

# Factors associated with divorce

[Family](#), [Divorce](#)



**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DIVORCE** Research shows there are 4 major factors that increase the likelihood of divorce

**A. Divorce Caused By Age At Marriage**

1. As age when married decreases, likelihood of divorce increases - Couples under the age of 18 are much more likely to divorce than couples who marry at any later age
2. Younger Couples Are:
  - Unprepared for marriage
  - Unaware of what is expected of them
  - Not mature enough to handle responsibilities
3. Drawbacks - The younger you are the less dating experience you've had - Not sure what you really value in a partner - Being young they may get bored and prefer a new marriage as opposed to their current one - Young couples have few reasons not to divorce - May have married without parents permission, so divorce may be supported by family - Likely do not have property together
4. Marrying due to pregnancy - Having a child before or early in marriage - Gives couple little time to adjust to each other and demands of marriage - May limit the parents' educational and occupational goals - Increases financial strain on relationship

**B. Race**

1. Studies show African Americans have higher divorce rates than Whites or Latinos - African Americans also much more likely to remain in a "separated" status - Their greater likelihood of being unemployed and living in poverty contribute to marital disruption
2. African American women are:
  - Less likely to marry
  - More likely to separate or divorce
  - Less likely to remarryOn average African American women spend only about half the amount of time white women spend in marriage.

**C. Socioeconomic Status**

1. Lower socioeconomic strata of society:
  - Lower levels of education, Lower incomes, Lower-status occupations
  - Higher marital instability ratesPoor families are twice as likely to breakup as nonpoor families. - Lower-status married

couples may have higher divorce rates because they face more crises and disruptions in their lives - Unemployment, uncertain jobs, welfare dependency

2. Higher socioeconomic strata of society: - Higher education levels, Higher Incomes, Higher-status jobs - Marry later in life (usually after college education), and later marriage is related to lower divorce rates - Higher-status people have more to lose from divorce - Some professions (ministry & politics) divorce may ruin career

D. Religion

1. National Survey -- 1999 In the United States: - Protestants have higher divorce rates than Catholics - Jews have slightly higher divorce rates than Protestants - Protestants - Baptists have high levels of marital instability