Vital records data collection began in Iowa in 1880. The original birth and death certificates still exist and must be maintained. Today, vital records are registered electronically.

A focus on health equity
The Bureau of Health Statistics has a wide reach. For example, information on safe sleep practices is sent to parents when the newborn birth certificate is issued. This is information that directly impacts a specific group, and the bureau has the ability to send the target group very important health information related to their child.

What does the department do?
All work performed by the Bureau of Health Statistics is outlined in Iowa Code and administrative rules. The bureau fulfills federal contract obligations to the CDC and sends public health data as outlined in the contracts.

- Provides certified copies of birth, death and marriage records to Iowans and other entitled people to establish eligibility for many benefits, including U.S. citizenship.
- Provides data to local, state and national public health agencies so they can plan and measure the effectiveness of programs and make decisions about the use of resources. Over 500 requests are made annually.
- Provides a database to monitor progress on health objectives, identify emerging health issues and support policy development.
- Provides data to approximately 20 state agencies to help them conduct their official duties.
- Protects vital records from fraud by working diligently to ensure only entitled individuals receive certified documents. Fraud and identity theft cases are investigated and escalated appropriately.
How do we measure our progress?

Percent of births registered within 7 days & percent of deaths registered within 10 business days

What can Iowans do to help?

• Vital events should be reported within the time frames stated in Iowa Code.

• Report all misuse of certified copies of vital record documents.

• Order certified copies of vital records through authorized sources only. Contact the Bureau of Health Statistics before ordering any documents at a fee, if this is questionable.

Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>SFY 2019 Actual</th>
<th>SFY 2020 Actual</th>
<th>SFY 2021 Estimate</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
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<td>Other Funds</td>
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<td>FTEs</td>
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<td>23.99</td>
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</tbody>
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For more information, please visit https://idph.iowa.gov or call us at (515) 281-7689.

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