

National Center for Family & Marriage Research

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+ Mission

Research

Training

Dissemination

+ Goal

To improve our understanding of how family structure is linked to the health and well-being of children, adults, families, and communities and to inform policy development and programmatic responses.

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+ Fast Facts on American Childbearing



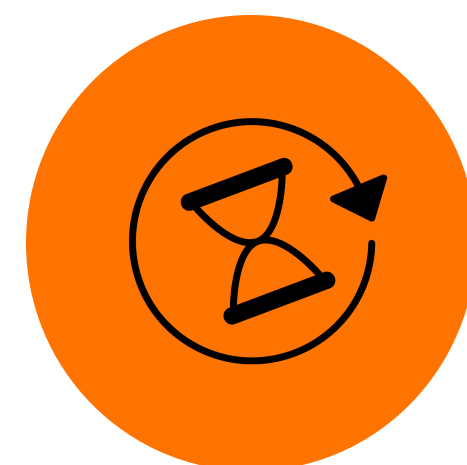
More recent cohorts of **fathers** and **mothers** began childbearing about **two** and **three years later**, respectively, than cohorts in the **early 1990s**. (FP-19-28; FP-20-26)



In 2018, the **largest** age group of **first-time mothers** were those aged **25-29**. (FP-20-11)



The **majority** of **young parents** – those under 30 – had **never** been **married prior** to having their **first child**. (FP-18-24)



Between 1979 and 2016, **women's median ages** at both **first marriage** and **first birth increased**, but the **age at marriage increased more** than the **age at first birth**. (FP-19-16)



Childbearing before marriage is not uncommon; **about a fourth** of **men who married** since 2010 were already **fathers**. (FP-20-14)



Although **births to mothers 40 and older** have **increased** over time, such births accounted for **only 3%** of **all births** in 2016. (FP-18-07)



In 2016, **men** and **women** in their **early forties** reported an average of **1.8** and **2.1 children**, respectively – about **0.3 children more** than in the **late 1980s**. (FP-19-29)



Since the **late 1980s**, the median **spacing between births** has become slightly **longer**. (FP-17-13)



The vast **majority** of **childless men** – about **80%** – **expect to have a child in the future**. (FP-18-12)



In 2002, **16%** of **childless women aged 40-44** intended to have a **baby in the future**, rising to **18-19%** in the later years. (FP-18-09)

+ Family Profiles <https://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/resources/data/family-profiles.html>

Original reports summarizing and analyzing nationally representative data with the goal to provide the latest analysis of U.S. families. These profiles examine topics related to the NCFMR's core research themes.