

Image not found.

Civil Unions

Table of Contents

Civil Unions	4
Abstract	4
Purpose	4
Stats NZ	4
Sample	4
Related Materials	6
Other	6
Study Relationships	6
Civil Unions	7
Concepts	7
Civil Union	7
Civil Union (registered)	7
Same-sex Partners	7
Marriage	7
Marriage (registered)	8
Age-specific	8
De facto Relationship	8
Marital Status	8
Marriage Rate (Crude)	8
Marriage Rate (General)	8
Marriage Rate (Crude) before 2005	9
Marriage Rate (General) before 2005	9
Median Age	9
Occupation	9
First marriages	9
Partner two	9
Remarriage	9
Relationship Type	9
Relationship Type - Relationship Type	9
Universes	10
Civil Union Population	10
Civil Unions Population	10
Category Lists	10
AGEGPS - Age - 5 Year Groupings (released)	10
TA13 - Territorial Authority 2013 (released)	10
Variables	10
Civil Unions (Published)	10

Period	10
Date of civil union	10
Residence of party 2	10
Country of birth	11
sex	11
Type	11
Age	11
Data Collections	11
Civil Unions	11
Methodology	11

 Civil Unions

Abstract

Civil union statistics measure the number of civil unions registered in New Zealand. Civil unions may be entered into by couples of the same sex or by couples of different sexes.

As the principal agency responsible for processing and publishing civil union statistics in New Zealand, Stats NZ seeks to provide information that meets the legal, public policy and community requirements for up-to-date official statistics at the national level.

Purpose

The Civil Union Act 2004 came into force on 26 April 2005 and the first ceremonies were celebrated on 29 April 2005. This Act introduced a new form of legal relationship. Two people aged 18 years and over, whether of opposite or the same sex, can enter into a civil union provided they are not currently married to, or in a civil union with, someone else. As with marriages, people aged 16 and 17 years must have their guardian's consent to enter a civil union. A couple who are currently married can transfer their relationship to a civil union. A couple in a civil union can transfer their relationship to a marriage.

Title

Civil Unions

Alternate title

Civil Union Registrations

Copyright

Stats NZ

Stats NZ

Name

Stats NZ

Unnamed item

Sample

Civil Unions Population

All Civil Unions registered in New Zealand

Significant events impacting this study series

2005 Relationship (Statutory References) Act 2005 enacted March 2005.

2005 Civil Union Act 2004 came into force on 26 April 2005, allowing registration of same-sex as well as opposite-sex partnerships. The first ceremonies were celebrated on 29 April 2005.

2005 Married couples are now able to transfer their marriage without first dissolving the marriage to a civil union.

2013 All couples (opposite-sex and same-sex) are now able to transfer their civil union to a marriage without first dissolving the civil union.

2014 Marriage rates change, from using just marriages as a proportion of the population, to marriages and civil unions excluding transfers to and from civil unions (marriages + civil unions - transfers). Marriage rates will be revised from 2005 onwards.

2015 Changes to "Civil unions and marriages (provisional) – tables" release. This release was published for the last time on 5 November 2015. A new Infoshare series - "Quarterly Marriages and Civil Unions (provisional)" - can be found under the subject Population and group: Marriages, Civil Unions, and Divorces. The table will be updated quarterly with provisional data. Marriages and civil unions will be combined. The data in this table has been randomly rounded to three to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

2016 With the introduction of same-sex marriage in 2013, the number of civil unions has decreased significantly and interest has shifted from civil unions and marriages to same-sex and opposite-sex couples. As a result marriages and civil unions have been combined in most cases, with same-sex and opposite-sex breakdowns given where possible. New data series have been added to Infoshare under the subject category 'population' and group 'marriages, civil unions, and divorces.'

2016 All marriage, civil union, and divorce data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables. Median ages have been recalculated using randomly rounded data. We are committed to ensuring confidentiality by not releasing information that could identify individuals. Random rounding is used to disguise small counts, but all cells in a table are randomly rounded. Counts that are already a multiple of three are left unchanged. Those not a multiple of three are rounded to one of the two nearest multiples. For example, a one will be rounded to either a zero or a three. Each value in the table is rounded independently. This means counts may not sum to totals, but ensures that published totals are within two of the original number.

Main users of the data

Stats NZ, International agencies

Frequency

- Quarterly

Usage and limitations of the data**Limitations of Data**

Geographical breakdowns are based on residence of partner two not place of the civil union. We do not compile statistics on place of the civil union.

The information is coded by territorial authority.

Combined civil unions and marriages (same-sex and opposite-sex) are available by broad geographic areas including Auckland, Wellington, the rest of the North Island, Canterbury, and the rest of the South Island.

Auckland includes the Auckland council area.

Wellington includes:

- Porirua city
- Upper Hutt city
- Lower Hutt city
- Wellington city
- Kapiti Coast district
- Masterton district
- Carterton district
- South Wairarapa district.

Canterbury includes:

- Kaikoura district
- Hurunui district
- Waimakariri district
- Selwyn district
- Ashburton district
- Timaru district
- Mackenzie district
- Waimate district
- Christchurch city.

The relatively small number of civil unions and same-sex marriages prohibits a more detailed geographic breakdown.

Marriages and civil unions combined are available by territorial authority (city and district council) from Infoshare.

Related Materials

Other

- [Marriages, civil unions, and divorces webpage](#)
- [Marriages, civil unions, and divorces archive webpage](#)
- [Civil Unions and Marriages \(provisional\)](#)
- [Family Court of New Zealand](#)

Subjects	People and communities
Keywords	Civil union
Date	2005 -

Study Relationships

Datasets

No specified relationship

Instruments

No specified relationship

Language

No formal relationship - not a factor of grouping

Panel

No specified relationship

Geography

No specified relationship

Time

No specified relationship

 Civil Unions**Title**

Civil Unions

Concepts Civil Union

- [Civil Union \(registered\)](#)
- [Same-sex Partners](#)

 Civil Union (registered)

The act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of two people is constituted. A civil union may be entered into by couples of the same sex or by couples of different sexes. In New Zealand, a civil union may be solemnised either by a civil union celebrant or before a registrar of civil unions. A licence must be obtained from a registrar before a civil union can be solemnised, and notice must be given by one of the parties to a registrar.

 Same-sex Partners

Two people of the same sex who are in a consensual union.

 Marriage

- [Marriage \(registered\)](#)
- [Age-specific](#)
- [De facto Relationship](#)
- [Marital Status](#)
- [Marriage Rate \(Crude\)](#)
- [Marriage Rate \(General\)](#)
- [Marriage Rate \(Crude\) before 2005](#)
- [Marriage Rate \(General\) before 2005](#)
- [Median Age - Median Age](#)
- [Occupation](#)
- [First marriages - First marriages](#)
- [Partner two - Partner two](#)

- Remarriage - Remarriage

 Marriage (registered)

Before 19 August 2013 a marriage involved the act, ceremony, or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife was constituted.

From 19 August 2013 a marriage involves the act, ceremony, or process by which the legal relationship of two people, regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, is constituted.

In New Zealand, marriage may be solemnised either by a celebrant or before a registrar of marriages. A licence must be obtained from a registrar before a marriage by a celebrant can be solemnised, and notice must be given by one of the parties to a registrar.

 Age-specific

A measure relating to an age group. Age-specific rates are commonly calculated for fertility, mortality, marriage, marriage dissolution and abortion.

 De facto Relationship

Two people usually living in the same dwelling, but not in a registered marriage to each other, who:

- share a mutual concern for each other;

-

have a degree of economic, social, and emotional interdependence; and

-

consider their relationship to be akin to marriage.

 Marital Status

A person's status with respect to the marriage laws or customs of the country.

Legal marital status is a person's status with respect to registered marriage.

Social marital status is a person's status with respect to consensual union (partnered or unpartnered).

 Marriage Rate (Crude)

Marriages and civil unions per 1,000 mean estimated population (transfers to and from marriage or civil union are excluded).

 Marriage Rate (General)

Marriages and civil unions per 1,000 mean estimated population aged 16 years and over who are not-married or in a civil union (transfers to and from marriage or civil union are excluded).

 Marriage Rate (Crude) before 2005

The number of marriages per 1,000 estimated mean population.

 Marriage Rate (General) before 2005

The number of marriages per 1,000 estimated mean not-married population aged 16 years and over.

 Median Age

Half the population is younger, and half older, than this age.

 Occupation

A set of jobs which involve the performance of a common set of tasks.

 First marriages

Marriages or civil unions where neither partner has been previously married or in a civil union.

 Partner two

The person whose details are entered in the right hand column of the marriage or civil union license application form. For opposite-sex marriages this is usually the bridegroom.

 Remarriage

Marriages or civil unions where one or both partners have been previously married or in a civil union with a different partner. Remarriages do not include transfers to and from marriage or civil union. Transfers are included in total marriages and civil unions.

 Relationship Type

- [Relationship Type - Relationship Type](#)

 Relationship Type - Relationship Type

Relationship Type

Opposite-sex couple, male couple or female couple

Universes

 Civil Union Population

- [Civil Unions Population](#)

 Civil Unions Population

All Civil Unions registered in New Zealand

Category Lists

 AGENPS - Age - 5 Year Groupings (released)

Age - 5 Year Groupings (released)

 TA13 - Territorial Authority 2013 (released)

Territorial Authority 2013 (released)

Variables

 Civil Unions (Published)

- [Period](#)
- [Date of civil union](#)
- [Residence of party 2](#)
- [Country of birth](#)
- [sex](#)
- [Type](#)
- [Age](#)

 Period

Type	YearMonth
Description	Year and month of registration

 Date of civil union

Type	MonthDay
Description	Day, month and year

 Residence of party 2

Type	Unknown
Description	Grouped territorial authorities where partner 2 usually lives.

 Country of birth

Type	Unknown
Description	Country of birth of both parties

 sex

Type	Unknown
Description	Sex of partner

 Type

Type	Unknown
Description	Indicates same sex or opposite sex couple

 Age

Type	Unknown
Description	Age of partner

Data Collections

Civil Unions

Methodology

The Civil Union Act 2004 came into force on 26 April 2005 and the first ceremonies were celebrated on 29 April 2005.

A civil union may be entered into by couples of the same sex or by couples of different sexes. In New Zealand, a civil union may be solemnised either by a civil union celebrant or before a registrar of civil unions. A licence must be obtained from a registrar before a civil union can be solemnised, and notice must be given by one of the parties to a registrar. A couple (same or opposite sex) wishing to enter into a civil union in New Zealand must complete a Notice of Intended Civil Union (BDM360) at least three days before the civil union.

The BDM360 (or civil union licence) includes a statutory declaration which must be made in the presence of a Registrar of Civil Unions. The civil union must take place within 3 months of the licence being issued. The details from the BDM360 are transferred to two copies of the form BDM345 (Copy of Particulars of Civil Union). Both copies of the BDM345 are signed by the parties at the ceremony. The BDM345 confirms the details and legal validity of the civil union. Within ten days of the ceremony the celebrant must send one copy back to the Registrar who prepared it, the other copy is given to the couple as a record of their civil union. The BDM345s are marked against the BDM360s then forwarded to Births, Deaths and Marriages (a division of the Department of Internal Affairs) in Wellington where the civil union is registered. There is also the provision for opposite-sex and same-sex couples to transfer an existing marriage to a civil union, or a civil union to a marriage.

Civil union data are derived from information provided on the BDM360, BDM345 or BDM 359. Stats NZ receives a monthly electronic file of civil union registrations from Births, Deaths and Marriages. Stats NZ is responsible for processing and publishing marriage and civil union statistics derived from the marriage and civil union registrations. Civil union data are published annually and unless otherwise stated refer to civil unions by

date of registration not date of occurrence. In recognition of public interest in the progress of civil unions, there are also quarterly releases of provisional civil union data as a web-only table. The provisional quarterly data are available within 5 weeks of the end of the quarter.

If sex is not stated or is indeterminant, sex is imputed, however the original response is retained.

Subjects	People and communities
Keywords	Civil union
Date	2005 -
Spatial Coverage	Civil union statistics measure the number of civil unions registered in New Zealand.
Highest Level	Total New Zealand
Lowest Level	Broad geographic area