



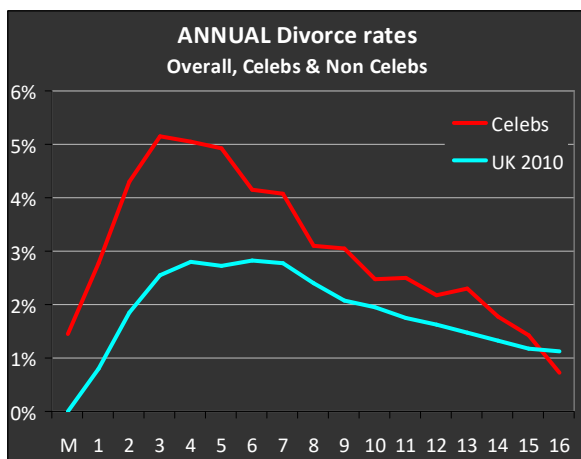
Marriage Foundation

Celebrity Divorce: First and Second Marriages

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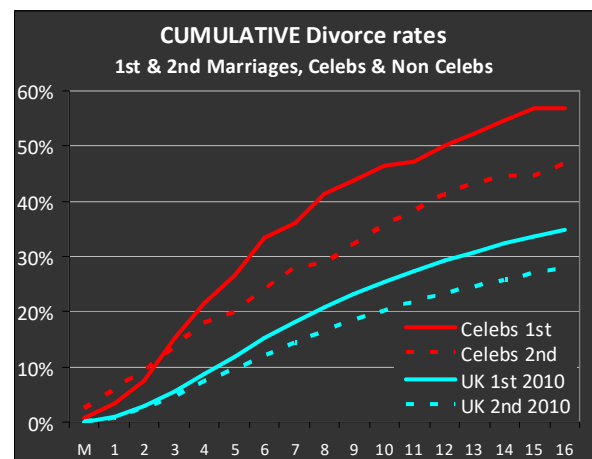
- Celebrities, their relationships and extravagant *Hello magazine* weddings attract huge public and media interest. But in terms of stability, celebrities are poor role models.
- I have updated and expanded our database of 484 A-list couples who married between 2001 and 2010 to calculate divorce rates overall, among first and subsequent marriages, and among celebrities by category, whether stars of screen, music, or sports/other.
- I find that the overall divorce rate for celebrities during their first 16 years of marriage is 52%, compared to 31% for the UK population as a whole.
- Celebrity first marriages fare worse than subsequent marriages with 57% versus 47% ending in divorce within 16 years, compared to 35% and 28% respectively for UK population.
- The highest divorce rates of all are found among musicians with an overall divorce rate of 60%, ranging from 69% for first marriages to 51% for second marriages. Screen stars fare marginally better, divorcing at an overall rate of 52%. Sporting and other celebrity marriages fare best at 39%, though this is still substantially worse than the rest of us.



As found previously (*Azim & Benson 2012; Benson & Azim 2016*), our sample of 484 celebrity couples fare consistently worse than the rest of us throughout their marriages. Celebrities eventually appear to do better after 16 years, but less than half of our sample of celebrities married that far back.

Their pattern of divorce is similar to the rest of us, peaking during the early years of marriage before gradually tailing off after about eight years.

In a completely new analysis of the sample, I found that celebrity first marriages tend to fare worse than second marriages, as is the case for us mortals.



I also looked at different categories of celebrity. Couples most at risk were musicians on their first marriage, although the specific sample is small ($n=65$).

Why do celebs do so much worse overall, despite being cushioned by higher income that is usually associated with greater stability (*Benson 2006*)?

Ego and **opportunity** would seem the most likely explanations. Being constantly told how wonderful they are is bound to boost ego, undermining the need to put others first, a pre-requisite for successful relationship. And being surrounded by attractive starlets presents obvious opportunity.

Selected List Of Celebrities Who Have Divorced

By name, year of marriage, category, and number of marriage of the main celebrity

Divorced	Married	Years	Category	#
Jason Alexander and Britney Spears	2004	0	Music	1
Kid Rock and Pamela Anderson	2006	0	Screen	2
Eminem and Kim Mathers	2006	0	Music	2
Sheena Easton and John Minoli	2002	1	Music	2
Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Esposito	2006	1	Screen	1
Ivana Trump and Rossano Rubicon	2008	1	Other	2
Sinéad O'Connor and Steve Cooney	2010	1	Music	1
Alex Reid and Katie Price	2010	1	Other	2
Ben Kingsley and Alexandra Christmann	2003	2	Screen	3
Michelle Heaton and Andy Scott-lee	2006	2	Music	1
Sean Bean and Georgina Sutcliffe	2008	2	Screen	4
Katy Perry and Russell Brand	2010	2	Music	1
Keeley Hawes and Spencer Mccallum	2001	3	Screen	1
Sinead O'Connor and Nicholas Sommerlad	2001	3	Music	2
Steve Coogan and Caroline Hickman	2002	3	Screen	1
Britney Spears and Kevin Federline	2004	3	Music	2
Gemma Arterton and Stefano	2010	3	Screen	1
Orlando Bloom and Miranda Kerr	2010	3	Screen	1
Emilia Fox and Jared Harris	2005	4	Screen	1
Katie Price and Peter Andre	2005	4	Music	1
Cheryl Cole and Ashley Cole	2006	4	Sports	1
Arun Nayar and Elizabeth Hurley	2007	4	Screen	1
Cat Deeley and Mark Whelan	2001	5	Screen	1
Nick Faldo and Valerie Bercher	2001	5	Sports	2
David Walliams and Lara Stone	2010	5	Screen	1
Chris Evans and Billie Piper	2001	6	Music	2
Heather Mills and Paul McCartney	2002	6	Music	2
Tiger Woods and Elin Nordegren	2004	6	Sports	1
Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise	2006	6	Screen	3
Nicole Appleton and Liam Gallagher	2008	6	Music	2
Khloe Kardashian and Lamar Odom	2009	6	Screen	1
Ross Kemp and Rebekah Wade	2002	7	Screen	1
Sharron Davies and Tony Kingston	2002	7	Sports	2
Kate Winslet and Sam Mendes	2003	7	Screen	2
Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony	2004	8	Screen	3
Billie Piper and Lawrence Fox	2007	9	Screen	2
Chris Pratt and Anna Faris	2009	9	Screen	2
Nigella Lawson and Charles Saatchi	2003	10	Screen	3
Melanie Brown and Stephen Belafonte	2007	10	Music	2
Ryan Giggs and Stacey Cooke	2007	10	Sports	1
Kate Beckinsale and Len Wiseman	2004	12	Screen	2
Ant McPartlin and Lisa Armstrong	2006	12	Screen	1
Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale	2002	14	Music	1
Alice Kim Cage and Nicolas Cage	2004	14	Screen	3
Danielle Spencer and Russell Crowe	2003	15	Screen	1
Gina Torres and Laurence Fishburne	2002	16	Screen	2

Selected List Of Celebrities Who Are Still Married – First Marriages

First Marriages - Still Married	Married	Years	Category	#
Sarah Lancashire and Peter Salmon	2001	19	Screen	1
Tina Fey and Jeff Richmond	2001	19	Screen	1
Aled Jones and Claire Fossett	2001	19	Music	1
Gabby Logan and Kenny Logan	2001	19	Sports	1
Richard Hammond and Mindy Etheridge	2002	18	Screen	1
Caroline Corr and Frank Woods	2002	18	Music	1
Ricky Ponting and Rianna Ponting	2002	18	Sports	1
Jennifer Connelly and Paul Bettany	2003	17	Screen	1
Tess Daly and Vernon Kay	2003	17	Screen	1
Adam Sandler and Jacqueline Titone	2003	17	Screen	1
Alexander Armstrong and Hannah Armstrong	2003	17	Screen	1
Michael McIntyre and Kitty Ward	2003	17	Screen	1
Cillian Murphy and Yvonne McGuinness	2004	16	Screen	1
Simon Pegg and Maureen McCann	2005	15	Screen	1
Jools Holland and Christabel McEwan	2005	15	Music	1
Michael Owen and Louise Bonsall	2005	15	Sports	1

Selected List Of Celebrities Who Are Still Married – Second (Or More) Marriages

Second (or more) Marriages - Still Married	Married	Years	Category	#
Keely Shaye Smith and Pierce Brosnan	2001	19	Screen	2
J.K. Rowling and Neil Murray	2001	19	Other	2
Claudia Schiffer and Matthew Vaughn	2002	18	Screen	2
Eric Clapton and Melia McEnery	2002	18	Music	2
Peter Gabriel and Meabh Flynn	2002	18	Music	2
The Edge and Morleigh Steinberg	2002	18	Music	2
Emma Thompson and Greg Wise	2003	17	Screen	2
Anthony Hopkins and Stella Arroyave	2003	17	Screen	3
Gary Kemp and Lauren Barber	2003	17	Music	2
Midge Ure and Sheridan Forbes	2003	17	Music	2
Geoffrey Boycott and Rachael Swinglehurst	2003	17	Sports	2
Matthew MacFadyen and Keeley Hawes	2004	16	Screen	2
Kate Garraway and Derek Draper	2005	15	Screen	2
Camilla Parker Bowles and HRH Prince Charles	2005	15	Other	2
Donald Trump and Melania Knauss	2005	15	Other	3

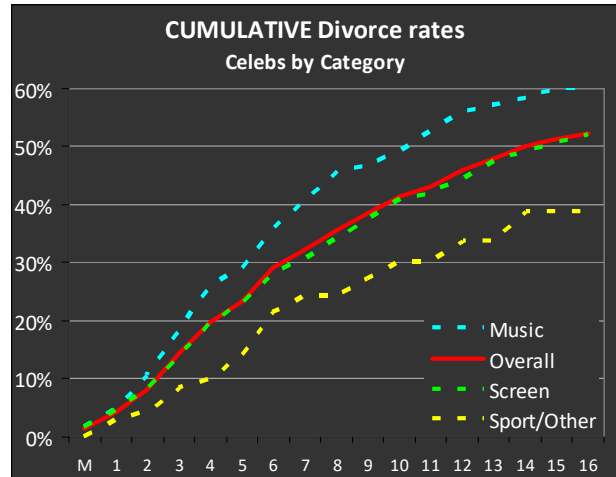
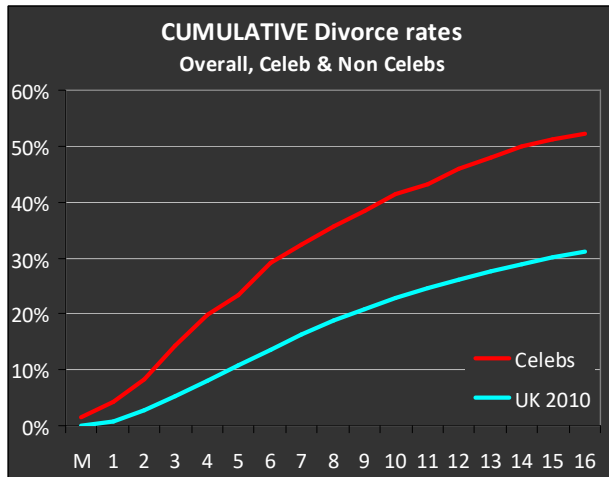
References

- Azim, R., & Benson, H. (2012) Hello? Goodbye! Marriage and divorce amongst celebrities. Marriage Foundation
- Benson, H. & Azim, R. (2016) Celebrity Divorce Rates. Marriage Foundation
- Benson, H. (2006) The conflation of marriage and cohabitation in government statistics - a denial of difference rendered untenable by an analysis of outcomes. Bristol Community Family Trust.

Further charts

The following additional charts show:

- **Overall Celebrity Divorce Rates** with divorce rates in England and Wales during 2010, by length of marriage
- **Divorce Rates by Celebrity Category**, whether stars of music, screen, sports or other, by length of marriage.



Summary Data

Celebrity and UK divorce rates

Years married	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Celebrities, by marriage									
<i>n=</i>	484	482	480	478	476	474	474	473	472
Overall	1%	4%	8%	14%	20%	23%	29%	32%	36%
First	1%	3%	8%	15%	22%	27%	33%	36%	41%
Second	2%	6%	9%	14%	18%	20%	24%	28%	29%
Celebrities, by category									
Screen	2%	5%	8%	14%	20%	23%	28%	31%	34%
Music	2%	5%	10%	19%	26%	29%	36%	41%	46%
Sports/Other	0%	3%	4%	9%	10%	14%	21%	24%	24%
UK population									
Overall	0%	1%	3%	5%	8%	11%	14%	16%	19%
First	0%	1%	3%	6%	9%	12%	15%	18%	21%
Second	0%	1%	2%	5%	7%	10%	12%	14%	17%
Years married	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Celebrities, by marriage									
<i>n=</i>	472	471	421	386	348	290	244	204	
Overall	38%	41%	43%	46%	48%	50%	51%	52%	
First	44%	46%	47%	50%	52%	55%	57%	57%	
Second	32%	36%	38%	41%	43%	45%	45%	47%	
Celebrities, by category									
Screen	38%	41%	42%	45%	47%	49%	51%	52%	
Music	47%	49%	53%	56%	57%	58%	60%	60%	
Sports/Other	27%	30%	30%	34%	34%	39%	39%	39%	
UK population									
Overall	21%	23%	24%	26%	28%	29%	30%	31%	
First	23%	25%	27%	29%	31%	32%	34%	35%	
Second	18%	20%	22%	23%	24%	26%	27%	28%	