



Vital News

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EDRS Update

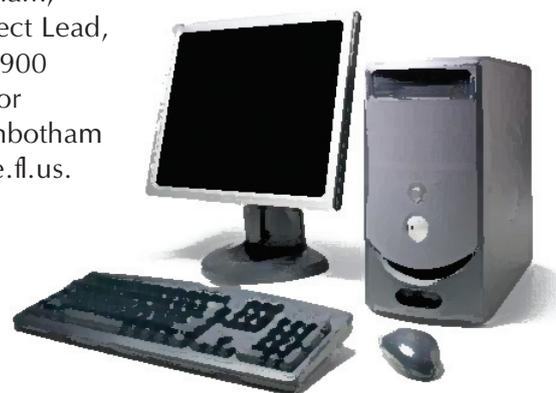
The implementation of the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will be coming to an end this October with only five medical examiner districts left: Districts 20 (Collier), 21 (Lee, Hendry, Glades), 15 (Palm Beach), 17 (Broward), 11 (Miami-Dade). The remaining training schedule can be monitored on our website at: <http://floridavitalstatisticsonline.com/>.

Funeral directors need to stay in contact with their CDRs for the upcoming orientation dates and any other actions needed from them. Our helpdesk has been busy answering EDRS questions and processing the new user forms for each district. We would like to remind all potential EDRS users that they must complete the user access forms and take the online tutorials at: <http://icattlearning.com/>.

Also, this summer we will be attending the Independent Funeral Directors of Florida (IFDF) and the Florida Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (FCCFA)

annual conferences to field any questions about EDRS. Kenny Higginbotham will be presenting as well as fielding questions for EDRS at the Florida Medical Association (FMA) annual meeting.

Questions regarding EDRS should be directed to the website or to Kenny Higginbotham, EDRS Project Lead, 904-359-6900 ext. 1171 or ken_higginbotham@doh.state.fl.us.



Legislative Changes

New legislation, effective July 1, 2012, allows the bureau to issue a birth certification for certified homeless or unaccompanied youth (aged 16 - 17) who are certified by a school district homeless liaison, a HUD funded shelter director (or his or her designee), or an US Department of Health and Human Services shelter director (or his or her designee). Prior to this legislation, this kind of request would have required parental consent. A letter which has been developed must be completed and signed by the youth as well as the designee from the school or shelter that is certifying the youth homeless or unaccompanied youth. Along with this letter, an application and fee will still be required. Additional information on implementation will be forthcoming.

Adoption related HB1163 becomes effective July 1, 2012. This bill clarifies and defines language in the adoption process. Of particular interest to the Bureau of Vital Statistics is language used for fathers registering for the Putative Father Registry. Modifications have been made to the applicable forms and will be available to everyone on our website by July 1st. In addition, the bureau also created a new form to be used by the clerks of courts when a petition has been made for termination of parental rights. As this office cannot record a claim of paternity after the date a petition for termination of parental rights is filed, having this new form should simplify an often time sensitive situation.

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Spotlight on... Putnam County

In 1849, Putnam County, Florida's 28th county, was created from parts of St. Johns, Alachua, Orange, Duval, and Marion counties. The county was named for Benjamin A. Putnam, a soldier in the First Seminole War, a lawyer, Florida legislator, and the first president of the Florida Historic Society.

According to the 2010 census, the Putnam County Health Department serves a population of approximately 74,000. The vital statistics team includes deputy registrars: Holly Koppa, Dianne Raftice, and Pamela White, who are led by Chief Deputy Registrar, Sandy Tuttle. Together the team has 13 years of combined service to the department. Last year their office issued over 2,000 birth certifications, and almost 5,000 death certificates, serving nine local funeral homes. Keep up the great customer service, Putnam County Vitals!



Pictured from left to right: Holly Koppa, Dianne Raftice, Pamela White, and Sandy Tuttle

NAPHSIS Updates

Every June, the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) holds their annual conference. This year, on June 4 - 7, Minneapolis is the conference site for almost 300 attendees from across the country, representing almost every state and territory. It is an opportunity for public health vital records professionals to gather and exchange ideas and learn from their peers. C. Meade Grigg, State Registrar and Ken Jones, Deputy State Registrar will be attending as Florida's representatives.

NAPHSIS has many active committees involved in vital statistics issues, such as the Awards Committee, Cost Committee, eHealth Committee, Innovations Committee, Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange Committee, and Registration Committee, just to name a few. The Communications Committee is chaired by Judy Moulder (MS), with the following members: Karin Barrett (MA), Sharon Dover (FL), Karen Hampton (OR), Rich McCoy (VT), Larry Nielsen (NM), Jeremy Peterson (ID), and Mariah Pokorny (SD). NAPHSIS staff support on the committee is Will Whitman. Some of the activities of this committee are to:

1. Serve as the editorial board of the NAPHSIS Member-to-Member.
2. Work to expand the breadth of stories in the Member-to-Member, particularly more information about state activities.
3. Guide the re-design of the NAPHSIS website.

There are numerous opportunities for members to become involved in NAPHSIS activities. Check out the website to see what they are doing "to provide national leadership and advocacy on behalf of its members to ensure the quality, security, confidentiality and utility of vital records and health statistics, as well as their integral role within health information systems, for monitoring and improving public health". <http://www.naphsis.org/index.asp?sid=1>

Nassau County Tax Collector's Pilot

The Nassau County Yulee Tax Collector's office has been participating in a Vital Statistics pilot since March 5, 2012. The pilot is for the issuance of birth certifications from the tax collector's office in order to assist those customers who come in to renew their drivers' license and need a copy of their birth record. This service allows the customer to obtain their certification on site rather than having to go to another government agency. Whatever fees are collected are returned back to the county vitals office, so there is no loss of revenue for the county health department.

So far, Tax Collector John Drew and his staff have issued more than 100 birth certifications. The pilot is expected to run through May, and in June, will be evaluated. If the outcome is as expected, a second pilot is being considered in a larger county with several tax collector offices.

Welcome Aboard

The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health department:

Chief Deputy Registrar	
Tammy Smith	Charlotte County
Darlene Printz	Escambia County

Funeral Director's Corner

- **Social Security (SSA)** - The Bureau of Vital Statistics understands there are some funeral homes still having issues with SSA and the EDRS online reporting of death. From what we have been advised by SSA, under "normal" circumstances, with a straight pass, SSA flags their record the day after they get the EDRS notice. The day after that, the Treasury Department, (who stops the check) gets an SSA notice. Depending on the Treasury's cut-off date, some cases may get missed until the next cycle, but that should result in only one more possible check being mailed.
- **Bodies Handled Reports** - These reports are not part of EDRS; funeral director embalmers reports and the like still have to be sent to the funeral director licensing board in Tallahassee, just as for paper records. We are working on these for a future enhancement.
- **Fax Attestation (FA)** - The FA is confidential, just as the death record, and cannot be provided to anyone other than the certifying physician or medical examiner.
- **Employee/user leaves funeral home employment** - To delete a user, contact the EDRS helpdesk at 866-295-5902 and submit a Citrix Remote Access form for that user (form available on Vital Statistics website: www.floridavitalstatisticsonline.com). Email, fax, or mail the completed form to the state office.
- **Late notices** - Remember, the email on Day 8 is just a friendly reminder, "oh, by the way, don't forget ..."; the email on Day 13, however, is a notice of late record.
- **"Replacement" DC** - When the ME "unpends" a record and now has the cause of death, the funeral director has 7 days to make any demographic updates; after the 7 days, any change must be done through a paper amendment.
- **Use of another's Sign-on info** - It is a violation of the signed computer use agreement for someone to use another person's sign-on information. Each person must have their own.
- **Fetals** - Fetal deaths are not filed electronically; paper must still be used.

BITS 'n PIECES

- CDRs - As outlined in the CDR Operations Manual (COM) and included on the Self Assessment Tool (SAT), the vital statistics office is charged with the responsibility of running the Safety Paper Usage Report on a DAILY basis and reconciling the report so that all numbers are correctly listed and accounted for. If you need assistance, contact Cindy Russ, 904-359-6900, ext 1136.
- CDRs - Remember, counties with birthing facilities should be receiving a weekly Reconciliation Report. If you are not, contact Michele Watterson, 904-359-6900, ext 1144.

2009-2011 Florida Resident Infant Mortality Decreases

The three-year state average infant mortality rate for 2009-2011 is 6.62 infant deaths per 1,000 live births which is almost a 10 percent decrease over the 7.34 rate of 2002-2004.

For 2009-2011, there are fewer counties that in 2002-2004 (from 14 counties to 7 counties) with statistically higher infant mortality rates than that of the state, which could account for the decrease in the state rate.

In 2002-2004 the statistically higher rates were found in the following counties: **Alachua, Bay, Columbia, Duval, Escambia, Gadsden, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Marion, Polk, Putnam, and Sumter.**

In 2009-2011 the statistically higher rates were found in **Alachua, Baker, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Pinellas.**

The significance test was performed using either a Normal or Gamma probability distribution at a 95% confidence level. The Normal was used on county rates where 100 or more infant deaths were involved; otherwise the Gamma was used.

Questions should be directed to Felipe Lorenzo-Luaces at (904) 359-6900 ext. 1051.

Vital Statistics 2012 Self-Assessment Tool (SAT)

The county vital statistics offices completed their annual Self Assessment Tool (SAT) in April and May. Their responses reflect their performance for 2011 activities. The SAT is also used for ongoing process improvement and is a part of a large statewide QI assessment process. Developed by the state office, in coordination with the statewide Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee (CDRAC), the SAT is a tool devised to help the local vital statistics office ensure that operating processes are in accordance with established guidelines, rules, and procedures. The local registrar and business manager note their review of the SAT, and a quality assurance field representative reviews the entire SAT and follows up with the county as needed.

Some of the major changes on the 2011 SAT were: more detailed instructions on what to do when discrepancies are noted on safety paper deliveries, requirement for all birth certifications to be issued through e-Vitals, changes to LR copy retention, and tighter security on the handling of cash drawers.

We continue to applaud the great service the county vitals offices provide, not only to the public but also to the state office. The state office could not function without their support and assistance.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Date: _____

Address as shown on current newsletter _____

New Mailing Address: _____

PLEASE MAIL CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT
P.O. BOX 210
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32231-0042



Department of Health
 Bureau of Vital Statistics
 Quality Assurance Unit (HPEVSRR)
 P.O. Box 210
 Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042

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