

Death registration data

Overview: General description of data source

N.C. Vital Records is part of the DHHS Division of Public Health and is located in Raleigh. In partnership with county registers of deeds offices, local health departments, and birthing facilities throughout the state, we are responsible for recording North Carolina vital events. This includes responsibility for legally registering all births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and divorces which occur in North Carolina; coding these events for statistical purposes; maintaining these records; and providing certified or uncertified copies to individuals, researchers, and public health programs. <http://vitalrecords.nc.gov/aboutus.htm>

Data owner

NC Department of Health and Human Services; State Center for Health Statistics:
<https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/>

Data description and collection criteria

Data from death certificates filed with the North Carolina Vital Records office

Type of data: source or compiled/abstracted

Source data

Are the data available to outside parties for analytical purposes?

Yes

Process to obtain the data for research

Death certificate data is available upon request. Per the definition of redaction in GS § 75-61, requestors may request the last four (4) digits of the deceased's social security number (SSN) to be included in the data. Requests for full SSN are reviewed and approved dependent upon the nature of the data requested. If you plan to conduct a study analyzing death certificate data, please contact the State Center for Health Statistics at SCHS.Info@dhhs.nc.gov Staff will review the study protocol and respond promptly.

Preliminary data may also be available monthly via a web server. Contact Matt Avery to obtain access to this data.

Website

<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/units/stat/vital.htm>

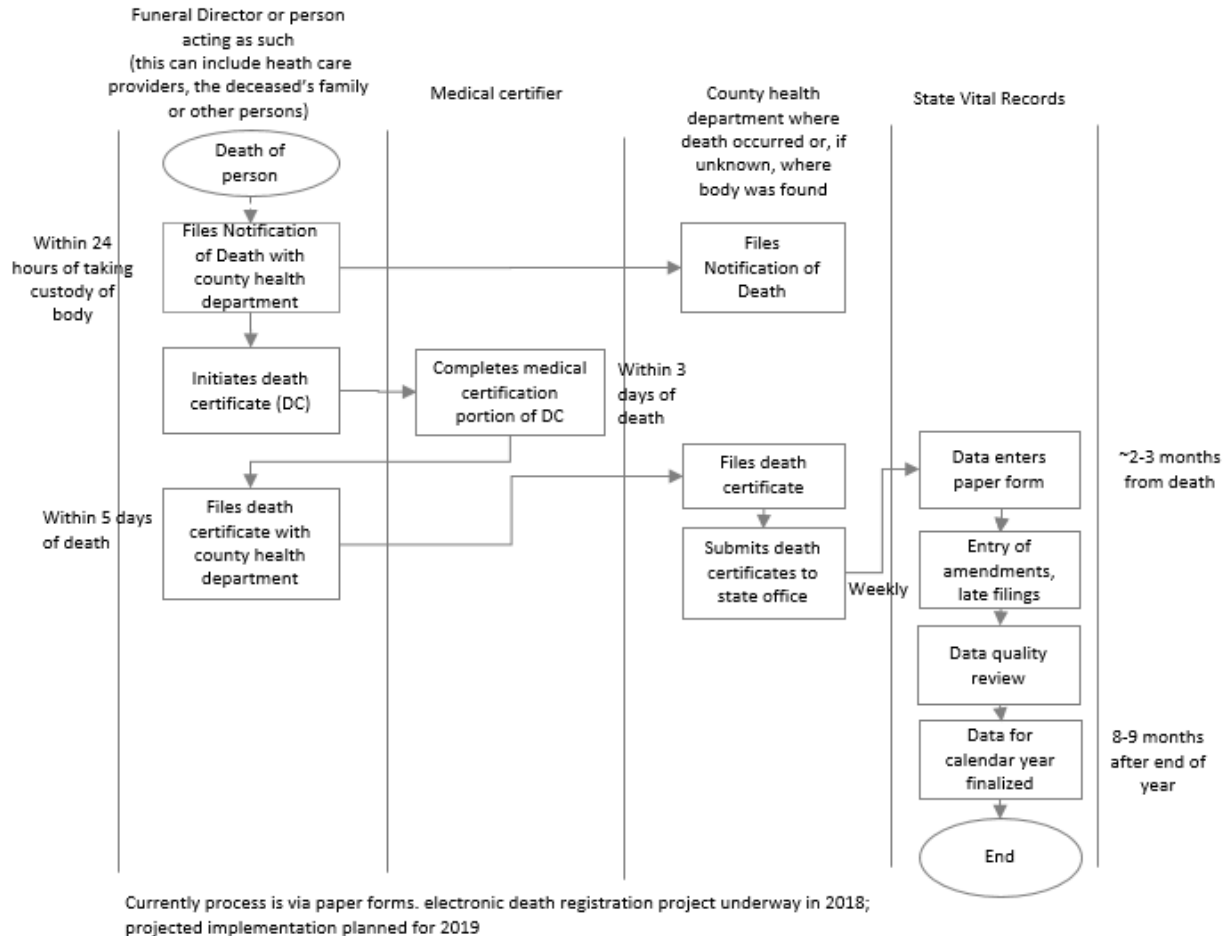
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Data Flowchart



Who enters the original data (Highway patrol officers, Healthcare providers, etc.)?
Death registration form completed by funeral home directors or persons acting as such, medical certifiers and state and local registrars

Injury classification: Injury classification method (ICD-10-CM, etc.)
ICD-10-CM codes for diagnosis and external mechanism

Collection timeframe: when the data were entered after original event
The medical certification portion of the death certificate must be completed within three days of death. Death certificates must be filed with the local office within five days of death. The paper copies are typically filed at the state office within 2-3 months of the death.

Years available: Description of timespan for which data are available
Registration data are available starting from 1968. Each year of data are finalized around August or September for the previous year (2017 data should be finalized around September 2018).

Data History: Key changes in the data that would affect research use
The death certificate form was updated in 2014.

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Is a data dictionary available?

Yes

Dictionary

2014-present Mortality File Layouts_Detail.xls

Documentation

Source documentation field map

Report labels	Source labels (where available)
Table or category	
Field	Variable
Field-Literal	SAS
Description	
Source comments	Code structure description
Format	
Length	Format
Required (Y/N)	
Sensitive (Y/N)	
Unique key (Y/N)	
Retired Field (Y/N)	
Retired Date	

Additional fields available in source documentation

None

Quality and Performance Measures

Known data quality issues

None