

SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES IN ITALY

Year 2011

- In 2011 separations were 88,797 and divorces 53,806; compared to the previous year a substantial stability is observed (+0.7% and -0.7%, respectively).
- Total separation and divorce rates show that both phenomena are constantly growing: while in 1995 there were 158 separations and 80 divorces every 1,000 marriages, in 2011 they rose to 311 and 182, respectively.
- The average duration of marriages at the time of separation/divorce proceedings being filed is 15 years for separations and 18 years for divorces.
- The average age at separation is around 46 for husbands and 43 for wives; for divorce it rises to 47 and 44, respectively. These figures are on the increase due to both the postponement of marriage to more mature ages and to the increase in separations with at least one spouse aged over sixty.
- The type of proceeding mainly chosen by couples is the consensual separation: in 2011, 84.8% of separations and 69.4% of divorces ended by mutual consent.
- The share of judicial separations (15.2% on average) is higher in the South and Islands area and in cases where both spouses have low level of education.
- 72% of separations and 62.7% of divorces involved couples with children born during their marriage. 90.3% of separation agreements provided for joint custody, which has become far more common a procedure since the introduction in 2006 of Law 54/2006.
- 19.1% of separation agreements provided for spousal maintenance payments (in 98% of cases payable by the husband). This share was higher in the South and the Islands (24% and 22.1%, respectively) while in the North it settled at 16%. The average amounts, however, are higher in the North (562.4 million) than in the rest of the country (514.7 euros).
- In 57.6% of separations, the matrimonial home was assigned to the wife while only in 20.9% to husbands. 18.8% of separation agreements provided for two different and separate houses, other than the matrimonial one.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES

2007-2011 (absolute values, percentage values and per 1,000)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Separations (absolute values)	81,359	84,165	85,945	88,191	88,797
<i>Annual growth rate (%)</i>	1.2	3.4	2.1	2.6	0.7
Divorces (absolute values)	50,669	54,351	54,456	54,160	53,806
<i>Annual growth rate (%)</i>	2.3	7.3	0.2	-0.6	-0.7
Total separations per 1,000 marriages	273.7	286.2	296.9	307.1	310.7
Total divorces per 1,000 marriages	165.4	178.8	180.8	181.7	181.9
Consensual separations (per 100 separations)	86.3	86.3	85.6	85.5	84.8
Consensual divorces (per 100 divorces)	78.3	77.3	77.1	72.4	69.4
Separations with joint custody (per 100 separations with custody of minor children)	72.1	78.8	86.2	89.8	90.3
Divorces with joint custody (per 100 divorces with custody of minor children)	49.9	62.1	68.5	73.8	75.6

FIGURE 1. MARRIAGES, SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES
1995-2011 (absolute values in thousands)

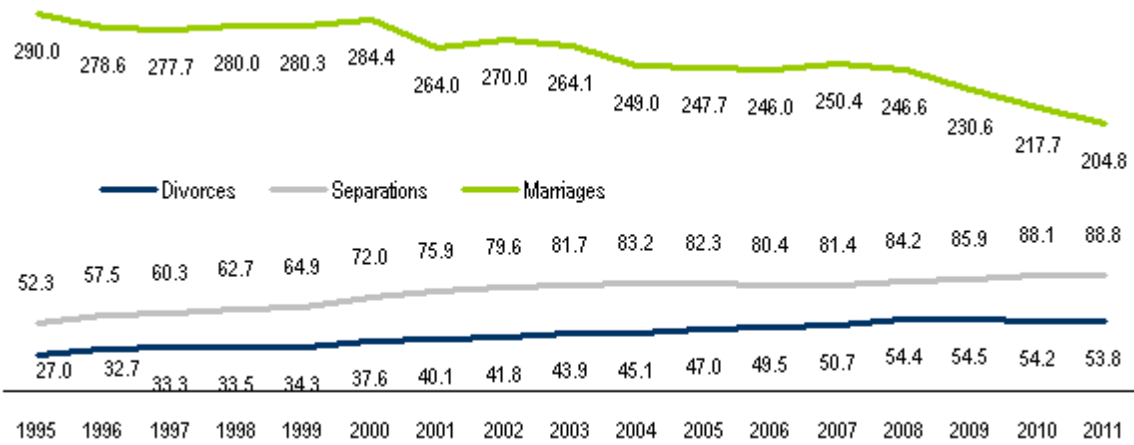


FIGURE 2. AVERAGE NUMBER OF SEPARATIONS PER 1,000 MARRIAGES
1995-2011 (total separation and divorce rates)

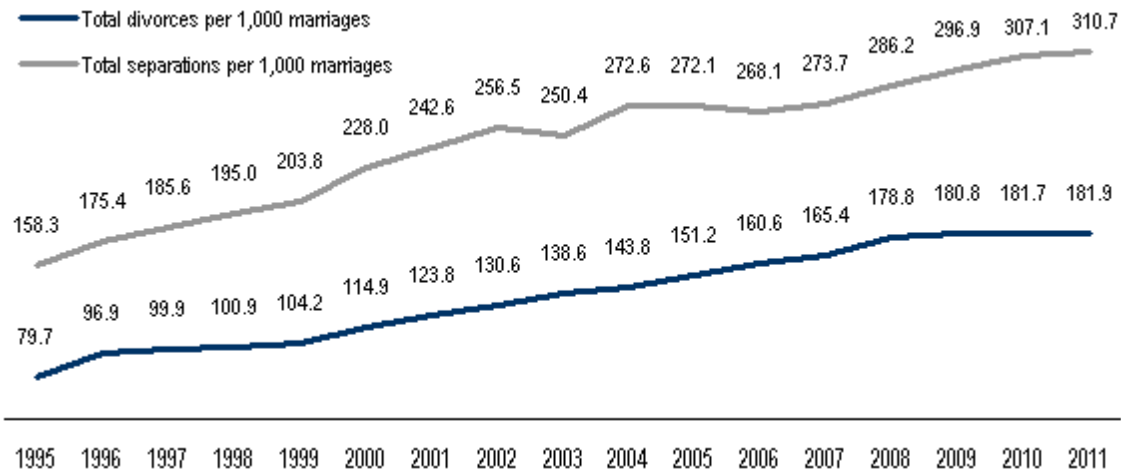
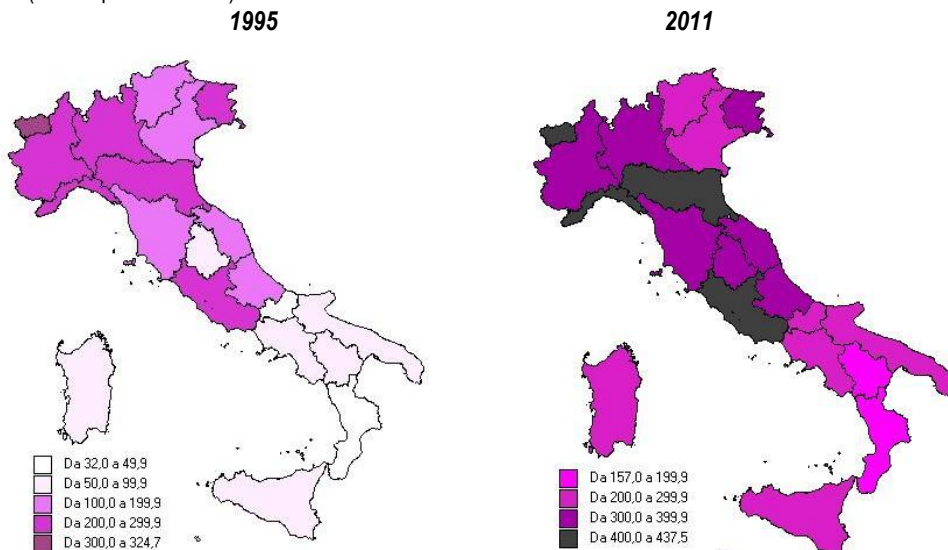


FIGURE 3. AVERAGE NUMBER OF SEPARATIONS PER 1,000 MARRIAGES BY REGION
1995 and 2011 (total separation rates)



PROSPECT 2. SEPARATIONS BY AGE CLASSES OF SPOUSES AT SEPARATION

2000, 2005 and 2011 (absolute and percentage values)

Age classes	Husbands			Wives		
	2000	2005	2011	2000	2005	2011
<i>Absolute values</i>						
14-24	565	424	245	2,275	1,635	1,040
25-29	4,723	3,418	2,319	9,839	7,832	5,437
30-34	13,157	11,573	7,898	16,161	16,183	12,163
35-39	16,123	17,267	14,923	16,576	19,160	17,454
40-44	13,982	18,197	17,799	10,899	15,748	19,483
45-49	9,063	12,574	18,063	6,698	9,405	14,346
50-54	6,435	7,788	11,026	4,557	5,181	7,853
55-59	3,674	5,002	6,601	2,409	3,291	4,323
60 and over	4,247	6,048	9,923	2,555	3,856	6,698
Total	71,969	82,291	88,797	71,969	82,291	88,797
<i>Percentage values</i>						
14-24	0.8	0.5	0.3	3.2	2.0	1.2
25-29	6.6	4.2	2.6	13.7	9.5	6.1
30-34	18.3	14.1	8.9	22.5	19.7	13.7
35-39	22.4	21.0	16.8	23.0	23.3	19.7
40-44	19.4	22.1	20.0	15.1	19.1	21.9
45-49	12.6	15.3	20.3	9.3	11.4	16.2
50-54	8.9	9.5	12.4	6.3	6.3	8.8
55-59	5.1	6.1	7.4	3.3	4.0	4.9
60 and over	5.9	7.3	11.2	3.6	4.7	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

PROSPECT 3. SEPARATIONS BY CLASSES OF DURATION OF MARRIAGE AT FILING OF SEPARATION PROCEEDINGS

1995-2011 (absolute values and percentage compositions)

YEARS	Duration of marriage (years)						Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25 and over	
<i>Absolute values</i>							
1995	12,752	12,577	8,767	6,847	5,468	5,912	52,323
2000	14,717	17,160	14,138	9,510	6,962	9,482	71,969
2001	15,480	17,917	15,040	10,116	7,065	10,272	75,890
2002	16,133	18,394	15,816	10,360	7,549	11,390	79,642
2003	16,445	18,575	16,739	11,006	7,627	11,352	81,744
2004	16,158	18,292	17,281	11,499	7,966	11,983	83,179
2005	15,420	18,045	16,566	12,055	8,014	12,191	82,291
2006	14,346	17,442	16,102	12,268	7,801	12,448	80,407
2007	13,677	17,421	15,607	13,123	8,397	13,134	81,359
2008	14,447	17,940	15,484	13,513	8,689	14,092	84,165
2009	15,869	18,886	15,237	13,494	8,519	13,940	85,945
2010	15,589	18,514	15,470	14,256	9,241	15,121	88,191
2011	14,084	17,369	15,941	14,831	9,973	16,599	88,797

	Percentage compositions						
1995	24.4	24.0	16.8	13.1	10.5	11.3	100
2000	20.4	23.8	19.6	13.2	9.7	13.2	100
2001	20.4	23.6	19.8	13.3	9.3	13.5	100
2002	20.3	23.1	19.9	13.0	9.5	14.3	100
2003	20.1	22.7	20.5	13.5	9.3	13.9	100
2004	19.4	22.0	20.8	13.8	9.6	14.4	100
2005	18.7	21.9	20.1	14.6	9.7	14.8	100
2006	17.8	21.7	20.0	15.3	9.7	15.5	100
2007	16.8	21.4	19.2	16.1	10.3	16.1	100
2008	17.2	21.3	18.4	16.1	10.3	16.7	100
2009	18.5	22.0	17.7	15.7	9.9	16.2	100
2010	17.7	21.0	17.5	16.2	10.5	17.1	100
2011	15.9	19.6	18.0	16.7	11.2	18.7	100

FIGURE 5. MARRIAGES SURVIVING SEPARATION BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND COHORT
 Years 1975-2011 (survival rates per thousand marriages)

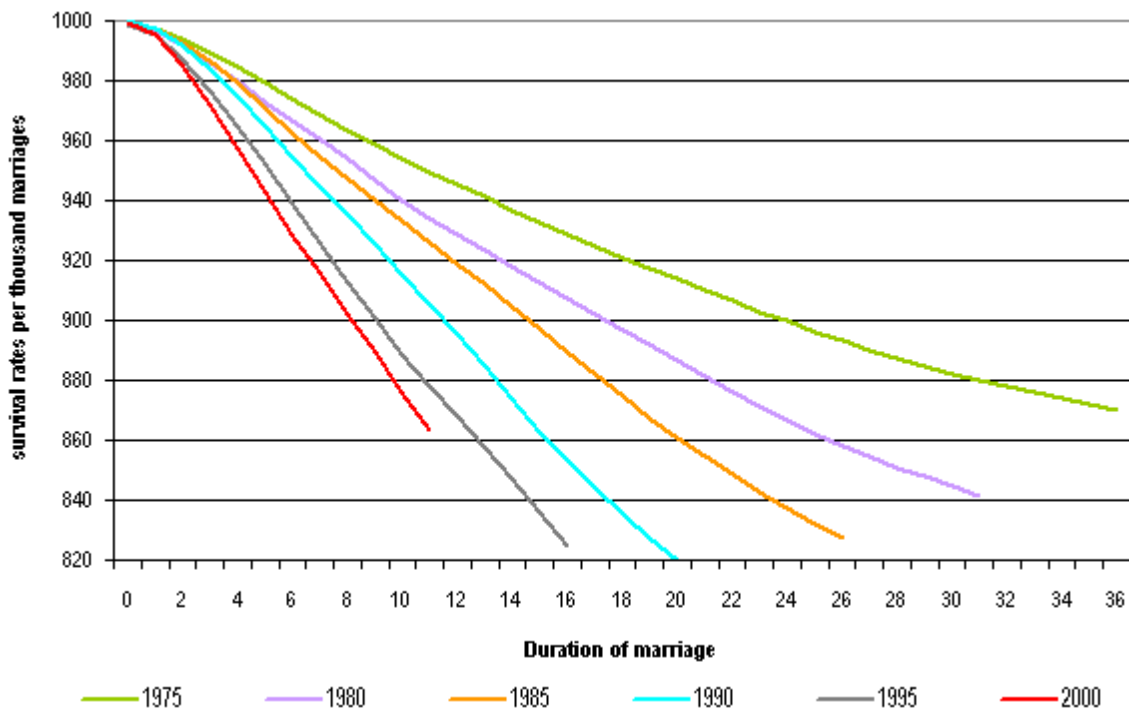


FIGURE 6. MARRIAGES SURVIVING SEPARATION BY DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND COHORT. LOMBARDIA AND SICILIA IN COMPARISON
 Years 1980-2011 (survival rates per thousand marriages)

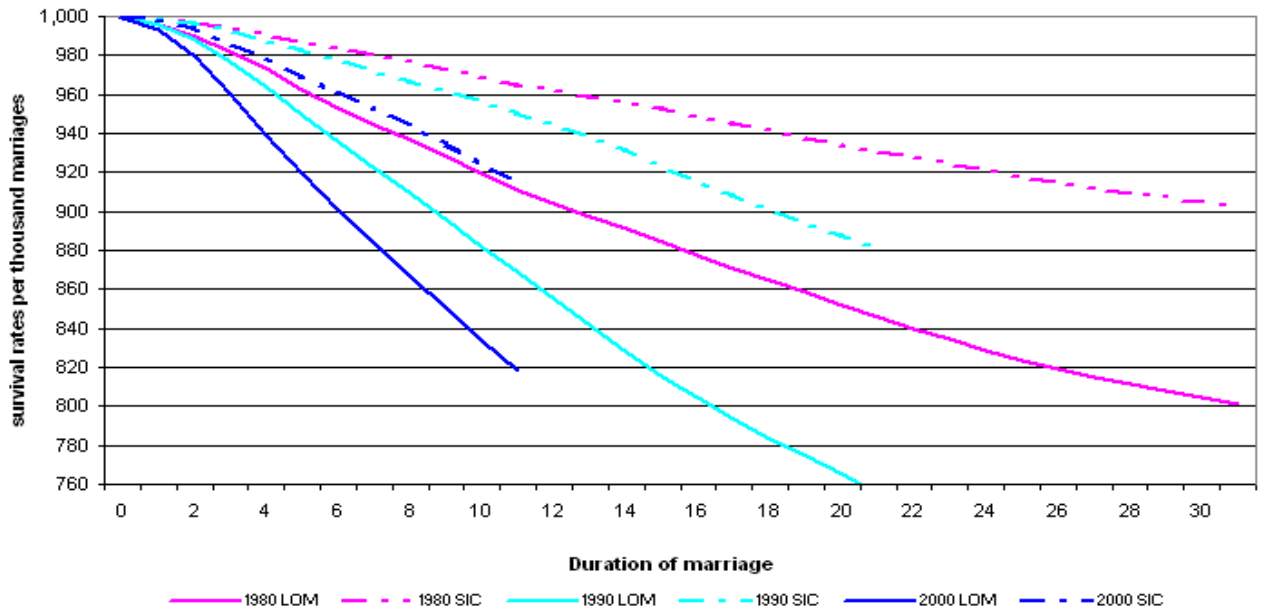


FIGURE 7. MARRIAGES, SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES WITH MIXED COUPLES
 2000-2011 (absolute values)

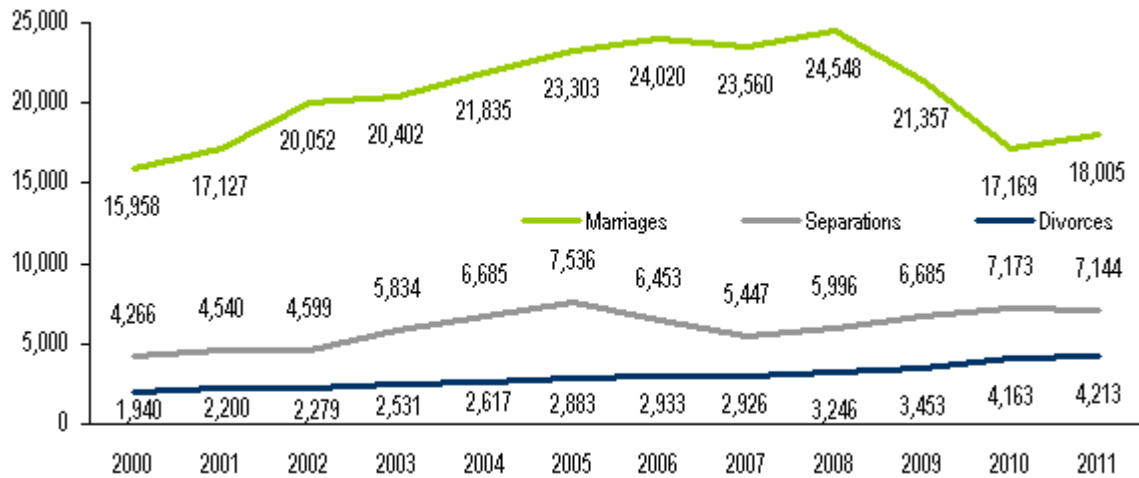


FIGURE 8. SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES BY TYPE OF PROCEEDINGS
2011 (absolute values)

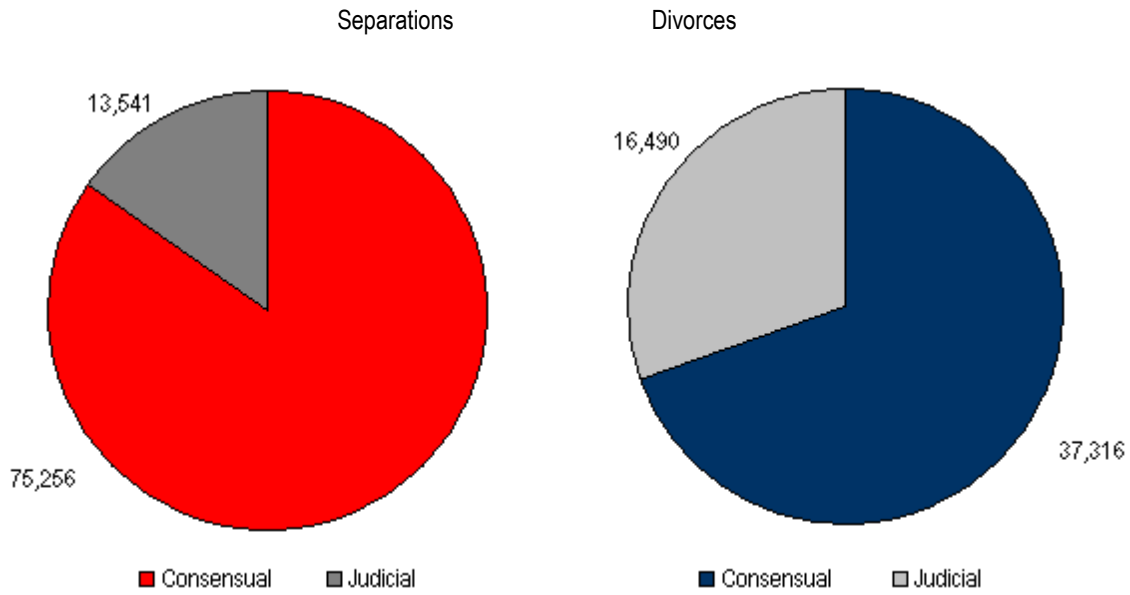
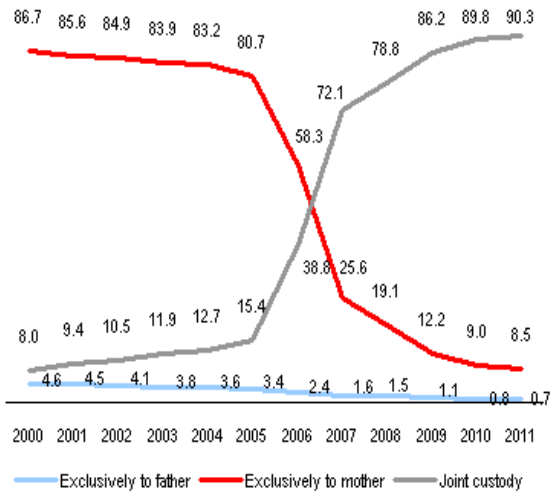


FIGURE 11. SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES BY TYPE OF CUSTODY OF MINORS
2000-2011 (percentage values)

Separations



PROSPECT 4. MINOR CHILDREN OF WHOM CUSTODY WAS GRANTED IN SEPARATIONS AND DIVORCES BY TYPE OF CUSTODY, GEOGRAPHICAL MACRO-AREA, TYPE OF PROCEEDINGS AND AGE CLASS OF MINOR CHILD OF WHOM CUSTODY WAS GRANTED

2011, absolute and percentage values

	Separations					Divorces				
	Total minors of whom custody granted	Type of custody (percentage values)				Total minors of whom custody granted	Type of custody (percentage values)			
		Exclusively to father	Exclusively to mother	Joint custody	To third parties		Exclusively to father	Exclusively to mother	Joint custody	To third parties
Geographical macro-area (a)										
North	31,160	0.6	6.9	92.3	0.2	13,642	1.4	17.2	80.7	0.7
Centre	14,254	1	11.7	86.1	1.3	5,002	2.6	21	75.2	1.2
South	22,299	0.8	8.8	90.2	0.2	6,568	2.2	29.7	66.9	1.2
Type of proceedings										
Consensual	57,316	0.7	8.0	90.9	0.5	17,375	1.5	17.9	79.7	0.9
Judicial	10,397	1.3	11.5	86.8	0.4	6,170	2.7	28.8	67.6	0.9
Age classes of minors of whom custody was granted										
0-5	14,374	0.7	6.2	92.3	0.7	812	1.8	22.9	73.4	1.8
6-10	23,108	0.6	8.5	90.3	0.6	7690	1.6	20.1	77.0	1.3
11-14	17,986	0.6	9.5	89.5	0.3	9482	1.8	21.3	76.2	0.8
15-17	12,245	1.1	9.9	88.8	0.2	7228	2.3	22.2	75.0	0.6
Total	67,713	0.7	8.5	90.3	0.5	25,212	1.9	21.2	76.0	0.9

(a) Geographical macro-area where the courts have issued the order of separation/divorce.

Glossary

Custody of minor children. Custody of minor children in separation or divorce proceedings until 15th March 2006 was governed by the Civil Code (article 155) and by Law no. 898 of 01st December 1970 as amended by Law no. 74 of 06th March 1987 (article 6). Law no. 54 of 08th February 2006 (in force since 16th March 2006) established that, in separation and divorce cases, the judge's priority must be to assess the possibility of awarding joint custody of minor children to both parents or establish which parent should be awarded custody, ruling on schedules and rules regarding their presence with each parent, as well as setting to what extent and in what way each of them must contribute to their maintenance, care, schooling and education. The judge also takes into consideration any agreements that have been made between the parents – if these are not against the interests of the children – and adopts any other measures regarding the children.

Divorce. The annulment and termination of the civil effects of marriages in the case, respectively, of marriages celebrated with a civil ceremony or marriages celebrated with a religious ceremony. Divorce was introduced in Italy by Law no. 898 of 01st December 1970; Law no. 74 of 06th March 1987 reduced the number of years required for the divorce judgment to be issued from five to three.

Average duration of marriage. The difference, in completed years, between the date on which separation proceedings (or divorce proceedings) are filed and the date of marriage.

Consensual separation. Based on an agreement between the spouses which establishes the rules for custody of children, any family allowances and division of property. In order to have legal validity it must be ratified by the judge.

Judicial separation. Actual legal proceedings initiated at the request of one of the two spouses, the subsequent case and pronouncement of separation judgment.

Specific separation (or divorce) rates by duration of marriage. Calculated as the ratio between the number of separations or divorces recorded during a calendar year t alongside each duration x of the marriage and the

number of marriages celebrated t-x years previously (i.e. the cohort of marriages of time t-x). They measure the proportion of marriages celebrated in year t-x which end in separation or divorce after a duration of (t-x) years.

Total separation (or divorce) rate. The indicator obtained from the sum, in relation of the durations of marriages, of the specific separation or divorce rates described in the preceding entry. The sum expresses the proportion of marriages that end in separation or divorce during a calendar year t. It may also be defined as average number of separations or divorces per 1,000 marriages.

Methodological note

Every year ISTAT publishes the main results of its surveys of separations and divorces conducted at the registries of the 165 civil courts, collecting data concerning every single procedure which was concluded in judicial terms during the reference year.

These data make it possible to update trends in the two phenomena over time and monitor their main characteristics: the duration of marriages and the age of spouses upon separation, the type and duration of proceedings, the number of children involved and custody of minors.

In-depth datasets with the main results of surveys on separations and divorces are available in Excel format in the data warehouse I.Stat (<http://dati.istat.it/>) and at <http://demo.istat.it> in the "Other data" section.