

Provisional Vital Statistics for December 2015

Live births decreased slightly in December as 6,462 Missouri babies were born compared with 6,490 born one year earlier. Cumulative births for calendar year 2015 also showed a slight decrease from 75,104 in 2014 to 75,042 in 2015. This is the lowest state birth count since 2001.

Deaths decreased in December as 5,051 Missourians died compared with 5,602 in December, 2014. However, deaths increased by 2.8 percent in 2015, from 58,141 to 59,780, which is the highest resident death count in state recorded history.

Natural increase in December for Missourians was 1,411 (6,462 births minus 5,051 deaths). In 2015 the natural increase declined by about 10 percent from 16,963 to 15,262, which is the lowest natural increase since the depression in 1937.

Marriages decreased in December, but increased by 1.5 percent for the total year from 40,779 in 2014 to 41,371 in 2015. The legalization of same-sex marriages by the Supreme Court in June was largely responsible for this increase.

Dissolutions of marriage decreased in December as well as for the entire year. Dissolutions decreased by 3.2 percent in 2015 from 19,877 to 19,242, the lowest state count since 1971. In 2015 the marriage to divorce ratio increased from 2.05 to 2.15.

Infant deaths in December decreased as 41 Missouri infants died compared with 46 in December 2014. For 2015, the infant death rate increased from 6.1 in 2014 to 6.5 per 1,000 live births.

PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 2015

Item	<u>December</u>				<u>12 months ending with December 2015</u>								
	<u>Number</u>		<u>Rate*</u>		<u>Number</u>				<u>Rate*</u>				
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Live Births	6,490	6,462	12.6	12.5	75,400	75,244	75,104	75,042	12.7	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.3
Deaths	5,602	5,051	10.9	9.8	55,783	57,256	58,141	59,780	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.6	9.8
Natural increase	888	1,411	1.7	2.7	19,617	17,988	16,963	15,262	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.5
Marriages	2,642	2,494	5.1	4.8	39,378	38,984	40,779	41,371	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.8
Dissolutions	1,843	1,710	3.6	3.3	22,553	20,684	19,877	19,242	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.2
Infant deaths	46	41	7.1	6.3	496	488	456	486	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.1	6.5
Population base			6,064	6,084					6,011	6,025	6,044	6,064	6,084
(in thousands)													

* Rates for live births, deaths, natural increase, marriages and dissolutions are computed on the number per 1,000 estimated population. The infant death rate is based on the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Beginning with provisional July 2006 data numbers and rates are based on month of event rather than month of report. This will result in a delay in reporting, but will more accurately reflect current trends.

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