

YouGov Survey Results

Wriglesworth: Divorce - the consequences: Who survives best?

YouGov questioned 3515 adults aged 18+ (All divorced/ separated) throughout Britain online between 31st May and 8th June 2005.

Unweighted N	Total	Currently divorcing/ separating or divorced/ separated less than 2 years					Divorced/ separated more than 2 years				
		Gender		Age			Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50
3515		371	374	90	470	186	1231	1533	44	1362	1363
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

BASE: Divorced / Separated ONLY

How long ago did you separate from / divorce your ex-partner / spouse?

	Total	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50
Less than 2 years ago	10	100	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0
Between 2 and 5 years ago	23	0	0	0	0	0	29	23	82	37	13
Between 6 and 10 years ago	23	0	0	0	0	0	26	25	11	32	20
Between 11 and 15 years ago	18	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	5	19	21
Between 16 and 20 years ago	12	0	0	0	0	0	11	14	2	8	18
More than 20 years ago	14	0	0	0	0	0	13	18	0	4	28

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BASE: All

Which of the following BEST describes you and your ex-partners living arrangements before you decided to divorce / separate?

We jointly owned our home	59	59	51	36	53	70	62	58	30	58	62
I owned the home we lived in	8	12	7	3	11	9	11	5	7	8	8
My ex-partner owned the home we lived in	5	6	8	10	7	5	3	6	5	5	5
We did not own the home we lived in	26	23	31	50	27	16	23	29	59	28	23
Other	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1

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BASE: Currently divorcing/ separating ONLY

How do you think your home will be affected by your divorce or separation? [Please tick all that apply]

We will sell/are selling our home and buying two new ones	16	17	14	8	16	21	0	0	0	0	0
I will buy/am buying my ex-partner out of our home	12	14	10	6	14	10	0	0	0	0	0
I will have a mortgage that I pay only (no maintenance)	14	16	12	9	13	18	0	0	0	0	0
I will have a mortgage that my ex-partner contributes to (I will receive maintenance)	3	0	7	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
We have sufficient equity in our home that it covers two new properties outright	3	4	1	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0
I will have to rent from now on	20	22	19	15	19	26	0	0	0	0	0
I have no idea at the moment – I could end up homeless	10	10	10	8	9	12	0	0	0	0	0
I will have to move in with family/ friends	4	5	4	17	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
We will continue to live together in the marital home, despite the divorce	4	4	3	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
We did not own our own home	23	19	28	50	23	9	0	0	0	0	0
None of these	11	12	10	6	12	13	0	0	0	0	0

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BASE: Divorced / Separated ONLY

How has where you live been affected by your divorce or separation?

We have sold our home and bought two new ones	17	10	8	0	9	14	22	14	5	15	20
I have bought my ex-partner out of our home	11	14	11	0	16	8	14	9	2	12	11
I have a mortgage that I pay only (no maintenance)	13	11	16	17	13	16	7	17	7	12	13
I have a mortgage that my ex-partner contributes to (I receive)	1	1	5	0	4	1	0	1	2	1	1
We had sufficient equity in our home that it covered two new	2	3	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	2
I now rent	20	31	22	33	29	18	21	19	23	20	20
I have moved in with family/ friends	5	10	8	21	8	8	5	3	11	6	2
We continue to live together in the marital home, despite that	0	1	2	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
We did not own a home	17	7	17	17	11	11	13	21	36	19	15
None of these	15	12	11	8	10	19	15	15	14	15	15

Overall, how do you expect to be / have you been affected financially by your decision to divorce or separate?

I expect to be / am a lot worse off	33	42	39	29	42	40	30	32	7	29	34
I expect to be / am a little worse off	17	23	24	26	24	22	15	15	23	16	14
I expect to be / am neither better nor worse off	22	15	16	18	15	15	25	22	20	26	21
I expect to be / am a little better off	10	10	10	13	9	9	10	10	20	10	9
I expect to be / am a lot better off	15	9	7	10	7	11	16	18	25	16	18
Dont know	4	1	4	4	2	3	4	4	5	3	4

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BASE: Currently divorcing/ separating or divorced/ separated less than 2 years

Do you know what the exact financial impact on you is likely to be?

Yes, have an accurate idea	49	50	49	42	52	46	0	0	0	0	0
No, have only an approximate idea	44	44	43	44	43	46	0	0	0	0	0
No, have no idea at all	7	6	7	14	5	7	0	0	0	0	0

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BASE: All

What are your THREE biggest worries now that you have decided to divorce or separate / divorced separated? [Please tick up to three]

	Total	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50
Where I live / will be living	15	19	19	27	17	20	14	13	11	13	14
Whether I have / will have enough money to live on	38	42	55	38	53	43	25	43	18	35	37
Whether I am doing / did the right thing	9	19	14	28	14	16	9	6	5	7	7
How I will manage my finances	19	25	25	20	26	26	14	19	9	17	17
How I will cope emotionally	13	26	23	34	22	25	11	8	18	9	9
Whether I will ever meet anyone else	22	29	25	28	27	28	20	21	27	20	20
The impact on my children	34	40	44	30	50	27	32	32	32	36	28
Whether I will / that I dont see my children	7	15	2	9	8	8	15	1	2	8	7
What my friends and family think / will think	4	6	5	6	5	6	6	3	2	5	3
That I have had / will need to get a job/ change jobs	10	6	12	10	10	7	6	13	7	9	11
Who got / will get the pets, valuables, car, or similar	4	3	6	12	3	3	4	3	7	4	2
Other	7	6	8	4	6	11	7	7	2	7	7
None of these	26	13	11	11	10	16	30	29	32	29	31

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BASE: All

Which, if any, of the following words and phrases would you use to describe how you feel about your decision to divorce or separate?

[Please tick all that apply]

	Total	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50
Devastated	17	23	20	27	22	18	17	14	14	14	17
Sad	39	56	48	57	50	54	41	33	30	36	37
Liberated	40	37	46	46	42	39	34	44	52	41	37
Confused	14	26	23	27	23	27	14	9	14	12	10
Angry	22	26	27	24	27	26	22	20	16	20	22
Relieved	51	46	53	50	50	46	43	57	41	54	48
Stressed	23	30	34	34	34	25	21	21	23	22	19
Suicidal	4	7	3	7	5	4	4	3	7	4	3
Betrayed	24	29	22	16	26	30	26	22	16	22	26
Happy	30	22	31	31	27	22	28	34	39	35	27
Numb – not sure how I feel	8	14	9	16	12	9	8	6	7	8	5
None of these	4	2	1	1	1	2	5	4	7	4	5

How well or badly would you say you are coping emotionally with your divorce/ separation?

	Total	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50
Very well	62	33	41	30	38	39	65	72	57	68	70
Fairly well	29	47	43	51	44	45	26	23	30	25	23
Not very well	6	12	11	11	12	11	5	3	9	3	4
Not at all well	2	6	3	7	5	3	2	2	5	2	1
Dont know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1

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If you work, what impact did/ is your divorce/ separation having on your work? [Please tick all that apply]

I am working harder than before to distract myself	11	16	13	14	16	12	8	11	9	9	10
I am doing my job as usual	51	46	41	42	45	39	56	51	52	60	46
I am not working as well as usual	6	13	10	12	12	10	7	4	9	6	4
I have taken some time off	4	8	6	10	7	4	3	3	7	4	2
I have taken a LOT of time off for stress	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	2
I do not work	24	12	26	17	15	31	22	28	18	17	34

Do you have children within the marriage which has now failed?

Yes – have a child/ children within that marriage	65	60	58	33	62	65	65	68	50	59	75
No – have no children in that marriage	35	40	42	67	38	35	35	32	50	41	25

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BASE: All with children ONLY

Is your child / are your children still minors – so that the divorce/ separation has to consider their needs, or are they grown adults?

Child(ren) are minors	45	73	76	100	90	30	34	40	95	68	12
Child(ren) are adult	55	27	24	0	10	70	66	60	5	32	88

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BASE: All with children who are minors ONLY

Do you / will you have custody of the child(ren)?

	Total	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50
Yes, I have custody	16	5	38	20	29	4	4	24	32	24	6
No, my ex-partner has custody	11	32	3	12	22	9	17	2	9	14	3
No, the child(ren) are being looked after in some other way	1	4	1	1	2	3	1	0	5	1	0
Dont know yet / It will have to be decided in court	1	4	1	0	3	3	0	1	2	1	0

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How often do you see your child(ren)?

Daily	26	16	86	54	47	33	3	26	14	6	4
Several times a week	20	28	5	11	18	21	23	19	0	23	22
Weekly	18	26	5	11	18	18	19	12	29	19	12
Fortnightly	13	13	1	4	9	6	18	19	14	19	16
Monthly	5	5	1	11	2	6	8	2	0	8	6
Less often	10	8	2	7	5	6	16	10	14	13	24
Never – my partner is preventing me seeing them	7	3	0	0	1	9	12	12	29	11	14
Never – I have been prevented from seeing them by court orde	1	1	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

Is the amount of time you get to spend with your child(ren)...?

Too much	3	0	10	7	5	0	1	2	14	1	0
About right	45	43	75	57	59	42	30	45	43	31	38
Too little	52	57	15	36	36	58	68	52	43	67	62

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BASE: All

Which, if any, of the following have you done since agreeing to divorce/ separate? [Please tick all that apply]

Get fit/ exercise more	25	30	28	39	30	23	25	24	45	27	22
Drink more	21	33	23	36	29	21	24	15	23	21	17
Smoke more	14	21	24	32	23	16	12	12	9	13	11
Join a dating agency or social club	16	21	14	12	19	19	17	15	18	15	17
Re-contacted 'an old flame'	9	13	9	12	12	7	11	6	16	9	7
Seek casual sex	16	23	12	28	19	10	22	9	16	19	11
Go on holiday	39	32	33	32	30	40	38	42	45	40	41
Resigned your job	11	8	8	12	9	4	13	11	14	14	9
Begun to train for a new job	16	8	14	11	13	7	11	23	18	21	15
Hibernate	11	16	12	12	16	12	10	11	7	11	10
Diet	15	16	21	27	19	13	10	18	23	17	12
Eat more	14	15	20	20	17	15	12	14	11	14	13
Taken counselling/ therapy	12	14	16	13	16	11	9	14	7	14	9
Taken up a new hobby (or re-discovered an old one)	30	26	18	19	21	26	30	33	36	31	33
Spend more time with/ talking to family	29	30	37	48	34	28	20	34	39	29	26
Spend more time with/ talking to friends	39	38	51	61	44	38	29	43	45	38	35
Asked for medication to be prescribed	10	13	14	14	13	15	7	10	5	10	8
None of these	14	11	8	4	9	14	15	15	9	15	16

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Overall, how happy do you feel at this moment?

Never been happier	32	13	20	18	19	10	33	38	36	38	34
Happier than before I agreed to divorce/ separate	38	38	41	40	39	42	36	40	39	40	36
Neither happy or unhappy	22	31	25	29	26	33	24	18	11	17	24
Unhappier than before I agreed to divorce/ separate	6	13	10	9	13	8	6	3	9	3	4
Never been more unhappy	2	5	4	4	4	6	2	1	5	2	1

What is /was the reason for your divorce/ separation? [Please tick all that apply]

Grown apart	40	53	43	48	47	49	44	32	34	38	37
The magic had / has gone	18	27	23	30	25	21	20	14	20	17	16
Adultery - mine	11	13	9	18	9	14	15	8	11	10	12
Adultery - my partners	36	27	29	16	31	27	37	39	27	36	41
Not wanting children	3	5	3	7	5	1	3	2	2	3	1
Money arguments	16	18	19	28	18	15	14	17	7	17	15
Unreasonable behaviour	39	34	47	42	40	42	29	47	36	40	38
Domestic violence	13	5	16	12	11	8	4	22	16	16	12
Financial problems	13	14	15	21	14	11	10	15	7	14	12
Need to move/ re-locate	2	4	2	2	4	2	3	1	2	2	2
Other	13	15	18	19	17	15	12	13	23	13	11
Dont know	1	3	2	2	3	2	1	1	0	1	1

Who initiated the divorce/ separation?

Me	55	33	66	54	49	47	38	72	61	59	55
My partner	28	44	20	22	33	34	41	17	20	24	31
Joint decision	16	23	14	23	18	19	21	11	18	17	14

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BASE: Divorced / Separated ONLY

How would you describe your **CURRENT** relationship status?

I am re-married	9	4	0	4	2	3	15	5	7	10	9
I am living with a new partner	28	23	25	17	24	27	30	28	36	37	21
I am in a relationship but not living with the person	16	18	23	25	24	9	16	16	14	17	16
I am dating and trying to find a new partner	6	10	7	21	9	5	6	5	7	6	5
I am dating but not trying to find a new partner	4	7	8	13	8	7	3	4	5	4	3
I am not interested in a new relationship at present	16	19	26	8	21	32	13	18	11	14	17
I don't think that I will ever be interested in a new relationship	13	8	3	4	6	8	10	16	7	6	21
Other	8	10	8	8	9	8	7	9	14	7	9