Matters of Record

Clark's Grebe Water Dance, by Peter Thiemann, https://flic.kr/p/6p5cMh

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

Issue: June 2016

Archived articles

The training corner

The Center for Health Statistics is beginning a new feature in every birth newsletter. The feature is titled "The Training Corner". It will feature topics or issues that you come across when entering birth records.

When a baby is not named at birth

When registering birth records, you may occasionally have a birth record where the family did not name the baby upon leaving the birth facility. Do not delay completing the record in this situation. If the baby's name is left blank, it can be added to the record up to a year without an amendment fee. If the family chooses to wait to name the baby, you will want to inform the parents of the following:

- Social Security will not issue a card for the baby if it has not been named. The family will have to apply for a card at the Social Security Office after the baby is named.

- The Center for Health Statistics will register the birth certificate but will not issue the birth certificate until the baby is named.

When using OVERS to create an electronic birth certificate for a baby that has not been named, take the following steps:

1. Leave the name field blank. Do not use a placeholder such as a dash or the word "baby" in the name field. It will be more difficult for the parents to add the baby's name if the field is filled in rather than left blank. A word or symbol intended as a placeholder might become the baby's legal name. In those cases, a court

order might be required to correct the child's name.

2. When selecting an answer to the "Request SSN for child" field, select either "yes" or "no". However, even if "yes" is selected, the Social Security Administration will not issue a card if the child is not named.

3. When validating the birth record,

override the messages related to the blank name field. You can then complete the record and sign it.

4. Include a comment in the comment field stating the parents have not selected a name. Parents should be directed to our Amendments unit to add the child's name.

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

Accurate birth attendant titles needed

We often write about how important the information you enter on the birth record is to the family, to Oregon Public Health and to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Birth attendant title (or license type) is tracked at the national level. We also use the information in Oregon, particularly around home births. However, the information is important in every setting.

The only constant in life is change and birth attendant titles are no exception. Attendants who used to be known as Certified Nurse Midwives are now Nurse Practitioner – Midwife (NMNP) in Oregon. Nationally, they are still recognized as Certified Nurse Midwives. We need their license type reported on the birth record to match their current Oregon license type.

What we will do

We will be updating CNM to NMNP as the license title in OVERS. You will see this change over the next few weeks as we check the licensing board for current titles for each midwife.

What we need you to do

To have great data from our system, we need birth clerks to:

- Select the birth attendant from the

system if possible; all information (name, address, license, and NPI number) auto fills when selected.

- Use 'Other' infrequently – examples of appropriate use of 'Other' includes EMT, relative of mother, store clerk, etc.; do not use 'Other' simply because you do not know license status.

- Use 'Midwife' as the title only if person is acting as a traditional (non-licensed) midwife. If the attendant is a licensed direct-entry midwife (LDM) or nurse practitioner midwife (NMNP), we need that license information. Choose LDM or NMNP from OVERS for these.

- Contact us by fax or email Cynthia Roeser if the information for a birth attendant needs to be updated. We have developed a form that has all the information we need to make the change. That form is available at https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Pages/InstructionsBirth.aspx

Resources

Each licensing board has a verification

search to confirm information on the licensed attendants. Please use these resources when you do not know the title of the birth attendant.

- Link to nursing board http://osbn.oregon.gov/OSBNVerification/Default.aspx
- Link to LDM board https://elite.hlo.state.or.us/elitepublic/LPRBrowser.aspx

Time of Delivery

Ever wonder what time of day most babies are born? Perhaps it seems that a certain time of day is busier than others for births. Our statistics team was curious as well and this is what they discovered.

In 2014, more Oregon births occurred in the 8 o'clock morning hour than any other time of the day. Just over 7% of the births that occur throughout the day are born between

- Link to Medical Board https://techmedweb.omb.state.or.us/Clients/ORMB/Public/VerificationRequest.aspx

Cynthia Roeser, Data Processing Supervisor, is available to answer questions generally or on specific birth attendants. Cynthia can be reached by telephone at 971-673-0478 or by email at Cynthia.R.Roeser@state.or.us.

Thank you for helping us have a strong vital records system. ❖

8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (Figure 1). When we looked at the method of delivery, we found that 60% of the babies born between 8:00 and 9:00 am were cesarean deliveries. In contrast, during the 4 o'clock hour 65% of all births were non-induced vaginal deliveries (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Percent distribution of births by hour. Oregon occurrence births 2014.
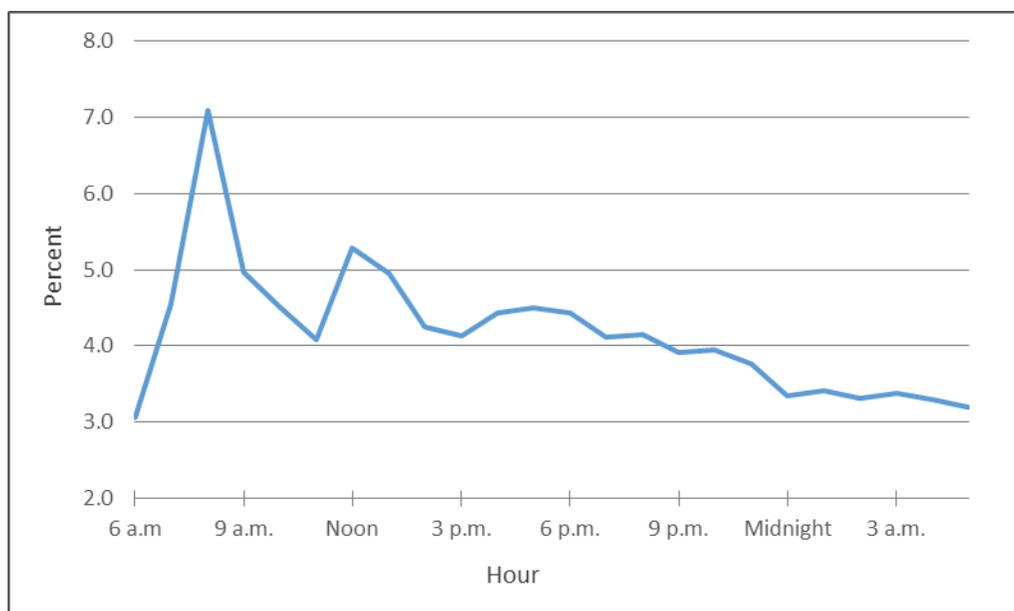
Figure 2: Percent births by hour, method of delivery. Oregon occurrence births 2014
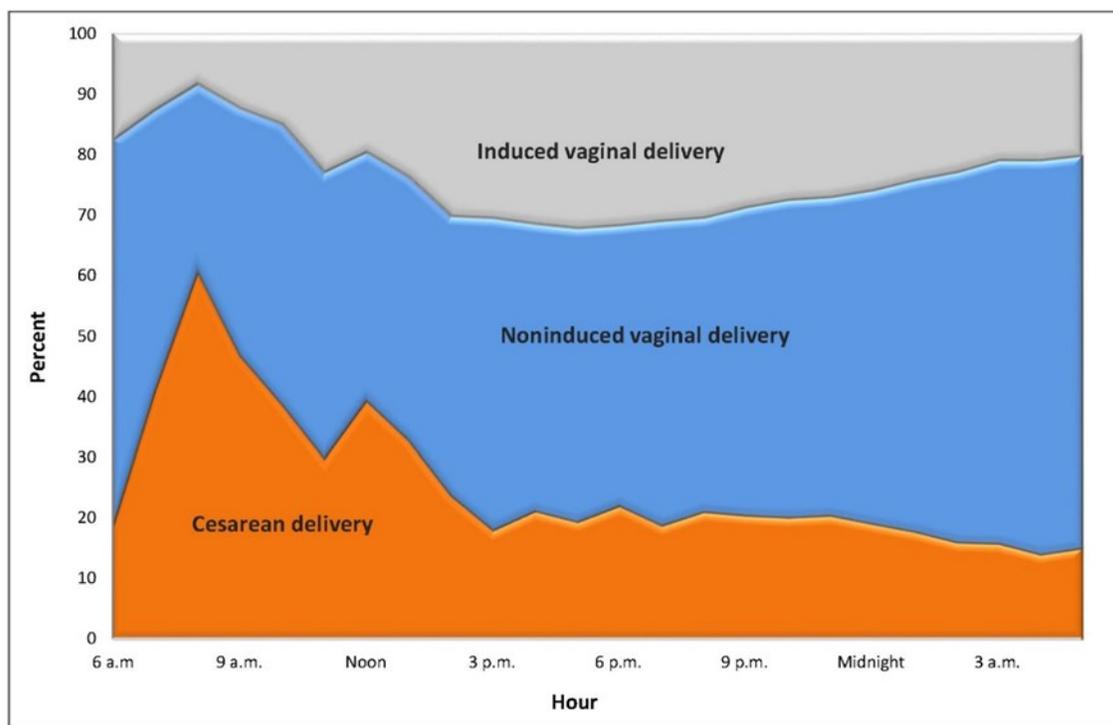

Non-induced vaginal deliveries were the predominant method of delivery in all hours of the day, except between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. (Figure 2).

We also were interested in knowing the distribution of vaginal and cesarean deliveries by hour. Figure 3 shows that distribution of vaginal births was even throughout the day for all births in Oregon in 2014. This means that about the same number of vaginal births occurred every hour of the day. Cesarean deliveries, however, are not evenly distributed throughout the day (Figure 3). ❖

Figure 3: Percent distribution of vaginal and cesarean deliveries by hour. Oregon occurrence births 2014
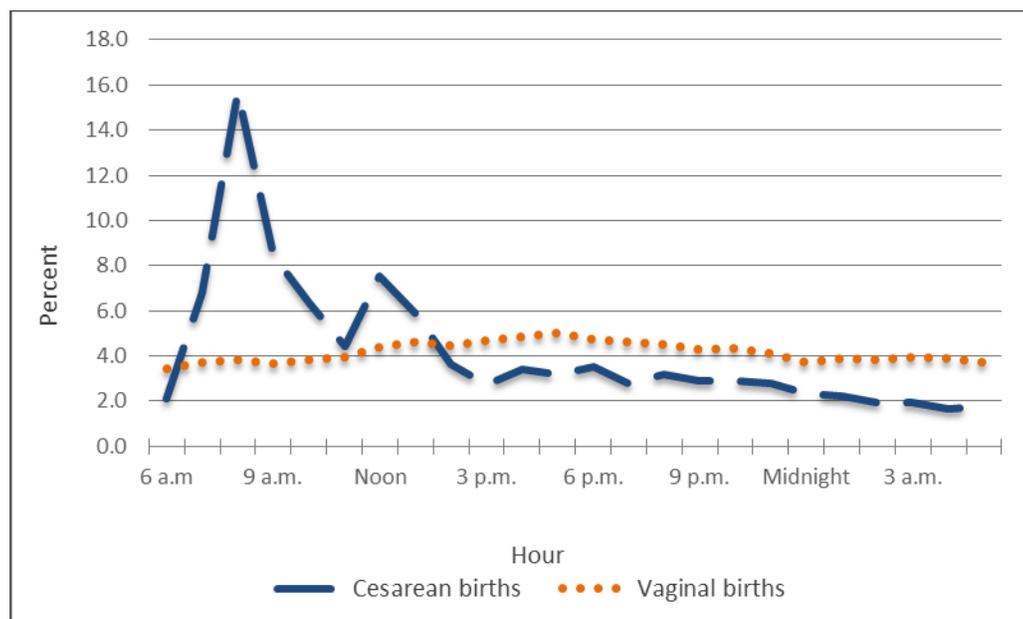
Natality quality reports

The National Center of Health Statistics (NCHS) provides data quality reports to each of 50 states and 7 territories on a quarterly basis and on a summary basis at the end of each year. These data quality reports are sent to the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) director for each state and territory. For Oregon, the VSCP contract director is JoAnn Jackson, the State of Oregon Vital Records Registration Manager.

The data quality reports tell a state or territory how they are doing in areas of 'unknown' values in the birth data. The quality reports include all 214 separate data items we are required to collect as part of the national birth file. NCHS has established tolerance levels for all data items. Oregon needs to be at or below the tolerance level for each data item to ensure we have good quality data for the state and nation. Comparison of three years allows the Oregon Vital Records office to review and note where improvement is needed, or where improvement has been made.

Our state is considered one of the most successful states of the all the states and territories for the ability to respond and improve our data throughout each year. In 2013 there were 4 items over tolerance, 6 items in 2014, 0 items in 2015. So far in 2016, there are 5 items that are over the 'unknown' tolerance. If there are areas that need significant attention, JoAnn contacts those hospital birth managers to discuss ways to improve.

Five data items are included in your monthly Birth Facility Performance Report because unknown status was above the tolerance level. These data items are:

- Resides inside city limits
- Race of mother
- Number of prenatal visits
- Mother's weight at delivery
- Infant breastfed at discharge

So far in 2016, these five data items are below the 'unknown' tolerance levels. You can continues to help us meet and get below the unknown tolerance levels by remembering to eliminate or minimize the 'unknown' answer.

In addition to the unknown reports, the last quarter of each year's data may include NCHS inquires and requests for clarification for the full year's data. These inquires and requests result from notable changes, often found in comparing our current reporting year's data to the two previous years. The last quarter of the year's data inquiries help prepare our state and NCHS to close the data file year and to publish the data of the 50 states and 7 territories.

Examples of Oregon inquiries for the 2015 closing year included the 2 questions below.

- What caused the 50% decrease in births when compared to the previous year's data, in Jefferson County?
- The 'other' category for mother's race was down from 14% statewide to 4% statewide. What caused this reduction?

After reviewing the data and working with our OVERS team to provide reports, JoAnn was able to answer the questions easily. For the first question, a birth hospital in Jefferson County temporary closed its birthing center to allow for staff training over 8 months. This decreased the number of births in that county during the data year.

The decrease in 'other' as a response for mother's race was a direct improvement

Natality quality reports (Continued from page 5)

from individual hospitals asking the question to mothers, facilities reviewing newsletters written about the importance of this data, and calls and contacts to JoAnn asking for advice or guidance on steps to take to improve their data. This decrease is a success story.

Thank you for all the good work you are doing and for recognizing that your diligence in gathering information from mothers and other sources help improve your data, Oregon's overall quality of data, and most of all contribute to improved health of babies and mothers in our state. Additionally, you are helping Oregon to be successful in meeting our contractual obligations with NCHS.

If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn Jackson, Registration Manager at joann.jackson@state.or.us or by telephone at 971-673-1160. ❖
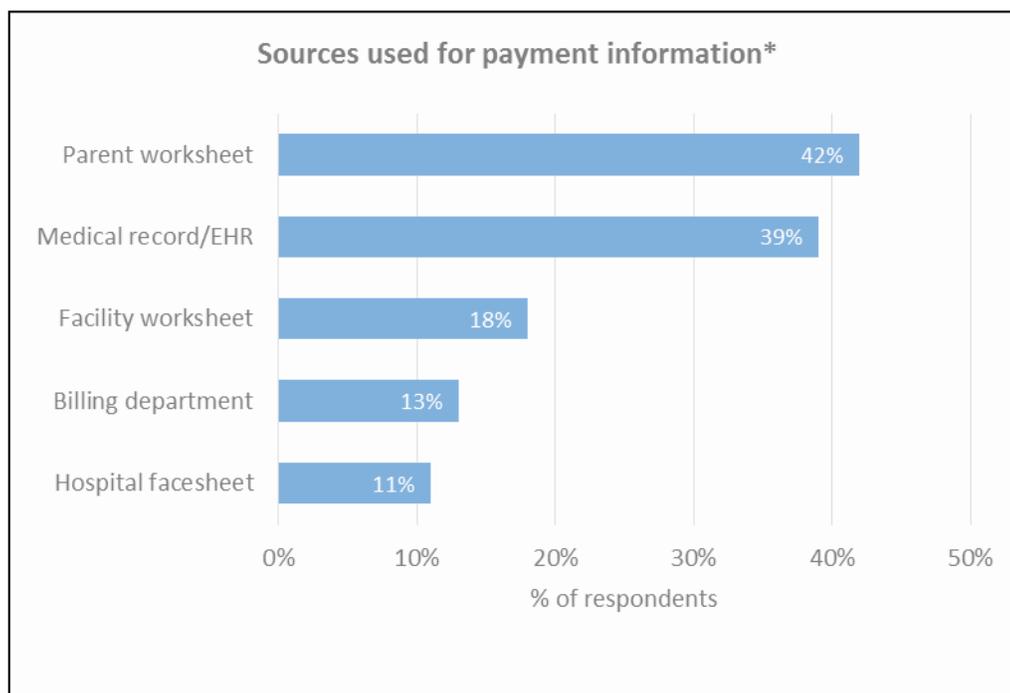
Results of payment source survey

CHS appreciates all of the birth clerks and midwives who took our survey on principal source of payment. We heard from 72 of you, representing 58 providers in 27 counties. Here are some of the survey findings.

The most common source for the payment information is the Parent Worksheet (42%), followed closely by the medical record/electronic health system (39%). Many of you reported using more than one source for the payment information, and just over half (53%) verify payment information regularly or when it is unclear.

Sources used for payment information*

Source	%
Parent worksheet	42%
Medical record/EHR	39%
Facility worksheet	18%
Billing department	13%
Hospital facesheet	11%

% of respondents

*Chart does not add to 100% due to some respondents choosing more than one source.

CHS was particularly interested in what happens when the payment source is listed as "Other" or "Unknown" in the source materials. When the payment type is marked as "Other," about two-thirds of you (64%) seek more information in order to enter a more specific payment type onto the birth

Results of payment source survey (Continued from page 6)

certificate. Only 19% of you enter it as "Other" without trying to clarify the payment type. The rest of you have not had this occur. Similarly, 69% of you make efforts to determine the proper payment type when source materials list payment type as "Unknown." The rest either enter it as "Unknown" on the birth certificate without

How to Find Recent Newsletters

You may already be aware that the Center for Health Statistics sends a quarterly newsletter that provides news, updates and helpful tips for our partners who file Oregon birth records. But did you know you can find all previous newsletters in one convenient location? If you ever find yourself thinking of an article that was written in a past newsletter, but you just can't seem to find it in your stacks of papers or email boxes, have no fear! All newsletters can be easily located at http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/Pages/BirthNews.aspx. Feel free to save this website as a 'Favorite' in your Internet's web browser for easy access in the future.

Another way to access the website is directly from the newsletter itself. Each newsletter we email you has a hyperlink on the first page titled "Archived articles". Clicking on the hyperlink will take you directly to our website.

The website shows a summary of featured stories from every quarterly newsletter we have sent dating back to 2003! Keep in mind that processes change, and the most recent newsletter will always have the most current information. It is important to be sure you are following the most up-to-date guidelines communicated by Vital Records.

further inquiry, or have not come across any unknown payment types.

We wanted to share the results with you as soon as we had them. Our Statistics team will be providing more information on how to improve payment source data in our next newsletter. So stay tuned! ❖

If you have any questions about where to locate the Center for Health Statistics quarterly newsletters, please contact
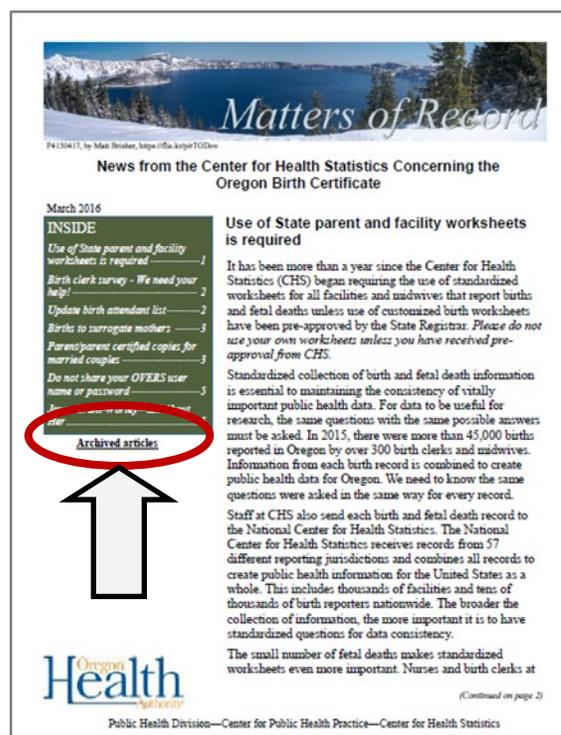
Krystalyn Salyer, OVERS trainer, at krystalyn.salyer@state.or.us or 971-673-1197. If you would like to sign up to receive newsletters electronically, email Carolyn Hogg at carolyn.hogg@state.or.us ❖

Wanted—Newsletter topics

Have a question or idea for a future newsletter article? Contact Judy Shioshi, at 971-673-1166 or judy.shioshi@state.or.us. Judy collects ideas for articles and then shares them with the writing team.

Thank you to the contributors of this newsletter:
JoAnn Jackson, Karen Cooper, Krista Markwardt, T.J. Mohr, Cynthia Roeser, Karen Rangan, Karen Hampton, Krystalyn Salyer, Cody Wang, Heidi Murphy, Craig New, Steven Baird, Lynda Jackson, Judy Shioshi, Carolyn Hogg, Laura Munoz and Jennifer Woodward.

We're just a phone call away

Frequent Contacts

Paternities
Debbie Gott
971-673-1155

Death Corrections
Derrick Patterson
971-673-1163

Birth Corrections
<1 year, Amanda Vega
971-673-1169

1year +, Johanna Collins
971-673-1137

Filiations
Laura Munoz
971-673-1143

Adoptions
Debbie Draghia
971-673-1152

Delayed Filings
Patty Thompson
971-673-1147

OVERS Help Desk
971-673-0279

CHS Managers

State Registrar
Jennifer Woodward
971-673-1185

Vital Statistics and Systems Manager
Karen Hampton
971-673-1191

Registration Manager
JoAnn Jackson
971-673-1160

Data Processing Supervisor
Cynthia Roeser
971-673-0478

Certification Supervisor
Karen Rangan
971-673-1182

Amendments/Certification Manager
Carol Sanders
971-673-1178

The Center for Health Statistics' office is located at:

800 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 225
Portland, OR 97232-2187

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14050
Portland, OR 97293-0050

General Information: 971-673-1190
Order Vital Records: 1-888-896-4988

PUBLIC COUNTER HOURS
Walk-in hours are:
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mon-Fri
Order by 3:30 PM for possible same day service.

Website: http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates

OVERS website: http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/RegisterVitalRecords/overs/Pages/index.aspx