

# Minnesota Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

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## MARRIAGES, DIVORCES AND LIVE BIRTHS IN MINNESOTA

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### DATA SOURCES

- ◆ Minnesota Department of Health, *Minnesota Health Statistics* and *Minnesota Vital Statistics* (selected years)
- ◆ National Vital Statistics Reports, *Births: Final Data for 2000* and *Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-99*

## DEFINITIONS AND DATA NOTES

Metro Minnesota includes the seven counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington in the Twin Cities area.

Greater Minnesota includes the eighty counties outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

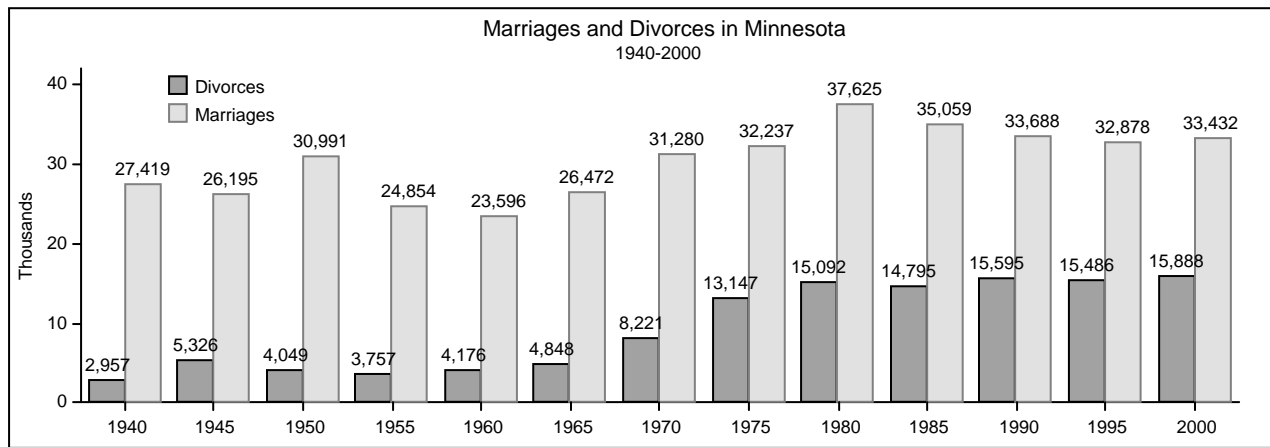
Marriage Rate: Number of marriages per 1,000 population.

Divorce Rate: Number of divorces and annulments per 1,000 population.

Data Note: Divorce and Marriage Dissolution are used interchangeably in this newsletter.

Data Note: Marriage dissolutions include annulments for the purposes of this newsletter.

## Marriages and Divorces in Minnesota



### Number of Marriages

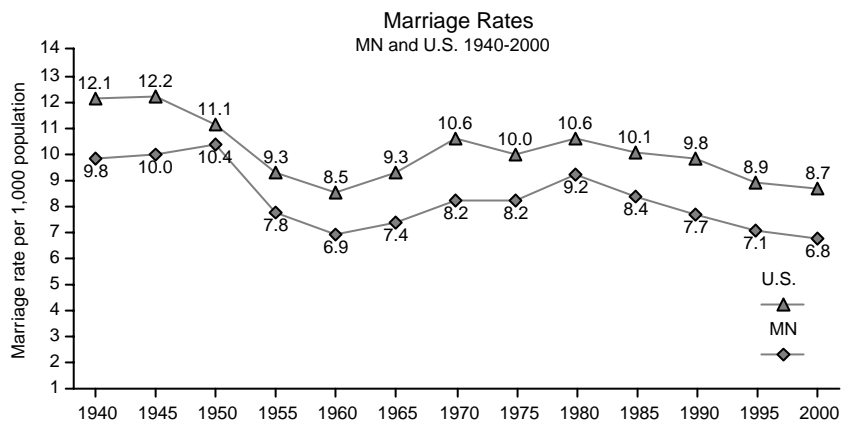
The number of marriages occurring in Minnesota has varied over the years.

- ◆ The number of marriages occurring in Minnesota increased dramatically (nearly 60%) from 23,596 in 1960 to 37,625 in 1980.
- ◆ The number of marriages peaked in 1981 when 37,638 couples married in Minnesota.
- ◆ In the 1990s the number of marriages remained relatively stable ranging from 32,218 to 33,688.
- ◆ There were 33,432 marriages in Minnesota in 2000, the highest number of marriages since 1990.
- ◆ Of the marriages that occurred in Minnesota in 2000, fifty-five percent (18,488) were in the seven county metro area and forty-five percent (14,944) were in Greater Minnesota.
- ◆ More than one-half of the marriages that occurred in Minnesota in 2000 took place in the four months of June through September. September was the month with the largest number (4,994) of marriages in Minnesota and January was the month with the fewest (1,179).

### Marriage Rates in Minnesota and the U.S.

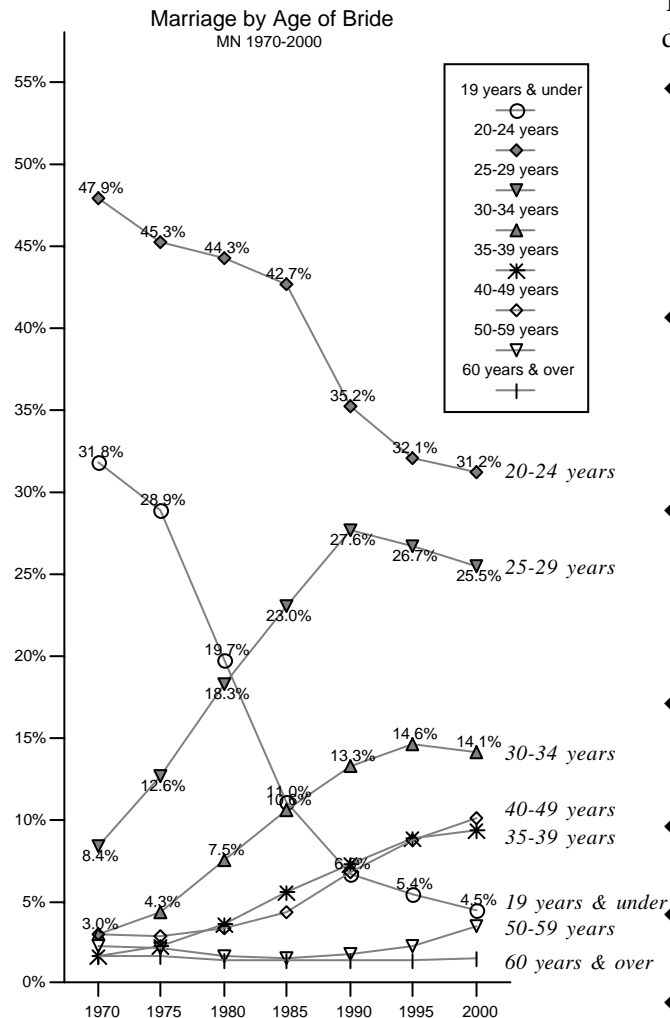
In Minnesota the marriage rate, or marriages per 1,000 population, has been consistently lower than the U.S. rate.

- ◆ The marriage rate in Minnesota has varied in the past 60 years and has ranged between a high of 13.6 in 1946 and a low of 6.8 in 2000.
- ◆ From 1940 to 1950, the marriage rate increased slightly in Minnesota from 9.8 to 10.4 per 1,000 population.
- ◆ From 1950 to 1960 the marriage rate declined significantly in Minnesota from 10.4 to 6.9 per 1,000 population.
- ◆ From 1960 to 1980, the marriage rate increased in Minnesota from 6.9 to 9.2 per 1,000 population.
- ◆ From 1980 to 2000, the marriage rate in Minnesota declined 26 percent from 9.2 per 1,000 to 6.8 per 1,000 population.



## Marriages and Divorces in Minnesota *continued*

### Marriage by Age of Bride



The distribution of women by age of bride at marriage has changed dramatically over the past 30 years.

- ♦ Women age 20 to 24 years comprised the largest percentage of brides in Minnesota from 1970 to 2000. However, the percentage of brides in this age group decreased significantly from 1970 to 2000. In 1970 women age 20 to 24 years were just under one-half (47.9%) of brides and in 2000 they comprised just under one-third (31.2%) of brides in Minnesota.
- ♦ The percentage of Minnesota brides age 19 years and under decreased dramatically from 1970 to 2000. Women age 19 years and under accounted for the second largest percentage of brides in 1970 (31.8%). In 2000 women in this age group were less than five percent (4.5%) of brides.
- ♦ The percentage of brides age 25 to 29 years increased dramatically from 8.4 percent in 1970 to 27.6 percent in 1990. Since 1990, the percentage of brides in this age group has decreased slightly and in 2000 they accounted for about one-quarter (25.5%) of brides.
- ♦ The percentage of brides age 30 to 34 years increased substantially from 3.0 percent of brides in 1970 to 14.1 percent of brides in 2000.
- ♦ The percentage of brides age 35 to 39 years increased from 1.7 percent in 1970 to 9.3 percent in 2000.
- ♦ The percentage of brides age 40 to 49 years increased from 3.0 percent in 1970 to 10.1 percent in 2000.
- ♦ The percentage of brides age 60 years and over remained relatively stable accounting for less than 2 percent of brides between 1970 and 2000.

### Number of Divorces

The number of marriage dissolutions occurring in Minnesota has increased over the years (see Marriages and Divorces in Minnesota chart on top of page 2).

- ♦ Less than three thousand (2,957) couples divorced in Minnesota in 1940.
- ♦ The largest increase in divorces in Minnesota occurred from 1970 and 1975, when the number of divorces increased from 8,221 to 13,147.
- ♦ Since 1990, the number of divorces has remained relatively stable.
- ♦ In 2000, the number of divorcing couples in Minnesota was 15,888, a 4 percent decrease from the peak of 16,575 divorces in 1992.
- ♦ Of the divorces that took place in Minnesota in 2000, 57.8 percent (9,182) were in the seven-county metro area and 42.2 percent (6,703) were in Greater Minnesota.

### Ratio of Marriages to Divorces

The ratio of marriages to divorces has varied over the years in Minnesota.

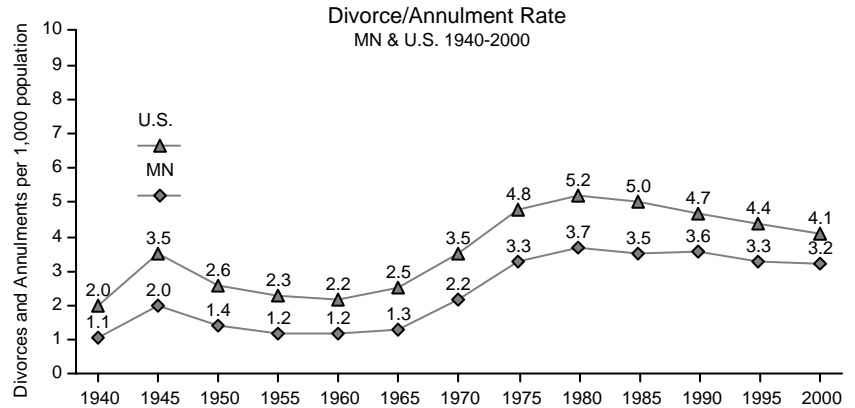
- ♦ In 1940 there were 9.3 marriages to one divorce in Minnesota.
- ♦ In 1950 the ratio of marriages to divorces was 7.7 to 1. Since that time it decreased significantly to 2.1 to 1 in 2000.

## Marriages and Divorces in Minnesota *continued*

### *Divorce Rates in Minnesota and the U.S.*

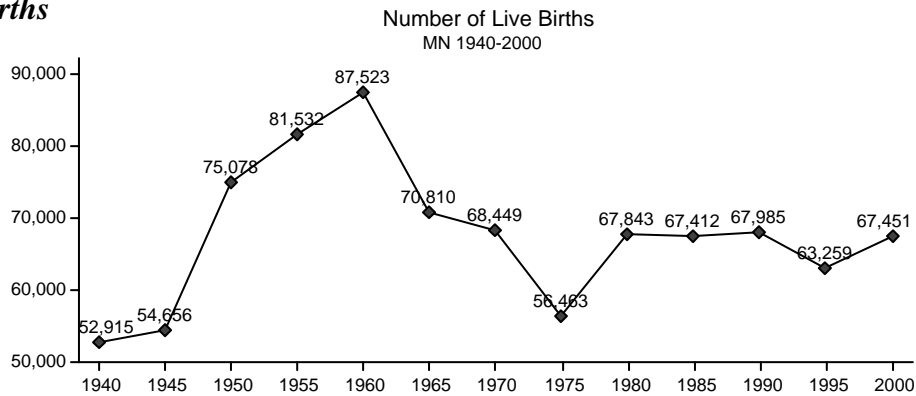
Historically, Minnesota has had a lower divorce rate, or number of divorces and annulments per 1,000 population, than the U.S. rates.

- ◆ From 1940 to 2000 the divorce rate in Minnesota has ranged between a low of 1.1 in 1940, 1957 and 1959 and a high of 4.0 in 1981.
- ◆ Between 1960 and 1980 the divorce rate in Minnesota more than tripled increasing from 1.2 to 3.7 per 1,000 population.
- ◆ Divorce rates were nearly level during the 1980s. Since 1990 the divorce rate has decreased slightly.



## Live Births in Minnesota

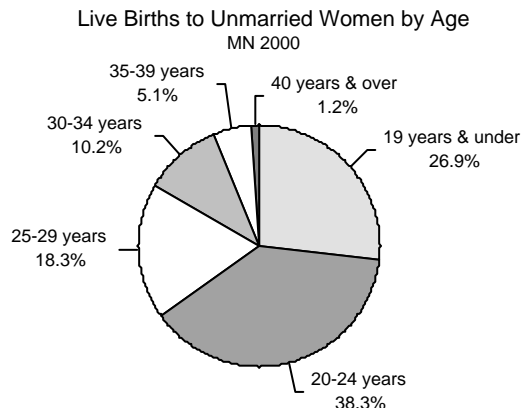
### *Number of Live Births*



The number of live births to Minnesota residents has varied over the years.

- ◆ The number of live births increased dramatically after 1945 and peaked at 88,333 in 1959.
- ◆ The number of live births decreased from 1960 to 1975 and was relatively stable from 1980 to 1990.
- ◆ In 2000 there were 67,451 live births to Minnesota residents, an increase of 2.3 percent from 1999.
- ◆ Of the live births to Minnesota residents in 2000, 58.4 percent (39,419) were in the seven-county metro area and 41.6 percent (28,032) were in Greater Minnesota.

### *Live Births to Unmarried Women by Age*

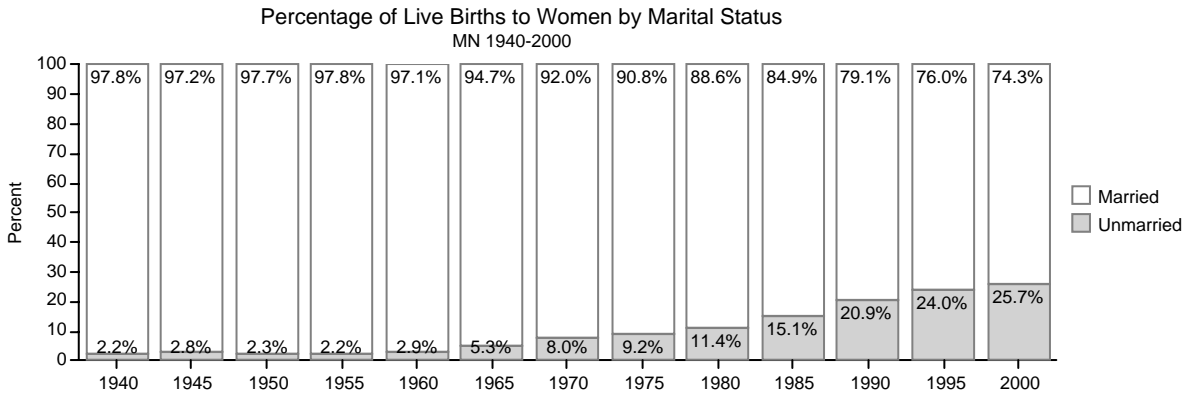


Of the 67,451 live births to Minnesota residents in 2000, about one-fourth (25.7%) or 17,359 were to unmarried women.

- ◆ In 2000, births to women age 19 years and under accounted for more than one-quarter (26.9%) of births to unmarried women in Minnesota.
- ◆ The largest share (38.3%) of births to unmarried women in Minnesota were to women age 20 to 24 years in 2000.
- ◆ In 2000, just over one-third (34.8%) of births to unmarried women in Minnesota were to women age 25 years and over.

## Live Births in Minnesota *continued*

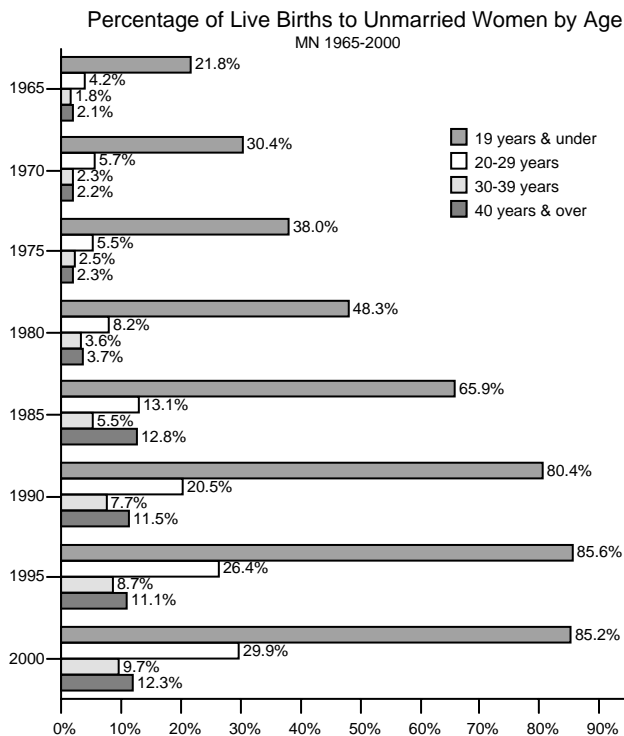
### *Live Births to Women by Marital Status*



The percentage of births to unmarried women has risen substantially in the past thirty-five years. The proportion of births to unmarried women residents of Minnesota is lower than in the United States.

- ◆ The percentage of births to unmarried women was low (less than 3 percent) and stable from 1940 to 1960.
- ◆ From 1965 to 1980 the percentage of births to unmarried women more than doubled, increasing from 5.3 percent to 11.4 percent.
- ◆ From 1980 to 2000 the percentage of births to unmarried women more than doubled again, increasing from 11.4 percent to 25.7 percent.
- ◆ In 2000 just over one-quarter (25.7%) of births in Minnesota were to unmarried women, compared to one-third (33.2%) of births in the United States.
- ◆ In 2000, 25.1 percent of births in the seven-county metro area and 26.6 percent of births in Greater Minnesota were to unmarried women.

### *Percentage of Live Births to Unmarried Women by Age*



The percentage of births to unmarried women residents of Minnesota has increased for women in all age groups.

- ◆ The percentage of births to unmarried women is dramatically higher for teenage women than for women in other age groups. In 2000, eighty-five percent of births to women under age 19 years were to unmarried women compared to just over one-fifth (21.8%) in 1965.
- ◆ The percentage of births to women age 20 to 29 years who are unmarried increased from 4.2 percent in 1965 to 29.9 percent in 2000.
- ◆ From 1985 to 2000 the percentage of births to unmarried women was higher for women age 40 years and over than for women age 30 to 39 years.