

# Preliminary Birth Report Kansas, 2022



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Our Vision – Healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments.

Our Mission –To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans.

## Introduction

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This report from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) presents a preliminary summary of Kansas births for 2022. Selected birth counts and rates are compared to those in the *Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics, 2021*. Release of preliminary statistics enables program managers and policy analysts to obtain an early picture of selected birth trends. Since full data is not available, statistics based on final counts and published in the *Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics, 2022* may be slightly different.

## Methods

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The KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics (BEPHI) maintains the Kansas civil registration system through the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS). All vital events that occur in Kansas are reported to OVS. Vital events occurring in other states to Kansas residents are reported to OVS via inter-state jurisdictional exchange agreements. The analysis in this research brief is based on a preliminary annual history file of births that occurred in 2022 and were registered with OVS by April 1, 2023. All data reported herein are Kansas residence data, regardless of where the event occurred.

Changes in rates or percentages referenced in this report are statistically significant unless otherwise noted. Some changes, while statistically significant, may be of such a small magnitude that they are not pertinent from a program management perspective. It is always wise to use caution when interpreting results based on small counts.

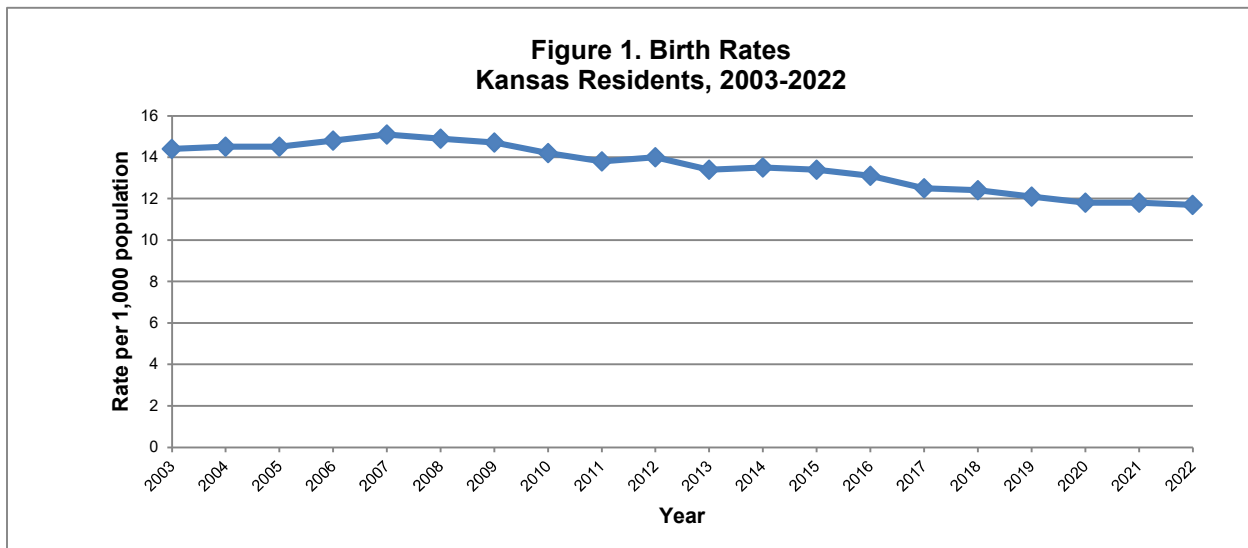
State and county birth rates use population estimates for state and county population totals as of July 1, 2022, released by the United States Census Bureau in early 2023.

## Findings

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As of April 1, 2023, OVS recorded 34,376 births to Kansas resident mothers in 2022, a decrease of 0.9 percent from 34,697 births in 2021. The final count may be slightly higher, since additional births may be reported for Kansas residents who gave birth in other states.

The preliminary birth rate for 2022 was 11.7 per 1,000 population, a decrease of 0.8 percent from 11.8 per 1,000 population in 2021. This is the lowest birth rate for Kansas residents since the state created a centralized Vital Records system in 1911, and is consistent with trends since 2008 (Figure 1).



Seven counties (Douglas, Geary, Johnson, Leavenworth, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte)<sup>1</sup> accounted for 59.9 percent of births in 2022 (Table 1), compared to 59.7 percent for these seven counties in 2021. The number of births for five of these counties was lower than in 2021. Douglas County births decreased by 9.2 percent (from 1,060 to 962), Geary County births decreased by 8.7 percent (from 936 to 855), Shawnee County births decreased by 2.9 percent (from 1,957 to 1,901), Johnson County births decreased by 1.5 percent (from 7,014 to 6,910), and Leavenworth County births decreased by 0.3 percent (from 911 to 908). Sedgwick County births increased by 3.0 percent (from 6,513 to 6,706), and Wyandotte County births increased by 2.0 percent (from 2,310 to 2,357).

There were 12,370 births to unmarried mothers in 2022 (36.0% of all births where the mother’s marital status was known), compared to 12,440 (35.9%) in 2021.

The number of births to teens aged 15-19 years increased from 1,615 in 2021 to 1,616 in 2022. The overall percentage remained unchanged at 4.7 percent.

There were 2,704 low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) infants born to Kansas resident mothers in 2022 (7.9% of all births where the infant’s birth weight was known), up from 2,571 (7.4%) in 2021.

Premature births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation) increased to 3,593 in 2022 (10.5% of all births where the clinical estimate of gestation was known), from 3,397 (9.8%) in 2021. Early-term births (37-38 weeks gestation) increased to 10,175 (29.6%) in 2022, from 9,991 (28.8%) in 2021. Full term births (39 weeks or longer gestation) decreased to 20,580 (59.9%) in 2022, from 21,268 (61.4%) in 2021.

<sup>1</sup> The state’s six urban counties and one semi-urban county (Geary) that usually have a large number of births. Each had over 800 births in 2022.

The percentage of births where prenatal care began in the first trimester decreased to 80.6 percent (27,363 births) in 2022, from 81.9 percent (28,081 births) in 2021.

Births with reported maternal cigarette smoking during pregnancy declined to 1,871 in 2022 (5.5% of all births where maternal cigarette status was known), down from 2,393 (6.9%) in 2021.

## Discussion

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The Kansas resident birth rate in 2022 (11.7 per 1,000 population) declined by 0.8 percent from 2021 (11.8 per 1,000 population), continuing the trend that started in 2008. During this period (2008-2022) the average annual percent change (-1.7%) shows a statistically significant downward trend<sup>2</sup>. The 2022 Kansas preliminary birth rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population is higher than the most current (2021 final) U.S. birth rate of 11.0.<sup>3</sup>

Based on preliminary statistics, 83.0 percent of Kansas infants were born to mothers who received adequate or better care. This surpassed the Healthy People 2030<sup>4</sup> target of a minimum of 80.5 percent of infants born to mothers with adequate prenatal care (MICH-08).

The Kansas rate for live births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy in 2022 was 5.5 percent, down 20.3 percent from 6.9 percent in 2021. This does not meet the Healthy People 2030 target of no more than 4.3 percent of live births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (objective MICH-10).

The percentage of infants born prematurely (before 37 weeks gestation) increased by 7.1 percent from 2021 (9.8%) to preliminary 2022 (10.5%). This is higher than the Healthy People 2030 target of no more than 9.4 percent of live births before 37 weeks gestation (objective MICH-07).

The percentage of infants born with birth weights under 2500 grams increased by 6.8 percent, from 7.4 percent in 2021 to 7.9 percent in 2022.

Births to teens aged 15-19 years have decreased since 2009. In 2022, teen births were 4.7 percent of all births, unchanged from 2021. This was 53.9 percent less than in 2009, when teen births were 10.2 percent of all births.

The *2022 Annual Summary of Vital Statistics* will contain additional analyses, as well as the final version of the analyses presented here. It will be based on the final birth history file created in July 2023.

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<sup>2</sup> National Cancer Institute Joinpoint Regression Program v3.4.5 [Internet]. Bethesda MD. [Accessed 2012 Sep 14] Available from [surveillance.cancer.gov/joinpoint/](https://surveillance.cancer.gov/joinpoint/).

<sup>3</sup> Osterman MJK, Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Driscoll AK, Valenzuela CP. Births: Final Data for 2021. National Vital Statistics Reports Vol. 72, No. 1 (January 31, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> Healthy People 2030 Objectives for Pregnancy and Childbirth [Internet] [cited 2021 April 27]. Available from [health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth](https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/pregnancy-and-childbirth).

Table 1.Preliminary Live Births and Rates by County of Residence, by Age of Mother, Kansas 2022

County	Total	Age-Group of Mother								n.s.	Rate†
		10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Over		
Kansas	34,376	17	1,616	6,947	10,579	9,799	4,501	860	54	3	11.7
Allen	146	0	18	30	50	31	16	1	0	0	11.6
Anderson	94	0	3	27	28	27	6	3	0	0	12.1
Atchison	171	0	9	47	59	33	16	6	1	0	10.6
Barber	47	0	2	11	27	4	3	0	0	0	11.4
Barton	280	0	21	71	105	58	22	2	1	0	11.2
Bourbon	190	0	8	61	65	34	18	4	0	0	13.1
Brown	94	0	5	29	27	17	14	2	0	0	10.0
Butler	659	1	25	111	212	194	102	12	2	0	9.7
Chase	20	0	1	6	5	4	4	0	0	0	7.8
Chautauqua	28	0	4	9	10	4	1	0	0	0	8.2
Cherokee	183	0	14	58	57	31	18	5	0	0	9.6
Cheyenne	32	0	3	6	13	7	3	0	0	0	12.4
Clark	22	0	0	4	7	7	4	0	0	0	11.4
Clay	81	0	3	19	28	19	11	1	0	0	10.1
Cloud	105	0	2	27	37	24	10	5	0	0	11.7
Coffey	85	0	1	24	35	20	4	1	0	0	10.3
Comanche	20	0	2	5	8	4	1	0	0	0	11.9
Cowley	388	0	35	100	122	92	33	6	0	0	11.3
Crawford	441	0	29	112	153	94	43	10	0	0	11.3
Decatur	27	0	1	4	13	8	1	0	0	0	10.0
Dickinson	216	0	6	47	80	57	20	5	0	1	11.7
Doniphan	67	0	4	13	30	15	4	1	0	0	9.0
Douglas	962	0	34	170	270	295	161	31	1	0	8.0
Edwards	23	0	1	5	10	7	0	0	0	0	8.4
Elk	25	0	0	4	10	8	3	0	0	0	10.2
Ellis	287	0	10	59	98	73	39	8	0	0	9.9
Ellsworth	65	0	3	8	15	32	4	1	2	0	10.2
Finney	563	0	48	157	169	119	58	11	1	0	15.0
Ford	555	0	57	147	176	98	58	17	2	0	16.4
Franklin	306	1	15	66	100	81	35	8	0	0	11.8
Geary	855	0	32	325	272	153	59	14	0	0	24.0
Gove	33	0	1	8	8	11	5	0	0	0	12.1
Graham	25	0	0	7	8	7	3	0	0	0	10.4
Grant	98	0	12	24	26	26	8	2	0	0	13.6
Gray	81	0	1	17	36	16	10	1	0	0	14.1
Greeley	14	0	0	3	5	2	4	0	0	0	11.4
Greenwood	59	0	5	12	18	17	7	0	0	0	9.9
Hamilton	45	0	4	14	11	13	2	1	0	0	18.5
Harper	67	0	5	8	23	19	10	2	0	0	12.6
Harvey	363	0	11	87	113	105	42	5	0	0	10.7
Haskell	55	0	2	17	22	10	4	0	0	0	15.4
Hodgeman	18	0	0	2	6	7	2	1	0	0	10.3
Jackson	179	0	7	40	54	50	24	4	0	0	13.5
Jefferson	184	0	8	28	66	59	19	3	1	0	10.0
Jewell	32	0	2	10	6	13	1	0	0	0	11.0
Johnson	6,910	1	98	623	1,768	2,751	1,410	240	18	1	11.2
Kearny	57	0	2	12	23	10	10	0	0	0	14.8
Kingman	75	0	4	12	24	24	10	1	0	0	10.4
Kiowa	32	0	0	7	12	8	5	0	0	0	13.3
Labette	244	0	15	68	87	54	16	4	0	0	12.4
Lane	17	0	2	6	3	5	0	1	0	0	10.9
Leavenworth	908	0	26	166	262	309	117	28	0	0	11.0
Lincoln	32	0	3	3	12	10	4	0	0	0	11.0
Linn	102	0	2	33	32	26	6	3	0	0	10.4
Logan	35	0	3	7	12	9	3	1	0	0	12.9
Lyon	357	0	21	82	118	82	44	9	1	0	11.2
McPherson	334	0	12	69	101	107	39	6	0	0	11.1
Marion	113	1	6	26	35	30	14	1	0	0	9.5
Marshall	118	0	5	20	31	47	13	2	0	0	11.8
Meade	45	0	0	10	15	13	7	0	0	0	11.5
Miami	346	0	8	57	135	93	48	5	0	0	9.9
Mitchell	68	0	2	11	25	22	6	2	0	0	11.9
Montgomery	343	1	29	107	96	74	29	7	0	0	11.1

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County	Total	Age-Group of Mother									Rate <sup>†</sup>
		10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Over	n.s.	
Morris	38	0	0	5	16	9	7	1	0	0	7.1
Morton	28	0	1	7	10	5	5	0	0	0	10.8
Nemaha	119	0	1	30	39	34	15	0	0	0	11.8
Neosho	186	0	9	58	51	44	20	3	1	0	11.9
Ness	28	0	1	5	8	9	5	0	0	0	10.6
Norton	48	0	3	10	16	15	4	0	0	0	9.1
Osage	135	0	3	28	50	30	20	4	0	0	8.6
Osborne	36	0	0	4	12	12	5	2	1	0	10.3
Ottawa	55	0	0	9	23	12	9	2	0	0	9.5
Pawnee	44	0	2	8	18	9	6	1	0	0	7.1
Phillips	43	0	1	7	23	11	1	0	0	0	8.9
Pottawatomie	377	0	7	48	120	119	65	18	0	0	14.3
Pratt	113	0	9	22	33	32	12	5	0	0	12.5
Rawlins	31	0	0	2	15	8	4	2	0	0	12.3
Reno	644	1	33	172	186	154	75	20	3	0	10.5
Republic	43	0	2	5	19	14	2	1	0	0	9.3
Rice	120	0	11	33	45	25	5	1	0	0	12.8
Riley	696	1	19	165	217	195	82	15	1	1	9.8
Rooks	50	0	2	10	19	12	5	2	0	0	10.4
Rush	28	0	3	5	8	8	3	1	0	0	9.6
Russell	57	0	1	16	20	15	5	0	0	0	8.6
Saline	636	1	42	141	202	166	69	13	2	0	11.9
Scott	80	0	1	22	29	21	5	2	0	0	16.0
Sedgwick	6,706	2	363	1,467	2,194	1,777	733	163	7	0	12.8
Seward	384	1	37	112	101	82	39	10	2	0	18.0
Shawnee	1,901	1	145	424	579	479	229	43	1	0	10.7
Sheridan	19	0	0	4	8	6	1	0	0	0	7.8
Sherman	59	0	3	17	20	14	5	0	0	0	10.1
Smith	27	0	0	5	13	6	0	3	0	0	7.6
Stafford	43	0	2	10	14	14	3	0	0	0	10.8
Stanton	31	0	1	7	9	11	2	1	0	0	15.8
Stevens	73	0	6	21	23	15	6	2	0	0	14.1
Sumner	261	0	12	65	97	55	29	3	0	0	11.6
Thomas	103	0	4	21	40	25	12	1	0	0	13.0
Trego	24	0	0	6	10	5	3	0	0	0	8.7
Wabaunsee	74	0	2	14	30	17	8	3	0	0	10.5
Wallace	19	0	0	0	9	7	3	0	0	0	12.8
Washington	72	0	2	8	28	25	8	0	1	0	13.1
Wichita	35	0	0	6	10	12	7	0	0	0	17.0
Wilson.	94	0	7	32	23	25	7	0	0	0	10.9
Woodson	32	0	1	10	15	4	2	0	0	0	10.3
Wyandotte	2,357	5	188	548	693	581	282	55	5	0	14.2
n.s.‡	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	n/a
Peer Group											
Frontier	1,189	0	50	250	430	318	125	15	1	0	10.9
Rural	2,727	1	120	633	938	711	272	49	3	0	11.2
Densely - Settled Rural	5,426	1	349	1,323	1,759	1,268	588	127	10	1	12.3
Semi-Urban	5,289	6	243	1,343	1,686	1,309	584	109	8	1	11.6
Urban	19,744	9	854	3,398	5,766	6,192	2,932	560	32	1	11.7

\* Based on 2022 births registered by April 1, 2023

† Rates are per 1,000 population.

‡ Some records without valid county data may be deleted from the final history file, or may be assigned to a Kansas county based on other address information in the record.