

Median Age at First Marriage, 2013



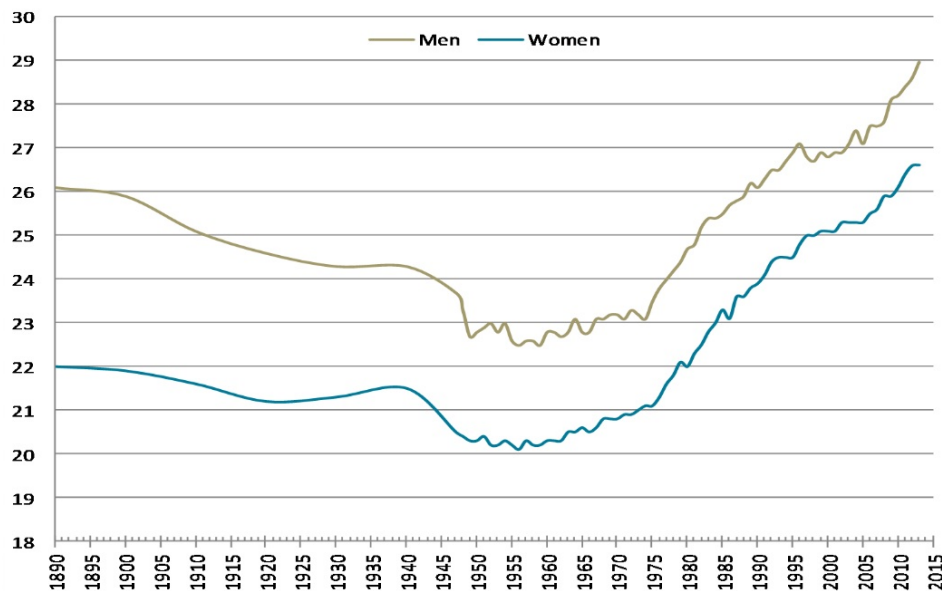
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The upward trend in the median age at first marriage in the United States began in the mid-1950s and continues today, according to estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau using the Current Population Survey. Rising from a low of 22.5 among men and 20.1 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).

FP-12-07

FP-09-03

Figure 1. Median Age at First Marriage in the U.S., 1890-2013

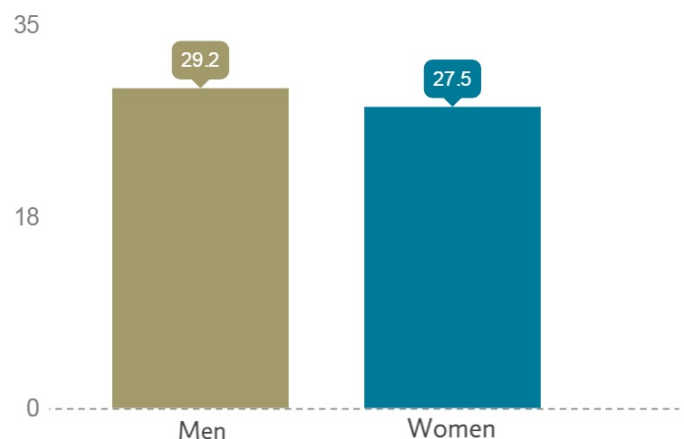


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements, 1947-2013; Decennial Census 1890-1940

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.

Figure 2. Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2013

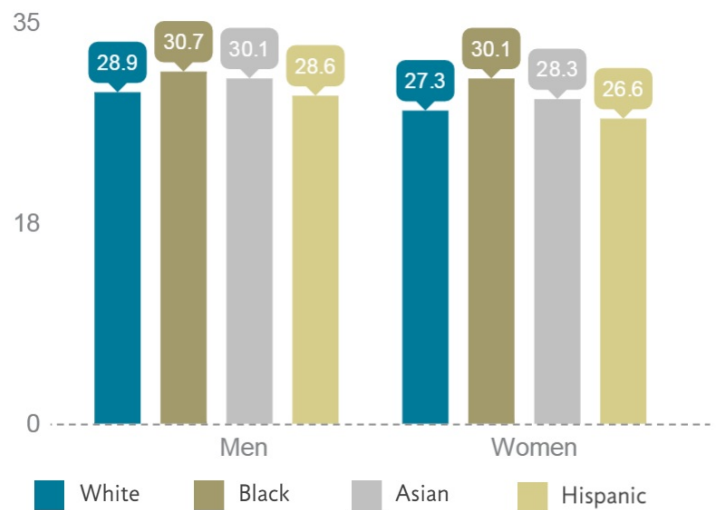


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2013

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.

Figure 3. Median Age at First Marriage by Race and Ethnicity, 2013

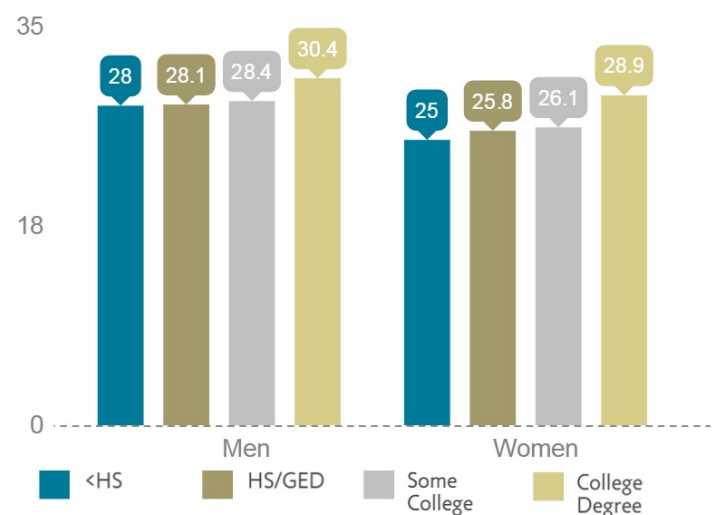


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2013

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.

Figure 4. Median Age at First Marriage by Educational Attainment, 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1 year estimates, 2013

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