

DOCUMENTATION OF THE
FETAL DEATH TAPE FILE FOR
1996 DATA

SPECIAL NOTICE

THE GEOGRAPHIC CODES WERE CHANGED
EFFECTIVE WITH 1994 DATA TO REFLECT
THE RESULTS
OF THE 1990 CENSUS.

FETAL DEATHS FOR PUERTO RICO,
VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND GUAM ARE

INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE DATA SET
IN THE PUBLIC-USE FILE

Documentation of the Fetal Death Tape File for 1996 Data

This tape documentation was prepared in the Division of Vital Statistics. Steve Steimel, Jaleh Mousavi and Jordan Sacks of the Systems Programming and Statistical Resources Branch were responsible for updating the fetal death documentation. Joyce Martin of the Reproductive Statistics Branch was responsible for providing all needed modifications to keep the documentation up-to-date. Joyce Martin and Donna Hoyert of the Mortality Statistics Branch prepared the Fetal Death Technical Appendix. The Registration Methods Staff and the Data Acquisition and Evaluation Branch provided consultation to State vital statistics offices regarding collection of fetal death data.

Questions concerning the documentation or general questions concerning the fetal death file should be directed to the Systems and Programming Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS, 6525 Belcrest Road, Room 840 Hyattsville, Maryland 20782 (301-436-8900).

Questions concerning the Technical Appendix or substantive questions concerning the fetal death or natality data should be directed to the Reproductive Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS, 6525 Belcrest Road, Room 840, Hyattsville Maryland 20782 (301-436-8954).

Documentation of the Fetal Death Tape Files for 1996 Data

Information on the US fetal death data tape file was abstracted from the Report of Fetal Death forms received in all the States and the District of Columbia, with a record on the data file for each report of a fetal death received. The data is provided to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program by the registration offices of all States, the District of Columbia, and New York City. Fetal deaths for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam are included a separate data set in the public-use file. Data from Arizona, California, Louisiana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, and Guam were coded and keyed by NCHS. All other 1996 data were submitted in machine readable form.

US Fetal death data are limited to deaths occurring within the United States to U.S. residents and nonresidents. Fetal deaths occurring to U.S. citizens outside the United States are not included in this data file. Fetal death data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam are limited to deaths occurring within the respective territories.

In NCHS tabulations by place of residence, fetal deaths to nonresidents of the United States are excluded. The foreign resident records can be identified by code 4 in tape location 7 of the data tape. In addition, the majority of fetal death tables published by NCHS include only those fetal deaths with stated or presumed gestation of 20 weeks or more (see the Technical Appendix). Those records identified with a 2 in tape location 5 are included in these tabulations. All other records are excluded.

Effective January 1, 1989, a revised U.S. Standard Report of Fetal Death replaced the 1978 revision. The 1989 revision provides a wide variety of new information on maternal and fetal health characteristics. Questions on complications of labor and delivery and congenital anomalies of fetus were changed from an open-ended question to a checkbox format to improve reporting of information. Several new items were added that improve the data file's value for monitoring and research of factors affecting fetal mortality.

The Office of Management and Budget revised its designation of metropolitan statistical areas based on figures from the 1990 Census. For the 1990 through 1993 data files, NCHS has been using these new definitions and codes as indicated in the listing of 320 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs), and New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMAs) that were included in the documentation for those years. There are also 20 Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs), which are made up of PMSAs. Because other geographic changes based on the 1990 Census became effective with the 1994 data file, the metropolitan statistical area designations were updated as well. Effective with the 1994 data file there are 311 MSAs, PMSA, and NECMAs and 18 CMSAs as indicated in the listing included in this documentation.

Documentation of the Fetal Death Tape File for 1996 Data

NCHS has adopted a new policy on release of vital statistics unit record data files. This new policy was implemented with the 1989 vital event files to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of individuals and institutions. As a result, this file does not contain the actual day of the death. The geographic detail is also restricted; only counties and cities of 100,000 or more population based on the 1990 Census as well as metropolitan areas of 100,000 or more population based on the 1990 Census, are identified.

Included in this document are:

1. List of data elements and tape locations.
2. Machine/File/Data Characteristics.
3. Detail Record Layout.
4. Geographic Code Outline.
5. Metropolitan Statistical Areas as adopted for use by NCHS/DVS.
6. Documentation Tables 1-14.
7. Technical Appendix - Fetal Death.
8. Technical Appendix - Natality.

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

Symbol	Explanation
---	Data not available
...	Category not applicable
-	Quantity zero
0.0	Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05
*	Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision

List of Data Elements and Tape Locations

<u>Data Items</u>	<u>Tape Locations</u>
1. General	
a. Data year	1-4
b. Tabulation flag	5
c. Record type	6
d. Resident status	7
2. Occurrence	
a. NCHS State	17-18
b. Expanded NCHS State	15-16
c. NCHS County	19-21
d. Population size - county	27
e. Division	13
f. Region	12
g. FIPS State	22-23
h. FIPS County	24-26
3. Residence	
a. NCHS state	33-34
b. Expanded NCHS State	31-32
c. NCHS County	35-37
d. NCHS City	38-40
e. Population size - city	41
f. Population size - county	59
g. NCHS MSA	357-359
h. Met/Nonmet county	42
i. Division	29
j. Region	28
k. FIPS State	43-44
l. FIPS County	45-47
m. FIPS Place	48-52
n. FIPS CMSA	53-54
o. FIPS MSA	55-58
4. Prenatal Care	
a. Month began	113-116
b. Number of visits	117-120
5. Fetus	
a. Sex	202-203
b. Race	204-206
c. Plurality	214-215

d.	Weight at delivery	207-213
e.	Gestation	197-201,216-217
f.	Month/year of delivery	186-187,190-193
g.	Day of week of delivery	194
6.	Mother	
a.	Age	69-75,87-88
b.	Race	79-81
c.	Marital status	86
d.	Education	82-84
e.	Hispanic origin	76-77
7.	Pregnancy History	
a.	Born alive, now living	98-99
b.	Born alive, now dead	100-101
c.	Other terminations	102-103
d.	Total birth order	109-111
e.	Live birth order	105-107
8.	Father	
a.	Age	160-164,173-174
b.	Race	167-169
c.	Education	170-172
d.	Hispanic origin	165-166
9.	Other Items	
a.	Residence reporting flags	315-339
b.	Attendant at delivery	10-11
c.	Place of delivery	8-9
d.	Interval since last live birth	135-139
10.	Medical and Health Data	
a.	Method of delivery	220-227
b.	Medical risk factors	228-244
c.	Other risk factors	
	Tobacco	245-248
	Alcohol	249-252
	Weight gain during pregnancy	253-255
d.	Obstetric procedures	256-262
e.	Complications of labor and/or delivery	263-278
f.	Congenital anomalies	279-300