



FELDSTEIN FAMILY
LAW GROUP

Divorce Fact Sheet 2013

Canadian Divorce Rate	<i>SOURCE: Report of the Family Justice Working Group</i>
Annual number of divorces in Canada	70,000
First marriages that end in divorce	33%
People who divorce more than once	16%
Average duration of marriages ending in divorce	14.5 years (as of 2005)
Divorce Rates around the World	<i>SOURCE: Divorce demography Crude divorce rate per 1,000 population of those eligible for marriage</i>
<i>Divorce to marriage ratio</i>	
Belgium	71%
Portugal	68%
Czech Republic	66%
Spain	61%
France	55%
USA	53%
Cuba	56%
Russia, Switzerland	51%
Germany	49%
Canada	48%
Costa Rica, United Kingdom	47%
Australia	43%
Japan	36%
Israel, Singapore	28%
Greece, Italy	25%
China	22%
Mexico	15%
Divorce rate, by age group	<i>SOURCE: Stats Canada, 1993 to 2003</i>
Divorce rate for couples, ages 50 to 54	38%
Divorce rate for couples, ages 55 to 59	47.8%
Divorce rate for couples, ages 60 to 64	31.7%
Average age of men at divorce	44
Average age of women at divorce	41

Marriage, Common Law, Same Sex Unions	<i>SOURCE: Vanier Institute of the Family, 2010</i>
Marriage rate in Newfoundland and Labrador	54.3% (highest in Canada)
Marriage rate in Quebec	37.5% (lowest in Canada)
Same-Sex couples who are married	16.5%
Common law families in Canada	15%
Reasons for Divorce	<i>SOURCE: Stats Canada</i>
Reasons for divorce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Relationship “runs out of steam”/fall out of love ■ Communication breakdown ■ Unreasonable behaviour ■ Infidelity ■ Midlife crisis ■ Financial issues ■ Physical, psychological, or emotional abuse
Timing and Cost	<i>SOURCE: Report of the Family Justice Working Group</i>
Family law cases that comprise all civil law cases	35%
Divorce cases that are settled out of court	95 to 99%
	NOTE: A much larger percentage attend court for Case Conferences, Motions, and Settlement Conferences.
Divorce cases that go to trial	1%
Duration of average separation/divorce	1.5 to 2.5 years
Statistically, the busiest month for divorce	January
“D-Day,” divorce day, in Britain	January 8, the day when the most divorce files are opened by law firms
Family law litigants who are Self-Represented [do not hire a lawyer]	54%
	<i>SOURCE: Rachel Birnbaum & Nicholas Bala, Views of Ontario Lawyers on Family Litigants without Representation (2012)</i>
Cost of a typical divorce	\$5,000 to \$100,000
Women and Divorce	<i>SOURCE: Anne-Marie Ambert, “Divorce: Facts, Causes and Consequences,” 2009</i>
Percentage of divorces initiated by women	66
Women over 65 who live in poverty (who are single, widowed, or divorced)	16%
Men over 65 who live in poverty (who are single, widowed, or divorced)	12%
Family Violence	<i>SOURCE: Families Count: Profiling Canadian Families IV, Vanier Institute of the Family, 2010</i>
Women who self-reported some form of spousal violence in last 5 years	7%

Men who self-reported some form of spousal violence in last 5 years	6%
Spousal abuse that is reported to police	22%
Children and Divorce	<i>SOURCE: Anne-Marie Ambert, "Divorce: Facts, Causes and Consequences," 2009</i>
Estimated Canadian children affected by divorce	35%
Children living in one-parent families, headed by a female parent, who live in poverty	22%
Couples who tell their children they are separating and how life will be different	5%
Likelihood that children will be at risk of falling into low income after separation and divorce	Odds increase by a factor of 11 http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11f0019m/11f0019m1999132-eng.pdf
Main sources of negative outcome for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Significant reduction in financial resources ■ Diminished parenting ■ Parental conflict ■ Exacerbation of pre-existing problems
Problems experienced by kids of divorced couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More alcohol and marijuana use ■ More problems with peers, authority figures ■ Children are less likely to marry and more likely to divorce.
Anxiety, depression and self-esteem issues of children from divorced couples	Twice the rate of married family children
Dropout rate of kids from divorced couples	2 to 3 times the rate of married family children
Child Support	<i>SOURCE: Federal Child Support Guidelines</i>
The basic amount of child support owed by a parent with one child and an annual income of \$45,000	\$406/month
The basic amount of child support owed by a parent with two children and an annual income of \$45,000	\$664/month
Child support payors who are male	85%
Children whose primary residence is with their mother	70%
Children whose primary residence is with their father	15%
Children who divide their time equally between mother's and father's residence	9%

MORE INFORMATION

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