

# 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 Marriages



In 2019, **1.6 million** women married for the first time. The first marriage rate remained low at **43.4** marriages per 1,000 never married women. [\[FP-21-09\]](#)



The median age at first marriage in the United States has increased steadily from a record low in the 1950s, when it was just over 20 for women and 22 for men. Among individuals entering a marriage in 2021, the median age for women was **28.6** and for men was **30.4**. [\[FP-22-15\]](#)



Among women entering a marriage with a same-sex spouse in 2019, the median age at first marriage was **31**, which was slightly older than women entering a marriage with a different-sex spouse (median age was **28**). Among men entering a marriage with a same-sex spouse, the median age of **35** years was also higher than that of their counterparts entering a marriage with a different-sex spouse (**30** years). [\[FP-21-11\]](#).



Men are older, on average, than women when they remarry. The median age at remarriage was **48** for men and **44** for women in 2019 (compared with **45.5** and **42.8**, respectively, in 2013). [\[FP-21-18\]](#)



In 2019 the remarriage rate was consistently higher for men compared with women, at **35** per 1,000 vs. **19.4** per 1,000. [\[FP-21-18\]](#)



Among newlyweds in different-sex marriages, men were typically **two years older** than women [\[FP-22-15\]](#). For remarriage, the age difference was about **four years** [\[FP-21-18\]](#). Overall, women's median age at first marriage and remarriage were younger compared to men's.



In about **half** of marriages among partners of a different sex, couples had similar educational attainment levels. Instances in which the wife had attained higher levels than the husband were more common among newlyweds compared with those who had been married longer. [\[FP-21-06\]](#)



In 2020, **seven in ten** high school seniors agreed cohabitation was a good testing ground for marriage. [\[FP-22-03\]](#)



During the COVID-19 Pandemic, marriage rates in the United States **declined 12%** resulting in **231,265 fewer** marriages than expected. [\[FP-22-12\]](#)

## + 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.