



Vital Records and Statistics Program

S.28 Testimony

April 1, 2025

Vital Records and Statistics are located with the Division of Health Statistics and Informatics

Health Statistics and Informatics Division houses many of the data systems within the Department of Health.

- Immunization Registry, Cancer Registry, Prescription Monitoring System, ALS Registry, Infectious Disease Data, Birth Information Network, Violent Death Reporting System
- Population Based Surveys
- Vital Records and Statistics

HSI also has various staff responsible for using the data collected by the department to monitor health trends, support individual program and departmental efforts.

What is a vital record?

Vital Records is required by state statute to receive and store information on the following vital events:

- Births
 - Deaths
 - Fetal Deaths
 - Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
 - Marriages and Divorces
 - Civil Unions and Dissolutions
- Vital Records works closely with providers, hospitals, funeral directors, and town clerks on the reporting of vital events (the comprehensive list of vital record events is listed in left-hand column).
 - Process for reporting and access to a vital record varies depending on the type of event.
 - Reports of fetal deaths are **not accessible** to the public. 1x/year **deidentified** information is shared with the CDC for national reporting. Only **aggregate** summary statistics (i.e., non-identifiable information) are published.
 - Induced terminations of pregnancy are **not accessible** to the public. Only **aggregate** summary statistics are published.

Use of vital records and statistics

- Copies of vital records like birth and death certificates are provided to eligible parties every day, for example, to children, spouses, etc. (18 V.S.A. § 5016)
 - There are no **eligible parties** for fetal deaths or induced terminations of pregnancy.
- Vital Statistics [bulletin](#) summarizing all vital events published annually
- Aggregate statistics are used to monitor public health trends over time and support evaluation of program impact. For example:
 - Changes in causes of death
 - Birth experiences and interventions
 - Identifying state level and national trends

Provider Reports of Fetal Death and Induced Terminations of Pregnancy

- Fetal deaths of 20 or more weeks of gestation or, if gestational age is unknown, of 400 or more grams, 15 or more ounces (18 V.S.A. § 5222 (a)(1))
 - Is typically reported by hospitals
- Therapeutic or induced abortions, of any length of gestation or weight (18 V.S.A. § 5222 (a)(2))
 - Is typically reported by hospitals, clinics, and individual providers

What do we do with Fetal Death and Induced Terminations of Pregnancy Information?

Fetal Deaths (18 V.S.A. § 5222 (a)(1)):

- Individual reports are **not** released (S.28, as written, clarifies the protections for these reports)
- Summarize in annual Vital Statistics Bulletin
- Complete aggregate data analysis
- **Deidentified** information is provided to National Center for Health Statistics for use in national reporting, as required in Vital Statistics contract.

Induced Terminations of Pregnancy (18 V.S.A. § 5222 (a)(2)):

- Individual reports are **not** released (S.28, as written, clarifies the protections for these reports)
- Summarize in annual Vital Statistics Bulletin
- Complete aggregate data analysis
- Aggregate/summary information provided to CDC as courtesy for use in national reporting.

Questions?

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Web: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records-population-data/annual-vital-statistics-reports>