DEFINITIONS

Some definitions used in this publication may vary in meaning among states or nations. Also, some subjects change in definition over time. Center for Health Statistics definitions are consistent for all publications within a given year and are generally the same definitions used by the National Center for Health Statistics. However, a data user should always compare definitions across geographical areas and times.

ABORTION - See INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY. In this publication, the terms *abortion* and *induced termination of pregnancy* are used synonymously.

ADEQUACY OF PRENATAL CARE UTILIZATION INDEX (APNCU) - This index, also known as the Kotelchuck Index of Prenatal Care, was designed as an improvement on the Kessner Index. It has 5 values: 1 = adequate plus, 2 = adequate, 3 = intermediate, 4 = inadequate and 5 = unknown. Its major advantage is that it divides the adequate into two categories. Those with adequate plus had other risk factors, which increased the number of visits. The index can serve as an indicator that some medical condition required additional prenatal care. [Kotelchuck M., "An Evaluation of the Kessner Adequacy of Prenatal Care Index and a Proposed Adequacy of Prenatal Care Utilization Index", *American Journal of Public Health*, 1994, 84(9):1414-20.]

ANNULMENT - "To nullify, to abolish, to make void by competent authority. An annulment differs from a divorce in that a divorce terminates a legal status, whereas an annulment establishes that a marital status never existed." *Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition*. In this publication, annulments are included with divorces for rate calculation purposes and are available only by place of occurrence.

BIRTH - See LIVE BIRTH. In this publication, the terms *live birth* and *birth* are used synonymously.

BIRTH INTERVAL - The period from the date of the current birth to the date of the last termination of pregnancy, birth or otherwise.

BIRTH ORDER - The numeric relationship of a child to other children born alive to that mother.

CAUSE OF DEATH - The cause of death presented in this publication is the "underlying cause" which is defined as the cause deemed responsible for the sequence of morbid events leading directly to death or the circumstances of the accident or violence that produced the fatal injury. Deaths, by cause, are classified according to the *International Classification of Diseases (ICD), Tenth Revision*, following instructions established by the National Center for Health Statistics. See Appendix C for the compilation lists and ICD-10 codes used for the leading cause of death.

DEATH - Death is defined in *Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition* as "the cessation of life; permanent cessations of all vital functions and signs." For definitions of the determination of death under other than general circumstances, the *Code of Alabama* should be consulted.

DIVORCE - A court decree dissolving a marital relationship. A divorce from bed and board is a separation from cohabitation which does not otherwise affect the marriage and is not included in this publication. See *Code of Alabama* for additional information. For rate calculation purposes in this publication, divorces include annulments and are reported by the county where the divorce occurred.

ESTIMATED PREGNANCIES - The sum of births, induced terminations of pregnancy and estimated total fetal losses. Rounding errors may exist because of the estimation techniques.

ESTIMATED TOTAL FETAL LOSSES - This term, which is a component used in determining the number of estimated pregnancies, is an estimate of the total number of fetal losses regardless of the gestational age of the fetus. Estimated total fetal losses are equal to the sum of 20 percent of births and 10 percent of induced terminations of pregnancy. This formula was developed by the Alan Guttmacher Institute and is widely accepted and used. Rounding errors may exist because of the estimation techniques. Estimated total fetal losses should be distinguished from the term fetal deaths as used in this publication.

FETAL DEATH - "Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy and which is not an induced termination of pregnancy. The death is indicated by the fact that after the expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. Heartbeats are to be distinguished from transient cardiac contractions; respirations are to be distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps." *Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 22-9A-1*. While the definition of fetal death includes all gestations, only fetal deaths that have advanced to or are beyond the twentieth week of utero-gestation are required to be reported under Alabama law and are the only ones counted as fetal deaths in this publication.

GESTATION - The period of development from the time of fertilization of the ovum to birth. In these publications, the terms *gestation* and *utero-gestation* are used synonymously.

INDUCED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY - "The purposeful interruption of an intrauterine pregnancy with the intention other than to produce a liveborn infant and which does not result in a live birth. This definition excludes management of prolonged retention of products of conception following fetal death." *Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 22-9A-1.* In these publications, the terms *induced termination of pregnancy* and *abortion* are used synonymously.

INFANT DEATH - Death of a live born infant before one year of age.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES (ICD) - A publication of the World Health Organization (WHO) that provides the essential ground rules for the coding and classification of cause of death data. The purpose of the ICD and of WHO sponsorship is to promote international comparability in the collection, classification, processing and presentation of health statistics. In addition to being a classification system, the rules provide for identification of a single condition on the death certificate that is considered most informative from a public health point of view, called the underlying cause of death.

LIVE BIRTH - "The complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such expulsion or extraction, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Heartbeats are to be distinguished from transient cardiac contractions; respirations are to be distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps." *Code of Alabama, 1975, Section 22-9A-1*. In these publications, the terms *live birth* and *birth* are used synonymously.

LOW BIRTH WEIGHT - A weight at birth of under 2,500 grams or under five pounds and eight ounces.

MARRIAGE – The legal union of two persons which establishes their relationship as spouses. Marriage data are reported by the county where the marriage license was issued (prior to August 29, 2019) or the county where the marriage certificate was recorded (on or after August 29, 2019).

MATERNAL DEATH - Defined by WHO as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of pregnancy from any cause of the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes." Included in these deaths are ICD-10 codes A34, O00-O95 and O98-O99.

NEONATAL DEATH - Death of a liveborn infant occurring within the first 27 days of life.

OCCURRENCE DATA - Data compiled as to the geographical place where the event occurred.

PERINATAL DEATH - Death of a fetus of 28 or more weeks gestation or death of a liveborn infant under seven days of age. Note that several other definitions of this term exist.

POSTNEONATAL DEATH - Death of a liveborn infant after the first 27 days of age but before one year of age.

RESIDENT DATA - Data compiled as to the place of residence without regard to the geographical place where the event occurred. For births and fetal deaths, place of residence of mother is used.

TEENAGE - In this publication, persons aged 10 years through 19 years.

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE – The estimated number of births a group of females would have by the end of their reproductive lifetimes if the age-specific birth rates in a given year continued throughout their childbearing years. The total fertility rate is the sum of the age-specific birth rates multiplied by their respective five-year age intervals. In this publication, the rates indicate the average expected number of children that would be born per 1,000 females aged 15-44 in the specified population.

VERY LOW BIRTH WEIGHT - A weight at birth of under 1,500 grams or under three pounds and five ounces.