

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Selected Years 1940-97

(Medians computed from birth rates by 5-year age groups of mothers; see Technical Appendix. Live-birth order refers to number of children born alive to mother. Beginning in 1970 excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order						
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over
ALL RACES								
Registered births								
1997	26.7	24.2	27.3	29.0	30.3	31.6	33.0	36.0
1996	26.6	24.1	27.3	28.9	30.1	31.3	32.8	35.8
1995	26.5	23.9	27.2	28.9	30.0	31.2	32.8	35.8
1994	26.4	23.8	27.1	28.8	29.9	31.1	32.6	35.8
1993	26.4	23.8	27.0	28.6	29.7	30.9	32.4	36.3
1992	26.3	23.8	26.9	28.4	29.6	30.8	32.5	36.4
1991	26.2	23.7	26.8	28.4	29.6	30.7	32.5	36.4
1990	26.3	23.8	26.9	28.4	29.7	31.1	32.8	36.4
1989(1)	26.3	23.7	26.8	28.4	29.7	31.0	32.9	36.4
1988(1)	26.3	23.8	26.8	28.5	29.8	31.2	33.2	36.3
1987(1)	26.3	23.7	26.8	28.4	29.8	31.3	33.2	37.1
1986(1)	26.2	23.6	26.7	28.4	29.9	31.4	33.4	37.1
1985(1)	26.1	23.5	26.6	28.3	30.0	31.5	33.5	37.1
1984(1,2)	26.0	23.5	26.5	28.4	30.0	31.7	33.5	36.9
1983(1,2)	25.9	23.3	26.4	28.3	30.0	31.8	33.8	37.2
1982(1,2)	25.8	23.2	26.2	28.2	30.0	31.8	33.8	37.2
1981(1,2)	25.7	23.1	26.1	28.2	29.9	31.8	34.1	37.0
1980(2)	25.7	23.0	26.1	28.1	30.0	32.0	34.1	37.7
1979(2)	25.6	22.9	26.0	28.1	30.0	32.0	34.1	37.5
1978(2)	25.6	22.8	25.9	28.1	30.0	32.0	34.3	37.7
1977(2)	25.5	22.7	25.7	28.0	30.1	32.2	34.1	37.5
1976(2)	25.4	22.5	25.6	27.9	30.1	32.1	34.2	37.5
1975(2)	25.3	22.3	25.5	27.8	29.9	32.0	34.2	37.3
1974(2)	25.3	22.3	25.4	27.8	29.9	31.9	33.9	37.0
1973(2)	25.3	22.1	25.3	27.7	29.8	31.8	33.6	36.9
1972(2)	25.3	22.0	25.1	27.6	29.7	31.7	33.4	36.6
1971(3)	25.4	22.1	24.8	27.5	29.4	31.3	33.1	36.3
1970(3)	25.4	22.1	24.7	27.5	29.4	31.2	32.9	36.0
1969(3)	25.5	22.1	24.7	27.5	29.4	31.2	32.8	35.9
1968(3)	25.5	22.1	24.5	27.4	29.3	31.1	32.7	35.8
1967(4)	25.5	22.0	24.3	27.3	29.2	30.9	32.5	35.6
1966(3)	25.5	21.9	24.2	27.1	29.0	30.6	32.2	35.3
1965(3)	25.8	21.9	24.2	27.0	28.8	30.3	32.0	35.1
1964(3)	25.7	22.0	24.1	26.8	28.6	30.0	31.8	34.9
1963(3)	25.7	21.9	24.0	26.7	28.5	29.9	31.7	34.8

1962(3)	25.6	21.9	24.0	26.6	28.4	29.8	31.5	34.7
1961(3)	25.5	21.8	24.0	26.6	28.4	29.8	31.6	34.8
1960(3)	25.4	21.8	24.0	26.6	28.5	29.8	31.6	35.0
1959(3)	25.6	21.6	24.0	27.0	28.8	30.3	31.9	35.2
Births Adjusted for Underregistration(5)								
1955	26.2	22.2	24.9	27.6	29.2	30.4	32.0	35.7
1950	25.9	22.5	25.3	27.6	29.6	30.7	32.6	36.7
1940	26.6	23.2	25.6	27.4	29.0	30.9	33.1	37.4
WHITE, TOTAL Race of mother								
1997	27.0	24.6	27.6	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.5	37.0
1996	26.9	24.4	27.5	29.3	30.6	32.0	33.5	37.0
1995	26.8	24.2	27.5	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.6	37.0
1994	26.8	24.1	27.4	29.2	30.5	31.7	33.4	37.0
1993	26.7	24.1	27.3	29.0	30.4	31.7	33.5	37.0
1992	26.6	24.1	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.6	33.5	37.0
1991	26.6	24.0	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.6	33.5	37.0
1990	26.6	24.1	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.7	33.5	37.0
1989(1)	26.6	24.1	27.2	28.9	30.3	31.8	33.5	37.0
1988(1)	26.6	24.2	27.1	28.9	30.4	32.0	33.6	37.0
1987(1)	26.6	24.1	27.1	28.8	30.4	32.0	33.9	37.0
1986(1)	26.5	24.0	27.0	28.7	30.4	32.1	33.9	37.1
1985(1)	26.4	23.9	26.9	28.7	30.5	32.1	34.1	37.5
1984(1,2)	26.3	23.8	26.8	28.7	30.5	32.2	34.3	37.1
1983(1,2)	26.2	23.7	26.6	28.6	30.5	32.2	34.3	37.1
1982(1,2)	26.1	23.5	26.5	28.5	30.5	32.2	34.4	37.5
1981(1,2)	25.9	23.4	26.4	28.4	30.5	32.4	34.6	37.5
1980(2)	25.9	23.3	26.3	28.4	30.5	32.4	34.6	37.5
Race of child								
1980(2)	25.9	23.3	26.3	28.4	30.5	32.4	34.6	37.8
1979(2)	25.9	23.3	26.2	28.4	30.6	32.6	34.7	37.8
1978(2)	25.9	23.2	26.2	28.4	30.5	32.5	34.9	38.0
1977(2)	25.8	23.0	26.0	28.3	30.6	32.6	34.7	37.9
1976(2)	25.7	22.8	25.9	28.3	30.6	32.5	34.6	37.7
1975(2)	25.6	22.7	25.8	28.2	30.5	32.5	34.5	37.5
1974(2)	25.6	22.6	25.7	28.1	30.4	32.4	34.4	37.4
1973(2)	25.6	22.4	25.6	28.1	30.4	32.3	34.2	37.3
1972(2)	25.6	22.3	25.4	27.9	30.2	32.2	34.0	37.0
1971(3)	25.6	22.4	25.1	27.7	29.8	31.8	33.7	36.7
1970(3)	25.6	22.3	25.0	27.7	29.8	31.7	33.4	36.4
1969(3)	25.7	22.4	24.9	27.7	29.7	31.7	33.3	36.4
1968(3)	25.7	22.4	24.8	27.7	29.7	31.7	33.3	36.4
1967(4)	25.7	22.2	24.6	27.6	29.6	31.5	33.1	36.2
1966(3)	25.7	22.2	24.4	27.4	29.4	31.3	33.0	36.0
1965(3)	25.9	22.2	24.4	27.3	29.2	31.0	32.7	35.9
1964(3)	25.9	22.2	24.3	27.1	29.0	30.7	32.5	35.7
1963(3,6)	25.7	22.1	24.2	27.0	28.8	30.5	32.4	35.6

1962(3,6)	25.6	22.0	24.1	26.9	28.7	30.3	32.3	35.6
1961(3)	25.6	22.0	24.1	27.0	28.8	30.5	32.4	35.7
1960(3)	25.5	22.0	24.2	26.9	28.8	30.5	32.4	35.8
1959(3)	25.7	21.8	24.3	27.3	29.3	31.0	32.7	36.0
Births Adjusted for Underregistration(5)								
1955	26.3	22.5	25.3	28.0	29.7	31.2	32.9	36.5
1950	26.1	22.8	25.7	28.1	29.9	31.6	33.3	37.2
1940	26.9	23.6	26.1	28.0	29.6	31.5	33.7	37.7
WHITE, NON-HISPANIC								
1997	27.5	25.3	28.1	29.9	31.1	32.3	33.9	37.5
1996	27.4	25.1	28.1	29.9	31.2	32.3	33.6	36.9
1995	27.3	24.9	28.0	29.8	31.2	32.5	34.3	36.9
1994	27.2	24.8	27.9	29.7	31.0	32.1	33.8	36.9
1993	27.1	24.7	27.8	29.5	30.8	32.1	33.8	36.9
1992(7)	27.0	24.7	27.7	29.3	30.7	32.0	33.6	36.9
BLACK, TOTAL Race of mother								
1997	24.1	21.7	24.8	26.7	27.8	28.9	30.8	33.6
1996	24.4	21.5	24.8	26.6	27.7	29.0	30.8	33.5
1995	24.3	21.4	24.8	26.7	27.7	29.0	30.8	33.5
1994	24.2	21.3	24.6	26.4	27.6	28.8	30.5	33.5
1993	24.2	21.3	24.4	26.2	27.4	28.6	30.3	33.5
1992	24.1	21.3	24.3	25.9	27.4	28.6	30.4	33.7
1991	24.0	21.2	24.2	26.0	27.4	28.6	30.6	34.0
1990	24.1	21.3	24.3	26.2	27.5	28.9	30.9	34.4
1989(1)	24.1	21.2	24.3	26.3	27.7	29.0	31.3	34.3
1988(1)	24.2	21.3	24.4	26.4	27.8	29.4	31.5	34.8
1987(1)	24.2	21.3	24.4	26.5	28.0	29.6	31.8	35.0
1986(1)	24.2	21.2	24.5	26.6	28.2	29.9	32.1	35.6
1985(1)	24.2	21.1	24.4	26.6	28.3	29.8	32.2	35.6
1984(1,2)	24.2	21.0	24.4	26.7	28.2	29.8	32.4	35.7
1983(1,2)	24.2	20.9	24.3	26.6	28.3	30.1	32.4	35.9
1982(1,2)	24.2	20.9	24.3	26.6	28.3	30.1	32.6	36.4
1981(1,2)	24.2	20.9	24.2	26.6	28.2	30.0	32.6	36.6
1980(2)	24.2	20.8	24.2	26.5	28.2	30.1	32.7	36.7
Race of child								
1980(2)	24.2	20.7	24.2	26.6	28.3	30.2	32.7	36.7
1979(2)	24.1	20.5	24.1	26.4	28.2	30.3	32.9	37.2
1978(2)	24.1	20.4	23.9	26.2	28.1	30.2	32.9	36.9
1977(2)	24.0	20.2	23.8	26.2	28.2	30.2	32.9	36.9
1976(2)	23.9	20.0	23.7	25.9	28.0	30.0	32.8	36.8
1975(2)	23.8	19.8	23.5	25.7	27.8	29.8	32.7	36.6
1974(2)	23.7	19.7	23.4	25.5	27.7	29.6	32.3	36.5
1973(2)	23.7	19.6	23.2	25.3	27.6	29.5	32.1	36.3
1972(2)	23.8	19.6	23.1	25.2	27.4	29.2	31.8	36.0

1971(3)	24.0	19.7	23.0	25.1	27.3	29.0	31.5	35.6
1970(3)	24.1	20.0	22.9	24.8	27.1	28.8	31.1	35.3
1969(3)	24.3	20.0	22.9	24.8	27.1	28.8	30.9	35.0
1968(3)	24.3	19.8	21.3	22.1	26.8	28.5	30.7	34.9
1967(4)	24.5	19.8	22.6	24.5	26.7	28.3	30.3	34.6
1966(3)	24.9	19.8	22.5	24.3	26.4	28.1	29.9	34.4
1965(3)	24.8	19.8	22.5	24.2	26.2	27.8	29.7	34.2
1964(3)	25.0	20.0	22.5	24.2	26.0	27.7	34.6	34.0
1961-63	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1960(3)	24.8	19.6	22.3	24.0	25.9	27.7	29.6	32.9

BLACK, NON-HISPANIC

1997	24.4	21.5	24.8	26.6	27.8	29.0	30.8	33.7
1996	24.3	21.4	24.7	26.6	27.7	28.9	30.8	33.5
1995	24.3	21.2	24.7	26.7	27.7	28.9	30.7	33.5
1994	24.1	21.1	24.6	26.4	27.6	28.7	30.6	33.5
1993	24.1	21.0	24.4	26.2	27.4	28.6	30.3	33.5
1992(7)	24.0	21.1	24.2	25.9	27.3	28.5	30.5	33.7

HISPANIC(8)

1997	25.5	22.3	25.5	28.0	29.9	31.6	33.5	37.1
1996	25.3	22.2	25.4	28.0	29.8	31.7	33.7	37.1
1995	25.1	22.0	25.2	28.0	29.9	31.8	33.6	36.5
1994	25.1	22.0	25.2	27.9	29.9	31.5	33.6	36.8
1993	25.1	22.0	25.1	27.8	29.8	31.6	33.6	36.9
1992(7)	25.1	22.0	25.0	27.8	29.8	31.5	33.6	36.9

--- Data not available.

- 1/ Medians are revised and therefore may differ from those published in Vital Statistics of the United States, Volume 1, Natality, for 1989 and previous years; see Technical Appendix.
- 2/ Based on 100 percent of births in selected States and on a 50-percent sample of births in all other States; see Technical Appendix.
- 3/ Based on a 50-percent sample of births.
- 4/ Based on a 20- to 50-percent sample of births.
- 5/ For method of adjustment, see Technical Appendix.
- 6/ Figures exclude data for residents of New Jersey; see Technical Appendix.
- 7/ Based on data for 49 States and the District of Columbia which reported Hispanic origin on the birth certificate.
- 8/ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

NOTE: The median age in table 1-5 is the value that divides the birth rate distributions into two equal parts, one-half of the values being less and one-half being greater. It is computed from birth rates in 5-year age groups which eliminates the effects of changes in the age composition of the childbearing population over time. The mean age in table 1-6 is the numeric average. Thus, due to the different ways in which the median and mean ages are computed as well as the adjustment of the median, the numbers in tables 1-5 and 1-6 would be expected to differ.