

APPENDIX A: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Age-Adjusted Birth Rate. A summary of age-specific birth rates standardized to one age distribution (usually 1940 standard million population). This summary allows comparisons to be made between populations with different age distributions. (See Appendix B for specific instructions on calculating age-adjusted rates.)

Age-Adjusted Death Rate. A summary of age-specific death rates standardized to one age distribution (usually 1940 standard million population). This summary allows comparisons to be made between populations with different age distributions. (See Appendix B for specific instructions on calculating age-adjusted rates.)

Age-Specific Birth Rate. The number of live births for a specific age group divided by the population for the same specific age group, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000).

Age-Specific Death Rate. The number of deaths for a specific age group divided by the population for the same specific age group, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 100,000).

Birth Cohort Infant Mortality Rate. The birth cohort method of calculating the infant mortality tracks all infants born within a calendar year throughout their first year of life. When calculating 1995 infant mortality, all infants who were born during 1995 and died prior to their first birthday, whether in 1995 or in 1996, are counted in the birth cohort. In this report, birth cohort has been calculated for infants born in 1995, since data on deaths is complete only through 1996. (See also Death Cohort Infant Mortality Rate.)

Birth Weight. Weight of the infant when born, usually reported in grams.

Cause of Death. The cause of death reported is the underlying cause of death and is based on information contained on the death certificate, defined by the World Health Organization's *International Classification of Diseases - Ninth Revision* as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury. See Appendix C for specific categories.

Cause Specific Death Rate. The number of deaths due to a specific cause of death divided by the estimated total population, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 100,000).

Constant of Proportionality. An arbitrary number (often 1,000 or 100,000) which is used for calculating a rate so that comparisons are possible and more understandable. (It is easier to compare 21.7 to 21.3 than it is to compare 0.0217 to 0.0213.)

Crude Birth Rate. The number of live births divided by the estimated population, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000).

Crude Death Rate. The number of deaths divided by the estimated population, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 100,000).

Crude Divorce Rate. The number of divorces of all types (divorces, dissolutions, and annulments) divided by the estimated population, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000).

Crude Marriage Rate. The number of marriages divided by the estimated population, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000).

Death Cohort Infant Mortality Rate. The death cohort method is determined by dividing the number of infant deaths by the number of live births in a calendar year. For example, to calculate the death cohort infant mortality rate for 1996, divide the number of infant deaths that occurred in 1996 by the number of live births that occurred during 1996, and multiply the result by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000). By using the death cohort infant mortality method, some infant deaths will be counted in 1996 when the infant was actually born in 1995. Other deaths to infants born in 1996 who died before their first birthday in 1997 will not be counted. Since the death cohort method of calculating infant mortality does not reflect the number of infant deaths experienced by infants born in a given year, the birth cohort is the preferred calculation method.

Expectation of Life. Expectation of life (life expectancy) is the number of years infants born in a specific year can expect to live if they experience the same age-specific death rates experienced during their birth year. (See Appendix B for explanation of calculation.)

Fertility Rate. The total number of live births divided by the number of women in the estimated population between ages 15 and 44, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000).

Gestation. The period beginning with the first day of the last normal menstrual period and ending with the day of birth. Births occurring between 37 and 41 weeks gestational age are considered full-term.

ICD-9. *International Classification of Diseases - Ninth Revision.* The official classification system which codifies all diseases and injuries. ICD-9 has been in use since 1979. All deaths previous to 1979 were coded using ICD-8. (Refer to Appendix C.)

Infant Deaths. Number of infants who died before their first birthday.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). The number of infant deaths divided by the number of live births, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000). There are two ways of calculating the IMR: birth cohort and death cohort. The infant mortality rate is the same as the sum of the neonatal infant mortality rate and the post-neonatal infant mortality rate.

Life Expectancy. See *Expectation of Life*.

Live Birth. A birth where the baby exhibits signs of life after delivery. These signs include breathing, beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord and movement of voluntary muscles.

Location of Occurrence. The place or location where a vital event occurred.

Location of Residence. Most tables report Alaska resident information and are based upon or are categorized by place of residence. The location of actual residence (i.e., census area or Native regional corporation) is not necessarily the same as a person's "legal residence." The location of residence during a tour of military duty or while attending college is considered actual residence.

Low Birth Weight. An infant born weighing less than 2,500 grams. Also see "very low birth weight."

Low Birth Weight Percentage. The number of infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams divided by the number of live births, multiplied by 100. In this report, low birth weight percentages are calculated for a five-year period (1992-1996).

Native. Includes Alaska Natives, Native mixed, Aleuts, Eskimos, Canadian Eskimos and Indians, and American Indians.

Natural Increase. Population change that results when the number of births exceeds the number of deaths. Natural increase does not include population changes as a result of migration in and out of Alaska.

Neonatal Infant Mortality Rate. The number of deaths to infants less than 28 days of age divided by the number of live births, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000). The sum of the neonatal infant mortality rate and the post-neonatal mortality rate is the infant mortality rate.

Perinatal Period. The period of time from the 28th week of gestation up to the 28th day after birth.

Post-neonatal Infant Mortality Rate. The number of deaths to infants from 28 days to 1 year of age divided by the number of live births, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000). The sum of the neonatal infant mortality rate and the post-neonatal mortality rate is the infant mortality rate.

Puerperium. The period after delivery of placenta, which extends until the organs of reproduction have returned to normal, usually 6 to 8 weeks.

Race of Child. First reported race of mother is the race of the child. Prior to 1989, races of both parents were taken into consideration when determining the race of the child using a look-up table. Beginning in 1989, the National Centers for Health Statistics (NCHS) recommended that all states adopt the same standard for determining the race of the child at birth. See Appendix E for more detailed information.

Race/Sex-Specific Death Rate. The number of deaths for a specific race and sex group, divided by the population for the same specific race and sex group, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 100,000).

Race-Specific Death Rate. The number of deaths for a specific racial group divided by the population for the same specific racial group, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 100,000).

Ratio. A ratio is a comparative statistic calculated by dividing the number of events experienced by one group by the number of events experienced by a comparable group (i.e., males to females).

Residence. See "Location of Residence."

Sex-Specific Death Rate. The number of deaths for a specific sex (male or female) divided by the population for the same sex, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 100,000).

Standard Million Population. The 1940 standard one million population is used in this publication whenever age-adjusting occurs. It is as follows.

TABLE A.1 STANDARD MILLION POPULATION

AGE	POPULATION
Under 1 year	15,343
1-4 years	64,718
5-14 years	170,355
15-24 years	181,677
25-34 years	162,066
35-44 years	139,237
45-54 years	117,811
55-64 years	80,294
65-74 years	48,426
75-84 years	17,303
85 & over	2,770
Total	1,000,000

Teen Birth Rate. The number of births to females ages 15-19 divided by the estimated population of females ages 15-19, multiplied by a constant of proportionality (usually 1,000).

Underlying Cause of Death. The disease or injury which initiated the sequence of events that led to death.

Very Low Birth Weight. Infants born weighing less than 1,500 grams.

Years of Life Lost. For all deaths occurring before age 65, the difference between 65 (assumed productive life span) and the age at death; sometimes referred to as "years of productive life lost). For calculation of years of life lost, see Appendix B.