### **PREFACE**

This report presents the final tabulation of statistical data relating to vital events in Missouri during 2002. Data for the year of the report were accepted through April 18, 2003, allowing information reflecting events in 2002 to be as complete as possible.

Missouri Vital Statistics 2002 is published for use in public health and related fields as an aid for studying births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, dissolutions, and abortions. Provisional vital statistics data are available through the publication, Missouri Monthly Vital Statistics. Unpublished detailed annual vital statistics data are available upon request.

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