This data is based on birth certificate data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

In 1980, the mean (average) age of first-time mothers was about 22 years old, but by 2016, the mean increased to 26. However, something else is going on as well. There are two peaks in the 2016 distribution of age — one at about 21 years old and another around 29 years old. These ages are far enough apart that there may be two subgroups of mothers, each starting their families at different times in their lives

Summary stats

1980

Right skewed histogram. The median is around 20 and the mean is around 22. The average age of a first time mother in the us in 1980 was about 22.

2016

Bimodal histogram. There are 2 peaks one around 20 and the other around 29.

In terms of the appearance of the histograms it is quite hard to allocate age ranges for the bins due to the format so that is something I would have changed.

I think that using 1 year as bin width was quite appropriate for this data since it allows for better nuance and clearer visualizations of how the data changes over time.

The 1980 graph shows a trend of mothers having their first children early on in life where as the 2016 shows 2 peaks showing 2 groups of mothers, one having children early and the other not. The article attached to this graph hypothesized that the existence of these two groups mirrors the social inequality present in US. There are people In higher socio economic statuses who are college educated having children later on in life and the group of mothers who feel that attaining that higher socio economic is impossible in todays economy and hence have children early on. I think a key difference in the 2 graphs can be seen with the reduction In teenage pregnancies due to access to proper preventative healthcare increasing.