This map displays birth rates as a percentage variation from the national mean of 14.5 births per 1000 people. For Megalopolis as a whole, the birth rate in 1997 was just below the national mean (NM). This puts the region firmly between such high birth rate states such as Utah (20.8 births per 1000 or 43.4% above the NM) and low birth states such as Maine at 11.0 births per 1000 or 24.1% below the NM. The areas of higher than average birth rate are generally in the urban regions such as the Bronx (18.8 births per 1000 or 30.3% above the NM) and expanding suburban areas such as Loudon VA (19.4 births or 33.8% above NM). Areas of lower birth rates are in some declining urban regions and rural areas such as Luzerne PA (9.7 births or 33.1% below NM) and Hampshire MA (9 births or 37.9% below NM).

The spatial variation is a function of the presence of younger households who tend to have children, and more dynamic economies, that attract child-bearing households. The more rural, peripheral counties, such as Clark VA (7.6 births or 45.5% below NM) tend to have lower birth rates as younger households are moving away leaving an ageing populating behind.

The general pattern is for the more rural areas to have lower birth rates and the more urban and expanding suburban regions to exhibit higher birth rates. However, the overall variation is relatively slight suggesting convergence in birth rate and average household size across the region and across the country.

As a nation, birth rates in general have steadily declined since the early 1900's. The exception being an upswing after WWII when the "babyboom" occur-red. With greater numbers of people moving off the farm and increasing urban populations there has been a corresponding decrease in the birth rate.