
Appendix B: Technical notes - definitions

Births

- **Apgar Score** is a summary measure of the infant's condition based on heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, reflex irritability, and color. The highest possible score is ten. A low Apgar score (seven or less), measured five minutes after birth, indicates the infant is at increased risk of morbidity and mortality.
- **Births to Unmarried Mothers Ratio is the number of births to unmarried mothers per 1,000 live births.** Ratios differ from rates.
- **Crude Birth Rate** is the number of live births per 1,000 total population.
- **Live Birth** is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such a separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached; each product of such a birth is considered live born.¹
- **Low Birthweight Infant** is a live born infant with a birthweight of less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces (2,500 grams) as reported on the birth certificate.
- **Birth rate per 1,000 men** is the number of births per 1,000 males in Oregon. In computing birth rates by age of father, births tabulated as age of father not stated are distributed in the same proportions as births with known age within each five-year-age classification of the mother. The male birth rate is used to facilitate comparisons between Oregon and the national rate.

NCHS uses this procedure to avoid distortion in rates resulting from the disregard of the relationship between the mother and fathers' age.

Deaths

- **Crude Death Rate** is the number of deaths per 1,000 or 100,000 total population.
- **Fetal Death** is death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of at least 20 weeks gestation, except where such expulsion results from a therapeutic abortion; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation, the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.
- **Fetal Death Ratio** is the number of fetal deaths per 1,000 live births. Ratios differ from rates.
- **Infant Death** is the death of a child prior to its first birthday.
- **Infant Death Rate** is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Maternal Death Rate** is the number of female deaths attributed to childbirth or to complications of pregnancy or the puerperium, per 100,000 live births.
- **Neonatal Death** is the death of a child within the first 27 days of life.
- **Neonatal Death Rate** is the number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Postneonatal Death** is the death of a child after 27 days of life and before its first birthday.
- **Postneonatal Death Rate** is the number of postneonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.
- **Perinatal Death** is the death of a fetus after 20 weeks gestation or the death of a live-born infant prior to the 28th day of life. Other medical literature may include different time periods.
- **Perinatal Death Ratio** is the number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 total live births. Ratios differ from rates.

Medical personnel - abbreviations used in tables

- C.N.M. — certified nurse midwife
- D.C. — doctor of chiropractic medicine
- D.O. — doctor of osteopathic medicine
- L.D.M. — licensed direct entry midwife
- M.D. — medical doctor
- N.D. — naturopathic doctor
- R.N. — registered nurse

Endnote

¹Vital Statistics of the United States, 1982, vol. 1, section 4, page 1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics, Maryland, 1986.