II. Geographical Patterns in Vital Statistics

This section contains nine maps depicting population and selected vital statistics for the state’s 100 counties. Data and population bases for the vital statistics rates are for the five-year period 2005–2009. The range of data values indicated by the map legend was formed using the natural breaks method. This method identifies breakpoints by looking for groupings and patterns inherent in the data.

The nine maps display the county statistics listed below. Definitions and formulas are found in Section VI and maps displaying the region and county names are printed on the reverse sides of region and county divider sheets. It should be noted that marriage and divorce rates are not mapped because these data are tabulated only by county of occurrence, not county of residence.

Although the vital statistics rates shown on the maps are five-year rates, be careful when interpreting relatively high rates in sparsely populated counties. These counties usually have a small number of births and deaths, which may create a very unstable rate. Consult the respective county tables for the 2005–2009 numbers involved before becoming concerned about relatively high county-level rates.

Figure

1. Population July 1, 2009 Estimate
2. Total Live Births per 1,000 Population
3. Low Birthweight Live Births per 100 Live Births
4. Out-of-Wedlock Live Births per 100 Live Births
5. Fetal Deaths per 1,000 Deliveries
6. Neonatal Deaths per 1,000 Live Births
7. Postneonatal Deaths per 1,000 Neonatal Survivors
8. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births
9. Total Deaths per 1,000 Population
Population

Population July 1, 2009 Estimate

- Dark grey: 475,954 - 894,290
- Medium grey: 266,133 - 475,953
- Light grey: 116,555 - 266,132
- Very light grey: 47,394 - 116,554
- White: 4,251 - 47,393

Figure 1
Birth Rates

Total Births per 1,000 Total Population

- 16.3 - 21.5
- 13.7 - 16.2
- 12.1 - 13.6
- 10.6 - 12.0
- 8.2 - 10.5

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009

Figure 2
Low Birthweight Rates

Figure 3

Low Birthweight Births per 100 Live Births

- 12.5 - 15.5
- 10.6 - 12.4
- 9.1 - 10.5
- 8.0 - 9.0
- 5.9 - 7.9

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009
Out-of-Wedlock Birth Rates

Out-of-Wedlock Births per 100 Live Births

- Dark Brown: 57.5 - 68.6
- Medium Brown: 47.9 - 57.4
- Light Brown: 40.3 - 47.8
- Beige: 33.0 - 40.2
- Light Beige: 20.2 - 32.9

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009

Figure 4
Figure 5: Fetal Death Rates

Fetal Deaths per 1,000 Deliveries

- **Dark Gray**: 10.4 - 16.0
- **Intermediate Gray**: 7.6 - 10.3
- **Light Gray**: 5.6 - 7.5
- **Medium Gray**: 3.5 - 5.5
- **White**: 0.0 - 3.4

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009
Neonatal Death Rates

Neonatal Deaths per 1,000 Live Births

- 9.5 - 13.4
- 6.7 - 9.4
- 5.0 - 6.6
- 3.2 - 4.9
- 0.0 - 3.1

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009
Postneonatal Death Rates

Figure 7

Postneonatal Deaths per 1,000 Neonatal Survivors

- 5.4 - 9.0
- 3.6 - 5.3
- 2.7 - 3.5
- 1.0 - 2.6
- 0.0 - 0.9

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009
Infant Death Rates

Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births

- 11.7 - 18.9
- 8.9 - 11.6
- 6.7 - 8.8
- 0.1 - 6.6
- 0.0

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009

Figure 8
Death Rates

Total Deaths per 1,000 Population

- 12.2 - 14.9
- 10.7 - 12.1
- 9.0 - 10.6
- 7.1 - 8.9
- 4.8 - 7.0

North Carolina Resident Data 2005 - 2009

Figure 9