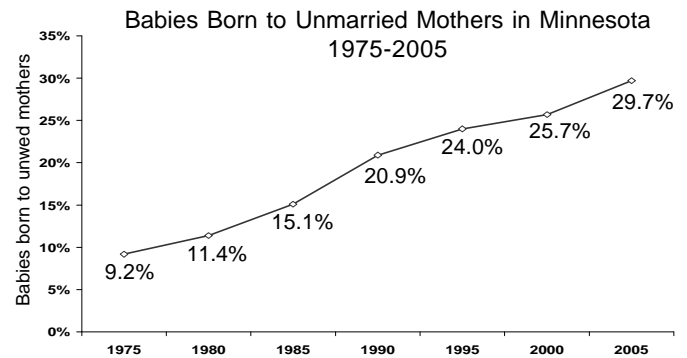


### How have mothers changed in 30 years?

Characteristics of new mothers in the U.S. have changed enormously since 1975. A few ways in which new mothers have changed in Minnesota are highlighted below.

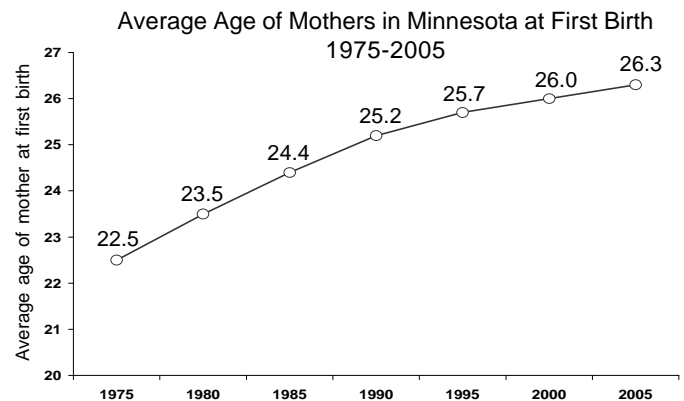
#### Mothers of babies born in 2005 were more likely to be unmarried than mothers of babies born in 1975.

- Mothers of babies born in 2005 were three times more likely to be unmarried than mothers of babies born in 1975. The rate of births to unmarried women rose from 9.2% in 1975 to 29.7% in 2005.
- While the increase in babies born to unmarried mothers has risen at a high rate from 1975 to 2005, the rise has slowed since 1990. Between 1975 and 1990 the average annual increase was 6.3%. Between 1990 and 2005 the average annual increase was 2.5%. The average annual rate was particularly low, 1.4%, between 1995 and 2000, but rose again to an average annual rate of 3.1% between 2000 and 2005.



#### Mothers of babies born in 2005 were older than mothers of babies born in 1975.

- The average age of mothers at the time of their first baby's birth rose from 22.5 years in 1975 to 26.3 years in 2005.
- The rate of babies born to women under the age of 18 in 2005 was less than half of the rate in 1975. Of babies born in 1975, 4.4% were born to mothers under age 18, while 2.3% were born to mothers under age 18 in 2005.
- The rate of births to women over the age of 40 tripled over the time period, from 0.9% in 1975 to 2.8% in 2005.



#### Mothers of babies born in 2005 were more educated than mothers of babies born in 1975.

- In 1975, 13.0% of mothers had fewer than 12 years of education, while 10.9% of mothers had fewer than 12 years of education in 2005. However, the lowest rate of births to women with less than 12 years of education were 1985 and 1986, both with 8.9%.
- The rate of births to mothers with at least 3 years of college more than doubled between 1975 and 2005. Only 14.5% of babies born in 1975 had mothers with more than 3 years of college. In 2005, 37.2% of babies born had mothers with more than 3 years of college.

