The upward trend in the median age at first marriage in the United States began in the mid-1950s and continues today, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau using the Current Population Survey. Rising from a low of 22.5 among men and 20.1 among women, the median age at first marriage has increased 30% since 1956. Over this same time period, the gender gap in the median age at first marriage has fluctuated by only about a year, shifting from 2.7 years to 1.6 years. This profile updates our prior work for 2010 (FP-12-07) and 2008 (FP-09-03).

This profile uses direct measures of age at first marriage from the American Community Survey among men and women who first married in 2013.

- The median age at first marriage among men—or the age at which half of all men married—in 2013 was 29.2. Among women, the median age at first marriage was 27.5.
- In 2013, the gender gap was 1.7 years.
Race and Ethnicity

- Black men and Black women have the highest median ages at first marriage, 30.7 and 30.1, respectively. They also have the smallest gender gap—approximately 6 months—of all the racial and ethnic groups examined.
- Hispanic men and women have the lowest median ages at 28.6 and 26.6, respectively.
- The largest gender gap is found among Hispanics—the median age at first marriage is two years higher for Hispanic men compared to Hispanic women.

Educational Attainment

- Men and women with less than a high school education have the lowest median age at first marriage at 28 years and 25 years, respectively.
- Median age at first marriage is highest for those who have completed a Bachelor’s degree, 30.4 among men and 28.9 among women.
- Variation among educational attainment groups is greater among women than men.

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