

## Electronic Birth Registration

### Public Health Achievements of First Decade of 21st Century

[www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/p0519\\_publichealthachievements.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/p0519_publichealthachievements.html)

The major public health achievements of the first 10 years of the 21st century included improvements in vaccine preventable and infectious diseases, reductions in deaths from certain chronic diseases, declines in deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes, and more, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control.

One major finding in the report is that the United States has saved billions of dollars in healthcare costs as a result of these achievements. Continued investments will save more.

"Americans are living longer, healthier, and more productive lives than ever before thanks in part to extraordinary achievements in public health over the past decade," said CDC Director Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH. "However, we can do much more to protect and promote health. Continued investments in prevention will help us and our children live even longer, healthier and more productive lives while bringing down health care costs."

One of these accomplishments involved maternal and infant health. The past decade has seen significant reductions in babies with birth defects such as spina bifida. This is due largely to folic acid fortification of cereal grain products in the United States as well as public health campaigns encouraging women of childbearing age to make sure they get the recommended amounts of folic acid. These efforts have led to a 36% reduction in babies born with neural tube defects.

A major component to these successful efforts is the medical information from birth certificates. By collecting and analyzing birth certificate data, correlations can be made between prenatal/perinatal behaviors and perinatal outcomes. This information is used in a variety of ways to improve upon medical knowledge, procedure, and practices. It contributes to the development of new programs to help educate pregnant women how to care for themselves and their unborn babies.

The medical information on

birth certificates is only as good as the accuracy of the information entered. It's usefulness to the medical community depends on the timeliness of the certificates' completion. Attention to the accuracy and timeliness of birth certificate submissions effects the health of future mothers and babies. Continued efforts to improve in these areas will enhance the quality of data and improve public health even more.

Birth personnel perform a vital service to the health of mothers and babies, which contributes to a healthier population overall. We thank everyone who completes and submits birth certificates for the work that they do.



### Do Not Hold Paternity Forms

Paternity forms should not be held for any reason. If the mother/father/husband completes the required paperwork at your facility, it should be mailed to the Vital Records Division that day or the day after the birth certificate is submitted. If they cannot complete the required paperwork at your facility, give them the appropriate blank paternity forms and refer them

to the Department of Human Services and/or the Vital Records Division for assistance. Never hold partially completed paternity forms and wait for the mother/father/husband to come to the hospital to complete them. This causes unnecessary delays in the filing of the record.

If the parents do not complete the paternity forms at the hospital, they will have to pay a \$25 amendment fee even

if they submit the forms to Vital Records within seven days of the birth.

If the paternity forms are submitted at the hospital but are not acceptable, new paternity forms will be required and a \$25 fee will be charged before a certified copy of the certificate will be issued. This doesn't involve the hospital, but it's good information to share with the parents.

#### ROVER Training and Enrollment Team

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**ROVER HELP DESK**  
E-mail: [AskROVER@health.ok.gov](mailto:AskROVER@health.ok.gov)  
Phone: 405.271.5308  
E-mails are preferred

#### ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



ATTACH MAILING LABEL HERE.

1000 NE 10th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117

ROVER Helpline: 405-271-5380  
ROVER Fax Local: 405-271-1235  
ROVER Fax Toll Free: 877-885-7470  
ROVER E-mail: AskROVER@health.ok.gov

We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate  
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of  
Health.

### Print Error: "What's Up With That?"

You may have noticed that we have had a number of "Print Error" events on ROVER. This is caused by "something" in our ROVER Death module. Apparently, ROVER has trouble processing all of the print jobs being sent to it. At some point, ROVER becomes overloaded and quits processing them. The server then has to be rebooted to get everything working again.

Our development team is working on finding the cause of the problem and fixing it. In the meantime, if you encounter a "Print Error" message, please notify us by e-mail to AskROVER@health.ok.gov. E-mails work better than phone calls because there are no busy signals. We're sorry for the inconvenience.

### 4% drop in US birth rate largest in 3 decades

By Doug Trapp, American Medical News. Posted April 8, 2011.

Birth rates nationwide declined by 4% on average between 2007 and 2009, reaching 66.7 births per 1,000 women age 15 to 44, according to a federal report. This is the biggest decrease in more than 30 years.

Rates dropped most sharply in the West and Southwest. Birth rates decreased by 9% for Hispanic women and 9% for women age 20 to 24. The study was released March 29 by the National Center for Health Statistics, a division of the CDC.

Although the CDC report does not link the decline to the most recent economic recession, other studies have. For example, the Pew Research Center concluded in an April 2010 analysis that there was a strong correlation between the decline in birth rates between 2007 and 2008 and the economic downturn in states.

Older women bucked the national trend. Birth rates for women 40 to 44 increased 6% between 2007 and 2009 to reach 10.1 per 1,000 women. Improved in vitro fertilization techniques could be giving these women more options, said George Macones, MD, chair of the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Washington University in St. Louis.

The CDC report is available online at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db60.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db60.htm).

### ROVER: Registering Oklahoma Vital Event Records

The purpose of ROVER is to support the needs of the Oklahoma State Department of Health and other users such as Delivering Hospitals. ROVER may be used only for the purpose for which it is provided. Any attempt to file fraudulent Certificates of Birth, Death, or Stillbirth is punishable in accordance with Oklahoma Statutes.



### Tulsa Vital Records Office Moving

As of June 6, 2011, the Oklahoma State Department of Health's Tulsa Division of Vital Records will be relocated.

The past location and contact information was:

Central Regional Health Center  
315 S. Utica  
Tulsa, OK 74104-2203  
(918)594-4840  
(918)594-4868 (fax)  
8:30am - 4:00pm Monday-Friday  
Phone service is available between hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm

The new location and contact

information is:

James O. Goodwin Health Center  
5051 S. 129th East Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74134-7004  
(918)594-4840  
(918)594-4868 (fax)

Hours will remain the same as listed above.

The new location has more space for visitors and employees alike. The services will remain the same. Refer to the map to the right for location information. Contact the Tulsa Vital Records Office for further information.