Health data from the revised birth certificate: Was it worth the wait?

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Primary goal of the 2003 revision

Improve Data Quality

- Separate worksheets to encourage collection of data from the best sources
  - One worksheet for the mom to complete (legal, demographic data)
  - Second worksheet (medical/health data) for facility staff to complete using medical records
- Standardized and improved data collection:
  - Detailed specifications for new electronic birth systems.
  - Guidebook for completing the facility worksheet with detailed definitions and instructions, recommendations for preferred sources and key words
A few bumps along the revision road...

- Staggered implementation of 2003 revised birth certificates across country
- Limited and constantly changing reporting areas for many key items (e.g., education, prenatal care, tobacco use)
- Many health items not comparable between revisions (e.g., primary cesarean delivery)
- No NCHS release (as of yet) of many new data items (i.e., infertility therapy, source of payment, breastfeeding.)

= Limited and confusing birth data set 2003---?
Times they are a changing...

- Upcoming release of new/new data items (e.g., breastfeeding) with 2009 data file
- All states will soon be on the 2003 revision
2012 revised states

Revised 2012 area = 89% of births

- Revised (37 states + DC)
- Mid year / rolling / partial
- Unrevised
2014 revised states

100% of all births!
National birth certificate data – most items
Improved medical/health data quality
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