Definition of Fetal Death

Fetal death means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of human conception from its mother if the 20th week of gestation has been reached and the death is indicated by the fact that after such expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles (s. 382.002 (7), F.S.).
The Fetal Death Data Journey

A Fetal Death Occurs in Florida

Was the death attended by a physician?

Yes
- Medical info on the certificate is completed by a physician
- Certificate is sent to funeral director for demographic info
- Certificate is sent to the local County Health Department’s Vital Statistics Registrar
- Certificate is sent to Jacksonville, FL to the Bureau of Vital Statistics where the data is entered into the Electronic Vital Records System.

No
- Medical info on the certificate is completed by a medical examiner
The Fetal Death Data Journey

- Certificates can be altered or amended only through the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

- Florida does **NOT** receive fetal death certificates from other states.
Fetal Death Certificate Revisions

- The most recent version of the Florida fetal death certificate was implemented in 2006.
- The last major revision prior to this was implemented in January of 1989.
Electronic Fetal Death Certificate

Currently, there is no electronic Florida fetal death certificate.
Provisional vs. Final Data

- Provisional data may be subject to multiple revisions and amendments.
  - Fetalmaster and the CHD Fetal Death Repository are updated nightly

- Final data will not be changed after a defined point in time.
  - Fetalstat is updated once a year
  - Fetal death data on FloridaCHARTS and fetal death data listed in the *Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report* match Fetalstat for a given year
Florida Statute 382.008(6) states that all information relating to cause of fetal death, the parentage, marital status, and medical information included in all fetal death records of this state are confidential.

Persons accessing Florida’s fetal death data must sign an approved Data Use Agreement and agree not to share the data with anyone and to only use the data for the purpose specified in the agreement.

Persons who sign the Agreement should only release aggregate data.

Any breaches of confidentiality can be treated as a 3rd degree felony.
The fetal death codebook provides details about each field in the fetalmaster and fetalstat files:

- **Field name**
- **Data type** (int, smallint, datetime, char, or varchar) and length
- **Item number** on the fetal death certificate
- The range of **years** data for the field was **collected**
- The **availability** of the field in the master, stat, or repository files
- A brief **definition** of what the field represents
- A **description** of what appears in the fields (names, numeric codes, dates, etc.)
Resident vs. Recorded fetal deaths

- To query fetal deaths that occurred to residents of Florida (*resident fetal deaths*):
  
  `MOTHER_RES_STATE_CODE = '10'`

  State of residence

- To query fetal deaths that occurred in Florida to both in-state and out-of-state residents (*recorded fetal deaths*):
  
  `BSTATE_CODE='10'`

  State of fetal death
Beginning in 2006, the Florida fetal death certificate allows for selection of multiple races.

15 Separate Race Fields: White, Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, Filipino, Korean, Other Races, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Asian Other, Guamanian/Chamorro, Samoan, Pacific Islander
There are calculated fields in Florida’s fetal death data:

- MOTHER_CALCULATEDRACE
- MOTHER_CALCULATEDHISP
- BIRTH_INTERVAL
- CALC_MONTHOFPRENATALBEGAN
- PREPREGNANCY_BMI
- CALCULATEDGESTATIONALAGE
- WEIGHTGAIN
### Calculated Fields

**MOTHER_CALCULATEDRACE**: combines the 15 separate race fields into one coded field. Codes for Multi-Race and Unknown are also included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Race</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Hawaiian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Filipino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Korean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Other Races</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Asian Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Guam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Samoan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>More than One Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calculated Fields

CALCULATEDHISP: combine the 8 separate ethnicity fields into one coded field

- 00=Not Hispanic and Not Haitian
- 01=Mexican
- 02=Puerto Rican
- 03=Cuban
- 05=Other or Unknown Hispanic
- 06=Haitian
- 09=Not classifiable

Ethnicities previously classified as code ’04-Central/South American’ are now aggregated into ’05-Other or Unknown Hispanic’.
County Fields

- Most County Code fields use numeric codes 11 to 77 to represent Florida’s 67 counties:
  - MOTHER_RES_COUNTY_CODE
  - BCOUNTY_CODE

- One County Code field, BCHDCOUNTY_CODE, uses numeric codes 01-67
Old Fields in the fetal death data

It is necessary to have both “old” and “new” fields so that historical data could be stored in the same data table as new data (e.g. when prenatal care began).

Consult the Fetal Death Codebook for explanations of the old and new fields.
Old Fields

- OLD_FETUSRACE
- OLD_IDUCABORT
- OLD_MEDHISTORY
- OLD_ALCUSE
- ALCOHOL_DRINKS
- OLD_COMPLABOR
- OLD_OBPROC
- MOTHER_OLD_EDCODE is now MOTHER_EDCODE
- OLDMONTHPRENATBEGIN is now CALC_MONTHOFPRENATALBEGAN
- OLD_MOTHERRACE is now MOTHER_CALCULATEDRACE
- OLD_FATHERRACE
- METHOD_OF_DELIVERY_LIT
- OLD_CONGANOM
Websites

- FloridaCHARTS
- FloridaCHARTS Infant Death Query System
- NCHS Cause of Death Manual
- ICD Online Code Manual
- Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report Online
- Vital Statistics Code Manuals on the Internet