05/12/2012 by Matt Stiles   **188** Comments
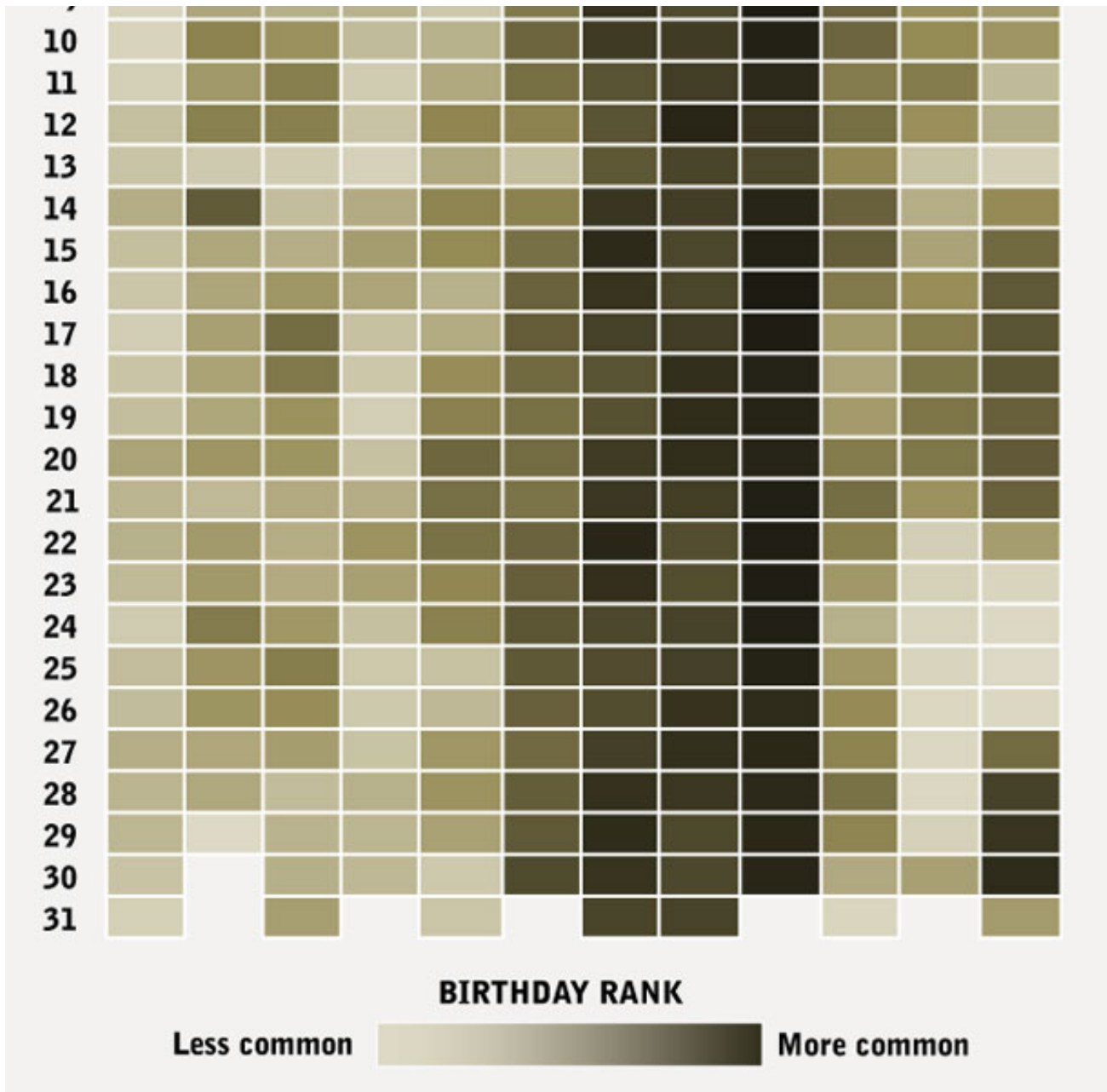
How Common Is Your Birthday?

*UPDATE: I've written a clarification about this post **here**. Please **read it**.*

A friend posted an interesting **data table** on my Facebook wall yesterday, which was my birthday. The data listed each day of the year with a ranking for how many babies were born **in the United States** on each date from 1973 to 1999. Some interesting trends are evident in the data. Apparently, people like to make babies around the winter holiday season because a large proportion of babies are born in September (**ours** is due Sept. 24, btw).

Sept. 16 was most common. Feb. 29* was least common. This heatmap is an effort to visualize the trends, with darker shades representing more births:

Which Birth Dates Are Most Common?

DAY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												

Data source: **NYTimes.com, Amitabh Chandra, Harvard University**

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* A previous version of this post incorrectly listed Jan. 1 as the least common birth day.

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