

South Africa - Marriages and Divorces 2024

Statistics South Africa

Report generated on: June 16, 2026

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER
zaf-statssa-md-2024-v1

TITLE
Marriages and Divorces 2024

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM
MD 2024

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

STUDY TYPE
Marriages and Divorces

ABSTRACT

The Marriages and Divorces (MD) dataset is one of three primary sources of marriage and divorce statistics in South Africa. Unlike the other two sources (population censuses and household sample surveys), the MD dataset is compiled from administrative data and based on continuous recording (i.e. from civil registration systems and administrative records). Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) regularly publishes a series of data on marriages and divorces, with the first dataset in the series beginning in 2006. The most recent dataset in the series is MD 2024.

Marriage data: Data on marriages for citizens and permanent residents are obtained from registered marriage records that are collected through the civil registration systems of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). South Africa recognises three types of marriages by law: civil marriages, customary marriages, and civil unions. Before 2008, marriage data only covered civil marriages. The registration of customary marriages and civil unions began in 2003 and 2007 respectively. However, from 2008 onwards, Stats SA began publishing available data on customary marriages and civil unions.

Divorce data: Data on divorces are obtained from various regional courts that deal with divorce matters. The data are based on successful divorce cases that have been issued with a decree of divorce by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJCD) and the Office of the Chief Justice. Divorce cases come from marriages that were registered in different years as well as divorce cases that were filed in different years but whose divorce decrees were granted in the relevant year of collection.

NOTE: Although both the data on marriages and divorces are collected in the same year, the data files from each cannot be merged because there is no to link the records at the individual level

KIND OF DATA
Administrative records data [adm]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS
Individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION
v1: Edited, anonymised data for public distribution

VERSION DATE
2026

VERSION NOTES
DataFirst downloaded this version from the StatsSA website on 8th May, 2026

Scope

NOTES

The marriage data is provided to Statistics South Africa by the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) from their marriage registration database based on registration forms. The province of registration of marriages and unions recorded may not necessarily be the province or place of usual residence of the couple. Hence, registration of the marriage can take place at any DHA office. The divorce data is obtained by Statistics South Africa from the South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development from administrative records on divorces granted for civil marriages by its divorce courts.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The lowest level of geographic aggregation covered by the data is province

UNIVERSE

The data covers all civil marriages, civil unions and customary marriages that were recorded by the Department of Home Affairs and all divorce applications that were granted by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in 2024 in South Africa.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Department of Home Affairs	Government of South Africa	Data producer
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	Government of South Africa	Data producer

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2024	2024

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Other [other]

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
Department of Home Affairs	DHA	Government of South Africa	Marriage registration
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	DOJCD	Government of South Africa	Divorce data

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Email	URL
DataFirst Support	support@data1st.org	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

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CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Marriages and Divorces 2024 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2026. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2026. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/nbz2-1504>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	URL	Email
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Link	support@data1st.org

LOCATION OF DATA COLLECTION

DataFirst data repository

ARCHIVE WHERE STUDY IS ORIGINALLY STORED

Statistics South Africa's Isibalo site

Metadata production

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Datafirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2026-05-13

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
md-2024-civil-marriage-v1	97510	9
md-2024-civil-union-v1	2229	6
md-2024-customary-v1	2634	6
md-2024-divorces-v1	24202	24

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Cases: 97510

Variables: 9

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V1	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V2	MarriageMonth	Month of marriage	
V3	MarriageYear	Year of marriage	
V4	SolemnisationCode	Way of solemnisation	
V5	BridegroomStatusCode	Marital status of Bridegroom	
V6	BrideStatusCode	Marital status of Bride	
V7	BridegroomAge	Age of Bridegroom	
V8	BrideAge	Age of Bride	
V9	AgeDiff	Age difference between bridegroom and bride	

Total: 9

Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1

Cases: 2229

Variables: 6

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V10	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V11	MarriageMonth	Month of Marriage	
V12	RegistrationYear	Year of Registration	
V13	Spouse1Age	Age of Spouses-1	
V14	Spouse2Age	Age of Spouses-2	
V15	AgeDiff	Age difference between Spouses-1 and Spouses-2	

Total: 6

Data file: md-2024-customary-v1

Cases: 2634

Variables: 6

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V16	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V17	MarriageYear	Year of Marriage	
V18	RegistrationYear	Year of Registration	
V19	BridegroomAge	Age of Bridegroom	
V20	BrideAge	Age of Bride	
V21	AgeDiff	Age difference between bridegroom and bride	

Total: 6

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Cases: 24202

Variables: 24

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Question
V22	ProvinceCode	Name of Province	
V23	MaleRace	Population group of husband	
V24	FemaleRace	Population group of wife	
V25	CoupleRace	Population group of couple	
V26	MaleOccupation	Occupation of Husband	
V27	FemaleOccupation	Occupation of wife	
V28	PlaintiffSex	Sex of plaintiff	
V29	MaleStatus	Marital status of husband	
V30	FemaleStatus	Marital status of wife	
V31	MaleNoTimesMarried	Number of times husband married	
V32	FemaleNoTimesMarried	Number of times wife married	
V33	HusbandAge	Age of husband	
V34	WifeAge	Age of wife	
V35	SolemnisationCode	Way of solemnisation	
V36	MarriageYear	Year of marriage	
V37	NoOfChildren	Number of children involved	
V38	DivorceYear	Year of divorce	
V39	MarriagePropertySystem	RECODE of MarriagePropertySystem2 (Matrimonial property system)	
V40	MarriageMonth	Month of marriage	
V41	DivorceMonth	Month of divorce	
V42	DurationOfMarriage	Duration of marriage	
V43	MarriageType	Type of marriage	
V44	PolygamousMarriage	Involved in polygamous marriage	
V45	GroundsForDivorce	Main grounds for divorce	

Total: 24

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1****Overview**

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 98 Mean: 5.0875397395139 Standard deviation: 7.9194226061829
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	22382	23%
2	Eastern Cape	8481	8.7%
3	Northern Cape	7843	8%
4	Free State	4102	4.2%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	16991	17.4%
6	North West	4418	4.5%
7	Gauteng	23509	24.1%
8	Mpumalanga	3080	3.2%
9	Limpopo	6077	6.2%
98	Outside RSA	627	0.6%

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of marriage**Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1****Overview**

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 12 Mean: 6.9466311147575 Standard deviation: 3.5262537077802
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	January	5950	6.1%
2	February	7387	7.6%
3	March	8780	9%
4	April	8144	8.4%
5	May	7225	7.4%
6	June	6842	7%
7	July	6644	6.8%
8	August	7437	7.6%

9	September	8884	9.1%
10	October	9047	9.3%
11	November	9921	10.2%
12	December	11249	11.5%

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Overview

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 2024 Maximum: 2024 Mean: 2024 Standard deviation: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2024	2024	97510	100%

SOLEMNISATIONCODE: Way of solemnisation

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Overview

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.5048712952518 Standard deviation: 2.4219813719474
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Religious	31529	32.3%
2	DHA	54444	55.8%
9	Unspecified	11537	11.8%

BRIDEGROOMSTATUSCODE: Marital status of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Overview

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.315957337709 Standard deviation: 2.9050066751474
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Never married	77463	79.4%
2	Divorcee	4187	4.3%
3	Widower	458	0.5%
9	Unspecified	15402	15.8%

BRIDESTATUSCODE: Marital status of Bride

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Overview

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.0161932109527 Standard deviation: 2.6192261292227
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Never married	82431	84.5%
2	Divorcee	2859	2.9%
3	Widow	255	0.3%
9	Unspecified	11965	12.3%

BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Overview

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 18 Maximum: 99 Mean: 40.756383960619 Standard deviation: 11.580124886335
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
18	18	10	0%
19	19	36	0%
20	20	116	0.1%
21	21	244	0.3%

22	22	421	0.4%
23	23	836	0.9%
24	24	1378	1.4%
25	25	1802	1.8%
26	26	2273	2.3%
27	27	2622	2.7%
28	28	3108	3.2%
29	29	3301	3.4%
30	30	3362	3.4%
31	31	3544	3.6%
32	32	3601	3.7%
33	33	3529	3.6%
34	34	3601	3.7%
35	35	3511	3.6%
36	36	3446	3.5%
37	37	3517	3.6%
38	38	3392	3.5%
39	39	3410	3.5%
40	40	3270	3.4%
41	41	3266	3.3%
42	42	3068	3.1%
43	43	2672	2.7%
44	44	2587	2.7%
45	45	2387	2.4%
46	46	2176	2.2%
47	47	2175	2.2%
48	48	1994	2%
49	49	1891	1.9%
50	50	1890	1.9%
51	51	1643	1.7%
52	52	1751	1.8%
53	53	1394	1.4%
54	54	1428	1.5%
55	55	1231	1.3%
56	56	1210	1.2%
57	57	1034	1.1%
58	58	932	1%
59	59	913	0.9%
60	60	909	0.9%

61	61	861	0.9%
62	62	738	0.8%
63	63	607	0.6%
64	64	584	0.6%
65	65	492	0.5%
66	66	496	0.5%
67	67	372	0.4%
68	68	371	0.4%
69	69	255	0.3%
70	70	286	0.3%
71	71	229	0.2%
72	72	198	0.2%
73	73	175	0.2%
74	74	168	0.2%
75	75	125	0.1%
76	76	122	0.1%
77	77	117	0.1%
78	78	83	0.1%
79	79	56	0.1%
80	80	69	0.1%
81	81	38	0%
82	82	38	0%
83	83	35	0%
84	84	31	0%
85	85	24	0%
86	86	13	0%
87	87	14	0%
88	88	6	0%
89	89	4	0%
90	90	4	0%
91	91	2	0%
92	92	2	0%
93	93	6	0%
94	94	4	0%
98	98	3	0%
99	Unspecified	1	0%

BRIDEAGE: Age of Bride**Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1****Overview**

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 16 Maximum: 99 Mean: 36.607865859912 Standard deviation: 10.251753611502
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
16	16	5	0%
17	17	15	0%
18	18	92	0.1%
19	19	253	0.3%
20	20	440	0.5%
21	21	799	0.8%
22	22	1236	1.3%
23	23	1820	1.9%
24	24	2690	2.8%
25	25	3227	3.3%
26	26	3590	3.7%
27	27	4092	4.2%
28	28	4240	4.3%
29	29	4364	4.5%
30	30	4379	4.5%
31	31	4391	4.5%
32	32	4275	4.4%
33	33	4191	4.3%
34	34	4136	4.2%
35	35	3895	4%
36	36	3654	3.7%
37	37	3387	3.5%
38	38	3255	3.3%
39	39	3100	3.2%
40	40	2932	3%
41	41	2697	2.8%
42	42	2589	2.7%
43	43	2142	2.2%
44	44	2036	2.1%
45	45	1849	1.9%

46	46	1645	1.7%
47	47	1559	1.6%
48	48	1516	1.6%
49	49	1330	1.4%
50	50	1308	1.3%
51	51	1163	1.2%
52	52	1108	1.1%
53	53	872	0.9%
54	54	894	0.9%
55	55	759	0.8%
56	56	776	0.8%
57	57	579	0.6%
58	58	521	0.5%
59	59	469	0.5%
60	60	455	0.5%
61	61	421	0.4%
62	62	374	0.4%
63	63	277	0.3%
64	64	252	0.3%
65	65	230	0.2%
66	66	205	0.2%
67	67	177	0.2%
68	68	138	0.1%
69	69	108	0.1%
70	70	88	0.1%
71	71	97	0.1%
72	72	68	0.1%
73	73	76	0.1%
74	74	62	0.1%
75	75	44	0%
76	76	39	0%
77	77	32	0%
78	78	25	0%
79	79	18	0%
80	80	14	0%
81	81	8	0%
82	82	9	0%
83	83	2	0%
84	84	9	0%

85	85	5	0%
86	86	1	0%
88	88	1	0%
89	89	2	0%
92	92	1	0%
99	Unspecified	1	0%

AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride

Data file: md-2024-civil-marriage-v1

Overview

Valid: 97510 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 2 Mean: 1.0740641985437 Standard deviation: 0.49478205587523
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Spouses same age	8592	8.8%
1	Bridegroom older	73104	75%
2	Bridegroom younger	15814	16.2%

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1****Overview**

Valid: 2229 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 98 Mean: 4.6944818304172 Standard deviation: 5.5697366942378
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	751	33.7%
2	Eastern Cape	78	3.5%
3	Northern Cape	41	1.8%
4	Free State	45	2%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	268	12%
6	North West	36	1.6%
7	Gauteng	943	42.3%
8	Mpumalanga	40	1.8%
9	Limpopo	21	0.9%
98	Outside RSA	6	0.3%

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of Marriage**Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1****Overview**

Valid: 2229 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 12 Mean: 6.7572902646927 Standard deviation: 3.4762398194608
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	January	126	5.7%
2	February	185	8.3%
3	March	246	11%
4	April	180	8.1%
5	May	167	7.5%
6	June	152	6.8%
7	July	126	5.7%
8	August	189	8.5%

9	September	246	11%
10	October	182	8.2%
11	November	227	10.2%
12	December	203	9.1%

REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of Registration

Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1

Overview

Valid: 2229 Minimum: 2024 Maximum: 2024 Mean: 2024 Standard deviation: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2024	2024	2229	100%

SPOUSE1AGE: Age of Spouses-1

Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1

Overview

Valid: 2229 Minimum: 19 Maximum: 82 Mean: 37.934499775684 Standard deviation: 10.523386731356
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
19	19	3	0.1%
20	20	7	0.3%
21	21	4	0.2%
22	22	12	0.5%
23	23	21	0.9%
24	24	25	1.1%
25	25	44	2%
26	26	62	2.8%
27	27	79	3.5%
28	28	103	4.6%
29	29	97	4.4%

30	30	110	4.9%
31	31	121	5.4%
32	32	115	5.2%
33	33	140	6.3%
34	34	97	4.4%
35	35	89	4%
36	36	92	4.1%
37	37	93	4.2%
38	38	84	3.8%
39	39	56	2.5%
40	40	71	3.2%
41	41	57	2.6%
42	42	56	2.5%
43	43	50	2.2%
44	44	46	2.1%
45	45	32	1.4%
46	46	42	1.9%
47	47	27	1.2%
48	48	30	1.3%
49	49	36	1.6%
50	50	34	1.5%
51	51	31	1.4%
52	52	22	1%
53	53	26	1.2%
54	54	19	0.9%
55	55	20	0.9%
56	56	16	0.7%
57	57	16	0.7%
58	58	24	1.1%
59	59	18	0.8%
60	60	15	0.7%
61	61	5	0.2%
62	62	10	0.4%
63	63	8	0.4%
64	64	8	0.4%
65	65	11	0.5%
66	66	7	0.3%
67	67	4	0.2%
68	68	4	0.2%

69	69	5	0.2%
70	70	5	0.2%
71	71	4	0.2%
72	72	3	0.1%
74	74	2	0.1%
75	75	2	0.1%
76	76	3	0.1%
77	77	2	0.1%
79	79	1	0%
80	80	2	0.1%
82	82	1	0%

SPOUSE2AGE: Age of Spouses-2

Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1

Overview

Valid: 2229 Minimum: 18 Maximum: 999 Mean: 36.54957379991 Standard deviation: 22.630528745071
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
18	18	2	0.1%
19	19	4	0.2%
20	20	6	0.3%
21	21	8	0.4%
22	22	19	0.9%
23	23	39	1.7%
24	24	49	2.2%
25	25	56	2.5%
26	26	88	3.9%
27	27	93	4.2%
28	28	136	6.1%
29	29	107	4.8%
30	30	109	4.9%
31	31	124	5.6%
32	32	120	5.4%
33	33	109	4.9%

34	34	117	5.2%
35	35	101	4.5%
36	36	91	4.1%
37	37	70	3.1%
38	38	77	3.5%
39	39	69	3.1%
40	40	58	2.6%
41	41	61	2.7%
42	42	59	2.6%
43	43	29	1.3%
44	44	42	1.9%
45	45	28	1.3%
46	46	24	1.1%
47	47	35	1.6%
48	48	30	1.3%
49	49	15	0.7%
50	50	36	1.6%
51	51	18	0.8%
52	52	21	0.9%
53	53	31	1.4%
54	54	14	0.6%
55	55	15	0.7%
56	56	13	0.6%
57	57	14	0.6%
58	58	9	0.4%
59	59	14	0.6%
60	60	15	0.7%
61	61	10	0.4%
62	62	5	0.2%
63	63	3	0.1%
64	64	2	0.1%
65	65	8	0.4%
66	66	2	0.1%
67	67	7	0.3%
69	69	4	0.2%
70	70	1	0%
71	71	4	0.2%
72	72	1	0%
76	76	2	0.1%

77	77	1	0%
80	80	1	0%
82	82	1	0%
85	85	1	0%
999	Unspecified	1	0%

AGEDIFF: Age difference between Spouses-1 and Spouses-2

Data file: md-2024-civil-union-v1

Overview

Valid: 2229 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 9 Mean: 1.2045760430686 Standard deviation: 0.64074453311351
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Spouses same age	248	11.1%
1	Spouses-1 older	1284	57.6%
2	Spouses-1 younger	696	31.2%
9	Unspecified	1	0%

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province**Data file: md-2024-customary-v1****Overview**

Valid: 2634 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99 Mean: 6.3545937737282 Standard deviation: 5.4054314800491
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Western Cape	62	2.4%
2	Eastern Cape	397	15.1%
3	Northern Cape	33	1.3%
4	Free State	41	1.6%
5	KwaZulu-Natal	704	26.7%
6	North West	82	3.1%
7	Gauteng	266	10.1%
8	Mpumalanga	324	12.3%
9	Limpopo	718	27.3%
98	Outside RSA	2	0.1%
99	Unspecified	5	0.2%

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of Marriage**Data file: md-2024-customary-v1****Overview**

Valid: 2634 Minimum: 1938 Maximum: 2024 Mean: 2004.8929384966 Standard deviation: 17.820152806652
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1938	1938	1	0%
1946	1946	1	0%
1955	1955	1	0%
1956	1956	1	0%
1957	1957	3	0.1%
1958	1958	2	0.1%
1959	1959	3	0.1%

1960	1960	8	0.3%
1961	1961	3	0.1%
1962	1962	5	0.2%
1964	1964	4	0.2%
1965	1965	6	0.2%
1966	1966	11	0.4%
1967	1967	10	0.4%
1968	1968	10	0.4%
1969	1969	6	0.2%
1970	1970	21	0.8%
1971	1971	9	0.3%
1972	1972	20	0.8%
1973	1973	18	0.7%
1974	1974	41	1.6%
1975	1975	18	0.7%
1976	1976	25	0.9%
1977	1977	21	0.8%
1978	1978	28	1.1%
1979	1979	21	0.8%
1980	1980	41	1.6%
1981	1981	31	1.2%
1982	1982	34	1.3%
1983	1983	34	1.3%
1984	1984	35	1.3%
1985	1985	35	1.3%
1986	1986	40	1.5%
1987	1987	32	1.2%
1988	1988	26	1%
1989	1989	37	1.4%
1990	1990	38	1.4%
1991	1991	33	1.3%
1992	1992	34	1.3%
1993	1993	35	1.3%
1994	1994	41	1.6%
1995	1995	26	1%
1996	1996	26	1%
1997	1997	26	1%
1998	1998	29	1.1%
1999	1999	27	1%

2000	2000	22	0.8%
2001	2001	20	0.8%
2002	2002	13	0.5%
2003	2003	24	0.9%
2004	2004	33	1.3%
2005	2005	29	1.1%
2006	2006	22	0.8%
2007	2007	31	1.2%
2008	2008	33	1.3%
2009	2009	38	1.4%
2010	2010	58	2.2%
2011	2011	40	1.5%
2012	2012	39	1.5%
2013	2013	70	2.7%
2014	2014	63	2.4%
2015	2015	58	2.2%
2016	2016	62	2.4%
2017	2017	77	2.9%
2018	2018	99	3.8%
2019	2019	79	3%
2020	2020	96	3.6%
2021	2021	98	3.7%
2022	2022	113	4.3%
2023	2023	159	6%
2024	2024	301	11.4%

REGISTRATIONYEAR: Year of Registration

Data file: md-2024-customary-v1

Overview

Valid: 2634 Minimum: 2024 Maximum: 2024 Mean: 2024 Standard deviation: 0
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
2024	2024	2634	100%

BRIDEGROOMAGE: Age of Bridegroom

Data file: md-2024-customary-v1

Overview

Valid: 2634 Minimum: 8 Maximum: 999 Mean: 37.438876233865 Standard deviation: 22.245400136237
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
8	8	1	0%
9	9	1	0%
12	12	2	0.1%
13	13	1	0%
14	14	1	0%
15	15	2	0.1%
16	16	2	0.1%
17	17	5	0.2%
18	18	12	0.5%
19	19	19	0.7%
20	20	41	1.6%
21	21	38	1.4%
22	22	56	2.1%
23	23	67	2.5%
24	24	74	2.8%
25	25	94	3.6%
26	26	90	3.4%
27	27	80	3%
28	28	103	3.9%
29	29	102	3.9%
30	30	94	3.6%
31	31	116	4.4%
32	32	97	3.7%
33	33	87	3.3%
34	34	87	3.3%
35	35	92	3.5%
36	36	99	3.8%
37	37	72	2.7%
38	38	91	3.5%
39	39	84	3.2%

40	40	79	3%
41	41	60	2.3%
42	42	64	2.4%
43	43	58	2.2%
44	44	41	1.6%
45	45	56	2.1%
46	46	42	1.6%
47	47	45	1.7%
48	48	34	1.3%
49	49	36	1.4%
50	50	26	1%
51	51	29	1.1%
52	52	33	1.3%
53	53	31	1.2%
54	54	32	1.2%
55	55	20	0.8%
56	56	20	0.8%
57	57	24	0.9%
58	58	21	0.8%
59	59	23	0.9%
60	60	26	1%
61	61	17	0.6%
62	62	9	0.3%
63	63	16	0.6%
64	64	9	0.3%
65	65	11	0.4%
66	66	7	0.3%
67	67	8	0.3%
68	68	9	0.3%
69	69	4	0.2%
70	70	2	0.1%
71	71	9	0.3%
72	72	3	0.1%
73	73	1	0%
74	74	3	0.1%
75	75	4	0.2%
76	76	3	0.1%
77	77	1	0%
78	78	2	0.1%

80	80	1	0%
82	82	1	0%
84	84	1	0%
94	94	1	0%
104	104	1	0%
999	Unspecified	1	0%

BRIDEAGE: Age of Bride

Data file: md-2024-customary-v1

Overview

Valid: 2634 Minimum: 8 Maximum: 999 Mean: 33.793849658314 Standard deviation: 51.028268493829
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
8	8	1	0%
9	9	1	0%
10	10	1	0%
11	11	2	0.1%
12	12	3	0.1%
13	13	5	0.2%
14	14	12	0.5%
15	15	23	0.9%
16	16	44	1.7%
17	17	68	2.6%
18	18	97	3.7%
19	19	85	3.2%
20	20	86	3.3%
21	21	76	2.9%
22	22	80	3%
23	23	92	3.5%
24	24	92	3.5%
25	25	103	3.9%
26	26	114	4.3%
27	27	116	4.4%
28	28	118	4.5%

29	29	114	4.3%
30	30	91	3.5%
31	31	99	3.8%
32	32	96	3.6%
33	33	74	2.8%
34	34	93	3.5%
35	35	71	2.7%
36	36	64	2.4%
37	37	76	2.9%
38	38	54	2.1%
39	39	72	2.7%
40	40	45	1.7%
41	41	35	1.3%
42	42	39	1.5%
43	43	39	1.5%
44	44	35	1.3%
45	45	28	1.1%
46	46	23	0.9%
47	47	37	1.4%
48	48	22	0.8%
49	49	25	0.9%
50	50	25	0.9%
51	51	20	0.8%
52	52	12	0.5%
53	53	16	0.6%
54	54	12	0.5%
55	55	10	0.4%
56	56	15	0.6%
57	57	5	0.2%
58	58	2	0.1%
59	59	9	0.3%
60	60	8	0.3%
61	61	4	0.2%
62	62	6	0.2%
63	63	5	0.2%
64	64	4	0.2%
65	65	2	0.1%
66	66	4	0.2%
67	67	1	0%

68	68	3	0.1%
69	69	1	0%
71	71	1	0%
74	74	4	0.2%
82	82	1	0%
83	83	1	0%
84	84	2	0.1%
92	92	2	0.1%
94	94	1	0%
999	Unspecified	7	0.3%

AGEDIFF: Age difference between bridegroom and bride

Data file: md-2024-customary-v1

Overview

Valid: 2634 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 9 Mean: 1.0645406226272 Standard deviation: 0.5830326878796
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	Spouses same age	144	5.5%
1	Bridegroom older	2232	84.7%
2	Bridegroom younger	250	9.5%
9	Unspecified	8	0.3%

PROVINCECODE: Name of Province

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 5.1104040988348 Standard deviation: 2.6201392234661
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Western Cape	4259	17.6%
2	2. Eastern Cape	2111	8.7%
3	3. Northern Cape	341	1.4%
4	4. Free State	1836	7.6%
5	5. KwaZulu-Natal	3344	13.8%
6	6. North West	1567	6.5%
7	7. Gauteng	7256	30%
8	8. Mpumalanga	1472	6.1%
9	9. Limpopo	2016	8.3%

MALERACE: Population group of husband

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.0842905544996 Standard deviation: 1.6205730673442
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Black African	13636	56.3%
2	2. Coloured	3586	14.8%
3	3. Indian/Asian	1157	4.8%
4	4. White	5206	21.5%
5	5. Other	53	0.2%
9	9. Unspecified	564	2.3%

FEMALERACE: Population group of wife

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.1129245516899 Standard deviation: 1.689314049972
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Black African	13546	56%
2	2. Coloured	3719	15.4%
3	3. Indian/Asian	1077	4.5%
4	4. White	5158	21.3%
5	5. Other	7	0%
9	9. Unspecified	695	2.9%

COUPLERACE: Population group of couple

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.2378729030659 Standard deviation: 1.8248314275968
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Black African	13284	54.9%
2	2. Coloured	3363	13.9%
3	3. Indian/Asian	990	4.1%
4	4. White	5008	20.7%
5	5. Mixed	716	3%
9	9. Unspecified	841	3.5%

MALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of Husband

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 99 Mean: 34.796504421122 Standard deviation: 45.425774204963

Type: Discrete Width: 60 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	0. Unemployed	3403	14.1%
1	1. Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations	3874	16%
2	2. Managers and administrators	2038	8.4%
3	3. Clerical and sales occupations	992	4.1%
4	4. Transport, delivery and communications	718	3%
5	5. Service occupations	3185	13.2%
6	6. Farming and related occupations	104	0.4%
7	7. Artisans, apprentice and related occupations	1039	4.3%
8	8. Production foreman, mine and quarry workers	786	3.2%
99	99. Unspecified	8063	33.3%

FEMALEOCCUPATION: Occupation of wife

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 0 Maximum: 99 Mean: 37.678373688125 Standard deviation: 46.848163264483
 Type: Discrete Width: 60 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
0	0. Unemployed	4485	18.5%
1	1. Professional, semi-professional and technical occupations	3934	16.3%
2	2. Managers and administrators	2044	8.4%
3	3. Clerical and sales occupations	1922	7.9%
4	4. Transport, delivery and communications	87	0.4%
5	5. Service occupations	2302	9.5%
6	6. Farming and related occupations	27	0.1%
7	7. Artisans, apprentice and related occupations	207	0.9%
8	8. Production foreman, mine and quarry workers	281	1.2%
99	99. Unspecified	8913	36.8%

PLAINTIFFSEX: Sex of plaintiff

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.0823485662342 Standard deviation: 1.712254657475
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Male	7976	33%
2	2. Female	13853	57.2%
3	3. Both	1107	4.6%
9	9. Unspecified	1266	5.2%

MALESTATUS: Marital status of husband

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 1.4243037765474 Standard deviation: 1.4453078199393
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Never married	21092	87.1%
2	2. Widower	283	1.2%
3	3. Divorcee	2105	8.7%
9	9. Unspecified	722	3%

FEMALESTATUS: Marital status of wife

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 1.4460788364598 Standard deviation: 1.5799052798902
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Never married	21426	88.5%
2	2. Widow	240	1%
3	3. Divorcee	1622	6.7%
9	9. Unspecified	914	3.8%

MALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times husband married

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99 Mean: 3.844103793075 Standard deviation: 16.134254009931
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. 1	21219	87.7%
2	2. 2	2082	8.6%
3	3. 3	190	0.8%
4	4. 4	26	0.1%
5	5. 5	6	0%
6	6. 6	1	0%
8	8. 8	1	0%
10	10. 10	1	0%
99	99. Unspecified	676	2.8%

FEMALENOTIMESMARRIED: Number of times wife married

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99 Mean: 4.4676473018759 Standard deviation: 17.88401951797
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. 1	21567	89.1%
2	2. 2	1638	6.8%

3	3. 3	132	0.5%
4	4. 4	23	0.1%
5	5. 5	5	0%
6	6. 6	1	0%
99	99. Unspecified	836	3.5%

HUSBANDAGE: Age of husband

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 21 Maximum: 999 Mean: 79.254772332865 Standard deviation: 172.63618936033
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
21	21. 21	2	0%
22	22. 22	6	0%
23	23. 23	17	0.1%
24	24. 24	25	0.1%
25	25. 25	37	0.2%
26	26. 26	66	0.3%
27	27. 27	84	0.3%
28	28. 28	102	0.4%
29	29. 29	154	0.6%
30	30. 30	207	0.9%
31	31. 31	264	1.1%
32	32. 32	345	1.4%
33	33. 33	455	1.9%
34	34. 34	501	2.1%
35	35. 35	564	2.3%
36	36. 36	581	2.4%
37	37. 37	690	2.9%
38	38. 38	751	3.1%
39	39. 39	855	3.5%
40	40. 40	915	3.8%
41	41. 41	906	3.7%
42	42. 42	930	3.8%

43	43. 43	865	3.6%
44	44. 44	916	3.8%
45	45. 45	940	3.9%
46	46. 46	824	3.4%
47	47. 47	864	3.6%
48	48. 48	925	3.8%
49	49. 49	831	3.4%
50	50. 50	801	3.3%
51	51. 51	744	3.1%
52	52. 52	815	3.4%
53	53. 53	628	2.6%
54	54. 54	700	2.9%
55	55. 55	583	2.4%
56	56. 56	527	2.2%
57	57. 57	454	1.9%
58	58. 58	458	1.9%
59	59. 59	389	1.6%
60	60. 60	400	1.7%
61	61. 61	346	1.4%
62	62. 62	288	1.2%
63	63. 63	207	0.9%
64	64. 64	209	0.9%
65	65. 65	181	0.7%
66	66. 66	156	0.6%
67	67. 67	133	0.5%
68	68. 68	111	0.5%
69	69. 69	89	0.4%
70	70. 70	83	0.3%
71	71. 71	79	0.3%
72	72. 72	68	0.3%
73	73. 73	54	0.2%
74	74. 74	48	0.2%
75	75. 75	26	0.1%
76	76. 76	34	0.1%
77	77. 77	30	0.1%
78	78. 78	23	0.1%
79	79. 79	23	0.1%
80	80. 80	10	0%
81	81. 81	16	0.1%

82	82. 82	5	0%
83	83. 83	8	0%
84	84. 84	7	0%
85	85. 85	8	0%
86	86. 86	5	0%
87	87. 87	1	0%
88	88. 88	4	0%
89	89. 89	3	0%
90	90. 90	3	0%
92	92. 92	1	0%
93	93. 93	1	0%
999	999. Unspecified	821	3.4%

WIFEAGE: Age of wife

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 18 Maximum: 999 Mean: 74.761589951244 Standard deviation: 171.02962375003
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
18	18. 18	2	0%
19	19. 19	1	0%
20	20. 20	5	0%
21	21. 21	12	0%
22	22. 22	16	0.1%
23	23. 23	35	0.1%
24	24. 24	62	0.3%
25	25. 25	91	0.4%
26	26. 26	130	0.5%
27	27. 27	181	0.7%
28	28. 28	291	1.2%
29	29. 29	315	1.3%
30	30. 30	408	1.7%
31	31. 31	556	2.3%
32	32. 32	614	2.5%

33	33. 33	723	3%
34	34. 34	824	3.4%
35	35. 35	863	3.6%
36	36. 36	889	3.7%
37	37. 37	962	4%
38	38. 38	1036	4.3%
39	39. 39	1025	4.2%
40	40. 40	960	4%
41	41. 41	1019	4.2%
42	42. 42	1034	4.3%
43	43. 43	935	3.9%
44	44. 44	958	4%
45	45. 45	838	3.5%
46	46. 46	757	3.1%
47	47. 47	760	3.1%
48	48. 48	735	3%
49	49. 49	717	3%
50	50. 50	646	2.7%
51	51. 51	599	2.5%
52	52. 52	608	2.5%
53	53. 53	456	1.9%
54	54. 54	480	2%
55	55. 55	390	1.6%
56	56. 56	350	1.4%
57	57. 57	286	1.2%
58	58. 58	231	1%
59	59. 59	219	0.9%
60	60. 60	244	1%
61	61. 61	188	0.8%
62	62. 62	163	0.7%
63	63. 63	120	0.5%
64	64. 64	135	0.6%
65	65. 65	90	0.4%
66	66. 66	93	0.4%
67	67. 67	69	0.3%
68	68. 68	51	0.2%
69	69. 69	43	0.2%
70	70. 70	31	0.1%
71	71. 71	34	0.1%

72	72. 72	36	0.1%
73	73. 73	20	0.1%
74	74. 74	19	0.1%
75	75. 75	5	0%
76	76. 76	13	0.1%
77	77. 77	5	0%
78	78. 78	5	0%
79	79. 79	3	0%
80	80. 80	3	0%
81	81. 81	4	0%
83	83. 83	1	0%
84	84. 84	1	0%
85	85. 85	2	0%
86	86. 86	2	0%
87	87. 87	1	0%
88	88. 88	1	0%
89	89. 89	1	0%
90	90. 90	1	0%
999	999. Unspecified	799	3.3%

SOLEMNISATIONCODE: Way of solemnisation

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 2.2299809933063 Standard deviation: 2.1613170772134
 Type: Discrete Width: 16 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Religious	9421	38.9%
2	2. DHA	12640	52.2%
9	9. Unspecified	2141	8.8%

MARRIAGEYEAR: Year of marriage

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202

Type: Continuous Width: -4 Format: character

NOOFCHILDREN: Number of children involved

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202

Type: Continuous Width: -2 Format: character

DIVORCEYEAR: Year of divorce

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202

Type: Continuous Width: -4 Format: character

MARRIAGEPROPERTYSYSTEM: RECODE of MarriagePropertySystem2 (Matrimonial property system)

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 1.5189653747624 Standard deviation: 1.4611166910114

Type: Discrete Width: 58 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. In community of property	19826	81.9%
2	2. Out of community of property	1280	5.3%
3	3. Out of community of property (excluding accrual system)	1188	4.9%
4	4. Out of community of property (including accrual system)	1272	5.3%
9	9. Unspecified	636	2.6%

MARRIAGEMONTH: Month of marriage

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99 Mean: 10.520742087431 Standard deviation: 17.920765615138

Type: Discrete Width: 15 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. January	1519	6.3%
2	2. February	1737	7.2%
3	3. March	2012	8.3%
4	4. April	1935	8%
5	5. May	1713	7.1%
6	6. June	1522	6.3%
7	7. July	1549	6.4%
8	8. August	1613	6.7%
9	9. September	2064	8.5%
10	10. October	2112	8.7%
11	11. November	2264	9.4%
12	12. December	3244	13.4%
99	99. Unspecified	918	3.8%
100	100. 01	0	
101	101. 02	0	
102	102. 03	0	
103	103. 04	0	
104	104. 05	0	
105	105. 06	0	
106	106. 07	0	
107	107. 08	0	
108	108. 09	0	
109	109. 10	0	
110	110. 11	0	
111	111. 12	0	
112	112. 99	0	

DIVORCEMONTH: Month of divorce

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 12 Mean: 6.5764399636394 Standard deviation: 3.1580352250532
Type: Discrete Width: 15 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. January	1015	4.2%
2	2. February	2102	8.7%
3	3. March	1936	8%
4	4. April	2245	9.3%
5	5. May	2512	10.4%
6	6. June	1854	7.7%
7	7. July	2385	9.9%
8	8. August	2509	10.4%
9	9. September	2133	8.8%
10	10. October	2165	8.9%
11	11. November	2294	9.5%
12	12. December	1052	4.3%
99	99. Unspecified	0	

DURATIONOFMARRIAGE: Duration of marriage

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 99 Mean: 17.367655565656 Standard deviation: 19.412790518536
 Type: Discrete Width: 15 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
99	99. Unspecified	1060	100%

MARRIAGETYPE: Type of marriage

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 4.017808445583 Standard deviation: 3.8416732220361
 Type: Discrete Width: 21 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	1. Civil marriage	14416	59.6%
2	2. Customary marriage	541	2.2%
3	3. Civil union	244	1%
9	9. Unspecified	9001	37.2%

POLYGAMOUSMARRIAGE: Involved in polygamous marriage

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 4.8270390876787 Standard deviation: 3.4403905537826
 Type: Discrete Width: 11 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Yes	117	0.5%
2	No	14294	59.1%
9	Unspecified	9791	40.5%

GROUNDSFORDIVORCE: Main grounds for divorce

Data file: md-2024-divorces-v1

Overview

Valid: 24202 Minimum: 1 Maximum: 9 Mean: 6.3765804478969 Standard deviation: 3.3967917994872
 Type: Discrete Width: 22 Format: Numeric

Questions and instructions

CATEGORIES

Value	Category	Cases	
1	Adultery	4527	18.7%
2	Abuse	1697	7%
3	Childlessness	23	0.1%
4	Desertion	2257	9.3%
5	Financial difficulties	959	4%

6	Medical Insanity	16	0.1%
7	Imprisonment	45	0.2%
9	Unspecified	14678	60.6%

Download related resources

Questionnaires

Form 07-04 [Divorce Form]

Title	Form 07-04 [Divorce Form]
Author(s)	Statistics South Africa
Date	2012-12-31T22:00:00.000Z
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Publisher(s)	StatsSA
Description	This form is used to register divorces in South Africa
Filename	md-2024-form-07-04.pdf

Reports

Statistical Release P0307, 2024

Title	Statistical Release P0307, 2024
Author(s)	Statistics South Africa
Date	2026-05-18T22:00:00.000Z
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Publisher(s)	StatsSA
Abstract	This statistical release presents information on civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions that were registered in 2024 in the South African national marriage registration system maintained by the national Department of Home Affairs (DHA). It highlights trends in the number of marriages and unions as well as demographic and other dynamics amongst married partners.
Filename	md-2024-report.pdf

Technical documents

Marriages and Divorces Metadata, 2024

Title	Marriages and Divorces Metadata, 2024
Author(s)	Statistics South Africa
Date	2026-04-12T22:00:00.000Z
Country	South Africa
Language	English
Publisher(s)	StatsSA
Filename	md-2024-metadata.pdf
