



Matters of Record

Rain drop gardens, by Steve Wall, flickr gallery, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stevewall/10055601653>

News from the Center for Health Statistics Concerning the Oregon Birth Certificate

April 2014

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[Archived articles online](#)

Changes to vital records law and rules

Both Oregon statutes and rules have changed due to HB 2093. The updated, renumbered statutes and rules are available on the Oregon Legislature and Oregon Secretary of State web pages:

Statutes:

On the web, open Volume 11, ORS Chapter 432 at: http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/Pages/ORS.aspx

Rules:

On the Secretary of State’s web page see Chapter 333, Division 11 at: http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_300/oar_333/333_011.html

While many of the changes apply broadly to all vital records, there are some changes specific to birth reports. A general overview of the changes, which specifies which changes affect the birth report, is posted to our website (see web page - <http://bit.ly/2013hb2093>).

You may also want to revisit the October and July 2013 Birth Newsletters where you will find a discussion of the changes in law (see newsletter archive - <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Pages/BirthNews.aspx>) ❖

Place of Birth and Attendant When Baby is Born at Home

New law clarifies that an institution must complete the birth record for babies born at home if examined at the institution within 24 hours of the live birth. The law is:



Place of birth, baby born at home (Continued from page 1)

ORS 432.088 (5)(a) When a live birth occurs outside an institution, the information for the report of live birth shall be submitted within five calendar days of the live birth in a format adopted by the state registrar by rule in the following order of priority:

(A) By an institution where the mother and child are examined, if examination occurs within 24 hours of the live birth.

There has been some confusion on how hospitals fill in the "Place of Birth" field when completing a birth record for a baby brought to the hospital following a home delivery.

For a baby born at a home, the Oregon Vital Events Registration System (OVERS) provides three possible options for "Place of Birth":

- a. home delivery, planned;
- b. home delivery, unplanned; or
- c. home delivery, unknown if planned.

One of these options must be selected for babies born at any private residence. A common error we find for deliveries at home is that "Other" is chosen for the "Place of Birth" field, and home delivery is indicated in the "Other, specify" field. Answering the

USA needs to be spelled out in address fields

When entering addresses in OVERS it is necessary to spell out United States in the country field. Entering U.S. or U.S.A. is not accepted as a country in OVERS and OVERS does not acknowledge those abbreviations as a way to auto populate the full country name, United States.

If U.S. or U.S.A. is entered in the country field for place of birth, the State and County Vital Records offices are not able to locate

place of birth question in this manner results in an underreporting of home births.

When one of the home delivery options is selected in OVERS, the place of birth address will automatically fill with the mother's home address.



However, for various reasons, home deliveries may occur at a friend or family member's home. These deliveries are also considered home births. In situations like this, the place of birth address should be changed to the friend or family member's address.

We hope this clears up any confusion about completing birth records for home deliveries and prevents you from doing further work on the record.

The attendant should be the person who delivered the baby at home. The birth clerk is the certifier of the birth.

If you have any questions, please call Cynthia Roeser at 971-673-0478 or email her at cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us ❖

the birth certificates in the OVERS system when fulfilling birth certificate orders. The records cannot be found because OVERS interprets every entry except United States as a foreign country and thus does not recognize the birth as having occurred in Oregon. When a record cannot be found, parents may experience delays when ordering their child's birth certificate.

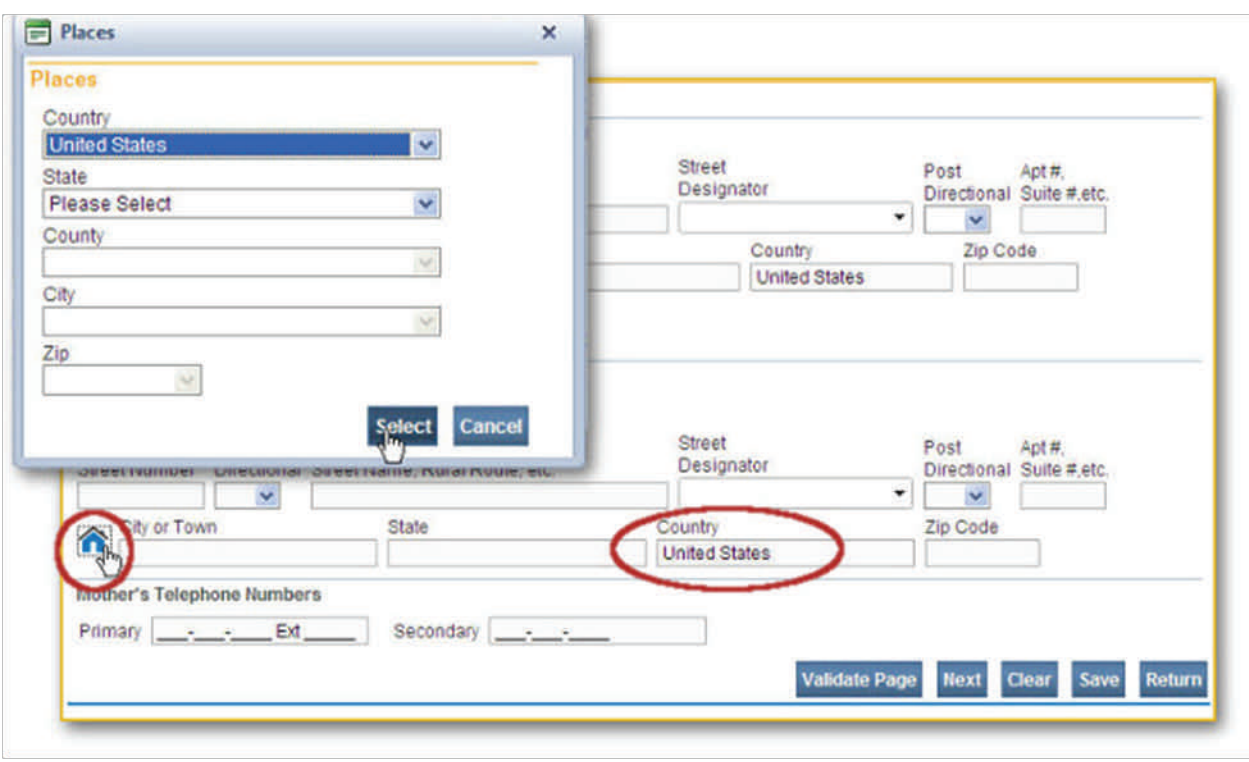
(Continued on page 3)

USA needs to be spelled out (Continued from page 2)

To ensure that the country is entered correctly, you may find OVERS built in search tools helpful. The home icon to the left of the city field will open a drop down list for country, state, county, city and zip code information. Using the home icon is

one way to ensure that accurate addresses are entered for each record.

If you have further questions, please contact Cynthia Roeser at cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us, or by phone at 971-673-0478. ❖



Tidbits of statistics

Ever wonder what statistics are taken from the birth record information you provide? A few examples of the birth data we collect and analyze include the number of prenatal visits, breastfeeding at discharge from hospital, and estimated gestation vs. last menses date. This information is used by Public Health at the national and state level to determine funding for health programs. You can review our published birth data at <http://1.usa.gov/NU55aT>

For our statistics to be trustworthy we rely on receiving accurate information from you.

The work we do in cooperation with you is essential in large part because it provides information used to fund important social programs. While the work we do is important to all Oregonians we thought you would enjoy learning about some of the interesting tidbits we uncover while doing our research.

Did you know?

- Oregon residents gave birth to 49,373 children in 2007. That is more children born in Oregon than in any

(Continued on page 4)

Tidbits of statistics (Continued from page 3)

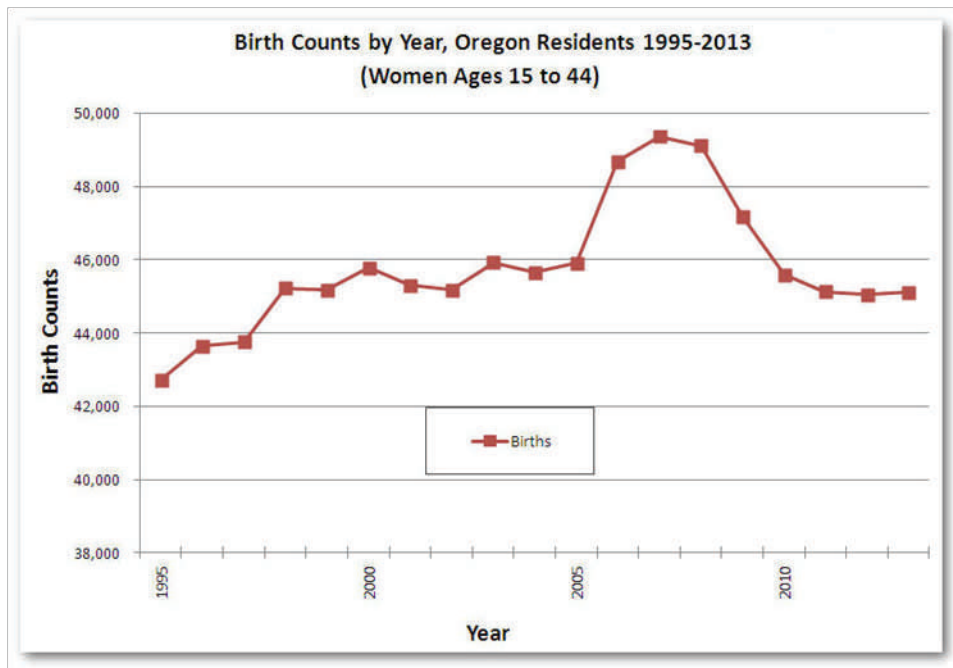
other year on record. We started collecting birth records in 1903. For three years, from 2010 to 2013, the number of births that occurred in Oregon steadily remained around 45,000.

- In 2014 the first Oregonian was born nine minutes after midnight at Portland Providence.
- In 2013 Providence St. Vincent

Medical Center delivered 5,221 babies, the most of any facility that year.

- In 2013 the most frequently used baby names in Oregon were Liam for boys and Emma for girls.

If you are interested in learning how frequently your name was used in a given year visit our website at <http://1.usa.gov/1n4qfj3> Type in your name to see a frequency count by year. ❖



Just for Midwives - Insert to Birth Matters April 2014

Mother's Marital Status and How to Answer the Paternity Question

There seems to be some confusion with how to answer the paternity question that accompanies the "Was Mother Married..." question. So, we would like to clarify how to answer this question.

For a midwife that completes paper birth records, line item 13 is the mother married question. If the mother is married you select *Yes* to answer this question. If the mother is not married you select *No* to answer the question and you **must** also answer the next question "Has paternity acknowledgement been signed?" with either a *Yes* or *No*. Only answer the paternity question as *Yes* if you have the completed paternity form in hand and will mail it in the same envelope with the birth record. If the mother wishes to include the father on the record but does not give you the paternity form to mail or does not wish to include a father on the record you answer the question *No*.

If you are a midwife that uses the Oregon Vital Events Registration System, (OVERS) to complete birth records, you will notice that the mother married and paternity questions are worded differently than on the paper birth certificate. This difference seems to create some confusion.

The marital status question in OVERS is worded as "Was Mother Married at Conception, at Birth or Within 300 Days of the Birth?" If the mother is married you select *Yes* to answer this question. If the mother is not married you select *No* to answer this question and then you **must** also answer the paternity question that follows.

The paternity question in OVERS is worded as "Has acknowledgement of paternity been signed in the hospital?" Even through this question asks if the paternity was signed in the hospital, this question also applies to babies born in birthing centers and home births and **must** always be answered with either a *Yes* or *No* if the mother is unmarried. Please be aware that in cases where the mother is unmarried you should never leave the answer to the paternity question set to the system default answer of *Not Applicable*. Only answer *Yes* to the paternity question if you have the completed paternity form in hand and then mail it to the Center for Health Statistics immediately.

Correctly answering the paternity question means we will not need to follow-up with you for additional information and/or to have you correct your answer on this question. This will save you time.

We hope this clears up any confusion you may have about how to answer this question and will alleviate additional work for you and for our staff.

If you have any questions, please call Cynthia Roeser at 971-673-0478 or email her at cynthia.r.roeser@state.or.us ❖

The screenshot shows the OVERS interface for a birth registration. On the left is a 'Birth Registration Menu' with categories: Parent Information (Child, Mother, Mother Address, Mother Attributes, Mother Health), Marital Status (highlighted), Informant, and Facility Information (Place of Birth, Prenatal, Pregnancy Factors, Labor, Delivery). The main content area shows details for '4255275 :Baby Baby MAR-28-2014' with the status '_New Event/New Event/Uncertified/Not Registered'. Under 'Marital Status', the 'Marital Information' section has 'Was Mother Married at Conception, at Birth or Within 300 Days of the Birth?' with a dropdown menu set to 'No'. The 'Paternity Information' section has 'Has acknowledgement of paternity been signed in the hospital?' with a dropdown menu set to 'No'. A mouse cursor is pointing at the 'Not Applicable' option in the paternity dropdown. An inset photo shows two women, one in a white lab coat, talking at a desk.

Wanted—Newsletter topics

Have a question or idea for a future newsletter article? Contact JoAnn Jackson at 971-673-1160 or joann.jackson@state.or.us. JoAnn collects ideas for articles and then shares them with the writing team.

Thank you to the contributors of this newsletter:

Kerry Lionadh, Joyce Grant-Worley, Megan Welter, Steven Baird, Carolyn Hogg, Krista Markwardt, Lynda Jackson, Craig New, Cynthia Roeser, Carol Sanders, Dani Hall, JoAnn Jackson, and Jennifer Woodward.

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General information: 971-673-1180

Order vital records: 1-888-896-4988

Website:

[http://public.health.oregon.gov/
BirthDeathCertificates](http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates)

OVERS website:

<http://healthoregon.org/overs>

