

## Appendix D: Vital Events Datasets

The following applications are used to collect vital records information:

- Kentucky Child Hearing Immunization Lab Data (KY-CHILD)
  - Birth Record and Fetal Death Record (Stillbirth)
- Kentucky Electronic Death Registration System (KY-EDRS)
  - Death Record
- Marriage Records Management System (MRMS)
  - Marriage Record
- Divorce Records Management System (DRMS)
  - Divorce Record
- OVS - Abortion and Prescription Reporting
- State and Territorial Exchange of Vital Events (STEVE)
  - Transfer of vital events data from and to other states and NCHS

Data	Years Available NF: New Format OF: Old Format	Summary of data
Birth*	Electronic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NF: 2004-present</li> <li>• OF: 1990-2003 (out of state data until 2013)</li> </ul> Paper: 1911-present	Approximately 98% of the data collected for the live births is coming from birthing facilities through KY-CHILD. Currently there are 57 questions on the certificate of live birth. Birth data collected includes demographic information about the newborn and parents such as address, age, race, ethnicity, educational level; medical and health information such as previous pregnancy history, birth weight, plurality, characteristics of the birth, obstetric procedures, abnormal conditions of the newborn; and medical risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol use are included, among others.
Death*	Electronic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NF: 2010 mid-year-Present</li> <li>• OF: 1990-2010</li> </ul> Paper: 1911-present	Death data is submitted by medical certifiers (coroners, medical examiners, physicians, APRNs and DOs) and funeral directors through EDRS. There are 52 questions in the certificate of death. Death data includes demographics such as address, age, sex, race, ethnicity and occupation; circumstances of the death, including date and place; the underlying cause of death (leading cause of death), and up to 20 supplemental causes, and significant contributing factors to death. Additional questions associated with injury deaths are included such as type of injury, how the injury occurred and geographic area where death occurred, among others.

Data	Years available	Summary of data
Stillbirth*	Electronic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NF: 2004 - present</li> <li>OF: 1990 - 2004 partial</li> </ul> Print: Scattered 1922 - 1939; 1940 - present	Stillbirth certificates contain 40 questions from both the birth and death certificates. Maternal and paternal demographic information, pregnancy and birth characteristics, medical and health information, and cause of death for the stillbirths are some of the information collected. Reporting of fetal deaths or stillbirths is mandatory when a stillbirth occurs after 20 weeks gestation or the fetus weighs 350g or more. Data is collected only for stillbirths occurring in Kentucky.
Marriage	Electronic: 2000 - present Paper: 1958 - present	Information collected on marriage records includes names, dates of birth, and parents of the two parties involved, as well as basic demographic data (age, sex), location of marriage ceremony, and history of previous marriages. Marriages are only recorded for those that occur within the state, regardless of residence.
Divorce	Electronic: 2000 - present Paper: 1958 - present	Information collected on the divorce form includes the two parties involved such as basic demographic data: sex and age; and history of previous marriages. Information is only recorded for divorces that occur within the state.
Abortion/Induced termination of pregnancy (ITOP)		A person or institution responsible for completing an abortion report shall submit the report by completing the VS-913 form or by submitting electronically through the Abortion Portal. Some of the information collected includes facility information, patient demographics, to include race, age, and ethnicity, and previous live births and abortions. All abortions performed in Kentucky are required to be reported to the Vital Statistics Branch.

\* Vital event forms are updated by the NCHS/CDC to enhance data quality or improve our ability to assess trends and relevant factors associated with pressing health issues. This is important to keep in mind when interpreting these data from historical to current years. Electronic information in OVS is currently available upon request in one of two formats. The first data collected electronically is referred to as the "Old Format" of the certificate, and the most recent and currently used form is referred to as the "New Format". Form updates for all births, deaths, and stillbirths occurred in different years, please refer to the notes for each form for the year ranges relevant to that dataset. Guidance will be provided and the proper data dictionary, to guide data interpretation for each case.

## Indexes/Lists files

Per [KRS 213.131](#), OVS prepares lists that include all Kentucky occurrence births and deaths. The lists are subject to inspection by the public upon request. The difference between lists and indexes includes the type and number of data elements listed, and the years for which each type of file was made available to the public. Lists became the mandatory files available to the public in 1990 for all births and deaths occurring in Kentucky.

The information contained in those files includes:

### Births

*Lists:* Child's name, mother's maiden name, date and county of birth.

*Indexes:* Child's name, mother's maiden name, date of birth, county of birth, certificate number, sex and file date.

### Deaths

*Lists:* Name of deceased, date and county of death.

*Indexes:* Name of deceased, age of deceased, county of death, date of death, county of residence and certificate number.

## Residence and Occurrence Data

**Occurrence data** indicates data for vital events occurring in Kentucky, regardless of persons state of residence.

**Residence data** refers to data for vital events based on Kentucky being the state of residence for the individual, regardless of where the event occurred.

Data may either be tabulated by residence or by occurrence. For instance, a woman who lived in Lexington, KY (Fayette Co) but had her baby in Cincinnati, OH (Hamilton Co) would be counted in Fayette Co (KY) on a residence table and in Hamilton Co (OH) on an occurrence table. Some users may be tempted to add residence and occurrence figures together to get a total for an area, but that would be inaccurate. There is a great deal of overlap between these two, as most residents of a county also have babies or die in the same county. Other users try to subtract residence and occurrence data to figure out how many residents are born or die outside of their county, but this is also incorrect. The only way to determine where county residents are having babies or dying is to tabulate births or deaths by place of residence relative to place of occurrence. Rates for these estimates are to be calculated based on residence information as population data used for denominators are based on residence of subgroups in a specified geographic area as well.

## Fees, Reports, Certified Copies, and Records Search

A search of the files or records, certified copies of the certificates or records, copies of the information provided for administrative, statistical, or research purposes, and file searches may all incur fees.

Certified copies of certificates and records, searches of the files and records when necessary, and copies and information supplied for administrative, statistical, or research reasons are all subject to fees.

Copies or data from the system of vital statistics may be provided for statistical or administrative purposes upon request to federal, state, local, and other public or private agencies, subject to certain terms and conditions.

References: [KRS 213.016](#), [KRS 213.131](#), [KRS 213.136](#), and [KRS 213.141](#)