

Vital Events

Kansas vital events (resident live births, deaths, stillbirths, abortions, and occurrence marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 1.2 percent from 101,792 in 1988 to 100,486 in 2007. ([Table 1](#))

Between 1988 and 2007, Kansas noted a 25.1 percent decrease in the divorce and annulment rate and a 118.9 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio. ([Table 1](#))

The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2007 at 15,252. This represented 36.4 percent of all Kansas resident births, the highest proportion ever reported. ([Table 1](#))

The live birth rate in 2007 (15.1 per 1,000 population) decreased 2.6 percent from the 1988 rate of 15.5. The 2007 death rate (8.8 per 1,000 population) decreased 4.3 percent from the 1988 rate (9.2). ([Table 2](#), [Figure 3](#))

The infant death rate in 2007 (7.9) was identical to the 1988 rate. Stillbirth, hebdomadal, and perinatal death rates decreased from 1988 to 2007, with percentage decreases of 27.9, 7.1, and 18.6 respectively. Neonatal death rates rose by 4.2 percent during this same time period. ([Table 2](#), [Figure 3](#))

The age-adjusted death rate per 100,000 population for the Black non-Hispanic population in 2007 was 1.3 times higher than that of the White non-Hispanic population. ([Figure 4](#))

Among Hispanic residents, the age-adjusted death rate was 518.7 in 2007 – lower than the rates for White non-Hispanic, Black non-Hispanic, and Native American non-Hispanic but higher than the rate for Asian/Pacific non-Hispanic residents. ([Figure 4](#))

In 2007, the age-adjusted death rate for Asian/Pacific non-Hispanic residents (352.3) was 65.1 percent lower than the rate for Black non-Hispanics (1010.2) and 54.6 percent lower than the rate for White non-Hispanics(776.4). ([Figure 4](#))

Between 1988 and 2007, both marriage and marriage dissolution (divorces and annulments) rates continued their general downward trend.* The marriage rate (6.8 per 1,000 population) decreased 25.3 percent from the 1988 rate of 9.1. The marriage dissolution rate dropped from 5.0 per 1,000 population in 1988 to 3.4 in 2007. ([Table 2](#))

Over half (10,567) of the marriages in 2007 were first marriages for both the bride and groom. ([Figure 2](#))

White non-Hispanic mothers had the highest percentage (73.8) of receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. This is compared to only 50.9 percent of the births to Hispanic mothers. ([Figure 4](#))

Vital Events (Cont.)

For 18 percent of the births to Black non-Hispanic mothers and 16.3 percent of births to Hispanic mothers, the mother was under 20 years of age. ([Figure 4](#))

The 2007 infant, neonatal, and post neonatal death rates among Black non-Hispanics were approximately three times as high as those for White non-Hispanics. ([Figure 4](#))

***Note:** The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate the number of these records not filed. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.