Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set: 1991 Birth Cohort

Introduction

The Linked Birth/Infant Death Data Set, 1991 Birth Cohort consists of three separate data files. The first file includes linked records of live births and infant deaths for the 1991 birth cohort -- also referred to as the numerator file. The second file is the live birth file for 1991, with a few minor modifications -- referred to as the denominator-plus file. The files are offered as a numerator/denominator data set to give users the means to compute infant mortality rates. The third file contains information from the death certificate for all infant death records which could not be linked to their corresponding birth certificates -- referred to as the unlinked death file.

The 1991 linked file is comprised of deaths to infants born in 1991 who died in 1991 or 1992 before their first birthday. Infant death records were extracted from the 1991 and 1992 National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) mortality statistical files. Linked birth records were extracted from a denominator file that contained the 1991 NCHS natality statistical file and a small number of late-filed birth certificates. Refer to the Methodology section for a more detailed explanation of records added to the statistical file. The denominator file is not identical with the NCHS natality statistical file.

The linked file of live births and infant deaths includes linked records for births and deaths that occurred in the United States to U.S. residents and to U.S. nonresidents. Excluded are deaths that occurred outside the United States to infants born in the U.S.; deaths that occurred in the United States to foreign-born infants; and births and deaths that occurred outside the United States to U.S. residents.

Sources for denominator data and for birth records included in the numerator file are described in detail in the 1991 Technical Appendix from the Natality Annual Volume; sources for death records included in the numerator file are described in detail in the 1990 Technical Appendix from the Mortality Annual Volume, and in the 1991 and 1992 Addenda. Copies of these documents are included in this tape documentation.

Because of confidentiality concerns, only those counties of 250,000 or more population and only those cities of 250,000 or more population are identified in this data set. The population counts are based on the results of the 1980 census. Users should refer to the geographic code outline in this document for the list of available areas and codes.