Births to Nebraska Mothers, 1961-2009

A major factor influencing future student enrollments in Nebraska is the number of births to mothers who reside in the state. The table shows the actual number of births for each year from 1961 to 2009. The graph illustrates the trends during that period.

These data, which were taken from the Nebraska Vital Statistics Report, show the total number of births to Nebraska mothers. Although not shown in this document, the Vital Statistics Report provided the data for each of Nebraska’s 93 counties and for each of the state’s larger cities.

Births were assigned to the usual residence of the mother. For example, if a mother who resided in Nebraska gave birth in a hospital in another state, the birth would be counted as a Nebraska birth. On the other hand, if a mother who resided in another state gave birth in a Nebraska hospital, the birth would not be counted as a Nebraska birth.

As shown in the table, the highest number of births to Nebraska mothers during any calendar year was 34,544 in 1961. During ensuing years, the lowest number of births to Nebraska mothers during a calendar year was 22,771 in 1973. From 1961 to 2009, the average number of births per year was 25,621. The bar graph illustrates the trends over the 47-year period.

During 2009, there were 26,931 births to mothers who resided in Nebraska. Three counties accounted for 57.3 % of the total births to resident mothers: Douglas, 32.0 % (8,608 births); Lancaster, 15.4 % (4,160 births); and Sarpy, 9.9 % (2,665) births. Ten counties each had fewer than 10 births to resident mothers: Banner, 9 births; Blaine, 5 births; Grant, 7 births; Hayes, 8 births; Hooker, 9 births; Logan, 4 births; Loup, 5; McPherson, 7 births; Sioux, 9 births; and Thomas, 2 births. Combined, these ten counties accounted for 54 births, or 0.2 % of the state’s total.

To view the entire Nebraska Vital Statistics Report, go to <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/ced/vs.htm>. 