

Questions of Vital Statistics for the 21st Century



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**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Health Statistics**



Future State -Federal Responsibilities and Partnerships

- **Should they remain the same?**
- **What about local registration?**
- **Should vital statistics remain tied to vital registration?**
- **Should vital events be a reportable entity required to be reported to Federal Government?**
- **Should Feds pay for data or support state systems which provide that data?**

Electronic Vital Registration Systems

- Do we automate existing processes or initiate new processes through automation?
- How do we improve care givers perceptions of the importance of data placed in vital records ?
- Is mortality surveillance through vitals just a pipe dream?
- Should states be required to use Federally certified vital registration systems ?

Electronic Health Records and Vital Records

- Should vital records be the bookends for EHRs' ?
- If so, can we assure comparability of data as it is aggregated?
- If so do we need to collect each vital event in all its detail at the Federal level?
- What opportunities will we have for vital statistics follow-back surveys?

Whatever Happened to Marriage and Divorce in Vital Statistics

- Should this remain a responsibility of NCHS?
- Should it be the responsibility of the Census?
- Or are surveys such as the NSFG more appropriate by placing these events in context of family formation and health?