

Vital Statistics and Request for Records 1

VSRR 1: Proportion of health department birth certificates filed electronically

Why measure this?

This indicator will inform health department leaders about how well vital statistics operations are functioning and possible areas to increase efficiencies within the health department. The timelier the data are reported, the more likely the data can be used throughout an agency to inform health research and service provision (e.g., immunization).

Measurement specifications: Number of health department birth certificates filed electronically divided by the total number of birth certificates filed.

PHAB Alignment

1.2: Collect and maintain reliable, comparable, and valid data that provide information on conditions of public health importance and on the health status of the population

9.2: Develop and implement quality improvement processes Integrated into organizational practice, programs, processes, and interventions

11.1.6: Information management function that supports the health department’s mission and workforce by providing infrastructure for data storage, protection, and management; and data analysis and reporting

This indicator provides health department leadership with information on the timeliness and quality of data to provide information on conditions of public health importance as well as demonstrate attentiveness to implementing performance management and quality improvement processes.

Reporting Period: Quarterly

Operational Definitions

Birth certificates filed electronically: A birth certificate is a copy of an official record of a person's date and place of birth and parentage. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) requires data to be collected about the child, mother, and father including but not limited to: names, dates of birth, addresses, health information about the mother and the child including prenatal care received by the mother, and type of birth. This is a measurement of birth certificates stored using an electronic system. Specific details can be found on the live birth and fetal death forms on NCHS’s website¹.

Quarterly: This indicator should be reported every 3 months during a health department's 12-month cycle (i.e., fiscal year, grant year, or calendar year).

Possible data sources: Health department vital records database.

¹ The National Center for Health Statistics' website http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vital_certificate_revisions.htm