

Vital Statistics and Request for Records 2

VSRR 2: Proportion of health department death 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 death certificates filed electronically.

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

11.1.6 A: 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.

divided by the total number of death certificates filed.

Reporting Period: Quarterly

Operational Definitions

Death certificates filed electronically: This is a measurement of death certificates stored using an electronic system. A death certificate is a certificate in which various information (such as age, race, occupation) relating to a dead person is given and in which a physician certifies the cause of death. Death certificate data normally includes information about the deceased person including their name, address, age, race, education level, parents’ names, date pronounced dead, cause of death, etc. A complete list of information can be found on NCHS’s website. (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vital_certificate_revisions.htm)¹

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