

Big Data Analysis | Marital Status

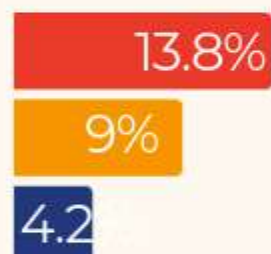
Marriage before 18 is still a common phenomenon, but it is increasingly becoming less prevalent. The **15-19** age cohort shows nearly **10%** of individuals married.

■ Total ■ Urban ■ Rural

Balochistan



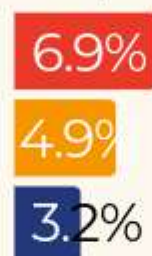
Khyber Paktunkhwa



Sindh



Punjab



Islamabad



Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan
(www.gallup-international.com;
www.gallup.com.pk www.gilanifoundation.com)



(Also emailed*/faxed separately)



PRESS RELEASE

Big Data Analysis Marital Status

Marriage of Non-Adults Has Been Criminalized in Pakistan, But How Prevalent Is Marriage Before 18?

(Islamabad), 2nd February 2026

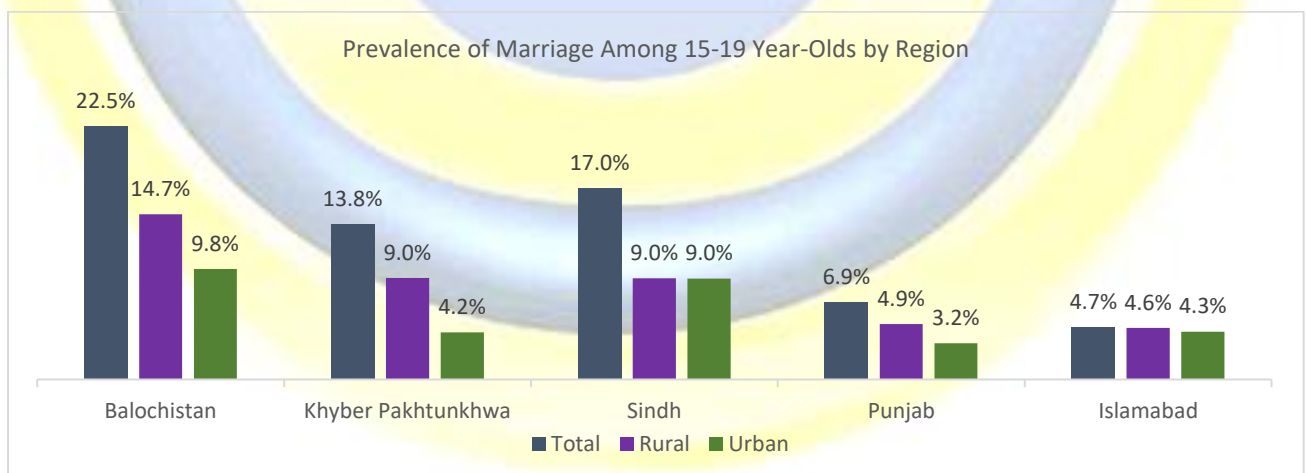
In a significant legal development, Pakistan recently passed a law that criminalizes the marriage of minors, setting the stage for an intense debate on child marriage. How prevalent is marriage among under-18s? Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics, based on the Census 2023, sheds light on the reality of underage marriages in Pakistan.

According to the latest data, marriage before 18 is still a common phenomenon, but it is increasingly becoming less prevalent. The 15-19 age cohort shows nearly 10% of individuals married. Despite being less common than in the past, this still amounts to close to 2 million marriages across Pakistan.

Notably, the data reveals significant regional variation. Balochistan stands out, with 20% of 15-19-year-olds reporting that they are married. Similar patterns can be seen in former FATA and many districts of Sindh, including Panjgur, where 40% of the 15-19 cohort is married.

The gender disparity is also pronounced, with around 15% of females in the 15-19 age group reporting being married nationally. In some regions like rural KP, Sindh, and Balochistan, this figure reaches close to 30%.

These statistics highlight the persistent issue of child marriage in certain regions, even as Pakistan moves forward with stronger legislative measures. It's clear that while progress is being made, there is still a long way to go in addressing child marriage and its gendered impact, particularly in rural areas.



Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan
(www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk; www.gilanifoundation.com)

This analysis was conducted and released by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. It draws on data from Census 2023 and [Gallup Pakistan's Digital Analytics Dashboard](#), tracking marital status among various age cohorts and regions in Pakistan.



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup
International



Monday, 02 February 2026

(2 Pages, English version Only)

Gilani Research Foundation is a not-for-profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policymakers, and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently, Dr. Gilani, who holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.

*Best Regards,
Gallup Pakistan*

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2026



of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2026)