

# Birth Certificate and Hospital Discharge Linkage—State Survey (AMCHP)

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## Birth Certificate and Hospital Discharge Linkage—State Survey (AMCHP)

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey.

Please note: due to software requirements, the survey must be completed and submitted online in one session. If you are not ready to complete the entire survey, please wait until you have all of your responses prepared before you begin.

If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Stampfel at: [cstampfel@amchp.org](mailto:cstampfel@amchp.org).

As was noted in the email you received, the purpose of this survey is to understand the status of birth certificate and hospital discharge linkages in the United States and to improve surveillance, research, policy, and programs around maternal, infant, and child health.

The data collected from this survey will be used to understand whether a state has a birth certificate and hospital discharge linkage, the process and quality of the linkage, the resources related to linking, and barriers and limitations to linkages.

Your feedback will also be used for improvements in data linkages that inform public health surveillance, research, policy, and programs around pregnancy conditions, risk behaviors, and neonatal outcomes.

This survey is being conducted through a collaboration with AMCHP and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Burden statement: Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 25 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Information Collection Review Office, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; ATTN: PRA (0920-0879).

[Start Survey](#)

Has any organization, including your state health department, or another organization or university, linked your state's birth records and hospital discharge records (maternal and/or infant discharges) in the last 4 years?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 19]
- Don't know [Skip to 19]

Which inpatient hospital discharge records are linked to the birth record, in the last 4 years?

- Maternal
- Infant
- Both

Does your state health department currently have access to this linked file for analysis?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

How often is the linked file updated?

- Less than once every two years
  - Every other year
  - Annually
  - More frequently than annually
  - Have only done the linkage once
  - Don't know
  - Other, please specify
- .....

Is your linkage automated (i.e. when data are received, there is already code developed to clean and merge into full dataset)?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 4]
- Don't know [Skip to 6]

If yes, what percentage of records can be linked electronically without manual judgment or intervention?

.....

[Skip Unconditionally to 5]

If no, why not? (Check all that apply)

- Lack of experience
  - Lack of software
  - Data not provided in an electronic format
  - Data files are sent in different format
  - Don't know
  - Other, please specify
- 

[Skip Unconditionally to 6]

What data linkage software is used to automate the linkage? (Check all that apply)

- By hand
  - SAS
  - Stata
  - SPSS
  - Microsoft Access
  - SQL Server
  - Oracle
  - FRIL
  - LinkPlus
  - Link Pro
  - Link King
  - Other, please specify
- 

Would you be interested in collaborating with other states in sharing linkage processes, including lessons learned, challenges encountered, and codes?

- Yes [Skip to 9]
- No [Skip to 7]
- Not sure [Skip to 8]

If no, why not? (Check all that apply)

- Lack of staff time
  - Confidentiality of data
  - Other, please specify
- 

[Skip Unconditionally to 9]

If not sure, what are your concerns? (Check all that apply)

- Time commitment

- Cost
- Confidentiality of data
- Other, please specify

[Skip Unconditionally to 9]

Page 9 - Question 12 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Has your state health department conducted this linkage, either maternal or infant, in the last 4 years?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 11]
- Don't know [Skip to 11]

Page 10 - Question 13 - Choice - Multiple Answers (Bullets)

Which organizational unit or program in the state health department was responsible for doing the linkage? (Check all that apply)

- Vital Records/Health Statistics Office
- Epidemiology Office
- MCH Program Office
- Office responsible for collecting hospital discharge abstracts
- Other, please specify

Page 11 - Question 14 - Choice - Multiple Answers (Bullets)

[Up To 14 Answers]

What data elements are used to link the data sources? (Check all that apply)

- Maternal social security number
- Child's Date of birth
- Child's name
- Race
- Gender of child
- Mother's first name
- Mother's last name
- Mother's surname prior to first marriage
- Hospital medical record
- Birth facility / Hospital name
- Discharge date
- Patient address (city, state, house number, zip code)
- Don't know
- Other patient identifier, please specify

Page 12 - Question 15 - Open Ended - One or More Lines with Prompt

What is the methodology used for linking the records? (Fill in percent of records linked using each methodology)

- Deterministic (specify % below) .....
- Probabilistic (specify % below) .....
- Other (specify and % below) .....

Has the quality of the birth-hospital record linkage been evaluated?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 15]
- Don't know [Skip to 15]

How has the quality of the linkage been evaluated? (Check all that apply)

- Review sample of records
- Chart review
- Other, please specify

Does your state utilize the linked birth and hospital record dataset for research, policy, surveillance or programs?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 17]
- Don't know [Skip to 17]

If yes, how does your state currently use your birth-hospital record linked dataset? (Check all that apply)

- Statistical reports (regular published or unpublished written reports)
- Surveillance (understand trends and prevalence estimates)
- Special studies
- Policy evaluation (pass legislation, provide legal support)
- Program or quality improvement
- Other, please specify

What other ways would you like to use your birth-hospital record linked dataset? (Check all that apply)

- Statistical reports (regular published or unpublished written reports)
- Surveillance (understand trends and prevalence estimates)
- Special studies
- Policy evaluation (pass legislation, provide legal support)
- Program or quality improvement
- Other, please specify

What prevents your state from using the birth-hospital record linked dataset the way you would like to use it? (Check all that apply)

- Cost
- Lack of staff time available
- Lack of interest in utilizing the linkage
- Most people are not aware of the availability of the linkage

- Access to linkage too difficult to obtain
  - Don't know
  - Other, please specify
- 

[Skip Unconditionally to 21]

Page 19 - Question 22 - Choice - Multiple Answers (Bullets)

[Up To 10 Answers]

In your organization or state, what prevents birth-hospital discharge linkages from occurring? (Check all that apply)

- Cost
  - Lack of staff time available for linkage
  - Data linkage is not a priority
  - Cannot access raw hospital discharge data
  - Cannot access raw birth certificate data
  - No statewide hospital discharge data collected
  - Linkage fields (e.g. name, SSN, or other identifiers) not collected or not available
  - Lack of effective matching/linkage software
  - Lack of interest in obtaining/using these data
  - Don't know
  - Other, please specify
- 

Page 19 - Question 23 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

Does your organization or state want to have a linkage of birth and hospital discharge records?

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, no rush
- Undetermined
- No, not right now
- No, never
- Don't know

Page 20 - Question 24 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

Would you be interested in collaborating with other states to learn about the linkage process?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Page 21 - Heading

The following questions are to get an understanding of the quality of each individual data source. Please answer to the best of your ability.

Description

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Page 21 - Question 25 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

[Mandatory]

Has the the quality of the data items from the birth record only been evaluated?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 23]
- Don't know [Skip to 23]

How has the quality of the data items from the birth record been evaluated? (Check all that apply)

- Medical chart validation
- Linkage with other data sets
- Don't know
- Other, please specify

Has the quality of the data items from the hospital discharge abstract only been evaluated?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 25]
- Don't know [Skip to 25]

How has the quality of the data items from the hospital discharge abstract been evaluated ? (Check all that apply)

- Medical chart validation
- Linkage with other data sets
- Don't know
- Other, please specify

Is there a state developed instruction manual for completing the birth record for the birth clerk?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Are there training programs available for hospital and birthing center staff on how to fill out the birth record?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 27]
- Don't know [Skip to 27]

If yes, who provides the trainings on procedures for completing the birth record?

- Online (if online, offered by whom? specify below)
- Someone in the health department (specify below)
- Someone from a hospital (specify below)
- Don't know
- Other, specify below

Please specify who provides trainings here:

Are personnel completing the birth record provided any guidance (written, training, consultation) on how to prioritize different sources of information and make decisions when there are conflicting values?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 29]
- Don't know [Skip to 29]

How often is training to complete the birth record offered?

- Monthly
  - Quarterly
  - Annually
  - Less frequently than once a year
  - As needed or on demand
  - Available online at anytime
  - Don't know
  - Other, please specify
- .....

Is there an instruction manual for abstracting hospital discharge data?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Are there training programs available for hospital and birthing center staff on how to abstract data from hospital discharge data records?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 31]
- Don't know [Skip to 31]

If yes, who provides the trainings on procedures for completing the hospital discharge data?

- Online (if online, who is offering the training - specify below)
  - Hospital association
  - Someone in the health department (specify below)
  - Someone from a hospital (specify below)
  - Don't know
- Please specify who provides trainings here:
- .....

Are personnel abstracting data from discharge records given guidance on how to prioritize different sources of information and make decisions when there are conflicting values?

- Yes
- No [Skip to 33]



Don't know [\[Skip to 33\]](#)

Page 32 - Question 38 - Choice - One Answer (Bullets)

How often is training to abstract hospital discharge records offered?

- Monthly
  - Quarterly
  - Annually
  - Less frequently than once a year
  - As needed or on demand
  - Available online at anytime
  - Don't know
  - Other, please specify
- 

Page 33 - Question 39 - Choice - Multiple Answers (Bullets)

[\[Up To 21 Answers\]](#)

What other data do you link to the birth record? (Check all that apply)

- No other linkages
  - WIC
  - Medicaid
  - Infant deaths
  - Death certificate of women of reproductive age
  - PRAMS
  - Birth defects registry
  - Newborn blood spot screening
  - Newborn hearing screening
  - Immunizations
  - Family planning (Title X)
  - Health department client data
  - Public health program data (Healthy Start, home visiting, etc.)
  - Education data
  - Child maltreatment data
  - Children's special healthcare program
  - Health insurance other than Medicaid
  - Outpatient records
  - ER/Ambulatory data
  - EMS registry
  - Other, please specify
- 

Page 33 - Question 40 - Open Ended - Comments Box

Is there any other information you think we should know regarding hospital discharge and birth record linkages?

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Page 33 - Question 41 - Open Ended - Comments Box

Any additional comments on this survey?

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What state or jurisdiction are you reporting from?

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- New York City
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Thank You Page

Screen Out Page

Standard

Over Quota Page

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Survey Closed Page

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