



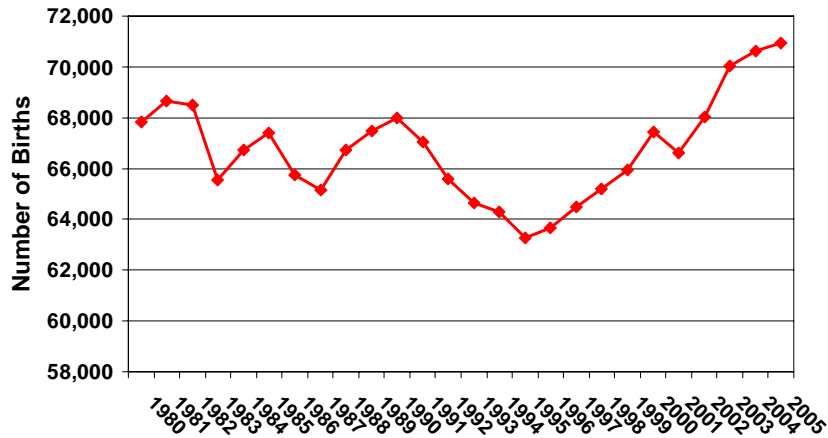
Births Are Rising In Minnesota

Martha McMurry

- The number of Minnesota births has been on the rise since 2000.
- Birth rates have risen for women over age 25 and fallen for younger women.
- Educational attainment of parents has increased.
- 17.4 percent of births in 2005 were to mothers born outside the U.S.
- 49.3 percent of black mothers were born outside the U.S.

The number of births in Minnesota rose between 2000 and 2005, from 67,451 to 70,920. The number of births recorded in 2005 was the highest since 1964. Except for a small dip between 2000 and 2001, births have risen each year this decade.

Minnesota Births Are Rising in the 2000s



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

There are two reasons for the rising number of births. First, the Minnesota female population ages 15 to 44 increased. The Census Bureau estimates a gain of 2.8 percent, from 1,062,290 in 2000 to 1,092,604 in 2005.

The second reason for the increase in births is that fertility rates have inclined upwards. The total fertility rate – the average number of lifetime births per woman given the current age-specific rates – rose from 1.87 in 1980 to 1.97 in 2000 and then continued up to 2.02 in 2005. It should be noted that the accuracy of these numbers depends on the accuracy of the age estimates. The true fertility rate might be a bit lower or higher.

The general fertility rate, the number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44, also rose between 2000 and 2005, from 61.9 to 64.9. The general fertility rate is sensitive to the size of the different age groups within the female population. For example, the number of women ages 40 to 44, the tail end of the baby boom generation, was 205,490 in 2005. Birth rates for women in this age group are low. The number of 25 to 29-year-olds, an age group with much higher birth rates, was estimated to be 168,011. If the size of these age groups were reversed, the general fertility rate would be higher.

Fertility rates rise for women ages 25 to 29

For the past quarter century there has been a trend towards an older age of child-bearing. The 2000 to 2005 data show mixed results for the older mother trend. Fertility rates continued to decline for women under age 25, with a noteworthy drop in teenage fertility. And fertility rates continued to rise for women over 30. For women 25 to 29, however, the trend appears to be reversing. The fertility rate for women in this age group rose from 121.5 in 2000 to 128.8 in 2005 after a 20-year period of decline. This could indicate that while women are continuing to postpone childbearing past their teens and early twenties, more are choosing to wait only until their late twenties rather than delaying into their thirties. Other possible factors that could explain the rise in fertility for 25-to-29-year-olds include a larger immigrant population and possible errors in the age estimates.

Fertility Rates by Age, Minnesota: 1980 to 2005

	Age-specific fertility rate 1980	Age-specific fertility rate 1990	Age-specific fertility rate 2000	Age-specific fertility rate 2005
15 to 19	35.1	36.5	30.1	26.4
20 to 24	111.9	93.4	85.8	80.1
25 to 29	131.5	127.3	121.5	128.8
30 to 34	71.4	86.0	107.0	109.7
35 to 39	20.4	31.4	41.2	50.1
40 to 44	4.4	5.3	8.1	9.7
Total Fertility Rate	1.87	1.90	1.97	2.02
General Fertility Rate	70.0	66.3	61.9	64.9

The age-specific fertility rate is the number of births in the age group per 1,000 women in that age group. Births to women under age 15 are included in the total for ages 15 to 19. Births to women over age 44 are included in the 40 to 44 group. The total fertility rate is the average number of births per lifetime at the current age-specific rates. The general fertility rate is the number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.

1980 through 2000 fertility rates from Population Notes, May, 2002.

For the 2005 rates, population comes from U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

Births by age are from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

A similar trend is found in the pattern for first births. Generally, the rate of first births has risen for older women and fallen for younger women. The rate of first births for women ages 25 to 29 and over age 35 has gone up in each time period. The first-birth rate for women 30 to 34 declined just slightly between 2000 and 2005.

Minnesota First Birth Rates by Age

	1980	1990	2000	2005
15 to 19	29.5	29.9	24.9	21.7
20 to 24	59.6	46.1	43.7	41.4
25 to 29	45.4	46.7	49.7	51.0
30 to 34	13.6	21.4	31.9	30.6
35 to 39	2.3	6.3	9.0	10.7
40 to 44	0.3	0.9	1.7	1.9
Total 15 to 44	29.5	25.5	25.0	25.4

Births per 1,000 women in the age group.

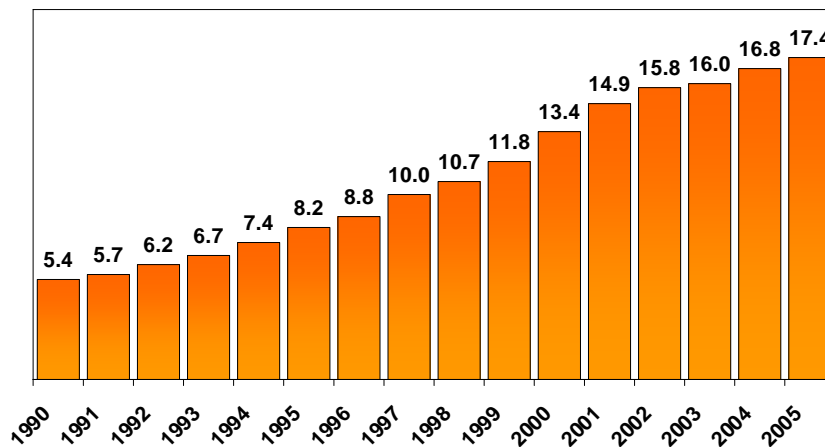
Data for 1980 to 2000 from Population Notes, May 2002.

2005 data based on U.S. Census Bureau age estimates and birth data from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics.

More Mothers Are Foreign-born

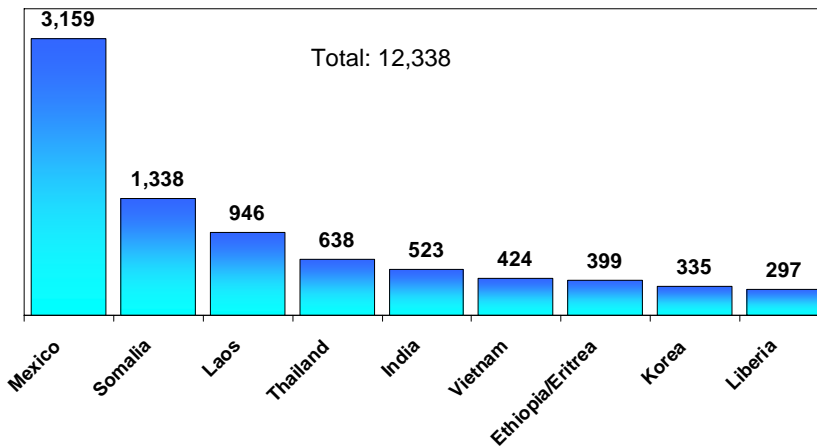
Mothers born outside the United States account for much of the growth in births. In 2005, 17.4 percent of all Minnesota births were to women born outside the U.S., up from 13.4 percent in 2000. The number of births to foreign-born mothers grew from 9,065 to 12,338. Meanwhile the number of births to women born in the U.S. stayed about the same, 58,312 in 2000 and 58,452 in 2005.

Percent of births to foreign-born mothers in Minnesota



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Leading origins of foreign-born mothers in Minnesota, 2005



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Mexico is the number one birthplace of Minnesota mothers born outside the U.S., accounting for about a quarter of all foreign-born births. There were 3,159 births to Mexican-born mothers in 2005, up from 2,229 in 2000. The other leading origins were Somalia, Laos, Thailand and India.

Minnesota Births by Race, Hispanic Origin and Birthplace of Mother 2000 and 2005

	Mother born in U.S. 2000	Mother born in U.S. 2005	Mother born outside U.S. 2000	Mother born outside U.S. 2005	Total 2000	Total 2005
Race/Ethnicity of Mother:						
White	53,561	51,885	4,084	2,129	57,688	54,054
White, not Hispanic	50,281	50,897	1,412	1,590	51,710	52,526
Black/African American	2,832	2,831	1,509	2,752	4,371	5,628
American Indian	1,170	1,200	44	14	1,221	1,224
Asian/Pacific Islander	383	632	2,905	3,687	3,298	4,326
Two or more races	N/A	753	N/A	67	N/A	824
Hispanic/Latino	1,231	1,420	2,691	4,055	3,929	5,483
Unknown race	325	220	320	94	649	329
Unknown Latino origin	2,352	783	201	132	2,559	933

Excludes cases where birthplace of mother is unknown.

Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Mothers Are More Racially and Ethnically Diverse

Minnesota's growing racial and ethnic diversity is reflected in the birth data. Nonwhite and Latino mothers accounted for 26 percent of births in 2005, up from 23 percent in 2000. The number of births to nonwhite and/or Latino mothers grew 17 percent, compared to the 2 percent gain for white, not Hispanic mothers.

White, not Hispanic births

There were 52,526 births to white, not Hispanic mothers in 2005, up slightly from 51,710 in 2000. Almost three-quarters of all births fell into this category.

White, not Hispanic mothers are older than average. Only 5 percent were teenagers and 45 percent were over age 30. Consistent with their older age, they have relatively high levels of educational attainment. Only 5 percent had not completed high school.

Only 3 percent of white, not Hispanic mothers were born outside the United States. Almost 70 percent were born in Minnesota.

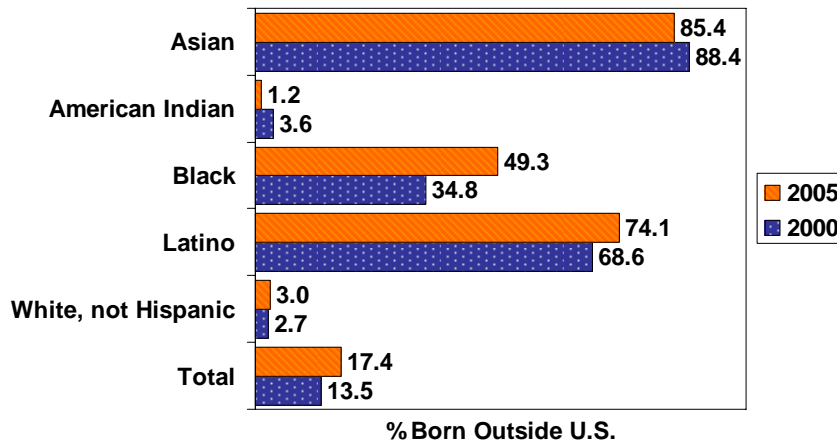
Black births

In 2005 there were 5,628 births to black mothers in Minnesota, up from 4,371 in 2000. These births accounted for 7.9 percent of all 2005 births. The gain is solely attributable to a dramatic increase in black mothers born outside the United States. The number of births to foreign-born black mothers grew from 1,509 to 2,752. At the same time, the number of births to black mothers born in the U.S. remained almost identical, 2,832 in 2000

compared to 2,831 in 2005. Almost half of black mothers, 49 percent, were foreign-born in 2005, up from 35 percent in 2000. The change reflects a substantial migration of African-born women to Minnesota since 2000.

Native-born black women appear to have smaller families than black women born outside the United States. Among mothers over age 35, 52 percent of foreign-born mothers were having at least their fourth child. The comparable figure for U.S.-born black mothers was 36 percent.

Latino and Black mothers more likely to be foreign-born in 2005



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Asian/Pacific Islander births

The number of births to Asian and Pacific Islander women grew from 3,298 in 2000 to 4,236 in 2005. The great majority of Minnesota Asian mothers, 88 percent, were foreign-born. The foreign-born proportion increased slightly from 85 percent in 2000.

The largest Asian nationality was “other Asian,” a category that includes Minnesota’s large Hmong population as well as Laotians, Cambodians and other groups not coded separately. There were 2,539 births to “other Asian” women. Among groups with a specified nationality, Asian Indian mothers had the largest number of births, 567, followed by Vietnamese mothers with 375, Chinese mothers with 297 and Korean mothers with 290. These numbers include both native-born and foreign-born women.

Family size varies greatly among Asian nationality groups. Only 8 percent of Asian Indian births were the third or higher-order birth, compared to 43 percent of births to “other Asian” women.

American Indian births

Births to American Indian women have remained stable. The 2005 number was 1,224, virtually identical to the 2000 number of 1,221. Almost all American Indian mothers are born in the U.S.

Indian mothers are young. Twenty-four percent are teenagers, compared to the state average of 7 percent. Only 17 percent are over age 30, well below the state average of 42 percent.

Latino births

Birth to Latino mothers rose rapidly, from 3,929 in 2000 to 5,483 in 2005. Immigration accounts for most of the gain in Latino births. Almost three quarters, 74 percent, of Latino births are to women born outside the U.S. Births to foreign born Latino women grew 50 percent between 2000 and 2005, while the number of births to Latino women born in the U.S. increased about 15 percent.

Latino mothers are younger than average. Thirteen percent are teenagers and 24 percent are under age 25.

Births to Women with multiple race identity

In 2005 there were 824 births to mothers who identified with multiple races. In 2000 there was no multiple race option. Most of these mothers, 92 percent, were born in the U.S. They are younger than average. Fifty-six percent are under age 25 and 22 percent are teenagers.

Births to parents of different races and ethnicities

Excluding cases where data on one or both parents was missing, 8.9 percent of births occurred where the race or ethnicity of the mother was not the same as the race or ethnicity of the father. Data is missing for one or both parents in about 15 percent of all births.

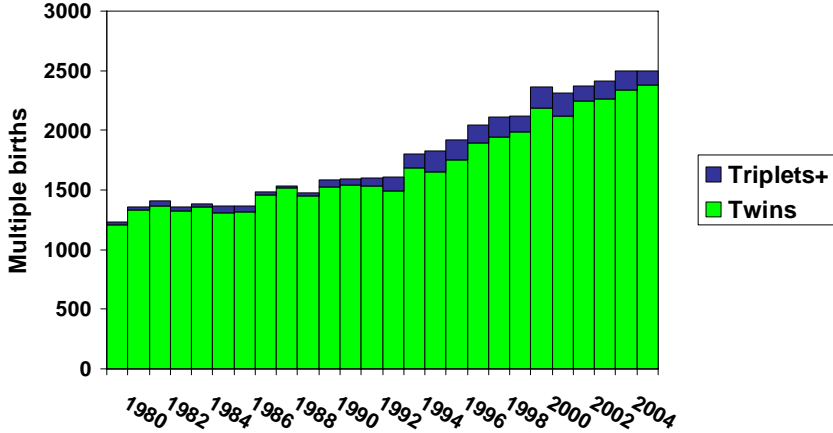
The proportion of infants born to parents of different backgrounds appears to be rising, though the change in race categories makes exact comparisons impossible. In 2000, 7.0 percent of babies were born to parents of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. In 1992 the figure was 4.2 percent.

Plural birth numbers are stabilizing

The trend towards plural births – twins, triplets and so on – has leveled off. The number of plural births grew 6 percent from 2000 to 2005, compared to a 29 percent gain from 1995 to 2000. Plural births accounted for about 3.5 percent of all births in both 2000 and 2005. Most plural births – 95 percent – are twins.

The rise in multiple births in the 1990s was a national as well as a Minnesota trend and was linked to an older age of childbearing and more use of fertility treatments. (See *Population Notes*, May, 2000). The leveling off since 2000 could indicate that use of fertility treatments has not gone up as much as in the past or that these treatments are less likely to result in multiple births.

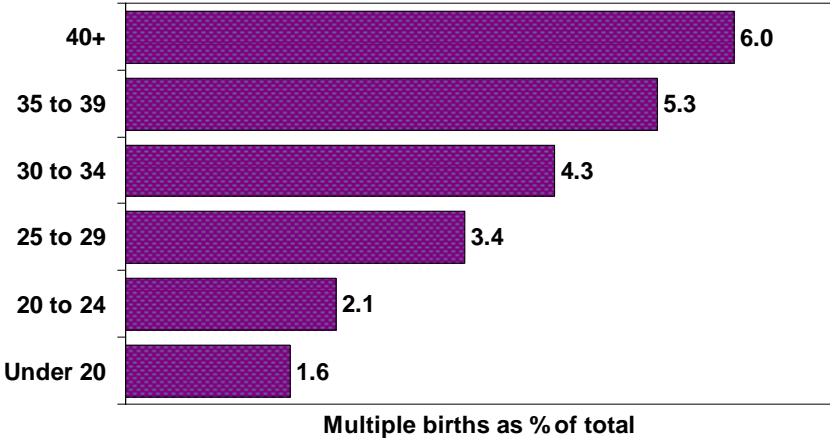
Multiple births have leveled off in recent years



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Older women are more likely to have multiple births. Six percent of births to women over age 40 are multiples, compared to less than 2 percent of births to teenagers.

Older women more likely to have multiple births, 2005



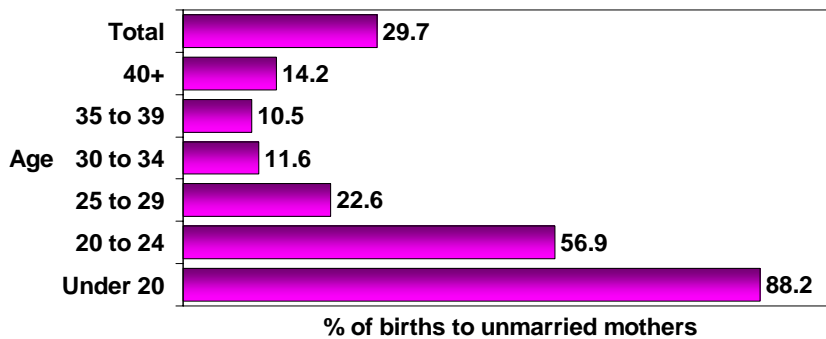
Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

More mothers are unmarried

The proportion of births to unmarried mothers has continued its long upwards trend. In 2005, 30 percent of women who gave birth were not married, up from 26 percent in 2000. The national average in 2004 was 36 percent.

Younger Minnesota mothers more likely to be unmarried

2005 Minnesota Center for Health Statistics data

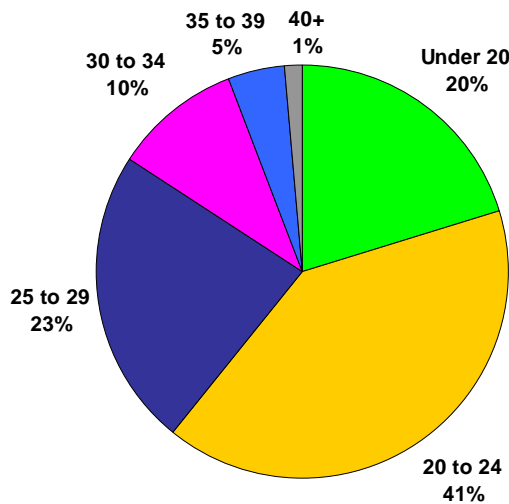


Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Younger mothers are much more likely to be unmarried. Among teenage mothers, 88 percent were unmarried at the time of the birth, compared to 11 percent of mothers ages 30 to 34.

Though teenage mothers are very likely to be unmarried, most unmarried mothers are not teens. The great majority are women in their twenties. Forty-one percent are between the ages of twenty and twenty-four. Only sixteen percent are age 30 or older.

Almost two-thirds of unmarried mothers are in their twenties

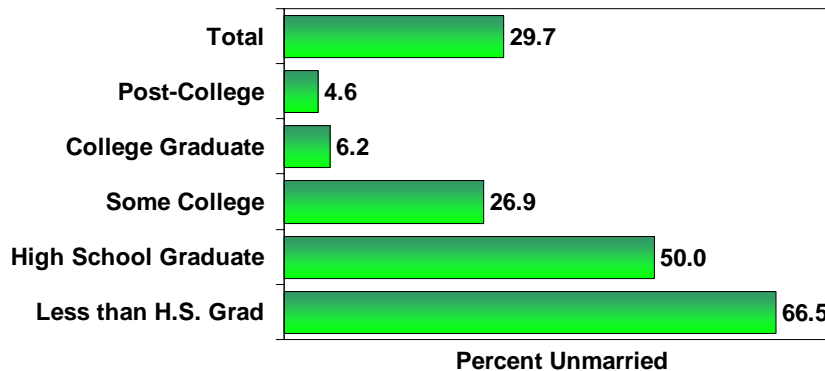


Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; 2005 births to unmarried mothers.

Mother's education also shows a strong relationship to marital status. Two-thirds of mothers who had not completed high school were unmarried in 2005, compared to 5 percent of those with post-graduate degrees.

Mothers with more education more likely to be married

2005 Minnesota Center for Health Statistics Data

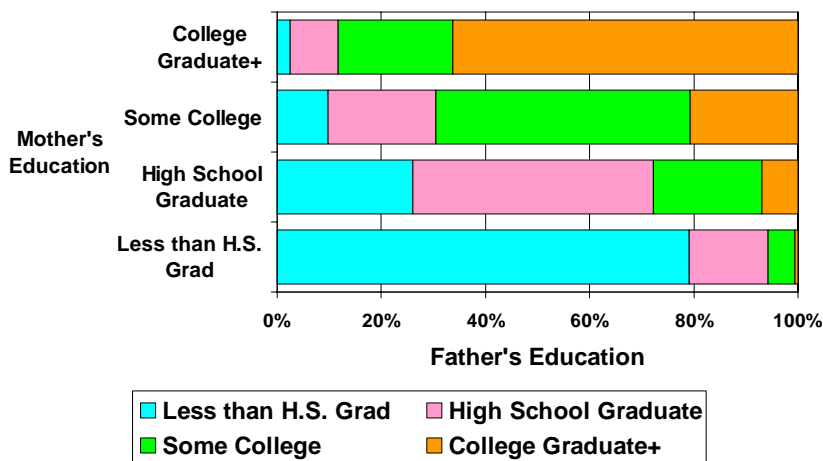


Educational attainment of parents is rising.

The percentage of mothers who are college graduates rose from 34.4 percent in 2000 to 37.2 percent in 2005. The proportion of fathers who are college graduates increased from 36.7 to 39.4 percent. These figures exclude cases where education data was missing – about 2 percent for mothers and 17 percent for fathers.

Education of mothers and fathers tend to be similar. In cases where the mother did not graduate from high school, 54 percent of fathers also did not finish high school. In cases where the mother was a college graduate, 72 percent of fathers were also college graduates. These figures exclude cases where data is missing for one or both parents.

Minnesota mothers and fathers tend to have similar educations (2005 births)



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics. Includes only cases where educations of both parents are available.

County fertility rates vary widely

Mahnomen County has the highest total fertility rate, 3.22, followed by Nobles County with 3.07 and Yellow Medicine with 2.70. The county fertility rates are based on a 3-year average of births from 2003 through 2005 and the 2004 Census Bureau age estimates. The lowest total fertility rates were in Cook (1.55), Blue Earth (1.58) and Lake (1.60) counties. Counties with college or university campuses are generally below average in fertility rates because of the low birth rates among students.

Births and Fertility Rates by County, 3-year Average, 2003 to 2005

	2003 Births	2004 Births	2005 Births	General Fertility Rate	2004 Total Fertility Rate
Minnesota	70,053	70,614	70,920	64.5	2.03
Aitkin	144	167	145	59.8	1.94
Anoka	4,339	4,429	4,363	61.3	1.97
Becker	413	442	406	69.8	2.20
Beltrami	631	632	656	65.6	1.92
Benton	579	577	599	62.7	1.75
Big Stone	43	53	59	60.3	2.39
Blue Earth	698	666	745	48.9	1.58
Brown	274	301	286	55.6	2.08
Carlton	380	407	421	60.7	1.94
Carver	1,182	1,253	1,237	63.8	2.06
Cass	303	365	405	67.2	2.07
Chippewa	165	145	144	68.4	2.44
Chisago	718	689	718	64.8	2.00
Clay	694	654	715	51.2	1.85
Clearwater	129	125	116	78.3	2.43
Cook	46	32	49	47.2	1.55
Cottonwood	130	156	131	69.8	2.34
Crow Wing	728	749	774	64.2	1.95
Dakota	5,404	5,537	5,424	63.5	2.03
Dodge	309	285	270	69.7	2.23
Douglas	377	412	432	61.1	1.86
Faribault	168	168	168	65.9	2.32
Fillmore	284	261	289	72.1	2.39
Freeborn	380	385	372	66.0	2.17
Goodhue	561	579	552	63.1	2.10
Grant	72	63	64	63.1	2.19
Hennepin	16,440	16,718	16,348	67.7	2.06
Houston	209	211	225	56.4	1.98
Hubbard	211	212	226	63.3	2.05
Isanti	460	468	473	55.4	1.69
Itasca	488	515	450	60.6	2.00
Jackson	110	114	112	56.0	1.85

	2003 Births	2004 Births	2005 Births	General Fertility Rate	2004 Total Fertility Rate
Kanabec	164	186	168	53.1	1.62
Kandiyohi	582	603	574	74.8	2.42
Kittson	34	51	38	56.7	2.38
Koochiching	126	128	122	53.0	1.91
Lac qui Parle	55	73	69	55.0	2.21
Lake	103	73	112	47.3	1.60
Lake of the Woods	50	41	43	58.7	2.04
Le Sueur	315	353	365	61.9	2.00
Lincoln	75	72	74	74.7	2.54
Lyon	292	318	320	59.3	1.95
Mahnomen	91	81	97	103.1	3.22
Marshall	111	121	92	63.1	2.30
Martin	231	225	244	66.3	2.38
McLeod	511	551	509	70.9	2.26
Meeker	307	295	336	71.2	2.33
Mille Lacs	325	325	405	67.6	2.06
Morrison	408	431	443	67.1	2.16
Mower	536	509	538	74.4	2.42
Murray	81	95	95	63.7	2.26
Nicollet	368	403	372	52.4	1.80
Nobles	327	337	314	91.2	3.07
Norman	74	75	91	65.7	2.39
Olmsted	2,082	2,150	2,179	73.3	2.28
Otter Tail	614	576	602	58.2	1.97
Pennington	196	187	176	70.6	2.24
Pine	324	317	328	59.3	1.86
Pipestone	106	125	138	71.9	2.53
Polk	377	377	378	63.2	2.10
Pope	133	106	124	61.5	2.11
Ramsey	7,420	7,272	7,309	66.7	2.03
Red Lake	57	54	42	63.4	2.07
Redwood	220	177	202	72.6	2.61
Renville	212	201	182	68.5	2.49
Rice	698	797	794	54.5	1.86
Rock	124	125	136	74.9	2.56
Roseau	245	201	223	68.6	2.36
Scott	2,052	2,116	2,169	74.3	2.18

	2003 Births	2004 Births	2005 Births	General Fertility Rate	2004 Total Fertility Rate
Sherburne	1,203	1,229	1,329	65.8	1.97
Sibley	199	198	206	69.4	2.32
St. Louis	2,139	2,104	2,106	52.6	1.72
Stearns	1,838	1,841	1,885	55.9	1.86
Steele	536	507	520	70.9	2.29
Stevens	106	100	108	44.4	1.89
Swift	132	116	117	72.6	2.60
Todd	300	278	325	65.3	2.19
Traverse	36	37	35	60.4	2.37
Wabasha	265	260	272	60.6	2.08
Wadena	201	153	196	77.1	2.50
Waseca	260	270	260	74.9	2.42
Washington	2,930	2,856	2,870	61.8	2.06
Watonwan	171	137	146	77.1	2.50
Wilkin	86	82	64	61.3	2.28
Winona	498	551	552	44.2	1.63
Wright	1,926	1,888	2,023	77.6	2.37
Yellow Medicine	131	110	128	69.7	2.70

Birth data from Minnesota Center for Health Statistics.

Population data by age from U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

The total fertility rate is the average lifetime births per woman assuming constant age-specific rates. The general fertility rate is births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.

Births by city

The number of births is growing rapidly in some of Minnesota's developing suburbs such as Woodbury, Blaine and Shakopee. In some older suburbs and in the central cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, births have declined or remained about the same since 2000. Births have increased in Rochester and St. Cloud and have remained stable in Duluth.

Births in 1995, 2000 and 2005 for Minnesota

Cities with 500 or more Births in 2005

	1995	2000	2005
Minneapolis	5,739	6,645	6,247
St. Paul	4,764	5,138	5,165
Rochester	1,359	1,525	1,826
Brooklyn Park	1,021	1,215	1,383
Duluth	1,004	1,019	993
Bloomington	982	889	929
Burnsville	909	898	923
Coon Rapids	1,035	826	873
Eden Prairie	794	781	853
Woodbury	580	856	848
Eagan	1,142	950	825
Plymouth	873	863	799
Maple Grove	662	757	798
Blaine	579	663	797
Shakopee	287	442	775
St. Cloud	536	634	732
Apple Valley	581	656	618
St. Louis Park	570	642	601
Farmington	267	451	588
Richfield	461	496	585
Lakeville	582	567	577
Brooklyn Center	417	441	529

Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Sources

Birth data are from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Minnesota Health Statistics Annual Summary
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