

Matters of Record



Birth certificate news

Spring 2019: Vol 1

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Limit the use of “Unknown”

In our last newsletter issue, one of the featured articles was “What to do when the date associated with other pregnancy outcomes is unknown”? In it, we talked about the importance of collecting accurate birth and death data for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and National Center for Statistics (NCHS).

Center for Health Statistics (CHS) regularly receives a report from NCHS with tolerance levels for “unknown” values. It is important to keep items below the tolerance level as much as possible. Complete and accurate information helps many public health programs to seek special or additional funding to strengthen resources available to all. Having good quality data also helps programs to better understand the associations there may be between race, geographical regions, and potential health disparities.

CHS’ most recent Unknown Facility Report from the CDC contained five items that are above tolerance levels. CDC is urging facilities to decrease the number of unknowns outlined in the report. Below are the five items.

- 1.Race of mother/father
- 2.Number of prenatal care visits
- 3.Did Mother get WIC food for herself?
- 4.Was infant breastfed at discharge?
- 5.Resides inside city limits

We ask for your help to reduce the number of items marked “Unknown” when entering information into a case. “Unknown” should be chosen only on rare occasion.

The report also shows a high “Unknown” response rate at many

Archived Articles



Maternal Morbidity (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maternal transfusion | <input type="checkbox"/> Unplanned hysterectomy | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third or fourth degree perineal laceration | <input type="checkbox"/> Admission to intensive care unit | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown at this time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruptured uterus | | |

facilities for Maternal Morbidity. This item is located on page 1 of the Facility Worksheet under “Delivery”, and on the Delivery page when entering the data into OVERS. Currently many facilities are choosing “Unknown.” Is this true, or should “None of the above” have been chosen? By selecting the wrong box when entering information into OVERS, the data will not be accurate, and a high rate of unknowns will prompt NCHS to contact CHS.

All facilities receive performance reports each month. We encourage hospitals to review this report and provide feedback to birth information specialists. Let’s all do our part in providing accurate data.

If you have questions, please contact Cody Pergram by phone at (971) 673-1151 or by email at cody.c.pergram@state.or.us with further questions regarding first year birth amendments.

When the date associated with other pregnancy outcomes is unknown?

Birth and death data are an important source of information that can be used to identify public health problems, monitor progress in public health and inform public policy to improve the health of all Oregonians. For these reasons, complete, accurate, and standardized reporting of all vital events is critical. The purpose of this article is to provide birth information specialists (BIS) instructions on how to complete the section on “Unknown Date Associate with other Pregnancy Outcome.”

According to CDC, pregnancy outcome and the associated date can refer to: Total number of other pregnancy outcomes that did not result in a live birth and the date. These include pregnancy losses of any gestational age (spontaneous or induced losses or ectopic pregnancy).

Remember when you add the date you should put it in the format MM/YYYY. If there are one or more other pregnancy outcomes, you will be asked to enter “Date of Last Other Pregnancy Outcome”. If the date for the last pregnancy outcome is unknown, please enter ‘99/9999’ instead of keying in an approximate date value e.g., ‘Jan/year’, putting in a dash or leaving it blank.

Other Pregnancy Outcomes (Spontaneous or Induced Terminations or Ectopic Pregnancies)	
Number of Other Pregnancy Outcomes	Date of Last Other Pregnancy Outcome
<input type="text" value="1"/> ▼	<input type="text" value="99/9999"/>
Mother tested for HIV?	
<input type="text"/> ▼	

Here is another example. If the number of ‘Other Pregnancy Outcomes’ is unknown, select “UNKNOWN” from the dropdown menu. Note, when you select unknown, the system will auto populate the date field with 99/9999.

Other Pregnancy Outcomes (Spontaneous or Induced Terminations or Ectopic Pregnancies)	
Number of Other Pregnancy Outcomes	Date of Last Other Pregnancy Outcome
Unknown ▼	99/9999
Mother tested for HIV?	
▼	

Please remember that even when the field allows an unknown value to be entered, the information in that field is important. Also note, our office might still follow up with your facility to try to find the information. You can find more details on the appropriate unknown value for each field in the Birth Facility User Guides located online at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/REGISTERVITALRECORDS/OVERS/Pages/UserGuides.aspx> or by contacting Cody Pergram at 971-673-1151 or cody.c.pergram@state.or.us. If you need any assistance, please call the OVERS Help Desk at 971-673-0279

Locate correct information for prenatal care section in OVERS - FAQs

Information on prenatal care is gathered on the facility and parent worksheets. The preferred source of information on prenatal care for the facility worksheet is the prenatal care record. However, we know that the prenatal care record may be available to complete the facility worksheet. In some case the facility may not have the prenatal information and you must rely on the parent worksheet. These questions often come up when the only source of information on prenatal care is from the parent worksheet.

Q: When mom does not know the date of the first prenatal care visit, how do I fill out the Prenatal Care section?

A: When mom does not know the first date of prenatal care visit, the birth information specialist should input “99999999” for “Date of First Visit” and “99” for “Total Number of Prenatal Visits.” Please do not leave “Total Number of Prenatal Visits” blank.

Informant	Prenatal Care	
Facility Information	No Prenatal Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place of Birth	Date of First Visit	Total Number of Prenatal Visits
Prenatal	999-99-9999 	99
Pregnancy Factors		
Labor		

Q: When mom did not have prenatal care, should I put down the baby's date of birth as the first date of prenatal care?

A: No. If there was no prenatal care visit prior to the child's delivery day, do not use child's delivery date as "Date of First Visit."

Instead, check the "No Prenatal Care" box.

For example, if the baby was born on 10-25-2018, and mom did not have prenatal care:



Prenatal Care	
No Prenatal Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date of First Visit	Total Number of Prenatal Visits
OCT-25-2018 	1



Prenatal Care	
No Prenatal Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date of First Visit	Total Number of Prenatal Visits
888-88-8888 	0

Q: I noticed a new fetal death parent worksheet on your website. The new parent worksheet collects the date of first prenatal care visit. Should I start collecting the date?

A: Yes. Effective January 1, 2019, OVERS requires you to input the "Date of First Visit" under the Prenatal page. You can access the new fetal death parent worksheet on our website at

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/REGISTERVITALRECORDS/Pages/InstructionsFetalDeath.aspx>.

If you have any questions regarding entering birth or fetal death records, please contact Cody Pergram at 971-673-1151 or cody.c.pergram@state.or.us.

Enter previous pregnancy outcomes correctly

On the Prenatal page of the Facility Information submenu are two sections. **Previous Live Births** and **Other Pregnancy Outcomes**. Below is a description and definition for each field for review. Submitting complete and accurate data with the birth record will result in fewer callbacks and corrections. This will save both you and CHS staff time.

Previous Live Births – This is the total number of infants born living, prior to this baby. It is broken out into three fields:

- **Number Now Living** – Include only the number of previous live born infants still living at the time of this birth. Do not include the current baby.
- **Number Now Dead** – Include the infants born alive who are no longer living. Do not include fetal deaths or miscarriages in this count.
- **Date of Last Live Birth** – Enter the month and year for the last live birth (now living or now dead). If the date of the last live birth is unknown, enter “99/9999” in this field. *Note in the case of twin births, the first twin born should be recorded as the last live birth.

Other Pregnancy Outcomes – This is the total number of other outcomes including spontaneous termination (commonly called a miscarriage, stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or fetal death), ectopic pregnancy or induced termination. It is broken out into two fields:

- **Number of Other Pregnancy Outcomes** – This is the total number of other pregnancy outcomes that did not result in a live birth.
- **Date of Last Other Pregnancy Outcome** – Enter the month and year for the last other pregnancy outcome. If the date of the last other pregnancy outcome is unknown, enter “99/9999” in this field.



The screenshot shows a form with the following sections and fields:

- Previous Live Births**
 - Number Now Living: dropdown menu with "None" selected
 - Number Now Dead: dropdown menu with "None" selected
 - Date of Last Live Birth: empty text input field
- Other Pregnancy Outcomes (Spontaneous or Induced Terminations or Ectopic Pregnancies)**
 - Number of Other Pregnancy Outcomes: dropdown menu with "None" selected
 - Date of Last Other Pregnancy Outcome: empty text input field
- Mother tested for HIV?: dropdown menu (empty)

If you have any questions, please contact Cody Pergram at 971-673-1151 or cody.c.pergram@state.or.us.

Wanted – newsletter topics

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

Frequent contacts

Paternities

Kristen Farrell
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Birth Corrections

<1 year, Amanda
Vega
971-673-1169
1 year +, Vanessa
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971-673-1137

Death Corrections

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971-673-1163

Delayed Filings

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971-673-1147

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971-673-1143

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971-673-1152

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971-673-1182

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The Center for Health Statistics is located at:

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Mailing address: P.O. Box 14050

Portland, OR 97293-0050

General information: 971-673-1190

Order vital records: 888-896-4988

Website:

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

OVERS website:

<http://healthoregon.org/overs>

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

Center for Public Health Practice/Center for Health Statistics

Oregon
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You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Center for Health Statistics at 971-673-1173 or 711 for TTY.