I. INTRODUCTION

This volume is the 90th annual vital statistics report of the State of North Carolina. It is intended to serve as a basic resource to those individuals, institutions, and agencies delivering and/or planning health services for the citizens of North Carolina.

The tables of this report show annual frequencies, annual rates, and 5-year rates for the state, six Perinatal Care Regions, and the 100 counties of North Carolina. Due to incompleteness of the data and potential problems with accuracy, information for cities is not shown. The reader may obtain vital statistics for cities in North Carolina by special request to the Center.

Section II contains maps depicting county data. Sections III-VI contain description and discussion of the terms and procedures underlying the tabular and graphical data presented.

Other publications available through this office are described on the back of the front cover. If you want copies of these publications, contact us at (919) 733-4728 or address correspondence to:

State Center for Health Statistics
Department of Health and Human Services
1908 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1908

Caution: Any percentage or rate with a small number of events in the numerator will have substantial random variation over time. A rule of thumb is that any percentage or rate with fewer than 20 events in the numerator may be subject to serious random error. Therefore, many of the percentages and rates in this volume should be interpreted with caution.
Trends depicted in the graphs are for North Carolina and the United States. Data for the U.S. are from the National Center for Health Statistics.
MARRIAGE RATES
1985 - 2005

Rate per 1,000 Population

United States
North Carolina

YEAR
1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005

DIVORCE RATES
1985 - 2005

Rate per 1,000 Population

United States
North Carolina

YEAR
1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005