7 963	332	100,0	4,2	92,0	3,8
Coloured	3 888	222	3 548	118	100,0	5,7	91,3	3,0
Indian/Asian	1 425	149	1 222	54	100,0	10,5	85,8	3,8
White	7 561	3 365	3 959	237	100,0	44,5	52,4	3,1
Mixed	24	6	17	1	100,0	25,0	70,8	4,2
Unspecified	2 331	396	1 662	273	100,0	17,0	71,3	11,7

Table 15– Number of divorces by number of times married at the time of divorce, 2013

Number of times married	Number		%	
	Husbands	Wives	Husbands	Wives
Total	23 885	23 885	100,0	100,0
Once	18 752	18 942	78,5	79,3
Twice	2 645	2 328	11,1	9,8
Three or more	504	415	2,1	1,7
Unspecified	1 984	2 200	8,3	9,2

Table 16– Number of divorces by age and population group (male divorcees), 2013

Age group	Population group						
	Total	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Mixed	Unspecified
Total	23 885	9 021	4 117	1 637	7 767	141	1 202
<25	111	10	23	19	57	-	2
25-29	1 154	227	216	141	516	2	52
30-34	2 904	882	579	286	1 036	14	107
35-39	4 163	1 615	779	346	1 227	24	172
40-44	4 522	1 768	870	304	1 335	19	226
45-49	3 996	1 660	732	202	1 221	13	168
50-54	2 729	1 120	408	128	916	9	148
55-59	1 607	676	226	59	547	6	93
60-64	827	341	100	22	312	2	50
65-69	372	132	38	8	169	4	21
70-75	165	58	15	4	80	-	8
75-79	73	30	7	1	34	-	1
80+	43	19	4	1	18	-	1
Unspecified	1 219	483	120	116	299	48	153

Table 17– Number of divorces by age group and population group (female divorcees), 2013

Age group	Population group						
	Total	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Mixed	Unspecified
Total	23 885	9 001	4 274	1 552	7 705	60	1 293
<25	490	110	77	57	231	-	15
25-29	2 459	796	426	222	902	6	107
30-34	4 217	1 747	745	340	1 203	12	170
35-39	4 476	1 909	818	291	1 235	8	215
40-44	4 324	1 657	848	251	1 360	8	200
45-49	3 253	1 229	603	175	1 054	5	187
50-54	1 895	663	334	97	690	2	109
55-59	989	304	172	32	411	1	69
60-64	429	135	65	17	178	2	32
65-69	176	41	23	3	92	-	17
70-75	62	16	10	-	30	-	6
75-79	23	6	3	-	12	1	1
80+	5	1	1	-	3	-	-
Unspecified	1 087	387	149	67	304	15	165

Table 18– Number of divorces by duration of marriage and age group (male divorcees), 2013

Age group of husband	Duration of marriage									
	Total	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35+	Unspecified
Total	23 885	4 639	6 729	4 317	2 971	2 062	1 105	569	404	1 089
<25	111	102	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
25-29	1 154	769	323	7	-	-	-	-	-	55
30-34	2 904	1 105	1 417	272	5	-	-	-	-	105
35-39	4 163	813	1 788	1 110	273	7	-	-	-	172
40-44	4 522	584	1 259	1 187	942	330	12	1	-	207
45-49	3 996	392	724	779	838	829	249	5	-	180
50-54	2 729	263	430	361	419	480	464	164	5	143
55-59	1 607	162	221	193	212	207	209	242	79	82
60-64	827	82	115	109	82	73	78	90	160	38
65-69	372	36	46	43	44	44	29	20	90	20
70-75	165	17	31	26	18	16	10	10	29	8
75-79	73	19	11	12	7	3	4	5	6	6
80+	43	8	5	9	5	4	3	1	7	1
Unspecified	1 219	287	355	209	126	69	47	31	28	67

Table 19– Number of divorces by duration of marriage and age group (female divorcees), 2013

Age group of wife	Duration of marriage									
	Total	0-4	2 5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35+	Unspecified
Total	23 885	4 639	6 729	4 317	2 971	2 062	1 105	569	404	1 089
<25	490	406	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
25-29	2 459	1 246	1 031	51	1	-	-	-	-	130
30-34	4 217	1 072	2 136	804	50	1	-	-	-	154
35-39	4 476	651	1 447	1 476	663	78	1	-	-	160
40-44	4 324	455	866	965	1 087	674	66	1	-	210
45-49	3 253	301	448	464	630	768	451	39	-	152
50-54	1 895	176	264	211	219	306	349	252	25	93
55-59	989	76	117	89	105	109	126	177	141	49
60-64	429	29	41	50	51	33	35	42	126	22
65-69	176	18	21	25	13	9	12	10	57	11
70-75	62	4	11	7	6	7	7	6	11	3
75-79	23	4	5	4	2	1	2	1	4	-
80+	5	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Unspecified	1 087	200	284	171	144	75	56	41	38	78

Table 20– Number of divorces with and without children (aged below 18 years) by population group, 2013

Population group	Number				%			
	Total	Divorces with children	Divorces without children	Unspecified	Total	Divorces with children	Divorces without children	Unspecified
Total	23 885	12 999	10 797	89	100,0	54,4	45,2	0,4
African	8 656	5 039	3 572	45	100,0	58,2	41,3	0,5
Coloured	3 888	2 490	1 386	12	100,0	64,0	35,7	0,3
Indian/Asian	1 425	830	594	1	100,0	58,3	41,7	0,1
White	7 561	3 523	4 031	7	100,0	46,6	53,3	0,1
Mixed	24	18	6	-	100,0	75,0	25,0	0,0
Unspecified	2 331	1 099	1 208	24	100,0	47,2	51,8	1,0

Table 21 – Number and percentage distribution of children (aged below 18 years) affected by divorces, 2013

Population group	Total number of children involved	%
Total	21 073	100,0
African	8 171	38,8
Coloured	4 184	19,9
Indian/Asian	1257	6,0
White	5 683	27,0
Mixed	29	0,1
Unspecified	1 749	8,3

APPENDIX

Table 1 – Number of divorce by population group of the plaintiff and sex, population group and way of solemnisation, population group and divorces with and without children, 2012

Population group	Number										
	Plaintiff				Way of solemnisation				Divorces without children	Divorces with children	Total
	Male	Female	Unspecified	Total	Religious	DHA	Unspecified	Total			
Total	16	30	11	57	15	39	3	57	25	32	57
Black African	10	16	8	34	2	30	2	34	14	20	34
Coloured	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	2
White	5	13	2	20	11	8	1	20	9	11	20
Unspecified	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1

Table 2 – Number of divorces by age group and population group (males and females), 2012

Age group	Population group (males)					Population group (females)				
	Black African	Coloured	White	Unspecified	Total	Black African	Coloured	White	Unspecified	Total
Total	34	2	20	1	57	35	2	20	-	57
25-29	1	1	2	0	4	2	0	3	-	5
30-34	4	0	3	0	7	8	1	6	-	15
35-39	8	0	4	0	12	10	0	3	-	13
40-44	4	0	4	1	9	3	0	4	-	7
45-49	7	0	2	0	9	5	0	0	-	5
50-54	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	-	4
55-59	4	0	3	0	7	1	1	0	-	2
60-64	2	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	-	3
65-69	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	-	1
70-74	1	0	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
Unspecified	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	-	2

Table 3 – Number of marriage by duration of marriage and population group, 2012

Marriage duration	Number			%	
	Total	Black African	White	Black African	White
Total	54	34	20	100,0	100,0
0-4	13	6	7	17,7	35,0
5-9	18	13	5	38,2	25,0
10-14	8	4	4	11,8	20,0
15-19	7	4	3	11,8	15,0
20-24	3	2	1	5,9	5,0
25-29	-	-	-	-	-
30-34	3	3	0	8,8	0,0
Unspecified	2	2	0	5,9	0,0

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. Purpose of the statistical release

The purpose of the statistical release is to provide information on marriages, unions and divorces recorded in South Africa in 2013. The data on marriages and unions was gathered from the Department of Home Affairs while information for divorces came from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development through divorce courts, based on the number of divorce forms that had reached Stats SA by end of December, 2014.

2. Scope and coverage

The data on marriages currently cover registered civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions in South Africa. The divorce data cover cases for filed divorces from civil marriages that had been granted and received by Stats SA. Undocumented cases of abandonment or divorces that had been granted by religious or traditional authorities are not reported in the release. Divorce data from registered customary marriages and civil unions will be reported when sufficient data become available.

3. Data

Stats SA obtains data on civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions directly from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) head office instead of through State Information Technology Agency (SITA). Data on divorces are collected from divorce courts using a standard structured questionnaire prepared by Stats SA. The questionnaires are regularly completed by the courts as divorce decrees are granted.

These completed forms were sorted and captured by month and court name. Captured data were quality assured and analysed for publication. Sorted and captured forms are well-labelled and kept in a dedicated store room for divorce forms. By end of December 2014, Stats SA had received 23 885 divorce forms for 2013 from 55 courts. The 2013 divorce forms that will be received later will be processed and used to update the 2013 results, which will be published in the 2014 annual release.

4. Limitations

The release focuses on presenting the demographic characteristics of the married and divorced persons. The information does not cover other important issues such as the causes and impact of divorce.

5. Definitions of terms

Civil marriages: these are marriages registered according to the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961). In the release the term 'civil' is used to differentiate marriages that were solemnised by licensed DHA marriage officers from marriages that were solemnised by religious marriage officers.

Customary marriages: these are marriages that are negotiated, celebrated or concluded according to any of the systems of indigenous African customary law which exist in South Africa as prescribed in the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998).

Civil unions: refers to the voluntary union of two persons who are both 18 years of age or older, which is solemnised and registered by way of either a marriage or a civil partnership, in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Civil Union Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006).

Mixed population group: refers to couples with different population groups.

Occupation: occupation is coded using the *Standard Classification of Occupations*, Report No 09-90-01, First Edition, 1986 published by Stats SA.

6. Symbols

- = Nil
- < = Less than
- ≥ = Equal to and greater than

GENERAL INFORMATION

Marriages and divorces, 2013

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