

# FOCUS

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES  
BUREAU OF HEALTH INFORMATICS  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0570  
(573) 751-6272

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## 2009 Vital Statistics

Live births and deaths both decreased sharply in 2009 in Missouri as shown in Table 1 according to final 2009 vital statistics. Births decreased by 2.6 percent from 80,944 in 2008 to 78,849 in 2009 while deaths decreased 3.9 percent from 56,278 in 2008 to 54,064 in 2009. The birth decrease was probably related to the economic downturn, while reasons for the mortality decrease are less clear.

Deaths decreased for nine of the ten leading causes of death. The ten leading causes of death remained in the

same order as in 2008 with the exception that suicide replaced septicemia (blood poisoning) as the state's number 10 cause of death as shown in Table 2. Heart disease was the state's number one killer, followed by cancer, chronic lung disease, stroke, unintentional injuries, Alzheimer's disease, pneumonia and influenza, diabetes, kidney disease (nephritis), and suicide. Suicide was the only leading cause of death to increase, rising by more than 10 percent from 775 in 2008 to 857 in 2009. Heart disease deaths decreased by 4.8 percent in 2009, and have decreased by nearly 23 percent since 1999.

**Table 1**

**Vital Statistics for Missouri: 1999, 2008 and 2009**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>		
	1999	2008	2009	1999	2008	2009
Births	75,366	80,944	78,849	13.6	13.6	13.2
Deaths	55,732	56,278	54,064	10.0	9.4	9.0
Natural increase	19,634	24,666	24,785	3.5	4.1	4.1
Marriages	44,369	40,146	38,768	8.0	6.7	6.5
Divorces	24,583	22,132	22,374	4.4	3.7	3.7
Infant deaths	581	583	564	7.7*	7.2*	7.2*
Abortions	12,600	11,508	10,815	167.2*	142.2*	137.2*
Population (1000s)	5,562	5,956	5,988			

\*Per 1,000 live births

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**Table 2****Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1999, 2008 and 2009**

<u>Leading Causes of Death</u>	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 100,000 Population</i>		
	1999	2008	2009	1999	2008	2009
Heart	17,954	14,550	13,845	322.8	244.3	231.2
Cancer	12,177	12,497	12,435	218.9	209.8	207.7
Lung cancer	3,632	3,933	3,836	65.3	66.0	64.1
Chronic lung disease	3,063	3,743	3,436	55.1	62.8	57.4
Stroke	4,018	3,252	3,013	72.2	54.6	50.3
Unintentional injury	2,303	2,876	2,868	41.4	48.3	47.9
Motor vehicle	1,074	969	903	19.3	16.3	15.1
Falls	419	699	666	7.5	11.7	11.1
Poisonings	184	687	776	3.3	11.5	13.0
Other	626	521	523	11.3	8.7	8.7
Alzheimer's disease	920	2,014	1,719	16.5	33.8	28.7
Pneumonia & influenza	1,678	1,428	1,346	30.2	24.0	22.5
Diabetes	1,553	1,332	1,327	27.9	22.4	22.2
Nephritis & nephrosis	915	1,275	1,226	16.5	21.4	20.5
Suicide	698	775	857	12.5	13.0	14.3
Other Causes of Death						
Septicemia	623	826	801	11.2	13.9	13.4
Homicide	382	486	440	6.9	8.2	7.3
AIDS	148	116	99	2.7	1.9	1.7
Maternal Deaths	12	13	11	15.9*	16.1*	14.0*

\*Per 100,000 live births

Cancer mortality has been more stable, decreasing by 0.5 percent in 2009 and increasing by 2.1 percent since 1999. The difference between heart disease and cancer deaths has decreased from nearly 5,800 in 1999 to about 1,400 in 2009.

Pneumonia and influenza deaths decreased by 5.7 percent from 1,428 in 2008 to 1,346 in 2009 despite the presence of the H1N1 virus in 2009. The seasonal virus present in 2008 apparently was more deadly than the H1N1 virus, especially among the elderly. There were 11 Missouri resident deaths officially classified as H1N1-related deaths in 2009. An additional 47 were influenza-related and most occurred during the time period when H1N1 was predominant and thus were probably H1N1-

related. In 2008 there were 85 influenza-related deaths compared to the 58 in 2009.

With the decrease in mortality, Missouri reached a record high life expectancy of 77.6 years in 2009, up a half year from 77.1 years in 2008. Both females and males also obtained record life expectancies in 2009, 80.3 and 74.9 years respectively. The infant death rate remained at 7.2 per 1,000 live births in 2009, a record low first set in 2000. The infant death rate for whites went up from 5.9 in 2008 to 6.1 in 2009 while the rate for African-Americans decreased from 15.0 to 13.8 per 1,000 live births, the lowest rate since 1995. However, the African-American rate was still more than 2.2 times higher than the white rate in 2009.

Births decreased in most major areas of the state primarily among mothers less than 30 years old. The largest decrease in births by age in 2009 occurred among teens as there were 8,570 births to mothers under age 20 compared to 9,246 in 2008, a 7.3 percent decrease. A long-term drop in teen births occurred from 1991-2005, but the number had risen in 2006 and 2007, followed by a

slight decrease in 2008. The 2009 count represents the smallest number of teen births since 1945. Births to women in their 20s also decreased substantially in 2009, by more than 3 percent.

The rate of inadequate prenatal care decreased from 11.9 percent in 2008 to 11.5 percent in 2009, as shown in

**Table 3****Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri 1999, 2008 and 2009**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Percents</i>		
	1999	2008	2009	1999	2008	2009
Infant Deaths	581	583	564	7.7*	7.2*	7.2*
White	361	387	387	5.8*	5.9*	6.1*
Black	213	188	166	19.0*	15.0*	13.8*
Low Birth Weight	5,844	6,585	6,402	7.8	8.1	8.1
White	4,167	4,637	4,445	6.7	7.1	7.0
Black	1,548	1,661	1,710	13.8	13.3	14.2
Inadequate Prenatal Care	7,676	9,150	8,729	10.5	11.9	11.5
White	5,015	5,984	5,592	8.2	9.6	9.1
Black	2,380	2,609	2,604	22.6	22.7	23.1
Preterm (<37 weeks)	9,238	10,258	9,882	12.3	12.7	12.5
Multiple Births	2,295	2,782	2,701	3.0	3.4	3.4
Birth Spacing <18 mos.	4,558	5,742	5,182	10.8	12.8	11.9
Out-of-Wedlock Births	25,729	33,069	32,222	34.1	40.9	40.9
Teen (10-19) Births	10,146	9,246	8,570	13.5	11.4	10.9
Early Teen (10-17) Births	3,386	2,754	2,445	4.5	3.4	3.1
Smoking During Pregnancy	13,766	14,212	13,233	18.3	17.6	16.8
Medicaid Births	29,161	38,004	37,675	40.2	47.7	48.4
WIC Births	29,312	34,659	34,094	40.4	43.5	43.8
Food Stamps Births	11,679	20,593	22,250	16.1	26.5	29.4
C-Sections	16,682	25,642	25,517	22.1	31.7	32.4
Live Births	75,366	80,944	78,849			

\*Infant Death rates are per 1,000 live births.

(Focus continued)

Table 3. All of the decrease occurred among white mothers as the white rate decreased from 9.6 to 9.1 percent while it increased from 22.7 to 23.1 percent for African-American mothers.

Missouri resident abortions decreased by 6 percent in 2009 as 10,815 abortions occurred to Missouri women compared with 11,508 in 2008.

Other maternal and child health indicators presented in Table 3 show the following in 2009:

- The rate of out-of wedlock births continued at 40.9 percent as 32,222 out-of wedlock births occurred in 2009 compared to 33,069 in 2008 and 25,729 in 1999.
- Multiple births continued at 3.4 percent of births, but were 13 percent above the 1999 rate.
- Short (less than 18 months) spacing between births decreased sharply among 2009 births from 12.8 percent in 2008 to 11.9 percent.
- The rate of Medicaid and WIC births as well as the number of mothers on Food Stamps all increased in

2009, which was probably related to the economic downturn.

- The rate of mothers smoking during pregnancy decreased from 17.6 percent in 2008 to 16.8 percent in 2009. This was the lowest smoking rate since Missouri started collecting this data in 1978.
- The rate of preterm (less 37 weeks gestation) births declined from 12.7 percent in 2008 to 12.5 percent in 2009.
- The low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate remained at 8.1 percent in 2009, the same as the 2008 rate.
- The C-Section rate increased from 31.7 percent in 2008 to 32.4 percent in 2009 and increased by 47 percent in the last ten years.

Marriages decreased by 3.4 percent in 2009 while divorces increased by 1.1 percent compared with 2008. In 2009 there were 38,768 marriages and 22,374 dissolutions of marriage.