

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 1959-2003

(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								
2003.....	27.6	25.0	28.1	29.4	30.5	31.5	33.1	35.8
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
1967(4).....	25.5	22.0	24.3	27.3	29.2	30.9	32.5	35.6

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 1959-2003

(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
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								
2003.....	27.8	25.4	28.2	29.6	30.9	32.1	33.6	36.7
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
1982(1,2).....	26.1	23.5	26.5	28.5	30.5	32.2	34.4	37.5

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 1959-2003

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Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
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								
2003.....	28.4	26.3	29.0	30.2	31.2	32.2	33.8	37.0
2002.....	28.2	26.1	28.8	30.1	31.1	32.0	34.0	37.0
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

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 1959-2003

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Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
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								
2003.....	25.4	22.4	25.7	27.5	28.6	29.5	31.4	34.3
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 1959-2003

(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								
2003	25.4	22.4	25.7	27.5	28.5	29.5	31.3	34.4
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 1959-2003

(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								
2003.....	26.1	22.6	26.0	28.7	30.6	32.2	34.2	37.2
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. Six states reported multiple-race data in 2003. The multiple-race data for these states were bridged to the single-race categories of the 1977 Office of Management and Budget standards for comparability with other states; see "Technical Appendix."