



POPULATION NOTES

Minnesota Life Expectancy in 2000

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- Minnesota life expectancy increased 1.3 years between 1990 and 2000.
- Male life expectancy has grown more than female life expectancy.
- Life expectancy in Minnesota is above the national average.

Life expectancy in Minnesota in 2000 was 81.5 years for females, 76.5 years for males, and 79.1 years for the population as a whole.

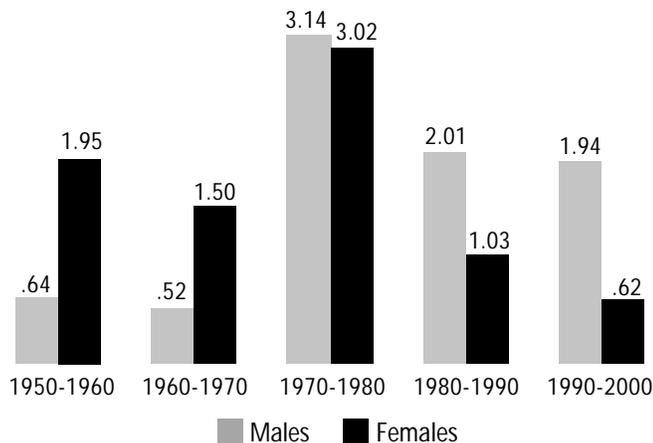
Life expectancy has been growing at a moderate rate. Total life expectancy increased by 1.3 years between 1990 and 2000, considerably below the 3.2-year gain of the 1970s and slightly below the 1.6-year increase between 1980 and 1990.

Males make larger gains

Since 1970, males have outpaced females in life expectancy gains. Though women continue to live considerably longer than men, the gap is shrinking. Between 1990 and 2000, male life expectancy went up 1.9 years, substantially higher than the 0.6 year gain for women. Male gains outstripped female increases at every age level during the 1990s. Life expectancy at age 45, for example, grew 1.6 years for men compared to 0.5 year for women. Life expectancy for 80-year-old men rose 0.4 year versus 0.1 year for women the same age.

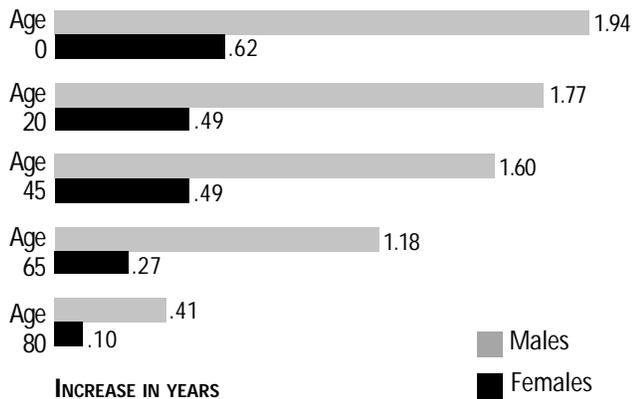
Females can now expect to outlive males by 5.0 years, compared to 7.4 years in 1970. At age 65, women's life expectancy is 4.1 years greater than men's, down from a peak of 6.1 years in 1980.

Minnesota males have greater gains in life expectancy in recent decades; greatest gains for both genders occurred in 1970s



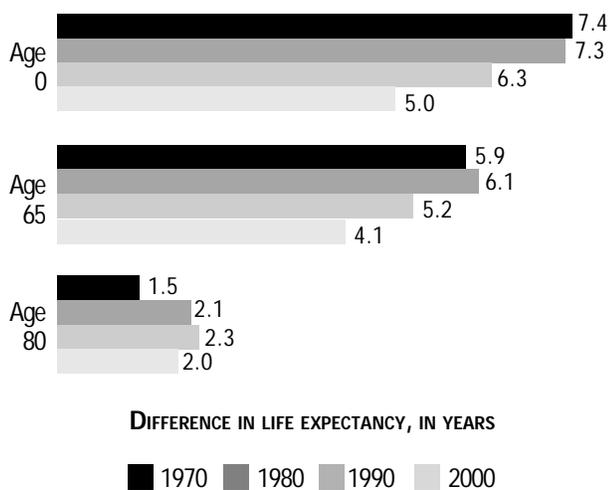
Source: Life expectancy from NCHS (1950 to 1990) and Minnesota State Demographic Center (2000).

Increase in Minnesota life expectancy by age, 1990 to 2000



NCHS life table for 1990.
Minnesota State Demographic Center life table for 2000.

Gap between female and male life expectancy has been falling



NCHS life tables for 1970 through 1990.
Minnesota State Demographic Center life table for 2000.

Life expectancy at age 65 is 17 years for men, 20 years for women

A look at the life table shows why financial planners so adamantly urge their clients to save for retirement. A Minnesota woman who lives to be 65 will on average live to be 85, while her male counterpart will on average live to 82.

At age 80, a woman can expect to live 9.6 more years and a man 7.7 more years.

Minnesota life expectancy higher than U.S. average

Minnesota's life expectancy in 1990 was the second highest in the nation, according to the National Center for Health

Statistics. Hawaii ranked first; Utah, North Dakota and Iowa rounded out the top five.

The life expectancy figures reported here suggest that Minnesota continues to rank high compared to the rest of the country, though 2000 life expectancy figures for other states are not yet available. Life expectancy in the United States in 1999, the most recent year available, was 74.1 years for males, 79.7 years for females, and 77.0 for the total population.

What is life expectancy?

Life expectancy is derived from a statistical model called a life table. A life table shows what the lifetime mortality experience of newborn babies would be if age-specific mortality rates remain at current levels. For example, Minnesota male babies born in 2000 can expect to live on average 76.5 years if mortality rates do not change. In real life, mortality rates will probably change in the future and the actual life expectancy of males born in 2000 will be higher or lower than 76.5 years.

The actual life expectancy of babies born in 2000 could change for a variety of reasons. Dramatic improvements in treating cancer and heart disease could reduce mortality in the middle and later years of life, thus increasing life expectancy. War, epidemics or a collapse in the health care system could increase mortality rates. Though life expectancies throughout the world have generally been on the rise, there are some major exceptions. In many African

countries, AIDS has caused mortality rates to rise among both children and young adults. Life expectancy has also fallen in the former Soviet Union, a trend that appears related to the upheavals of the post-Communist era.

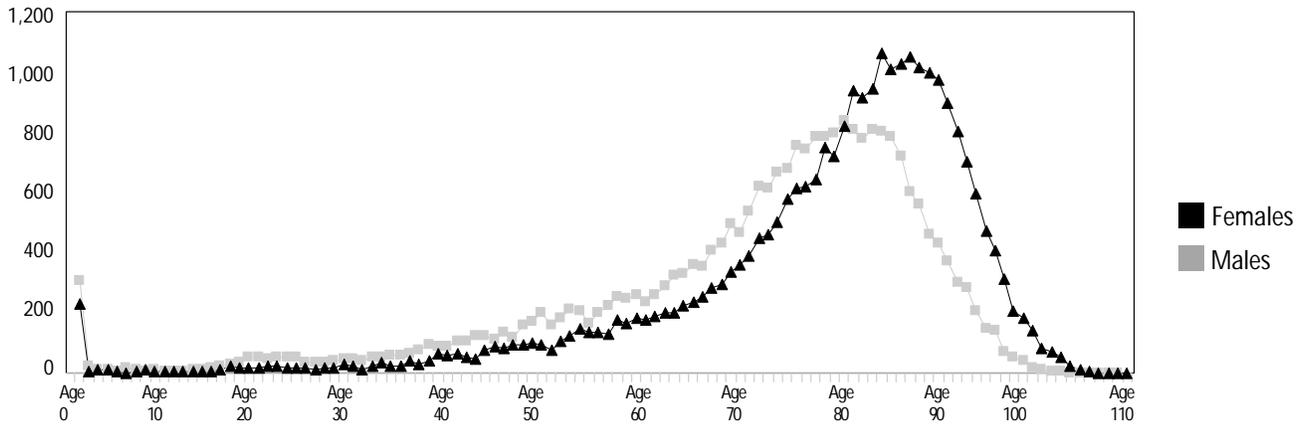
Life tables have many real world applications. A life table is considered an excellent indicator of the overall mortality experience of a population and thus of the standard of living, the general healthiness of the population, and the adequacy of the health care system. Life tables can be used to calculate survival probabilities that are of interest to financial planners, lawyers and insurance companies.

Future of life expectancy

It will be difficult to achieve life expectancy gains in the future as large as those of the last 50 years. Because of the way the life table is constructed, life expectancy is affected more by changes in mortality rates at younger ages than by mortality trends at older ages. One baby who avoids death and lives to age 55 increases life expectancy more than ten 80-year-olds who live to age 85. Since mortality rates among infants and children are now very low, there is little room for life expectancy gains from decreasing mortality at the youngest ages. To achieve substantial gains in life expectancy in the future, it will be necessary to reduce mortality among adults, especially among older adults.

A look at life tables from earlier in the century illustrates the dramatic impact of falling mortality rates. In 1900, 124 of 1,000 American babies died

Number of Minnesota deaths by age and sex, July 1999 through December 2000



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

during the first year of life. Another 57 of these 1,000 babies died before their fifth birthday. Life expectancy for infants born in 1900 was only 48 years, in large part because of the high mortality rates during childhood. By 1950, United States life expectancy had increased to 68 years, and infant mortality had fallen to 30 per 1,000. By the year 2000, about six of every 1,000 babies in Minnesota died before their first birthday.

Number of deaths rises

Though life expectancy has risen and mortality rates have fallen, the number of deaths occurring annually in Minnesota has been gradually rising. In the last three years of the 1990s there were 113,218 deaths, compared to 104,958 in the first three years. A larger and older population is responsible for this increase. Deaths can be expected to continue to increase in the future for the same reasons: the population is expected to continue to grow and the number of older people will rise.

In an 18-month period between July 1, 1999 and December 31,

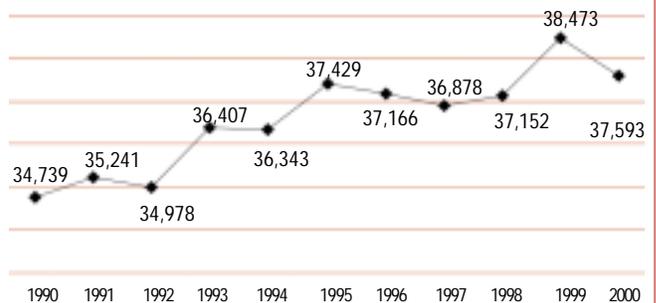
2000, there were 56,545 Minnesota resident deaths. Among those who died, 44 percent of the women and 24 percent of the men were 85 or older. Only 12 percent of males and 6 percent of females who died were under age 50. The modal age at death (the most frequent number) was 81 for men and 85 for women.

Data Sources and Notes

The 2000 Minnesota life tables discussed here were calculated by the Minnesota State Demographic Center at Minnesota Planning. They are based on single year of age data from the 2000 census and single year of age resident mortality data from July 1, 1999 through December 31, 2000 from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics. Deaths to Minnesota residents that happen outside Minnesota are included; deaths occurring within Minnesota to residents of other states and countries are excluded.

The National Center for Health Statistics calculates life tables

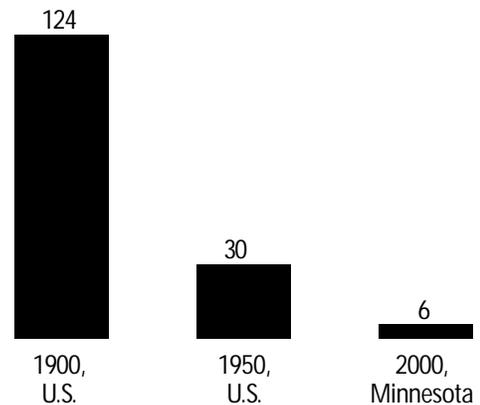
Number of Minnesota deaths has trended upward in 1990s; annual deaths 1990 to 2000



Source: Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Infant mortality fell dramatically during the 20th century

Expected deaths per 1,000 before age 1



1900 and 1950 from NCHS; life table based on registration area. 2000 from Minnesota State Demographic Center.

for all states, though these life tables are often not published until long after the reference date. For example, the 1990 Minnesota life table was issued in 1998. The numbers are usually very similar to those calculated by the Minnesota State Demographic Center, which are available earlier in the decade. The 1990 Minnesota life expectancy figures reported by NCHS were about 0.1 year less than the state estimate.

Historical life table information is from "United States

Life Tables, 1998," National Vital Statistics Reports, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Volume 48, Number 18, February 7, 2001.

DOWNLOAD FILES:

MN_LIFE_TABLES_2000_ABRIDGED.csv
Total, males, and females by 5-year age group

MN_LIFE_TABLES_2000_SINGLE_YEAR.csv
Total, males, and females by single year of age

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