

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-96

(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. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix. The rates in this table for 1991-96 are based on postcensal population estimates consistent with the 1990 census. Rates for these years have recently been revised using more accurate population estimates based on the results of the 2000 census, and are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51_12.pdf> . The 1990 based estimates are used in this report for consistency with reports in the series that have already been published and will not be reissued)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
ALL RACES									
Registered births									
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	

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-96

(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. Figures for live-birth order not stated are distributed. Beginning in 1970, excludes births to nonresidents of the United States; see Technical Appendix. The rates in this table for 1991-96 are based on postcensal population estimates consistent with the 1990 census. Rates for these years have recently been revised using more accurate population estimates based on the results of the 2000 census, and are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51_12.pdf> . The 1990 based estimates are used in this report for consistency with reports in the series that have already been published and will not be reissued)

Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
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									
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	

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-96

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Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
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 Race and Hispanic origin of mother									
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	

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Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
BLACK, TOTAL Race of mother									
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	

Table 1-5. Median Age of Mother by Live-birth Order, According to Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, Specified Years 1940-55 and Each Year 1959-96

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Year, race, and Hispanic origin	Total	Live-birth order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6 and 7	8 and over	
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									
Race and Hispanic origin of mother									
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)									
Hispanic origin of mother									
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.