



Family Profile No. 09, 2025

## Median Age at First Marriage: Geographic Variation, 2023

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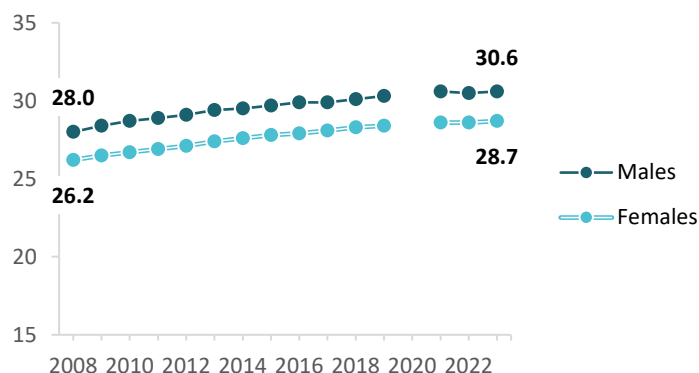
In this profile we provide estimates of the median age at first marriage for the nation and each state by sex among those aged 15-54, using 2023 1-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) (Table B12007). Direct estimates of the age at which half of males and females (who in the last year) married for the first time as well as the associated margins of error are provided. The ACS has been collecting data on marriage since 2008. This profile is an update to previous research on the median age at first marriage (FP-24-08).

### Trend in Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2008-2023

- Since 2008, the age at first marriage for males has increased by 2.6 years, reaching 30.6 years of age in 2023. Among females the median age at first marriage has increased by 2.5 years reaching 28.7 years of age.
- The U.S. median age at first marriage remains stable and at its highest levels for both males and females since the ACS began collecting data on marriage in 2008.

*Notes:* Universe is males and females between the ages of 15 and 54. The standard 2020 ACS 1-year data products were not released due to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection and data quality (for more information click [here](#)).

Figure 1. Median Age at First Marriage, 2008-2019 &amp; 2021-2023



Source: NCFMR analyses U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year est., Table B12007, 2008-2019 & 2021-2023

### States with the Highest and Lowest Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2023

- In 2023, among males, those living in Hawaii had the highest median age at first marriage at 32.5 years. In contrast, those living in Utah had the youngest at 26.8.
- Among females, those who lived in Washington D.C. experienced the highest median age at first marriage (31.7) whereas those living in Utah had the lowest (25.2 years old).
- Only two states ranked at the top for oldest ages at first marriage among both males and females: Massachusetts and New York.
- Similarly, two states ranked at the bottom with the youngest ages at first marriage for both males and females: Idaho and Utah.

Table 1. Median Age at First Marriage, 2023: Males' Top and Bottom Five States

Rank	State	Age	MOE
1	Hawaii	32.5	±1.8
2	New York	32.2	±0.4
3	California	32.1	±0.2
4	Massachusetts	32.0	±0.5
5	Connecticut	31.8	±0.6
U.S.		30.6	±0.2
46	Idaho	27.8	±0.9
46	Kentucky	27.8	±0.7
48	West Virginia	27.7	±3.1
49	Mississippi	27.6	±1.1
50	South Dakota	27.2	±1.2
51	Utah	26.8	±0.6

Table 2. Median Age at First Marriage, 2023: Females' Top and Bottom Five States

Rank	State	Age	MOE
1	District of Columbia	31.7	±1.2
2	Massachusetts	30.5	±0.3
2	New York	30.5	±0.3
4	New Jersey	30.3	±0.3
4	Vermont	30.3	±0.9
U.S.		28.7	±0.2
46	Idaho	26.2	±0.6
46	Kansas	26.2	±0.4
46	Montana	26.2	±0.5
46	Oklahoma	26.2	±0.3
50	Arkansas	26.0	±0.4
51	Utah	25.2	±0.4

Source: NCFMR analyses U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year est., Table B12007, 2023

*Note:* Universe is males and females between the ages of 15 and 54

State Rankings and Geographic Variation in the Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2023

The state rankings are divided into quartiles with error bars representing the margins of error (MOE). The MOEs for published ACS estimates are provided at a 90% confidence level.

- Among both males and females, the states in the top quartile were significantly above the national median. The top quartile consisted of ages 31.2 years and older for males and 29.4 years and older for females.
- The states in the bottom quartile had median ages at first marriage of 29.0 years or younger for males and 27.1 years or younger among females. The median age at marriage for the states in the bottom quartile was also significantly below the national average.
- Among males and females, most states in the Northeast region had high ages at first marriage.
- For males and females, most Midwestern and Southern states exhibited ages at first marriage in the bottom two quartiles.
- Western states had ages spread evenly throughout all but the top quartile for females. Regarding the distribution of the age at first marriage among males, Western states were most often in the third quartile.

Source: NCFMR analyses U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year est., Table B12007, 2023  
*Note:* Universe is males and females between the ages of 15 and 54

Figure 2. State-Level Median Age at First Marriage by Quartile, Males 2023

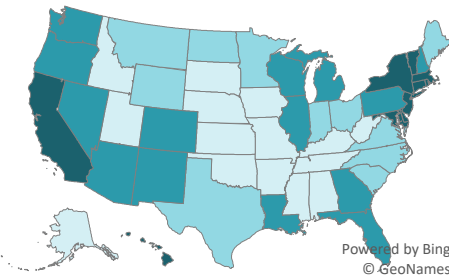
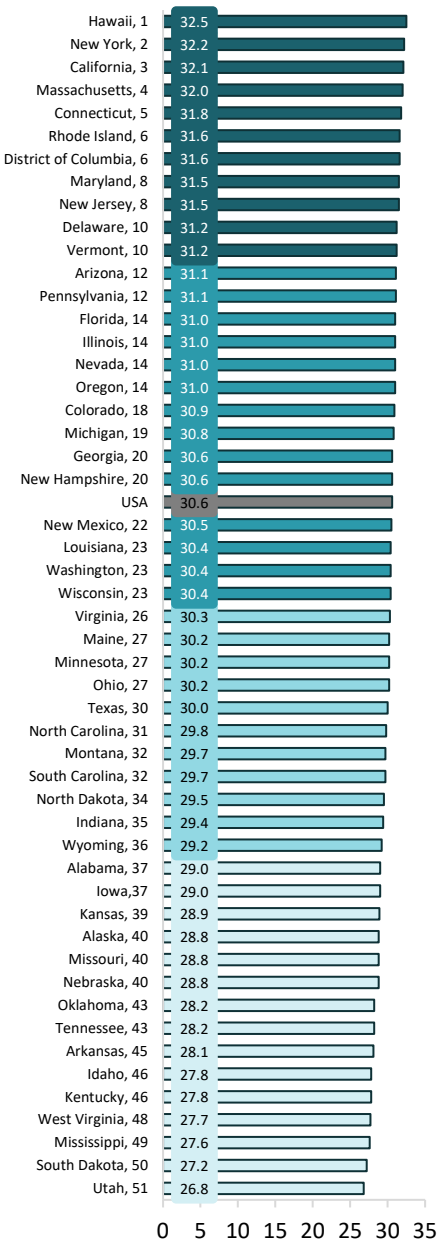
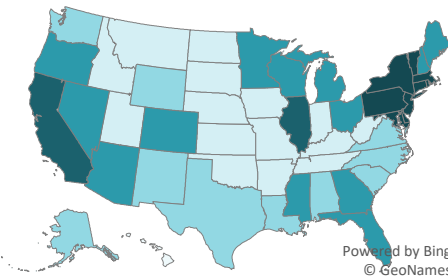
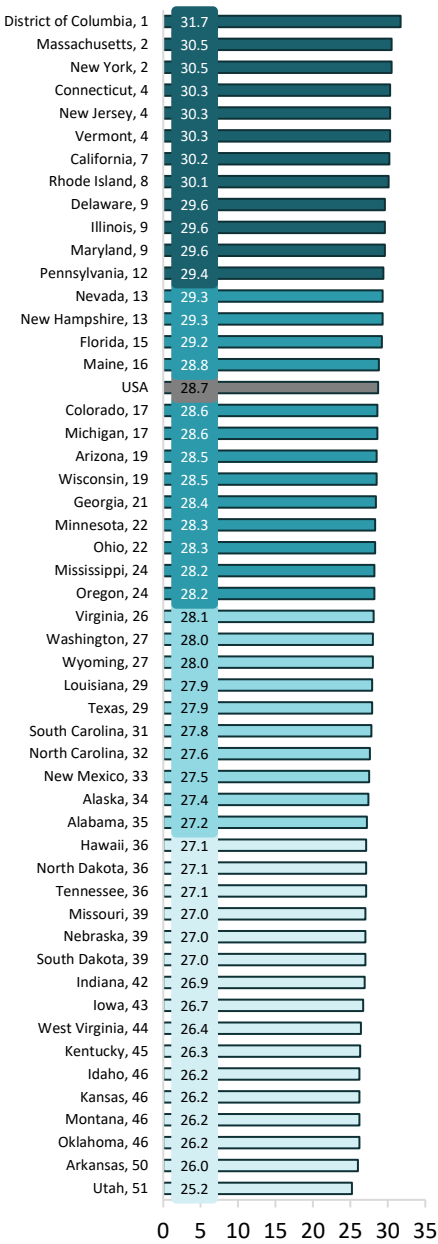


Figure 3. State-Level Median Age at First Marriage by Quartile, Females 2023



References

Westrick-Payne, K. K. (2024). Median age at first marriage: Geographic variation, 2022. *Family Profiles*, FP-24-08. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-24-08>

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