

# VITAL NEWS IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

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## DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

### Greetings from the State Registrar

2017 has been a very eventful year for our Sunshine State and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners that worked with us not just when things were going well, but also when challenges presented themselves. Together with the local county health departments, funeral directors, hospitals, medical examiners, midwives, tax collectors, as well as the many partners, the Bureau of Vital Statistics continues to be resilient and constantly strives to improve public health by participating in projects that promote and improve the health of all people in Florida.

Our vision to be the *Healthiest* State in the Nation takes the cooperation of all of those involved in the registration of all vital events and it's my honor and privilege to work with those that are passionate about accomplishing our mission. Thank you and best wishes for a prosperous and joyous new year.

### Tax Collector Update

There are now 36 County Tax Collectors participating in the birth certificate issuance partnership with the County Health Departments and the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Over 114,000 birth certificates have been issued from the 113 Tax Collector locations.

The Tax Collector offices adhere to the same strict standards regarding issuance and handling of confidential documents as the County Vital Statistics offices and the Bureau of Vital Statistics to safeguard the integrity of the birth record. As part of the agreement and added security, there is a separation of duty that does not allow the same person who issues the birth certificate to also issue the driver's license. In most cases, the Tax Collector's office will charge a convenience fee on top of the county fee for the birth certificate. It's evident that clients are willing to pay the fee to save time and effort for the convenience of obtaining a driver's license without having to drive to a Vital Statistics office for their birth certificate.

For more information regarding the Tax Collector Birth Issuance Program, contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics Quality Assurance unit at 904-359-6900 ext. 9020.

# Florida Shots

By Jeannette Katicich, Florida SHOTS Training Consultant



Florida SHOTS (State Health Online Tracking System) is a free, statewide, and centralized online immunization registry, staffed through the Department of Health, Immunizations Section. Having a registry helps healthcare providers, schools, and parents keep track of immunization records. First developed as a pediatric registry, Florida SHOTS now houses the immunizations of Florida residents of all ages.

Maintaining a comprehensive immunization record is vital to public health. There are several ways in which Florida SHOTS facilitates this process. Initially, patient data is recorded into Florida SHOTS when an immunization provider “sends” us the information – either through data upload with Health Management System (county health departments), or an Electronic Medical Record (participating private providers). Registry users may also choose to enter the data manually into Florida SHOTS. A patient record may also be created when a new Florida resident is born, through Vital Statistics uploading the patient information and birth certificate number into Florida SHOTS.

Once the patient record has been created, it may then be accessed by all county health departments in Florida, along with all private physicians who participate in Florida SHOTS. From that point on, the patient’s vaccinations may be recorded by the immunization provider, either historically (if given by another organization) or right after the shot was given. Again, shots can be entered directly by staff, or through data upload. Not only are these records important for maintaining their patient’s immunization record, providers can also create reports using all/selected patient information that give them vaccination coverage levels, patients due soon for immunizations, and much more.

Florida SHOTS also works in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Vaccines for Children program (VFC). The VFC Program provides vaccines to children up to 18 years of age who meet program eligibility - at no cost to the parent/guardian. It supports the goal of ensuring the children of Florida are healthy and immunized. This invaluable program allows participating providers and county health departments to make routine immunizations available to eligible children, without out-of-pocket expenses to the parent/guardian.

One of the greatest benefits to Florida SHOTS is how easily accessible it makes immunization information available, not only to physicians – but also parents. This is extremely useful at back-to-school time, when parents must present the Form DH680 at registration, listing their child’s required vaccinations. In Florida SHOTS, a Form DH 680, certified with a medical professional’s electronic signature, may be printed by enrolled healthcare providers and is also accessible to any school, licensed childcare facility, or daycare center enrolled in Florida SHOTS. Parents can also access their child's certified Form DH 680, the Florida Certification of Immunization, with a personal identification number (PIN) issued by their child's health care provider, which they may then print and/or save to a PDF document should they ever need it again.

Florida SHOTS works incredibly hard to maintain complete, accurate, and up-to-date immunization records. Our State Health Online Tracking System is an indispensable resource in decreasing vaccine-preventable diseases and increasing the immunization levels in Florida.



**Tracking immunizations has never been easier or more secure.**



# Nonviable Births

On July 1, 2017, a new law was enacted entitled the “Grieving Families Act” that created a new Florida Certificate of Nonviable Birth. A nonviable birth is defined as an unintentional, spontaneous fetal demise between the 10th through the 19th week of gestation. Upon a request by the parent(s), a Certificate of Nonviable Birth may be filed by a licensed health care practitioner, a nurse or midwife licensed pursuant to Chapter 464 and 467, Florida Statutes who attended or diagnosed the nonviable birth. The Florida Certificate of Nonviable Birth is filed directly with the Florida Department of Health’s Bureau of Vital Statistics.



If a parent(s) wishes to file a certificate of nonviable birth, then the health care practitioner, a nurse or midwife will have 30 days to file a record with the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

- A new form DH 8000-HSPM, entitled Florida Certificate of Nonviable Birth has been created for such filing and is sent directly to the Bureau of Vital Statistics for filing via fax or mail within 30 days of parent(s) request.
  - ◇ Fax number is 1-855-698-0671 (toll free) or 904-428-5397 (local)
  - ◇ Mailing address: Bureau of Vital Statistics, P.O. Box 210, Jacksonville, FL 32231.
- Forms and application will be made available by contacting the Bureau of Vital Statistics at 904-359-6900 ext. 9000 or at the local county vital statistics office.
- A Florida Certificate of Nonviable Birth certificate will be issued only by the Bureau of Vital Statistics, pursuant to a parent’s request and remittance of the required fee. Certificates of Nonviable Births are \$9.00 for the first certificate and \$4.00 for additional copies when ordered at the same time.
  - ◇ Information included on the certification:
    - ◆ Name
    - ◆ Parentage\*\*
    - ◆ Date of Occurrence
    - ◆ County of Occurrence
    - ◆ Issue Date
    - ◆ Statement - “This certificate is not proof of live birth and has been issued in accordance with section 382.008 Florida Statutes.”
- The Certificate of Nonviable Birth is a public record.
  - ◇ \*\*However, parentage information is confidential and will only be available to the parent(s) listed on the record. Public record requests will have the confidential portion redacted.
- Parent(s) may request to file a Certificate of Nonviable Birth regardless of the date on which the nonviable birth occurred.

An informational brochure ([attached](#)) has been created to help families learn about the new Certificate of Nonviable Birth.

# FLHealthCHARTS: Free to Use Statistical Tool at Your Fingertips

The Department of Health developed FLHealthCHARTS, a Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set, to provide the public with convenient access to the most up-to-date Florida health statistics and community health data. Data are pulled from several sources to update the database containing 4,000 health indicators. This saves visits to federal and Florida state agency websites, such as the U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder, the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration and the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for information.

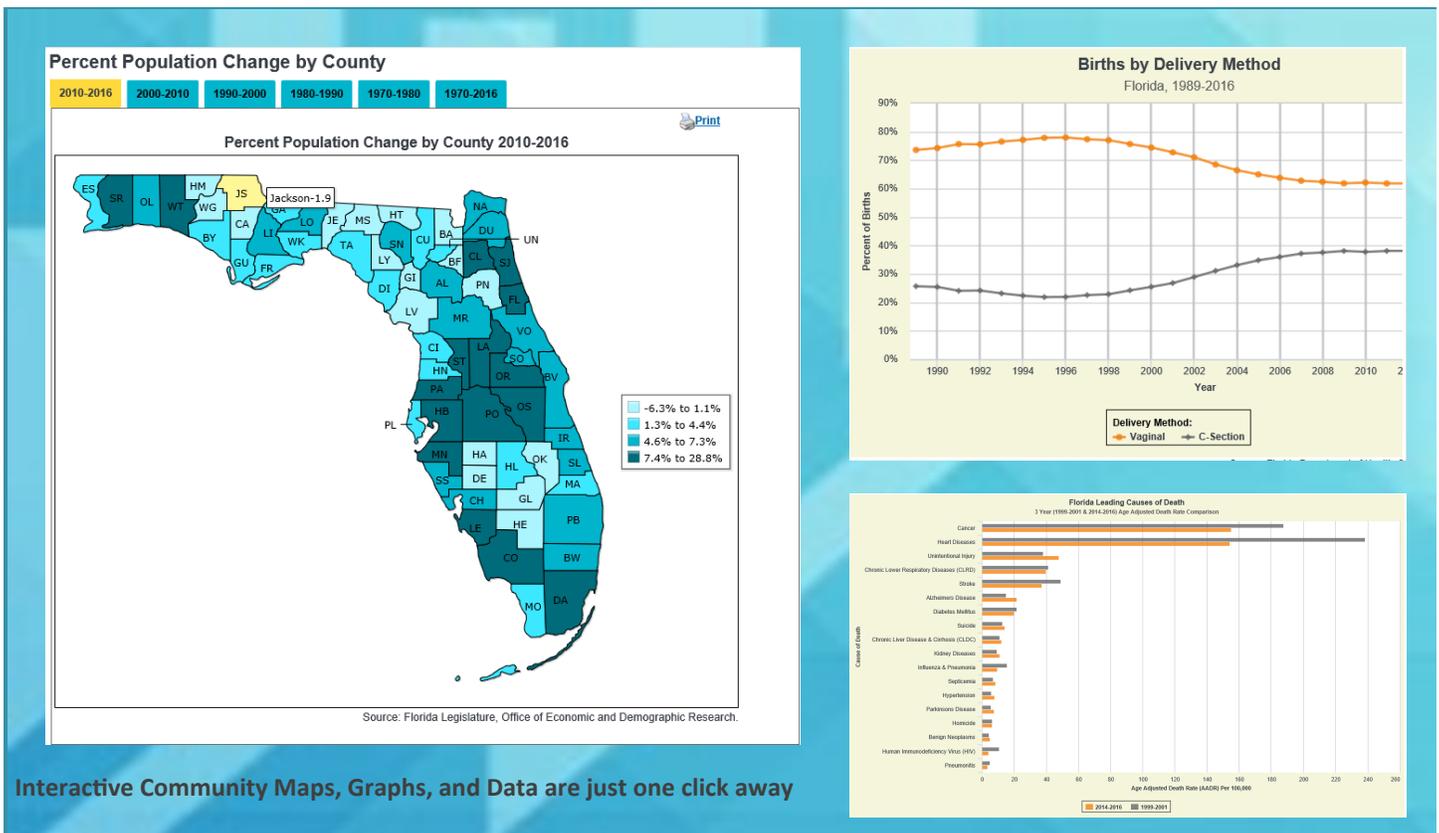
CHARTS is user-friendly and simple to navigate. Users can easily display counts and rates together or separately, and export tables, graphs, or reports. Most data on CHARTS are available by county. Selected indicators shown in community maps are available by census tract, making it possible to target interventions that address poor outcomes at the sub-county level. Tutorial presentations and training webinar recordings are available to explain how to use the features in CHARTS.

Data are added to CHARTS throughout the year when data sets are annually updated. For example, data from the U.S. Census are updated in December, and cancer incidence data are updated in March. Most of the indicators on CHARTS provide Vital Statistics data, such as preterm births or heart disease deaths.

CHARTS makes it possible to compare county data over time, to other counties, and the state. Statistical testing is incorporated and presented so users can understand if county rates are significantly trending better or worse over time.

To learn how to use CHARTS visit: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/TrainingResource.aspx>

To use CHARTS visit: <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/default.aspx>



## Agencies and Partners Protecting Against Fraud

Beginning August of 2017, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles started issuing a new, more secure Florida driver's license and identification card. By the end of December 2017, the new credential will be available at all driver's license service centers throughout the state.

The new driver's license design incorporates nearly double the fraud protection measures compared to the previous license design, including redundant data, ultraviolet (UV) ink and optically variable features.

Previous driver's license and ID cards will still be in use alongside the new one until replaced or phased out. The new driver's license provides Floridians the most secure over-the-counter credential on the market today.

Likewise, the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics strives to protect your identity by safeguarding the information on your birth record. While a birth certificate is not considered a form of ID, it is a foundational document used to establish identity; therefore, all agencies that are authorized to issue birth records are required to adhere to strict issuance and confidentiality standards. The safety paper birth certificates are printed on have embedded security features designed to keep ahead of the criminals that aim to commit fraud. All birth records are issued from a centralized database to ensure consistency of records and contain security measures to prevent unauthorized alterations.

For more information regarding ordering Florida birth records, contact the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics (904) 359-6900 ext. 9000. For on-line information: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/certificates/certificates/birth/index.html>.

Helpful links for acquiring information regarding Florida Driver's License:

- <https://www.flhsmv.gov/driver-licenses-id-cards/newdl/>
- <https://services.flhsmv.gov/virtualoffice/Lobby.aspx>

## Changes in Latitude



We are proud to announce that Michele Watterson has returned to Vital Statistics as a Quality Assurance Field Representative for the District 3 (West) Region. Originally, Michele, started her career as a QA Field Rep almost 9 years ago joining the team in the implementation of electronic birth followed by electronic death. She left vitals to venture back into classroom teaching, but eventually found her way back to the state via the Bureau of Epidemiology in the Immunization Section where she utilized her training skills in the Vaccines for Children Program and Florida SHOTS. With a wealth of additional knowledge, Michele returned to Vital Statistics in July 2017, where she stepped into her previous role like it was yesterday. Welcome home, Michele!



**TO ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE [CLICK HERE.](#)**

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**

**E-MAIL US AT [LORRAINE.KRATZ@FLHEALTH.GOV](mailto:LORRAINE.KRATZ@FLHEALTH.GOV)**

**OR CALL 904-359-6900 EXT. 1136**