

Marriages and Divorces 2021

Statistics South Africa

report_generated_on: August 12, 2025

visit_data_catalog_at: <http://catalog.ihnsn.org/>

Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

ZAF_2021_MD_v01_M

TITLE

Marriages and Divorces 2021

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

MD 2021

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	ZAF

STUDY TYPE

Administrative Data

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 recognises 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

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

Version 01: Edited, anonymised dataset for public distribution

VERSION DATE

2021

VERSION NOTES

This version was retrieved by DataFirst on 3 March 2023.

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 2021 in South Africa.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa

PRODUCERS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Department of Home Affairs	DHA	Government of South Africa	Data producer
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	DJCD	Government of South Africa	Data producer

Data collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2021-01-01	2021-12-31

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

ACCESS CONDITIONS

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

CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Marriages and Divorces 2021 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2022. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/7393-f489>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

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

Disclaimer and copyrights

COPYRIGHT

Copyright 2013, Statistics South Africa

Metadata production

DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI_ZAF_2021_MD_v01_M

PRODUCERS

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

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2023-03-04

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Identical to a metadata (zaf-statssa-md-2021-v1) published on DataFirst microdata repository (<https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/dataportal/index.php/catalog>). Some of the metadata fields have been edited.

data_dictionary

Data file	Cases	variables
md-2021-civil-marriages-v1	1000	9
md-2021-civil-unions-v1	1000	6
md-2021-customary-marriages-v1	1000	6
md-2021-divorces-v1	1000	24

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Cases: 1000

variables: 9

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V91	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V92	MarriageMonth	Month of Marriage	
V93	MarriageYear	Year of Marriage	
V94	SolemnisationCode	Way of Solemnisation	
V95	BridegroomStatusCode	Marital status of Bridegroom	
V96	BrideStatusCode	Marital status of Bride	
V97	BridegroomAge	Age of Bridegroom	
V98	BrideAge	Age of Bride	
V99	AgeDiff	Age difference between bridegroom and bride	

total: 9

Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1

Cases: 1000

variables: 6

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V100	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V101	RegistrationMonth	Month of Registration	
V102	RegistrationYear	Year of Registration	
V103	Spouse1Age	Age of Spouses-1	
V104	Spouse2Age	Age of Spouses-2	
V105	AgeDiff	Age difference between Spouses-1 and Spouses-2	

total: 6

Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1

Cases: 1000

variables: 6

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V106	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V107	MarriageYear	Year of Marriage	
V108	RegistrationYear	Year of Registration	
V109	BridegroomAge	Age of Bridegroom	
V110	BrideAge	Age of Bride	
V111	AgeDiff	Age difference between bridegroom and bride	

total: 6

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Cases: 1000

variables: 24

variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V112	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V113	MaleRace	Population group of husband	
V114	FemaleRace	Population group of wife	
V115	CoupleRace	Population group of couple	
V116	MaleOccupation	Occupation of Husband	
V117	FemaleOccupation	Occupation of wife	
V118	PlaintiffSex	Sex of plaintiff	
V119	MaleStatus	Marital status of husband	
V120	FemaleStatus	Marital status of wife	
V121	MaleNoTimesMarried	Number of times husband married	
V122	FemaleNoTimesMarried	Number of times wife married	
V123	MaleAge	Age of husband	
V124	FemaleAge	Age of wife	
V125	SolemnisationCode	Way of solemnisation	
V126	MarriagePropertySystem	Matrimonial property system	
V127	MarriageMonth	Month of marriage	
V128	MarriageYear	Year of marriage	
V129	NoOfChildren	Number of children involved	
V130	DivorceMonth	Month of divorce	
V131	DivorceYear	Year of divorce	
V132	DurationOfMarriage	Duration of marriage	
V133	MarriageType	Type of marriage	
V134	PolygamousMarriage	Involved in polygamous marriage	
V135	GroundsForDivorce	Main grounds for divorce	

total: 24

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	10	1%
2	Eastern Cape	56	5.6%
3	Northern Cape	14	1.4%
4	Free State	26	2.6%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	212	21.2%
6	North West	11	1.1%
7	Gauteng	531	53.1%
8	Mpumalanga	27	2.7%
9	Limpopo	109	10.9%
97	Unknown	3	0.3%
98	Outside RSA	1	0.1%
99	Unspecified	0	0%

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of Marriage**Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 1 - 12 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	January	17	1.7%
2	February	13	1.3%
3	March	72	7.2%
4	April	106	10.6%
5	May	113	11.3%
6	June	103	10.3%

7	July	72	7.2%
8	August	81	8.1%
9	September	105	10.5%
10	October	123	12.3%
11	November	107	10.7%
12	December	88	8.8%

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of Marriage

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2021 - 2021 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2021	2021	1000	100%

SOLEMNISATIONCODE: Way of Solemnisation

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Religious	0	0%
2	DHA	0	0%
9	Unspecified	1000	100%

BRIDEGROOMSTATUSCODE: Marital status of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Never married	818	81.8%
2	Divorcee	41	4.1%
3	Widower	8	0.8%
9	Unspecified	133	13.3%

BRIDESTATUSCODE: Marital status of Bride

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Never married	876	87.6%
2	Divorcee	23	2.3%
3	Widow	1	0.1%
9	Unspecified	100	10%

BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 16 - 98 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
16	16	0	0%
17	17	0	0%
18	18	0	0%

19	19	0	0%
20	20	1	0.1%
21	21	3	0.3%
22	22	5	0.5%
23	23	3	0.3%
24	24	9	0.9%
25	25	14	1.4%
26	26	23	2.3%
27	27	23	2.3%
28	28	28	2.8%
29	29	28	2.8%
30	30	34	3.4%
31	31	31	3.1%
32	32	53	5.3%
33	33	31	3.1%
34	34	38	3.8%
35	35	38	3.8%
36	36	38	3.8%
37	37	31	3.1%
38	38	48	4.8%
39	39	38	3.8%
40	40	32	3.2%
41	41	36	3.6%
42	42	28	2.8%
43	43	29	2.9%
44	44	22	2.2%
45	45	24	2.4%
46	46	33	3.3%
47	47	30	3%
48	48	18	1.8%
49	49	29	2.9%
50	50	16	1.6%
51	51	16	1.6%
52	52	9	0.9%
53	53	24	2.4%
54	54	16	1.6%
55	55	15	1.5%
56	56	15	1.5%
57	57	10	1%

58	58	8	0.8%
59	59	15	1.5%
60	60	10	1%
61	61	9	0.9%
62	62	4	0.4%
63	63	7	0.7%
64	64	4	0.4%
65	65	5	0.5%
66	66	2	0.2%
67	67	3	0.3%
68	68	1	0.1%
69	69	3	0.3%
70	70	0	0%
71	71	0	0%
72	72	2	0.2%
73	73	0	0%
74	74	3	0.3%
75	75	2	0.2%
76	76	0	0%
77	77	1	0.1%
78	78	1	0.1%
79	79	0	0%
80	80	1	0.1%
81	81	0	0%
82	82	0	0%
83	83	0	0%
84	84	0	0%
85	85	0	0%
86	86	0	0%
87	87	0	0%
88	88	0	0%
89	89	0	0%
90	90	0	0%
91	91	0	0%
92	92	0	0%
93	93	0	0%
94	94	0	0%
95	95	0	0%
98	98	0	0%

BRIDEAGE: Age of Bride

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 14 - 89 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
14	14	0	0%
15	15	0	0%
16	16	0	0%
17	17	0	0%
18	18	0	0%
19	19	3	0.3%
20	20	1	0.1%
21	21	9	0.9%
22	22	13	1.3%
23	23	13	1.3%
24	24	29	2.9%
25	25	31	3.1%
26	26	26	2.6%
27	27	38	3.8%
28	28	42	4.2%
29	29	62	6.2%
30	30	53	5.3%
31	31	42	4.2%
32	32	38	3.8%
33	33	45	4.5%
34	34	36	3.6%
35	35	45	4.5%
36	36	48	4.8%
37	37	37	3.7%
38	38	36	3.6%
39	39	36	3.6%
40	40	24	2.4%
41	41	32	3.2%

42	42	17	1.7%
43	43	16	1.6%
44	44	18	1.8%
45	45	12	1.2%
46	46	34	3.4%
47	47	21	2.1%
48	48	21	2.1%
49	49	17	1.7%
50	50	12	1.2%
51	51	11	1.1%
52	52	10	1%
53	53	9	0.9%
54	54	7	0.7%
55	55	10	1%
56	56	14	1.4%
57	57	2	0.2%
58	58	8	0.8%
59	59	4	0.4%
60	60	2	0.2%
61	61	3	0.3%
62	62	1	0.1%
63	63	1	0.1%
64	64	1	0.1%
65	65	0	0%
66	66	4	0.4%
67	67	1	0.1%
68	68	1	0.1%
69	69	1	0.1%
70	70	1	0.1%
71	71	1	0.1%
72	72	0	0%
73	73	1	0.1%
74	74	0	0%
75	75	0	0%
76	76	0	0%
77	77	0	0%
78	78	0	0%
79	79	0	0%
80	80	0	0%

81	81	0	0%
82	82	0	0%
83	83	0	0%
84	84	0	0%
85	85	0	0%
86	86	0	0%
87	87	0	0%
88	88	0	0%
89	89	0	0%

AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride

Data file: md-2021-civil-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Spouses same age	77	7.7%
1	Bridegroom older	773	77.3%
2	Bridegroom younger	150	15%

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	357	35.7%
2	Eastern Cape	22	2.2%
3	Northern Cape	11	1.1%
4	Free State	28	2.8%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	175	17.5%
6	North West	19	1.9%
7	Gauteng	373	37.3%
8	Mpumalanga	10	1%
9	Limpopo	3	0.3%
98	Outside RSA	2	0.2%
99	Unspecified	0	0%

REGISTRATIONMONTH: Month of Registration**Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	January	31	3.1%
2	February	60	6%
3	March	103	10.3%
4	April	84	8.4%
5	May	88	8.8%
6	June	58	5.8%
7	July	53	5.3%

8	August	79	7.9%
9	September	133	13.3%
10	October	128	12.8%
11	November	88	8.8%
12	December	95	9.5%

REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of Registration

Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2021 - 2021 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2021	2021	1000	100%

SPOUSE1AGE: Age of Spouses-1

Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 19 - 91 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
19	19	1	0.1%
20	20	2	0.2%
21	21	0	0%
22	22	5	0.5%
23	23	4	0.4%
24	24	9	0.9%
25	25	15	1.5%
26	26	28	2.8%
27	27	37	3.7%
28	28	33	3.3%

29	29	45	4.5%
30	30	55	5.5%
31	31	67	6.7%
32	32	69	6.9%
33	33	73	7.3%
34	34	56	5.6%
35	35	39	3.9%
36	36	35	3.5%
37	37	46	4.6%
38	38	34	3.4%
39	39	31	3.1%
40	40	24	2.4%
41	41	26	2.6%
42	42	25	2.5%
43	43	26	2.6%
44	44	21	2.1%
45	45	14	1.4%
46	46	16	1.6%
47	47	13	1.3%
48	48	13	1.3%
49	49	14	1.4%
50	50	13	1.3%
51	51	6	0.6%
52	52	10	1%
53	53	9	0.9%
54	54	7	0.7%
55	55	11	1.1%
56	56	6	0.6%
57	57	7	0.7%
58	58	4	0.4%
59	59	6	0.6%
60	60	6	0.6%
61	61	5	0.5%
62	62	5	0.5%
63	63	2	0.2%
64	64	2	0.2%
65	65	3	0.3%
66	66	2	0.2%
67	67	1	0.1%

68	68	3	0.3%
69	69	1	0.1%
70	70	4	0.4%
71	71	1	0.1%
72	72	0	0%
73	73	1	0.1%
75	75	1	0.1%
76	76	1	0.1%
77	77	1	0.1%
78	78	1	0.1%
79	79	1	0.1%
80	80	1	0.1%
81	81	0	0%
84	84	1	0.1%
87	87	1	0.1%
88	88	1	0.1%
89	89	0	0%
90	90	0	0%
91	91	0	0%

SPOUSE2AGE: Age of Spouses-2

Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 2 Range: 19 - 81 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
19	19	0	0%
20	20	0	0%
21	21	3	0.3%
22	22	11	1.1%
23	23	17	1.7%
24	24	18	1.8%
25	25	23	2.3%
26	26	37	3.7%

27	27	49	4.9%
28	28	50	5%
29	29	55	5.5%
30	30	71	7.1%
31	31	64	6.4%
32	32	67	6.7%
33	33	57	5.7%
34	34	42	4.2%
35	35	40	4%
36	36	42	4.2%
37	37	45	4.5%
38	38	29	2.9%
39	39	27	2.7%
40	40	30	3%
41	41	23	2.3%
42	42	14	1.4%
43	43	13	1.3%
44	44	15	1.5%
45	45	10	1%
46	46	14	1.4%
47	47	14	1.4%
48	48	18	1.8%
49	49	9	0.9%
50	50	8	0.8%
51	51	12	1.2%
52	52	9	0.9%
53	53	9	0.9%
54	54	7	0.7%
55	55	3	0.3%
56	56	3	0.3%
57	57	4	0.4%
58	58	2	0.2%
59	59	4	0.4%
60	60	5	0.5%
61	61	1	0.1%
62	62	1	0.1%
63	63	4	0.4%
64	64	5	0.5%
65	65	4	0.4%

66	66	1	0.1%
67	67	1	0.1%
68	68	0	0%
69	69	1	0.1%
70	70	3	0.3%
72	72	0	0%
73	73	2	0.2%
74	74	1	0.1%
76	76	1	0.1%
77	77	1	0.1%
79	79	1	0.1%
81	81	0	0%

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

Data file: md-2021-civil-unions-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Spouses same age	107	10.7%
1	Spouses-1 older	589	58.9%
2	Spouses-1 younger	304	30.4%

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	3	0.3%
2	Eastern Cape	231	23.1%
3	Northern Cape	3	0.3%
4	Free State	24	2.4%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	258	25.8%
6	North West	14	1.4%
7	Gauteng	43	4.3%
8	Mpumalanga	92	9.2%
9	Limpopo	299	29.9%
97	Unknown	31	3.1%
98	Outside RSA	1	0.1%
99	Unspecified	1	0.1%

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of Marriage**Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 1920 - 2021 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1920	1920	0	0%
1947	1947	1	0.1%
1949	1949	1	0.1%
1951	1951	1	0.1%
1952	1952	1	0.1%
1954	1954	1	0.1%

1955	1955	2	0.2%
1956	1956	4	0.4%
1957	1957	2	0.2%
1958	1958	4	0.4%
1959	1959	3	0.3%
1960	1960	7	0.7%
1961	1961	7	0.7%
1962	1962	5	0.5%
1963	1963	10	1%
1964	1964	7	0.7%
1965	1965	9	0.9%
1966	1966	4	0.4%
1967	1967	7	0.7%
1968	1968	15	1.5%
1969	1969	11	1.1%
1970	1970	16	1.6%
1971	1971	12	1.2%
1972	1972	25	2.5%
1973	1973	13	1.3%
1974	1974	22	2.2%
1975	1975	20	2%
1976	1976	16	1.6%
1977	1977	18	1.8%
1978	1978	20	2%
1979	1979	25	2.5%
1980	1980	32	3.2%
1981	1981	30	3%
1982	1982	27	2.7%
1983	1983	34	3.4%
1984	1984	27	2.7%
1985	1985	19	1.9%
1986	1986	30	3%
1987	1987	26	2.6%
1988	1988	23	2.3%
1989	1989	24	2.4%
1990	1990	39	3.9%
1991	1991	20	2%
1992	1992	18	1.8%
1993	1993	12	1.2%

1994	1994	14	1.4%
1995	1995	12	1.2%
1996	1996	12	1.2%
1997	1997	18	1.8%
1998	1998	9	0.9%
1999	1999	11	1.1%
2000	2000	14	1.4%
2001	2001	8	0.8%
2002	2002	13	1.3%
2003	2003	6	0.6%
2004	2004	12	1.2%
2005	2005	11	1.1%
2006	2006	15	1.5%
2007	2007	11	1.1%
2008	2008	10	1%
2009	2009	14	1.4%
2010	2010	10	1%
2011	2011	14	1.4%
2012	2012	10	1%
2013	2013	6	0.6%
2014	2014	15	1.5%
2015	2015	13	1.3%
2016	2016	11	1.1%
2017	2017	15	1.5%
2018	2018	8	0.8%
2019	2019	13	1.3%
2020	2020	10	1%
2021	2021	35	3.5%

REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of Registration

Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 4 Range: 2021 - 2021 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2021	2021	1000	100%

BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 11 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
11	11	1	0.1%
12	12	1	0.1%
14	14	1	0.1%
15	15	2	0.2%
16	16	4	0.4%
17	17	4	0.4%
18	18	10	1%
19	19	18	1.8%
20	20	28	2.8%
21	21	47	4.7%
22	22	59	5.9%
23	23	67	6.7%
24	24	64	6.4%
25	25	75	7.5%
26	26	73	7.3%
27	27	66	6.6%
28	28	61	6.1%
29	29	58	5.8%
30	30	51	5.1%
31	31	34	3.4%
32	32	38	3.8%
33	33	40	4%
34	34	29	2.9%
35	35	29	2.9%
36	36	15	1.5%

37	37	14	1.4%
38	38	15	1.5%
39	39	10	1%
40	40	10	1%
41	41	11	1.1%
42	42	11	1.1%
43	43	7	0.7%
44	44	9	0.9%
45	45	5	0.5%
46	46	3	0.3%
47	47	1	0.1%
48	48	3	0.3%
49	49	3	0.3%
50	50	6	0.6%
51	51	2	0.2%
52	52	1	0.1%
53	53	2	0.2%
54	54	0	0%
55	55	2	0.2%
56	56	2	0.2%
57	57	0	0%
58	58	2	0.2%
59	59	1	0.1%
60	60	0	0%
61	61	1	0.1%
62	62	1	0.1%
63	63	0	0%
64	64	0	0%
65	65	2	0.2%
66	66	0	0%
67	67	0	0%
68	68	0	0%
69	69	0	0%
70	70	0	0%
71	71	0	0%
72	72	0	0%
73	73	0	0%
74	74	0	0%
75	75	0	0%

76	76	0	0%
79	79	0	0%
80	80	0	0%
81	81	0	0%
83	83	0	0%
86	86	0	0%
999	Unspecified	1	0.1%

BRIDEAGE: Age of Bride

Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 9 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
9	9	0	0%
10	10	2	0.2%
11	11	1	0.1%
12	12	3	0.3%
13	13	3	0.3%
14	14	9	0.9%
15	15	25	2.5%
16	16	40	4%
17	17	72	7.2%
18	18	78	7.8%
19	19	92	9.2%
20	20	84	8.4%
21	21	87	8.7%
22	22	84	8.4%
23	23	125	12.5%
24	24	96	9.6%
25	25	111	11.1%
26	26	88	8.8%
27	27	0	0%
28	28	0	0%

29	29	0	0%
30	30	0	0%
31	31	0	0%
32	32	0	0%
33	33	0	0%
34	34	0	0%
35	35	0	0%
36	36	0	0%
37	37	0	0%
38	38	0	0%
39	39	0	0%
40	40	0	0%
41	41	0	0%
42	42	0	0%
43	43	0	0%
44	44	0	0%
45	45	0	0%
46	46	0	0%
47	47	0	0%
48	48	0	0%
49	49	0	0%
50	50	0	0%
51	51	0	0%
52	52	0	0%
53	53	0	0%
54	54	0	0%
55	55	0	0%
56	56	0	0%
57	57	0	0%
58	58	0	0%
59	59	0	0%
60	60	0	0%
61	61	0	0%
62	62	0	0%
63	63	0	0%
64	64	0	0%
65	65	0	0%
66	66	0	0%
68	68	0	0%

69	69	0	0%
72	72	0	0%
999	Unspecified	0	0%

AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride

Data file: md-2021-customary-marriages-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Spouses same age	34	3.4%
1	Bridegroom older	920	92%
2	Bridegroom younger	45	4.5%
9	Unspecified	1	0.1%

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	202	20.2%
2	Eastern Cape	126	12.6%
3	Northern Cape	35	3.5%
4	Free State	54	5.4%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	130	13%
6	North West	35	3.5%
7	Gauteng	285	28.5%
8	Mpumalanga	55	5.5%
9	Limpopo	78	7.8%

MALERACE: Population group of husband**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Black African	609	60.9%
2	Coloured	229	22.9%
3	Indian/Asian	34	3.4%
4	White	115	11.5%
5	Other	1	0.1%
9	Unspecified	12	1.2%

FEMALERACE: Population group of wife**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Black African	607	60.7%
2	Coloured	231	23.1%
3	Indian/Asian	29	2.9%
4	White	118	11.8%
5	Other	0	0%
9	Unspecified	15	1.5%

COUPLERACE: Population group of couple**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Black African	598	59.8%
2	Coloured	217	21.7%
3	Indian/Asian	29	2.9%
4	White	114	11.4%
5	Mixed	23	2.3%
9	Unspecified	19	1.9%

MALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of Husband**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Not economically active / Unemployed	188	18.8%
1	Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations	178	17.8%
2	Managers and administrators	93	9.3%
3	Clerical and sales occupations	63	6.3%
4	Transport, delivery and communications	45	4.5%
5	Service occupations	127	12.7%
6	Farming and related occupations	7	0.7%
7	Artisans, apprentice and related occupations	47	4.7%
8	Production foreman, mine and quarry workers	38	3.8%
99	Unspecified	214	21.4%

FEMALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of wife

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Not economically active / Unemployed	301	30.1%
1	Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations	183	18.3%
2	Managers and administrators	65	6.5%
3	Clerical and sales occupations	89	8.9%
4	Transport, delivery and communications	2	0.2%
5	Service occupations	99	9.9%
6	Farming and related occupations	1	0.1%
7	Artisans, apprentice and related occupations	5	0.5%
8	Production foreman, mine and quarry workers	15	1.5%
99	Unspecified	240	24%

PLAINTIFFSEX: Sex of plaintiff**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Male	341	34.1%
2	Female	563	56.3%
3	Both	45	4.5%
9	Unspecified	51	5.1%

MALESTATUS: Marital status of husband**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Never married	924	92.4%
2	Widower	1	0.1%
3	Divorcee	48	4.8%
9	Unspecified	27	2.7%

FEMALESTATUS: Marital status of wife**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Never married	965	96.5%
2	Widow	0	0%
3	Divorcee	0	0%
9	Unspecified	35	3.5%

MALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times husband married

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1	945	94.5%
2	2	45	4.5%
3	3	3	0.3%
4	4	1	0.1%
5	5	0	0%
6	6	0	0%
8	8	0	0%
99	Unspecified	6	0.6%

FEMALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times wife married

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1	1000	100%
2	2	0	0%
3	3	0	0%

4	4	0	0%
5	5	0	0%
6	6	0	0%
99	Unspecified	0	0%

MALEAGE: Age of husband

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 3 Range: 20 - 999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
20	20	0	0%
21	21	0	0%
22	22	1	0.1%
23	23	2	0.2%
24	24	1	0.1%
25	25	1	0.1%
26	26	2	0.2%
27	27	6	0.6%
28	28	6	0.6%
29	29	15	1.5%
30	30	10	1%
31	31	17	1.7%
32	32	25	2.5%
33	33	25	2.5%
34	34	31	3.1%
35	35	42	4.2%
36	36	42	4.2%
37	37	54	5.4%
38	38	52	5.2%
39	39	69	6.9%
40	40	71	7.1%
41	41	49	4.9%
42	42	55	5.5%

43	43	54	5.4%
44	44	46	4.6%
45	45	46	4.6%
46	46	45	4.5%
47	47	24	2.4%
48	48	41	4.1%
49	49	30	3%
50	50	24	2.4%
51	51	20	2%
52	52	9	0.9%
53	53	10	1%
54	54	11	1.1%
55	55	4	0.4%
56	56	10	1%
57	57	2	0.2%
58	58	4	0.4%
59	59	4	0.4%
60	60	0	0%
61	61	2	0.2%
62	62	2	0.2%
63	63	0	0%
64	64	0	0%
65	65	0	0%
66	66	0	0%
67	67	0	0%
68	68	0	0%
69	69	1	0.1%
70	70	2	0.2%
71	71	0	0%
72	72	1	0.1%
73	73	0	0%
74	74	0	0%
75	75	0	0%
76	76	0	0%
77	77	0	0%
78	78	0	0%
79	79	0	0%
80	80	0	0%
81	81	0	0%

82	82	0	0%
84	84	0	0%
85	85	0	0%
86	86	0	0%
87	87	0	0%
88	88	0	0%
89	89	0	0%
999	Unspecified	32	3.2%

FEMALEAGE: Age of wife

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
19	19	1	0.1%
20	20	0	0%
21	21	0	0%
22	22	1	0.1%
23	23	2	0.2%
24	24	4	0.4%
25	25	8	0.8%
26	26	13	1.3%
27	27	11	1.1%
28	28	19	1.9%
29	29	23	2.3%
30	30	24	2.4%
31	31	48	4.8%
32	32	57	5.7%
33	33	54	5.4%
34	34	38	3.8%
35	35	67	6.7%
36	36	73	7.3%
37	37	67	6.7%

38	38	71	7.1%
39	39	64	6.4%
40	40	67	6.7%
41	41	53	5.3%
42	42	58	5.8%
43	43	32	3.2%
44	44	26	2.6%
45	45	26	2.6%
46	46	26	2.6%
47	47	13	1.3%
48	48	8	0.8%
49	49	6	0.6%
50	50	7	0.7%
51	51	4	0.4%
52	52	1	0.1%
53	53	0	0%
54	54	0	0%
55	55	1	0.1%
56	56	0	0%
57	57	0	0%
58	58	0	0%
59	59	0	0%
60	60	0	0%
61	61	0	0%
62	62	0	0%
63	63	0	0%
64	64	0	0%
65	65	0	0%
66	66	0	0%
67	67	0	0%
68	68	0	0%
69	69	0	0%
70	70	0	0%
71	71	0	0%
72	72	0	0%
73	73	0	0%
74	74	0	0%
75	75	0	0%
76	76	0	0%

77	77	0	0%
78	78	0	0%
79	79	0	0%
81	81	0	0%
84	84	0	0%
86	86	0	0%
999	Unspecified	27	2.7%

SOLEMNISATIONCODE: Way of solemnisation

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 1 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Religious	411	41.1%
2	DHA	529	52.9%
9	Unspecified	60	6%

MARRIAGEPROPERTYSYSTEM: Matrimonial property system

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 55 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	In community of property	914	91.4%
2	Out of community of property	19	1.9%
3	Out of community of property (excluding accrual system)	24	2.4%
4	Out of community of property (including accrual system)	27	2.7%
5	Other	0	0%
9	Unspecified	16	1.6%

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of marriage**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	January	63	6.3%
2	February	62	6.2%
3	March	82	8.2%
4	April	65	6.5%
5	May	77	7.7%
6	June	71	7.1%
7	July	67	6.7%
8	August	87	8.7%
9	September	89	8.9%
10	October	84	8.4%
11	November	98	9.8%
12	December	137	13.7%
99	Unspecified	18	1.8%

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage**Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1****Overview**

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1993 - 9999 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1993		1	0.1%
1994		1	0.1%
1996		3	0.3%

1997		3	0.3%
1998		7	0.7%
1999		9	0.9%
2000		8	0.8%
2001		9	0.9%
2002		16	1.6%
2003		21	2.1%
2004		28	2.8%
2005		48	4.8%
2006		37	3.7%
2007		51	5.1%
2008		42	4.2%
2009		69	6.9%
2010		62	6.2%
2011		49	4.9%
2012		47	4.7%
2013		33	3.3%
2014		40	4%
2015		101	10.1%
2016		98	9.8%
2017		88	8.8%
2018		56	5.6%
2019		27	2.7%
2020		21	2.1%
2021		7	0.7%
9999	Unspecified	18	1.8%

NOOFCHILDREN: Number of children involved

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Range: 2 - 7 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2		314	31.4%

3		580	58%
4		91	9.1%
5		14	1.4%
7		1	0.1%

DIVORCEMONTH: Month of divorce

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 11 Range: 1 - 99 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	January	60	6%
2	February	95	9.5%
3	March	81	8.1%
4	April	85	8.5%
5	May	114	11.4%
6	June	92	9.2%
7	July	66	6.6%
8	August	87	8.7%
9	September	86	8.6%
10	October	85	8.5%
11	November	85	8.5%
12	December	64	6.4%
99	Unspecified	0	0%

DIVORCEYEAR: Year of divorce

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 10 Range: 2021 - 2021 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2021		1000	100%

DURATIONOFMARRIAGE: Duration of marriage

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0		7	0.7%
1		21	2.1%
2		27	2.7%
3		56	5.6%
4		88	8.8%
5		98	9.8%
6		101	10.1%
7		40	4%
8		33	3.3%
9		47	4.7%
10		49	4.9%
11		62	6.2%
12		69	6.9%
13		42	4.2%
14		51	5.1%
15		37	3.7%
16		48	4.8%
17		28	2.8%
18		21	2.1%
19		16	1.6%
20		9	0.9%
21		8	0.8%
22		9	0.9%
23		7	0.7%
24		3	0.3%

25		3	0.3%
27		1	0.1%
28		1	0.1%
99	Unspecified	0	0%
999		18	1.8%

MARRIAGETYPE: Type of marriage

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Civil marriage	554	55.4%
2	Customary marriage	6	0.6%
3	Civil union	4	0.4%
9	Unspecified	436	43.6%

POLYGAMOUSMARRIAGE: Involved in polygamous marriage

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0

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

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	5	0.5%
2	No	551	55.1%
9	Unspecified	444	44.4%

GROUNDSFORDIVORCE: Main grounds for divorce

Data file: md-2021-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 1000 Invalid: 0
 Type: Discrete Decimal: 0 Width: 22 Range: 1 - 9 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Adultery	202	20.2%
2	Abuse	92	9.2%
3	Childlessness	0	0%
4	Desertion	75	7.5%
5	Financial difficulties	34	3.4%
6	Medical Insanity	0	0%
7	Imprisonment	1	0.1%
8	Other (Specify)	0	0%
9	Unspecified	596	59.6%

study_resources

reports

Marriages and divorces 2021 statistical release

title Marriages and divorces 2021 statistical release
date 2021-01-01
country South Africa
publishers Statistics South Africa
description This is the final report for the dataset.
filename md-2021-release.pdf
