

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
J. C. CAPT, DIRECTOR

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
1942

PART II  
NATALITY AND MORTALITY DATA  
FOR THE UNITED STATES  
TABULATED BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

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# VITAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES

## PART II. GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

### Introduction

This volume—Vital Statistics of the United States, Part II—contains additional official tabulations of natality and mortality data for the calendar year 1942. In part II, the tables consist of tabulations of births and deaths classified according to the place of residence of the mother of the child, or the place of residence of the decedent. The natality data are classified by geographic area; race, nativity, and age of parents; sex and number of child; and type of attendance. The mortality data are classified by geographic area, cause of death, age, sex, race, month, and institution. These tabulations are compiled from the same source material as the tables published in part I, both being derived from transcripts of original birth and death certificates received from registration officials of States and cities, and of the outlying territory and possessions of the United States.

### REVISION OF ANNUAL VITAL STATISTICS VOLUMES

The present volume continues the new series of annual publications started in 1937. It presents natality and mortality data based upon the place of residence of the mother of the child, or the place of residence of the decedent. Data compiled on a place-of-occurrence basis are published in a volume entitled "Vital Statistics of the United States, Part I."

The publication in 1937 of a combined volume of natality and mortality data tabulated by place of residence marked an important change in the compilation of vital statistics by the Bureau of the Census. Beginning with 1939, the tabulations by place of residence have been expanded considerably. This volume presents, on a residence basis, detailed Nation-wide statistics of births by age of mother and number of child. Similarly, detailed data on deaths by cause and age by place of residence are given.

The tables given in part II should be interpreted with some caution since several factors enter into the determination of the place of residence. The place of birth or death, in most cases, is clear-cut and definitely determinable. To determine the place of residence is much more difficult because it is dependent upon the definitions of residence and the completeness of the information given on the certificate. It has, therefore, been necessary to adopt a set of arbitrary rules for the proper coding in each instance. The data obtained by a reallocation of nonresidents are obviously dependent upon these rules and cannot be correctly interpreted unless the rules are exactly and clearly stated.

### THE VALUE OF VITAL STATISTICS TABULATED BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Tabulated vital statistics may be used for many purposes, each requiring data classified by different groupings or according to different definitions. Many of these uses relate to public health work, such as an assay of the problems confronting public health agencies or the measurement of the results of public health programs. Other uses relate to maternal- and infant-welfare activities, problems of population

research, analysis of fertility trends, actuarial investigations, medical research, et cetera. For some purposes, such as a study of the hospital load carried by a given community, the proportion of births attended by physicians, or the simple ranking of causes of death, it is possible to use tabulated natality and mortality data without relating them to other statistical data. But for the most part, vital statistics take on their full value only when related to population figures by the computation of birth or death rates. For deaths, these rates, in their simplest form, consist of ratios of the number of deaths occurring in a specified place during a specified time to the number of persons exposed to the risk of death at that place and time. It is obvious that such a rate can be correctly computed and interpreted only when the population figure in the denominator and the mortality figure in the numerator are compiled on a comparable basis. In other words, the population figure must represent a certain group that is exposed to the risk of death, and the death figure must include all of this group that died. Although the birth rate is interpreted in a different manner, similar considerations apply to it.

For the United States, as a unit, there is little difficulty in securing adequate comparability between vital statistics and population figures. However, for individual cities or counties or for population-size groups, there are several disturbing factors. In the population census, each person is counted as a part of the population of the geographic unit in which he has his "usual place of residence." Therefore, the enumerated population of a city is a count of all the persons who usually live in that city, excluding persons who are temporarily in the city at the time of the census and including residents of the city who are at some other place during the time of the population enumeration.

The crude death rate for the residents of any area must be based on the total resident population of that area and the total number of deaths occurring in this total resident population. It is essential to include the deaths of residents no matter where the deaths occurred, and to exclude deaths of nonresidents occurring in that area.

The occurrence of a large number of births and deaths "away from home" results from the movement of the people, facilitated by convenient methods of transportation, and from the increasing use of hospitals during confinement and illness. Seasonal movement to and from resort States, seasonal migration in search of employment, and the movement of people to some other area for hospital facilities not available in their usual place of residence, are several of the factors that contribute to the number of nonresident births and deaths.

Inasmuch as the registration laws of each State specify that births and deaths be registered at the place of birth or death, the compilation of vital statistics according to place of occurrence is the most direct and usual method. Rates computed on this basis may be called recorded rates, since all the births or deaths recorded in each area are included in the computation. The compilation of natality and mortality data on the same geographic basis as the population census requires a complete reallocation of births and deaths to the place of residence. When this reallocation has been made, it is then possible to compute resident rates. Since resident death rates

































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**GENERAL NATALITY AND MORTALITY TABLES**

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