

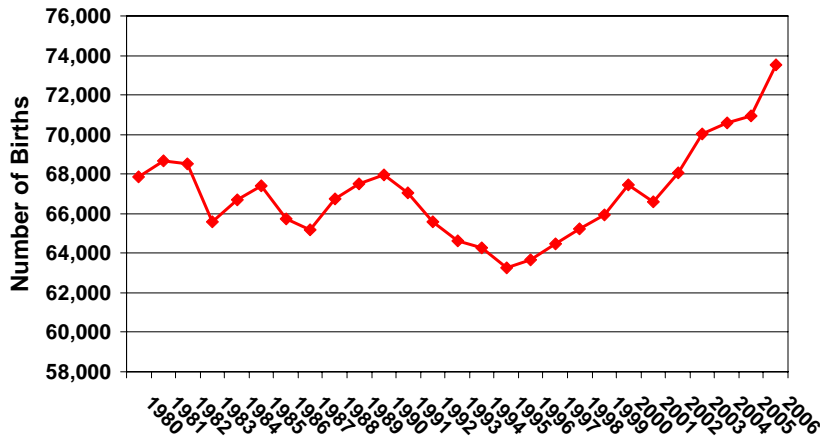


Minnesota Births and Fertility Rates Rise in 2006

- In 2006, Minnesota births were at their highest level since 1964.
- Between 2005 and 2006, fertility rates rose in most age groups, with the highest rate of growth among teenagers.
- Birth rates increased in all major racial and ethnic groups.
- The Minnesota trends are similar to those seen nationally.

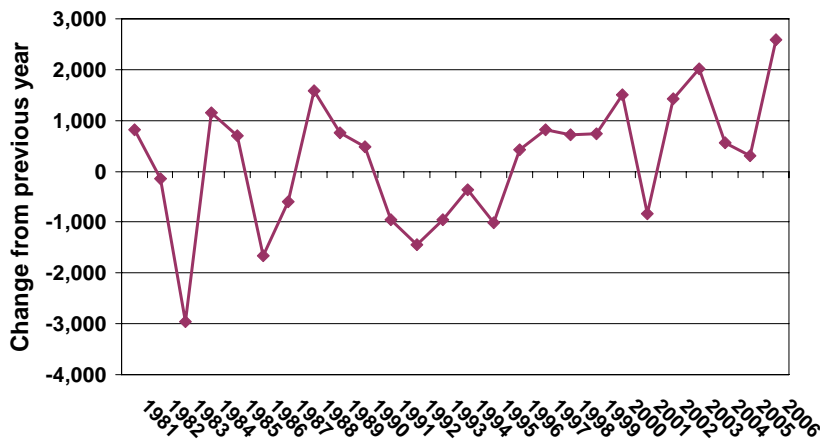
The number of births in Minnesota rose from 70,920 in 2005 to 73,515 in 2006, an increase of 3.7 percent. Minnesota Center for Health Statistics figures show that the 2006 number was the highest since 1964, when there were 76,895 births. The year-to-year increase in births, 2,595, was the largest single-year gain since 1979.

Minnesota Births Are Rising in the 2000s



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

2005-2006 Gain in Minnesota Births Is Large by Historical Standards



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Birth rates rise in most age groups

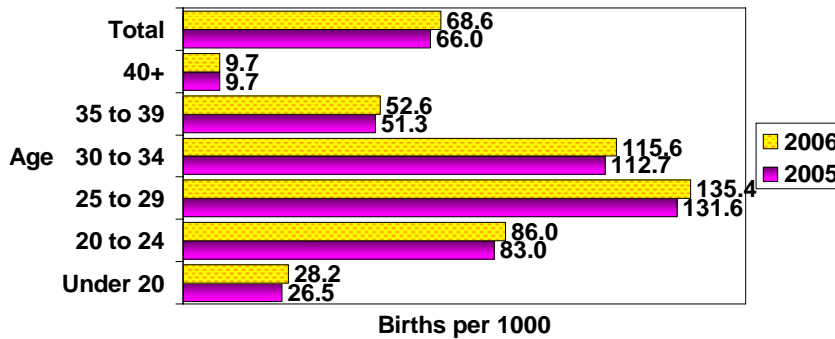
Many of the trends between 2005 and 2006 reverse the long-term trajectory towards delayed childbearing, falling birth rates for younger women, and rising birth rates for older women. Between 2005 and 2006, birth

rates rose faster for younger women. The fertility rate for women ages 15 to 19 went up more than 6 percent.

Birth rates for women over age 30 rose less than 3 percent.

Minnesota fertility rates increase in most age groups

2005 and 2006 Minnesota Center for Health
Statistics data



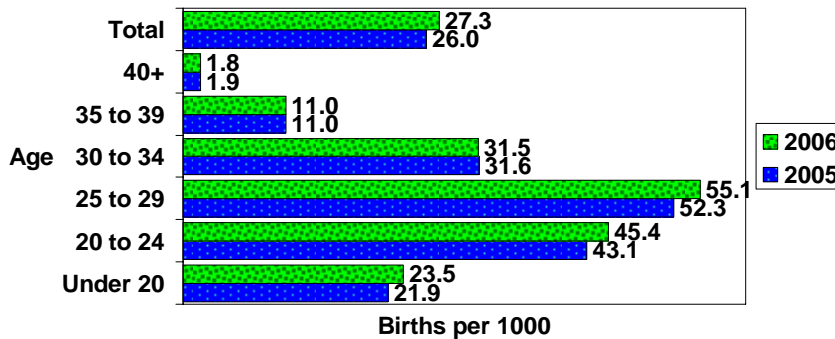
Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau age estimates

The general fertility rate, the number of births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44, rose from 66.0 in 2005 to 68.6 in 2006. The total fertility rate, the average number of lifetime births per woman given current age-specific fertility rates, increased from 2.07 to 2.14.

The rate of first births increased from 26.0 to 27.3 per thousand. First-birth rates for teenage mothers grew 7 percent, while first-birth rates for women over age 30 declined slightly. Rates of second, third and higher-order births also increased. The rate of second births went up from 21.6 to 22.4 per thousand women ages 15 to 44. Second-birth rates rose in every age group. The third-birth rate grew slightly from 18.5 to 18.9 per thousand.

First-birth rates rise for younger Minnesota age groups

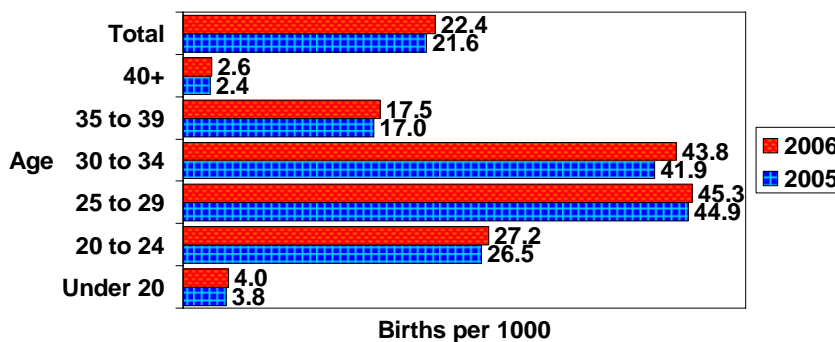
2005 and 2006 Minnesota Center for Health Statistics data



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau age estimates

Second-birth rates rise for younger Minnesota age groups

2005 and 2006 Minnesota Center for Health Statistics data



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau age estimates

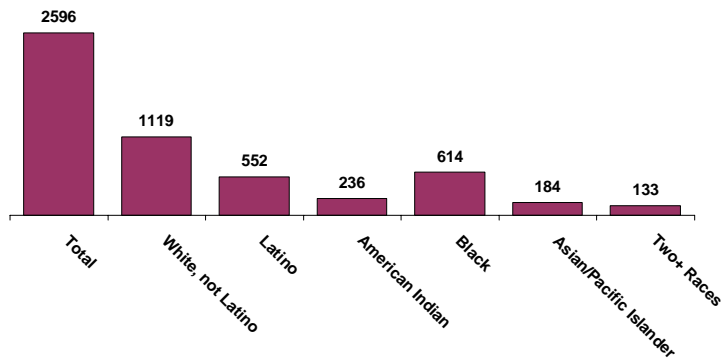
Birth rates rise in all racial and ethnic groups

The number of births and the fertility rate grew in all major race and ethnic groups. American Indians, Blacks and Latinos posted the largest gains in fertility rates. The general fertility rate for white, not Latino women

grew 3 percent, compared to gains of 16 percent for American Indian women, 7 percent for black women and 6 percent for Latino women. The rate for Asian women showed little change. These data should be interpreted with caution since population estimates by race and Hispanic origin may be inaccurate.

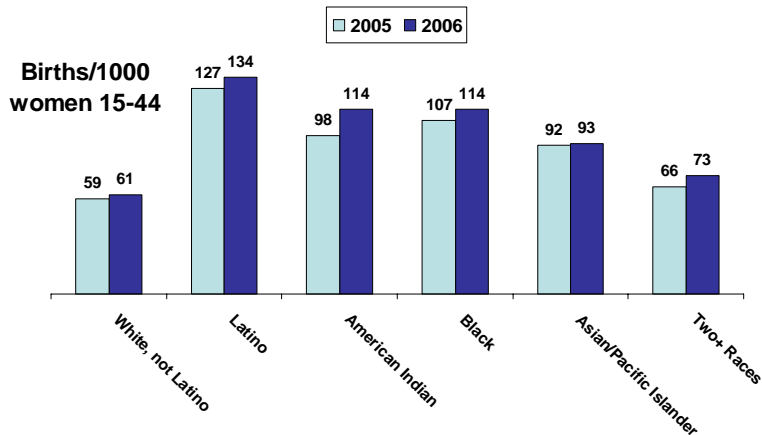
Births increase in all Minnesota race/ethnic groups

Change in number, 2005 to 2006



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics birth data. Missing data assigned in proportion to known cases. Ethnic groups do not add to total. Age estimates from U.S. Census Bureau

Estimated fertility rates rise in all Minnesota race/ethnic groups



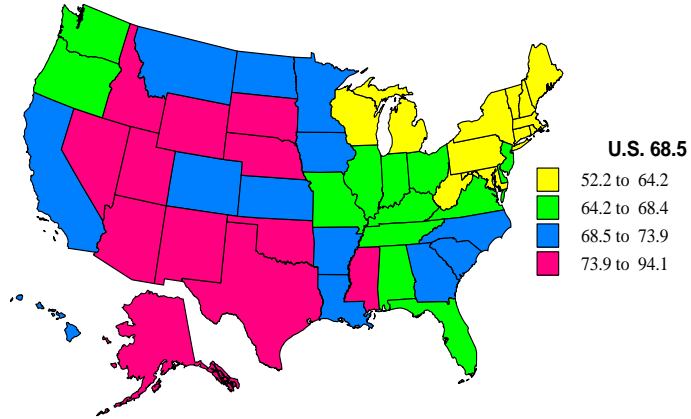
Minnesota Center for Health Statistics birth data.
Age estimates from U.S. Census Bureau

Births increase in the U.S.

Minnesota birth trends in 2006 mirror those at the national level, according to preliminary data from the National Center for Health Statistics. Births and fertility rates increased in most states. Nationally, as in Minnesota, fertility rates grew more at younger ages, went up for both first births and higher-order births, and increased in all racial and ethnic groups. In both Minnesota and the U.S., a higher proportion of mothers were unmarried in 2006 than in 2005.

General Fertility Rate, 2006

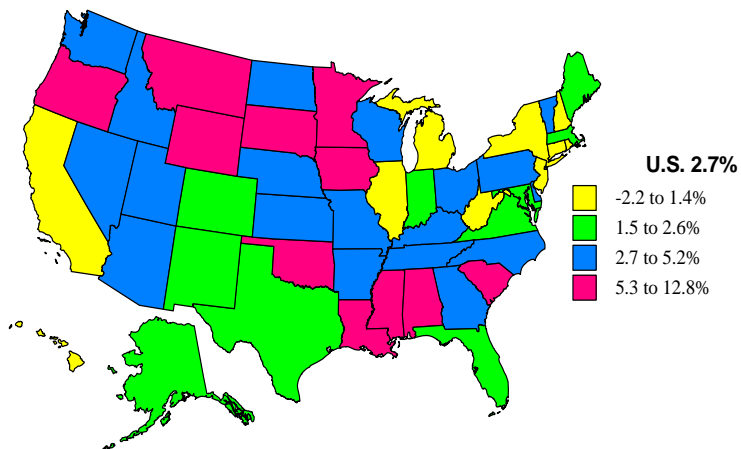
Births per 1,000 women 15 to 44



National Vital Statistics Reports, December 5, 2007

Percent Change in General Fertility Rate

2005 to 2006

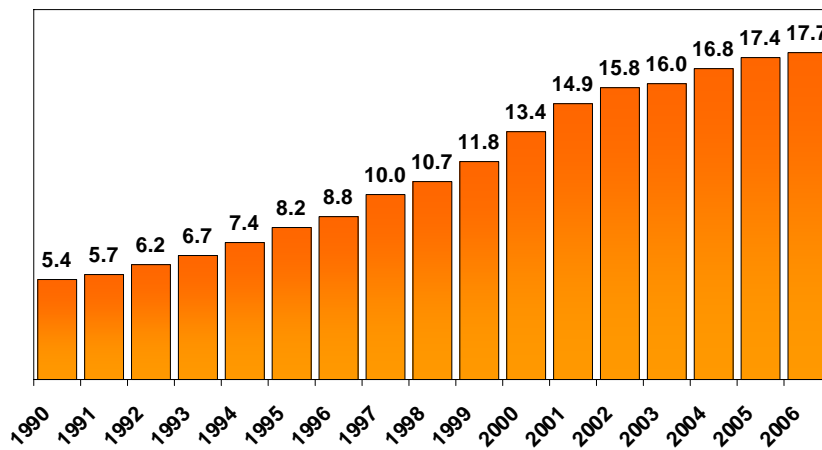


National Vital Statistics Reports, December 5, 2007

Number of foreign-born mothers continues to grow

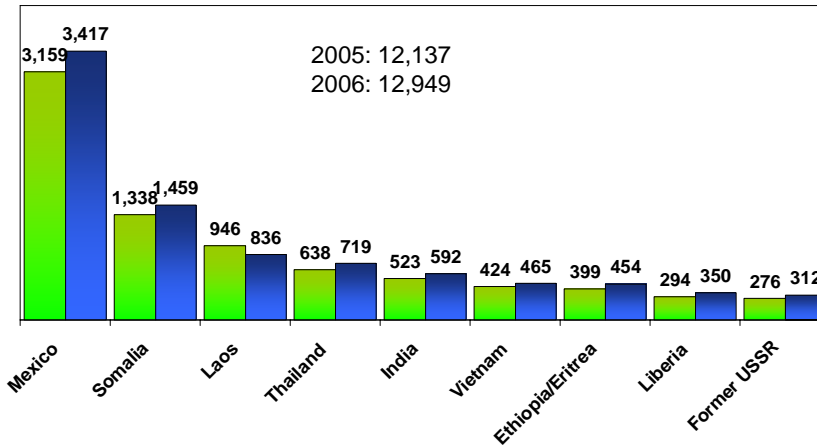
Immigrants have contributed to Minnesota's rising birth rate. The number of births to mothers born outside the U.S. or its territories rose 5 percent between 2005 and 2006, compared to a gain of 3 percent for U.S.-born women. Women born outside the United States account for almost 18 percent of all births. Mexico is the leading origin of foreign-born mothers, followed by Somalia and Laos.

Percent of births to foreign-born mothers in Minnesota



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Leading origins of foreign-born mothers in Minnesota, 2005 and 2006



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Foreign-born women have substantially larger families than native-born women, though the size of the difference depends on which data source is used. Using the foreign-born population number supplied by the American Community Survey and birth data from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, the general fertility rate for foreign-born women is 122.9 per thousand, almost twice as high as the rate for native-born women, 62.4. These results may overstate the difference somewhat since foreign-born women may be underrepresented in the ACS.

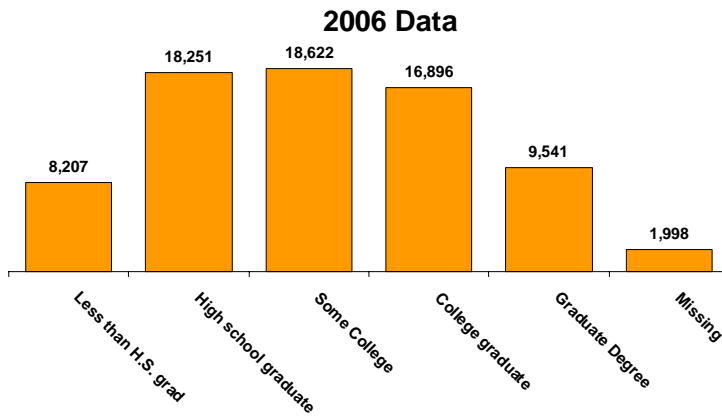
American Community Survey data on Minnesota women who gave birth during the past year also shows substantially higher birth rates for foreign-born women. Among foreign-born women ages 15 to 50, 101 per thousand reported bearing a child within the past year, compared to 55 per thousand among native-born women.

More births to less educated mothers

The number of births to mothers who did not finish high school increased 9 percent, faster than the number of births to women with more education. Foreign-born mothers accounted for about two-thirds of the additional births to women who were not high school graduates. There was also a substantial gain in the number of cases

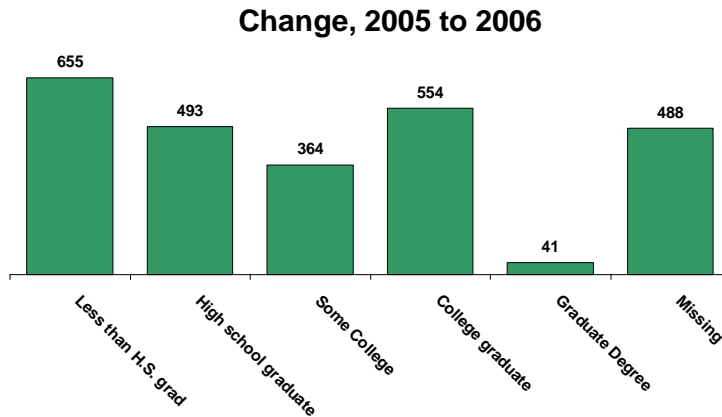
where education of the mother was missing on the birth record. The number of college graduate mothers went up 3 percent, but births to mothers with a graduate or professional degree were static.

Educational Attainment of Minnesota Mothers



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics birth data.

Greatest Increase Occurs among Women Who Did Not Finish High School

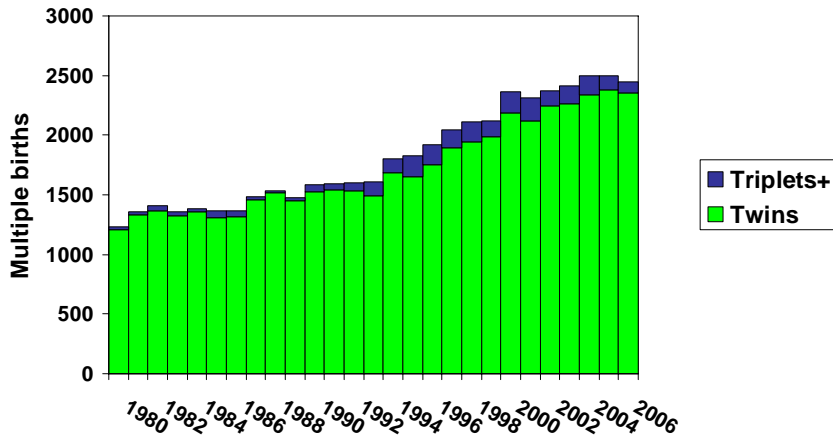


Minnesota Center for Health Statistics birth data.

Number of plural births decline

Another shift in the 2006 birth statistics was a decline in the number of twins and other higher-plurality births. Multiple births had risen in number and proportion for many years, reflecting the older age of childbearing and increased use of fertility treatments. But between 2005 and 2006 the number of multiple births fell just slightly from 2,498 to 2,449. Multiple births accounted for 3.3 percent of births in 2006, lower than the 2005 figure of 3.5 percent.

Multiple births declined in 2006

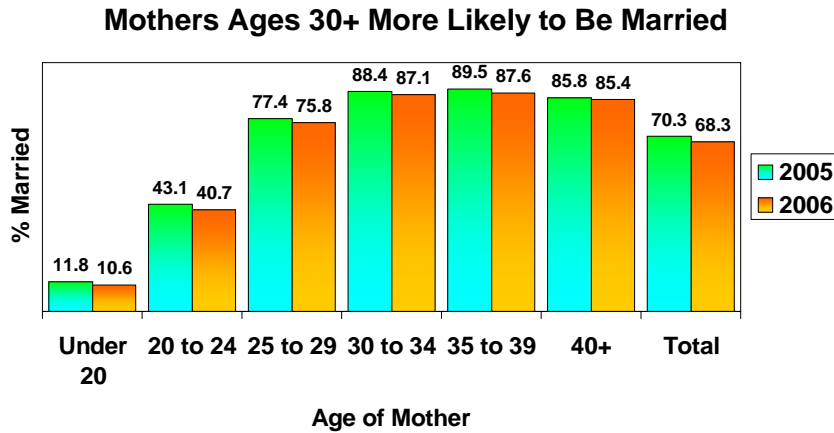


Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

More mothers are unmarried

The proportion of unmarried mothers continues to rise. In 2006, 31.7 percent of mothers were not married, up from 29.7 percent in 2005.

Proportion of Minnesota mothers who are married by age, 2005 and 2006



Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

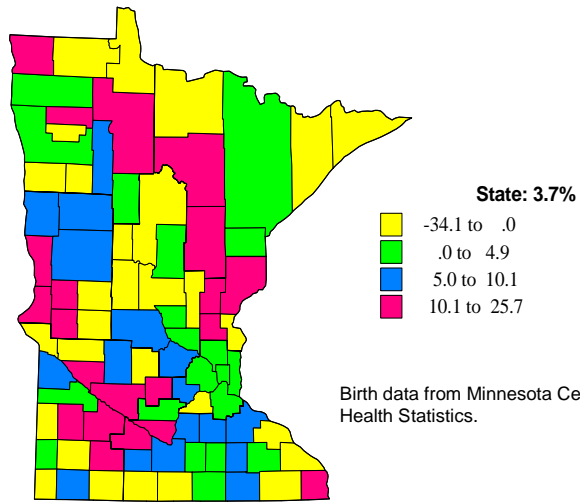
Cohabiting relationships are common among unmarried mothers. The 2006 American Community Survey estimates that about 41 percent of unmarried women who had a child within the past 12 months were living with an unmarried partner. Studies published by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development estimate that two in five babies born to unmarried women live with both biological parents.

Non-metro births grow faster than metro births

The 11 counties in the Minnesota portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area accounted for 62 percent of all births in 2006. Births grew faster outside the metro area, 4.4 percent, than inside, 3.2 percent.

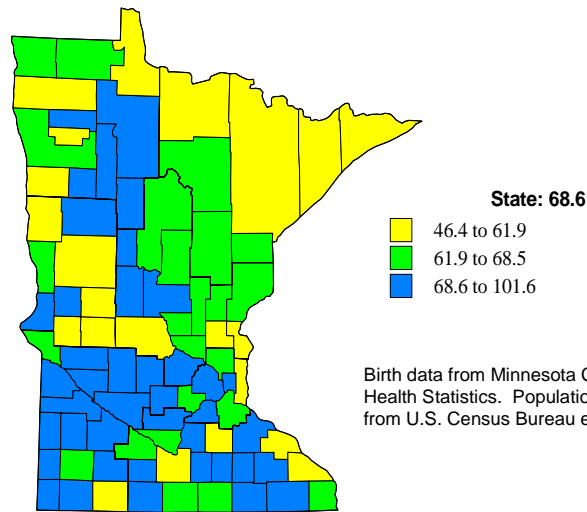
Percent change in number of births

2005 to 2006



2006 General Fertility Rates

Births per 1,000 women 15 to 44



Estimated fertility rates also vary by county, with southern Minnesota and the north central region generally having higher rates than the northeast or the counties along the northwestern border.

Births by County, 2003 to 2006, and 2006 General Fertility Rate

	2003 Births	2004 Births	2005 Births	2006 Births	2006 General Fertility Rate
Minnesota	70,053	70,614	70,920	73,515	68.6
Aitkin	144	167	145	162	62.5
Anoka	4,339	4,429	4,363	4,471	62.9
Becker	413	442	406	432	70.5
Beltrami	631	632	656	725	73.9
Benton	579	577	599	620	67.1
Big Stone	43	53	59	54	65.2
Blue Earth	698	666	745	792	56.3
Brown	274	301	286	331	68.2
Carlton	380	407	421	429	65.0
Carver	1,182	1,253	1,237	1,338	66.2
Cass	303	365	405	371	67.7
Chippewa	165	145	144	174	79.5
Chisago	718	689	718	696	61.4
Clay	694	654	715	757	57.0
Clearwater	129	125	116	127	83.7
Cook	46	32	49	47	50.6
Cottonwood	130	156	131	146	76.2
Crow Wing	728	749	774	812	66.4
Dakota	5,404	5,537	5,424	5,664	66.7
Dodge	309	285	270	297	71.3
Douglas	377	412	432	421	60.9
Faribault	168	168	168	164	67.4
Fillmore	284	261	289	283	74.7
Freeborn	380	385	372	378	68.2
Goodhue	561	579	552	601	68.7
Grant	72	63	64	80	76.3
Hennepin	16,440	16,718	16,348	16,780	73.1
Houston	209	211	225	255	68.3
Hubbard	211	212	226	236	69.3
Isanti	460	468	473	533	59.1
Itasca	488	515	450	514	64.0
Jackson	110	114	112	108	55.9

	2003 Births	2004 Births	2005 Births	2006 Births	2006 General Fertility Rate
Kanabec	164	186	168	210	62.4
Kandiyohi	582	603	574	608	79.5
Kittson	34	51	38	42	65.3
Koochiching	126	128	122	114	49.9
Lac qui Parle	55	73	69	75	69.1
Lake	103	73	112	103	52.4
Lake of the Woods	50	41	43	38	52.5
Le Sueur	315	353	365	402	70.5
Lincoln	75	72	74	70	74.9
Lyon	292	318	320	382	75.1
Mahnomen	91	81	97	83	99.6
Marshall	111	121	92	95	57.4
Martin	231	225	244	229	70.0
McLeod	511	551	509	563	74.5
Meeker	307	295	336	323	74.5
Mille Lacs	325	325	405	371	66.7
Morrison	408	431	443	443	70.0
Mower	536	509	538	575	82.8
Murray	81	95	95	88	62.5
Nicollet	368	403	372	439	62.6
Nobles	327	337	314	344	101.6
Norman	74	75	91	60	56.1
Olmsted	2,082	2,150	2,179	2,210	76.6
Otter Tail	614	576	602	632	61.9
Pennington	196	187	176	200	75.5
Pine	324	317	328	363	65.5
Pipestone	106	125	138	143	90.8
Polk	377	377	378	395	67.5
Pope	133	106	124	120	60.0
Ramsey	7,420	7,272	7,309	7,578	75.3
Red Lake	57	54	42	41	55.9
Redwood	220	177	202	227	88.1
Renville	212	201	182	226	80.4
Rice	698	797	794	842	59.7
Rock	124	125	136	134	80.8
Roseau	245	201	223	195	62.6
Scott	2,052	2,116	2,169	2,118	69.7

	2003 Births	2004 Births	2005 Births	2006 Births	2006 General Fertility Rate
Sherburne	1,203	1,229	1,329	1,385	67.4
Sibley	199	198	206	215	76.0
St. Louis	2,139	2,104	2,106	2,167	56.4
Stearns	1,838	1,841	1,885	1,990	60.9
Steele	536	507	520	541	73.2
Stevens	106	100	108	122	54.2
Swift	132	116	117	111	74.1
Todd	300	278	325	319	70.9
Traverse	36	37	35	44	76.7
Wabasha	265	260	272	256	60.5
Wadena	201	153	196	196	84.3
Waseca	260	270	260	272	78.5
Washington	2,930	2,856	2,870	2,960	61.9
Watonwan	171	137	146	160	85.6
Wilkin	86	82	64	74	63.0
Winona	498	551	552	538	46.4
Wright	1,926	1,888	2,023	2,152	80.0
Yellow Medicine	131	110	128	134	76.9

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 rise in most large cities

The number of births in most cities with 500 or more births in 2006 was higher than in the previous year, though there were a few exceptions, for example Eden Prairie and Apple Valley. Minneapolis posted a gain of more than 300, while births in Richfield rose 18 percent from the 2005 level.

Births in 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2006 for Minnesota Cities with 500 or more Births in 2006

	1995	2000	2005	2006
Minneapolis	5,739	6,645	6,247	6,557
St. Paul	4,764	5,138	5,165	5,216
Rochester	1,359	1,525	1,826	1,814
Brooklyn Park	1,021	1,215	1,383	1,416
Duluth	1,004	1,019	993	1,036
Bloomington	982	889	929	959
Burnsville	909	898	923	952
Woodbury	580	856	848	900
Coon Rapids	1,035	826	873	882
Eagan	1,142	950	825	852
Blaine	579	663	797	848
Maple Grove	662	757	798	799
Shakopee	287	442	775	793
Eden Prairie	794	781	853	782
St. Cloud	536	634	732	782
Plymouth	873	863	799	762
Richfield	461	496	585	689
Farmington	267	451	588	613
St. Louis Park	570	642	601	601
Lakeville	582	567	577	600
Apple Valley	581	656	618	597
Brooklyn Center	417	441	529	535
Bemidji	376	421	454	511

Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Are 2006 changes a harbinger of the future?

With trends towards younger child-bearing and rising fertility, the 2006 birth data are in many ways a departure from the longer term shifts over the past couple of decades. It is too soon to say whether these new directions are just a temporary aberration or whether they will be more long-lasting. Time will tell.

Sources

The Minnesota birth data come from a file of 2006 births provided by the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics.

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U.S. Census Bureau estimates by age, sex, race and Hispanic origin

<http://www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html>

2006 American Community Survey data

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