

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-2002

(Medians computed from birth rates by 5-year age groups of mothers; see Technical Appendix. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix.)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
ALL RACES								
Registered births								
2002.....	27.4	24.8	27.9	29.2	30.3	31.4	33.1	35.8
2001.....	27.3	24.6	27.8	29.2	30.3	31.4	32.9	35.8
2000.....	27.1	24.5	27.6	29.1	30.2	31.4	32.9	36.3
1999.....	26.9	24.3	27.5	29.0	30.1	31.3	32.9	35.8
1998.....	26.8	24.2	27.4	29.0	30.1	31.3	32.9	35.8
1997.....	26.7	24.1	27.3	29.0	30.2	31.3	32.8	35.8
1996.....	26.6	24.0	27.3	28.9	30.1	31.3	32.8	35.8
1995.....	26.5	23.8	27.3	28.9	30.1	31.3	32.8	35.8
1994.....	26.4	23.7	27.1	28.8	30.0	31.0	32.8	35.8
1993.....	26.3	23.7	27.0	28.6	29.7	30.8	32.5	36.3
1992.....	26.3	23.7	26.9	28.4	29.6	30.7	32.5	36.4
1991.....	26.2	23.6	26.8	28.4	29.6	30.7	32.5	36.3
1990.....	26.3	23.8	26.9	28.4	29.7	31.1	32.8	36.4
1989(1).....	26.3	23.7	26.8	28.4	29.7	31.0	32.9	36.4
1988(1).....	26.3	23.8	26.8	28.5	29.8	31.2	33.2	36.3
1987(1).....	26.3	23.7	26.8	28.4	29.8	31.3	33.2	37.1
1986(1).....	26.2	23.6	26.7	28.4	29.9	31.4	33.4	37.1
1985(1).....	26.1	23.5	26.6	28.3	30.0	31.5	33.5	37.1
1984(1,2).....	26.0	23.5	26.5	28.4	30.0	31.7	33.5	36.9
1983(1,2).....	25.9	23.3	26.4	28.3	30.0	31.8	33.8	37.2
1982(1,2).....	25.8	23.2	26.2	28.2	30.0	31.8	33.8	37.2
1981(1,2).....	25.7	23.1	26.1	28.2	29.9	31.8	34.1	37.0
1980(2).....	25.7	23.0	26.1	28.1	30.0	32.0	34.1	37.7
1979(2).....	25.6	22.9	26.0	28.1	30.0	32.0	34.1	37.5
1978(2).....	25.6	22.8	25.9	28.1	30.0	32.0	34.3	37.7
1977(2).....	25.5	22.7	25.7	28.0	30.1	32.2	34.1	37.5
1976(2).....	25.4	22.5	25.6	27.9	30.1	32.1	34.2	37.5
1975(2).....	25.3	22.3	25.5	27.8	29.9	32.0	34.2	37.3
1974(2).....	25.3	22.3	25.4	27.8	29.9	31.9	33.9	37.0
1973(2).....	25.3	22.1	25.3	27.7	29.8	31.8	33.6	36.9
1972(2).....	25.3	22.0	25.1	27.6	29.7	31.7	33.4	36.6
1971(3).....	25.4	22.1	24.8	27.5	29.4	31.3	33.1	36.3
1970(3).....	25.4	22.1	24.7	27.5	29.4	31.2	32.9	36.0
1969(3).....	25.5	22.1	24.7	27.5	29.4	31.2	32.8	35.9
1968(3).....	25.5	22.1	24.5	27.4	29.3	31.1	32.7	35.8

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-2002

(Medians computed from birth rates by 5-year age groups of mothers; see Technical Appendix. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix.)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
1967(4).....	25.5	22.0	24.3	27.3	29.2	30.9	32.5	35.6	
1966(3).....	25.5	21.9	24.2	27.1	29.0	30.6	32.2	35.3	
1965(3).....	25.8	21.9	24.2	27.0	28.8	30.3	32.0	35.1	
1964(3).....	25.7	22.0	24.1	26.8	28.6	30.0	31.8	34.9	
1963(3).....	25.7	21.9	24.0	26.7	28.5	29.9	31.7	34.8	
1962(3).....	25.6	21.9	24.0	26.6	28.4	29.8	31.5	34.7	
1961(3).....	25.5	21.8	24.0	26.6	28.4	29.8	31.6	34.8	
1960(3).....	25.4	21.8	24.0	26.6	28.5	29.8	31.6	35.0	
1959(3).....	25.6	21.6	24.0	27.0	28.8	30.3	31.9	35.2	
Births Adjusted for Underregistration(5)									
1955.....	26.2	22.2	24.9	27.6	29.2	30.4	32.0	35.7	
1950.....	25.9	22.5	25.3	27.6	29.6	30.7	32.6	36.7	
1940.....	26.6	23.2	25.6	27.4	29.0	30.9	33.1	37.4	
WHITE, TOTAL Race of mother									
2002.....	27.6	25.1	28.1	29.5	30.7	32.0	33.6	37.1	
2001.....	27.5	24.9	27.9	29.5	30.8	32.0	33.6	37.1	
2000.....	27.3	24.8	27.8	29.4	30.7	32.0	33.6	36.5	
1999.....	27.2	24.7	27.7	29.4	30.7	32.0	33.5	37.0	
1998.....	27.1	24.6	27.6	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.7	37.0	
1997.....	27.0	24.5	27.6	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.6	37.0	
1996.....	26.9	24.3	27.5	29.3	30.7	32.1	33.6	37.0	
1995.....	26.8	24.2	27.5	29.3	30.8	31.9	33.6	37.0	
1994.....	26.7	24.1	27.4	29.2	30.6	31.8	33.4	37.0	
1993.....	26.7	24.1	27.3	29.0	30.4	31.7	33.5	37.0	
1992.....	26.6	24.1	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.6	33.5	37.0	
1991.....	26.6	24.0	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.6	33.5	37.0	
1990.....	26.6	24.1	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.7	33.5	37.0	
1989(1).....	26.6	24.1	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.8	33.5	37.0	
1988(1).....	26.6	24.2	27.1	28.9	30.4	32.0	33.6	37.0	
1987(1).....	26.6	24.1	27.1	28.8	30.4	32.0	33.9	37.0	
1986(1).....	26.5	24.0	27.0	28.7	30.4	32.1	33.9	37.1	
1985(1).....	26.4	23.9	26.9	28.7	30.5	32.1	34.1	37.5	
1984(1,2).....	26.3	23.8	26.8	28.7	30.5	32.2	34.3	37.1	
1983(1,2).....	26.2	23.7	26.6	28.6	30.5	32.2	34.3	37.1	

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-2002

(Medians computed from birth rates by 5-year age groups of mothers; see Technical Appendix. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix.)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
1982(1,2).....	26.1	23.5	26.5	28.5	30.5	32.2	34.4	37.5
1981(1,2).....	25.9	23.4	26.4	28.4	30.5	32.4	34.6	37.5
1980(2).....	25.9	23.3	26.3	28.4	30.5	32.4	34.6	37.5
Race of child								
1980(2).....	25.9	23.3	26.3	28.4	30.5	32.4	34.6	37.8
1979(2).....	25.9	23.3	26.2	28.4	30.6	32.6	34.7	37.8
1978(2).....	25.9	23.2	26.2	28.4	30.5	32.5	34.9	38.0
1977(2).....	25.8	23.0	26.0	28.3	30.6	32.6	34.7	37.9
1976(2).....	25.7	22.8	25.9	28.3	30.6	32.5	34.6	37.7
1975(2).....	25.6	22.7	25.8	28.2	30.5	32.5	34.5	37.5
1974(2).....	25.6	22.6	25.7	28.1	30.4	32.4	34.4	37.4
1973(2).....	25.6	22.4	25.6	28.1	30.4	32.3	34.2	37.3
1972(2).....	25.6	22.3	25.4	27.9	30.2	32.2	34.0	37.0
1971(3).....	25.6	22.4	25.1	27.7	29.8	31.8	33.7	36.7
1970(3).....	25.6	22.3	25.0	27.7	29.8	31.7	33.4	36.4
1969(3).....	25.7	22.4	24.9	27.7	29.7	31.7	33.3	36.4
1968(3).....	25.7	22.4	24.8	27.7	29.7	31.7	33.3	36.4
1967(4).....	25.7	22.2	24.6	27.6	29.6	31.5	33.1	36.2
1966(3).....	25.7	22.2	24.4	27.4	29.4	31.3	33.0	36.0
1965(3).....	25.9	22.2	24.4	27.3	29.2	31.0	32.7	35.9
1964(3).....	25.9	22.2	24.3	27.1	29.0	30.7	32.5	35.7
1963(3,6).....	25.7	22.1	24.2	27.0	28.8	30.5	32.4	35.6
1962(3,6).....	25.6	22.0	24.1	26.9	28.7	30.3	32.3	35.6
1961(3).....	25.6	22.0	24.1	27.0	28.8	30.5	32.4	35.7
1960(3).....	25.5	22.0	24.2	26.9	28.8	30.5	32.4	35.8
1959(3).....	25.7	21.8	24.3	27.3	29.3	31.0	32.7	36.0
Births Adjusted for Underregistration(5)								
1955.....	26.3	22.5	25.3	28.0	29.7	31.2	32.9	36.5
1950.....	26.1	22.8	25.7	28.1	29.9	31.6	33.3	37.2
1940.....	26.9	23.6	26.1	28.0	29.6	31.5	33.7	37.7
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC Race and Hispanic origin of mother								
2002.....	28.2	26.1	28.8	30.1	31.1	32.0	34.0	37.0

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Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
2001.....	28.1	25.9	28.6	30.0	31.1	32.2	33.8	37.0	
2000.....	27.9	25.7	28.4	30.0	31.2	32.1	34.0	37.0	
1999.....	27.7	25.5	28.3	29.9	31.1	32.3	33.9	36.9	
1998.....	27.6	25.3	28.2	29.9	31.1	32.4	33.9	36.9	
1997.....	27.5	25.2	28.1	29.9	31.1	32.4	33.9	37.5	
1996.....	27.4	25.0	28.1	29.9	31.2	32.4	33.8	36.9	
1995.....	27.3	24.9	28.0	29.8	31.2	32.5	34.0	36.9	
1994.....	27.2	24.7	27.9	29.7	31.0	32.2	34.0	36.9	
1993.....	27.1	24.7	27.8	29.5	30.9	32.1	33.8	36.9	
1992(7).....	27.0	24.6	27.7	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.6	36.9	
1991(7).....	26.9	24.5	27.6	29.2	30.7	31.9	33.6	36.9	
BLACK, TOTAL Race of mother									
2002.....	25.2	22.2	25.5	27.3	28.4	29.3	31.0	34.1	
2001.....	24.9	22.0	25.2	27.1	28.2	29.3	31.1	34.2	
2000.....	24.7	21.8	25.0	26.9	28.0	29.2	30.9	34.0	
1999.....	24.6	21.7	24.9	26.8	27.9	29.0	31.0	34.1	
1998.....	24.5	21.6	24.8	26.7	27.9	29.0	30.9	34.0	
1997.....	24.4	21.5	24.8	26.7	27.9	29.0	30.9	33.8	
1996.....	24.3	21.3	24.7	26.6	27.8	29.0	30.9	33.8	
1995.....	24.3	21.2	24.8	26.7	27.8	29.0	30.8	33.8	
1994.....	24.1	21.0	24.6	26.5	27.6	28.7	30.5	33.8	
1993.....	24.1	21.1	24.4	26.2	27.5	28.7	30.4	33.7	
1992.....	24.0	21.1	24.2	25.9	27.4	28.7	30.6	33.8	
1991.....	24.0	21.0	24.2	26.0	27.4	28.6	30.6	34.0	
1990.....	24.1	21.3	24.3	26.2	27.5	28.9	30.9	34.4	
1989(1).....	24.1	21.2	24.3	26.3	27.7	29.0	31.3	34.3	
1988(1).....	24.2	21.3	24.4	26.4	27.8	29.4	31.5	34.8	
1987(1).....	24.2	21.3	24.4	26.5	28.0	29.6	31.8	35.0	
1986(1).....	24.2	21.2	24.5	26.6	28.2	29.9	32.1	35.6	
1985(1).....	24.2	21.1	24.4	26.6	28.3	29.8	32.2	35.6	
1984(1,2).....	24.2	21.0	24.4	26.7	28.2	29.8	32.4	35.7	
1983(1,2).....	24.2	20.9	24.3	26.6	28.3	30.1	32.4	35.9	
1982(1,2).....	24.2	20.9	24.3	26.6	28.3	30.1	32.6	36.4	
1981(1,2).....	24.2	20.9	24.2	26.6	28.2	30.0	32.6	36.6	
1980(2).....	24.2	20.8	24.2	26.5	28.2	30.1	32.7	36.7	

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-2002

(Medians computed from birth rates by 5-year age groups of mothers; see Technical Appendix. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix.)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
Race of child								
1980(2)	24.2	20.7	24.2	26.6	28.3	30.2	32.7	36.7
1979(2)	24.1	20.5	24.1	26.4	28.2	30.3	32.9	37.2
1978(2)	24.1	20.4	23.9	26.2	28.1	30.2	32.9	36.9
1977(2)	24.0	20.2	23.8	26.2	28.2	30.2	32.9	36.9
1976(2)	23.9	20.0	23.7	25.9	28.0	30.0	32.8	36.8
1975(2)	23.8	19.8	23.5	25.7	27.8	29.8	32.7	36.6
1974(2)	23.7	19.7	23.4	25.5	27.7	29.6	32.3	36.5
1973(2)	23.7	19.6	23.2	25.3	27.6	29.5	32.1	36.3
1972(2)	23.8	19.6	23.1	25.2	27.4	29.2	31.8	36.0
1971(3)	24.0	19.7	23.0	25.1	27.3	29.0	31.5	35.6
1970(3)	24.1	20.0	22.9	24.8	27.1	28.8	31.1	35.3
1969(3)	24.3	20.0	22.9	24.8	27.1	28.8	30.9	35.0
1968(3)	24.3	19.8	21.3	22.1	26.8	28.5	30.7	34.9
1967(4)	24.5	19.8	22.6	24.5	26.7	28.3	30.3	34.6
1966(3)	24.9	19.8	22.5	24.3	26.4	28.1	29.9	34.4
1965(3)	24.8	19.8	22.5	24.2	26.2	27.8	29.7	34.2
1964(3)	25.0	20.0	22.5	24.2	26.0	27.7	34.6	34.0
1961-63	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1960(3)	24.8	19.6	22.3	24.0	25.9	27.7	29.6	32.9
BLACK, NON-HISPANIC Race and Hispanic origin of mother								
2002	25.2	22.2	25.5	27.3	28.3	29.3	31.1	34.2
2001	24.9	22.0	25.2	27.1	28.1	29.3	31.1	34.4
2000	24.7	21.8	24.9	26.9	28.0	29.1	30.8	34.0
1999	24.6	21.7	24.8	26.7	27.9	28.9	30.9	33.8
1998	24.5	21.6	24.8	26.6	27.8	29.0	30.9	33.8
1997	24.4	21.5	24.7	26.6	27.8	29.0	30.8	33.8
1996	24.3	21.3	24.7	26.6	27.7	29.0	30.8	33.8
1995	24.3	21.2	24.7	26.7	27.7	28.9	30.8	33.5
1994	24.1	21.0	24.5	26.4	27.6	28.7	30.6	33.5
1993	24.1	21.0	24.4	26.2	27.4	28.6	30.4	33.5
1992(7)	24.0	21.1	24.2	25.9	27.3	28.6	30.5	33.7
1991(7)	23.9	21.0	24.2	26.0	27.3	28.6	30.6	34.0

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-2002

(Medians computed from birth rates by 5-year age groups of mothers; see Technical Appendix. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix.)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
HISPANIC(8) Hispanic origin of mother								
2002.....	25.8	22.5	25.8	28.5	30.5	32.2	34.2	37.2
2001.....	25.8	22.4	25.8	28.6	30.5	32.3	34.4	37.5
2000.....	25.8	22.3	25.8	28.5	30.5	32.2	34.1	37.3
1999.....	25.7	22.2	25.7	28.4	30.4	32.2	34.2	36.8
1998.....	25.6	22.2	25.6	28.3	30.2	32.1	33.9	37.0
1997.....	25.5	22.2	25.5	28.2	30.2	31.9	33.9	37.1
1996.....	25.4	22.1	25.4	28.1	30.2	32.0	33.9	37.3
1995.....	25.2	22.0	25.3	28.1	30.1	32.0	33.8	36.9
1994.....	25.2	22.0	25.2	28.0	30.0	31.7	33.8	36.8
1993.....	25.2	22.0	25.1	27.9	29.9	31.7	33.7	36.9
1992(7).....	25.2	22.0	25.0	27.9	29.8	31.6	33.7	37.1
1991(7).....	25.2	22.0	25.0	27.9	29.8	31.5	33.7	37.2

--- Data not available.

- (1) Medians are revised and therefore may differ from those published in Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume 1, Natality, for 1989 and previous years; see Technical Appendix.
- (2) Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see Technical Appendix.
- (3) Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
- (4) Based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births.
- (5) For method of adjustment, see Technical Appendix.
- (6) Figures exclude data for residents of New Jersey; see Technical Appendix.
- (7) Based on data for 49 States and the District of Columbia which reported Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.
- (8) Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

NOTES: The median age in table 1-5 is the value that divides the birth rate distributions into two equal parts, one-half of the values being less and one-half being greater. It is computed from birth rates in 5-year age groups which eliminates the effects of changes in the age composition of the childbearing population over time. The mean age in table 1-6 is the numeric average. Thus, due to the different ways in which the median and mean ages are computed as well as the adjustment of the median, the numbers in tables 1-5 and 1-6 would be expected to differ. Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Race categories are consistent with the 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards. See Technical Appendix.