

Bureau of Vital Records

Bulletin

This bulletin is issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services Bureau of Vital Records as part of a continuing effort to improve the quality, completeness, and accuracy of data submitted to the State's Vital Records Systems.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) 2017 review

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has brought to our attention a number of inconsistencies that were found for the transmitted electronic birth, death, and fetal death certificates.

Some examples of errors identified by NCHS are:

Birth

1. Inconsistencies will appear on the National Center for Health Statistic Report if the following information is entered on the birth certificate:
 - a. Pre-pregnancy diabetes and gestational diabetes are both selections on the Medical Risk Factors page. If diabetes was present prior to this pregnancy, check pre-pregnancy, if diabetes is present only during this pregnancy check gestational. **Please do not check both on Certificate of Live Birth Worksheet as you will be unable to check both in EBRs.**

☒ Diabetes

- ☐ Prepregnancy (Diagnosis prior to this pregnancy)
- ☐ Gestational (Diagnosis in this pregnancy)

- b. Mother's prepregnancy weight (pounds) = 165 and Mother's weight immediately prior to delivery (pounds) = 145 If the mother's weight prior to delivery is less than their prepregnancy weight the user will see a notification message.

Mother's Height/Weight Message: x

The entered pre-pregnancy weight is 165 and delivery weight is 145 which creates a calculated weight gain of **-20**. Delivery weight is usually more than pre-pregnancy weight. Are the weights entered accurate?

[Yes](#) [No](#)

Mother's Height and Weight

Mother's Height (feet/inches)

Mother's prepregnancy weight (pounds)

Mother's weight immediately prior to delivery (pounds)

Upon selecting 'Yes' the Birth Recorder is verifying that the information is correct and the mother did lose weight while pregnant. If the mother did not lose weight and gained weight while pregnant, the mother's weight prior to becoming pregnant will appear in the top box as the lower amount and the weight at delivery will appear in the bottom as the higher amount.

Mother's Height and Weight

Mother's Height (feet/inches)

Mother's prepregnancy weight (pounds)

Mother's weight immediately prior to delivery (pounds)

- c. Parent's Hispanic Origin Selections. Please ensure that when the parent(s) are completing, they are selecting the correct applicable check boxes. (Ex. Specifying the correct country when selecting "other.") Hispanic origin includes people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, and other or unknown Latin American or Spanish origin. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race per [NCHS standards](#).

Mother of Hispanic Origin?

☐ Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latina

☐ Mexican, Mexican American, Chicana

☐ Puerto Rican

☐ Cuban

☒ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latina (e.g. Spaniard, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian)

Specify

☐ Unknown

☐ Refused

☐ Not Obtainable

Ensure parents are not using the “specify” box to write “unknown” or “refused.” **There is already an “Unknown, Refused and Not Obtainable” checkbox to utilize. There is no need to specify “Unknown, Refused or Not Obtainable”.** Do not use “Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latin (e.g. Spaniard, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian) Specify and write in

- *Not Specified*
- *N/A*
- *N*
- *Unspecified*
- *Unknown*
- *Hispanic/Latine*
- *Mexican*

Mother of Hispanic Origin?

☐ Not Spanish, Hispanic, or Latina ☐ Mexican, Mexican American, Chicana ☐ Puerto Rican ☐ Cuban	☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latina (e.g. Spaniard, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian) Specify ☐ Unknown ☐ Refused ☐ Not Obtainable
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- d. Include the year of the initial prenatal care visit. If absolutely necessary, the "Date or Part of Date Unknown" option can be used, though every effort should be made to acquire the exact date.

Total Prenatal Visits 1 ☐ Unknown	Date of First Prenatal Visit 07 09 2026 ☐ Date or Part of Date Unknown
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Using Unknowns

Unknowns should be utilized as little as possible. Please see Bulletin #16 for detailed instruction. Arizona over limit for below:

- a. Date of First Prenatal Care Visit-Year -(AZ 1.89% 2025 National Tolerance 1.08% 2025)

Death

2. Inconsistencies will appear on the National Center for Health Statistic Report if the following information is entered on the death certificate:
 - a. Place of Death-the place where the death is pronounced should be considered the place where death occurred.

NCHS Place of Death Definitions

1. Hospital Death—Specify the decedent's status as either Inpatient, Emergency Room/Outpatient (ER), or Dead on Arrival (DOA). Hospitals are defined as licensed institutions where a medical staff delivers diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients.
2. Non-Hospital Deaths—If the pronouncement of death occurred outside of a hospital setting, indicate whether it took place at a hospice facility, nursing home/long-term care facility, the decedent's home, or an alternative location.

When to select the Other (Specify) option in DAVE for Place of Death?

Several hundred Arizona facilities are preloaded into DAVE, organized by the type of Place of Death (e.g., Emergency room, Hospice facility, Inpatient). Users can find the correct facility by first choosing the appropriate category from the dropdown list and then searching for the specific facility name.

- If the facility is **NOT** in DAVE but **meets requirements** contact BVRsupport@azdhs.gov.
- If the facility **does not meet requirements** select Other (Specify) and complete documentation.

The screenshot shows the 'Place of Death' form in the DAVE system. The 'Type of place of death' dropdown menu is open, displaying the following options: Dead on Arrival, Emergency, Inpatient, Nursing Home/Long Term Care, Decedent's Residence, Hospice Facility, and Other, Specify. The form includes fields for Facility Name, Address (Street Number, Pre Direction, Street Designator, Post Directional, Apt #, Suite #, etc), Zip Code, City, State (pre-filled with Arizona), and Country (pre-filled with United States). There is also a search bar for 'Facility Name' and a 'Place of Death' type selector.

Using Unknowns

Unknowns should be utilized as little as possible. Please see Bulletin #16 for detailed instruction. Arizona over limit for below:

a. Decedent's Education – (AZ 4.12% National tolerance 2.1%)

Decedent's Education

Hispanic Origin

Decedent of Hispanic or Latin American Origin

☐ No, Not Hispanic or Latin American

☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican

Race

Check one or more races

☐ White

☐ Black, African American

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

8th grade or less; none

9th-12th grade; no diploma

High School graduate or GED completed

Some college credit, but not a degree

Associate degree (e.g. AA, AS)

Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, AB, BS)

Master's Degree (e.g. MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA)

Doctorate (e.g. PhD, EdD) or Professional degree (e.g. MD, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD)

Unknown

Refused

Not Obtainable

Not Classifiable

b. Decedent's Birth Place State (AZ 1.25% National tolerance 1.43%)

Decedent's Birth Place

City or Town

County

State

Country

United States

c. Decedent's Residence - City (AZ 1.05% National tolerance 1.00%)

Resident Address

Address

Street Number

Pre Directional

Street Name, Rural Route, etc.

Street Designator

Post Directional

Apt #, Suite #, etc.

Zip Code

City or Town

County

State

Country

Arizona

United States

d. Decedent's Residence - Inside City Limits – (AZ 1.5% National tolerance 1.00%)

Resident Address

Address

Street Number

Pre Directional

Street Name, Rural Route, etc.

Street Designator

Post Directional

Apt #, Suite #, etc.

Zip Code

City or Town

County

State

Country

Arizona

United States

Inside City Limits

- e. Decedent's Marital Status-(AZ 1.72%, National tolerance 1.00%)

Family Members

Marital Status ▼

Spouse's Name

First

Father's Name

First

Married

Widowed

Divorced

Never Married

Married but Separated

Not Obtainable

Unknown

- f. Decedent's Hispanic Origin-(AZ 1.13%, National tolerance 1.00%)

Hispanic Origin

Decedent of Hispanic Origin (more than one choice can be indicated).

☐ No, Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican

☐ Yes, Cuban

☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

☐ Not Obtainable

☐ Unknown

☐ Refused