

V. Population Data and Vital Statistics Rates

Every 10 years (years ending in zero), the U.S. Bureau of the Census counts the United States population, which includes a profile of the population's characteristics such as age, race and sex. After a census year, estimates of population size and composition are based on knowledge of the population in the census year plus subsequent events such as births, deaths and migration.

In the latter years of a decade, estimates may depart considerably from "true" population values to the extent that assumptions, particularly about in- and out-migration,

depart from what has actually occurred. Thus, vital statistics rates that are based on population counts in the denominator may be subject to some degree of error.

In this report on 2010 North Carolina vital statistics, we have used population estimates enumerated on April 1, 2010, by the National Center for Health Statistics in collaboration with the Population Estimates Program of the U.S. Census Bureau (www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/bridged_race.htm) for the denominators of the 2010 rates.