

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

The number of marriages in New Jersey in 2002 was down 5.6 percent from 2001, while the number of divorces increased 2.4 percent (Table MD1 and Figure MD1).

The median ages of all brides and grooms, including first-time brides and grooms, increased slightly from 2001. First-time brides and grooms were nearly four years older than 20 years ago and the median age of all brides and grooms has risen more than four years since 1982 (Table MD2 and Figure MD2). The percentage of first-time brides and grooms who were under 20 years of age decreased from 2001. After declining considerably starting in the 1980s, this percentage has remained fairly stable from the mid-1990s to the present. The percentage of first-time brides and grooms under age 25 also decreased substantially through the 1980s and has continued to decrease, though at a slower rate (Table MD3 and Figure MD3).

In 63.4 percent of marriages, the bride was younger than the groom. In about one-quarter of marriages, the bride was older than the groom. Age differences were more likely and, on average, were larger in marriages where one or both participants had been married before. In 73.4 percent of first marriages, the bride and groom were within 5 years of each other in age. This was true in fewer than half (46.9%) of marriages in which the bride or groom or both had been previously married (Table MD5).

The percentage of brides and grooms who had never been married before decreased while the percent previously divorced continued to increase (Table MD6).

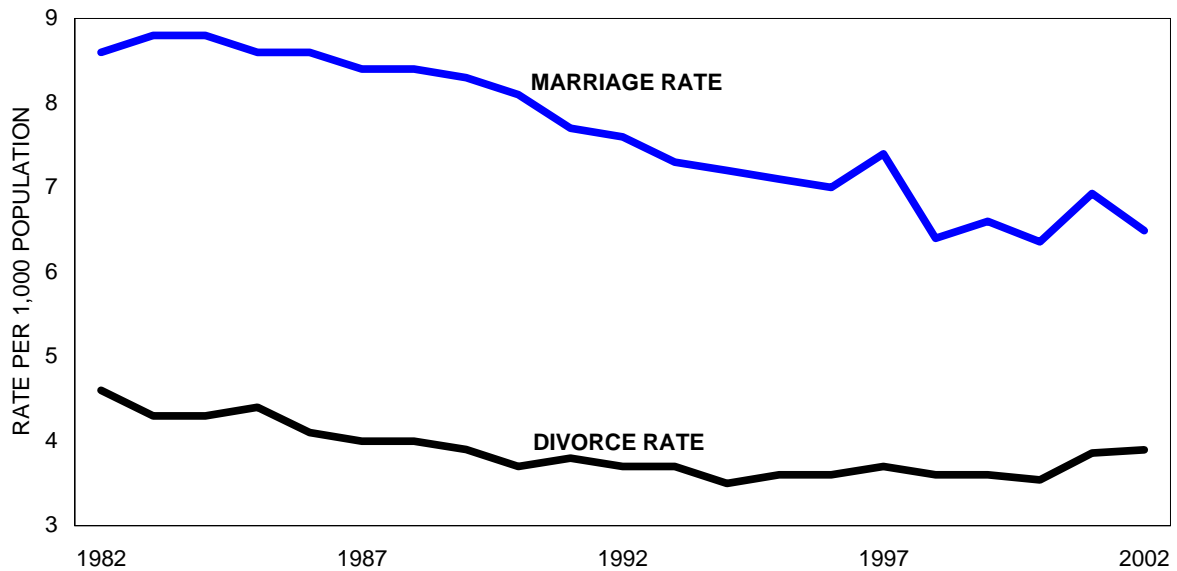
June was the most popular month for marriages in 2002, followed by September and August. Nearly 12 percent of marriages occurred in June while only 4.1 percent occurred in January, the least popular month (Table MD8).

**TABLE MD1. MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES
NEW JERSEY, 1982-2002**

| YEAR | MARRIAGES | | DIVORCES | |
|------|-----------|------|----------|------|
| | NUMBER | RATE | NUMBER | RATE |
| 1982 | 59,949 | 8.1 | 30,322 | 4.1 |
| 1983 | 61,798 | 8.3 | 27,923 | 3.8 |
| 1984 | 62,654 | 8.3 | 28,470 | 3.8 |
| 1985 | 61,189 | 8.1 | 29,295 | 3.9 |
| 1986 | 61,362 | 8.1 | 27,669 | 3.6 |
| 1987 | 60,550 | 7.9 | 27,222 | 3.5 |
| 1988 | 61,063 | 7.9 | 26,897 | 3.5 |
| 1989 | 60,076 | 7.8 | 26,059 | 3.4 |
| 1990 | 58,747 | 7.6 | 24,911 | 3.2 |
| 1991 | 55,832 | 7.2 | 25,686 | 3.3 |
| 1992 | 55,321 | 7.1 | 25,405 | 3.2 |
| 1993 | 53,505 | 6.8 | 24,784 | 3.2 |
| 1994 | 52,797 | 6.7 | 23,899 | 3.0 |
| 1995 | 52,208 | 6.6 | 24,293 | 3.1 |
| 1996 | 51,811 | 6.5 | 25,048 | 3.1 |
| 1997 | 55,467 | 6.9 | 25,537 | 3.2 |
| 1998 | 47,812 | 5.9 | 25,295 | 3.1 |
| 1999 | 49,421 | 6.1 | 25,181 | 3.1 |
| 2000 | 49,302 | 5.9 | 25,576 | 3.0 |
| 2001 | 54,536 | 6.4 | 28,495 | 3.4 |
| 2002 | 51,473 | 6.0 | 29,191 | 3.4 |

Rates are computed per 1,000 population.

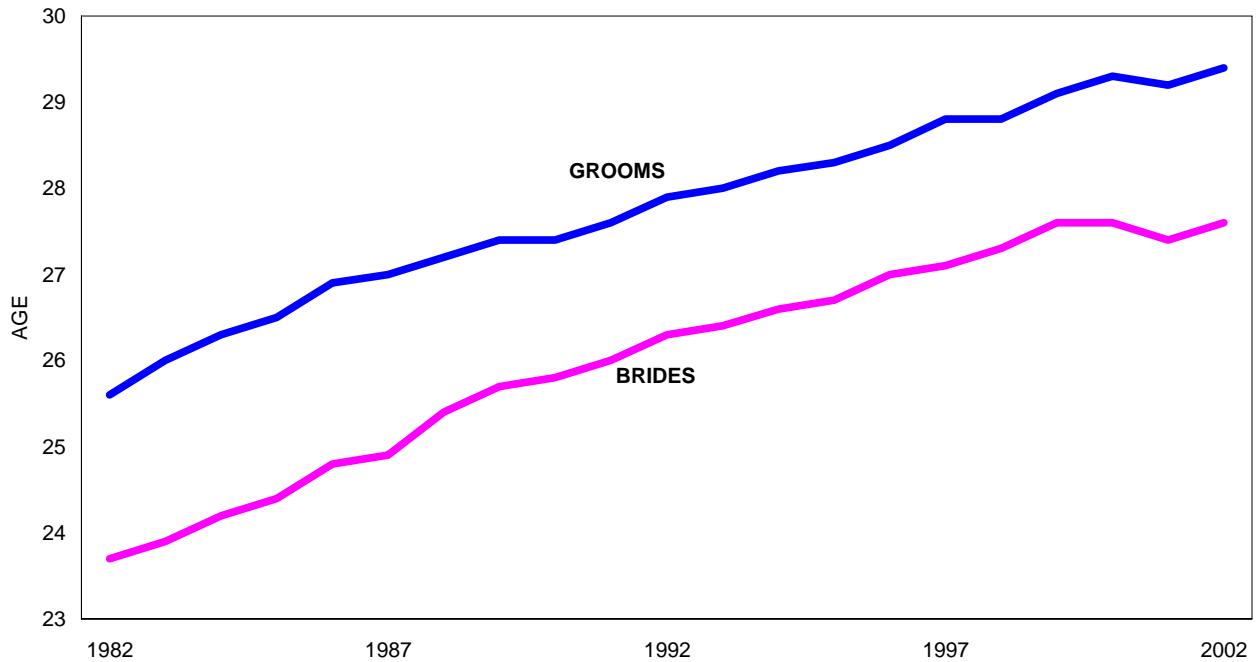
**FIGURE MD1. MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES
NEW JERSEY, 1982-2002**



**TABLE MD2. MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE
NEW JERSEY, 1982-2002**

| YEAR | ALL BRIDES | ALL GROOMS | FIRST-TIME BRIDES | FIRST-TIME GROOMS |
|------|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1982 | 25.3 | 27.8 | 23.7 | 25.6 |
| 1983 | 25.7 | 28.0 | 23.9 | 26.0 |
| 1984 | 26.1 | 28.3 | 24.2 | 26.3 |
| 1985 | 26.4 | 28.5 | 24.4 | 26.5 |
| 1986 | 26.7 | 28.6 | 24.8 | 26.9 |
| 1987 | 26.9 | 28.8 | 24.9 | 27.0 |
| 1988 | 27.2 | 29.0 | 25.4 | 27.2 |
| 1989 | 27.4 | 29.1 | 25.7 | 27.4 |
| 1990 | 27.3 | 29.0 | 25.8 | 27.4 |
| 1991 | 27.6 | 29.4 | 26.0 | 27.6 |
| 1992 | 27.9 | 29.8 | 26.3 | 27.9 |
| 1993 | 28.1 | 29.9 | 26.4 | 28.0 |
| 1994 | 28.4 | 30.2 | 26.6 | 28.2 |
| 1995 | 28.5 | 30.4 | 26.7 | 28.3 |
| 1996 | 28.8 | 30.7 | 27.0 | 28.5 |
| 1997 | 29.0 | 31.0 | 27.1 | 28.8 |
| 1998 | 29.0 | 31.0 | 27.3 | 28.8 |
| 1999 | 29.4 | 31.3 | 27.6 | 29.1 |
| 2000 | 29.6 | 31.5 | 27.6 | 29.3 |
| 2001 | 29.6 | 31.6 | 27.4 | 29.2 |
| 2002 | 29.9 | 32.1 | 27.6 | 29.4 |

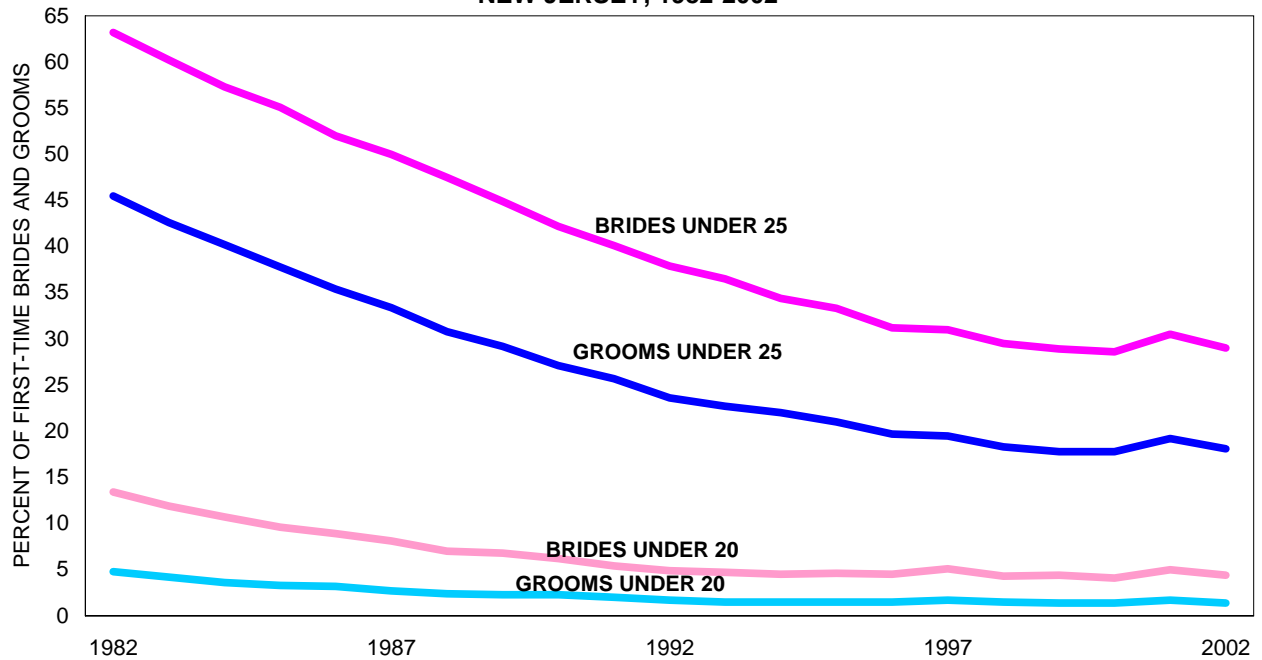
**FIGURE MD2. MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE
NEW JERSEY, 1982-2002**



**TABLE MD3. FIRST-TIME BRIDES AND GROOMS BY AGE
NEW JERSEY, 1982-2002**

| YEAR | BRIDES | | GROOMS | |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | PERCENT UNDER 25 | PERCENT UNDER 20 | PERCENT UNDER 25 | PERCENT UNDER 20 |
| 1982 | 63.2 | 13.4 | 45.5 | 4.8 |
| 1983 | 60.2 | 11.9 | 42.6 | 4.2 |
| 1984 | 57.3 | 10.7 | 40.2 | 3.6 |
| 1985 | 55.1 | 9.6 | 37.8 | 3.3 |
| 1986 | 52.0 | 8.9 | 35.4 | 3.2 |
| 1987 | 50.0 | 8.1 | 33.4 | 2.7 |
| 1988 | 47.5 | 7.0 | 30.8 | 2.4 |
| 1989 | 44.9 | 6.8 | 29.2 | 2.3 |
| 1990 | 42.2 | 6.2 | 27.1 | 2.3 |
| 1991 | 40.1 | 5.4 | 25.7 | 2.0 |
| 1992 | 37.9 | 4.9 | 23.6 | 1.7 |
| 1993 | 36.5 | 4.7 | 22.7 | 1.5 |
| 1994 | 34.4 | 4.5 | 22.0 | 1.5 |
| 1995 | 33.3 | 4.6 | 21.0 | 1.5 |
| 1996 | 31.2 | 4.5 | 19.7 | 1.5 |
| 1997 | 31.0 | 5.1 | 19.5 | 1.7 |
| 1998 | 29.5 | 4.3 | 18.3 | 1.5 |
| 1999 | 28.9 | 4.4 | 17.8 | 1.4 |
| 2000 | 28.6 | 4.1 | 17.8 | 1.4 |
| 2001 | 30.5 | 5.0 | 19.2 | 1.7 |
| 2002 | 29.0 | 4.4 | 18.1 | 1.4 |

**FIGURE MD3. FIRST-TIME BRIDES AND GROOMS
UNDER 25 AND UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE
NEW JERSEY, 1982-2002**



**TABLE MD4. MARRIAGES BY AGE OF BRIDE AND AGE OF GROOM
NEW JERSEY, 2002**

| AGE OF BRIDE | TOTAL | AGE OF GROOM | | | | | | | | | | | NOT STATE D |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65+ | |
| 15-19 | 1,640 | 296 | 907 | 284 | 98 | 39 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 20-24 | 9,430 | 174 | 3,736 | 3,735 | 1,193 | 371 | 145 | 42 | 27 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 25-29 | 14,849 | 35 | 1,131 | 7,525 | 4,235 | 1,337 | 368 | 141 | 46 | 23 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 30-34 | 9,861 | 14 | 260 | 1,717 | 4,011 | 2,377 | 926 | 357 | 116 | 62 | 13 | 8 | 0 |
| 35-39 | 5,924 | 4 | 84 | 391 | 1,163 | 1,932 | 1,365 | 575 | 256 | 99 | 36 | 18 | 1 |
| 40-44 | 3,802 | 3 | 35 | 93 | 328 | 716 | 1,123 | 766 | 428 | 185 | 81 | 44 | 0 |
| 45-49 | 2,700 | 1 | 8 | 41 | 109 | 236 | 479 | 771 | 540 | 320 | 119 | 74 | 2 |
| 50-54 | 1,587 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 37 | 76 | 145 | 265 | 444 | 312 | 166 | 128 | 0 |
| 55-59 | 870 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 38 | 79 | 139 | 223 | 202 | 176 | 1 |
| 60-64 | 422 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 38 | 71 | 111 | 170 | 0 |
| 65+ | 386 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 33 | 316 | 0 |
| NOT STATED | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 51,473 | 527 | 6,166 | 13,800 | 11,179 | 7,097 | 4,607 | 3,022 | 2,047 | 1,319 | 768 | 936 | 5 |

TABLE MD5. MARRIAGES BY DIFFERENCE IN AGES OF BRIDE AND GROOM

NEW JERSEY, 2002

| BRIDE IS ... THAN GROOM | ALL MARRIAGES | | FIRST MARRIAGES* | | NOT FIRST MARRIAGES | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | NUMBER | PERCENT | NUMBER | PERCENT | NUMBER | PERCENT |
| 30+ YEARS OLDER | 9 | 0.0 | 2 | 0.0 | 7 | 0.0 |
| 25-29 YEARS OLDER | 16 | 0.0 | 4 | 0.0 | 12 | 0.1 |
| 20-24 YEARS OLDER | 74 | 0.1 | 16 | 0.1 | 58 | 0.3 |
| 15-19 YEARS OLDER | 266 | 0.5 | 56 | 0.2 | 210 | 1.0 |
| 10-14 YEARS OLDER | 912 | 1.8 | 245 | 0.8 | 667 | 3.2 |
| 5-9 YEARS OLDER | 3,040 | 5.9 | 1,263 | 4.1 | 1,777 | 8.6 |
| 1-4 YEARS OLDER | 8,971 | 17.4 | 5,711 | 18.5 | 3,260 | 15.8 |
| SAME AGE | 5,529 | 10.7 | 4,155 | 13.5 | 1,374 | 6.7 |
| 1-4 YEARS YOUNGER | 17,825 | 34.6 | 12,795 | 41.5 | 5,030 | 24.4 |
| 5-9 YEARS YOUNGER | 9,368 | 18.2 | 5,048 | 16.4 | 4,320 | 21.0 |
| 10-14 YEARS YOUNGER | 3,494 | 6.8 | 1,147 | 3.7 | 2,347 | 11.4 |
| 15-19 YEARS YOUNGER | 1,230 | 2.4 | 298 | 1.0 | 932 | 4.5 |
| 20-24 YEARS YOUNGER | 462 | 0.9 | 93 | 0.3 | 369 | 1.8 |
| 25-29 YEARS YOUNGER | 177 | 0.3 | 22 | 0.1 | 155 | 0.8 |
| 30+ YEARS YOUNGER | 93 | 0.2 | 11 | 0.0 | 82 | 0.4 |
| AGE UNKNOWN | 7 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 51,473 | 100.0 | 30,867 | 100.0 | 20,606 | 100.0 |

* First marriage for both the bride and the groom. If either married before, in "not first marriages" column.

TABLE MD6. MARRIAGES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS

NEW JERSEY, 1992-2002

| YEAR | NUMBER OF MARRIAGES | BRIDES | | | GROOMS | | |
|------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | | PERCENT NEVER MARRIED | PERCENT WIDOWED | PERCENT DIVORCED | PERCENT NEVER MARRIED | PERCENT WIDOWED | PERCENT DIVORCED |
| 1992 | 55,321 | 74.3 | 2.5 | 23.3 | 73.5 | 2.5 | 24.0 |
| 1993 | 53,505 | 74.0 | 2.4 | 23.6 | 73.2 | 2.4 | 24.4 |
| 1994 | 52,797 | 74.0 | 2.3 | 23.7 | 73.2 | 2.4 | 24.4 |
| 1995 | 52,208 | 74.3 | 2.4 | 23.3 | 73.4 | 2.3 | 24.3 |
| 1996 | 51,811 | 74.3 | 2.3 | 23.5 | 73.2 | 2.4 | 24.5 |
| 1997 | 55,467 | 73.6 | 2.3 | 24.1 | 73.0 | 2.3 | 24.6 |
| 1998 | 47,812 | 74.0 | 2.3 | 23.7 | 72.8 | 2.5 | 24.7 |
| 1999 | 49,421 | 74.0 | 2.4 | 23.6 | 72.7 | 2.5 | 24.8 |
| 2000 | 49,302 | 73.1 | 2.3 | 24.5 | 71.8 | 2.4 | 25.8 |
| 2001 | 54,536 | 72.8 | 2.2 | 24.9 | 72.0 | 2.1 | 25.9 |
| 2002 | 51,473 | 72.2 | 2.2 | 25.5 | 70.8 | 2.3 | 26.9 |

TABLE MD7. PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE AND OF GROOM

NEW JERSEY, 2002

| PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDE | TOTAL | PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF GROOM | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| | | NEVER MARRIED | WIDOWED | DIVORCED | NOT STATED |
| NEVER MARRIED | 37,183 | 30,867 | 263 | 6,049 | 4 |
| WIDOWED | 1,137 | 281 | 354 | 502 | 0 |
| DIVORCED | 13,138 | 5,289 | 564 | 7,284 | 1 |
| NOT STATED | 15 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| TOTAL | 51,473 | 36,443 | 1,181 | 13,837 | 12 |

TABLE MD8. MARRIAGES BY COUNTY AND MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

NEW JERSEY, 2002

| COUNTY | TOTAL | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ATLANTIC | 1,982 | 73 | 89 | 111 | 162 | 205 | 240 | 171 | 203 | 234 | 219 | 130 | 145 |
| BERGEN | 5,029 | 209 | 260 | 307 | 400 | 479 | 524 | 447 | 575 | 607 | 515 | 402 | 304 |
| BURLINGTON | 2,244 | 78 | 125 | 129 | 156 | 233 | 300 | 194 | 231 | 238 | 241 | 171 | 148 |
| CAMDEN | 2,871 | 116 | 153 | 162 | 202 | 310 | 352 | 243 | 286 | 312 | 328 | 224 | 183 |
| CAPE MAY | 1,183 | 39 | 34 | 50 | 80 | 126 | 150 | 91 | 125 | 200 | 163 | 80 | 45 |
| CUMBERLAND | 814 | 35 | 44 | 53 | 48 | 92 | 107 | 77 | 75 | 84 | 68 | 68 | 63 |
| ESSEX | 4,822 | 203 | 239 | 292 | 390 | 440 | 539 | 418 | 573 | 558 | 467 | 406 | 297 |
| GLOUCESTER | 1,439 | 40 | 62 | 66 | 121 | 162 | 199 | 109 | 148 | 163 | 158 | 134 | 77 |
| HUDSON | 4,415 | 239 | 280 | 334 | 408 | 436 | 421 | 408 | 468 | 404 | 378 | 358 | 281 |
| HUNTERDON | 622 | 21 | 22 | 29 | 31 | 53 | 82 | 56 | 66 | 106 | 89 | 36 | 31 |
| MERCER | 1,979 | 90 | 110 | 99 | 154 | 196 | 273 | 164 | 221 | 206 | 221 | 124 | 121 |
| MIDDLESEX | 4,025 | 181 | 226 | 244 | 342 | 410 | 411 | 392 | 445 | 410 | 393 | 312 | 259 |
| MONMOUTH | 3,844 | 115 | 157 | 197 | 271 | 350 | 524 | 341 | 469 | 513 | 435 | 274 | 198 |
| MORRIS | 2,963 | 104 | 129 | 145 | 204 | 313 | 373 | 283 | 337 | 350 | 326 | 225 | 174 |
| OCEAN | 2,845 | 107 | 139 | 148 | 203 | 276 | 354 | 252 | 293 | 362 | 330 | 222 | 159 |
| PASSAIC | 3,529 | 168 | 219 | 195 | 260 | 304 | 353 | 328 | 409 | 393 | 388 | 285 | 227 |
| SALEM | 357 | 15 | 21 | 21 | 15 | 34 | 48 | 23 | 42 | 41 | 42 | 36 | 19 |
| SOMERSET | 1,595 | 47 | 67 | 73 | 102 | 164 | 206 | 161 | 201 | 186 | 167 | 136 | 85 |
| SUSSEX | 827 | 14 | 26 | 34 | 45 | 96 | 108 | 94 | 109 | 107 | 95 | 57 | 42 |
| UNION | 3,642 | 178 | 208 | 248 | 301 | 338 | 381 | 354 | 408 | 362 | 340 | 288 | 236 |
| WARREN | 430 | 17 | 19 | 17 | 35 | 47 | 88 | 35 | 36 | 40 | 42 | 22 | 32 |
| MILITARY | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 51,473 | 2,089 | 2,629 | 2,954 | 3,930 | 5,064 | 6,038 | 4,644 | 5,725 | 5,877 | 5,407 | 3,990 | 3,126 |

**TABLE MD9. MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES BY COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE
NEW JERSEY, 2002**

| COUNTY | MARRIAGES | MARRIAGE RATE | DIVORCES | DIVORCE RATE |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| ATLANTIC | 1,982 | 7.6 | 1,162 | 4.5 |
| BERGEN | 5,029 | 5.6 | 2,852 | 3.2 |
| BURLINGTON | 2,244 | 5.1 | 1,634 | 3.7 |
| CAMDEN | 2,871 | 5.6 | 1,580 | 3.1 |
| CAPE MAY | 1,183 | 11.6 | 304 | 3.0 |
| CUMBERLAND | 814 | 5.5 | 525 | 3.6 |
| ESSEX | 4,822 | 6.0 | 2,667 | 3.3 |
| GLOUCESTER | 1,439 | 5.5 | 815 | 3.1 |
| HUDSON | 4,415 | 7.2 | 2,559 | 4.2 |
| HUNTERDON | 622 | 4.9 | 347 | 2.8 |
| MERCER | 1,979 | 5.5 | 953 | 2.7 |
| MIDDLESEX | 4,025 | 5.2 | 2,492 | 3.2 |
| MONMOUTH | 3,844 | 6.1 | 1,922 | 3.1 |
| MORRIS | 2,963 | 6.2 | 1,588 | 3.3 |
| OCEAN | 2,845 | 5.3 | 1,706 | 3.2 |
| PASSAIC | 3,529 | 7.1 | 2,033 | 4.1 |
| SALEM | 357 | 5.5 | 228 | 3.5 |
| SOMERSET | 1,595 | 5.1 | 964 | 3.1 |
| SUSSEX | 827 | 5.6 | 513 | 3.5 |
| UNION | 3,642 | 6.9 | 1,957 | 3.7 |
| WARREN | 430 | 4.0 | 390 | 3.6 |
| MILITARY | 16 | N/A | 0 | N/A |
| TOTAL | 51,473 | 6.0 | 29,191 | 3.4 |

Rates are computed per 1,000 resident population.

Divorce figures include divorces, annulments, and separate maintenance actions.