

Center for Health Statistics: Highlights

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Handout 2009-01-27

The Center for Health Statistics is part of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health Division, Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology. We provide direct services to customers by providing vital records as needed. Our office is responsible for registering, certifying, amending, and issuing Oregon vital records. Oregon law requires that all vital events such as births, marriages, divorces, fetal deaths, and deaths be permanently recorded and registered. These are the legal records documenting a vital event and, in the case of birth certificates, are the primary documents used to establish identity. The Center for Health Statistics also amends records to establish paternity, as well as processing adoptions and corrections.

The Center for Health Statistics is responsible for maintaining approximately 6 million vital records. Birth and death records have been filed with the state since 1903. Marriage records have been filed since 1906, divorce records since 1925, and fetal death records since 1919.

The Center is also responsible for compiling and analyzing the data from vital records, and maintaining the adult and youth risk behavior surveys. These data are used throughout the state and nation for program planning and policy development and are the primary data sources used for measuring many Oregon Benchmarks, Department of Human Services Outcomes and Performance Measures, and Healthy People 2010 Objectives.

Fees received for the purchase of vital records are the primary source of revenue for the Center. Fees fund 80% of our services. The remaining 20% are funded through federal contracts and grants.

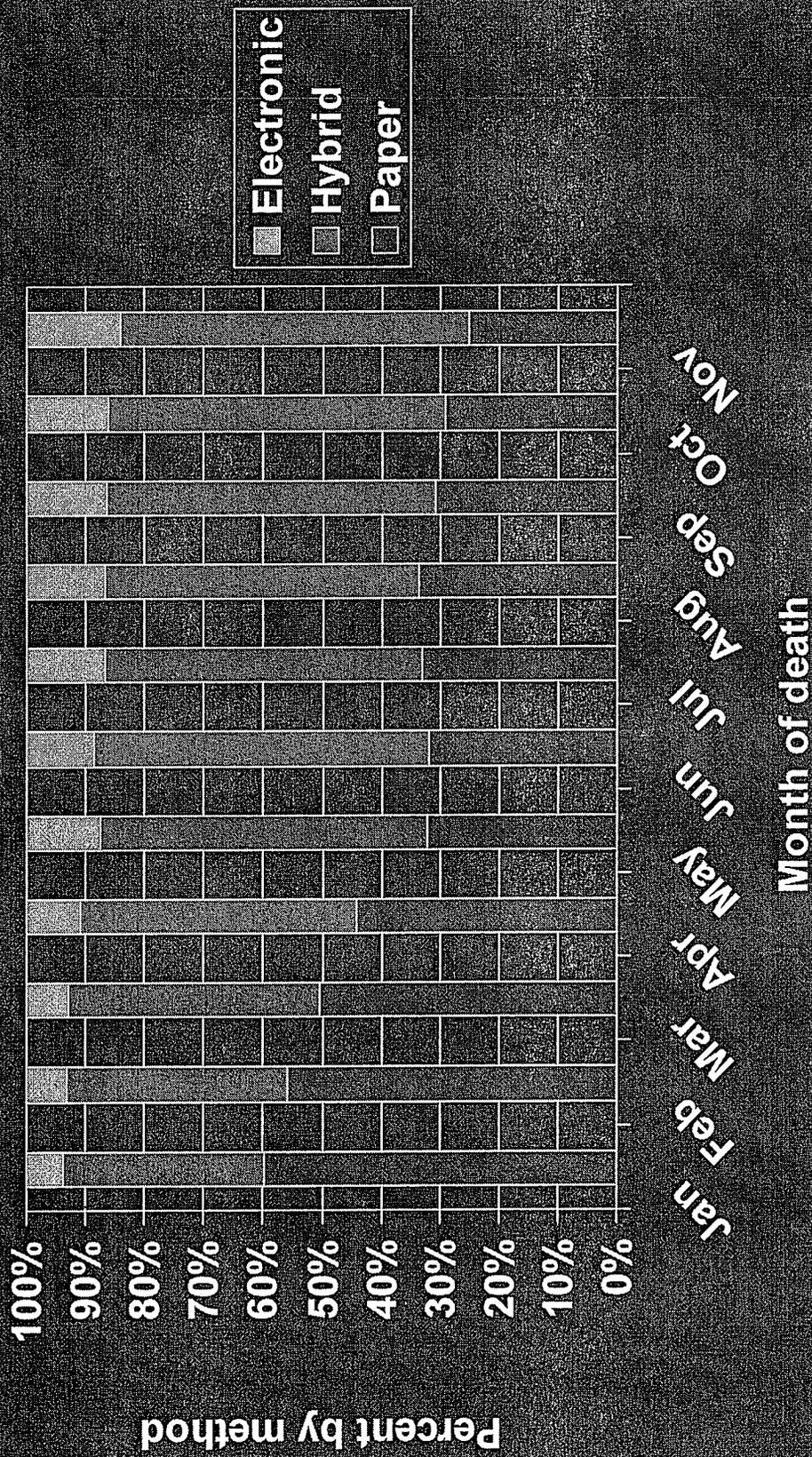
Production statistics for 2008

Vital events registered	~134,000	Average number of certificates issued/day	805
Vital records issued	202,800	Percent of all orders processed as rush (credit card and counter)	67%
Amendments to records	~32,000	Highest number of certificates issued in one month Aug. 2008	21,725

Databases maintained by the Center for Health Statistics

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Birth | Induced Termination of | Death with Dignity |
| Death | Pregnancy | Behavioral Risk Factor |
| Fetal Death | Registered Domestic | Surveillance Survey |
| Infant Death | Partnership | Oregon Healthy Teens |
| Marriage | Dissolution of Registered | Survey |
| Divorce | Domestic Partnership | |

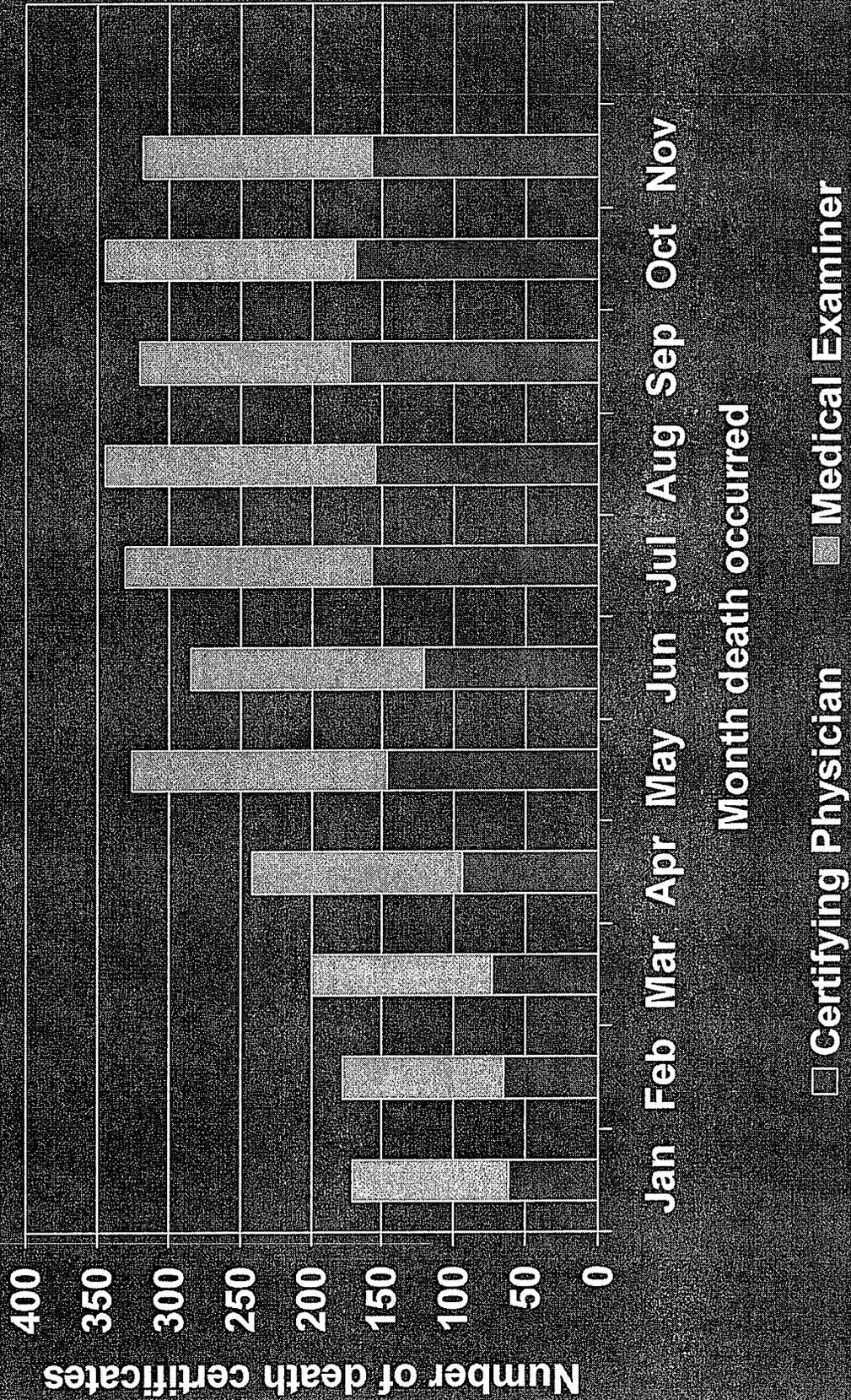
Method by which death certificates were created 2008 deaths



Month Death Occurred * Method Filed Crosstabulation

		Method Filed			
		Electronic	Hybrid	Paper	Total
Jan	Count	175	942	1657	2774
	% within Month Death Occurred	6.3	34.0	59.7	100
Feb	Count	184	1008	1503	2695
	% within Month Death Occurred	6.8	37.4	55.8	100
Mar	Count	206	1221	1451	2878
	% within Month Death Occurred	7.2	42.4	50.4	100
Apr	Count	248	1289	1212	2749
	% within Month Death Occurred	9.0	46.9	44.1	100
May	Count	335	1481	865	2681
	% within Month Death Occurred	12.5	55.2	32.3	100
Jun	Count	296	1465	828	2589
	% within Month Death Occurred	11.4	56.6	32.0	100
Jul	Count	338	1357	835	2530
	% within Month Death Occurred	13.4	53.6	33.0	100
Aug	Count	346	1371	872	2589
	% within Month Death Occurred	13.4	53.0	33.7	100
Sep	Count	325	1317	729	2371
	% within Month Death Occurred	13.7	55.5	30.7	100
Oct	Count	356	1465	751	2572
	% within Month Death Occurred	13.8	57.0	29.2	100
Nov	Count	330	1227	521	2078
	% within Month Death Occurred	15.9	59.0	25.1	100
Dec	Count	257	364	82	703
	% within Month Death Occurred	36.6	51.8	11.7	100
TOTAL	Count	3396	14507	11306	29209
	% within Month Death Occurred	11.6	49.7	38.7	100

Certifiers on electronic records - 2008 deaths

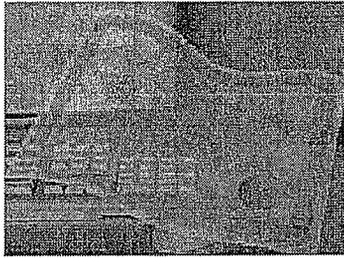


Month Death Occurred * dmcrole Crosstabulation

dmcrole

		Certifying Physician	Medical Examiner	Nurse Practitioner	Physician's Assistant	Total
Jan	Count	62	108	4	1	175
	% within Month	35.4	61.7	2.3	0.6	100
Feb	Count	65	112	6	1	184
	% within Month	35.3	60.9	3.3	0.5	100
Mar	Count	73	126	7	0	206
	% within Month	35.4	61.2	3.4	0.0	100
Apr	Count	95	146	7	0	248
	% within Month	38.3	58.9	2.8	0.0	100
May	Count	147	178	10	0	335
	% within Month	43.9	53.1	3.0	0.0	100
Jun	Count	121	164	10	1	296
	% within Month	40.9	55.4	3.4	0.3	100
Jul	Count	157	173	8	0	338
	% within Month	46.4	51.2	2.4	0.0	100
Aug	Count	155	189	2	0	346
	% within Month	44.8	54.6	0.6	0.0	100
Sep	Count	173	147	4	1	325
	% within Month	53.2	45.2	1.2	0.3	100
Oct	Count	169	175	11	1	356
	% within Month	47.5	49.2	3.1	0.3	100
Nov	Count	158	159	10	3	330
	% within Month	47.9	48.2	3.0	0.9	100
Dec	Count	144	105	8	0	257
	% within Month	56.0	40.9	3.1	0.0	100
TOTAL	Count	1519	1782	87	8	3396
	% within Month	44.7	52.5	2.6	0.2	100

Welcome



The Center for Health Statistics Registration Unit is responsible for registering Oregon vital records. These records are the legal records documenting a vital event and, in the case of birth certificates, are the primary documents used to establish identity. Vital records also play a very important public health role. Birth and death records are primary data sources for health information on Oregonians.

Why register a vital event?

For our Partners

Help with the 2006 death certificate, a letter to medical certifiers, birth worksheets (English and Spanish), etc.

Instructions

Funeral Directors' Numeric Billing

Order Supplies (pdf)

Paternity Instructions (pdf)

Stay Informed

Matters of Record Newsletters

Techniques, tips, and traps for our partners who file birth certificates and a newsletter for our colleagues who prepare and register death certificates.

Birth

Death

Modernizes Oregon's vital records systems



The Oregon Vital Events Registration System is a multi-year project to modernize Oregon's vital records systems. The new system provides a secure Web-based environment that supports convenient, stable and flexible operations from the creation of certificates to the production of certified copies and statistical reporting.

[More about OVERS](#)

About OVERS

New Release as of November 30, 2008

The OVERS system will now allow you to enter and search for names that contain common international letters.

Special characters can be typed by holding down the Alt key while also typing the 4-digit number code corresponding with the character. For instance, if you want to type the name Nunez with a tilde over the middle 'n', you would first type the letters N and u. To type the 'n' including a tilde, you would hold down the Alt key while typing the numbers 0241. Once you've typed the special character, you can complete the name by typing as usual.

To learn more about entering special characters, check out the link below:

[Special Character Tutorial](#)

Learn More

Training is just a click away!

We now provide live training webinars on a monthly basis. These demonstrations are designed as introductory courses for first-time users of the system or for users who need a refresher on the basics.

Additional resources such as User Guides and self-paced tutorials can be found on the [training](#) page of our website.

If you have several users and would like to request training tailored to the needs of your facility contact Kerry Lionadh, the OVERS Training Coordinator, at 971-673-1197 or by email at kerry.l.lionadh@state.or.us.

[OVERS User Summary Page](#)

OVERS Frequently Asked Questions

[OVERS Overview FAQs](#)

[Death/EDRS FAQs](#)

[Birth/EBRS FAQs](#)

[Information Technology \(IT\) FAQs](#)

[OVERS Tips \(Updated 6/27/08\)](#)

[OVERS System Tutorials](#)

[Latest Downloads](#)

- Instant Record Registration
- Prevents Duplication of Effort
- More accurate data
- Less Paperwork
- Electronic Notification
- Secure Access

CHS implemented EDRS to provide more accurate death certificate information to families and to better protect public health by collecting more reliable statistics.

Serving Families... Protecting Public Health

WHAT IS EDRS?

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHHS), Center for Health Statistics (CHS) collects data on death, birth, and other vital statistics.

Until recently, much of the data was collected using paper based or legacy (DOS or mainframe) systems. CHS is now collecting death data with a secure, web based system known as the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

Since adopting EDRS in September 2006, the State of Oregon has seen a dramatic decrease in the number of days it takes to

HOW DOES IT WORK?

With EDRS, death certificates are completed online through a secure website. Funeral Directors complete and sign the disposition information and Medical Certifiers complete and sign the cause of death information by using a fingerprint reader, which is provided free of charge.

FEATURES OF EDRS

With EDRS, a death certificate can be registered within a day or two, greatly improving overall timeliness of the process.

This allows participants to complete records sooner and families to receive copies of a death certificate more quickly.

EDRS greatly increases the accuracy of submitted records, resulting in significantly fewer issues and corrections.

Users receive automatic system messages via email about pending cases. Corrections can be submitted through EDRS.

Most records registered electronically will be immediately available for issuance at the county registrar's office.

- Web based - Use any computer with internet access

- Increased security - Sign certificates with an electronic fingerprint scan

- Error Checking - Increased accuracy of death certificate registration

- Less Paperwork - Eliminates the need for paper forms

- Faster Service - Families can get registered death certificates quickly

- Notification - Get email notification for pending cases



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ODHS

Department of Human Services

Using EDRS...

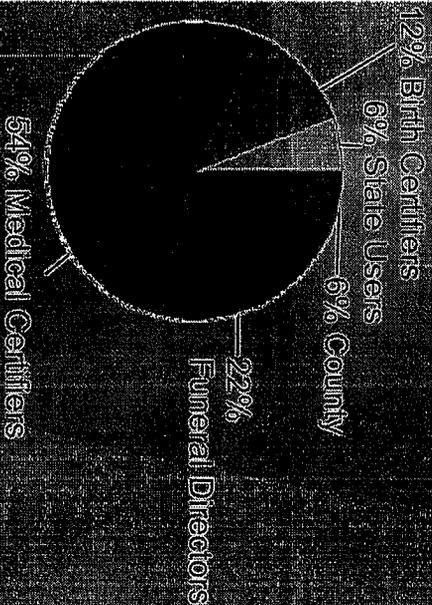
easy as 1,2,3

1. Enroll - Get a user log-in and password.
 2. Install - Get a free fingerprint reader installed on your computer.
 3. Train - Get free tutoring to start your first case and help whenever you need it.
- Go!**

Enroll today

Call us at (971) 673-0279 and ask for an **OVERS** enrollment form or download the form from our website www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs. Click on the 'Resources' link, select 'forms and lists.'

EDRS USERS AS OF 4/2008



Training Opportunities

Web classes held
3rd Tuesday of every month

To register call

(971) 673-0279

For more details visit our website

www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS:



Department of Human Services
Center for Health Statistics
Office of Vital Records

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 225
Portland, OR 97232-2162

(971) 673-0279

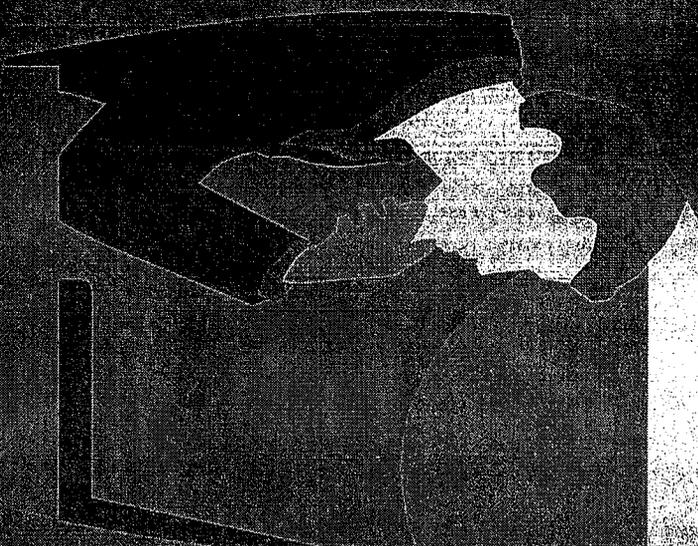
(971) 673-1201 fax

www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs



Oregon Department of Human Services

Electronic Registration of Death Certificates





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2009-01-27

DATE: January, 2009
TO: Medical Certifiers
FROM: Center for Health Statistics
RE: The Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

What is it ?

EDRS is a secure, online, **web-based system** which allows medical practitioners, as well as their administrative and support staff, to enter death certificate information online. Medical practitioners then electronically sign the certificate using a fingerprint reader that is provided free of charge. This is a **no-cost system** to users and we are pleased to make it available to you.

What are the benefits to using EDRS ?

- 1 Faster record registration (an average of 4 days faster than paper records).
- 2 Easier data entry due to auto-fill and drop-down features.
- 3 More accurate records because of built-in, real time error checking.
- 4 Reduced changes to records by checking for common human errors and omissions as information is entered in a record.
- 5 More secure signing, due to the use electronic biometric 'signatures' which meet HIPAA security standards. [The biometric device that reads your finger 'signature' does not copy your fingerprint. A reading of several fingerprint 'markers' is used to create a value known as a hash, which is then stored on our server. When you electronically sign a certificate, the 'markers' from your finger are read and then compared to the stored hash value to verify your identity. There is no way that a finger print can be recreated from the stored markers, the markers are not shared with other agencies and the numbers can not be matched with data stored by Federal agencies.]
- 6 Faster notification of disease outbreaks, pandemics, or bioterrorism events to government agencies such as the CDC.
- 7 Elimination of the need to send paper certificates back and forth for signatures because the records are electronic and multiple users can access a single record.

Are other medical certifiers using this system?

Since August, 2006 we have signed up approximately 1,050 medical certifiers to use the system. That accounts for about 1/3 of the medical signers that complete death certificates in Oregon, so we are continuing to recruit new users. The number of physicians, medical examiners, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants who are successfully using EDRS is growing every month. Over 50% of the total users of our system are medical signers.

What costs are associated with the Electronic Death Registration System ?

- a) There are no fees associated with the use of the system.
- b) Users only provide an appropriate computer and web access.
- c) All training is provided free of charge.
- d) All biometric equipment and associated software is provided free of charge.

How do I become a user ?

- 1) Call our Help Line at (971) 673-0279. We will send you an Enrollment Form and give you a user name and password.
- 2) Your biometric signature may be recorded at your County Health Department, or on-site, during training or installation of the biometric device.
- 3) Get training on the system: We offer multiple training methods. Training may be available on-site with a live trainer or it may be provided through an interactive web session. Call Kerry Lionadh, OVERS Training Coordinator at (971)-673-1197 for more information about training options for your specific needs.