



Fertility of foreign-born women in Minnesota

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- Foreign-born women in Minnesota have higher fertility rates than U.S. born women.
- Fertility rates of foreign-born women in Minnesota are higher than the national average.
- Fertility rates among foreign-born women appear to vary greatly by country of origin.
- Foreign-born mothers are on average younger, less educated and more racially and ethnically diverse than mothers born in the United States.

Fertility differences between foreign-born and native-born women in Minnesota are significant because they could affect

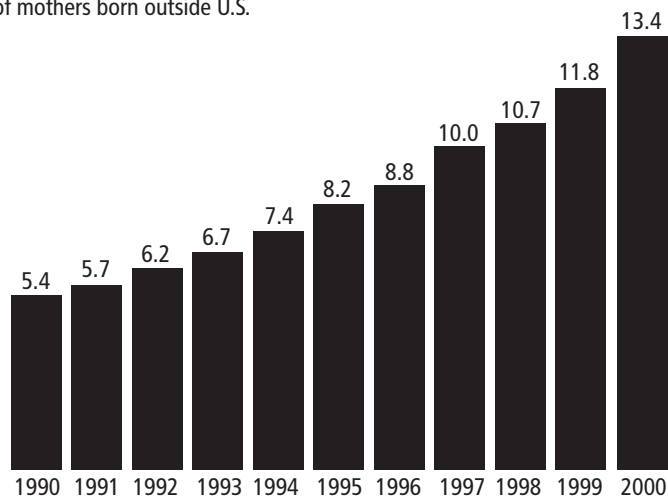
future births and school enrollments. As the immigrant population grows, new arrivals are having a major influence on emerging demographic trends. This report summarizes basic information about fertility differences between immigrant and native-born women.

Births to foreign-born mothers are increasing

The proportion of Minnesota births to mothers born outside the United States is rising. In 2000, 13.4 percent of births in the state were to women born outside the United States, up from 5.4 percent in 1990. The number of births to foreign-born mothers rose from 3,641 in 1990 to 9,065 in 2000.

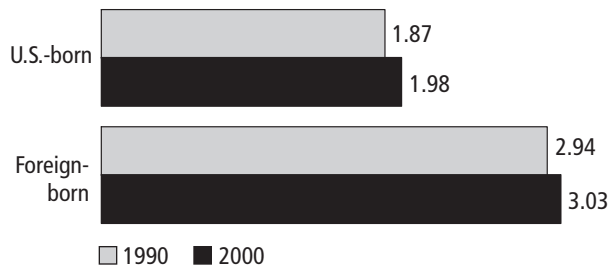
Proportion of births to foreign-born mothers in Minnesota was more than twice as high in 2000 as in 1990

Percent of mothers born outside U.S.



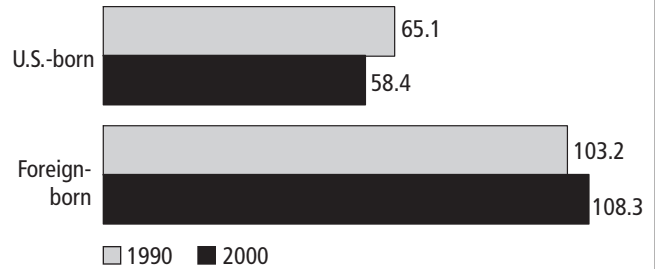
Sources: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Minnesota total fertility rate is higher for foreign-mothers



Sources: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 birth data. Population data for 1990 from Public Use Microdata Sample. 2000 population data from U.S. Census Bureau Advanced Query. Total fertility rate is lifetime births per woman at current age-specific rates.

Minnesota general fertility rate is higher for foreign-born mothers



Sources: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 birth data. Population data for 1990 from Public Use Microdata Sample. 2000 population data from U.S. Census Bureau Advanced Query. General fertility rate is births per 1,000 women age 15 to 44.

Fertility rates are higher for foreign-born mothers

The total fertility rate for Minnesota foreign-born women in 2000 was 3.03, compared to 1.98 for U.S.-born women. The total fertility rate is the number of children a woman will have on average if fertility rates by age do not change. Foreign-born women in every age group have higher fertility rates.

The general fertility rate was also much higher for foreign-born women, 108 per 1,000 compared to 58 per 1,000.

The general fertility rate is the annual number of births per 1,000 women age 15 to 44.

Total fertility rates rose slightly for both U.S.-born and foreign-born women between 1990 and 2000. The general fertility rate rose for foreign-born women but fell for U.S.-born women. The decline among the U.S.-born group was due to the aging of women within the 15- to 44-year-old age group. There are more women in their late thirties and forties, ages when fertility rates are lower. This aging trend did not occur among the foreign-born women.

Fertility rates of foreign-born women are higher in Minnesota than in the nation

In 2000 the general fertility rate for foreign-born women in the United States was 85 per 1,000, considerably lower than the 108 per 1,000 among Minnesota foreign-born women. The total fertility rate for foreign-born women in the nation was also lower, 2.63 compared to 3.03 in Minnesota.

The differences between Minnesota and the nation probably are related to the mix of immigrants. Minnesota's immigrant population includes a larger proportion of refugees, and a different blend of national origin groups.

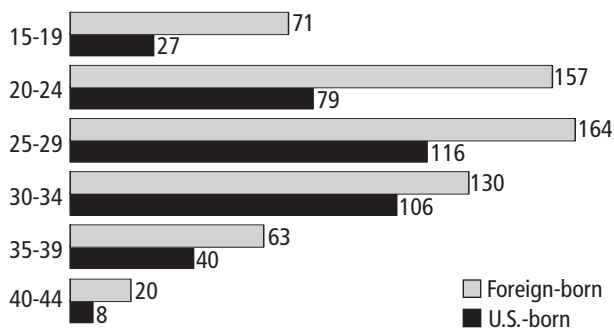
perfect. For example, most Hmong immigrant women in Minnesota were born in Laos, but the Laos figure also includes women of Lao ethnicity and perhaps others. Presumably most women born in Somalia are ethnic Somalis, but there could be some exceptions and ethnic Somalis may come from other countries.

It was not possible to calculate fertility rates by country of origin, but information on birth order suggests considerable differences among groups. The birth order question on the birth certificate asks how many babies the mother had before the current one. If most babies born to mothers in a particular national origin group are first- or second-born children, the average family size in that group is probably much smaller than it is in a group with many fifth, sixth and seventh children.

Overall, 17 percent of births to foreign-born mothers were at least the fourth child born to that woman. The comparable figure for U.S.-born women was 10 percent. Among births to mothers from Laos, almost half (49 percent) were fourth

Birth rates for Minnesota foreign-born women are higher in every age group

Fertility rate per 1,000 women



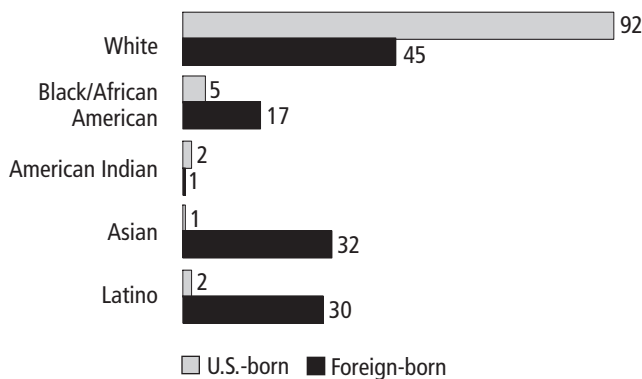
Sources: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 birth data. 2000 age data from U.S. Census Bureau Advanced Query.

Mexico, Laos and Somalia account for greatest number of immigrant mothers

The most common birthplaces of foreign-born mothers in Minnesota in 2000 were Mexico (2,241), Laos (1,183) and Somalia (808). Place of birth is a good indicator of ethnic background, though the correspondence is not

Minnesota's foreign-born mothers are more ethnically diverse than U.S. born mothers

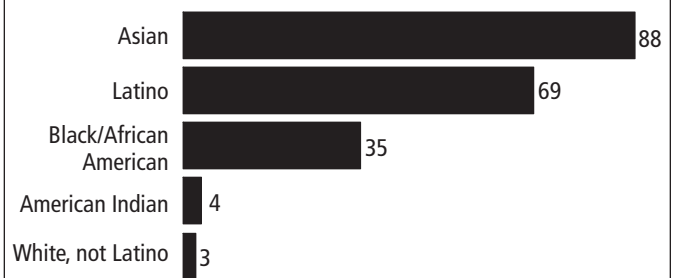
Percent in race/ethnic group



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 data

Majority of Minnesota Asian and Latino mothers in 2000 were born outside U.S.

Percent foreign-born



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics data.

or higher order births. The figure for Somali-born mothers (24 percent) was also higher than average. In contrast, the proportion of fourth or higher-order births for Mexican-born mothers (12 percent) was close to the U.S.-born average, and the figure for Vietnam-born mothers (4 percent) was substantially lower. These comparisons suggests that women born in Laos have a much higher fertility rate than women born in Mexico or Vietnam.

Foreign-born mothers are younger

On average, foreign-born mothers are younger. About 34 percent of Minnesota foreign-born mothers were under age 25, compared to 28 percent of mothers born in the United States. Thirty-seven percent of foreign-born mothers were 30 or older, compared to 45 percent of mothers born in the States.

Foreign-born mothers are more racially diverse

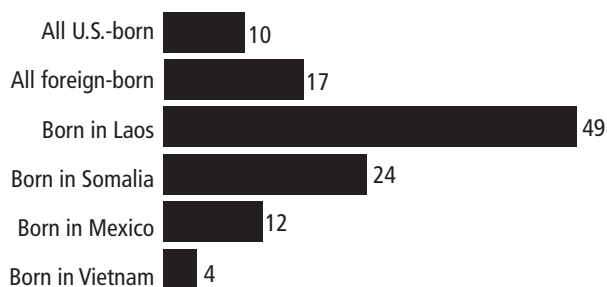
Immigrant mothers are contributing to Minnesota's growing racial and ethnic diversity. Less than half (45 percent) of foreign-born mothers in 2000 were white, compared to 92 percent of U.S.-born mothers. The percent of Asians, Latinos and African Americans were much higher among the foreign-born mothers. For example, less than 1 percent of native-born mothers were Asian, compared to 32 percent of the foreign-born.

Foreign-born mothers account for 88 percent of Asian births, 69 percent of Latino births and 35 percent of black births. They contribute little to the number of American Indian and white, not Latino births.

National studies show that foreign-born women are less likely to marry a member of a different racial or ethnic group than are native-born women. Immigrants may be already married by the time they move to the United States, and many live in ethnic enclaves where they have little contact with other groups.

Minnesota foreign-born mothers more likely to have 4 or more children

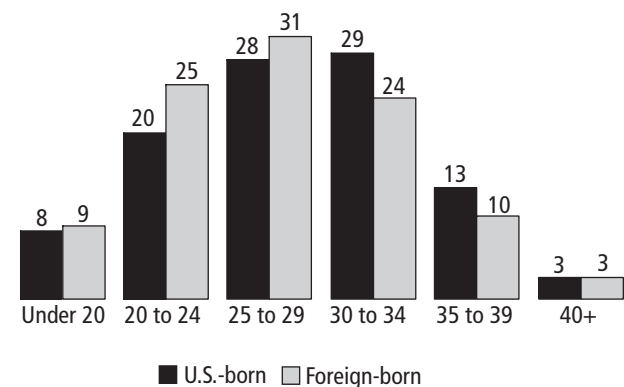
Percent of births, 4th child or higher



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 data.

U.S.-born mothers in Minnesota are older than foreign-born mothers

Percent of all mothers



Sources: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 data.

In Minnesota, this national pattern is reversed. Foreign-born mothers in Minnesota are more likely than U.S.-born women to have a spouse or partner from a different racial or ethnic background. In 12 percent of births to foreign-born mothers, the father of the child was of a different race than the mother, or one parent was Latino and the other not Latino. For births to U.S.-born mothers, the comparable figure was 6 percent. These figures are based only on cases where data was available for both parents; there is a substantial amount of missing data for fathers.

The reasons for the Minnesota difference are not clear at this point. It may be related to the relatively small size of many foreign-born groups or to compositional differences between the foreign-born population in Minnesota and the United States.

Proportion of unmarried births is similar

The proportion of births to unmarried mothers is similar for Minnesota foreign-born and U.S.-born mothers, 27 percent compared to 25 percent.

At the national level, in contrast to Minnesota, foreign-born mothers are much more likely to be married than native-born women. In 2000, 83 percent of foreign-born mothers in the United States were married, compared to 66 percent of native-born mothers.

Foreign-born mothers are less educated

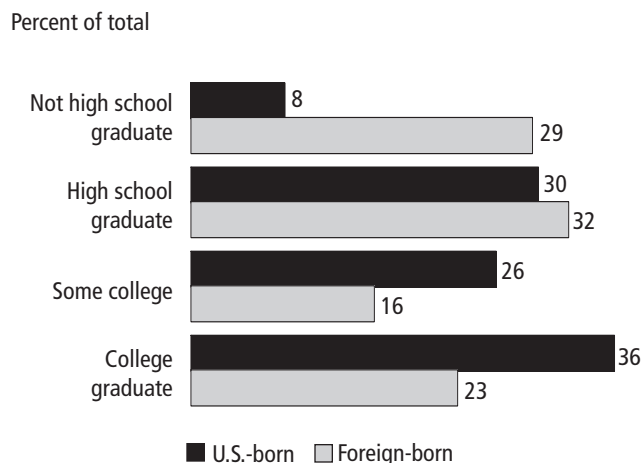
On average, Minnesota mothers born in the United States have more education than their counterparts born abroad. Among foreign-born mothers, 29 percent had not completed high school, compared to 8 percent of U.S.-born mothers. U.S.-born mothers were more likely to be college graduates, 36 percent compared to 23 percent. The real differences in educational attainment may be slightly greater than these figures show because there is more missing data for the foreign-born.

Foreign-born mothers are diverse

Differences between native-born and immigrant mothers are substantial, but should not be exaggerated. Seventy percent of foreign-born mothers have completed high school or attended college. The total fertility rate of 3.03 for foreign-born women means that on average they will have about 3 children, a figure lower than for U.S. women during the peak of the baby boom era.

The numbers show considerable diversity among foreign-born mothers. Though less educated on average, many have completed college. And fertility appears to vary enormously by country of origin. These differences point to the difficulty in projecting future births and fertility rates among immigrants. Fertility rates are likely to vary substantially depending on where immigrants come from, why they come to Minnesota, how long they have lived here, and other characteristics.

Minnesota foreign-born mothers have less education



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics 2000 data

Notes on methodology

In this report, "U.S.-born" refers only to women born in the United States. The term "native-born" used by the Census Bureau has a slightly broader definition. It includes people born abroad to U.S. citizens as well as those born in Puerto Rico and U.S. territories. Since the birth data does not show whether the mother's parents were United States citizens, a narrower definition is used here. The effect on the results should be small.

The Census Bureau fertility study employs the broader meaning of native-born, so comparisons between national and Minnesota data are not based on exactly the same definition.

Birth data was provided by the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics. The population data used to calculate fertility rates comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. Published census data does not include information on the foreign-born population by age and gender. For 1990,

the age data was obtained from the Public Use Microdata Sample. For 2000, the foreign-born age data was obtained using the Census Bureau's Advanced Query.

Population data is for April 1 of the census year. Strictly speaking, a mid-year population figure should be used to calculate rates, since the birth data covers an entire calendar year. A July 1 population would be slightly higher than an April 1 population, so the true fertility rates should be just slightly lower than those shown in this report. The differences would be small and would not affect any conclusions mentioned here.

Total fertility rates for the United States were estimated using data on age-specific fertility rates provided in the Census Bureau report listed under sources.

Sources

Fertility of American Women: June 2000. U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, P20-543RV. October 2001.

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2000 birth data from Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Minnesota Department of Health.

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