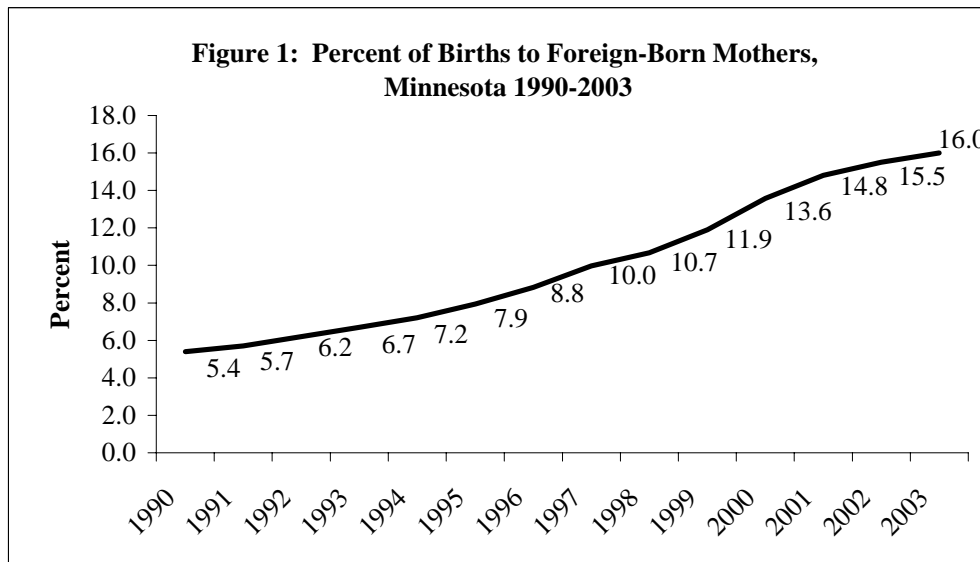


Births to Foreign-Born Mothers

This issue examines differences in birth-related indicators between foreign-born and U.S. born mothers who were residents of Minnesota and gave birth between the years 1990 and 2003. Data on birth country of mother, education of mother, weight and gestational age of infant at birth, and prenatal care received are collected from birth certificates. American Indians were not included when data were analyzed by race because the number of American Indian foreign-born mothers was small (e.g. 31 foreign-born births in 2003).

Please note that in the original version (posted 08/10/05) of this VitalSigns, foreign-born births incorrectly included births to mothers whose state or country of birth was unknown.



Overview

Minnesota has experienced a great influx of immigrants and refugees from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Births in Minnesota reflected this trend with the percent of births to foreign-born mothers increasing from 5.4% of all births in 1990 to 16.0% in 2003 (Figure 1). In 1990, 61.8% of these births were to women born in Asia, 13.3% in Europe, 9.9% in Latin America and 5.3% in Africa (Figure 2). By 2003, the percent of women giving birth in Minnesota who were born in Asia and Latin American were nearly identical at 32.1% and 34.1% respectively. The percent of women born in Africa had increased to 21.2% in 2003, a 16 percentage point increase.

The countries of origin for foreign mothers have changed since 1990. One third of 1990 births to foreign born mothers were to women born in Laos with Mexico, Canada, West Germany and Vietnam each comprising about 6% of births (Table 1). In 2003, one quarter of all foreign women giving birth in Minnesota were born in Mexico, 10% were born in Somalia and 8% were from Laos.

Figure 2: Percent of Births to Foreign-Born Mothers by Region of Birth, Minnesota 1990 and 2003

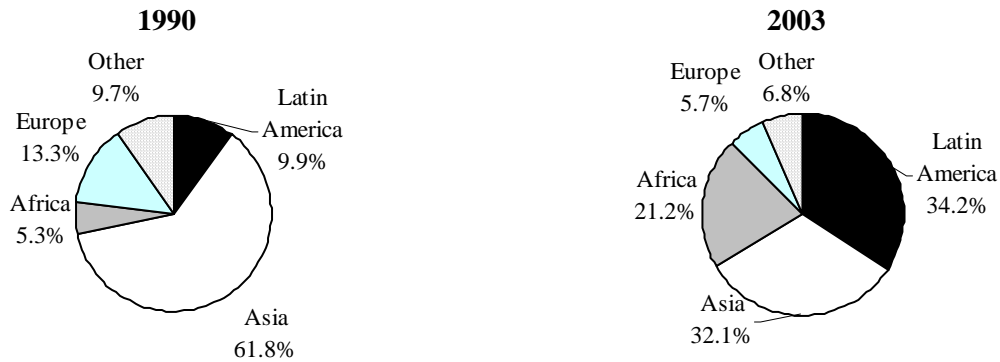
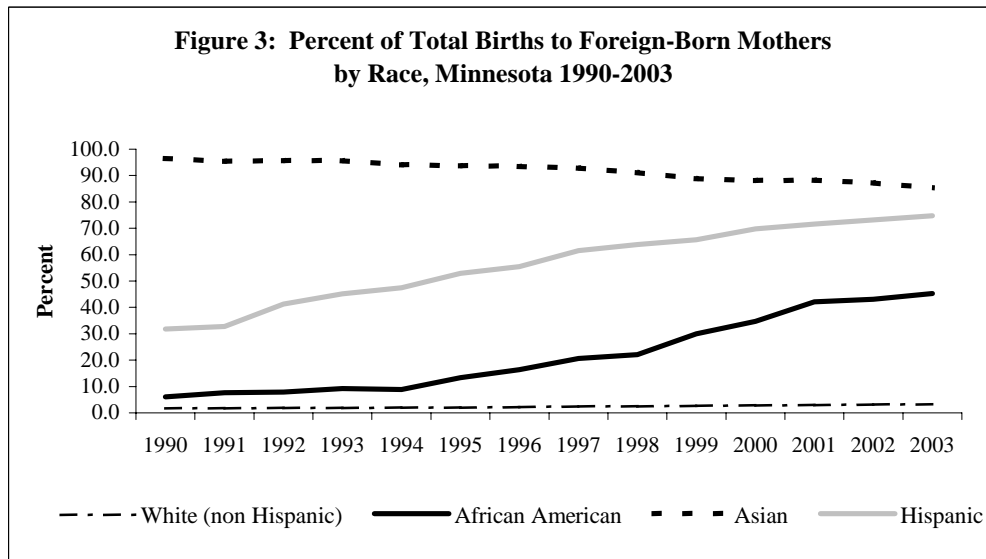


Table 1: Number of Births by Country of Origin of Mother (Top Five) Minnesota 1990 and 2003

1990				2003		
Rank	Country of Birth	No.	Pct.	Country of Birth	No.	Pct.
1	Laos	1,224	33.2	Mexico	2,910	25.0
2	Mexico	224	6.1	Somalia	1,134	10.0
3	Canada	222	6.0	Laos	932	8.3
4	West Germany	221	6.0	Vietnam	475	4.2
5	Vietnam	208	5.6	Thailand	434	3.8

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 3 shows the percent of births to foreign-mothers by race/ethnicity in Minnesota for 1990-2003. Births to foreign-born mothers have more than doubled for Hispanics from 31.8% in 1990 to 74.8% in 2003. The increase is even greater for African American mothers who are foreign-born. In 1990, 6.1% of African American mothers were foreign-born, by 2003 it was 45.3%. The percent of Asian American mothers who are foreign-born has decreased slightly from 96.5% in 1990 to 85.4% in 2003. The percent of foreign-born non-Hispanic White women who gave birth in Minnesota remained virtually unchanged (1.7% and 3.2%).



Race/Ethnicity and Country of Origin

In 1990, the majority of Asian women giving birth in Minnesota were born in Laos or Vietnam as was the case in 2003 (Table 2). However, there has been an marked increase in the number of births to women from Thailand and India. In 1990, only 23 births were to women born in Thailand and 61 births to women born in India compared to 417 and 385 in 2003.

There has been an 11-fold increase in births to White women who were born in the former Soviet Union (e.g. Russia, Belarus, Ukraine) and slight increases in births to Canadian and East/West German born women.

From 1990 to 2003, the number of non U.S. born African American women giving birth in Minnesota increased 14-fold (173 to 2,397). In particular, the number of Somali women giving birth in Minnesota increased from one in 1990 to 1,126 in 2003. The number of births to Liberians, Ethiopians and Nigerians has increased from 94 in 1990 to 690 in 2003, a 600% increase.

In Minnesota, births to foreign-born Hispanic women have largest increase among all racial/ethnic groups from 1990 to 2003. In 1990, 344 women who were Hispanic and foreign-born gave birth in Minnesota, compared to 3,680 in 2003. While the majority of Hispanic mothers come from Mexico, there are growing numbers of foreign-born Hispanic mothers from Central American countries and Ecuador.

Table 2: Number of Births by Birth Country and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Minnesota 1990 and 2003

Rank	Race: Asian				Race: White (non Hispanic)			
	Country	1990	Country	2003	Country	1990	Country	2003
1	Laos	1,206	Laos	917	West Germany	202	Canada	269
2	Vietnam	200	Vietnam	465	Canada	187	Fmr. Sov. Union	254
3	Korea	135	Thailand	417	United Kingdom	69	East Germany	186
4	Cambodia	129	India	385	France	37	United Kingdom	89
5	China	85	Korea	277	Japan	30	Mexico	58
	Total	2,064	Total	3,274	Total	987	Total	1,681

Rank	Race: African American				Ethnicity: Hispanic (can be any race)			
	Country	1990	Country	2003	Country	1990	Country	2003
1	Nigeria	45	Somalia	1,126	Mexico	207	Mexico	2,846
2	Liberia	25	Ethiopia	300	Chile	9	El Salvador	192
3	Ethiopia	24	Liberia	256	Cuba	9	Ecuador	183
4	Jamaica	10	Nigeria	134	Colombia	8	Guatemala	124
5	Ghana	6	Kenya	103	Brazil	7	Honduras	68
	Total	157	Total	2,394	Total	337	Total	3,680

Race/Ethnicity and Age

Overall, the percentages of women under the age of 20 who gave birth in 2003 were similar for foreign-born and U.S. born women (7.5% and 7.0%, Table 3). A slightly higher percent of births to U.S. born women (15.5%) were to those over the age 35 compared to their foreign-born counterparts (13.6%). However, by race/ethnicity foreign mothers tended to be older and were less likely to be teen mothers. For example in 2003, 14.9% of foreign-born Asian mothers were 35 years old and over when they gave birth compared to 3.4% of U.S. born Asian mothers in Minnesota. In addition 5.1% of foreign-born African American mothers were under the age of 20 when they gave birth compared to 20.5% of U.S. born African American mothers.

Table 3: Age of Mother by Birthplace and Race/Ethnicity, Minnesota 2003

Race/Ethnicity of Mother	Age under 20 (%)		Age 35 and Over (%)	
	Foreign-born	U.S. Born	Foreign-born	U.S. Born
White (Non Hispanic)	4.0	5.1	20.2	16.6
African American	5.1	20.5	15.2	6.7
Asian	7.0	32.0	14.9	3.4
Hispanic (Any Race)	11.2	23.4	8.2	5.6
All Births	7.5	7.0	13.6	15.5

Education

Minnesota mothers who are foreign-born tend to have less education than U.S. born mothers giving birth in Minnesota. 67.7% of U.S. born women who gave birth in 2003 had completed at least one year of college compared to 40.3% of foreign-born mothers. Also, foreign-born mothers were three times as likely as their state-born counterparts to have less than a high school education (28.3% vs 7.5% in 2003).

Prematurity and Low Birth Weight

Prematurity (less than 37 weeks gestation) and low birth weight (less than 2500 grams at birth) in newborns are often associated with poor birth outcomes. Overall, the percent of premature babies born to foreign-born and U.S. born mothers in 2003 were nearly identical (9.0% vs 10.0%, Table 4). However, when comparing the two groups by race/ethnicity, U.S. born White (non Hispanic), African American and Asian women were more likely to give birth prematurely than foreign-born women. 14.3% of U.S. born African American mothers gave birth prematurely in 2003 compared to 9.0% for foreign African American mothers.

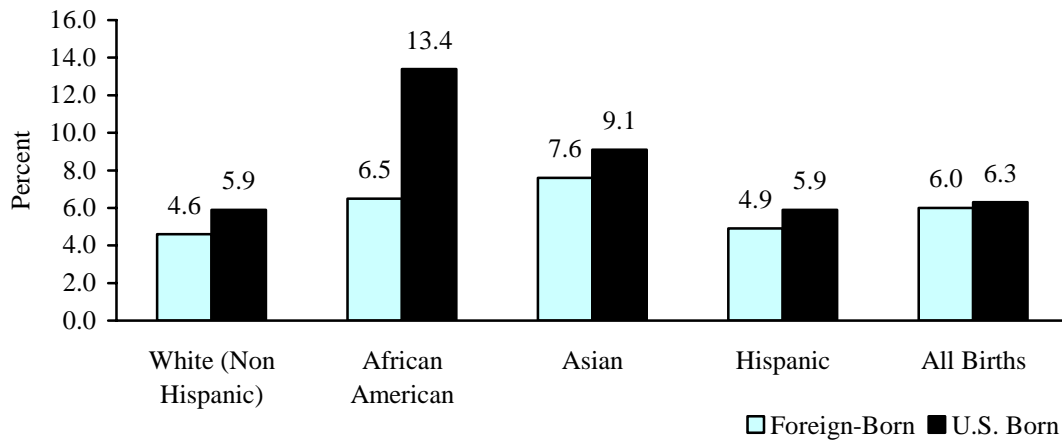
Table 4: Prematurity by Birthplace and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Minnesota 2003

Race/Ethnicity of Mother	Percent Premature*	
	Foreign-born	U.S. Born
White (Non Hispanic)	6.7	9.8
African American	9.0	14.3
Asian	10.6	11.4
Hispanic (Any Race)	8.7	8.6
All Births	9.0	10.0

*Less than 37 weeks gestation

As with premature births, low birth weight percentages were similar between U.S. born mothers and foreign-born mothers (6.3 vs 6.0, Figure 4). However, by race, foreign-born mothers were more likely to have normal birth weight births than their U.S. born counterparts. U.S. born African American women were nearly twice as likely to give birth to a low birth weight baby than foreign-born African American women (13.4% vs 6.5%).

Figure 4: Percent Low Birth* Weight by Birthplace and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Minnesota 2003



*Less than 2500 grams at birth

Prenatal Care

U.S. born women were slightly more likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester (88.7% vs 74.7%, Table 5). There are also small differences within each racial/ethnic category. In 2003, foreign-born Asian women were more likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester than their U.S. born counterparts while U.S. born Hispanic women were more likely to receive prenatal care earlier than foreign-born Hispanic women.

Table 5: Prenatal Care Received by Trimester by Birthplace and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Minnesota 2003

Race/Ethnicity of Mother	1st Trimester (%)		3rd Trimester or None (%)	
	Foreign-born	U.S. Born	Foreign-born	U.S. Born
White (Non Hispanic)	86.0	90.7	2.6	1.3
African American	72.0	73.2	5.3	5.3
Asian	76.2	69.7	3.5	5.6
Hispanic (Any Race)	69.4	76.0	5.1	4.2
All Births	74.7	88.7	4.3	1.8

Infant Mortality

An infant death is defined as a death to an infant under one year of age. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 births. In Minnesota, the infant mortality rate was slightly higher for infants born to foreign mothers as compared to infants of U.S. mothers for the time periods 1993-1997 and 1998-2002 (Table 6). Yet, infants born to foreign African American and Hispanic mothers had lower infant mortality rates than their U.S. born counterparts in both time periods.

Table 6: Infant Mortality Number and Rate per 1,000 births by Birthplace and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Minnesota 1993-1997 and 1998-2002

Race/Ethnicity	1993-1997				1998-2002			
	Foreign-born		U.S. Born		Foreign-born		U.S. Born	
	Number	Rate^	Number	Rate^	Number	Rate^	Number	Rate^
White (Non Hispanic)	33	6.3	1,442	5.8	37	5.2	1,209	4.8
African American	20	9.6	173	13.6	63	8.4	169	12.4
Asian	84	6.9	6	*	91	6.1	16	*
Hispanic (Any Race)	35	6.6	33	7.2	75	5.6	47	8.0
All Births	181	7.0	1,892	6.4	272	6.1	1,550	5.4

^per 1,000 births

*rate not calculated for less than 20 events

Appendix

Number of Births by Birthplace and Race/Ethnicity of Mother, Minnesota 1990 and 2003

Race/Ethnicity of Mother	1990		2003	
	Foreign-born	U.S. Born	Foreign-born	U.S. Born
White (Non Hispanic)	987	57,395	1,681	51,547
African American	157	2,399	2,394	2,864
Asian	2,064	74	3,274	560
American Indian	23	1,275	31	1,353
Hispanic (Any Race)	337	720	3,680	1,228
Total*	3,641	64,299	11,173	58,777

*Total includes "Other Race" and births in which race/ethnicity was not indicated.

Minnesota Vital Signs

**Minnesota Center for Health Statistics
Office of Health Policy, Statistics and Informatics
Minnesota Department of Health**

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