

## PREFACE

For more than 100 years, Missouri vital records have captured a piece of the life story of every person who was born or died in Missouri. Legislation passed by the Missouri General Assembly and approved on May 6, 1909, provided for the “immediate registration of all births and deaths” by the State Board of Health. Improved sanitation and hygiene for the people of the state were anticipated as a result of centralizing these duties. With the passage of the legislation, Missouri became the 19<sup>th</sup> state to enact a comprehensive vital statistics law, and acceptance into the death registration area of the U.S. Census Bureau soon followed. The 1909 law was implemented by February of 1910, and the first vital statistics report using a full year of Missouri birth and death records was for 1911.

Vital records and vital statistics impact our lives every day. Birth and death certificates are permanent legal records that contain valuable health and medical information. As legal documents, birth and death certificates provide proof of age, parentage, and citizenship. They are used to obtain passports and driver’s licenses, enroll in benefits programs, settle estates, obtain life insurance payouts, and terminate Social Security benefits. Health and medical information from birth and death records is transformed into data to calculate population growth, identify health risk factors, measure health outcomes, plan and evaluate health programs, and conduct research. Vital statistics help drive public health programs that keep people healthy, and they influence our personal health care.

This report presents the final tabulation of statistical data relating to vital events in Missouri during 2022. Live births were accepted through February 22, 2023, death, fetal death, and abortion records through April 15, 2023, dissolutions through June 27, 2023 and marriages through July 18, 2023.

Missouri Vital Statistics 2022 is published for use in public health and related fields as an aid for studying births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, dissolutions, and abortions. This document, along with additional vital statistics data, is available on the Department of Health and Senior Services website at [www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov) under “Data and Statistics.”

2022 saw a significant decrease in COVID deaths, decreasing by over 40%. It dropped from the third leading cause to the fourth overall cause, still contributing to 4,316 deaths. Total deaths decreased from 73,831 to 71,776, a 2.7% decrease. Live births also decreased for another consecutive year dropping to 68,954. There was a natural decrease (more deaths than births) for a third-consecutive year, but the decrease improved by nearly 40%. Life expectancy improved to 75.4 years. Tables showing specific causes of death have been modified so that the COVID-19 category could be added.

For a complete printer friendly version:

<https://health.mo.gov/data/vitalstatistics/mvs22/2022MissouriVitalStatistics.pdf>

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