

Family Matters

New relationships after separation or divorce



In 2017, of the 11 million people aged 35 to 64 years old in a couple¹:

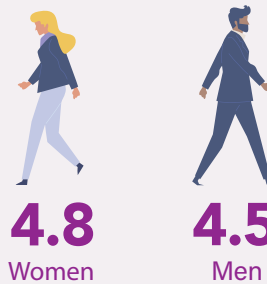
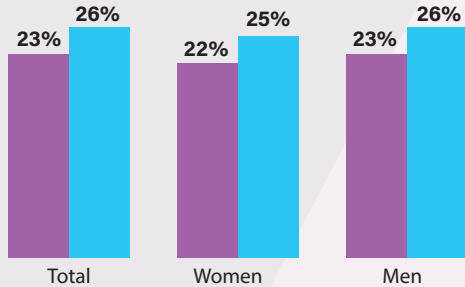
1 in 4 were currently in their second or subsequent marriage or common-law relationship.



Average time separated or divorced before remarrying or repartnering: 5 years

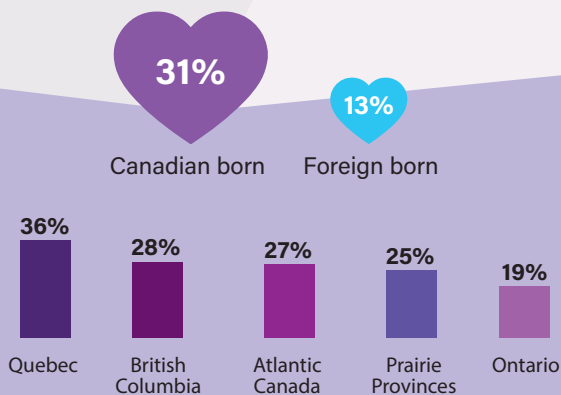
2006
2017

Percentage in a second or subsequent union among persons in couples



Those born in Canada and residents of Quebec were most likely to form second or subsequent unions.

Percentage in a second or subsequent union among all persons in couples



What does a second or subsequent union look like?

Among those who were currently remarried or repartnered:



36% were now in a common-law union.

46% were now in a marriage that had started as a common-law union.

18% were now in a marriage that had not started as a common-law union.

Half had been with their current partner or spouse for 12 or more years.



31% of those in a common-law union and 56% of those married had children with their current partner or spouse.



Source: General Social Survey (Families), 2006 and 2017.

1. Results are based on the respondent's current union. All data are for the population aged 35 to 64 years old living in Canada who had been married or lived common-law at least once at the time of survey. For those in their second or subsequent union, only individuals whose previous union ended by separation or divorce are included (widowed individuals are excluded).

Catalogue number: 11-627-M
ISBN number: 978-0-660-30767-1



Statistics Canada
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