

Results of Demographic Research Concerning Birth Month and School Starting Dates

Is the present age cutoff date fair and benefit a large number of Junior members? This is an ongoing question raised by members of regions. The Youth and Junior division of USA Volleyball reviews this at the beginning of each quad.

The database used for the research came from the USAV registration for the year of 2004.

Access to Kindergarten

The following summary is from a document by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). ECS is a nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps state leaders shape education policy. The website is www.ecs.org

The following 23 states require that a student be five years old by August 31 or September 1 or 2 to enter kindergarten: Delaware, Kansas, Washington, Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Utah

These states fit perfectly with the USA Volleyball Age cutoff date.

The following 8 states require that a student be five years old by sometime in September to enter kindergarten.

Montana, Arkansas, Iowa, Wyoming, Louisiana, Nevada, Tennessee, Virginia

These states will let a few kids play “down” from their “ideal” age group. For example a student could turn 5 on September 3rd. This student would be able to play 13’s as an 8th grader.

The following 9 States require that a student be five years old by different dates from October 1 till January 1 to enter kindergarten.

Kentucky, Maine, Nebraska, North Carolina, Michigan, California, Hawaii, Connecticut, Vermont

These states will let more kids play “down” from their “ideal” age group. For example a student could turn 5 on October 3rd. This student would be able to play 13’s as an 8th grader.

The following states have early age cutoffs – the date by which a student has to turn 5 to enter kindergarten:

Indiana – July 1

Missouri – August 1

Alaska – August 15

These are the states that might require some students to play “up” from their age group. For instance in Indiana and Missouri, a student that turned 5 on August 2 would not be able to start kindergarten till almost a year after turning 5. This student would have to play 15’s as an 8th grader.

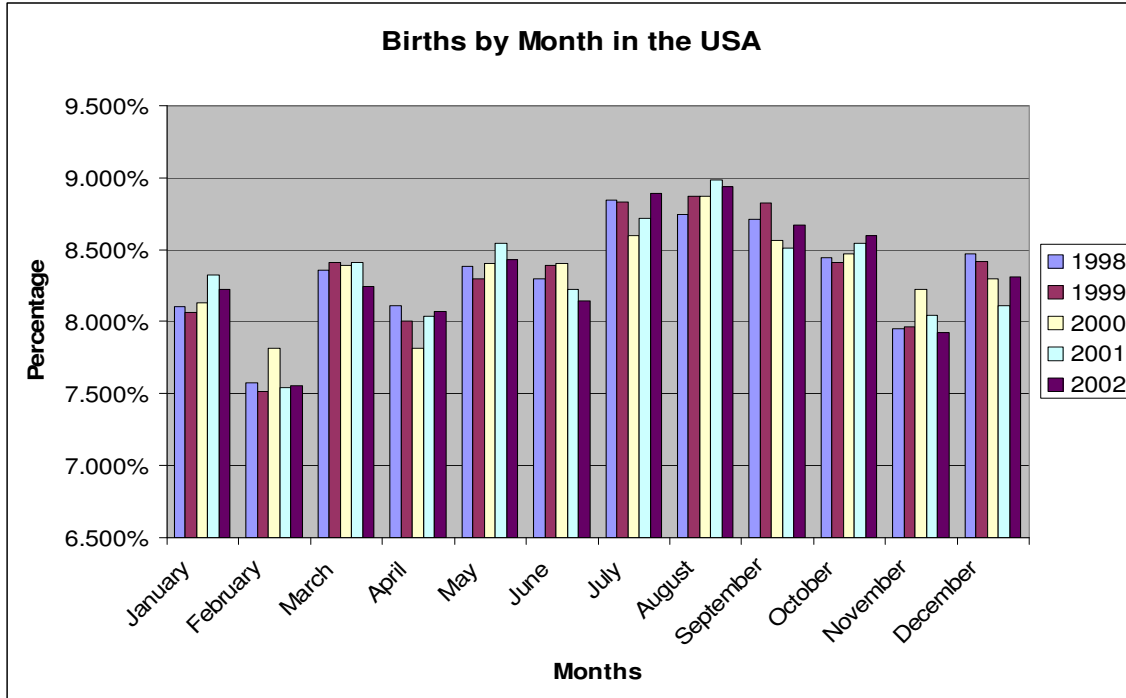
Ohio is a special case – it has two dates either September 30 or August 1. Evidently the local school board makes the decision.

The following 6 states have an LEA option – the Local Education Authority makes the decision. - Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

The article also shows the age at which schooling is compulsory. Many states don’t start compulsory schooling laws till age 6 or 7 this will allow parents to “redshirt” their kids as kindergartners and thus be able to compete against younger kids in school sports.

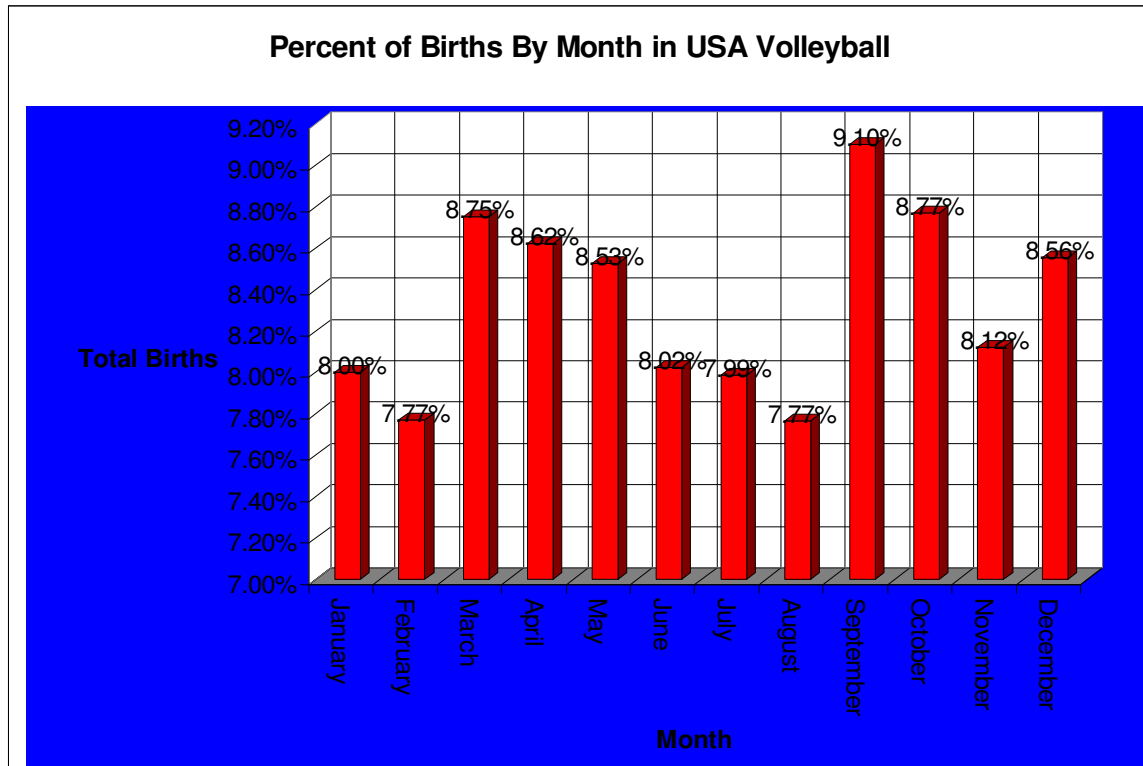
Births by Month

The following graph shows births by months in the USA for the years 1998-2002



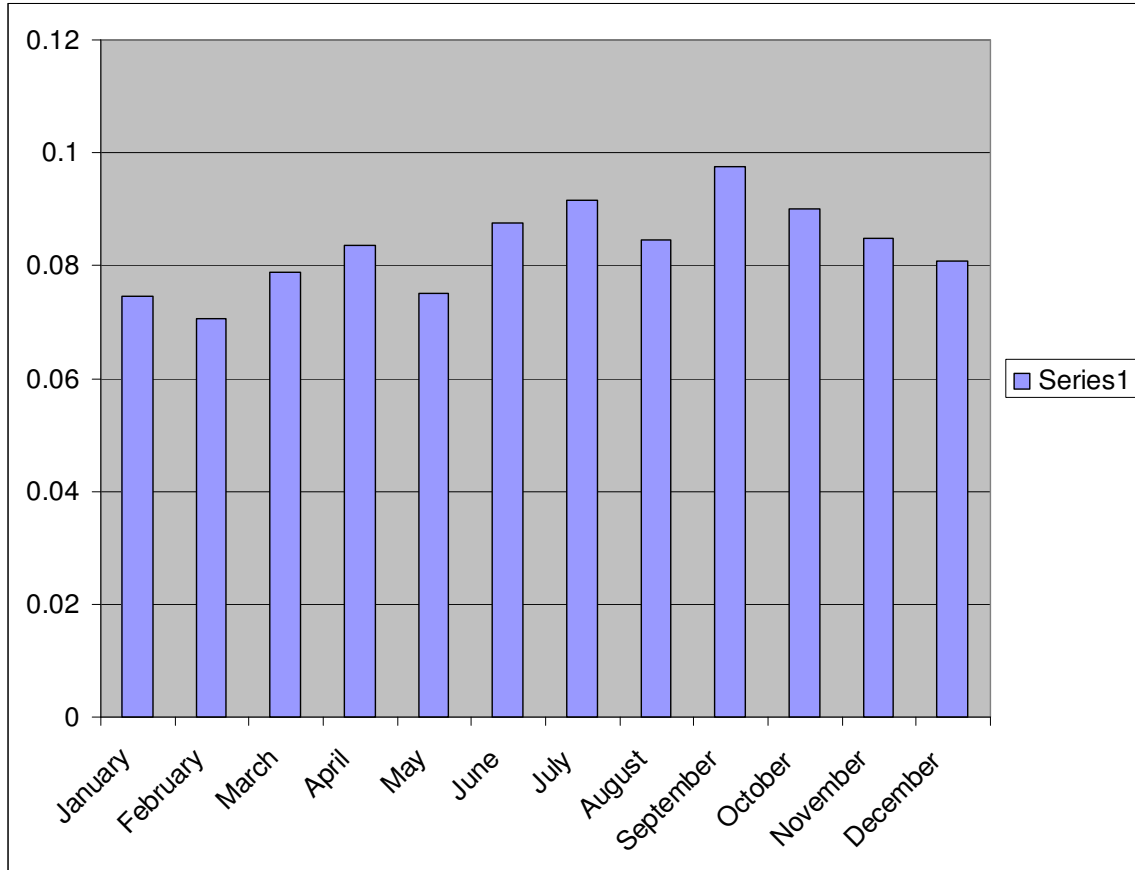
This graph comes from the Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov. We couldn't find any records going any further back. As you see the largest months change slightly from year to year. After publishing the original report, we found more data from years back. The largest birth months change from year. A constant is that births tend to peak 9-10 months after either a really cold month or a really hot month.

Birth by Month in USA Volleyball Sample



This sample might indicate that we are losing numbers by having our cutoff date at September 1st. However the following graph from Indiana registrations would tend to refute this theory. The average percentage born in each month is 8.33 percent. August is actually only slightly below average.

Percentage of Births by Months for Indiana Registrants



From earlier in this document you will remember that Indiana has the earliest age cutoff date for kindergarten in the country. Indiana also is the home to one of the largest regions in the country. If it is figured on the basis of number of registrants as a percentage of total population, its rank is probably even higher.

How Each Class Fits Into Our Present Cutoff Date Structure

The following pages show how each class fits into the present “ideal” place in the age group structure. It also shows how different cutoff dates would affect this percentage.

Lets look at the class of 2005. Ninety-Four percent of the class of 2005 was born after our cutoff date. Eight-two percent fall between the cutoff date and the next cutoff date. This means that with our present cutoff date, there are more kids in the class that are eligible to play “down” a group than have to play “up” a group.

This generally holds true throughout age groups. While the actual percentages vary from year to year, the trend is the same

Class of 2004 Data			Class of 2005 Data		
<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-85		<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-86	
<i>Total Sample</i>	5187		<i>Total Sample</i>	11024	
<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	18		<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	17	
Dates	Total	Pct.	Dates	Total	Pct.
<i>After 9/1/1985</i>	4923	94.91%	<i>After 9/1/1986</i>	10364	94.01%
<i>Between 9/1/1985 and 8/31/1986</i>	4025	77.60%	<i>Between 9/1/1986 and 8/31/1987</i>	9101	82.56%
<i>After 7/1/1985</i>	5072	97.78%	<i>After 7/1/1986</i>	10780	97.79%
<i>Between 7/1/1985 and 7/1/1986</i>	3578	68.98%	<i>Between 7/1/1986 and 6/30/1987</i>	8273	75.05%
<i>After 6/1/1985</i>	5102	98.36%	<i>After 6/1/1986</i>	10857	98.49%
<i>Between 6/1/1985 and 6/1/1986</i>	3251	62.68%	<i>Between 6/1/1986 and 6/1/1987</i>	7535	68.35%
<i>After 1/1/1985</i>	5156	99.40%	<i>After 1/1/1986</i>	10972	99.53%
<i>Between 1/1/1985 and 1/1/1986</i>	1451	27.97%	<i>Between 1/1/1986 and 1/1/1987</i>	3528	32.00%
Class of 2006 Data			Class of 2007 Data		
<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-87		<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-88	
<i>Total Sample</i>	14428		<i>Total Sample</i>	15941	
<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	16		<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	15	
Dates	Total	Percent age	Dates	Total	Pct.
<i>After 9/1/1987</i>	13463	93.31%	<i>After 9/1/1988</i>	14694	92.18%
<i>Between 9/1/1987 and 8/31/1988</i>	12030	83.38%	<i>Between 9/1/1988 and 8/31/1989</i>	13219	82.92%
<i>After 8/1/1987</i>	13678	94.80%	<i>After 8/1/1988</i>	15076	94.57%
<i>Between 8/1/1987 and 8/1/1988</i>	11557	80.10%	<i>Between 8/1/1988 and 8/1/1989</i>	12762	80.06%
<i>After 7/1/1987</i>	14032	97.26%	<i>After 7/1/1988</i>	15343	96.25%
<i>Between 7/1/1987 and 7/1/1988</i>	10920	75.69%	<i>Between 7/1/1988 and 7/1/1989</i>	12137	76.14%
<i>After 6/1/1987</i>	14154	98.10%	<i>After 6/1/1988</i>	15534	97.45%
<i>Between 6/1/1987 and 6/1/1988</i>	10065	69.76%	<i>Between 6/1/1988 and 6/1/1989</i>	11330	71.07%
<i>After 1/1/1987</i>	14336	99.36%	<i>After 1/1/1988</i>	15796	99.09%
<i>Between 1/1/1987 and 1/1/1988</i>	4735	32.82%	<i>Between 1/1/1988 and 1/1/1989</i>	5520	34.63%

Class of 2008 Data			Class of 2009 Data		
<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-89		<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-90	
<i>Total Sample</i>	15081		<i>Total Sample</i>	9678	
<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	14		<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	13	
Dates	Total	Pct.	Dates	Total	Percentage
<i>After 9/1/1989</i>	13797	91.49%	<i>After 9/1/1990</i>	8450	87.31%
<i>Between 9/1/1989 and 8/31/1990</i>	12752	84.56%	<i>Between 9/1/1990 and 8/31/1991</i>	7887	81.49%
<i>After 8/1/1989</i>	14178	94.01%	<i>After 8/1/1990</i>	8696	89.85%
<i>Between 8/1/1989 and 8/1/1990</i>	12382	82.10%	<i>Between 8/1/1990 and 8/1/1991</i>	7768	80.26%
<i>After 7/1/1989</i>	14443	95.77%	<i>After 7/1/1990</i>	8933	92.30%
<i>Between 7/1/1989 and 7/1/1990</i>	11772	78.06%	<i>Between 7/1/1990 and 7/1/1991</i>	7452	77.00%
<i>After 6/1/1989</i>	14626	96.98%	<i>After 6/1/1990</i>	9076	93.78%
<i>Between 6/1/1989 and 6/1/1990</i>	11017	73.05%	<i>Between 6/1/1990 and 6/1/1991</i>	7035	72.69%
<i>After 1/1/1989</i>	14866	98.57%	<i>After 1/1/1990</i>	9329	96.39%
<i>Between 1/1/1989 and 1/1/1990</i>	5496	36.44%	<i>Between 1/1/1990 and 1/1/1991</i>	3699	38.22%
Class of 2010 Data					
<i>Present Cutoff Date</i>	1-Sep-91				
<i>Total Sample</i>	5677				
<i>Optimal Age Group</i>	12				
Dates	Total	Pct.			
<i>After 9/1/1991</i>	4961	87.39%			
<i>Between 9/1/1991 and 8/31/1992</i>	4488	79.06%			
<i>After 8/1/1991</i>	5162	90.93%			
<i>Between 8/1/1991 and 8/1/1992</i>	4450	78.39%			
<i>After 7/1/1991</i>	5279	92.99%			
<i>Between 7/1/1991 and 7/1/1992</i>	4263	75.09%			
<i>After 6/1/1991</i>	5368	94.56%			
<i>Between 6/1/1991 and 6/1/1992</i>	4042	71.20%			
<i>After 1/1/1991</i>	5544	97.66%			
<i>Between 1/1/1991 and 1/1/1992</i>	2132	37.56%			

Data from the National Center for Educational Statistics <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/2000070.pdf>

The table below shows that above data won't change for the 2004-2005 season. In a study of children entering kindergarten in the fall of 1998, The twelve and unders for 2004 – 2005 fit almost exactly with our previous data. The data used here was a random sample of all kids entering kindergarten in 1998.

Child's Age at Entry	Sample	Total Population	Population Percentage
Born Jan.- August 1992 (Too old to play 12's)	657	120,127	4%
Born Sept – Dec. 1992	4,019	869,575	24%
Born Jan – April 1993	5,449	1,166,292	32%
Born May – August 1993	5441	1,177,595	32
Born Sept – Dec 1993 Could still play 12's in 2005-2006	1,600	326,637	9

This table shows in a bit different way that 96% of kids in this class will be eligible to play 12's with their class. Nine percent will be able to play 12's for another year. This means that about 87% of the kids fit in the "ideal window." This is a sample of the total students enrolling in kindergarten in the fall of 1998.

After viewing the preceding data, the Interface Commission and the members of General Forum decided overwhelmingly that no change could be made that would improve the present age group cutoff date. As a result the commission brought forth no motion to the General Forum. The General Forum did not choose to override the wishes of the Interface Commission to bring it to the floor.