



Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 2021

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Governor**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2021 Vital Statistics Annual Report reveals that Florida is growing in population. Several key indicators point to progress made in enhancing the quality of life across different segments of Florida's population, as well as areas needing continued attention and improvement.

Florida's population reached 22,005,587 residents in 2021, a 1.7 percent increase from 2020. The population distribution based on race was 77.1 percent white, 17.0 percent black and 5.9 percent other race. Hispanics comprised 26.7 percent of the population and non-Hispanics 73.3 percent. A Florida resident born in 2021 can be expected to live 77.1 years, which is an increase of 6.1 years from the life expectancy in 1970.

In 2021, the number of live births among residents in Florida increased by 3.1 percent from the prior year, from 209,645 to 216,189. Florida's overall birth rate in 2021 was 9.8 births per 1,000 population. The birth rate among black mothers was 12.3 births per 1,000 population, higher than the birth rate of 9.1 per 1,000 population among white mothers. Hispanic mothers, regardless of race, experienced a birth rate of 11.7 births per 1,000 population. The percent of births to mothers younger than 19 decreased slightly from 2020 to 2021, from 2.2 percent to 1.9 percent. Roughly 7 out of every 15 resident live births (46.5 percent) were to unwed mothers.

Fetal deaths, also known as stillbirths, are the death of a fetus at 20 or more weeks gestation resulting in a baby born without signs of life. The rate of fetal deaths in 2021 was 7.2 per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths. This is increased from the 2020 rate of 6.8 per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths.

Florida's infant mortality rate increased from 5.8 to 5.9 per 1,000 live births in 2021 when compared to 2020. Since 1990, the resident infant mortality rate has dropped 38.5 percent and is currently less than half the rate of 1980. The most frequent causes of resident infant deaths in 2021 were: 1) Perinatal Period Conditions (652 deaths), 2) Congenital Malformations (222 deaths), 3) Unintentional Injury (107 deaths), 4) Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) (65 deaths) and 5) Heart Diseases (14 deaths). These causes accounted for 83.7 percent of all resident infant deaths.

In 2021, Florida resident deaths increased by 9.1 percent compared to 2020, from 239,381 to 261,246. Heart disease was the leading cause of death in 2021, accounting for 50,027 deaths. Cancer was the second leading cause of death, accounting for 46,889 deaths. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was the third leading cause of death, accounting for 34,490 deaths.

The number of marriages in Florida increased by 19.0 percent from 124,865 in 2020 to 148,634 in 2021. The marriage rate, per 1,000 population, increased from 5.8 to 6.8 for the same period. October was the most popular month for marriage with 15,317 marriages performed. Of the 74,681 dissolutions of marriage in 2021, over half (57.6 percent) did not affect any minor children.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents data compiled and analyzed from the original records/reports filed with Florida's Bureau of Vital Statistics as required by law. These records and reports include live births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages and dissolutions of marriage. Responsibility for filing birth records lies with the physician, midwife or other attendant. Funeral directors, or other persons acting as such, are legally charged with filing death records. The quality of data presented in this Annual Report is directly related to the completeness, accuracy and processing associated with the source documents, registration procedures and statistical reporting systems.

HISTORY OF FLORIDA'S VITAL STATISTICS:

Official collection of Florida's birth and death records began in 1917 and the mandate to collect these data statewide was reiterated in 1927. Florida became a nationally recognized death registration jurisdiction in 1919 and a nationally recognized birth registration jurisdiction in 1924. Marriage and dissolution records have been filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics since June 1927.

Annual reporting of Vital Statistics began in 1919. Publication of the Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report 2021 marks the 103rd year this Annual Report has been produced.

RATES AND FORMULAE:

Various rates are presented throughout this Annual Report. Formulas used for these calculations are presented in Appendix 1.

RESIDENT AND RECORDED EVENTS:

Data on births and deaths are tabulated according to both the usual place of residence (events occurring to Florida residents regardless of the place of occurrence) and the place of occurrence (events occurring in Florida regardless of the usual place of residence). The former are referred to as resident events and the latter as recorded events. Prior to 1933 only recorded data are available.

Varying interpretations of the usual place of residence by Florida's many seasonal visitors and military families may influence the accuracy of resident tabulations since the residence shown on the record is normally accepted without question. For births, the mother's residence is always used.

Data on marriages are based on county of marriage record issuance. Data on dissolution of marriage records are by place of occurrence only; there is no interstate exchange of these records. Florida dissolutions of marriage are granted only to legal residents.

POPULATION:

The resident midyear July 1 population estimates for 2001-2021 used in this Annual Report were developed by the Department of Health, Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management in consultation with the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (s. 216.135, Florida Statutes).

RACE:

Since 1989, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has classified live births according to the race of the mother. Because of this change and for purposes of comparability, vital statistics data in this report have been modified and are based on the race of the mother for all live birth data. In examining trends for related indicators such as infant deaths, low birthweight and births to unwed mothers, it is important to use the same race methodology throughout the time period being analyzed. Due to the change in methodology from the use of the race of the child to the use of the race of the mother, some of the black and other race births (based on the race of child) will now be classified as white births (based on the race of the mother).

Race entries usually are tabulated as stated on the birth, death and marriage certificates. Designations such as bi-racial, black and other race or mixed race are classified as "other race." The 2000 Census permitted multiple responses for the question regarding race. When the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics revised its birth certificate for the 2004 data year and its death certificate for the 2005 data year, the new certificates also permitted multiple responses to be made for race. There are 15 race designations from which any number may be chosen. For tabulation purposes, frequency counts for each of the 15 designations indicate that only a single selection was made. When the single category "other" was selected and a black Hispanic designation was specified, the race was classified as black. Otherwise, "other" with a Hispanic designation was classified as white. When white and black are displayed in the data tables, they represent only white race and only black race, respectively. When "other" is displayed in the data tables it represents multiple races or only a race other than white or black.

CAUSE OF DEATH:

The underlying cause of death is determined from death certificate medical information in accordance with procedures established by the World Health Organization and NCHS. Standardized codes are assigned from the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). To keep abreast of changes in medical knowledge, the ICD is revised approximately every 10 to 15 years. Revisions and years used in Florida are:

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Revision</u>	<u>Years</u>
Second	1917-1920	Seventh	1958-1967
Third	1921-1929	Eighth	1968-1978
Fourth	1930-1940	Ninth	1979-1998
Fifth	1941-1948	Tenth.....	1999-Present
Sixth	1949-1957		

Due to these revisions, year-to-year comparisons of deaths by cause can be misleading, unless such comparisons span a period of years in which only one revision was used.

The Tenth Revision contains major modifications and a disease category such as pneumonia/influenza may be redefined so that more or fewer deaths are included in the classification. To permit more accurate comparisons, NCHS coded a sample of 1996 U.S. deaths by both the Ninth and Tenth Revision rules. The results were grouped by major causes and, for each of these, the number of Tenth Revision deaths was divided by the number of Ninth Revision deaths to produce a comparability ratio. For example, the comparability ratio for Malignant Neoplasm is 1.0068. This means the Tenth Revision coding of 10,000 death certificates will produce about 68 more malignant neoplasms than the Ninth Revision. The comparability ratios for 113 selected causes of death and the 130 selected causes of infant death may be found in the National Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 49, No. 2, May 18, 2001 available at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr49/nvsr49_02.pdf.

In 2020, NCHS added two new rankable causes of death. COVID-19 (ICD-10 code U07.1) is included within the 113 selected causes of death under “Other and unspecified infectious and parasitic diseases and their sequelae” and is broken out as a rankable cause of death. Within the 358 cause groups, COVID-19 is included under “All other and unspecified viral diseases.” Enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* (ICD-10 code A04.7) is included within the 113 selected causes of death under “Certain other intestinal infections” and is broken out as a rankable cause of death. Within the 358 cause groups, Enterocolitis due to *Clostridium difficile* is included under “Intestinal infections due to other specified organisms.”

All death data using cause of death is based on underlying cause of death code.

AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATE (AADR):

The Age-Adjusted Death Rate (AADR) is a summary death rate that facilitates the comparison of rates for areas or population subgroups with different age distributions. These rates are presented as per 1,000 or 100,000 population. The AADRs published in this report are the rates that would have been observed if the age-specific death rates for the given year had prevailed in a population whose age distribution was the same as that of the standard population. Through 1960, the population of the United States in 1940 was used as a standard for computation of the AADRs using the direct method. For 1970 and forward, the projected 2000 standard million population of the United States is used as a standard for computation of the AADRs using the direct method. The specified age intervals are under 1, 1-4, 5-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84 and 85 years or older.

STATE TOTALS:

State totals include individuals whose age, gender or resident county/city is unknown or not reported. State totals in tables showing race may include individuals who belong to a race other than white or black, or whose race is unknown. As a result, a state total may be greater than the sum of the rows or columns.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, access www.FLHealthCHARTS.gov. Call the Florida Bureau of Vital Statistics at (904) 359-6900 for assistance with this Annual Report.