



مركز الإحصاء - أبوظبي
STATISTICS CENTRE - ABU DHABI



Marriage and Divorce Rates

In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

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Foreword

The leadership of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi pays particular attention to the institution of family through providing it with all types of social care and services programs to guarantee its stability, and enable it to achieve its full potential in the realization of development. The Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi keenly supports the social agenda of Abu Dhabi government through the Centre's endeavour to improve the quality of data and expand the umbrella of statistical coverage to include various analytical aspects, studies and specialized research in all fields that support decision-makers and those involved in statistics and planning in the Emirate.

Through the "Social Studies Series", the Centre adds a new dimension to its publications that is not only limited to providing data, but also includes in-depth scientific analyses based on accurate statistics and solid scientific methodology, especially as there is lack in the analysis of available statistical data identifying the determinants of various social phenomena. The first part in this series is an important analytical study of marriage and divorce rates in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi which represent significant indicators in the social statistics and are widely used in decision making and the development of programs and policies that seek to support the cohesion and of stability of families.

This study explores the levels and trends of the marriage and divorce rates in the Emirate between the years 2005 and 2010, and the variation in these rates by area, nationality, and gender. This study also disproves the high divorce rates, in the United Arab Emirates and the Gulf countries in general, published by some international consulting firms and widely cited by the media.

As we release the first issue of the "Social Studies Series", we aspire to continue our efforts to complete this series for the purpose of raising awareness about social issues at the public and private levels in the various sectors, as well as assist decision makers in dealing with social phenomena, through accurate statistics and solid scientific analysis.

On this occasion we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Judicial Department in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, which contributed a large portion of the collected data upon which this study is based. We hope that this issue will achieve its objectives and meet the needs of decision makers and all those interested in monitoring the inclinations and dimensions of these important social phenomena in the Emirate.



Butti Ahmed Mohamed Bin Butti Al Qubaisi
Director General

1. Introduction:

Marriage is considered one of the most important social bonds that support the fabric of families, which are the building blocks of a strong society, whereas divorce leads to broken families, giving rise to serious consequences for the family members in particular and on the society at large.

The United Arab Emirates in general and the Government of Abu Dhabi in particular endeavour to encourage marriage and reduce divorce rates amongst nationals with a view to rectifying the demographic composition, and increasing the percentage of citizens in the total population. The establishment of the Marriage Fund, the strengthening of its role and the call to renounce excessive dowries and cut down wedding expenses are some of the important measures taken to encourage marriage among nationals.

Marriage and divorce rates represent important indicators for decision makers and policy planners as the basis on which to develop appropriate policies and programs and steer them in the right direction, in such a way as to guarantee the formation of more national families on the one hand and safeguard their stability on the other.

The present study aims to identify the marriage and divorce rates in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, using three marriage indicators as follows: the crude marriage rate, the general marriage rate and the refined marriage rate, along with four divorce indicators as follows: the crude divorce rate, the general divorce rate, the refined divorce rate and number of divorces per 100/1000 marriages within the same year. In addition, this study aims to identify variations in the values of these indicators by region, nationality, and gender. The study also seeks to examine the trends exhibited by these rates in the recent past, between the years 2005 and 2010. Furthermore the study looks into the advantages and disadvantages of the various marriage and divorce indicators used.

In addition to the Introduction, this study includes four chapters, namely, chapter two which includes Indicators of marriage, chapter three presents three of the indicators of divorce (crude divorce rate, general divorce rate, and the refined divorce rate), chapter four presents the number of divorces per 1000 marriages in the same year, and finally, chapter five, which sets forth the findings and recommendations of the study.

The marriage and divorce indicators used in this study were calculated on the basis of the statistical figures issued by the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department and the population estimates prepared by the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi.

2. Marriage Indicators:

2.1 Crude Marriage Rate:

The crude marriage rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of marriages (and not the number of married couples) per 1000 population in that region/country during that year/period of time. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of marriages during the year/period of time in question by the estimated population in the middle of the year/period of time and multiplying the result by 1000. The crude marriage rate is used in regions/countries where the data necessary for calculating more refined rates are not available. It is used in this study for comparison with the corresponding values of more refined indicators of marriage, such as the general marriage rate and the refined marriage rate.

The results shown in Table (1) indicate that the crude marriage rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2005 was 4 marriages per 1000 population. This rate varies between different regions of the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Al Ain region with (4.5 marriages per 1000 population), followed by Abu Dhabi (4.1 marriages per 1000 population) and the Western region (1.8 marriages per 1000 population).

Table (1)

Crude marriage rates (per 1000 population) by region, nationality and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-Nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	19.0	17.4	3.7	9.2	4.1
Al Ain	20.6	19.0	2.5	7.8	4.5
Western region and the islands	14.1	15.2	0.5	3.4	1.8
Total	19.3	17.9	3.0	8.5	4.0

Table (2)

Crude marriage rates (per 1000 population) by region, nationality and gender - 2010

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-Nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	15.9	14.1	2.1	6.9	2.8
Al Ain	18.4	16.1	2.2	8.0	4.0
Western region and the Islands	13.3	15.6	0.3	2.9	1.2
Total	16.7	15.0	1.9	7.0	3.0

The crude marriage rate for 2005 also varies by nationality and gender, reaching its highest level in the case of male nationals (19.3 marriages to female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male nationals), followed by female nationals (17.9 marriages of female nationals to male nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female nationals), then female non-nationals (8.5 marriages of female non-nationals to male nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female non-nationals) and lastly male non-nationals (3.0 marriages of male non-nationals to female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male non-nationals).

The crude marriage rates for 2005 for male and female nationals also varies by region, with the highest level recorded in Al Ain at (20.6 and 19.0 marriages per 1000 male and female nationals, respectively), while the lowest rate was observed in the Western region and the Islands (14.1, 15.2 marriages per 1000 male and female nationals, respectively). With respect to male and female non-nationals, the crude marriage rates reached their highest level in Abu Dhabi (3.7 and 9.2 marriages per 1000 male and female non-nationals, respectively), while the lowest rates were reported in the Western region and the Islands (0.5 and 3.4 marriages per 1000 male and female non-nationals, respectively). The drop in the marriage rates of male and female non-nationals may be attributed to the fact that many of them choose to constitute their marriages in their countries of origin.

It is possible to study the time trends of the crude marriage rate by comparing its levels in 2005 (displayed on Table 1) with the corresponding values in 2010 as shown in Table (2). The comparison reveals the following:

- There has been a drop in the crude marriage rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 4 marriages per 1000 population in 2005 to 3 marriages per 1000 population in 2010, with a percentage decrease of 25% for the entire period, i.e. at an average annual drop of 5%.
- There has been a decline in the crude marriage rate for male nationals and non-nationals in the three regions of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, the Western region and the Islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates in 2005. With respect to female nationals, the crude marriage rate has dropped in both Abu Dhabi and Al Ain between 2005 and 2010, but increased slightly during the same period in the Western region and the Islands (from 15.2 to 15.6 marriages of female nationals to nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female nationals respectively). As for non-nationals, the crude marriage rate has dropped in both Abu Dhabi and the Western region and the islands between 2005 and 2010, while it increased marginally during the same period in Al Ain region, reaching (from 7.8 to 8.0 marriages of female non-nationals to nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female non-nationals between 2005 and 2010, respectively).
- The crude marriage rate for male nationals by region remained the same between 2005 and 2010 (reaching its highest level in Al Ain, followed by Abu Dhabi, and the Western region and the islands), however the pattern differed for male non-nationals and for female nationals and female non-nationals.

Despite the simplicity and ease of calculation of the crude marriage rate, it has some inherent shortcomings that detract from its value, namely its inclusion of individuals who are unlikely to get married, such as children below the marriage age and married individuals (some married individuals may remarry according to some religious laws and under certain regulations).

2.2 General Marriage Rate:

The general marriage rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of marriages (and not the number of married couples) per 1000 population aged 15 years and above in that region/country in that year/period of time. This is calculated by dividing the number of marriages during the reference year/period of time by the estimated population aged 15 and above in the middle of that year/period of time, and multiplying the result by 1000.

The results shown in Table (3) indicate that the general marriage rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2005 was 5.2 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above. The value of this rate varies between the regions of the Emirate among which Al Ain region ranked top, with (5.9 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above), followed by Abu Dhabi (5.3 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) and the Western region and the islands (2.1 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above).

Table (3)

General marriage rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by region, nationality and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	32.1	29.5	4.3	12.7	5.3
Al Ain	35.0	30.6	2.8	10.7	59.2
Western region and the Islands	22.5	26.0	0.5	5.1	2.1
Total	32.5	29.8	3.4	11.8	5.2

Table (4)

General marriage rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by region, nationality and gender - 2010

Region	Male Nationals	Female nationals	Male Non-Nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	26.9	24.0	2.5	9.6	3.6
Al Ain	31.3	25.9	2.4	10.9	5.1
Western region and the Islands	21.3	26.7	0.3	4.4	1.4
Total	28.2	25.0	2.2	9.7	3.8

The general marriage rate for 2005 differs by nationality and gender, with the highest rate for male nationals at (32.5 marriages of male nationals to female nationals or non-nationals, per 1000 male nationals aged 15 years or above), followed by female nationals (29.8 marriages for female nationals, to male nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female nationals aged 15 years or above), followed by female non-nationals (11.8 marriages of female non-nationals to male nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female non-nationals aged 15 years or above), and lastly male non-nationals (3.4 marriages of non-nationals to female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male non-nationals aged 15 years or above).

The general marriage rate for 2005 for male and female nationals also varies by region, with the highest value recorded in Al Ain region (35.0 and 30.6 marriages per 1000 male and female nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively), while the lowest rate was recorded in the Western region and the islands (22.5 and 26.0 marriages per 1000 male and female nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively). With respect to male and female non-nationals and, the general marriage rates reached their highest levels in Abu Dhabi region, which registered (4.3 and 12.7 marriages per 1000 male and female non-nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively), while the lowest rate was observed in the Western region and the islands at (0.5 and 5.1 marriages per 1000 male and female non-nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively).

It is possible to study the trend displayed by the general marriage rate over time by comparing its levels in 2005 as shown in Table (3) with the corresponding values for 2010 as shown in Table (4). The comparison indicates the following:

- A decrease in the general marriage rate for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 5.2 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years or above in 2005 to 4 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years or above in 2010, i.e. with a decline of 30% for the entire period and an average annual drop of 6%.

- A decrease in the general marriage rate for male nationals and non-nationals in the three areas of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and The Western region and the islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates in 2005. With respect to female nationals, the general marriage rate has dropped in both Abu Dhabi and Al Ain between 2005 and 2010, while it has increased slightly during the same period in the Western region and the Islands (26.0 and 26.7 marriages of female nationals to nationals or non-nationals, per 1000 female nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively). As for non-nationals, the general marriage rate retreated in both Abu Dhabi and the Western region and the islands between 2005 and 2010, but increased slightly during the same period in Al Ain (10.7 and 10.9 marriages female non-national to nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female non-nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively).
- The general marriage rate for male nationals by region remained unchanged between years 2005 and 2010, being highest in Al Ain, followed by Abu Dhabi and the Western region and the islands). The general marriage rate for male non-nationals also remained unchanged between 2005 and 2010 but in a different manner, with the highest rate recorded in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain and the Western region and the Islands). However, the pattern changed for female nationals and non-nationals during the same period, as shown by the results on tables (3, 4).

It is worth noting here that the general marriage rates for 2005 and 2010 by region, nationality, and gender as shown in Tables (3, 4) is much higher than the corresponding crude marriage rate as shown in Tables (1, 2). This is attributed to the exclusion of children under fifteen years old, who are not exposed to the event of marriage candidates, from the denominator of the formula used for calculation of the general marriage rate. This category is not excluded in the calculation of the crude marriage rate.

Although the general marriage rate addresses the first part of the above-mentioned shortcomings in the crude marriage rate by excluding children under 15 years old, who are not exposed to the event of marriage, it still suffers from the second part of the shortcomings of the crude marriage rate, i.e. the inclusion of married couples who are unlikely to remarry (not exposed to the event of marriage) (Farraj, 1975, Sanaa University, 2001).

2.3 Refined Marriage Rate:

The refined marriage rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of marriages (and not the number of married couples) per 1000 unmarried population (who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed) aged 15 years and above within that region/country in that year/period of time. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of marriages during the year/period of time by the estimated population (who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed) aged 15 year and above in the middle of the year/period of time, then multiplying the result by 1000 (Shryock and Siegel 1976). Demographic references unanimously agree on this method of calculation of the refined marriage rate (which Farraj, 1975, calls: the rate of demand for marriage). However, (Kimberly A. Faust 2004) indicates the use of the number of unmarried males or females in the denominator, without providing any justification for that, even though the use of either of them alone would give a different result than the refined divorce rate obtained when the denominator is the total unmarried males and females as defined earlier.

The refined marriage rate has the advantage of rectifying both of the shortcomings of the crude marriage rate and the shortcoming of the general marriage rate, as it excludes children under 15 years of age, as well as married individuals who are not exposed to the event of marriage. The denominator of this rate therefore consists of those who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed).

Table (5)

Refined marriage rates* by region, nationality, and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female National	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	76.7	66.6	17.3	39.3	18.1
Al Ain	69.7	56.2	12.4	28.7	17.9
Western region and the Islands	51.2	58.7	2.6	16.8	8.9
Total	71.7	61.0	14.4	35.2	17.3

* Per 1000 population aged 15 years and above who have never been married, or who are divorced and widowed

Table (6)

Refined marriage rates* by region, nationality, and gender - 2010

Region	Male Nationals	Female National	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	64.3	54.2	10.0	29.5	12.4
Al Ain	62.4	47.7	10.7	29.4	15.7
Western region and the Islands	48.4	60.4	1.5	14.4	6.5
Total	62.3	51.4	9.2	28.9	13.0

* Per 1000 population aged 15 years and above who have never been married, or who are divorced and widowed

The results shown in Table (5) indicate that the refined marriage rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2005 was 17.3 marriages per 1000 unmarried population (who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed), aged 15 years and above. This rate varies between the regions of the Emirate, being highest in Abu Dhabi, with (18.1 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above), followed by Al Ain (17.9 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above) and the Western region (8.9 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above).

The refined marriage rate for 2005 varies by nationality and gender, reaching its highest level for male nationals (71.7 marriages of male nationals to female nationals or non-nationals, per 1000 unmarried male nationals aged 15 years or above), followed by female nationals (61.0 marriages for female nationals, to male nationals or non-nationals per 1000 unmarried female nationals aged 15 years or above), followed by female non-nationals (35.2 marriages of female non-nationals to male nationals or non-nationals per 1000 unmarried female non-nationals aged 15 years or above), and then male non-nationals (14.4 marriages for non-nationals to female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 unmarried male non-nationals aged 15 years or above).

The refined marriage rates for 2005 for male and female nationals also vary by region, with the highest rate recorded in Abu Dhabi at (76.7 and 6.6 marriages per 1000 unmarried male and female nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively), while the rate reached its lowest level for male nationals in the Western region and the Islands

(51.2 marriages respectively per 1000 unmarried male nationals aged 15 years or above) and its lowest level for female nationals in Al Ain (56.2 marriages per 1000 unmarried female nationals aged 15 years and above). With respect to male and female non-nationals, the refined marriage rates reached its highest in Abu Dhabi (17.3 and 39.3 marriages per 1000 unmarried male and female non-nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively) and its lowest in the Western region and the islands (2.6 and 16.8 marriages per 1000 unmarried non-national males and females aged 15 years or above, respectively).

Figure (1)

Refined Marriage Rate for Male Nationals by Region, 2005 - 2010

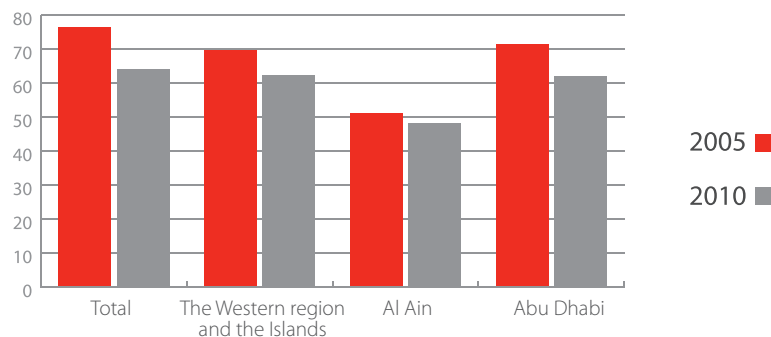
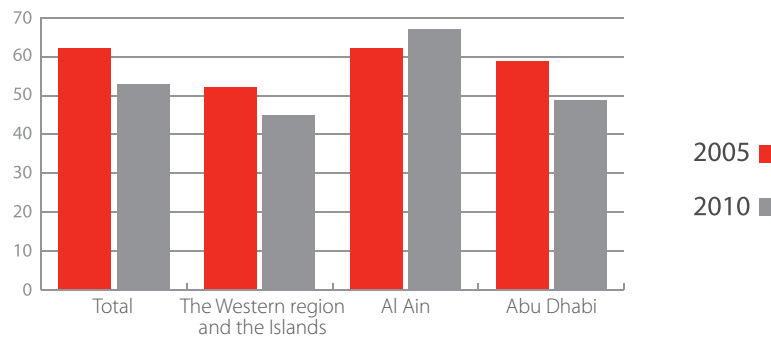


Figure (2)

Refined Marriage Rate for Female Nationals by Region, 2005 - 2010



It is possible to study the time trends of the refined marriage rate by comparing its levels in 2005 as shown on Table (5) with the corresponding data for 2010 (shown on Table-6). The comparison reveals the following findings:

- A decline in the refined marriage rate for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 17.3 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years or above in 2005 to 13 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above in 2010, at a percentage decrease of 24.86% for the entire period and an average annual drop of 4.97%.
- A decrease in the refined marriage rate for male nationals (Figure 1) and non-nationals in the three regions of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western region and the islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates in 2005. With respect to female nationals (Figure 2) the Refined Marriage Rate dropped in both Abu Dhabi and Al Ain between 2005 and 2010, while it increased slightly during the same period in the Western region and the Islands (from 58.7 to 60.4 marriages per 1000 unmarried female nationals aged 15 years and above, between 2005 and 2010, respectively). As for female non-nationals, the refined marriage rate has dropped in both Abu Dhabi and the Western, and the islands between 2005 and 2010, but increased slightly during the same period in Al Ain (from 28.7 and 29.4 marriages of female non-nationals to nationals or non-nationals per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above respectively),
- The refined marriage rate for male nationals and female non-nationals by region remained unchanged between 2005 and 2010 (reaching its highest level in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain and the Western region and the islands), while the pattern changed for female nationals and male non-nationals during the same period, as the results in tables (5 and 6) show.

It is worth noting here that the refined marriage rates for 2005 and 2010 by region, nationality, and gender as shown in Tables (5 and 6) are much higher than the corresponding general marriage rates displayed on tables (3 and 4), and by far higher than the crude marriage rate in Tables (1 and 2). This is attributed to the exclusion of children under fifteen years of age as well as married individuals who are both not exposed to the event of marriage, from the denominator of the formula used to calculate the refined marriage rate. Neither category is excluded in the calculation of the crude marriage rate, while only children under the age of fifteen are excluded from denominator of the general marriage rates.

3. Divorce Indicators:

3.1 Crude Divorce Rate:

The crude divorce rate within a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of divorces (and not the number of divorced couples) per 1000 population in that region/country in the specified year/period of time. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of divorces during the reference year/period of time by the estimated population in the middle of the year/period of time, then multiplying the result by 1000. The crude divorce rate is used in regions/countries where the data necessary for calculating more refined rates are not available. It is used in this study for comparison with the corresponding values of more refined indicators of divorce, such as the general divorce rate and the refined divorce rate.

As can be seen from the results shown in Table (7) the crude divorce rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2005 was 1.3 divorces per 1000 population. The value of this rate varies between the regions of the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Abu Dhabi with (1.5 divorces per 1000 population), followed by Al Ain (1.3 divorces per 1000 population), and then the Western Region (0.46 divorces per 1000 population).

Table (7)

Crude divorce rates (per 1000 population) by region, nationality, and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	7.9	5.5	1.1	3.5	1.5
Al Ain	6.0	4.5	0.7	3.1	1.3
Western region and the Islands	3.5	3.2	0.15	1.4	0.46
Total	6.8	4.9	0.8	3.3	1.3

Table (8)

Crude divorce rates (per 1000 population) by region, nationality, and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-national	Female Non-Nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	6.2	4.6	0.7	2.7	1.0
Al Ain	3.9	2.9	0.6	2.5	0.9
Western region and the Islands	2.3	2.8	0.10	0.9	0.26
Total	5.0	3.8	0.6	2.5	0.9

The crude divorce rate for 2005 also varies by nationality and gender, with the highest rate recorded among male nationals (6.8 divorces of male nationals from female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male nationals), followed by female nationals (4.9 divorces of female nationals from nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female nationals), followed by female non-nationals (3.3 divorces of female non-nationals from nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female non-nationals), and then male non-nationals (0.8 divorces of male non-nationals, from female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male non-nationals). The decrease in the divorce rates of male and female non-nationals may be attributed to the fact that many of them choose to formalize their divorces in their home countries.

The crude divorce rates for 2005 also varied for male and female nationals by region, rising to its highest levels in Abu Dhabi (7.9 and 5.5 divorces per 1000 male and female nationals, respectively), while the lowest levels were observed in the Western region and the islands (3.5 and 3.2 divorces per 1000 male and female nationals, respectively). With respect to male and female non-nationals, the rates of crude divorce rates again reached their highest levels in Abu Dhabi (1.1 and 3.5 divorces per 1000 male and female non-nationals, respectively), while the lowest levels were recorded in the Western region and the islands (0.15 and 1.4 divorces per 1000 male and female non-nationals).

It is possible to study the trends that characterized the crude divorce rate over time by comparing its levels in 2005 as shown in Table (7) with the corresponding values for 2010 on Table (8). The comparison reveals the following:

- A decrease in the crude divorce rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 1.3 divorces per 1000 population in 2005 to 0.9 divorces per 1000 population in 2010, with a percentage decrease of 30.8% for the entire period and an average annual drop of 6.16%.
- A decline in the crude divorce rate for male and female nationals and non-nationals in the three regions of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western region and the islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates in 2005. The value of this decrease varies according to nationality and gender.
- The patterns of crude divorce rate for male and female nationals and non-nationals by region remained unchanged between years 2005 and 2010 (with the highest rates recorded in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain, and the Western region and the islands).

Despite the simplicity and ease of calculating the crude divorce rate, it suffers from some shortcomings, owing to the fact that the denominator of its calculation formula includes individuals who are not exposed to the event of divorce, namely children under the age of fifteen, and unmarried individuals (who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed).

3.2 General Divorce Rate:

The General Divorce Rate in a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of divorces (and not the number of divorced couples) for every 1000 of the population aged 15 years and above in that region/country in the specified year/period of time. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of divorces during the reference year/period of time by the estimated population aged 15 years and above in the middle of that year/period of time and multiplying the result by 1000.

Although the general divorce rate addresses the first aspect of the above mentioned shortcoming in the crude divorce rate, since it excludes children under 15 who are not exposed to the event of divorce, it still suffers from the other shortcoming of the crude divorce rate which arises from the inclusion of unmarried individuals (who have never been married, or who are divorced and widowed), even though they are not exposed to the event of divorce.

The results shown in Table (9) indicate that the general divorce rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2005 was 1.7 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 and above. The value of this rate varies geographically in the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Abu Dhabi region (1.9 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above), followed by Al Ain (1.7 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above), and the Western Region and the islands (0.55 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above).

Table (9)
General divorce rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by region, nationality, and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	13.3	9.4	1.2	4.9	1.9
Al Ain	10.1	7.2	0.7	4.2	1.7
Western region and the Islands	5.5	5.5	0.16	2.2	0.55
Total	11.4	8.2	1.0	4.6	1.7

Table (10)
General divorce rates (per 1000 population aged 15 years and above) by region, nationality, and gender - 2010

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-national	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	10.4	7.9	0.8	3.7	1.3
Al Ain	6.7	4.6	0.6	3.5	1.2
Western region and the Islands	3.7	4.7	0.1	1.4	0.3
Total	8.4	6.3	0.7	3.5	1.1

The general divorce rate for 2005 also varies by nationality and gender, reaching its highest level among male nationals (11.4 divorces of male nationals from female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male nationals aged 15 years and above), followed by female nationals (8.2 divorces of female nationals from nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female nationals aged 15 years and above), followed by female non-nationals (4.6 divorces of female non-nationals from nationals or non-nationals per 1000 female non-nationals aged 15 years and above), and then male non-nationals (1.0 divorces of male non-nationals from female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 male non-nationals aged 15 years and above).

The general divorce rates for 2005 also vary for male and female nationals by region, reaching their highest levels in Abu Dhabi, with (13.3 and 9.4 divorces per 1000 male and female nationals aged 15 years and above, respectively), and its lowest levels in the Western region and the islands (5.5 divorces per 1000 male and female nationals aged 15 years and above). Also with respect to male and female non-nationals, the general divorce rate reached its highest levels in Abu Dhabi (1.2 and 4.9 divorces per 1000 male and female non-nationals aged 15 years and above, respectively), and its lowest levels in the Western region and the islands at (0.16 and 2.2 divorces per 1000 male and female non-nationals aged 15 years and above, respectively).

It is possible to study for the time trends of the general divorce rate by comparing its levels in 2005, shown on Table (9) with the corresponding rates for 2010, displayed on Table (10). The comparison reveals the following:

- A decline in the general divorce rate for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 1.7 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years and above in 2005 to 1.1 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 years or above in 2010, with a percentage decrease of 35.3% for the entire period or an average annual drop of 7.06%.
- A decline in the general divorce rate for male and female nationals and non-nationals in the three regions of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western region and the islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates for 2005. The value of this decrease varies by nationality and gender.
- The patterns exhibited by the general divorce rate for male nationals and non-nationals and female non-nationals by region remained unchanged between years 2005 and 2010 (with the highest level recorded in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain, and then the Western area and the islands), while for female nationals, the pattern of the general divorce rate was different in 2010 (reaching its highest level in Abu Dhabi, followed by the Western region and the islands, and Al Ain), compared with the corresponding figures back in 2005 (when the rate reached its highest level in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain, and then the Western region and Islands).

3.3 Refined Divorce Rate:

The refined divorce rate within a given region/country in a specific year/period of time is defined as the number of divorces (and not the number of divorced couples) per 1000 married population aged 15 and above in that region/country in that year/period of time. This rate is calculated by dividing the number of divorces during the reference year/period of time by the estimated married population aged 15 years and above in the middle of that year/period of time, and multiplying the result by 1000. (Shryock and Siegel, 1976). Although demographic references unanimously agree on this method of calculation of the refined divorce rate, (Kimberly A. Faust 2004) indicates the use of the number of married males or females or their average in the denominator, without providing any justification for that, especially when it is borne in mind that using either of the two genders alone would produce a different result compared to that obtained when the other gender is used. In addition, the rate obtained using this method is almost double the value of the refined divorce rate obtained when the denominator is the total married males and females as defined earlier in this paragraph.

The refined divorce rate is characterized by rectifying the two shortcomings of the crude divorce rate mentioned above as it excludes children under 15 years of age who are unmarried and, therefore, not exposed to the event of divorce. As well, it rectifies the shortcoming of the general divorce rate, since it includes unmarried individuals (i.e. those who have never been married, or who are divorced or widowed).

Table (11)

Refined divorce rates* by region, nationality, and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	22.8	16.9	1.7	7.2	2.7
Al Ain	20.3	15.7	1.0	6.7	2.5
Western region and the Islands	9.9	10.0	0.20	3.1	0.7
Total	20.9	15.9	1.3	6.9	2.4

* Per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above

Table (12)

Refined divorce rates* by region, nationality, and gender - 2010

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	17.9	14.2	1.1	5.4	1.8
Al Ain	13.5	10.1	0.8	5.5	1.7
Western region and the Islands	6.5	8.5	0.1	2.0	0.4
Total	15.4	12.3	0.9	5.3	1.6

* Per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above

The results shown in Table (11) indicate that the refined divorce rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2005 was 2.4 divorces per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above. The value of this rate varies between the regions of the Emirate, reaching its highest level in Abu Dhabi (2.7 divorces per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above), followed by Al Ain (2.5 divorces per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above), and then the Western Region and Islands (0.7 divorce per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above).

The refined divorce rate for 2005 also varies according to nationality and gender, reaching its highest level among male nationals (20.9 divorces of male nationals from female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above), followed by female nationals (15.9 divorces of female nationals from nationals or non-nationals per 1000 married female nationals aged 15 years and above), followed by female non-nationals (6.9 divorces of female non-nationals from nationals or non-nationals per 1000 married female non-nationals aged 15 years and above), and then male non-nationals (1.3 divorces of male non-nationals, from female nationals or non-nationals per 1000 married male non-nationals aged 15 years and above).

The pattern of refined divorce rate by region is similar for male and female nationals and non-nationals for 2005, reaching its highest levels in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain, and then the Western area and the islands. The refined divorce rate reaches its highest levels in the three areas of the Emirate in the case of male nationals (22.8 in Abu Dhabi, 20.3 in Al Ain, and 9.9 in Western area and the islands per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above), and its lowest level between male non-nationals (1.7 in Abu Dhabi, 1.0 in Al Ain, and 0.2 in Western region and Islands per 1000 married male non-nationals aged 15 years and above). The decrease in the level of refined divorce rate for nationals in the Western area can be attributed to the fact that some of them have registered their divorces in Abu Dhabi.

It is possible to study the trends exhibited by the refined divorce rate over time by comparing its levels in 2005, shown on Table (11) with in the corresponding levels for 2010, shown on Table (12). The comparison reveals the following:

- A decline in the refined divorce rate for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 2.4 divorces per 1000 married population aged 15 years or above in 2005 to 1.6 divorces per 1000 married population aged 15 years or above in 2010, which is a percentage decrease of 33.3% for the entire period and an average annual drop of 6.66%.
- A decrease is observed in the refined divorce rate for male nationals (Figure 3) and female nationals (Figure 4) as well as for male and female non-nationals in the three regions of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and The Western region and the Islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates in 2005. The value of this decrease varies by nationality and gender.

Figure (3)

Refined Divorce Rate for Male Nationals by Region – 2005 and 2010

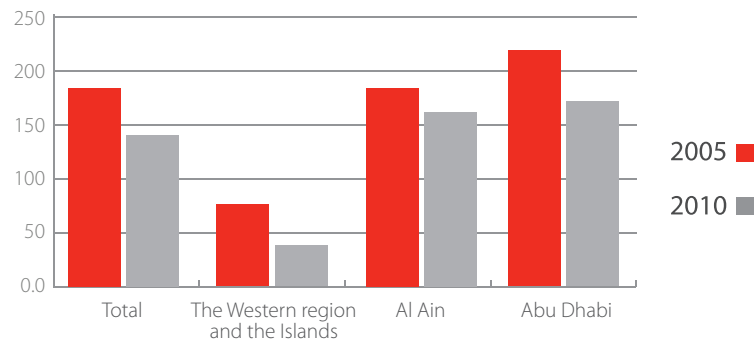
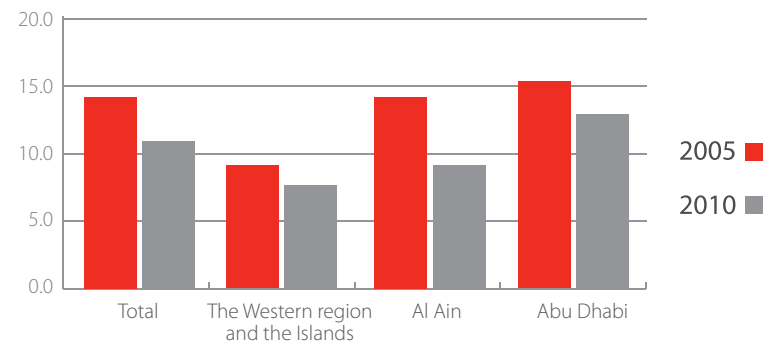


Figure (4)

Refined Divorce Rate for Female Nationals by Region- 2005 and 2010



- The refined divorce rate for male nationals in 2010 in the various areas of the Emirate (17.9, 13.5, and 6.5 divorces per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above in the three areas of the Emirate, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western region and the Islands respectively) is not considered high, nor does it indicate the presence of a social problem as the media occasionally suggest. This also applies to female nationals, for whom the corresponding rates were (14.2, 10.1, and 8.5 divorces per 1000 married female nationals aged 15 years and above in the three regions of the Emirate, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and The Western region and the Islands, respectively)
- The patterns of refined divorce rate for male and female nationals and male non-nationals by region remained unchanged between years 2005 and 2010 (reaching its highest level in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain, and then the Western region and the islands), while for female non-nationals, the pattern of the refined divorce rate was different in 2010 (reaching its highest level in Al Ain, followed by the Abu Dhabi, and then the Western region and the islands), compared with the corresponding rates for 2005 (for which the highest level was recorded in Abu Dhabi, followed by Al Ain, and the Western area and the islands).

4. Exaggeration of divorce rates in the media:

It is important to note that the media, in addition to some consultancy firms working in the field of social studies, as well as some researchers at government and non-government entities, use the ratio of divorces to the number of marriages (per 100 or 1000) in a given year of the Gregorian calendar to study the levels and trends of the divorce phenomenon, out of the belief that this ratio represents the rate of divorce for that year.

It is worth noting also that there are numerous studies and media releases on Internet, including a recent study in English carried out in 2010 by one of a global consultancy firms (published on their website) that uses a divorce rate measured as a ratio for the cases of divorce in a specific Gregorian year compared to the cases of marriage in the same year (percent). The study is entitled :

Divorce in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: Risks and Implications

The study mentions among its findings (pages 3, 4) the following:

"Divorce rates as a percentage of marriages among GCC nationals have followed the overall upward trend, reaching 39 percent in Kuwait (2007), 35.82 percent in Qatar (2007), 25.74 percent in the UAE (2008), 23.81 percent in Bahrain (2006), and 20.19 percent in Saudi Arabia (2008)"

The findings of this study were used by many electronic media web sites on the Internet.

In fact, using this ratio (per 100 or 1000) of divorces in a specific Gregorian year compared to marriages in the same year to represent the divorce rate in that

Table (13)

Divorce per 1000 marriages in the same year by region, nationality and gender - 2005

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	413.3	318.9	291.3	383.7	354.7
Al Ain	289.7	234.4	264.1	394.1	282.5
Western region and the Islands	245.7	213.4	342.1	428.6	262.9
Total	351.0	274.3	285.1	387.1	324.9

* Per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above

Table (14)

Divorce per 1000 marriages in the same year by region, nationality and gender - 2010

Region	Male Nationals	Female Nationals	Male Non-nationals	Female Non-nationals	Total
Abu Dhabi	387.8	328.8	322.2	384.7	357.9
Al Ain	214.4	177.7	261.0	316.4	227.6
Western region and the Islands	171.4	176.8	390.2	320.8	207.2
Total	298.6	252.5	305.9	362.2	301.3

* Per 1000 married population aged 15 years and above

year is considered a serious error from the scientific and methodological point of view, because the denominator of the rate is limited in this case, for including only marriages in a single Gregorian year, which is the year of calculation of the rate, while the denominator for the generally accepted formula for the divorce rate - in demographic literature should include an estimate of the number of people exposed to the event of divorce (population at risk), which is known in technical terminology as the mid-year estimate for the married population, whether their marriage took place in the year of calculation of the rate or in previous years.

Calculating the divorce rate as a ratio of the divorces in a specific Gregorian year to the marriages constituted in the same year (per 100 or 1000) results in extremely exaggerated levels, and consequently, completely unrealistic findings and recommendations.

The extent of error made by those who use divorce rate calculated as a ratio of divorces in a specific Gregorian year to the marriages in the same year (100 or 1000) is evident from the figures on Tables (13, 14), which present the number of divorces per 1000 marriages for Abu Dhabi by region, nationality and gender for 2005 and 2010 respectively.

The above two tables illustrate the following:

- The number of divorces per 1000 marriages in Abu Dhabi in 2005 was (324.9). This ratio varies between the regions of the Emirate, being largest in Abu Dhabi (354.7), followed by Al Ain (282.5) and the Western region and the islands (262.9).
- The number of divorces per 1000 marriages in Abu Dhabi in 2005 also varies by nationality and gender, with the largest number rerecorded among female non-nationals (387.1), followed by male nationals (351.0), male non-nationals (285.1), and female nationals (274.3).
- The decline in the number of divorces per 1000 marriages in Abu Dhabi from (324.9) in 2005 to (301.3) in 2010 arises from the fact that the regions of the Emirate were scenes of changes with opposite impacts, with a slight increase observed in the corresponding ratio for Abu Dhabi from (354.7) in 2005 to (357.9) in 2010, while the corresponding ratio retreated markedly in Al Ain from (282.5) in 2005 to (227.6) in 2010 as well as in the Western region and the island from (262.9) in 2005 to (207.2) in 2010.

It is worth noting here that the number of divorces per 1000 marriages for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi by region, nationality, and gender for the years 2005 and 2010 shown in Tables (13, 14) are considered very high and unacceptably exaggerated from the scientific point of view, especially to demographic experts, as these ratios do not represent the true divorce rates since their denominator is limited, as it only includes marriages in a single Gregorian year, which is the year of calculation of the rate. What would represent the correct levels of the divorce phenomenon are the rates set forth in Tables (11, 12), because their denominator includes the estimated populations exposed to the event of divorce (population at risk), which is known technically as the mid-year estimate of the married population, whether their marriage took place at the year of calculating the rate or in previous years. For example, the rate of divorce for female nationals in 2010, measured by the number of divorces per 1000 marriages climbs by 20.5 folds compared to the corresponding rate measured by the refined divorce rate - the number of divorces per 1000 married female nationals aged 15 years and above - (the rates obtained using the flawed and the correct methods described above are 252.5 and 12.3 respectively). Again the level of divorce for male nationals in 2010, measured by the number of divorces per 1000 marriages, also increases by 19.4 fold compared with the corresponding rate measured by the refined divorce rate - the number of divorces per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above - (the rates obtained using the flawed and the correct methods described above are 198.6 and 15.4 respectively).

It is possible to look at the indicator "Number of divorces per 1000 marriages" in a specific year, as one that represents only the number of families wrecked by divorce per 1000 families built through marriage in that year.

5. Findings and Recommendations:

This chapter includes the study findings and recommendations that can be proposed in light of these results.

5.1 Study Findings:

In light of the previous analysis, the following results can be deduced:

1. The level of the marriage phenomenon differs according to the rate used in its calculation. The crude marriage rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for 2010 was 3 marriages per 1000 population, while the general marriage rate for the same year was 3.8 marriages per 1000 population aged 15 years and above, and the refined marriage rate - which is the best marriage measure because its denominator excludes those who are not at exposed to the event of marriage, i.e. it excludes children under 15 and married individuals - was 13 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 and above.
2. The levels of refined marriage rates for 2005 and 2010 by region, nationality, and gender as shown in Tables are much higher than the corresponding crude marriage rates for the same two years. This is attributed to the exclusion of children under fifteen years old, who are not exposed to the event of marriage, as well as married individuals who are not exposed to the event of a marriage from the refined marriage rate and not excluding them from the crude marriage rate, while excluding only children under the age of fifteen from the general marriage rate.
3. There has been a decline in the refined marriage rate for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 17.3 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 or above in 2005 to 13 marriages per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 or above in 2010, with a 24.86% decrease for the entire period and an average annual drop of 4.97%.
4. The study points to a decrease in the refined marriage rate for male nationals and non-nationals in the three regions of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and The Western region and the Islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates for 2005. With respect to female nationals, their rate of refined marriage decreased in both Abu Dhabi and Al Ain between 2005 and 2010, while it increased slightly during the same period in the Western region and the islands (58.7 and 60.4 marriages of unmarried female nationals aged 15 years or above, respectively). As for female non-nationals, the refined marriage rate has dropped in both Abu Dhabi and the Western region and the islands between 2005 and 2010, while it increased slightly during the same period in Al Ain (28.7, 29.4 marriages of female non-nationals to nationals or non-nationals per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 or above respectively).
5. The level of the divorce phenomenon differs according to the rate used in its calculation. The crude divorce rate in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi for 2010 was 0.9 divorces per 1000 population, the general divorce rate for the same year was 1.1 divorces per 1000 population aged 15 and above, while the refined divorce rate - which is the best marriage measure because its denominator excludes those who are not exposed to the event of divorce, i.e. children under 15 years of age and unmarried individuals - was 1.6 divorces per 1000 unmarried population aged 15 years and above.
6. The levels of refined divorce rates for 2005 and 2010 for male and female nationals throughout the Emirate are much higher than the corresponding general divorce rates and by far higher than the crude divorce rates for the same two years. This is attributed to the exclusion of children under fifteen as well as unmarried individuals who are not exposed to the event of divorce from the refined divorce rate, while these categories are not excluded from the crude divorce rate, and only children under the age of fifteen are excluded from the general divorce rate.

7. The study reveals a decrease in the refined divorce rate for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi from 2.4 divorces per 1000 married population aged 15 years or above in 2005 to 1.6 marriages per 1000 married population aged 15 years or above in 2010, which is a percentage of decrease of 33.3% for the entire period and an average annual drop of 6.66%.
8. There has been a decline in the refined divorce rate for male and female nationals and non-nationals in the three areas of the Emirate (Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western region and the Islands) in 2010 compared to the corresponding rates for 2005. The value of this decrease varies by nationality and gender.
9. The refined divorce rate for male nationals in 2010 in the various regions of the Emirate (17.9, 13.5, and 6.5 divorces per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above in the three regions of the Emirate, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western region and the islands, respectively) is not considered high, nor does it indicate the presence of a social problem as the media occasionally suggest. This also applies to female nationals, for whom the corresponding rates were (14.2, 10.1, and 8.5 divorces per 1000 married females nationals aged 15 years and above in the three areas of the Emirate, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western region and the islands, respectively).
10. The number of divorces per 1000 marriages for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi by region, nationality, and gender for the years 2005 and 2010 are considered very high and unacceptably exaggerated from the scientific point of view, especially to demographic experts. This ratio does not at all represent the divorce rate because its denominator is limited, as it only includes the marriages registered in a single Gregorian year, i.e. the years of calculation of the rate. The indicator that realistically reflects the actual levels of the divorce phenomenon is the refined divorce rate, because its denominator includes the estimated population exposed to the divorce event (population at risk), which is known technically as the mid-year estimate of the married population, whether their marriage took place in the year of calculation of the rate or in previous years. For example, the level of divorce for female nationals in 2010, measured by the number of divorces per 1000 marriages, increases by 20.5 folds compared to the corresponding rate, measured by the refined divorce rate - the number of divorces per 1000 married female nationals aged 15 years and above - (252.5 and 12.3, respectively). The level of divorce for male nationals in 2010, measured by the number of divorces per 1000 marriages, also increased by 19.4 folds compared with the corresponding rate measured by the refined divorce rate - the number of divorces per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above - (298.6 and 15.4, respectively). It should be stressed here that the indicator calculated using of the number of divorces per 1000 marriages in a specific year represents only the number of families wrecked by divorce per 1000 families built through marriage in that year.

5.2 Study recommendations:

1. In light of findings numbers 1, 2, 5, and 6 related to the variation in the levels of marriage and divorce by the type of rate used to measure these levels (crude-, general- or refined rate) - the study recommends the use of refined marriage and divorce rates which are considered the best measures in this respect from the scientific point of view. The calculation of the refined marriage and divorce rates for a specific year requires the availability of the data used in their numerators, i.e. marriages and divorces respectively from the Judicial Department for the same year, as well as the availability of the data used in their denominators, i.e. the mid-year estimates of the unmarried population, and the married population aged 15 years and above, respectively from the competent authorities.
2. In light of - results 3, 4, 7, and 8 pertaining to the drop in the refined marriage and divorce rates between 2005 and 2010, especially for male and female nationals, the study recommends that the divorce rates calculated by the number of divorces in a specific year per 100/1000 marriages in the same year should not be taken into account, as these figures, which are released by consultancy firms and through the various media purporting to show an increase in divorce rates in the Gulf countries, including the United Arab Emirates, are measured by completely erroneous and inaccurate methods that conflict with the generally accepted methodologies of demographic studies.

3. In light of point No. 9 of the findings set forth above, pertaining to the observation that the refined divorce rate for male nationals in 2010 in the various regions of the Emirate (17.9, 13.5, and 6.5 divorces per 1000 married male nationals aged 15 years and above in the three regions of the Emirate, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and The Western region and the islands, respectively) is not considered high and does not indicate the presence of a social problem as the media often suggests, and the fact that the same finding applies to female nationals, since the corresponding rates for them were (14.2, 10.1, and 8.5 divorces per 1000 married females nationals aged 15 years and above in the three regions of the Emirate, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and the Western region and the islands, respectively), the study recommends and stresses the need for informing decision makers and policy planners of these correct values the refined divorced rate.
4. Although the levels of refined divorce rates for male and female nationals in the various parts of the Emirate for 2010 - mentioned in result 9 above - may not be considered high, it is nevertheless desirable to work on reducing them further through the competent authorities by creating and promoting effective awareness programs for those in the marriage age about the causes of divorce on the one hand, as well as activating and supporting reconciliation and family guidance committees between married couples seeking divorce on the other.
5. In light of conclusion No. 10 in the study findings above, where the divorce rate phenomenon for female nationals in 2010 is measured by the cases of divorce per 1000 marriages is found to be 20.5 times higher than the corresponding rate for the same year measured by the refined divorce rate -number of divorces per 1000 married female nationals aged 15 and above - (252.5 compared with 12.3, respectively), and that the level of the divorce phenomenon for male nationals in 2010 measured by the cases of divorce per 1000 marriages is 19.4 times higher than the corresponding rate for the same year measured by the refined divorce rate - number of divorces per 1000 married female nationals aged 15 years and above - (298.6 compared with 15.4, respectively), the study recommends that decision makers and policy planners should disregard any divorce indicators derived through scientifically flawed methods that are not suitable for measuring the rates of the divorce phenomenon, such as the ratio of the "number of divorces in a specific year per 100/1000 of marriages in the same year".
6. In light of the conclusion set forth above in point No. 10 of the study findings, stressing the invalidity of "the number of divorces in a specific year per 1000 marriages in the same year" as a measure for the divorce rate, and that the proper measure for the rate of the divorce is the refined divorce rate - the study recommends the promotion of statistical awareness through holding training courses by government statistical entities for the staff of the statistical units in the entities concerned. Seminars and conferences must be organized to present the findings of specialized studies and research in the field of marriage and divorce, to be attended by competent representatives from related government agencies, consultancies, universities, and research centers, various institutions of the civil society and individuals interested in family affairs. A note must be made here of the need to record marriages and divorces by the relevant agencies according to the usual place of residence of the two partners and not by the place of registration.
7. The study recommends further research and investigation on the documentation of marriage and divorce rates by demographic variables (such as age), social variables (such as education), and economic variables (such as income and participation in the labour force), as well as defining the main reasons for the divorce phenomenon and its impact on all family members in the various parts of the Emirate.

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