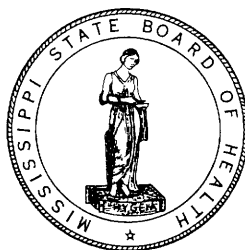


VITAL STATISTICS
MISSISSIPPI

1967



Mississippi State Board of Health
Jackson, Mississippi

VITAL STATISTICS

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MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SYNOPSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS, MISSISSIPPI, 1967	
Introduction	I
Live Births	III
Fetal Deaths	VII
Deaths	X
Marriages	XX
Divorces	XXII
POPULATION	
Table 1. Estimated, by County, by Race, Mississippi, July 1, 1967.....	1
LIVE BIRTHS	
Table 2. By Place of Occurrence, and by Place of Residence of Mother, by Race, with Rates, Mississippi, 1967	3
Table 3. By Place of Residence of Mother, by Race and Attendant, and and by Sex, Mississippi, 1967	6
FETAL DEATHS	
Table 4. By Place of Occurrence; by Place of Residence of Mother, by Race and Attendant, and by Sex, Mississippi, 1967	10
DEATHS	
Table 5. By Cause of Death, by Race, Residence Data, Mississippi, 1967.	14
Table 6. By Place of Occurrence, and by Place of Residence, by Race, with Rates, Mississippi, 1967	25
Table 7. By Cause Groups and Certain Selected Causes, by Race, Sex, and Age, with Total Rates, Residence Data, Mississippi, 1967.	28
DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR	
Table 8. By Selected Causes, by Race and Age, with Total Rates, Residence Data, Mississippi, 1967	37

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Table 9. Marriages by Place of Licensure, and by Place of Residence of Bride, by Race of Bride; Divorces by Place of Occurrence, by Race, Mississippi, 1967	41
Table 10. Divorces by Cause of Divorce, by Race, Mississippi, 1967 ...	43
Divorces by Number of Minor Children, by Race, Mississippi, 1967	43
Divorces by Number of Years Married, by Race, Mississippi, 1967	43

SUMMARY TABLES

Table 11. <u>Live Births, Mississippi, 1913-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1913-1943, Residence Data 1944-1967 ..	44
Table 12. <u>Deaths, Mississippi, 1913-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1913-1943, Residence Data 1944-1967	46
Table 13. <u>Maternal Deaths, Mississippi, 1913-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1913-1943, Residence Data 1944-1967	48
Table 14. <u>Deaths Under 1 Year, Mississippi, 1917-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1917-1943, Residence Data 1944-1967	50
Table 15. <u>Deaths Under 1 Month, Mississippi, 1924-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1924-1944, Residence Data 1945-1967	52
Table 16. <u>Deaths from Heart Diseases, Vascular Lesions, Malignant Neoplasms, Accidents, and Influenza and Pneumonia, Mississippi, 1958-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Residence Data	53
Table 17. <u>Marriages and Divorces, Mississippi, 1926-1967</u> , by Year, by Race, Occurrence Data	54

BIRTHS, FETAL DEATHS, TOTAL DEATHS, DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR, DEATHS UNDER 28 DAYS, AND DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES USED FOR RANKING LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, by Place of Occurrence, and by Place of Residence, by Race, with Rates, 1967

County Tables (in alphabetical order)	57
State Table	139

SYNOPSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS
MISSISSIPPI, 1967

INTRODUCTION

The 1967 Vital Statistics Bulletin is the twenty-fifth consecutive issue prepared by Statistical Services from data obtained from records of live births, fetal deaths, deaths, marriages, and divorces collected by the office of Vital Records Registration.

Occurrence and Residence Allocation

Live births, fetal deaths, and deaths were classified by place of occurrence and by place of residence. Some of the tables contain both occurrence and residence figures, but most of the tables are based on residence data only, as these data are considered more suitable for studying public health problems.

Occurrence data were obtained from certificates filed in Mississippi at the place of the event. Residence data include transcripts of records of events that occurred in other states to Mississippi residents and exclude records filed in this state for nonresidents. Residence assignment for live births and fetal deaths was determined by the usual residence of the mother. For deaths it was determined by the usual residence of the decedent, except that deaths of inmates of institutions were reallocated to place of previous residence regardless of length of stay in the institution.

The number of transcripts received for events to Mississippi residents in other states and the number of events to nonresidents in this state are shown in Table A. Transcripts came from 37 states and the District of Columbia, but the four bordering states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Tennessee accounted for 87 percent of the 2,603 records sent. Mississippi filed 2,265 certificates for nonresidents. Although there was no great disparity between the number of children born in other states to Mississippians and the number born in this state to nonresidents, there was a large difference in the counts on deaths; the death transcript total exceeded that for death certificates of nonresidents by 65 percent.

Table A. Transcripts received, by place of occurrence, and certificates filed in Mississippi for nonresidents

Place of Occurrence	Total Records	Live Births	Fetal Deaths	Deaths
<u>Transcripts</u>	<u>2,603</u>	<u>1,313</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>1,244</u>
Tennessee	1,515	797	32	686
Louisiana	387	197	1	189
Alabama	321	180	5	136
Illinois	53	14	1	38
Texas	52	9	2	41
Arkansas	45	17	0	28
Florida	31	8	0	23
Other places	199	91	5	103
Certificates for nonresidents	2,265	1,433	76	756

Vital Statistics
Mississippi - 1967

Marriages were classified according to place of issuance of marriage license, place of occurrence of marriage, and place of residence of bride. However, the figures on brides who were Mississippi residents are incomplete since there is no exchange among the states of transcripts of marriage records for nonresidents and the out-of-state marriages of Mississippi brides could not be included. Divorces were classified only according to place where the decree was granted, as there is no information regarding place of residence on the record.

Urban-Rural Classification

Incorporated towns with populations of 2,500 or more according to the 1960 census were considered as urban areas. All other areas were classified as rural. These categories were used for live births, fetal deaths, and deaths only. Information on marriage records is inadequate for proper classification, and divorce records do not contain this item.

Population

The estimates as of July 1, 1967, which are used in this bulletin were prepared by the Division of Sociology and Anthropology of Mississippi State University. According to these figures, the population of the state has increased by approximately 183,000 or 8.4 percent since the census of 1960. The white population has grown 13.5 percent and the nonwhite, only 1.5 percent. Although there has been a gain, comparison of the amount of this gain with the natural increase (births minus deaths) reveals a continued loss through out-migration. During the last two years, however, this loss has been limited to the nonwhite population. The new estimates for individual counties show that 50 have grown since the 1960 census, 29 have lost population, and 3 were considered to have had no change as the difference was less than 0.6 percent.

Rates

Rates and ratios were calculated from residence data on live births, fetal deaths, and deaths. Estimated populations for the state and counties by race were used to prepare rates for live births, total deaths, and deaths from specific causes (except maternal and certain diseases of early infancy). Although compilation of rates by age and sex and for cities is desirable, this could not be done because of the lack of population data for these categories. Figures on live births were used to calculate fetal death ratios and rates for maternal deaths, infant deaths, neonatal deaths, and deaths from certain diseases of early infancy, as they approximate the groups at risk more closely than do general population figures.

The base for each type of rate used in this bulletin is given in the first footnote on page 55.

Classification of Causes of Death

Causes of death were assigned according to the seventh revision (1955) of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death. On certificates with more than one cause entered, only that indicated as the underlying cause was classified.

Vital Statistics
Mississippi - 1967

The periodic revisions of the classification system which have taken place in the past have resulted in an unavoidable lack of comparability over the years for some causes. Since the seventh revision differs only slightly from the sixth revision used from 1949 through 1957, figures for 1949-1967 are comparable, but comparison of data by cause for these years with those for the years prior to 1949 should be made with caution.

LIVE BIRTHS (See Tables 2, 3, 11)

In 1967 there were 46,594 live births to Mississippians and the birth rate was 19.7 per 1,000 population. Both the number and the rate were 3.4 percent lower than in 1966, and the number was 10,000 or 18 percent less than in 1964, only three years earlier. The year 1967 is the sixth consecutive one in which Mississippi has experienced a decrease. For the country as a whole the percentage decline in the birth rate in 1967 was almost the same as that in Mississippi, but both in this state and in the nation there has been a slowing of the downward trend. However, the number for Mississippi in 1967 is the smallest since 1933 and the rate is the second lowest on record (the rate for 1917 was smaller and the rate for 1918 was the same as that for 1967). Family planning services which are available to all citizens through the county health departments are considered to have played an important part in the reduction which has occurred; about 15,000 patients a year request these services.

Race

For the past 43 years the number of births to nonwhites has been larger than the number to whites, and in many of these years it was considerably larger; but in 1967 the difference was relatively small with the nonwhite majority amounting to only 51 percent. Births to whites numbered 22,675 with a rate of 15.9 per 1,000 population which was the lowest recorded in the 55 years for which data are available. The count for nonwhites was 23,919, and although the rate of 25.6 far exceeded that among whites, it was the lowest since 1935. In the counties, rates for whites ranged from 6.0 in Kemper County to 21.5 in George County. For nonwhites they varied from 15.0 in Itawamba County to 35.4 in Union County.

Urban-Rural Distribution

Tabulation of births by place of residence of mother showed that 18,641 children were born to urban residents and 27,953 to rural residents. However, although only 40 percent were born to urban residents, 70 percent occurred in urban places. It was estimated from comparison of figures on place of residence and place of occurrence that over 8,000 white mothers and over 5,500 nonwhite mothers from rural areas went to cities and towns for delivery.

Attendant

Eighty-two percent of the births to Mississippi mothers in 1967 took place in hospitals or clinics which provide in-patient care. (See Table B.) A few children, 1 percent, were delivered by physicians in places other than hospitals and clinics, and for the remaining 17 percent there was no medical attendant at delivery. The