

Birth Data Usage Notes

- There are six presentation types for the Birth Data Query. They are:
 1. Bar Charts present selected population, birth numbers, and fertility/birth rates with bar charts grouped by area or by year.
 2. County Rank and Comparison Plots present selected population, birth numbers and fertility/birth rates with county ranking and county comparison plot.
 3. Time Trend Curves present fertility/birth rates with trend curves over time (by years).
 4. Scatter Plots present fertility/birth rates and plot the graphics for two selected indicators.
 5. Statewide Tables present fertility/birth rates for all counties and regions with multiple indicator selections available.
 6. Selected Area Tables present fertility/birth rates for selected areas with multiple indicator selections available.
- The population data for all years are based on estimates made in 2008. The population estimation method is more fully described in [Tennessee Population Projections 2000-2010](#).
- Crude Birth Rate is calculated as the ratio of total number of live births during the calendar year to the total population at mid-year. This ratio is then expressed as a rate per 1,000.
- General Fertility Rate is calculated as the ratio of total number of live births during the calendar year to the total population of females ages 15-44 at mid-year. This ratio is then expressed as a rate per 1,000.
- Age-Specific Fertility Rate is calculated as the ratio of number of live births registered to females in a particular age-group (usually a 5-year age-group) during the calendar year to the total population of females in the age-group at mid-year. This ratio is then expressed as a rate per 1,000. Please note that the Age-Specific Fertility Rate for females ages 15-44 will differ slightly from the General Fertility Rate, since the latter is based on all births, while the former is based on births to females ages 15-44 only.
- Adolescent Birth Rate is calculated as the ratio of total number of live births during the calendar year registered to females ages 10 through 17 to the total population of females ages 10-17 at mid-year. This ratio is then expressed as a rate per 1,000. Define your age ranges accordingly and use the Age-Specific Fertility Rate analysis to produce this statistic.
- Three-year annualized rates use the total number of births in three years in the numerator and the total selected population over three years in the denominator.
- The option to choose an age-group does not apply to either Crude Birth Rate or General Fertility Rate. In order to get Age-Specific Fertility rate, please check the Age-Specific-Rate box at Step five of selection on Select Form. Following your Age-Specific-Rate

selection, the Min/Max Age and Age-Group boxes will be activated at Step six for you to make selections.

- When selecting specific age group for analysis, the Age-group selection box will override the Min/Max age selection boxes. To be sure you are using the Min/Max age selection approach, set the Age Group box to "None Selected".
- A new Certificate of Live Birth was introduced in Tennessee on January 1, 2004. This new certificate is modeled after 2003 Revision of the United States Standard Certificate of Live Birth, which all states were encouraged to adopt. One of the major changes in 2004 is that the parents may specify more than one choice in response to the question regarding their races. To enable comparison between birth data for 2004 and later years and data for 2003 and earlier years when only one race could be reported, the National Center for Health Statistics provides a computer modeling program to all states to assign multiple race response to a single race based on a statistical algorithm. The original parental choices are maintained in our data files as well as the assigned race. The assigned race is for statistical tabulation purpose only and has no other use. The presentations of birth data for 2004 and later years show the same single race categories that we used previous to 2004. Hence, tabulations by race for 2004 will be comparable to earlier years. Presentations of birth data by race are based on the race of the mother. The revised U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, with the revised race and Hispanic original formats, may be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/vital_certs_rev.htm.
- All counties are included in *County Rank and Comparison Plots*, but the Area and Comparison Area can still be selected. When doing so, those selected Area and Comparison Area will be displayed by "dots" with different colors, compared to non-selected counties, on Comparison Plot.
- When using the *County Rank and Comparison Plot* to compare a county with the region that contains the county, make sure that the region is chosen in the Selection form's first "Select an Area" box and the county of interest is chosen via the "Comparison Area" box. Otherwise the county may be obscured on the plot.
- When the output from a *Bar Chart* appears on your screen, the fertility/birth rate (births per 1,000) will appear in a status bar on the screen when you move your mouse's cursor over a "bar" for the chart.
- When the output from a *County Rank and Comparison Plot* or a *Scatter Plot* appears on your screen, you can now move your mouse's cursor over a "dot" for the plot and the county's name and fertility/birth rates (births per 1,000) will appear in a status bar on the screen, and if you click on the "dot", a link will lead you to the county profile pages.
- When the output from a *Time Trend Curve* appears on your screen, the county's name, fertility/birth rate (births per 1,000), and the corresponding year will appear in a status bar on the screen when you move your mouse's cursor over a "dot" for a time curve.