



Vital Statistics and Health Data

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Center for Health and Environmental Statistics

Kansas laws define milestones of humanity, i.e., birth, death, stillbirth (fetal death) marriage, divorce, etc. Each individual milestone is commonly known as a vital event. The laws authorize establishment of methods and procedures to capture data and information describing each vital event. The combination of data and forms (including certificates) which document or describe each vital event is known as a vital record.

Each vital event occurring in Kansas requires establishment of a vital record which must be registered with the State of Kansas. As part of the registration process, documents associated with each vital record, particularly certificates are stored on optical disks. The registration process also includes entry of vital record information and data into the Vital Statistics Database. Applied information technology makes it possible to produce standard reports and special studies when issuable and confidential portions of vital record files of groups of individuals are compiled and analyzed on a yearly basis.

Once a reporting year is considered complete, a history file is created. From this file annual tables of vital statistics are generated.

While Vital Statistics has long been considered the “gold standard” of public health data, supplementing that information with other health data adds value to the information. Greater insight is gained into the health and wellness of all Kansans. The evaluation of health data is a core public health function: assessing the health of the population.

Other health statistics data is also provided to the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics: health professional licensure, hospital discharge data through an agreement with the Kansas Hospital Association, and health insurance claims data through agreements with Workman’s Compensation and the Kansas Insurance Commissioner. Much of this data is collected in collaboration with the Health Care Data Governing Board, to which the Center provides staff support.

Reports on these data are shared with policy makers, program officials, and the public. Many reports and documents are available publicly through Internet portals: <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/ches/> or <http://www.accesskansas.org/hcdgb/> or <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/>. In some instances data are posted to the Internet for individuals to self-query through a service known as Kansas Information for Communities (KIC). Special analyses may also be performed on request.

Recent Reports and Publications

Mental Health Parity Costs: Special report to the Kansas Legislature 2001

Annual Summary of Vital Statistics – published annually

Annual Report of the Health Care Data Governing Board – published annually

Abortions in Kansas: Preliminary Report - published annually

Fatal Occupational Injuries in Kansas – Published annually

Kansas Health Statistics – a health care data research brief published quarterly

Suicides in Kansas, 1989-1998 – a ten year analysis of suicide deaths in the state

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in Kansas – published annually

Infant Mortality Statistics, Period Linked Births and Infant Deaths, Kansas, 1995-1998

Age-Standardization of Kansas Death Rates: Implications of the Year 2000 Standard

Vital Statistics in Kansas

The 2002 edition of the *Annual Summary of Vital Statistics* is a summary of data compiled from vital event records for the 2002 calendar year. The content of this report includes summaries of vital events such as live births, fetal deaths, abortions, deaths, marriages, and marriage dissolutions documented by certificates and reports filed with the Office of Vital Statistics, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics.

Kansas vital events (resident-live births, deaths, fetal deaths, abortions, and occurrence-marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 0.4 percent from 100,557 in 1992 to 100,187 in 2002.

Between 1992 and 2002, the most significant changes in vital events were a 35.1 percent decrease in the fetal death rate and a 26.7 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio.

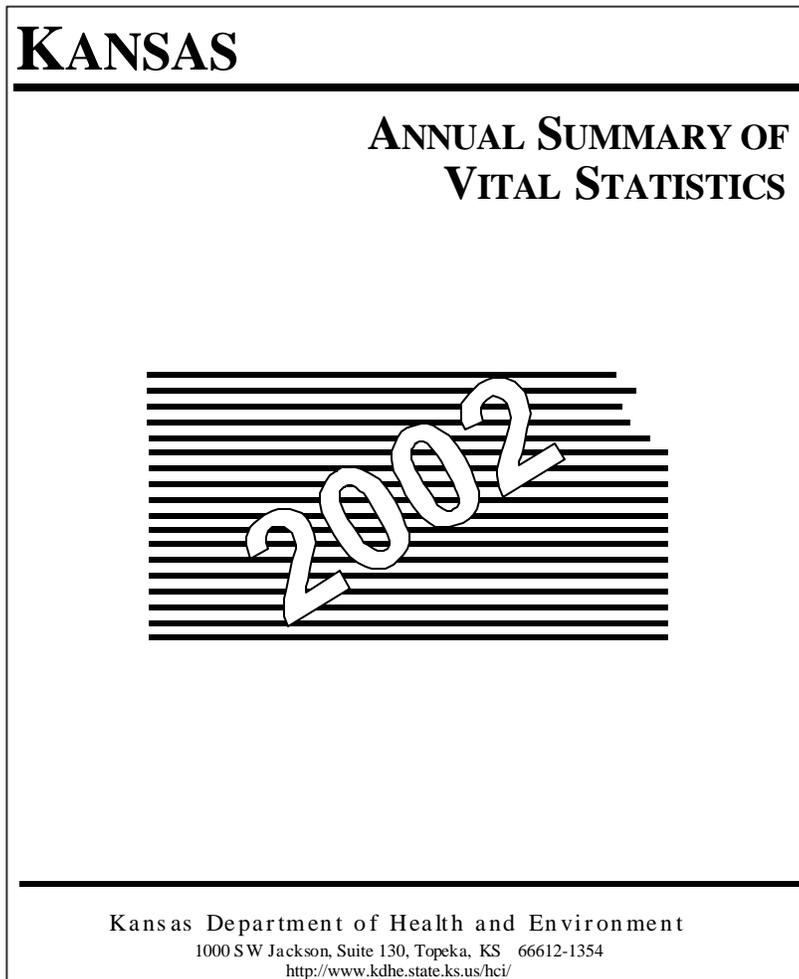
The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2002 at 12,129. This represented 30.8 percent of all Kansas resident births, which is the highest proportion ever reported.

The live birth rate in 2002 (14.5) decreased 3.3 percent from the 1992 rate of 15.0. The rate of 14.2 in 1996 was the lowest on record, dating from 1935. The death rate increased 5.7 percent, from 8.7 in 1992 to 9.2 in 2002.

Hebdomadal, perinatal, neonatal and infant death rates decreased from 1992 to 2002, with percentage decreases of 11.4, 24.0, 7.5, and 18.2, respectively.

In 2002, the number of couples married in Kansas declined slightly, continuing the generally downward trend that began in 1993. The marriage rate (7.3) decreased 16.1 percent from the 1992 rate of 8.7. The number of marriage dissolutions (divorces and annulments) granted in the state continued its generally downward trend.

Over half (10,368) of the marriages in 2002 were first marriages for both the bride and groom.



Every Day During 2002*

Each day Kansas residents
experienced approximately...

108 Live births
33 Out of wedlock live births
1 Infant death
0.5 Fetal death

18 Heart disease deaths
15 Cancer deaths
5 Cerebrovascular disease deaths
4 Chronic lower respiratory disease
deaths
3 Accidental deaths
2 Pneumonia and influenza deaths

Each day in Kansas there
occurred approximately...

54 Marriages
26 Marriages dissolutions

and

32 Abortions

- Based on 365 Days in 2002

Source Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Center for Health and Environmental Statistics

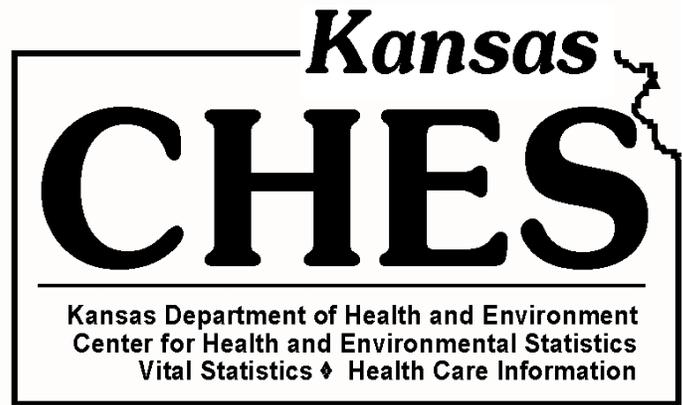
Selected Vital Event Rates And Ratios
Kansas, 1992-2002

Vital Event	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Live Births											
Number	37,848	37,283	37,269	37,087	36,524	37,191	38,372	38,748	39,654	38,832	39,338
Rate	15.0	14.7	14.6	14.5	14.2	14.3	14.6	14.6	14.7	14.4	14.5
Out-of-Wedlock Births											
Number	9,183	9,599	9,653	9,594	9,798	10,260	10,657	11,068	11,491	11,592	12,129
Ratio	24.3	25.7	25.9	25.9	26.8	27.6	27.8	28.6	29.0	29.9	30.8
Fetal Deaths											
Number	216	222	231	183	179	202	199	175	177	209	146
Rate	5.7	5.9	6.2	4.9	4.9	5.4	5.2	4.5	4.4	5.4	3.7
Hebdomadal Deaths											
Number	165	171	140	134	157	147	132	159	146	148	155
Rate	4.4	4.6	3.8	3.6	4.3	4.0	3.4	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.9
Perinatal Period III Deaths											
Number	381	393	371	317	336	349	331	334	323	357	301
Rate	10.0	10.5	9.9	8.5	9.2	9.3	8.6	8.6	8.1	9.1	7.6
Neonatal Deaths											
Number	199	201	177	166	199	173	172	189	174	178	192
Rate	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.5	5.4	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.9
Infant Deaths											
Number	332	325	285	256	299	274	263	281	266	285	282
Rate	8.8	8.7	7.6	6.9	8.2	7.4	6.9	7.3	6.7	7.3	7.2
Maternal Deaths											
Number	2	3	2	2	2	5	3	4	4	1	2
Rate	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.5
Deaths											
Number	22,052	23,508	23,219	23,807	23,788	23,609	23,928	24,380	24,676	24,590	24,968
Rate	8.7	9.3	9.1	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.2
Marriages											
Number	21,845	21,527	21,524	21,057	20,657	20,537	20,403	20,905	20,426	20,457	19,783
Rate	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.2	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.3
Divorces and Annulments											
Number	12,365	12,068	11,659	11,029	10,779	10,618	10,363	9,926	10,105	9,885	9,654
Rate	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.6

Residence data are presented for births and deaths

Occurrence data are presented for marriages, divorces and annulments

Source Kansas Department of Health and Environment
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Kansas Vital Events

Event	Description	Collection Began	Uses
Abortion	(Induced termination of pregnancy): The purposeful interruption of pregnancy with the intention other than to produce a live born infant or to remove a dead fetus and which does not result in a live birth.	1971	Public health and social research
Birth	The complete expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception from its mother, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, that, after such expulsion or extraction, shows any evidence of life such as breathing, heartbeat, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or voluntary muscle movement, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta attached. Frequently called "live birth" although use of the word "live" is redundant.	1911	School attendance Passports Social Security participation Public health and social research Sports participation Employment Driver's License
Death	The irreversible cessation of vital functions in a living individual esp. as indicated by permanent stoppage of the heart, respiration, or brain activity, beyond the possibility of resuscitation.	1911	Survivor's benefits Preservation of property rights Cause and circumstances of death Place of interment Evidence of age, sex, or race Genealogical information File clearance (governmental only) Public health and social research
Divorce & Annulment	The dissolution of a legally binding marriage contract.	1951	Public health and social research
Fetal Death	Any complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception the weight of which is in excess of 350 grams, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, resulting in other than a live birth, and which is not an induced termination of pregnancy. Formerly called "stillbirth." Changed to avoid confusion with the term "live birth."	1911	Public health and social research
Marriage	The legal union of a male and female	1913	Public health and social research

The Kansas Vital Statistics Registration System

Responsible Person or Agency	Marriage Record	Divorce or Annulment Record
Clerk of County Government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receives application for marriage license, and reviews application for completeness, accuracy, and compliance with law. 2. Issues marriage license and records date. 3. Checks completeness of entries about the marriage ceremony. 4. Sends specified information regarding marriage to State Registrar. 	
Marriage Officiant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Checks the validity of the marriage license. 2. Performs the marriage ceremony. 3. Certifies to the facts of the marriage ceremony. 4. Returns the record to the license clerk within the legally prescribed time. 	
Clerk of Court		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provides form for report to plaintiff or attorney, or makes entries on such form from petition for decree. 2. Verifies entries on return form. 3. Enters information on final decree. 4. Sends completed report to State Registrar.
Attorney for Plaintiff		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enters appropriate personal data 2. Returns form to Clerk of Court.
State Registrar, CHES, Office of Vital Statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verifies completeness and accuracy of report. 2. Queries incomplete or inconsistent information. 3. Enters data into electronic database. 4. Maintains files for permanent reference and as a source of certified copies. 	
State Registrar, CHES, Office of Health Care Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develops vital statistics for use in planning, evaluating, and administering state and local health activities and for research studies. 2. Compiles health related statistics for state and civil divisions of state for use by health department and other agencies and groups interested in the fields of medical science, public health, demography, and social welfare. 	

The Kansas Vital Statistics Registration System

Responsible Person or Agency	Birth Certificate	Death Certificate	Fetal Death Certificate	Induced Termination of Pregnancy Report
Hospital Authority, Physician, or Other Professional Attendant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completes the personal data part of certificate in consultation with parent(s). 2. Secures signatures of certifier and of parent(s) 3. Completes medical and health section per records of attending physician. 4. Files certificate with State Registrar. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completes medical certification and signs certificate. 2. Returns certificate to funeral director. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completes or reviews medical items on certificate. 2. Certifies the cause of fetal death and signs certificate. 3. Returns certificate to funeral director or hospital administrator. 4. In absence of funeral director, files certificate with local registrar. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completes personal data and medical data in consultation with the patient. 2. Submits the report to the State Registrar.
Funeral Director or Hospital Administrator		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completes personal data part in consultation with next of kin. 2. Takes certificate to physician for medical certification. 3. Signs section on disposition of the body. 4. Delivers completed certificate to State Registrar (and obtains burial permit). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completes personal data part in consultation with parent(s). 2. Takes certificate to physician for medical certification. 3. Signs section on disposition of the fetus. 4. Delivers completed certificate to State Registrar (and obtains burial permit). 	
State Registrar, CHES, Office of Vital Statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verifies completeness and accuracy of certificate. 2. Queries incomplete or inconsistent information. 3. Scans certificate into Optical Disk System, enters data into electronic index database. 4. Maintains files for permanent reference and as a source of certified copies. 5. Prepares a subset of the data contained in birth, death, and fetal death certificates and transmits to the National Center for Health Statistics. 			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enters report data into electronic database
State Registrar CHES, Office of Health Care Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develops vital statistics for use in planning, evaluating, and administering state and local health activities and for research studies. 2. Compiles health related statistics for state and civil divisions of state for use by health departments and other agencies and groups interested in the fields of medical science, public health, demography, and social welfare. 			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verifies completeness and accuracy of report. 2. Queries incomplete or inconsistent information. 3. Compiles health related statistics for public distribution.
National Center for Health Statistics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepares and publishes national statistics of births, deaths, and fetal death, and constructs the official U.S. life tables and related actuarial tables. 2. Conducts health and social-research studies based on vital records and sampling surveys linked to records. 3. Conducts research and methodological studies in vital statistics methods including the technical, administrative, and legal aspects of vital records registration and administration. 4. Maintains a continuing technical assistance program to improve the quality and usefulness of vital statistics. 			
US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepares and publishes national statistics of induced terminations of pregnancy. 2. Combines data with birth and fetal death data to prepare and publish statistics on reproductive health.
City and County Health Departments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use data to allocate medical and nursing services and planning programs. 2. Measure effectiveness of services. 3. Conduct research studies. 			