



Median Age at First Marriage: Geographic Variation, 2022

Author: Krista K. Westrick-Payne

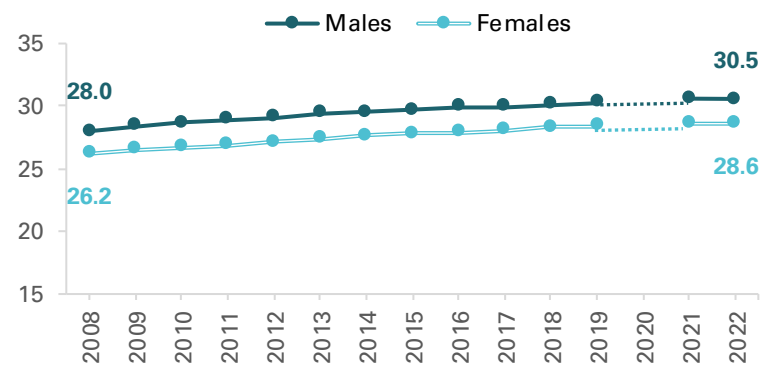
In this profile, the median age at first marriage is estimated for the nation and each state by sex among those aged 15-54 for 2022, using 1-year estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) (Table B12007). ¹ Direct estimates of the age at which half of males and females (who in the last year) married for the first time as well as the associated margins of error are provided. The ACS has been collecting data on marriage since 2008.

Trend in Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2008-2022

- The U.S. median age at first marriage remains stable and high (FP-24-07).
- Since 2008, the age at first marriage for males has increased by 2.5 years, and in 2022 was 30.5. Among females the median age at first marriage has increased by 2.4 years since 2008 and in 2022 was 28.6 years of age (Figure 1).

¹ The standard 2020 ACS 1-year data products were not released due to the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on data collection and data quality (for more information click [here](#)).

Figure 1. Median Age at First Marriage, 2008-2019 & 2021-2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year est., Table B12007, 2008-2019 & 2021-2022

Note: Universe is males and females between the ages of 15 and 54

States with the Highest and Lowest Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2022

- Males living in Washington D.C. had the highest median age at first marriage at 32.5 years. Conversely, males in Wyoming had the youngest median age at first marriage of 27.0.
- Females who lived in Washington D.C. experienced the highest median age at first marriage (30.7), while females living in Utah had the lowest at 25.3.
- Four states ranked at the top for oldest ages at first marriage among both males and females – Washington D.C., Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts.
- Four states ranked at the bottom with the youngest ages at first marriage for both males and females—Arkansas, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

Table 1. Median Age at First Marriage, 2022: Males' Top & Bottom Five States

Rank	State	Age	MOE
1	Wash, D.C.	32.5	+/- 1.0
2	California	32.0	+/- 0.2
3	New York	31.8	+/- 0.4
3	Massachusetts	31.8	+/- 0.4
5	Connecticut	31.7	+/- 0.6
U.S.			
47	Arkansas	27.8	+/- 1.0
48	Utah	27.5	+/- 0.7
49	Kentucky	27.4	+/- 0.5
50	Idaho	27.2	+/- 0.8
51	Wyoming	27.0	+/- 1.8

Table 2. Median Age at First Marriage, 2022: Females' Top & Bottom Five States

Rank	State	Age	MOE
1	Wash, D.C.	30.7	+/- 0.6
2	New York	30.6	+/- 0.2
3	Rhode Island	30.5	+/- 1.3
4	Massachusetts	30.4	+/- 0.3
5	Connecticut	30.1	+/- 0.4
U.S.			
46	Oklahoma	26.1	+/- 0.3
46	North Dakota	26.1	+/- 0.7
48	Idaho	25.7	+/- 0.5
48	Arkansas	25.7	+/- 0.3
50	Wyoming	25.6	+/- 1.0
51	Utah	25.3	+/- 0.4

State Rankings and Geographic Variation in the Median Age at First Marriage by Sex, 2022

The state rankings are divided into quartiles with error bars representing the margins of error (MOE). The MOEs for published ACS estimates are provided at a 90% confidence level.

- Among both males and females, the states in the top quartile were significantly above the national median. The top quartile consisted of ages 31.0 years and older for males and 29.2 years and older females.
- The states falling in the bottom quartile had median ages at first marriage of 28.8 years or younger for males and 26.8 years or younger among females. The median age at marriage for the states in the bottom quartile were significantly below the national average.
- Among males and females, most states in the Northeast region had high ages at first marriage—78% among females and 56% among males were in the fourth quartile.
- For males and females, most Midwestern & Southern states exhibited ages at first marriage in the bottom two quartiles.
- Western states had ages spread throughout all quartiles for both males and females.

Source: NCFMR analyses of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year est., Table B12007, 2022

Figure 2. State-Level Median Age at First Marriage by Quartile Among Males, 2022

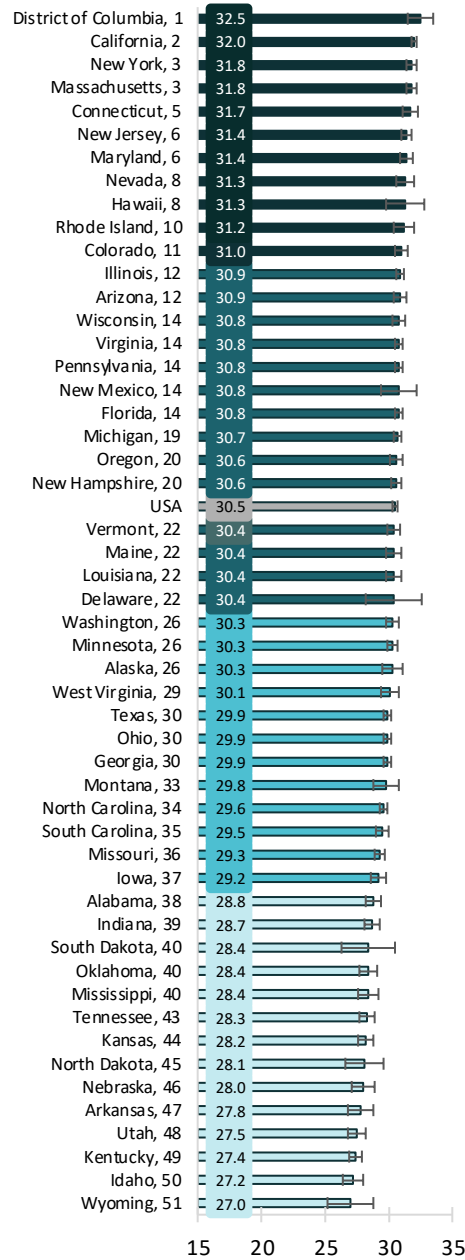
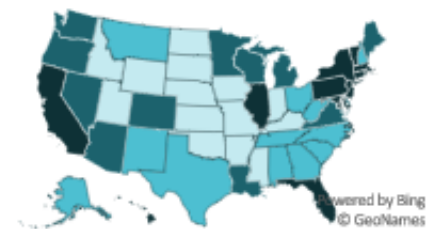
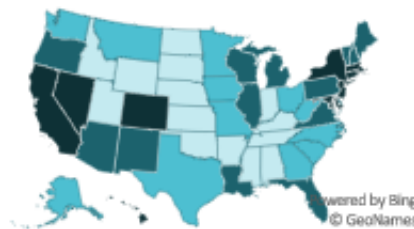
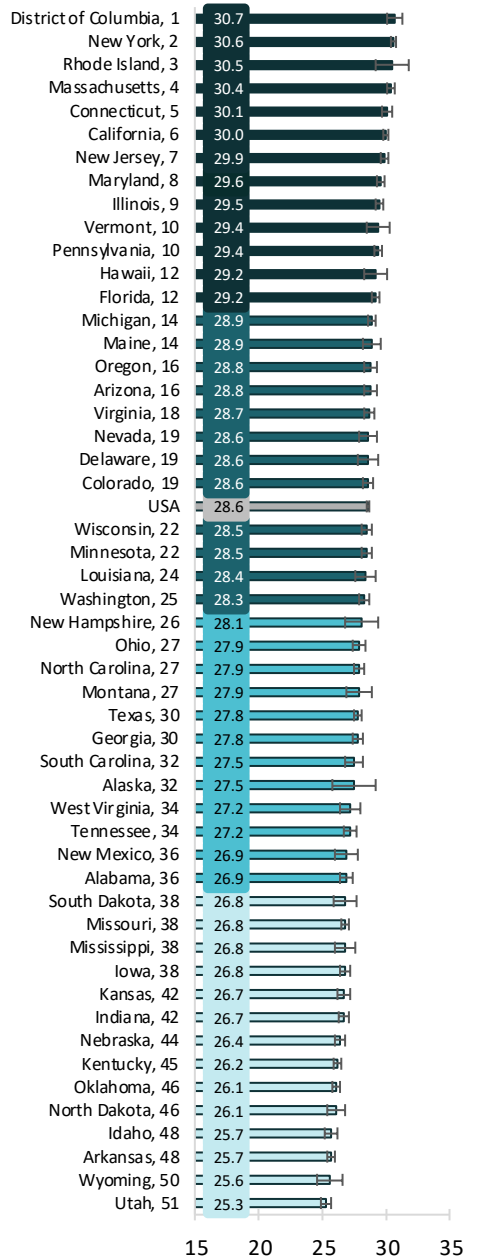


Figure 3. State-Level Median Age at First Marriage by Quartile Among Females, 2022



References:

Westrick-Payne, K. K. (2024). A decade of change in the median age at first marriage, 2012 & 2022. *Family Profiles, FP-24-07*. Bowling Green, OH: National Center for Family & Marriage Research. <https://doi.org/10.25035/ncfmr/fp-24-07>

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