

# FOCUS

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## 2006 Vital Statistics

Missouri live births increased by 3.6 percent in 2006 from 78,547 in 2005 to 81,353 according to provisional 2006 Missouri vital statistics data (See Table 1). This represents the largest birth percentage increase since 1977 and the highest annual count of Missouri births since 1964, the end of the post-war baby boom. This appears to be a reflection of a national trend as January-November 2006 births showed an increase of 3.0 percent in the United States.

Minority races and ethnicities experienced the greatest percentage increases in Missouri births in 2006 as the number of births to African-American mothers increased by 7.8 percent from 11,455 in 2005 to 12,347. Hispanic births increased by 6.8 percent and births to nonwhite, non-African

American races increased by 12.4 percent in 2006, but both of these groups still represent relatively small proportions of the state population. White births represented 81 percent of the state's births and increased by 2.9 percent in 2006 from 64,136 to 65,987.

The rate of births went up among all age groups as the estimated total fertility rate for Missouri women went up from 1.99 in 2005 to 2.05 in 2006, the highest such rate in more than three decades. Total fertility rate refers to the average number of births a woman would have if a given set of age-specific rates applied throughout her reproductive years. Age-specific rates refer to births to females of a given age group per 1,000 females of the same age group. While all age groups had increases in

Table 1

Vital Statistics for Missouri: 1996, 2005 and Provisional 2006

	Numbers			Rates per 1,000 Population		
	1996	2005	2006 (Prov)	1996	2005	2006 (Prov)
Births	73,733	78,547	81,353	13.6	13.5	13.9
Deaths	53,766	54,324	54,475	9.9	9.4	9.3
Natural increase	19,967	24,223	26,878	3.7	4.2	4.6
Marriages	44,473	40,675	40,264	8.2	7.0	6.9
Divorces	25,438	21,013	22,055	4.7	3.6	3.8
Infant deaths	558	588	599	7.6 *	7.5 *	7.4 *
Abortions	13,989	11,619	11,833	189.7 *	147.9 *	145.5 *
Population (1000s)	5,432	5,800	5,843			

\*Per 1,000 live births

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rates, the largest increase of 6.6 percent was among teens under age 20. In 2006, 9,286 babies were born to Missouri teen mothers compared with 8,707 in 2005. This represents a reversal of a 15-year downward trend in teen births. As Table 2 shows, teen births and early teen (under age 18) births were still lower than they were ten years earlier in 1996, but went to their highest level since 2001.

Other signs of the baby growth are that women are having more babies per mother and having them closer together. From 1996 to 2006 the number of first or second order births increased by less than 6 percent, but the number of third order births increased by 18.4 percent and the number of

fourth order or higher births increased by 26.5 percent. Women are also having babies closer together. The rate of spacing between births less than 18 months increased from 10.7 percent in 1996 to 12.1 percent in 2006.

Other provisional vital statistics trends are presented in Table 1. While the number of infant deaths increased slightly in 2006, the rate of infant mortality decreased from 7.5 to 7.4 per 1,000 live births. However, the overall rate of infant mortality has remained fairly stable for the last ten years. Abortions increased slightly in 2006, although they have decreased since 1996.

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Percents</i>		
	1996	2005	2006 (Prov)	1996	2005	2006 (Prov)
Infant Deaths	558	588	599	7.6 *	7.5 *	7.4 *
White	381	405	398	6.2 *	6.3 *	6 *
Black	175	170	184	15.8 *	14.8 *	14.9 *
Low Birth Weight	5,537	6,368	6,579	7.5	8.1	8.1
White	3,987	4,508	4,676	6.5	7.0	7.1
Black	1,426	1,632	1,682	12.9	14.4	13.6
Inadequate Prenatal Care	8,517	7,667	8,201	11.9	10.2	10.6
White	5,525	5,191	5,500	9.3	8.4	8.7
Black	2,741	2,082	2,267	26.6	19.6	20.4
Preterm (<37 weeks)	8,599	10,722	10,700	11.7	13.7	13.2
Multiple Births	1,978	2,742	2,776	2.7	3.5	3.4
Birth Spacing<18 mos.	4,413	5,194	5,498	10.7	11.7	12.1
Out-of Wedlock Births	24,454	29,669	31,987	33.2	37.8	39.3
Teen(10-19) Births	10,434	8,707	9,286	14.2	11.1	11.4
Early Teen (10-17) Births	3,816	2,660	2,935	5.2	3.4	3.6
Smoking During Pregnancy	14,409	14,317	14,946	19.5	18.2	18.4
Medicaid Births	29,423	36,775	37,965	41.3	47.5	47.5
WIC Births	29,604	32,954	34,256	41.6	42.6	42.8
Food Stamps Births	15,146	18,528	19,333	21.3	24.6	24.9
C-Sections	15,198	23,749	24,906	20.6	30.2	30.6
Live Births	73,733	78,547	81,353			

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

Other maternal and child health indicators in Table 2 show the following in 2006:

- The low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate stayed the same as 2005, at 8.1 percent.
- The rate of inadequate prenatal care increased from 10.2 percent in 2005 to 10.6 percent in 2006.
- Out-of wedlock births continue to increase as another record high of 39.3 percent was reached.
- The rate of mothers on Medicaid, WIC or Food Stamps did not change dramatically.
- C-Sections increased again to their highest level ever at 30.6 percent, 1.3 percent more than in 2005 and nearly 50 percent greater than in 1996.

Overall mortality did not change greatly in 2006, as total deaths were very slightly higher than the previous year, 54,475 vs. 54,324. Life expectancy inched up from 76.8 years in 2005 to 76.9 years in 2006, a record high. Male life expectancy increased from 74.1 to 74.3 years while female life expectancy remained the same in 2005 and 2006 at 79.4 years. Missouri life expectancy was still a full year less than the latest life expectancy available

for the United States, 77.9 years in 2004.

The ten leading causes of death for 2006 were essentially the same as in 2005 with the exception that suicide replaced septicemia (blood poisoning) as the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause (See Table 3). Heart disease remained the state's number one killer, although the number of deaths due to heart disease decreased by 1.2 percent in 2006 and by 19.4 percent since 1996. Cancer was the second leading cause and increased by less than one percent in 2006.

The two causes of death showing the greatest increase were suicide (10<sup>th</sup> leading cause) at 9.2 percent over 2005 and unintentional injuries (5<sup>th</sup>) at 6.0 percent. The suicide increase may be more due to random fluctuation, as the 2006 rate is actually lower than it was ten years earlier. However the increase in unintentional injury deaths is part of a long-range trend as the number of deaths due to this cause has increased by about one-third since 1996.

**Table 3**  
**Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1996, 2005 and Provisional 2006**

<u>Leading Causes of Death</u>	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 100,000 Population</i>		
	<i>1996</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006 (Prov)</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006 (Prov)</i>
Heart	18,174	14,818	14,647	334.6	255.5	250.7
Cancer	12,014	12,381	12,484	221.2	213.5	213.7
Lung cancer	3,687	3,882	3,921	67.9	66.9	67.1
Stroke	3,866	3,316	3,243	71.2	57.2	55.5
Chronic lung disease	2,516	3,063	3,008	46.3	52.8	51.5
Unintentional injury	2,253	2,807	2,975	41.5	48.4	50.9
Motor vehicle	1,145	1,188	1,104	21.1	20.5	18.9
Falls	411	594	674	7.6	10.2	11.5
Poisonings	149	528	681	2.7	9.1	11.7
Other	548	497	516	10.1	8.6	8.8
Alzheimer's disease	453	1,631	1,632	8.3	28.1	27.9
Diabetes	1,289	1,549	1,491	23.7	26.7	25.5
Pneumonia & influenza	2,179	1,546	1,321	40.1	26.7	22.6
Nephritis & nephrosis	647	1,154	1,106	11.9	19.9	18.9
Suicide	768	731	798	14.1	12.6	13.7
Septicemia	500	761	751	9.2	13.1	12.9
Homicide	476	429	412	8.8	7.4	7.1
AIDS	339	128	120	6.2	2.2	2.1
Maternal Deaths	12	13	13	16.3 **	16.6 **	16.0 **

\*\*Per 100,000 live births

(Focus continued)

Among the types of unintentional injuries, poisoning deaths (which include drug overdoses) increased by 29 percent from 2005 to 2006 and fall deaths increased by 13 percent. Motor vehicle crash deaths have not changed much in recent years. Poisoning deaths increased by more than four-fold from 1996 to 2006 from 149 to 681.

The increase in poisoning deaths involves a wide variety of drugs including cocaine, heroin, and methadone as well as powerful painkillers such as

oxycodone and fentanyl. Many times these deaths involve dangerous combinations of these and other drugs.

Among other vital statistics, marriages continued to decline, decreasing for the seventh consecutive year and reaching just 40,264, the lowest count since 1965. Divorces had been decreasing for five consecutive years, but increased by about five percent in 2006, from 21,013 to 22,055.