

## Electronic Birth Registration

### U.S. Birth Rates Decline in Wake of Poor Economy

Published October 12, 2011 in LiveScience

Americans responded to the 2008 recession by having fewer children, a new report finds. Preliminary data suggests the U.S. birth rate is still dropping.

The Pew Research Center analyzed multiple sources of data and found birth rates began to decline in 2008 after a high point of 4,326,233 new babies in the U.S. in 2007. By 2009, the number of births fell to 4,131,018 and early numbers suggest barely more than 4 million babies born in 2010.

The numbers track closely with statistics on household income and other economic indicators, the Pew report finds; also, states experiencing the largest economic declines in 2007 and 2008 were most likely to see large declines in fertility. Among racial and ethnic groups, Hispanics experienced the largest fertility declines.

#### Fewer Babies

In 2007, the U.S. fertility rate was 69.6 births per thousand women of childbearing age. In 2009, that same number was 66.7 births per thousand women. Provisional data

suggests the fertility rate in 2010 was only 64.7 births.

Between 2008 and 2009, birthrates dropped 5.9% for Hispanics, compared to 2.4% for blacks and 1.6% for whites.

Hispanics were hardest hit by unemployment and loss of wealth since the downturn, while whites have fared best among the three major racial and ethnic groups.

#### Fertility and recession

Fertility rate appears closely linked to the economy. The Pew researchers compared state-by-state economic and fertility data and found changes in per capita income, per capita GDP, employment rate, unemployment rate and initial unemployment claims correlated with changes in state fertility rates between 2008 and 2009.

State-level foreclosure rates in 2008 also correlated with fertility-rate changes. The only economic indicator not linked to fertility was Home Price Index, an indicator of housing value.

People had fewer babies in 48 out of 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Between 2008 and 2009, North Dakota was the only

state to show a change in the positive direction, with 0.7% more births in 2009 than the preceding year. Driven by oil exploration and production, employment in North Dakota has remained high throughout the recession, with only 3.1% unemployment in 2008

Declines in births occurred within a year or two of the start of the economic slide, the Pew researchers reported.

"This does not conclusively prove that the economic changes led to fertility changes," they wrote in the report released October 12th. "However, the timing is consistent with the time it might take people to act upon fertility decisions."

Economic research suggests falling birthrates during a bad economy reflect decisions to put off having children, rather than their intention to have fewer children overall, the Pew researchers report.

"In other words," they wrote, "people put off having children during the economic downturn, and then catch up on fertility once economic conditions improve."

### ROVER Training and Enrollment Team

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E-mails are preferred

### Changes to Item 33 - Method of Delivery

Our latest ROVER upgrade included a change to Item 33 - Method of Delivery. The item is now formatted in accordance with our official birth certificate document. The change has caused some confusion that we will try to clarify.

Previously, the questions about forceps and vacuum extraction were two-part responses. The first selection was "yes" or "no." If the first response was "yes," a second

field enabled that required a selection of "successful" or "unsuccessful." This format did not properly collect method of delivery data in accordance with federal guidelines.

The item was reformatted to ask if forceps and vacuum extraction was "attempted but unsuccessful." Herein lies the confusion. You must respond to these questions exactly as they are written. For example, if forceps were attempted and

were successful, the answer to the forceps question would be "no." If forceps were attempted but were unsuccessful, the answer to the question would be "yes."

In addition, the response to "final route and method" must agree with the "unsuccessful" question. For example, if forceps were attempted and were unsuccessful, the final method cannot be forceps. Please call if you have questions.

### ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



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We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate  
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of  
Health.

## Teen birth rate hit record low in 2010

Taken from CDC Press Release: November 17, 2011

The birth rate of U.S. teens aged 15-19 years hit a record low in 2010, according to a report released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Births: Preliminary Data for 2010," from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics is based on analysis of nearly 100% of birth records collected in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

The birth rate for teenagers aged 15-19 has declined for the last three years and 17 out of the past 19 years, falling to 34.3 births per 1,000 teenagers in 2010 - a 9% decline from 2009 and the lowest rate ever recorded in nearly seven decades of collecting data. Birth rates for younger and older teenagers and for all race/ethnic groups reached historic lows in 2010.

## New Certificates and Amended Certificates

It may be useful for you to read two sections of State Law: 63 OS 1-316 - New Certificate of Birth, and 63 OS 1-321 - Amendment of Certificate or Records. After reading them you may think to yourself "What's this have to do with us?" That's exactly the point!

Birth facilities are faced from time to time with parents who want their baby's birth certificate changed for any number of reasons that include issues of paternity, adoption, spellings they don't like, the list goes on. State Law clearly documents in multiple locations that, concerning these issues, "the State Commissioner of Health shall" do this and that and the other. That means that these issues must be resolved with the State Department of Health. Under no circumstances can these issues be resolved or in any way addressed at the birth facility.

Some parents go to the birth facility because, since the certificate "originated" from there, they think it is the place to go to fix their issues. Still other parents go to the birth facility hoping they can get their issues addressed and resolved without having to pay the amendment fee. Whatever their motivation may be, it just doesn't work that way. Please refer them to the Vital Records Division at 405.271.4040.

### Please Send Us Your E-mail Address

To be as efficient and inclusive as possible with our mass communications, we collect as many e-mail addresses as we can. Please send your e-mail address to AskROVER@health.ok.gov. Also, please let us know of any changes and/or updates to your ROVER personnel. Thank you.

### Only One Signature Page Please

If you have sent us a manually completed signature page, please do not fax in the ROVER signature page (with the barcode) with only the certifier's signature and no parent signatures.

If you fax in a ROVER signature page with no parent signature on it, the response to the Social Security Number request for the baby is changed to "no."

If you had also submitted a manually completed signature page with a parent signature and "yes" to the Social Security Number request, it would be "overruled" by the ROVER signature page described above. This is because the manual

signature page does not have a barcode and, therefore, its information has to be manually entered. But once the bar-coded signature page is read by ROVER it will erase the manual information in favor of the bar-coded information. This causes confusion and possible inconvenience for the baby and its parents.

Manually completed signature pages should be faxed to the Birth Desk since they don't have a barcode for ROVER to read. Most importantly, submit either the manual signature page or the ROVER signature page . . . not both.

OSDH is on the  
web at  
[www.health.ok.gov](http://www.health.ok.gov)



Jan and Sherrie have been travelling so much all over the state, they're starting to see things. Is this a UFO? Or is it something just stuck to the windshield? Hmmm . . . .