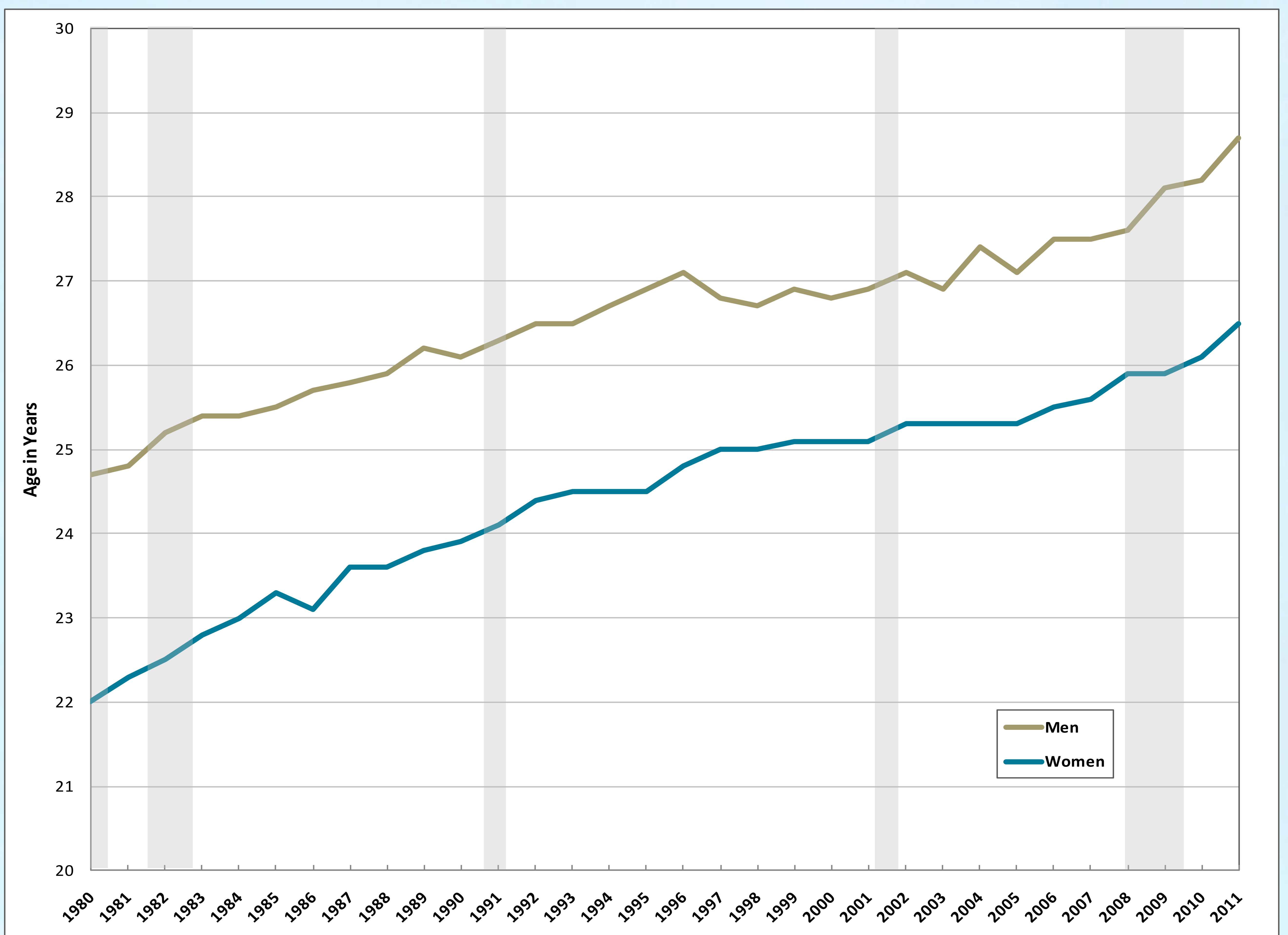


# Median Age at First Marriage, by Sex: 1980 - 2011

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- Between 1980 and 2011, the median age at first marriage rose 4 years for men (from 24.7 to 28.7) and 4.5 years for women (from 22 to 26.5).
- Since 1980, the United States has experienced multiple recessions, during which age at first marriage has tended to climb.
- Most striking perhaps are 2011 figures, showing men's median age at first marriage increased .5 years, while women's increased .4 years over 2010.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey: "Table MS-2. Estimated Median Age at First Marriage, by Sex: 1980 to the Present."

*Note: The estimated median age at first marriage is an approximation derived indirectly from tabulations of marital status and age. In computing this median, several steps are involved. First, the expected proportion of young people who will ever marry during their lifetime is computed. Second, one-half of this expected proportion is calculated. And third, the current age of young people who are at this halfway mark is computed. From the assumptions made and the procedures used, it follows that the date of the survey is also the date when this halfway mark is reached. Half of the young people of the given age who will ever get married had done so prior to the survey date, and half are expected to marry in years to come. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Fertility & Family Statistics Branch*