

1.5 Marital and union status

1.5.1 Marital status

Majority of the residents of the Cayman Islands with age 15 years and above are legally married (51.0%) while a significant percentage have never been married (36.3%). The overall divorce rate among the entire population is 7.7 percent while the rates of legal separation and widowhood are at 1.9 and 2.7 percent, respectively.

While legally married is the dominant status, the rate varies by sex with the males generally having a higher rate (55.4%) than females (46.7%). It is also generally higher among non-Caymanians (52.9%) than Caymanians (49.2%).

The status “never married” is higher among females (37.6%) versus males (34.8%), and among non-Caymanians (38.6%) versus Caymanians (34.1%). In other words, the likelihood of never being married is highest among female non-Caymanians while it is lowest among male Caymanians.

Divorce is higher among females (8.7%) than males (6.6%). The incidence of divorce is also almost twice among Caymanians (10.1%) than among non-Caymanians (5.1%).

Figure 1.5A:

Marital Status By Sex and Status, Total and Percent Distribution, 2010

| Status | Total | Male | Female | Caymanian | Non-Caymanian |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 44,084 | 21,656 | 22,428 | 22,809 | 21,275 |
| % Distribution | | | | | |
| Legally Married | 51.0 | 55.4 | 46.7 | 49.2 | 52.9 |
| Legally Separated | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.7 |
| Divorced | 7.7 | 6.6 | 8.7 | 10.1 | 5.1 |
| Widowed | 2.7 | 1.0 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 1.2 |
| Never married | 36.3 | 34.8 | 37.6 | 34.1 | 38.6 |
| DK/NS | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 |

1.5.2 Union status

Union status is based on spouses' or partners' living arrangements of persons aged 15 years and above. A legally married person may not necessarily be living with a spouse, for example: the percentage of married persons living with a spouse (39.7%) is shown to be lower than the legally married above (51.0%).

Persons who are living with their spouse are slightly higher among males (40.4%) than females (38.9%), and among Caymanians (44.1%) versus non-Caymanians (34.9%).

The frequency of married persons with spouse living elsewhere (including abroad) is greater among males (14.4%) than females (7.6%), and among non-Caymanians (17.4%) than Caymanians (4.9%).

A significant number of respondents (39.4%) are not in union, with the females (43.7%) having a higher percentage than males (34.9%). This union status is also more common among Caymanians (42.4%) than non-Caymanians (36.1%).

Figure 1.5B:
Union Status By Sex and Status, Total and Percent Distribution, 2010

| Status | Total | Male | Female | Caymanian | Non-Caymanian |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total | 44,084 | 21,656 | 22,428 | 22,809 | 21,275 |
| % Distribution | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Married and living with spouse | 39.7 | 40.4 | 38.9 | 44.1 | 34.9 |
| Married with spouse living elsewhere | 10.9 | 14.4 | 7.6 | 4.9 | 17.4 |
| Common-law partner | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 7.3 | 10.3 |
| Visiting partner | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Not in union | 39.4 | 34.9 | 43.7 | 42.4 | 36.1 |
| DK/NS | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 |

Excludes residents with no information