According to Malaysian Law the minimum age of marriage for men and women is 18 years and 16 years respectively. Findings from the Fifth Malaysian Population and Family Survey (MPFS), 2014 conducted by the National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB) highlighted some facts concerning marriage and marital stability among men and woman aged 15 to 59 in Malaysia.

Current Marital Status

- Married: 96.3%
- Widowed: 2.1%
- Divorced/Separated: 1.6%
- Other: 5.3%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced/Separated</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean Age at First Marriage

- Men: 28.9 years old (2004) vs. 29.3 years old (2014)

Over the years the mean age at first marriage among Malaysian men and women has risen.

Status of First Marriage

- A higher percentage of men are in their first marriage compared to women.
INTACT FIRST MARRIAGE AMONG WOMEN

- 1984: 88%
- 1994: 91%
- 2004: 92%
- 2014: 85%

The percentage of women in their first marriage has declined during the 2004-2014 period.

DURATION OF FIRST MARRIAGE AMONG DIVORCED RESPONDENTS (%)

- Below 5 years: Men 35.4%, Women 37.3%
- 5-9 years: Men 23.4%, Women 26.0%
- 10-14 years: Men 24.7%, Women 16.5%
- 15-19 years: Men 9.2%, Women 10.2%
- 20 years and above: Men 7.3%, Women 10.0%

More than one third of men and women ended up divorced or separated within the first 5 years of their first marriage.

FIRST MARRIAGE: REASONS FOR DIVORCE/SEPARATION

- 38.0% No-understanding
- 20.6% Infidelity
- 15.2% Irresponsible spouse
- 6.0% Interference from in-laws
- 2.8% Refusal to allow husband to remarry
- 4.7% Financial problems
- 2.4% Spouse involved in drugs
- 10.4% Others
- 56.2% No-understanding
- 11.8% Infidelity
- 10.0% Interference from in-laws
- 22.0% Others

The main reason for first marriages ending in divorce or separation is “no-understanding” between couples.

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