

Vital Records: Why We Do What We Do

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What are Vital Records?

Permanent legal records of events in people's lives:



Births

Deaths

Fetal deaths

Marriages

Divorces

Responsibility for Vital Records



- State responsibility, not federal
- State where event occurs
(Not state of residence)
- Missouri vital records are reported centrally, to the state registrar

History of Vital Records in U.S.

Colonial Days: Legal documents to protect individual property rights

18th-19th century: Cholera, yellow fever, and typhoid epidemics; in 1833 only Boston,

New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans required birth and death reports

Late 1800's: ability to measure progress in public health

1910: Statewide registration began in Missouri

1950-present: Growing public health and research need

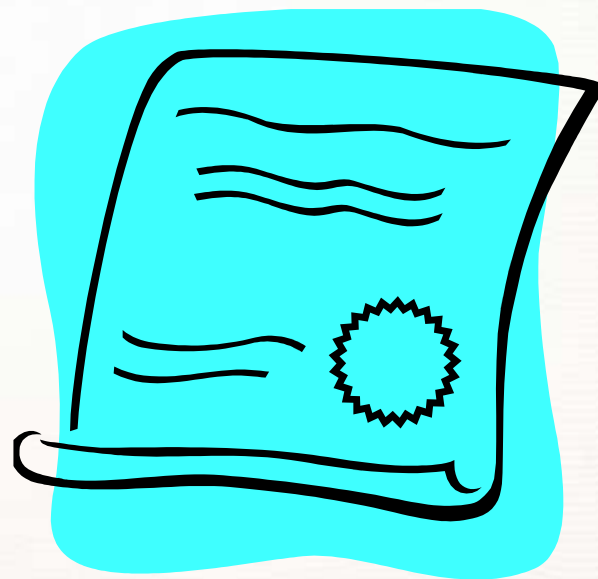


Major Uses of Vital Records

Public health
statistics/research



Legal and
administrative



Public Health and Research Uses

- Community Health Assessments
- Infant mortality disparities
- Effectiveness of Safe Cribs program
- Epidemiologic study on one million US radiation workers
- Life expectancy by demographic factors





Other Public Health and Research Uses of Missouri Mortality Data

- Partner with MO Department of Labor on identifying fatal occupational Injuries to improve worker safety
- Surveillance of pneumonia and influenza mortality, communicable and infectious disease mortality, weather-related deaths
- Emerging issues such as hospital associated infections and drug overdose deaths

Legal and Administrative Purposes

- Obtain identity documents (passport, DL)
- Enroll in benefits programs
- Settle estates & obtain life insurance payouts
- Terminate benefits (social security, pension)
- Remove names from voter rolls and jury pools.



How Are Vital Records Processed?

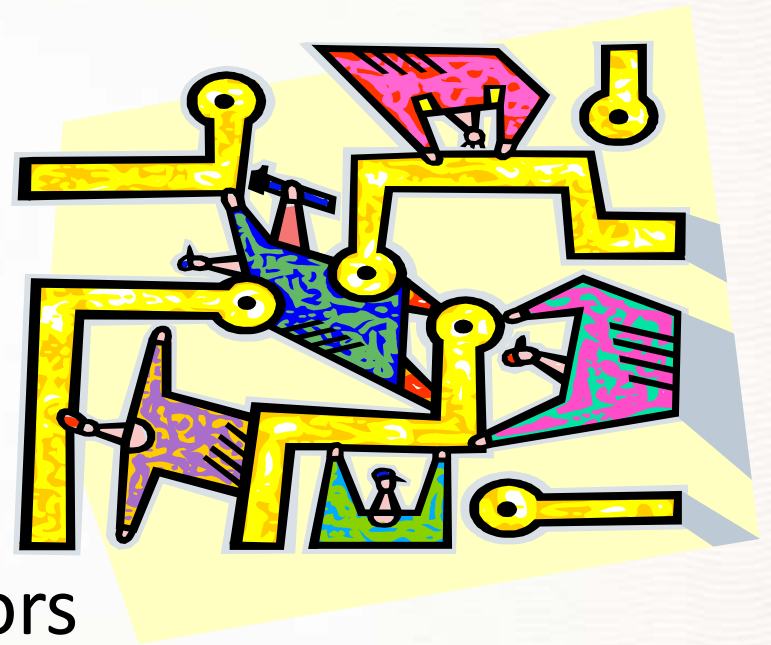
- Most states use electronic systems

EBRS - birth

EDRS - death

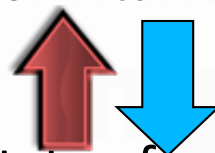
In Missouri--MoEVR

- Many steps and many actors
- Deaths require a funeral director, medical certifier, and usually an embalmer.



Birth Registration Data Flow

1. Birth occurs
2. Hospital reports to BVR (Bureau of Vital Records)
3. BVR reviews data for quality
If needed, BVR follows up with hospital
4. BVR shares data with mother's state of residence
5. BVR submits birth data to CDC/NCHS
6. CDC/NCHS reviews data for quality
If needed, CDC/NCHS follows up with BVR
If needed, BVR follows up with hospital
7. BVR submits final complete year end data to CDC/NCHS
8. CDC/NCHS conducts final data quality review
If needed, CDC/NCHS follows up with BVR
If needed, BVR follows up with hospital
9. BVR/CDC/NCHS each release aggregate vital statistics data



Death Registration Data Flow

- Funeral home reports decedent's demographic data
- Attending physician, PA, AP or APRN certifies natural causes of death
- Medical examiner/coroner certifies and reports external causes and unknown manner or unattended death
- MoEVR allows medical certifiers to start the death record: 109 filed in 2014, 51 filed so far in 2015



Electronic Death Registration Use: 2014

- 5,738 physician's certified a cause of death. 45% used MoEVR at least once
- When death occurred in a hospital, 71% were certified completely in MoEVR
- When using MoEVR, ME/coroner average number of days to file was 26 days from date of death
- When using MoEVR, physician average number of days to file was 11.8 days from date of death



Federal and State Partners

National Center for Health Statistics at CDC

- Vital Statistics Cooperative Program
- National Death Index

Social Security Administration

- Enumeration at Birth
- Fact of Death

State Partners

- DSS, MoHealthNet Division
- Office of State Courts Administrator



Vital Records Going Forward



- Enhance data quality
 - Feedback to data sources
 - Training of data providers
- Improve timeliness
 - Reduce paper certificates
 - Increased physician adoption of MoEVR