

## Delaware Vital Statistics Annual Report

The Delaware Health Statistics Center is pleased to announce the latest Delaware Vital Statistics Annual Report is now available in electronic format at our website: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/hp/2006.html>

### Highlights of the 2006 report include:

- Disparities between blacks and whites continued to be prominent in the data. Disparities were largest for: low birthweight births, infant mortality rates, fertility rates, and mortality rates for HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and homicide.
- The black HIV/AIDS mortality rate in 2002-2006 was 17 times that of whites. HIV was the fifth leading cause of death for black Delawareans; it ranked third for black males and fifth for black females.
- Heart disease, cancer, and stroke remained the three leading causes of death, though the age-adjusted mortality rates for each decreased from 2001-2005 to 2002-2006.
- The leading causes of death with the lowest median age at death were homicide (26 years) and drug-induced deaths (37 years).
- Deaths of infants under 1 accounted for 1.4 percent of all deaths in 2006; deaths of those 75 and older accounted for 54 percent of all deaths.
- The average life expectancy for a child born in 2006 was 78.4 years.
- Delaware's infant mortality rate (IMR) decreased from 9.2 in 2002-2006 to 8.8 in 2001-2005. At 16.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, the black IMR was more than double both the white rate of 6.4 and the Hispanic rate of 7.
- Disorders related to short gestation and low birthweight accounted for the greatest number of infant deaths, followed by birth defects and maternal complications of pregnancy.
- Over one-third of SIDS deaths were associated with co-sleeping with adults and/or sleeping on soft surfaces, such as couches and adult beds. During that same time, 21 other infant deaths were also associated with co-sleeping or sleeping on a soft surface.
- From 1991-1995 to 2002-2006, Delaware teen (15-19) birth rates decreased 22.8% to 43.6 live births per 1,000 teens 15-19.
- White Delaware teen birth rates decreased 13% to 34.7 and black teen birth rates decreased 42% to 69.2. The larger decrease in black teen rates reduced the black/white disparity ratio from 3 in 1991-1995 to 2 in 2002-2006.
- In contrast to the state numbers, New Castle County's teen (18-19) rates rose over the past five time periods and the 2002-2006 rate was 12.6% higher than in 1991-1995.
- Though Sussex County experienced no increases in its teen birth rates, it continued to have the highest birth rates for teens of both age groups (15-17 and 18-19) and races.
- In 2006, 45 percent of live births in Delaware were to unmarried mothers; the proportion of unmarried mothers ranged from 38 percent of white births to 71 percent of black births.
- Nearly 14 percent of Delaware women who smoked while pregnant gave birth to low birthweight babies, versus 8.8 percent of non-smokers who gave birth to low birthweight babies. The percent of mothers who smoked while pregnant was highest for white women in Kent County (16) and black women in Sussex County (13).
- For the first time in over a decade, the percent of Delaware mothers who received prenatal care (pnc) in the first trimester decreased in all counties, though pnc attainment in Sussex County had been decreasing since 1998-2002. The proportions of pnc attainment ranged from 26.2 percent of Hispanic mothers under 20 in Sussex County, to 92.7 percent of white mothers 30 and over in New Castle County.
- The most common boys' names in 2006 were Michael, Ryan, John, and Jacob. The most common girls' names were Madison, Emily, Ava, and Isabella.
- Both marriage and divorce rates remained relatively stable.