

Indicator: Maternal age

Births to first time mothers 35 years and older

Key Findings

- The number of births to first time mothers age 35 and older has remained fairly consistent over the past 10 years in Hennepin County.
- Nationally, the rate of first births to older mothers has more than doubled between 1990 and 2014.
- White mothers have their first babies at 35 or older at higher rates than other racial and ethnic groups.
- There is little geographic variability in the number of first time births to mothers 35 and older. Slightly fewer babies are born to older first time mothers in northwest Hennepin County compared to Minneapolis and other suburban Hennepin County cities.

Overview

In 2014, 853 births, or 12.3 percent of all births to first-time mothers, were to mothers age 35 and older.

Today mothers in their 30 and 40s can often provide a healthier start for their infants, as well as a stronger, more supportive family setting. Unlike in previous generations, when delaying or deferring motherhood beyond age 35 was less common, today's medically supported pregnancies and fertility interventions is pushing the age range for first-time mothers upward.

Even so, older mothers (35 and older) may still have greater health complications or have children who are at higher risk for certain congenital conditions related to maternal age. Additionally, first-time mothers 35 and older who were aided in becoming pregnant as the result of fertility interventions are at a higher risk of giving birth to multiples (twins, triplets, or quads). Giving birth to multiple babies in one pregnancy can lead to birth complications, such as prematurity and low birthweight.

The following charts and graphs describe births to mothers aged 35 and older in Hennepin County in 2014, as well as trends from 2005-2014.

	Number of births to first time mothers age 35+	Percentage of births to first time mothers age 35+
Hennepin County births to first time mothers age 35 or more	853	12.3%



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Figure 1. Percent of all births to first-time mothers 35 years and older in Hennepin County: 2004 - 2015

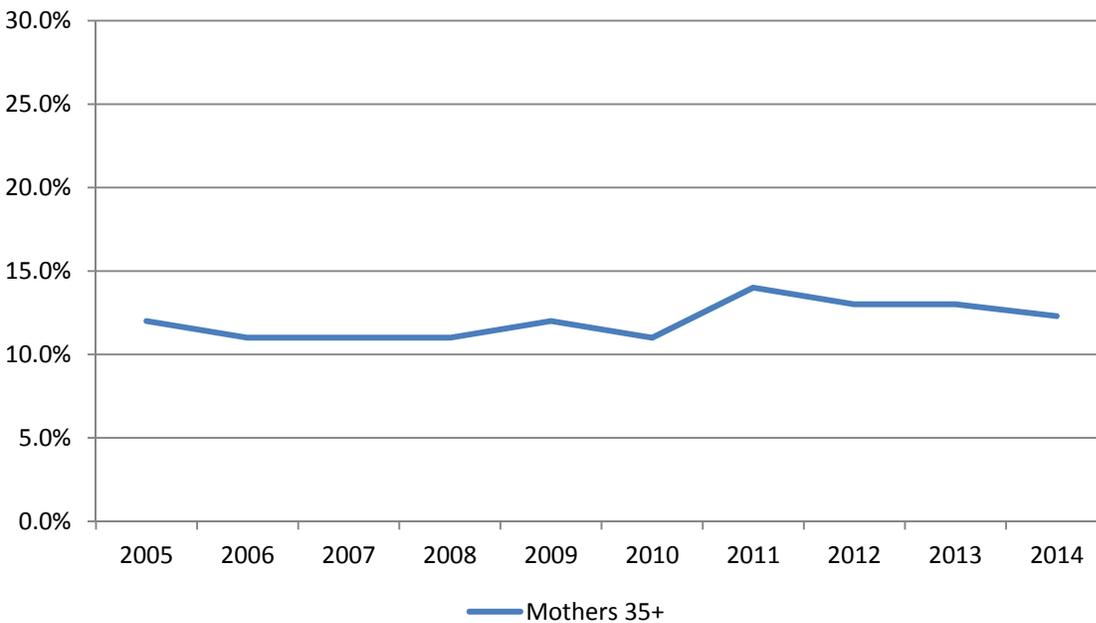
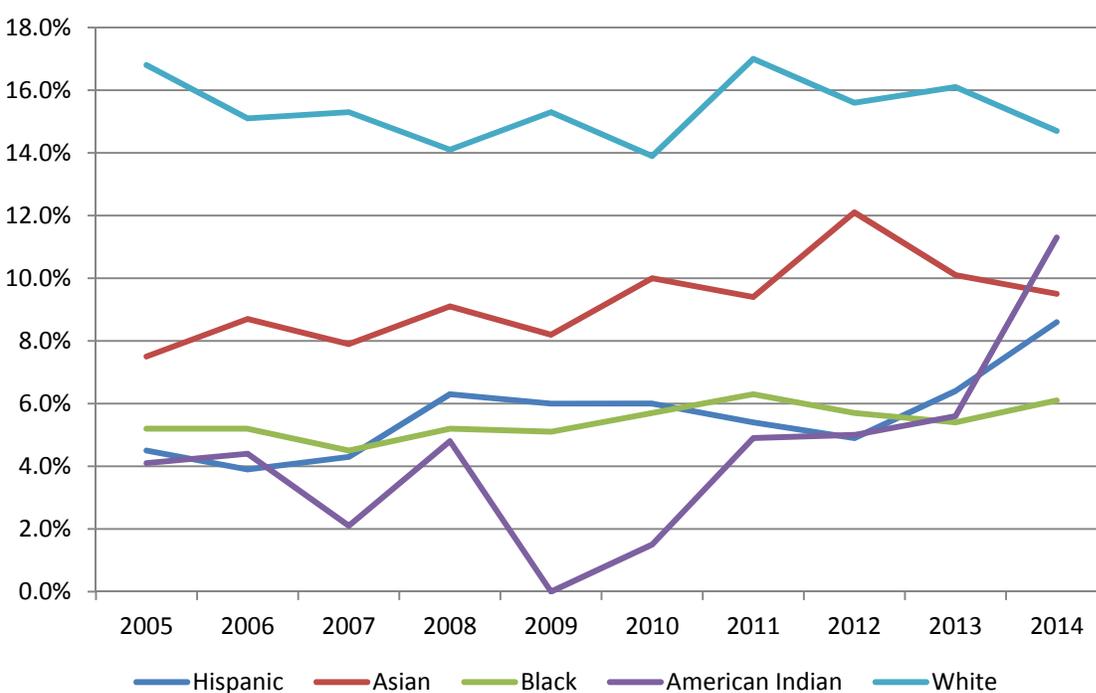


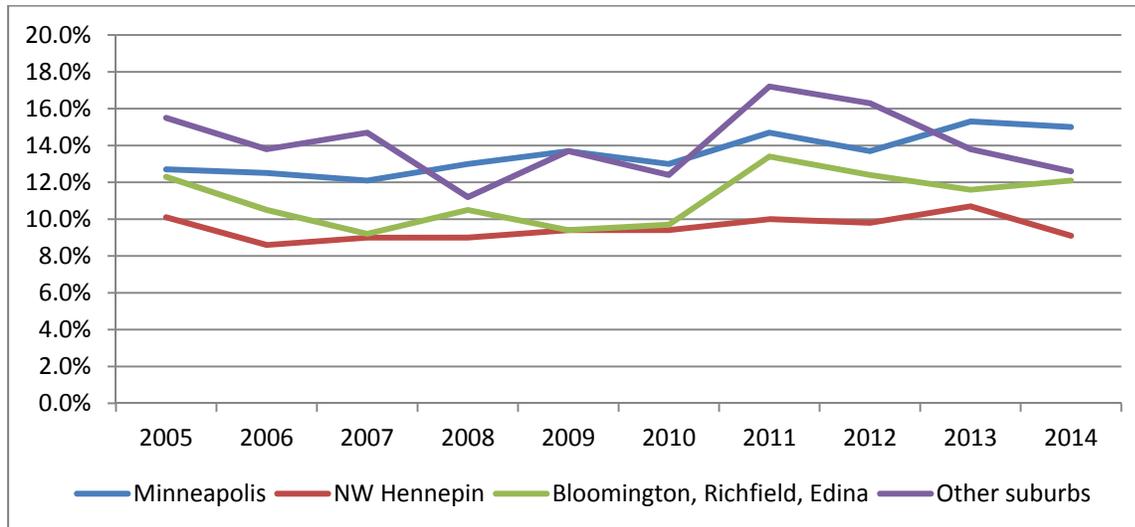
Figure 2. Percent of births to first-time mothers 35 years and older by race/ethnicity: 2005-2014



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Figure 3. Percent of births to first-time mothers 35 years and older by geography: 2005-2014



Technical notes

Population		Number of births to first time mothers age 35+	Percentage of births to first time mothers age 35+
Hennepin County births to first time mothers aged 35 and over		853	12.3%
Race/ethnicity^a <i>Races reported a non-Hispanic</i>	Asian/Pacific Islander	72	9.5%
	Black/African American	69	6.1%
	American Indian	7	11.3%
	White	661	14.7%
	Hispanic/Latino	36	8.6%
Location of residence	Minneapolis	381	15.0%
	Suburban Hennepin (includes St. Anthony)	472	10.8%
	NW Hennepin County	200	9.1%
	Bloomington, Edina, Richfield	107	12.1%
	Other Suburbs	165	12.6%

^a 8 mothers were of "other" or "unknown" race/ethnicity.

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Definition of indicator: This factsheet presents the number and percentage of all births to first time mothers that occurred to mothers who were age 35 or older at the time of the birth.

Data source: The number of births to mothers is based on data provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) from the annual birth certificate files. These data were geocoded by Hennepin County HSPHD to identify births to mothers residing in Hennepin County at the time the birth occurred; these will include births that occurred in other hospitals or locations outside of Hennepin County, where the mothers' address indicated that she was a resident of Hennepin County. The data reported here are from 2014, unless identified otherwise as trends or averages.

Special notes on reporting by race/ethnicity: The information on race and ethnicity is based on self-reported data provided by the mothers about themselves; the race/ethnicity of the child may be different from that of their mother. The mothers who identify their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino may belong to any racial group. The rates reported for Black or African American mothers combines members from both the US-born and African immigrant communities; rates would be expected to be notably different for these two sub-groups. The number of births and the overall rate reported for Hennepin County includes a small number of births to mothers whose race/ethnicity was not identified.

Population estimates by race/ethnicity were revised in 2011 to estimates published by the National Center for Health Statistics Bridged Race population estimates. Prior reports used 1-year estimates from the American Community Survey. The NCHS estimates are more closely aligned with population projections published by the Minnesota Department of Health and used for national vital statistics reporting. Due to this change in population estimates, notable differences in rates of previously published teen pregnancy will be evident in reports from 2011 forward. In addition, multiple race selection became possible in the 2011 birth certificate, which may affect their comparability to data from prior years. For further clarification in interpreting these changes, please contact Dave Johnson at David.Johnson2@hennepin.us.