

# 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 Mothers



Between 2008 and 2018, the share of women who **gave birth in the last year** who were unmarried remained around **36%**. (FP-20-17)



The **median ages at first birth** for Black and Hispanic mothers were **26** and **25**, respectively, compared to **almost 28** for White and other race women. (FP-20-05)



The share of **births to cohabiting mothers** more than quadrupled from **6%** to **26%** between 1980 and 2014. (FP-17-04)



The **majority** of recent births across all birth orders are characterized as **intended**, with the **highest** proportion of intended births occurring among **second births (75%)**. (FP-21-04)



In 2000, **most never-married single women were childless (61%)**, but in 2018, the **majority were mothers (58%)**. (FP-20-03)



The **overall birth rate** for women aged **40-44** was at a **low** in 1981 of **3.8 births per 1,000 women** but has since **risen** steadily to **11.4** in 2016. (FP-18-07)



Among **mothers aged 40-44**, **20%** had just **one birth**, **39%** had **two**, **26%** had **three**, and **15%** had **four or more**. (FP-17-19)



**Mothers with four or more births** typically started having their births at younger ages (**median age of first birth at 19**) while **mothers who had only one** waited until later ages (**median age of first birth at 28**). (FP-17-19)



The **median spacing between first and second births** was **smallest (29 months)** among mothers aged **30-34** at their first birth, and **largest (38 months)** for **mothers who had their first birth as a teenager**. (FP-17-14)

## 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.