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

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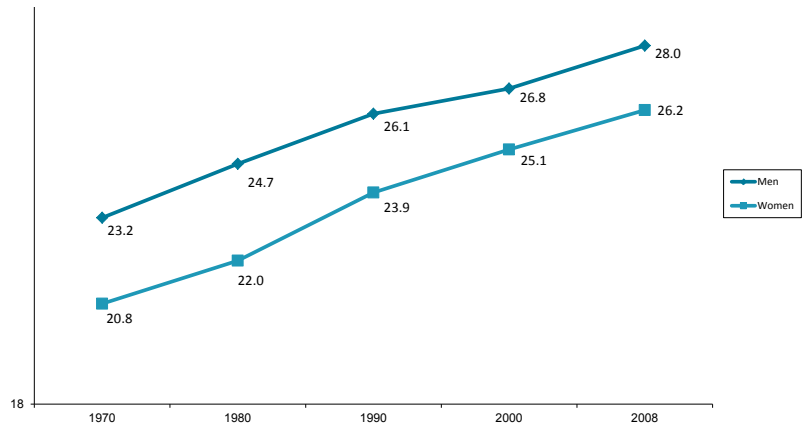
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Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 2008

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 |

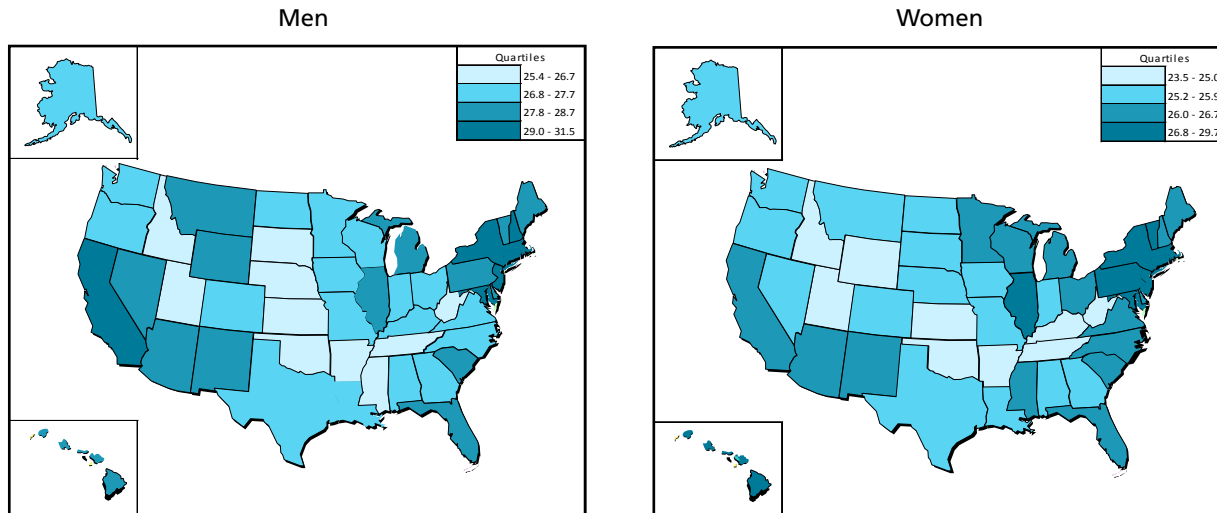
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008

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

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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 |

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