

## **DEFINITIONS, RATES, AND RATIOS**

**ABORTION:** The purposeful interruption of an intrauterine pregnancy with the intention other than to produce a live-born infant or other than to remove a dead fetus, and which does not result in a live birth.

**ABORTION RATE:** Number of resident abortions occurring in Vermont x 1000, divided by the total resident women ages 15 to 44.

**ABORTION RATIO:** Number of resident abortions occurring in Vermont x 1000, divided by the total resident live births.

**AGE ADJUSTMENT:** Age adjusting allows one to compare rates among populations having different age distributions by adjusting the crude rates in each population to a standard population base. In this bulletin, county rates are adjusted using the state population distribution as the standard.

The computation formula is: The sum of (age-specific rate for each age group x standard population in that age group) multiplied by 1000, and then divided by the total standard population.

**AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATE:** Number of resident deaths in a specific age group x 1000, divided by the total resident population in a specific age group (using population estimates as of July 1).

**AGE-SPECIFIC FERTILITY RATE:** Number of resident live births to mothers in a specific age group x 1000, divided by the total resident female population in a specific age group (using population estimates as of July 1).

**AGE-SPECIFIC PREGNANCY RATE:** Number of resident pregnancies to women in a specific age group x 1000, divided by the total resident female population in a specific age group (using population estimates as of July 1).

**ANNULMENT:** The invalidation or voiding of a marriage, or civil union, which confers on the parties the status of never having been married to each other.

**CIVIL UNION:** A civil union is a legal relationship that provides for same-sex couples in Vermont all the benefits, protections, and responsibilities under law as are granted to spouses in a marriage.

**CIVIL UNION RATE:** Total number of civil unions x 1000, divided by the total resident population (using population estimates as of July 1).

**CRUDE BIRTH RATE:** Number of resident live births x 1000, divided by the total resident population (using population estimates as of July 1).

**CRUDE DEATH RATE:** Number of resident deaths x 1000, divided by the total resident population (using population estimates as of July 1).

**CUMULATIVE ROW PERCENT:** The total number of cases in the current column plus each previous column in each row, expressed as a percentage of all cases in that row.

**DEATH:** The permanent disappearance of any evidence of life at any time after live birth.

**DIVORCE:** The final legal dissolution of a marriage.

**DIVORCE RATE:** The sum of the number of divorces and annulments x 1000; divided by the total resident population, (using population estimates as of July 1).

**DISSOLUTION:** The final legal dissolution of a civil union.

**FERTILITY RATE:** Number of resident live births to women ages 15 to 44 x 1000, divided by the total resident female population ages 15 to 44 (using population estimates as of July 1).

**FETAL DEATH:** A reportable fetal death is a death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a product of conception, which has passed through at least the 20th week of gestation or weighs more than 400 grams; the death is indicated by the fact that, after such expulsion or extraction, 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. Heartbeats are to be distinguished from transient cardiac contractions; respirations are to be distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps.

**FETAL DEATH RATE:** Number of resident fetal deaths x 1000, divided by the total resident live births and resident fetal deaths.

**FETAL DEATH RATIO:** Number of resident fetal deaths divided by total resident live births.

**INFANT DEATH:** Death occurring in the first year of life.

**INFANT DEATH RATE:** Number of resident infant deaths x 1000, divided by the total resident live births.

**LIVE BIRTH:** The complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such expulsion or extraction, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of the voluntary muscles whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Heartbeats are to be distinguished from transient cardiac contractions; respirations are to be distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps.

**LOW BIRTH WEIGHT:** A baby weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth.

**LOW BIRTH WEIGHT PERCENT:** The number of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams divided by the total number of live births.

**MARRIAGE:** The legal union of persons of opposite sex.

**MARRIAGE RATE:** Number of marriages x 1000, divided by the total resident population (using population estimates as of July 1).

**NATURAL INCREASE:** Occurs when the number of births is greater than the number of deaths.

**NEONATAL DEATH:** Death of a live-born infant before the infant becomes 28 days old (up to and including 27 days, 23 hours, 59 minutes from the moment of birth).

**NEONATAL DEATH RATE:** Number of resident neonatal deaths x 1000, divided by the total resident live births.

**OCCURRENCE:** The place where the event actually occurred.

**PERINATAL DEATH:** A fetal death or a death occurring before the infant becomes seven days old (up to and including six days, 23 hours, 59 minutes from the moment of birth).

**PERINATAL DEATH RATE:** Number of resident perinatal deaths x 1000, divided by the total resident live births and resident fetal deaths.

**PLURALITY:** The number of siblings born as a result of this pregnancy.

**PREGNANCY RATE:** Number of resident pregnancies in women ages 15 to 44 x 1000, divided by the total resident female population ages 15 to 44.

**RESIDENCE:** The usual place of residence for the person to whom the event occurred. For births and fetal deaths, residence is defined as the mother's usual place of residence.

**ROW PERCENT:** The number of cases in each row expressed as a percentage of all cases in that row.

**WEEKS OF GESTATION:** The number of weeks elapsed between the first day of the last menstrual period and the date of delivery.