

2009

FP-09-03 Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 2008

S. Kawamura

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles



Part of the [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](#)

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Repository Citation

Kawamura, S., "FP-09-03 Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 2008" (2009). *National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles*. 146.

https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles/146

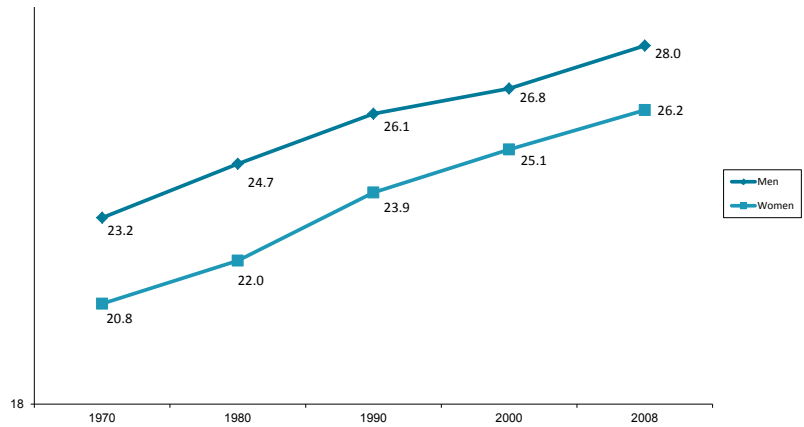
This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 2008

Change in Median Age at First Marriage, 1970 - 2008

- Median age at first marriage in the U. S. has increased steadily since 1970.
- In 2008, median age at first marriage was 28 years old for men and 26 years old for women. This means that half of men were younger than 28 years old, and half of women were younger than 26 years old when they married for the first time.
- The gender gap in median age at first marriage has remained stable over the past 38 years.

Figure 1. Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 1970-2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2005; American Community Survey, 2008

Median Age at First Marriage Among Racial/Ethnic Groups, 2008

- Median age at first marriage is highest for non-Hispanic Black men (30.1 years) and lowest for Hispanic women (25.4 years).
- The gender gap in median age at first marriage is the smallest among non-Hispanic Blacks (0.3 years) and the largest among Asians (3.1 years).

Table 1. Median Age at First Marriage by Race/Ethnicity, 2008

	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic
Men	27.5	30.1	27.5
Women	25.9	29.8	25.4
	Asian	American Indian & Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Men	29.6	28.9	28.4
Women	26.5	26.6	28.0

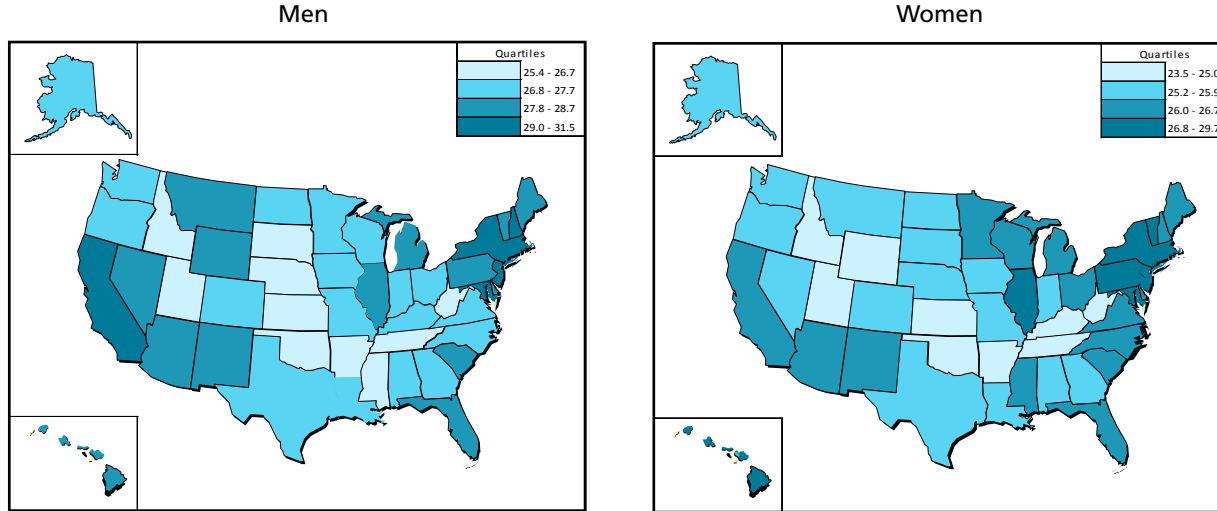
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

Family Profiles examine topics related to NCFMR's core research themes. Data are presented at both the national and state levels using new data sources. Written for both researchers and broad communities, these profiles summarize the latest statistics on U.S. families.

Median Age at First Marriage by Gender and Geography, 2008

- States with the highest median ages at first marriage are clustered in the Northeast.
- Some Midwest and Mountain West states tend to have the lowest median ages at first marriage.

Figures 2 and 3. Median Age at First Marriage by Gender and Geography



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

Five States with the Highest and Lowest Median Age at First Marriage, 2008

- For both men and women, Washington DC has the highest median age at first marriage (31.5 years and 29.7 years, respectively).
- For men, Idaho has the lowest median age at first marriage (25.4 years), and for women, Utah has the lowest median age at first marriage (23.5 years).
- For ranking tables with all states, [click here](#).

Tables 2 and 3: Five States with Highest and Lowest Median Age at First Marriage

Men		
Ranking	State	Median
1	Wash, DC	31.5
2	Rhode Island	30.3
3	New York	30.0
4	Massachusetts	29.8
4	New Jersey	29.8
United States		28.0
47	Kansas	26.1
47	Utah	26.1
49	Arkansas	25.9
50	Oklahoma	25.7
51	Idaho	25.4

Women		
Ranking	State	Median
1	Wash, DC	29.7
2	Connecticut	28.2
2	Massachusetts	28.2
4	New York	28.1
5	Rhode Island	27.8
United States		26.2
47	Wyoming	24.5
48	Oklahoma	24.4
49	Arkansas	24.3
50	Idaho	23.5
50	Utah	23.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

[Return to Previous Page](#)

Table 4: Median Age at First Marriage for Men

Ranking	State	Median	Margin of Error
1	Wash, DC	31.5	+/-2.6
2	Rhode Island	30.3	+/-0.7
3	New York	30.0	+/-0.2
4	Massachusetts	29.8	+/-0.3
4	New Jersey	29.8	+/-0.2
6	Connecticut	29.4	+/-0.3
7	New Hampshire	29.3	+/-0.9
8	Maryland	29.2	+/-0.3
9	California	29.0	+/-0.2
10	Florida	28.7	+/-0.4
11	Illinois	28.6	+/-0.3
11	Maine	28.6	+/-0.8
11	Michigan	28.6	+/-0.3
11	Montana	28.6	+/-1.2
15	Delaware	28.5	+/-0.9
15	Hawaii	28.5	+/-0.8
15	Pennsylvania	28.5	+/-0.3
18	Vermont	28.4	+/-1.4
19	New Mexico	28.3	+/-0.8
19	Wyoming	28.3	+/-0.9
	United States	28.0	+/-0.2
21	Arizona	28.0	+/-0.7
22	Nevada	27.9	+/-0.7
23	South Carolina	27.8	+/-0.5
24	North Dakota	27.7	+/-1.0
25	Alaska	27.6	+/-1.6
25	Oregon	27.6	+/-0.6
27	Georgia	27.5	+/-0.4
27	Washington	27.5	+/-0.4
27	Wisconsin	27.5	+/-0.4
30	Colorado	27.4	+/-0.5
30	Minnesota	27.4	+/-0.3
30	Ohio	27.4	+/-0.3
30	Virginia	27.4	+/-0.4
34	North Carolina	27.3	+/-0.4
35	Louisiana	27.2	+/-0.5
36	Alabama	26.9	+/-0.5
36	Indiana	26.9	+/-0.4
36	Kentucky	26.9	+/-0.5
36	Missouri	26.9	+/-0.4
36	Texas	26.9	+/-0.2
41	Iowa	26.8	+/-0.3
42	Tennessee	26.7	+/-0.4
43	Nebraska	26.5	+/-0.4
43	West Virginia	26.5	+/-0.5
45	Mississippi	26.4	+/-0.4
46	South Dakota	26.3	+/-0.6
47	Kansas	26.1	+/-0.3
47	Utah	26.1	+/-0.4
49	Arkansas	25.9	+/-0.4
50	Oklahoma	25.7	+/-0.2
51	Idaho	25.4	+/-0.4

Table 5: Median Age at First Marriage for Women

Ranking	State	Median	Margin of Error
1	Wash, DC	29.7	+/-0.9
2	Connecticut	28.2	+/-0.4
2	Massachusetts	28.2	+/-0.4
4	New York	28.1	+/-0.3
5	Rhode Island	27.8	+/-1.0
6	New Jersey	27.6	+/-0.3
7	Maryland	27.3	+/-0.5
8	Vermont	27.1	+/-1.2
9	Hawaii	26.8	+/-1.1
9	Illinois	26.8	+/-0.3
9	Pennsylvania	26.8	+/-0.2
12	California	26.7	+/-0.2
12	South Carolina	26.7	+/-0.5
14	Michigan	26.6	+/-0.2
15	Maine	26.5	+/-0.5
15	New Hampshire	26.5	+/-0.5
17	Florida	26.4	+/-0.3
18	Delaware	26.3	+/-0.6
18	Ohio	26.3	+/-0.2
	United States	26.2	+/-0.1
20	New Mexico	26.2	+/-0.7
20	North Carolina	26.2	+/-0.3
22	Wisconsin	26.1	+/-0.2
23	Arizona	26.0	+/-0.3
23	Minnesota	26.0	+/-0.2
23	Mississippi	26.0	+/-0.4
23	Virginia	26.0	+/-0.3
27	Georgia	25.9	+/-0.2
27	Oregon	25.9	+/-0.3
29	Indiana	25.8	+/-0.2
30	Nevada	25.7	+/-0.4
30	Washington	25.7	+/-0.2
32	Colorado	25.6	+/-0.2
32	Louisiana	25.6	+/-0.3
32	Missouri	25.6	+/-0.2
35	Alaska	25.5	+/-0.9
35	Iowa	25.5	+/-0.2
35	Montana	25.5	+/-0.6
38	North Dakota	25.4	+/-0.5
38	South Dakota	25.4	+/-0.5
40	Nebraska	25.3	+/-0.3
40	Texas	25.3	+/-0.2
42	Alabama	25.2	+/-0.3
43	Kentucky	25.0	+/-0.2
43	Tennessee	25.0	+/-0.2
45	Kansas	24.9	+/-0.3
46	West Virginia	24.6	+/-0.5
47	Wyoming	24.5	+/-1.1
48	Oklahoma	24.4	+/-0.3
49	Arkansas	24.3	+/-0.4
50	Idaho	23.5	+/-0.8
50	Utah	23.5	+/-0.5

Suggested Citation:
Kawamura, S. (2009). Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 2008 (FP-09-03). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/pdf/family_profiles/file100745.pdf

This project was supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, grant number 5 U01 AE000001-05. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the federal government.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008