FP-22-05 Median Age at Last Birth for Fathers

Karen B. Guzzo  
*Bowling Green State University, kguzzo@bgsu.edu*

Katherine Graham  
*Bowling Green State University, katgrah@bgsu.edu*

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

Part of the [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles)

**Repository Citation**

https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles/274

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Sociology 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 Last Birth for Fathers**

Author: Karen Benjamin Guzzo & Katherine Graham

Most men expect to have children in their lifetime (FP-21-14), and the age men first become fathers has increased (FP-19-28). Less is known about when men stop having children. Using the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 cycles of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), this profile explores the median age at last birth among men at the end of their childbearing years (45 to 49 years old) by race/ethnicity, completed education, number of children, and age at first birth. Men start childbearing at older ages than women (FP-19-28; FP 21-05), and this profile shows that men also complete childbearing at older ages. The median age at last birth was 34 for fathers aged 45 to 49, and the median age at last birth for mothers aged 45-49 was 31 (FP 21-05).

**Race/Ethnicity**

- Median age at last birth varied slightly among fathers aged 45-49 across racial/ethnic groups.
  - White and Black fathers had the youngest median age at last birth, at 34 years old.
  - The oldest age at last birth, 36 years old, was observed among men classified as multiracial or some race/ethnicity other than Hispanic, White, or Black.

![Figure 1. Father's Median Age at Last Birth by Race/Ethnicity](image)


**Educational Attainment**

Figure 2. Father’s Median Age at Last Birth by Completed Education

- The median age at last birth differed between those with at least a college degree and those without.
  - Men with less than a four-year degree (those with less than high school, high school/GED, or some college) all had a median age at last birth of 33 years old.
  - Median age at last birth was higher for those with at least a bachelor’s degree, at 36 years old.

![Figure 2. Father’s Median Age at Last Birth by Completed Education](image)

Number of Children

- The more children men had by age 45-49, the older they were at their last birth.
  - Fathers with one or two births had younger ages at last birth (33 and 34, respectively).
  - Fathers with three or more births had the oldest age at last birth (36 years old).

Age at First Birth

Figure 4. Father’s Median Age at Last Birth by Age at First Birth

- The older men were when they started having children, the older they were when they had their last child.
  - Fathers who had their first birth before age 25 had their last child at a median age of 29.
  - Fathers who had their first birth after age 35 were more than a decade older at their last birth than men who started having children before age 25 (age 41).


Data Source:

References:

Suggested Citation:

This project is supported with assistance from Bowling Green State University. From 2007 to 2013, support was also provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. 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 state or federal government.