

DHSC

Delaware Health Statistics Center

Division of Public Health
Department of Health
and Social Services

Highlights of the 2009 Annual Vital Statistics Report

Unintentional injuries, homicide, and cancer were the leading causes of death of children and adolescents ages 1-19. The most common causes of childhood unintentional injuries were motor vehicle accidents, poisoning, and drowning.

A single mother is more likely than a married mother to have Medicaid as their primary source of payment for delivery, so it's no surprise that as the number of births to single mothers grew, the number of deliveries primarily covered by Medicaid also rose.

- Cancer, heart disease, and chronic lower respiratory disease were the leading causes of death in 2009. Mortality rates for cancer and heart disease continued their decline, while chronic lower respiratory disease rates remained stable.
- Unintentional poisonings were the leading cause of unintentional injury death in 2009.
- White males accounted for the majority of drug-induced deaths in 2005-2009; those in 25-34 age group were responsible for the single largest proportion of drug-induced deaths.
- Between 1999-2003 and 2005-2009, age-adjusted homicide mortality rates rose 74 percent. Age-specific mortality rates were highest for decedents ages 25-34, followed by those ages 35-44 and 15-24.
- Infant mortality rates remained stable at 8.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2005-2009. The black infant mortality rate was nearly three times that of white infants.
- The most common causes of infant death are prematurity and low birthweight, birth defects, and maternal complications of pregnancy, such as incompetent cervix and premature rupture of membranes.
- Sixty percent of the infants who died between 2005 and 2009 were less than 7 days old.
- Like the U.S., Delaware's general fertility rates (live births per 1,000 females aged 15-44) declined in recent years; from 2007 to 2009 Delaware's general fertility rate dropped 6 percent, to 65.3 births per 1,000 females aged 15-44.
- In 2009, nearly half of all births were to unmarried women; 40 percent of white mothers and 72 percent of black mothers were unmarried.
- Medicaid was the primary source of payment for delivery for the majority of births to younger mothers (<20 years of age), single mothers, black mothers and Hispanic mothers.
- In 2009, 7% of Delaware infants were delivered by midwives, ranging from a low of 3 percent in New Castle County to a high of 23 percent in Sussex County. The higher percentage in Sussex applied to deliveries of white infants, infants of other races, and Hispanic infants; black mothers were less likely to have a midwife as an attendant.
- Jayden, Michael, Alexander, Matthew and William were the most common boys' names in 2009. Isabella, Olivia, Sophia, Ava, and Emma were the most common girls' names in 2009.