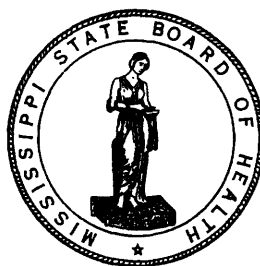


# VITAL STATISTICS

## MISSISSIPPI

1968



Mississippi State Board of Health  
Jackson, Mississippi

VITAL STATISTICS

MISSISSIPPI

1968

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### SYNOPSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS, MISSISSIPPI, 1968

	Page
Introduction .....	I
Description of Bulletin .....	I
Definitions of Live Birth and Fetal Death .....	I
Revised Certificate Forms and New Information Items .....	I
Occurrence and Residence Allocation .....	II
Urban-Rural Classification .....	III
Population .....	III
Rates .....	III
Classification of Cause of Death .....	IV
Live Births .....	IV
Trend .....	IV
Race .....	V
County .....	V
Urban-Rural Variation .....	V
Natural Increase .....	V
Attendant .....	VI
Month .....	VII
Age of Mother .....	VII
Education of Parents .....	VIII
Legitimacy .....	IX
Total-Birth Order and Average Number of Births per Mother .....	X
Last Prior Delivery .....	XII
Prenatal Care .....	XIII
Complications during Pregnancy and Labor .....	XIV
Length of Gestation and Birth Weight .....	XVI
Sex .....	XVIII
Plurality .....	XVIII
Birth Injuries and Congenital Malformations .....	XIX
Fetal Deaths .....	XX
Reporting and Reliability .....	XX
Trend and Race .....	XX
County .....	XXI
Attendant .....	XXI
Age of Mother .....	XXII
Education of Parents .....	XXII
Legitimacy .....	XXIII
Total-Birth Order .....	XXIII
Last Prior Delivery .....	XXIV
Prenatal Care .....	XXV
Length of Gestation and Birth Weight .....	XXVI
Sex .....	XXVII
Plurality .....	XXVII
Cause of Fetal Death, Complications of Pregnancy and Labor, Birth Injuries, and Congenital Malformations .....	XXVIII
Deaths .....	XXVIII
Trend .....	XXVIII
Race .....	XXVIII
County and Urban-Rural Variation .....	XXVIII
Month .....	XXVIII

Deaths, continued

Age at Death .....	XXIX
Leading Causes of Death .....	XXX
Leading Causes by Age .....	XXX
Ill-defined and Unknown Causes .....	XXXII
Specific Causes .....	XXXII
Heart Disease .....	XXXII
Malignant Neoplasms .....	XXXII
Cerebrovascular Disease.....	XXXIII
Chronic Respiratory Diseases .....	XXXIII
Influenza and Pneumonia .....	XXXIV
Accidents .....	XXXIV
Suicide and Homicide .....	XXXIV
Injury Undetermined Whether Accidentally or Purposely Inflicted ..	XXXV
Maternal Deaths .....	XXXV
Infant Mortality .....	XXXV

Marriages .....	XXXVIII
Trend .....	XXXVIII
Month .....	XXXVIII
Officiant .....	XXXIX
Age of Bride and Groom .....	XXXIX
Marriage Order and Previous Marital Status .....	XL
Nonresident Brides .....	XLI
Out-of-State Use of Mississippi Licenses .....	XLI
Divorces .....	XLII
Trend .....	XLII
Cause and Complainant .....	XLII
Minor Children .....	XLII
Duration of Marriage .....	XLII
Additional Information Needed .....	XLIII

POPULATION

Table 1. Estimated, by County, by Race, Mississippi, July 1, 1968 .....	1
---	---

LIVE BIRTHS

Table 2. By Place of Occurrence, and by Place of Residence of Mother, by Race, with Rates, Mississippi, 1968 .....	3
Table 3. By Place of Residence of Mother, by Race and Attendant, and by Sex, Mississippi, 1968 .....	6

FETAL DEATHS

Table 4. By Place of Occurrence, by Place of Residence of Mother, by Race and Attendant, and by Sex, Mississippi, 1968 .....	10
--	----

## DEATHS

Table 5.	By Cause of Death, by Race, Residence Data, Mississippi, 1968 ....	14
Table 6.	By Place of Occurrence, and by Place of Residence, by Race, with Rates, Mississippi, 1968 .....	29
Table 7.	By Cause Groups and Certain Selected Causes, by Race, Sex, and Age, with Total Rates, Residence Data, Mississippi, 1968 .....	32

## DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR

Table 8.	By Selected Causes, by Race and Age, with Total Rates, Residence Data, Mississippi, 1968 .....	40
----------	--	----

## MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

Table 9.	Marriages by Place of Licensure, by Place of Occurrence, and by Place of Residence of Bride, by Race of Bride; Divorces by Place of Occurrence, by Race, Mississippi, 1968 .....	44
Table 10.	Divorces by Cause of Divorce, by Race, Mississippi, 1968 .....	47
	Divorces by Number of Minor Children, by Race, Mississippi, 1968 .	47
	Divorces by Number of Years Married, by Race, Mississippi, 1968 ..	47

## TIME SERIES

Table 11.	<u>Live Births, Mississippi, 1913-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1913-1943, Residence Data 1944-1968 .....	48
Table 12.	<u>Deaths, Mississippi, 1913-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1913-1943, Residence Data 1944-1968 .....	50
Table 13.	<u>Maternal Deaths, Mississippi, 1913-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1913-1943, Residence Data 1944-1968 .....	52
Table 14.	<u>Deaths Under 1 Year, Mississippi, 1917-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1917-1943, Residence Data 1944-1968 ..	54
Table 15.	<u>Deaths Under 1 Month, Mississippi, 1924-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Occurrence Data 1924-1944, Residence Data 1945-1968 ..	56
Table 16.	<u>Deaths from Heart Diseases, Malignant Neoplasms, Cerebrovascular Disease, Accidents, and Influenza and Pneumonia, Mississippi, 1959-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, with Rates, Residence Data .....	57
Table 17.	<u>Marriages and Divorces, Mississippi, 1926-1968</u> , by Year, by Race, Occurrence Data .....	58

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, 1968

The Counties (in alphabetical order) .....	61
State of Mississippi .....	143

SYNOPSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS  
MISSISSIPPI, 1968

INTRODUCTION

Description of Bulletin

The 1968 Vital Statistics Bulletin is the twenty-sixth annual report prepared by Statistical Services from information contained on records of live births, fetal deaths, deaths, marriages, and divorces collected by the office of Vital Records Registration. This synopsis provides certain explanations and definitions necessary for understanding the data presented and also summarizes the most noteworthy facts regarding the vital events of the year. Following the synopsis are ten tables (Numbers 1-10) containing statistics for 1968 and seven tables (Numbers 11-17) showing comparable data over a span of years, in most cases the entire period for which the information is available. The last section of the book contains a one-page summary table for each county and also for the state.

Definitions of Live Birth and Fetal Death

The definitions adopted by the Mississippi State Board of Health for use in Mississippi are those formulated by the World Health Organization and recommended by the National Center for Health Statistics. They are as follows:

Live birth - the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human 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 voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.

Fetal death - death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; 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.

Revised Certificate Forms and New Information Items

Mississippi, as well as most other states, began using revised certificates for live births, fetal deaths, and deaths in 1968. Each state decided upon the format of and items to be included on its own certificates, but all were either modeled after or the same as standard certificates designed by the National Center for Health Statistics in cooperation with the various states. The changes in 1968 were part of a periodic review and revision program undertaken to insure that these certificates adequately serve current legal and statistical needs of individuals and public health programs. The last revision in Mississippi prior to 1968 was in 1956.

Although the new death certificates contain only a relatively small amount of information not on the old certificates, the contents of the live birth and fetal death certificates were greatly expanded. The new information collected was considered to be of special value for planning public health activities directed toward

Vital Statistics  
Mississippi - 1968

lowering Mississippi's excessively high infant mortality rate which is one of the state's most serious health problems.

Most of the new data items provide information never before available for Mississippi. However, considerable difficulty was experienced in collecting and tabulating this information. It was found that answers for new items were missing from many certificates; the proportion lacking answers for a certain item ranged from less than one percent of the live birth records to nearly 13 percent and from 6 to 22 percent of the fetal death records. In addition, there were numerous obvious inaccuracies. Because of these deficiencies, data compiled from the new items will have to be considered with some reservations.

### 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. All figures given in this synopsis are residence counts unless otherwise stated.

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 non-residents. 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 decedent, except that deaths of inmates of institutions were reallocated to place of previous residence regardless of length of stay in the institution.

Table A provides information on vital events occurring out of the state to Mississippi residents and in Mississippi to nonresidents. The counts showed that 2,724 events to Mississippians were recorded in other places and that 2,423 records were filed in this state for events to nonresidents. States are listed on the table in order according to the total number of records involved. The largest number was exchanged with Tennessee, which is the only one of the states with an exchange of over 50 records from which Mississippi received more records than it sent. This state, together with the other three states which border on Mississippi (Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana), provided 90 percent of the transcripts received; these border states were also listed as the place of residence on 83 percent of the certificates filed in Mississippi for non-residents. However, although most of the vital record interchange was with neighboring states, Mississippi received transcripts from a total of 38 other states and the District of Columbia as well as one from out of the country and filed certificates for residents of 40 other states plus three for foreign residents.

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.