Most men expect to be fathers. In 2017, 76% of childless men expected to have a child and 34% of fathers expected to have another child. (FP-21-14)

The average age at which men became fathers has increased to 27.5. Men are, on average, about three years older than women when their first child is born. (FP-19-28)

Married fathers experience fatherhood about 4 years later than cohabiting fathers and about 3.3 years later than single fathers. (FP-19-28)

The mean age at first birth for men was highest among Whites (28.5) and lowest among Hispanics (25.4). (FP-19-28)

The highest average age at fatherhood was among men with a master’s degree or higher (32.3 years old) and lowest was among men with less than a high school diploma (23.9 years old). (FP-19-28)

The mean age at last birth for men was lowest among White and Black fathers (34 years old). (FP-22-05)

About one-quarter (23%) of men aged 40-44 were childless in 2016 compared to 15% of men in 1987/1988. (FP-19-29)

The proportion of men who had a child before their first marriage increased from 19% among men married in 1990s to 27% in the 2010s. (FP-20-14)

In 2021, 3% of children in the U.S. were living with a single father in contrast to 18% living with a single mother. (FP-21-26)

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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