

South Africa - Marriages and Divorces 2020

Statistics South Africa

Report generated on: July 20, 2022

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ZAF_2020_MD_v01_M

TITLE

Marriages and Divorces 2020

COUNTRY

| Name | Country code |
|--------------|--------------|
| South Africa | ZAF |

STUDY TYPE

Administrative Records, Other (ad/oth]

ABSTRACT

The Marriages and Divorces (MD) dataset is one of three primary sources of marriage and divorce statistics in South Africa. Unlike the other two sources (population censuses and household sample surveys), the MD dataset is compiled from administrative data and based on continuous recording (i.e., from civil registration systems and administrative records). Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) regularly publishes a series of data on marriages and divorces, with the first dataset in the series beginning in 2006. The most recent dataset in the series is MD 2020.

Marriage data: Data on marriages for citizens and permanent residents are obtained from registered marriage records that are collected through the civil registration systems of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). South Africa recognizes three types of marriages by law: civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions. Before 2008, marriage data only covered civil marriages. The registration of customary marriages and civil unions began in 2003 and 2007 respectively. However, from 2008 onwards, Stats SA began publishing available data on customary marriages and civil unions.

Divorce data: Data on divorces are obtained from various regional courts that deal with divorce matters. The data are based on successful divorce cases that have been issued with a decree of divorce by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJCD). Divorce cases come 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 relevant year of collection.

NOTE: although both the data on marriages and divorces are collected in the same year, the data sets are not linked to each other.

KIND OF DATA

Administrative records data [adm]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Version 01: Edited, anonymized dataset for public distribution.

VERSION DATE

2022

Scope

NOTES

Marriage data covers: province of registration, date and type of marriage (religious or civil) and age (and age difference) and status (e.g., single/widow/divorcee) of marital couple.

Divorce data includes individual level data: Age, gender and population group, status, and occupation and number of

children. Data is also collected on the marriage (date, number, type and duration, and matrimonial property system) and the divorce (date of separation and date of divorce).

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National coverage

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The lowest level of geographic aggregation covered by the data is province.

UNIVERSE

The data covers all civil marriages that were recorded by the Department of Home Affairs and all divorce applications that were granted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in 2020 in South Africa.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

| Name | Affiliation |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Statistics South Africa | Government of South Africa |

PRODUCERS

| Name | Affiliation | Role |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| Department of Home Affairs | Government of South Africa | Data producer |
| Department of Justice and Constitutional Development | Government of South Africa | Data producer |

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

| Start | End |
|------------|------------|
| 2020-01-01 | 2020-12-31 |

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Other

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

The marriage data is provided to Statistics South Africa by the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) from their marriage registration database based on registration forms.

The divorce data is obtained by Statistic South Africa from the South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development from administrative records on divorces granted for civil marriages by its divorce courts.

Data Appraisal

DATA APPRAISAL

Geography is problematic in this dataset as not all the data files have geographic data. The Civil Marriages and Civil Unions data files include a Province of Registration variable, but the Customary Marriages data file does not. There is also no geographical data in the Divorces file. As this data file includes divorce data from only a subset of divorce courts, this lack of geographical information compromises its usability.

Access policy

CONTACTS

| Name | Affiliation | Email |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| DataFirst Helpdesk | University of Cape Town | support@data1st.org |

ACCESS CONDITIONS

Public access data for use under a Creative Commons CC-BY (Attribution-only) License

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Marriages and Divorces 2020 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2022. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/pky5-3507>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

| Name | Affiliation | Email | URL |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| DataFirst | University of Cape Town | support@data1st.org | Link |

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Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ZAF_2020_MD_v01_M

PRODUCERS

| Name | Abbreviation | Affiliation | Role |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| DataFirst | | University of Cape Town | Metadata producer |
| Development Economics Data Group | DECDG | The World Bank | Metadata adapted for Microdata Library |

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2022-03-28

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 01: This metadata was downloaded from the DataFirst website (<https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php/catalog/central>). The following two metadata fields were edited - Document and Survey ID.

Data Description

| Data file | Cases | Variables |
|---|-------|-----------|
| md-2020-civil-marriages-v1 Data on civil marriage | 0 | 9 |
| md-2020-civil-unions-v1 Data on civil unions | 0 | 6 |
| md-2020-customary-marriages-v1 | 0 | 6 |
| md-2020-divorces-v1 | 0 | 24 |

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Data on civil marriage

Cases: 0

Variables: 9

Variables

| ID | Name | Label | Question |
|----|----------------------|---|----------|
| V1 | ProvinceCode | Name of Province | |
| V2 | MarriageMonth | Month of Marriage | |
| V3 | MarriageYear | Year of Marriage | |
| V4 | SolemnisationCode | Way of Solemnisation | |
| V5 | BridegroomStatusCode | Marital status of Bridegroom | |
| V6 | BrideStatusCode | Marital status of Bride | |
| V7 | BridegroomAge | Age of Bridegroom | |
| V8 | BrideAge | Age of Bride | |
| V9 | AgeDiff | Age difference between bridegroom and bride | |

Total: 9

Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1

Data on civil unions

Cases: 0

Variables: 6

Variables

| ID | Name | Label | Question |
|-----|-------------------|--|----------|
| V10 | ProvinceCode | Name of Province | |
| V11 | RegistrationMonth | Month of Registration | |
| V12 | RegistrationYear | Year of Registration | |
| V13 | Spouse1Age | Age of Spouses-1 | |
| V14 | Spouse2Age | Age of Spouses-2 | |
| V15 | AgeDiff | Age difference between Spouses-1 and Spouses-2 | |

Total: 6

Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1

Cases: 0

Variables: 6

Variables

| ID | Name | Label | Question |
|-----|------------------|---|----------|
| V16 | ProvinceCode | Name of Province | |
| V17 | MarriageYear | Year of Marriage | |
| V18 | RegistrationYear | Year of Registration | |
| V19 | BridegroomAge | Age of Bridegroom | |
| V20 | BrideAge | Age of Bride | |
| V21 | AgeDiff | Age difference between bridegroom and bride | |

Total: 6

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

| | |
|------------|----|
| Cases: | 0 |
| Variables: | 24 |

Variables

| ID | Name | Label | Question |
|-----|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| V22 | ProvinceCode | Name of Province | |
| V23 | MaleRace | Population group of husband | |
| V24 | FemaleRace | Population group of wife | |
| V25 | CoupleRace | Population group of couple | |
| V26 | MaleOccupation | Occupation of Husband | |
| V27 | FemaleOccupation | Occupation of wife | |
| V28 | PlaintiffSex | Sex of plaintiff | |
| V29 | MaleStatus | Marital status of husband | |
| V30 | FemaleStatus | Marital status of wife | |
| V31 | MaleNoTimesMarried | Number of times husband married | |
| V32 | FemaleNoTimesMarried | Number of times wife married | |
| V33 | MaleAge | Age of husband | |
| V34 | FemaleAge | Age of wife | |
| V35 | SolemnisationCode | Way of solemnisation | |
| V36 | MarriagePropertySystem | Matrimonial property system | |
| V37 | MarriageMonth | Month of marriage | |
| V38 | MarriageYear | Year of marriage | |
| V39 | NoOfChildren | Number of children involved | |
| V40 | DivorceMonth | Month of divorce | |
| V41 | DivorceYear | Year of divorce | |
| V42 | DurationOfMarriage | Duration of marriage | |
| V43 | MarriageType | Type of marriage | |
| V44 | PolygamousMarriage | Involved in polygamous marriage | |
| V45 | GroundsForDivorce | Main grounds for divorce | |

Total: 24

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Western Cape |
| 2 | Eastern Cape |
| 3 | Northern Cape |
| 4 | Free State |
| 5 | KwaZulu-Natal |
| 6 | North West |
| 7 | Gauteng |
| 8 | Mpumalanga |
| 9 | Limpopo |
| 97 | Unknown |
| 98 | Outside RSA |
| 99 | Unspecified |

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of Marriage**Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 12 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 1 | January |
| 2 | February |
| 3 | March |
| 4 | April |
| 5 | May |
| 6 | June |

| | |
|----|-----------|
| 7 | July |
| 8 | August |
| 9 | September |
| 10 | October |
| 11 | November |
| 12 | December |

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of Marriage

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2020 - 2020 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 2020 | 2020 |

SOLEMNISATIONCODE: Way of Solemnisation

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Religious |
| 2 | DHA |
| 9 | Unspecified |

BRIDEGROOMSTATUSCODE: Marital status of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Never married |
| 2 | Divorcee |
| 3 | Widower |
| 9 | Unspecified |

BRIDESTATUSCODE: Marital status of Bride

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Never married |
| 2 | Divorcee |
| 3 | Widow |
| 9 | Unspecified |

BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 18 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 18 | 18 |
| 19 | 19 |
| 20 | 20 |

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| 21 | 21 |
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| 83 | 83 |
| 84 | 84 |
| 85 | 85 |
| 86 | 86 |
| 87 | 87 |
| 88 | 88 |
| 89 | 89 |
| 90 | 90 |
| 91 | 91 |
| 92 | 92 |
| 93 | 93 |
| 95 | 95 |
| 96 | 96 |
| 999 | Unspecified |

BRIDEAGE: Age of Bride**Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 16 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 16 | 16 |
| 17 | 17 |
| 18 | 18 |
| 19 | 19 |
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| 21 | 21 |
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| 85 | 85 |
| 86 | 86 |
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| 88 | 88 |
| 89 | 89 |
| 91 | 91 |
| 93 | 93 |
| 999 | Unspecified |

AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride

Data file: md-2020-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|--------------------|
| 0 | Spouses same age |
| 1 | Bridegroom older |
| 2 | Bridegroom younger |
| 9 | Unspecified |

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Western Cape |
| 2 | Eastern Cape |
| 3 | Northern Cape |
| 4 | Free State |
| 5 | KwaZulu-Natal |
| 6 | North West |
| 7 | Gauteng |
| 8 | Mpumalanga |
| 9 | Limpopo |
| 98 | Outside RSA |
| 99 | Unspecified |

REGISTRATIONMONTH: Month of Registration**Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 12 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 1 | January |
| 2 | February |
| 3 | March |
| 4 | April |
| 5 | May |
| 6 | June |
| 7 | July |

| | |
|----|-----------|
| 8 | August |
| 9 | September |
| 10 | October |
| 11 | November |
| 12 | December |

REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of Registration

Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2020 - 2020 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 2020 | 2020 |

SPOUSE1AGE: Age of Spouses-1

Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 18 - 92 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 18 | 18 |
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| 85 | 85 |
| 86 | 86 |
| 92 | 92 |

SPOUSE2AGE: Age of Spouses-2

Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 19 - 84 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 19 | 19 |
| 20 | 20 |
| 21 | 21 |
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| 42 | 42 |
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| 81 | 81 |
| 84 | 84 |

AGEDIFF: Age difference between Spouses-1 and Spouses-2

Data file: md-2020-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 2 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------------|
| 0 | Spouses same age |
| 1 | Spouses-1 older |
| 2 | Spouses-1 younger |

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Western Cape |
| 2 | Eastern Cape |
| 3 | Northern Cape |
| 4 | Free State |
| 5 | KwaZulu-Natal |
| 6 | North West |
| 7 | Gauteng |
| 8 | Mpumalanga |
| 9 | Limpopo |
| 97 | Unknown |
| 98 | Outside RSA |
| 99 | Unspecified |

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of Marriage**Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 1953 - 2020 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 1953 | 1953 |
| 1954 | 1954 |
| 1955 | 1955 |
| 1956 | 1956 |
| 1957 | 1957 |
| 1958 | 1958 |

| | |
|------|------|
| 1959 | 1959 |
| 1960 | 1960 |
| 1961 | 1961 |
| 1962 | 1962 |
| 1963 | 1963 |
| 1964 | 1964 |
| 1965 | 1965 |
| 1966 | 1966 |
| 1967 | 1967 |
| 1968 | 1968 |
| 1969 | 1969 |
| 1970 | 1970 |
| 1971 | 1971 |
| 1972 | 1972 |
| 1973 | 1973 |
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| 1980 | 1980 |
| 1981 | 1981 |
| 1982 | 1982 |
| 1983 | 1983 |
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| 1986 | 1986 |
| 1987 | 1987 |
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| 2008 | 2008 |
| 2009 | 2009 |
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| 2011 | 2011 |
| 2012 | 2012 |
| 2013 | 2013 |
| 2014 | 2014 |
| 2015 | 2015 |
| 2016 | 2016 |
| 2017 | 2017 |
| 2018 | 2018 |
| 2019 | 2019 |
| 2020 | 2020 |

REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of Registration

Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2020 - 2020 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 2020 | 2020 |

BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of Bridegroom**Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 14 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 14 | 14 |
| 17 | 17 |
| 18 | 18 |
| 19 | 19 |
| 20 | 20 |
| 21 | 21 |
| 22 | 22 |
| 23 | 23 |
| 24 | 24 |
| 25 | 25 |
| 26 | 26 |
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| 77 | 77 |
| 79 | 79 |
| 81 | 81 |
| 84 | 84 |
| 85 | 85 |
| 90 | 90 |
| 95 | 95 |
| 999 | Unspecified |

BRIDEAGE: Age of Bride**Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 9 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 9 | 9 |
| 11 | 11 |
| 12 | 12 |
| 13 | 13 |
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| 16 | 16 |
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| 29 | 29 |
| 30 | 30 |
| 31 | 31 |
| 32 | 32 |
| 33 | 33 |
| 34 | 34 |
| 35 | 35 |
| 36 | 36 |
| 37 | 37 |

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| 38 | 38 |
| 39 | 39 |
| 40 | 40 |
| 41 | 41 |
| 42 | 42 |
| 43 | 43 |
| 44 | 44 |
| 45 | 45 |
| 46 | 46 |
| 47 | 47 |
| 48 | 48 |
| 49 | 49 |
| 50 | 50 |
| 51 | 51 |
| 52 | 52 |
| 53 | 53 |
| 54 | 54 |
| 55 | 55 |
| 56 | 56 |
| 57 | 57 |
| 58 | 58 |
| 59 | 59 |
| 60 | 60 |
| 61 | 61 |
| 62 | 62 |
| 63 | 63 |
| 64 | 64 |
| 65 | 65 |
| 66 | 66 |
| 67 | 67 |
| 68 | 68 |
| 70 | 70 |
| 74 | 74 |
| 75 | 75 |
| 80 | 80 |
| 999 | Unspecified |

AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride**Data file: md-2020-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 0 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|--------------------|
| 0 | Spouses same age |
| 1 | Bridegroom older |
| 2 | Bridegroom younger |
| 9 | Unspecified |

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Western Cape |
| 2 | Eastern Cape |
| 3 | Northern Cape |
| 4 | Free State |
| 5 | KwaZulu-Natal |
| 6 | North West |
| 7 | Gauteng |
| 8 | Mpumalanga |
| 9 | Limpopo |

MALERACE: Population group of husband**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Black African |
| 2 | Coloured |
| 3 | Indian/Asian |
| 4 | White |
| 5 | Other |
| 9 | Unspecified |

FEMALERACE: Population group of wife**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Black African |
| 2 | Coloured |
| 3 | Indian/Asian |
| 4 | White |
| 5 | Other |
| 9 | Unspecified |

COUPLERACE: Population group of couple**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Black African |
| 2 | Coloured |
| 3 | Indian/Asian |
| 4 | White |
| 5 | Mixed |
| 9 | Unspecified |

MALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of Husband**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---|
| 0 | Not economically active / Unemployed |
| 1 | Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations |
| 2 | Managers and administrators |
| 3 | Clerical and sales occupations |
| 4 | Transport, delivery and communications |
| 5 | Service occupations |
| 6 | Farming and related occupations |
| 7 | Artisans, apprentice and related occupations |
| 8 | Production foreman, mine and quarry workers |
| 99 | Unspecified |

FEMALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of wife

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 0 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---|
| 0 | Not economically active / Unemployed |
| 1 | Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations |
| 2 | Managers and administrators |
| 3 | Clerical and sales occupations |
| 4 | Transport, delivery and communications |
| 5 | Service occupations |
| 6 | Farming and related occupations |
| 7 | Artisans, apprentice and related occupations |
| 8 | Production foreman, mine and quarry workers |
| 99 | Unspecified |

PLAINTIFFSEX: Sex of plaintiff**Data file:** md-2020-divorces-v1**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Male |
| 2 | Female |
| 3 | Both |
| 9 | Unspecified |

MALESTATUS: Marital status of husband**Data file:** md-2020-divorces-v1**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Never married |
| 2 | Widower |
| 3 | Divorcee |
| 9 | Unspecified |

FEMALESTATUS: Marital status of wife**Data file:** md-2020-divorces-v1**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---------------|
| 1 | Never married |
| 2 | Widow |
| 3 | Divorcee |
| 9 | Unspecified |

MALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times husband married

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 5 |
| 6 | 6 |
| 99 | Unspecified |

FEMALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times wife married

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 4 |

| | |
|----|-------------|
| 5 | 5 |
| 6 | 6 |
| 7 | 7 |
| 99 | Unspecified |

MALEAGE: Age of husband

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 21 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 21 | 21 |
| 22 | 22 |
| 23 | 23 |
| 24 | 24 |
| 25 | 25 |
| 26 | 26 |
| 27 | 27 |
| 28 | 28 |
| 29 | 29 |
| 30 | 30 |
| 31 | 31 |
| 32 | 32 |
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| 81 | 81 |
| 82 | 82 |

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| 83 | 83 |
| 84 | 84 |
| 85 | 85 |
| 86 | 86 |
| 87 | 87 |
| 88 | 88 |
| 89 | 89 |
| 90 | 90 |
| 999 | Unspecified |

FEMALEAGE: Age of wife

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 19 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 19 | 19 |
| 20 | 20 |
| 21 | 21 |
| 22 | 22 |
| 23 | 23 |
| 24 | 24 |
| 25 | 25 |
| 26 | 26 |
| 27 | 27 |
| 28 | 28 |
| 29 | 29 |
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| 36 | 36 |

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| 62 | 62 |
| 63 | 63 |
| 64 | 64 |
| 65 | 65 |
| 66 | 66 |
| 67 | 67 |
| 68 | 68 |
| 69 | 69 |
| 70 | 70 |
| 71 | 71 |
| 72 | 72 |
| 73 | 73 |
| 74 | 74 |
| 75 | 75 |

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|-----|-------------|
| 76 | 76 |
| 77 | 77 |
| 78 | 78 |
| 79 | 79 |
| 81 | 81 |
| 82 | 82 |
| 84 | 84 |
| 89 | 89 |
| 999 | Unspecified |

SOLEMNISATIONCODE: Way of solemnisation

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 1 | Religious |
| 2 | DHA |
| 9 | Unspecified |

MARRIAGEPROPERTYSYSTEM: Matrimonial property system

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 55 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|---|
| 1 | In community of property |
| 2 | Out of community of property |
| 3 | Out of community of property (excluding accrual system) |
| 4 | Out of community of property (including accrual system) |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 5 | Other |
| 9 | Unspecified |

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of marriage

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 1 | January |
| 2 | February |
| 3 | March |
| 4 | April |
| 5 | May |
| 6 | June |
| 7 | July |
| 8 | August |
| 9 | September |
| 10 | October |
| 11 | November |
| 12 | December |
| 99 | Unspecified |

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1962 - 9999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 9999 | Unspecified |

NOOFCHILDREN: Number of children involved**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Range: 0 - 4 Format: Numeric

DIVORCEMONTH: Month of divorce**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 1 | January |
| 2 | February |
| 3 | March |
| 4 | April |
| 5 | May |
| 6 | June |
| 7 | July |
| 8 | August |
| 9 | September |
| 10 | October |
| 11 | November |
| 12 | December |
| 99 | Unspecified |

DIVORCEYEAR: Year of divorce**Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Range: 2020 - 2020 Format: Numeric

DURATIONOFMARRIAGE: Duration of marriage**Data file:** md-2020-divorces-v1**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 0 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|-------------|
| 99 | Unspecified |

MARRIAGETYPE: Type of marriage**Data file:** md-2020-divorces-v1**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 18 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|--------------------|
| 1 | Civil marriage |
| 2 | Customary marriage |
| 3 | Civil union |
| 9 | Unspecified |

POLYGAMOUSMARRIAGE: Involved in polygamous marriage**Data file:** md-2020-divorces-v1**Overview**

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|----------|
| 1 | Yes |
| 2 | No |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 9 | Unspecified |
|---|-------------|

GROUNDSDIVORCE: Main grounds for divorce

Data file: md-2020-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 0 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 22 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

| Value | Category |
|-------|------------------------|
| 1 | Adultery |
| 2 | Abuse |
| 3 | Childlessness |
| 4 | Desertion |
| 5 | Financial difficulties |
| 6 | Medical Insanity |
| 7 | Imprisonment |
| 8 | Other (Specify) |
| 9 | Unspecified |

Download related resources

Reports

Marriages and Divorces 2020, Statistical Release

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Title | Marriages and Divorces 2020, Statistical Release |
| Author(s) | Statistics South Africa |
| Date | 2022-01-01 |
| Country | South Africa |
| Language | English |
| Publisher(s) | Statistics South Africa |
| Description | This is the final report for the dataset. |
| Filename | md-2020-release.pdf |

Technical documents

Marriages and Divorces 2020, Metadata

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Title | Marriages and Divorces 2020, Metadata |
| Author(s) | Statistics South Africa |
| Date | 2022-01-01 |
| Country | South Africa |
| Language | English |
| Publisher(s) | Statistics South Africa |
| Description | This document provides a detailed description of the variables and coding within each data file. |
| Filename | md-2020-metadata.pdf |

Other materials

Statistics of divorces (Form 07-04)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Title | Statistics of divorces (Form 07-04) |
| Author(s) | Statistics South Africa |
| Country | South Africa |
| Language | English |
| Publisher(s) | Statistics South Africa |
| Description | This is the form used by the courts to record information on couples who have divorced. |
| Filename | md-2020-divorces-form.pdf |
