

STATISTICAL REPORT

1989 OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

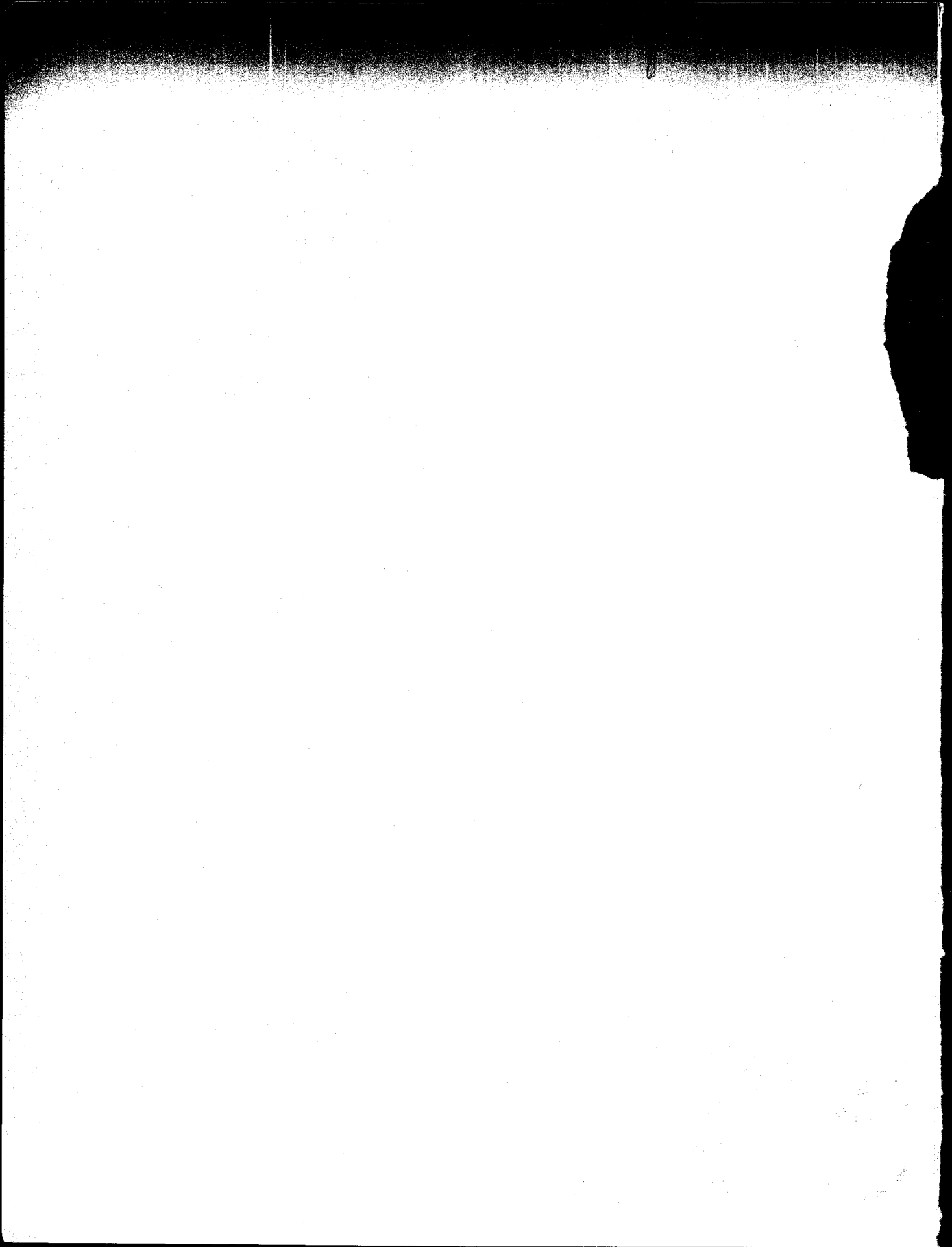
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SOCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

AGANA, GUAM





ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

1989



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FOREWORD

This volume is the twentieth (20) edition to the Annual Statistical Report prepared on a booklet printed form.

The report, required under Section 3108 of 10 Government Code Annotated, Chapter 3, tabulates data on Guam births, deaths, infant and fetal deaths, marriages and divorces. It contains data compiled from certificates registered with the Office of Vital Statistics (these certificates can be found at the back). The time period is based on calendar year 1989.

Records received in this office from the hospitals are carefully reviewed for inconsistencies and are queried when necessary. Annually when registration is considered complete, statistics are compiled for the report and other needed studies.

It is hoped that this report will be useful to health data users. It provides its users with an overview of the health status of Guam population. Questions and comments concerning data presented in this report should be directed to the Department of Public Health and Social Services, Office of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 2816, Agana, Guam 96910.

In analyzing any data, the possibility of errors should not be overlooked. There are several types of possible errors, including errors by the informant as well as errors in processing and compilation. The most potentially dangerous error would be that of improper interpretation.

NATALITY - In 1989, 3,565 babies were born, an increase of 17 from previous year. The birth rate, or number of births per 1,000 population, was 27.1.

There were 11 live births to mothers under 15 years of age and only 6 live births to mothers 45 years of age and over. Women aged 15-44 years were responsible for 99.5 percent of all live births for the year. Teens under the age of 20 accounted for 481 births or 13.5 percent of all live births. The youngest mother giving birth in 1989 was 13 years old.

Out of a total of 3,565 live births, 73.2 percent were born to women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester. The percent of mothers beginning care during the second trimester was 93.3. The percentage of women giving birth and receiving no prenatal care was 2.0 percent.

Educational attainment of women varied with their age. Only 20.3 percent of mothers had less than a twelve grade education in 1989 compared to 22.4 percent in 1988. The proportion of women who had completed at least four years of college was 9.6 percent.

Birthweights of 5 pounds 8 ounces or less are defined low birthweight births, an indicator of prematurity. In 1989, low birthweight births accounted for 7.9 percent. The low birthweight to mothers between the age of 15-24 came to a total of 145 or 4.1 percent.

MORTALITY - The number of deaths occurring in 1989 came to a total of 544, an increase of 52. The death rate was 4.1 per 1,000 population as compared to 3.8 for 1988.

The total of 253 individuals who died in 1989 had been married. The percent for females was 33.2 percent; for males 54.2 percent. The proportion who were widowed at the time of death was greater for women (43.2%) than for men (13.0%).

The top three causes of death for the year were diseases of the heart; malignant neoplasm and all other accidents and adverse effects. The ranking of the three has remained the same since 1985.

The total number of infant deaths has increased from 35 in 1988 to 44 for 1989, the rate 12.3 per 1,000 live births. There were 35 fetal deaths with a rate of 9.8 per 1,000 live births.

The year ended with 15 victims of homicide, 16 of suicides and 34 of motor vehicle accidents. These three causes of death occurred mainly among men - nine cases or 60 percent of all homicides; 14 suicides or 87.5 percent of all suicides and 28 motor vehicle deaths or 82.3 percent of all motor vehicle cases.

MARRIAGES - The year ended with 1,371 marriages, 239 less than in 1988. The 1989 rate was 10.4 per 1,000 population.

The greatest number of marriages occurred between brides within the 20-24 year age group with 521 marriages or 38.0 percent and grooms within the 20-24 year age group with 513 marriages or 37.4 percent.

In 1989, age group 25-29 was the most common age group for first marriages for both grooms and brides.

DIVORCES - For the first time, the number of divorces granted has gone down from 1,379 in 1988 to 1,147 in 1989, a decrease of 232 cases, showing a rate of 8.7 per 1,000 population. There were 28 annulments processed.

Out of the total 1,175 persons who were granted divorces and annulments, 957 or 81.4 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34.

Forty divorces and annulments or 3.4 percent were dissolved under one year of marriage.

DEFINITIONS

Since this report utilizes various terms and technical connotations, it is necessary to define them to aid the reader in the correct interpretation of the data. The following terms and notes are listed to achieve that objective.

Birth Weight	Weight of fetus or infant at time of delivery.
Live Birth	The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of 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 the voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.
Gestational Period	Number of weeks elapsed between the first day of the last menstrual period and date of delivery.
Live-Birth Order	Order number is equal to number of previous live births plus current birth.
Low-Weight	Birth wherein the weight is equivalent to 2,500 grams or less (5 lbs., 8 ozs.) regardless of the period of gestation.
Fetal Deaths	Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such 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.
Infant Death	Death occurring to an individual of less than one year of age.
Maternal Death	Death wherein the physician has designated a maternal condition as the underlying cause of death.
Neonatal Death	Death occurring to an infant less than 28 days of age.
Occurrence	Place where the event actually occurred.
Natural Increase	The excess of births over deaths.
Perinatal Death	Neonatal deaths plus fetal deaths
Postneonatal Death	Death of a live born infant 28-364 days of age.
Underlying Cause of Death	That condition giving rise to the chain of events leading to death.