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Marriage gets an assist from the NHL.

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From the introduction: Many people have written on the economic benefits and costs of a sports franchise to a city. Why do cities do it? One benefit of a franchise might be that its presence promotes marital stability. In the early 1990s, Howard Markman, a psychologist who co-directs the University of Denver's Center for Marital and Family Studies, found that "cities with major league baseball teams had a 28% lower divorce rate than cities that didn't have teams". This finding begs the question: are cities that are just not baseball towns but basketball, football, or hockey towns experiencing significantly lower divorce rates? In this brief research note, we examine the difference in average divorce rates in 2010 between cities (in the continental United States) with and without franchises in the four major North American professional sports leagues MLB, NBA, NFL, and hockey NHL. Data on incorporated places in the United States with 100,000 or more inhabitants in 2010 are from the statistical abstract of the United States 2012. Data on 2010 divorce rates for the population 15 years and over by city are from the American community survey.

Classification: K70 K90 M90

Keywords: mathematical applications; stochastics; sport; social sciences; sociology; divorce rates; USA; comparative studies; two-sample t -tests; p -values; hypothesis testing; statistical inference; data analysis