Report of Tennessee Births 2011
**Report of Tennessee Births 2011** provides information on final birth data for state residents. Resident data include events that occurred to residents of Tennessee irrespective of where the events took place. Birth certificates filed with the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Vital Records supplied the data for this report.

TENNESSEE’S TOTAL BIRTH TREND INDICATES A GRADUAL DECLINE SINCE THE LATE 1940S WHEN THE RATES WERE AT RECORD HIGHS. The 2011 total birth rate of 12.4 per 1,000 population decreased 12.7 percent from the rate of 14.2 in 2007. The 2011 white rate (11.8) decreased 11.9 percent from the rate of 13.4 in 2007, while the black rate (15.2) decreased 13.6 percent. From 2002 to 2011, Tennessee’s adolescent birth rates decreased, while the birth percentages for unmarried women increased. In 2011, the percent of multiple births (3.2) was higher than the percentage in 2002. The 2011 low birthweight percentage of 9.0 decreased 2.2 percent during the ten-year period.

IN 2011, THERE WERE 79,462 TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS TO TENNESSEE RESIDENTS. Of the total, 60,252 or 75.8 percent were white and 16,482 or 20.7 percent were black births. There were 2,389 births to females ages 10 through 17. This number represented a 9.8 percent decrease for this age group from 2010. There were 8,345 births to females 35 years and older. Births for this age group decreased 0.5 percent from the previous year.

IN 2011, THE PERCENT OF TOTAL BIRTHS WITH FIRST TRIMESTER PRENATAL CARE WAS 64.3. The percent of white births with first trimester care was 67.7, while the percent for black births was 53.9 in 2011. (Percentages are based on births with prenatal care reported.) Tennessee’s percent of no care was 1.9, with white mothers having the lowest percentage (1.3) of no care. The percent of black mothers with no care was 4.1 in 2011.

ADOLESCENTS (10 THROUGH 17) AND MOTHERS AGED 40 YEARS AND OLDER FACE A GREATER RISK OF HAVING LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BABIES. In 2011, the low birthweight percentage of total births to mothers ages 10 through 17 was 10.7. This was a 7.8 percent decrease from the low birthweight percentage of 11.6 in 2002. The percent of total births to mothers ages 40 years and older that were low birthweight (13.1) decreased 10.3 percent from 2002 to 2011.
THE NUMBER OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT (LESS THAN 2,500 GRAMS) INFANTS BORN TO TENNESSEE RESIDENTS WAS 7,169 IN 2011. The low birthweight percentage of 9.0 occurring in 2011 was the same as the percent in 2010. The percent (3.2) of total births that were multiple births, was 6.7 percent higher than the percent (3.0) in 2002. Of the total multiple births in 2011, 59.8 percent were low birthweight infants. This was a 6.4 percent decrease from the percent (63.9) of low weight multiple births in 2002.

The percent of births to unmarried females by age showed the highest percentages for females ages 10 through 14 and 15 through 17. In 2011, 99.9 percent of births to black females ages 10 through 17 were to unmarried adolescents, compared to 91.0 percent for unmarried white females. Generally the percent of unmarried mothers declined as the age of the mother increased. The negative effects of births to unmarried adolescents include social and economic consequences resulting from interruption of schooling.

Adolescent (10 through 17) births by race, revealed the highest rates per 1,000 females were for black females for the period 2002 through 2011. THE BLACK ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE OF 11.9 WAS TWICE THE WHITE ADOLESCENT BIRTH RATE OF 6.2 IN 2011. The total birth rate for adolescents declined 34.2 percent from 2002 to 2011, while the rates for white females decreased 29.5 percent. For the ten-year period, the black adolescent birth rate decreased 38.3 percent.

For the years 2002 through 2011, the percent of births to unmarried black women was almost twice the total unmarried percentages and was from two to three times the percentages for unmarried white mothers. Total births to unmarried women increased 21.8 percent from 2002 to 2011, while the increase for white women was 34.0 percent. For black women the percent increased from 73.0 in 2002 to 78.7 in 2011.
In 2011, 8.2 percent of fathers and 8.8 percent of mothers reported Hispanic origin for Tennessee’s total resident births. The percentage of Hispanic births for both fathers and mothers decreased from 2010 to 2011.

More detailed county level birth data may be obtained by contacting the Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics or by visiting our website at: health.state.tn.us

Report of Tennessee Births 2011 was prepared by the Tennessee Department of Health Office of Health Statistics
Cordell Hull Bldg., Nashville, TN, 37243
Teresa S. Hendricks, Director
For additional information please contact: George Plumlee, Manager, (615) 741-1954

NOTE: The population estimates for Tennessee used to calculate the rates in this report for 2002 - 2009 were based on figures prepared from the 2000 Census in February 2008 by the Office of Health Statistics. The population estimates for 2010 were based on the 2010 Census data. Population estimates for 2011 were interpolated from the Census five-year age cohort estimates (CC-EST2011-ALLDATA-[ST-FIPS] May 2012) by the Office of Health Statistics in October 2012. These population figures may result in rates that differ from those published in previous time periods.