

# 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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## 2012 Vital Statistics

Missouri teen births continued to decrease in 2012, declining by 8.8 percent from 6,698 in 2011 to 6,383 in 2012, the lowest number of Missouri teen live births on record (since 1911). According to provisional data from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the 2012 teen fertility rate of 32.2 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 was also the lowest on record. This represents a nearly 50 percent decrease since 1991 when the teen birth rate peaked at 64.3 per 1,000 females aged 15-19.

The Missouri teen birth decrease follows a national trend. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the United States teen fertility rate decreased from 61.8 to 31.3 per 1,000 females aged 15-19 from 1991 to 2011, a 50.6 percent decrease. In the latest comparable year (2011), Missouri's teen birth rate was 34.4 compared to 31.3 nationally. Despite these improvements, the United States teen birth rate is still higher than most Western countries.

As Table 1 shows, early teen births (less than age 18) to Missourians also reached a record low count of 1,681, although records for this age group only go back to 1972. The Missouri fertility rate of 13.9 per 1,000 females aged 15-17 was 64 percent less than the rate of 38.8 in 1991. In the latest comparable year of 2011, the Missouri fertility rate

for teens aged 15-17 was 15.8 per 1,000 females, slightly higher than the national rate of 15.4.

Recent decreases in teen births have been larger among African-American teens than among whites. From 2011 to 2012 the number of African-American teen births decreased by 15.6 percent from 1,707 to 1,440. White teen births decreased by 7.1 percent in the same time period. Reasons for the decreases in teen fertility include improved contraceptive use and the use of more effective contraceptives among sexually active teens, as well as less sexual activity among teens.

Other 2012 provisional vital statistics reveal that Missourians' life expectancy increased from 77.6 years in 2011 to a record 77.8 years. This represents an increase in life expectancy of 1.6 years since 2002. However, it is still less than the 78.7 years for the United States in 2011. Missouri females reached the record high life expectancy in 2012 of 80.3 years, 0.2 year more than the previous highs in 2009 and 2011. Male life expectancy also reached a record in 2012, 75.2 years vs. 75.1 in 2011.

The ten leading causes of death remained in the same order as in 2011. (See Table 2) Heart disease was the state's number one killer, followed by cancer, chronic lung disease, unintentional injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, kidney

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**Table 1****Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri 2002, 2011 and Provisional 2012**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Percents</i>		
	2002	2011	2012(prov)	2002	2011	2012(prov)
Infant Deaths	638	482	496	8.5*	6.3*	6.6*
White	437	287	339	7.1*	5.0*	5.6*
Black	188	150	130	17.1*	13.7*	12.3*
Low Birth Weight	6,057	6,015	5,837	8.1	7.9	7.7
White	4,339	3,812	3,785	7.0	6.7	6.7
Black	1,530	1,574	1,459	13.9	14.4	13.6
Inadequate Prenatal Care	7,705	12,181	12,506	10.7	17.8	18.4
White	5,233	7,282	7,593	8.7	14.2	14.9
Black	2,113	3,116	3,072	21.3	32.2	33.0
Teen(10-19) Births	9,426	6,998	6,383	12.5	9.2	8.5
White	6,401	4,463	4,147	10.4	7.9	7.4
Black	2,337	1,707	1,440	21.3	15.6	13.4
Early Teen (10-17) Births	2,938	1,931	1,681	3.9	2.5	2.2
Preterm (<37 weeks)	9,981	8,973	8,898	13.3	11.8	11.8
Multiple Births	2,618	2,688	2,640	3.5	3.5	3.5
Birth Spacing<18 mos.	4,566	4,880	4,922	10.7	11.9	11.9
Out-of Wedlock Births	26,489	30,520	30,288	35.2	40.1	40.2
Smoking During Pregnancy	13,607	13,803	13,507	18.1	18.3	18.1
Medicaid Births	31,891	33,018	32,259	44.3	45.0	43.9
WIC Births	30,124	34,692	34,194	41.9	46.6	46.3
Food Stamps Births	14,042	24,011	23,575	19.5	33.9	33.6
C-Sections	19,598	23,760	23,835	26.1	31.4	31.8
Live Births	75,167	76,069	75,400			

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

disease (nephritis), pneumonia and influenza, and suicide. Heart disease continued its downward trend, decreasing by 1 percent in 2012 and 18 percent in the previous ten years. However, cancer deaths increased by 3.5 percent in 2012 to 12,831 deaths from 12,403 in 2011. This represents the highest number of cancer deaths on record. However, because of the population increase, the crude death

rate for cancer of 213.1 per 100,000 population was still less than the rate in 2002 (216.1). The difference between heart disease and cancer deaths in 2012 was just 780 compared more than 4,300 in 2002.

Other notable increases in causes of death in 2012 occurred for chronic lung disease (4.6 percent) and

**Table 2****Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 2002, 2011  
and Provisional 2012**

<u>Leading Causes of Death</u>	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 100,000 Population</i>		
	2002	2011	2012(prov)	2002	2011	2012(prov)
	Heart	16,574	13,746	13,611	292.1	228.8
Cancer	12,264	12,403	12,831	216.1	206.4	213.1
Lung cancer	3,775	3,818	3,976	66.5	63.5	66.0
Chronic lung disease	2,857	3,483	3,642	50.3	58.0	60.5
Unintentional injury	2,575	3,179	3,011	45.4	52.9	50.0
Motor vehicle	1,175	831	849	20.7	13.8	14.1
Falls	475	690	694	8.4	11.5	11.5
Poisonings	350	856	823	6.2	14.2	13.7
Forces of nature	41	197	53	0.7	3.3	0.9
Other	534	605	592	9.4	10.1	9.8
Stroke	3,880	3,010	2,950	68.4	50.1	49.0
Alzheimer's disease	1,192	1,916	1,854	21.0	31.9	30.8
Diabetes	1,616	1,421	1,371	28.5	23.6	22.8
Nephritis & nephrosis	1,064	1,251	1,252	18.7	20.8	20.8
Pneumonia & influenza	1,621	1,200	1,212	28.6	20.0	20.1
Suicide	690	921	901	12.2	15.3	15.0

lung cancer (4.1 percent), both strongly related to smoking. Large decreases in deaths occurred for unintentional injuries (5.3 percent), diabetes (3.5 percent), Alzheimer's disease (3.2 percent), and suicide (2.1 percent). The decrease in unintentional injury deaths was primarily due to the lack of a major catastrophic storm like the Joplin tornado of 2011. An encouraging sign was a decrease in poisoning deaths (including drug overdoses) of 3.9 percent. This was the second straight year of decrease in poisoning deaths following several years of large increases.

The infant death rate increased slightly in 2012, from 6.3 in 2011 to 6.6 per 1,000 live births. (See Table 1) This is the first increase in the state infant death rate since 2007. Ten years earlier, in 2002, the rate was 8.5 per 1,000 live births. The increase was primarily among white infants, as this rate increased

from 5.0 to 5.6 per 1,000 white infants. African-American infant mortality decreased from 13.7 in 2011 to 12.3 in 2012. In 2011 (the latest comparable year) Missouri's infant death rate was 6.3 compared to the national rate of 6.1 per 1,000 live births.

As Table 3 shows, live births decreased by slightly less than one percent in 2012 from 76,069 to 75,400, the fifth consecutive year of decrease. Since the peak year in 2007 of 81,883 births, Missouri live births have decreased by 6.9 percent. The low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate decreased slightly from 7.9 percent in 2011 to 7.7 percent in 2012, with most of the decrease occurring among African Americans. The rate of inadequate prenatal care increased from 17.8 percent in 2011 to 18.4 percent in 2012.

**Table 3****Vital Statistics for Missouri: 2002, 2011 and Provisional 2012**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>		
	2002	2011	2012(prov)	2002	2011	2012(prov)
Births	75,167	76,069	75,400	13.3	12.7	12.5
Deaths	55,637	55,599	55,785	9.9	9.3	9.3
Natural increase	19,530	20,470	19,615	3.5	3.4	3.3
Marriages	41,552	39,481	39,378	7.4	6.6	6.5
Divorces	22,593	23,272	22,553	4.0	3.9	3.7
Infant deaths	638	482	496	8.5*	6.3*	6.6*
Abortions	12,250	9,234	9,027	162.9*	122.7*	119.7*
Population (1000s)	5,644	6,009	6,022			

\*Per 1,000 live births

Other maternal and child health indicators show the following in 2012:

- The rate of preterm births (less than 37 weeks) remained at 11.8 percent, but a decrease from 13.3 percent in 2002.
- Multiple births remained at 3.5 percent of births, the same as 2011 and 2002.
- The rate of out-of wedlock births increased slightly from 40.1 to 40.2 percent.
- Short (less than 18 months) spacing between births remained the same as in 2011, 11.9 percent.
- The rates of Medicaid, WIC and Food Stamp births all decreased slightly.
- Abortions decreased by 2.3 percent, from 9,234 in 2011 to 9,027, the lowest number of abortions in nearly 40 years.

- The rate of smoking during pregnancy decreased slightly from 18.3 to 18.1 percent.
- C-Sections increased from 31.4 percent to 31.8 percent.

Marriages and divorces both decreased in 2012; marriages slightly from 39,481 to 39,378, and divorces by 3.1 percent from 23,272 in 2011 to 22,553 in 2012. Since 2002, the marriage rate has decreased by 12.2 percent from 7.4 to 6.5 per 1,000 population, and the divorce rate has decreased by 7.5 percent from 4.0 to 3.7 per 1,000 population.

## Reference:

Hamilton BE, Mathews TJ, Ventura SJ: Declines in State Teen Births Rates by Race Hispanic Origin; NCHS Data Brief No. 123. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2013.