

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Selected Years 1940-98

(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. 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									
1998	26.9	24.3	27.4	28.9	30.0	31.2	32.9	35.8	
1997	26.7	24.2	27.3	29.0	30.3	31.6	33.0	36.0	
1996	26.6	24.1	27.3	28.9	30.1	31.3	32.8	35.8	
1995	26.5	23.9	27.2	28.9	30.0	31.2	32.8	35.8	
1994	26.4	23.8	27.1	28.8	29.9	31.1	32.6	35.8	
1993	26.4	23.8	27.0	28.6	29.7	30.9	32.4	36.3	
1992	26.3	23.8	26.9	28.4	29.6	30.8	32.5	36.4	
1991	26.2	23.7	26.8	28.4	29.6	30.7	32.5	36.4	
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	

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																
1998		27.1		24.7		27.6		29.3		30.6		31.9		33.7		37.0
1997		27.0		24.6		27.6		29.3		30.7		32.0		33.5		37.0
1996		26.9		24.4		27.5		29.3		30.6		32.0		33.5		37.0
1995		26.8		24.2		27.5		29.3		30.7		32.0		33.6		37.0
1994		26.8		24.1		27.4		29.2		30.5		31.7		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
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

1998		27.6		25.8		28.2		29.8		31.1		32.3		33.9		36.9
1997		27.5		25.3		28.1		29.9		31.1		32.3		33.9		37.5
1996		27.4		25.1		28.1		29.9		31.2		32.3		33.6		36.9
1995		27.3		24.9		28.0		29.8		31.2		32.5		34.3		36.9
1994		27.2		24.8		27.9		29.7		31.0		32.1		33.8		36.9
1993		27.1		24.7		27.8		29.5		30.8		32.1		33.8		36.9
1992(7)		27.0		24.7		27.7		29.3		30.7		32.0		33.6		36.9

BLACK, TOTAL  
Race of mother

1998		24.6		21.8		24.8		26.7		27.8		29.0		30.9		33.7
1997		24.1		21.7		24.8		26.7		27.8		28.9		30.8		33.6
1996		24.4		21.5		24.8		26.6		27.7		29.0		30.8		33.5
1995		24.3		21.4		24.8		26.7		27.7		29.0		30.8		33.5
1994		24.2		21.3		24.6		26.4		27.6		28.8		30.5		33.5
1993		24.2		21.3		24.4		26.2		27.4		28.6		30.3		33.5
1992		24.1		21.3		24.3		25.9		27.4		28.6		30.4		33.7
1991		24.0		21.2		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

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

1998		24.5		21.6		24.8		26.7		27.8		28.9		30.8		33.7
1997		24.4		21.5		24.8		26.6		27.8		29.0		30.8		33.7
1996		24.3		21.4		24.7		26.6		27.7		28.9		30.8		33.5
1995		24.3		21.2		24.7		26.7		27.7		28.9		30.7		33.5
1994		24.1		21.1		24.6		26.4		27.6		28.7		30.6		33.5
1993		24.1		21.0		24.4		26.2		27.4		28.6		30.3		33.5
1992(7)		24.0		21.1		24.2		25.9		27.3		28.5		30.5		33.7

HISPANIC(8)

Hispanic origin of mother

1998		25.6		22.4		25.7		28.1		29.9		31.8		33.7		36.8
1997		25.5		22.3		25.5		28.0		29.9		31.6		33.5		37.1
1996		25.3		22.2		25.4		28.0		29.8		31.7		33.7		37.1
1995		25.1		22.0		25.2		28.0		29.9		31.8		33.6		36.5
1994		25.1		22.0		25.2		27.9		29.9		31.5		33.6		36.8
1993		25.1		22.0		25.1		27.8		29.8		31.6		33.6		36.9
1992(7)		25.1		22.0		25.0		27.8		29.8		31.5		33.6		36.9

--- 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.

NOTE: 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.