

Supporting Statement A

Reinstatement

Annual Vital Statistics Occurrence Report Form

National Vital Statistics Report Form

OMB No. 0920-0213

Exp. Date July 31, 2025

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Table of Contents

A. Justification.....	3
1. Circumstances Making The Collection Of Information Necessary.....	4
2. Purpose And Use Of The Information Collection.....	5
3. Use Of Information Technology And Burden Reduction.....	5
4. Efforts To Identify Duplication And Use Of Similar Information.....	5
5. Impact On Small Businesses Or Other Small Entities.....	5
6. Consequences Of Collecting The Information Less Frequently.....	5
7. Special Circumstances Relating To The Guidelines For 5CFR1320.5.....	6
8. Comments In Response To The Federal Register Notice And Efforts To Consult Outside The Agency.....	6
9. Explanation Of Any Payment Or Gifts To Respondents.....	6
10. Protection of the Privacy and Confidentiality of Information Provided by Respondents	6
11. Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Justifications For Sensitive Questions.....	7
12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs.....	7
13. Estimate Of Other Total Annual Cost Burden To Respondents Or Record Keepers...	8
14. Annualized Cost To The Federal Government.....	8
15. Explanation For Program Changes Or Adjustments.....	8
16. Plans For Tabulation And Publication And Project Time Schedule.....	8
17. Reason(S) Display Of OMB Expiration Date Is Inappropriate.....	9
18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions.....	9

Attachment List

Attachment A: Authorizing Legislation

Attachment B: 60-day Federal Register Notice

Attachment C: Annual Vital Statistics Occurrence Report

Attachment D: IRB Documentation

**Supporting Statement A for Request for Clearance:
NATIONAL VITAL STATISTICS REPORT FORM**

- Goal of the project: The Annual Vital Statistics Report Form is used by State and/or county vital registration offices to report annual counts of marriages, and divorces/annulments to the Federal government in support of the National Vital Statistics System.
- Intended use of the resulting data: The data are used by other government, academic, and private research organizations in tracking changes in trends of vital events. Marriage and divorce data collected annually permit uninterrupted tracking of family dynamics.
- —Methods to be used to collect: Data collection of annual marriage and divorce/annulments is accomplished by the respondent replying to an email message with the completed Annual Vital Statistics Report form. New Mexico counties are the exception; respondents only provide the annual marriage counts a) complete and return a paper form via the U.S. postal service and/or b) reply to an email message with the completed form either by email or fax.
- The subpopulation to be studied: These data represent a complete census (100% sample) rather than a fractional sample. The respondents are the registration officials in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition, counts of marriages will be collected from individual counties in New Mexico, due to a lack of centralized complete collection in this registration area.
- How data will be analyzed: The Annual Vital Statistics Report is an ongoing data collection system that captures annual counts of marriages, and divorces/annulments.

A. Justification

This is a request to continue the use of the Annual Vital Statistics Report (OMB 0920-0213, Exp. Date July 31, 2025) and is being submitted as a Reinstatement.

The Annual Vital Statistics Occurrence Report (Attachment C) is used by State and/or county vital registration offices to report to the Federal government annual counts of marriages and divorces/annulments in support of the National Vital Statistics System. There are no direct costs to respondents; the data are routinely available in each reporting office as a by-product of ongoing activities. Final counts of marriages and divorces are requested from all 50 States, District of Columbia, New York City, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, as well as the counties of New Mexico for all months of a given year.

1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary

The compilation of national vital statistics by the Federal government dates to the beginning of the 20th century. In July 1946, the President's Reorganization Plan No. 2 transferred this function from the U.S. Bureau of the Census to the Federal Security Administrator. It was subsequently transferred to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, part of which was later reorganized as the Department of Health and Human Services. To administer these functions, the National Office of Vital Statistics was established in the Public Health Service in April 1953. In August of 1960, the National Office of Vital Statistics was reorganized as the Division of Vital Statistics in the newly created National Center for Health Statistics, which is now part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

One of the functions of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is to plan and administer a program to provide statistics on births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and divorces reported in the National Vital Statistics System. This includes promoting the uniform collection of data on these events and providing technical assistance to the registration areas; conducting follow back surveys to expand the scope of national vital statistics beyond the data available from vital records; preparing life tables and analyses of life table phenomena; and investigating the quality and reliability of data and methodology.

One part of this function is to provide national final counts of marriages, and divorces occurrences following the end of each year. The collection of the data is authorized by 42 USC 242k, a copy of which is provided in Attachment A. Provisional counts of marriages, and divorces through 2023, are disseminated electronically at [NVSS - Marriages and Divorces](#). This form (Attachment C) is the sole source of final counts for these two events. These final counts are usually available from State officials and New Mexico County Clerks about eight months after the end of the data year.

These data have been published since 1937 and are the sole source of this information at the national level. The data are used by the Department of Health and Human Services and by other government, academic, and private research organizations in tracking changes in trends of vital

events. The counts of events requested on the form are necessary to the administration of this portion of the program.

2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection

The marriage and divorce data, are used by agencies of the Public Health Service and other government, academic, and private research organizations in tracking changes in marriage and divorce trends.

3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction

All 50 States, US Territories, including New York City and Washington DC, as well as New Mexico's counties are allowed to submit the Annual Vital Statistics Report Form either electronically or on paper if that would reduce the burden; however, they are encouraged to submit the data by electronic mail whenever possible. For provisional birth and death data, all states report electronically on an ongoing basis. To help further facilitate the electronic transmission of final marriage and divorce counts, an NCHS e-mail address is provided in the instructions for the Annual Vital Statistics Report Form. These policies are intended to keep respondent burden to a minimum. There are no legal obstacles to reduce the burden.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information

Consultation with State vital statistics offices indicates that there is no other organization, neither private nor public, that is assembling final counts of marriages performed and divorces. Review of data disseminated by the Bureau of the Census and other agencies indicates that no similar data source exists. This is the sole source of these data at the national level.

5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities

No small businesses will be involved in this data collection.

6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently

Annual marriage and divorce data must be collected annually to permit uninterrupted tracking of these events.

7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

This request fully complies with the regulation 5 CFR 1320.5

8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside the Agency

A. Federal Register Notice

The 60-day notice was published in the Federal Register on 6/16/2025, Vol. 90, No.114, pp. 25294 – 25295 (Attachment B1). Three comments were received to the 60-day Notice (Attachment B2).

B. Consultation outside the agency

Consultations have been held with State and local vital registration officials. NCHS officials maintain ongoing consultation with registration officials in the States at annual **Vital Statistics Cooperative Program workshops** (last meeting was in June 2024) and in special work groups that include selected State registrars. Other consultation is conducted on an ad hoc basis.

One major source of input is listed below. This organization represents the states and is often our conduit for contacting them:

Shae Sutton, Executive Director
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)
8705B Colesville Road, #348
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-563-6012
Email: hq@naphsis.org

9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents

No payment is made. The requirement to submit marriage and divorce counts is tied to the deliverable for the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, the contractual relationship between each state and NCHS for collection and dissemination of vital statistics data at the national level.

10. Protection of the Privacy and Confidentiality of Information Provided by Respondents

Annual counts of marriages, divorces and annulments are collected. There is no Information in Identifiable Form (IIF).

11. Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Justification For Sensitive Questions

This data collection is not subject to the requirements of an Institutional Review Board (Attachment C).

No sensitive items are included. Only counts of vital events are requested.

12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs

A. Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Respondents for the National Vital Statistics Report Form are registration officials in each State and Territory, the District of Columbia, and New York City. In addition, 33 local (county) officials in New Mexico who record marriages occurring in each of the 33 counties of New Mexico use this Form for a total of 91 respondents. There are no costs to respondents other than their time. The data are routinely available in each reporting office as a by-product of ongoing activities.

Respondents for the Annual Vital Statistics Occurrence Report are the 57 registration officials in each State and Territory, the District of Columbia, and New York City. There are no direct costs to respondents; the data are routinely available in each reporting office as a by-product of ongoing activities.

Table 1. Annual burden hour estimates

Type of Respondents	Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses Per Respondents	Average Burden Per Response (in hours)	Total Burden (in hours)
State, Territory and New Mexico County officials	Annual Vital Statistics Occurrence Report	91	1	30/60	46
Total					46

B. Estimated Annualized Cost

At an average wage rate of \$62.83 per hour and an average length of interview of 30 minutes, the average cost per respondent is \$32.42 to complete the annual form. This estimated wage rate is based on information from the wages of State vital statistics personnel completing the forms. The total cost is shown in the table below.

Table 2. Annual burden cost estimates

Total Burden Hours	Respondent Wage Rate per Hour	Total Respondent Costs
46	\$62.83	\$2,890

13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Record Keepers

None.

14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The annual cost of collecting, analyzing and publishing the data is approximately \$100,000 for 1 FTE representing the combined time of several staff members.

15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments

The burden has not changed from the burden shown in the current inventory (46 hours).

16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule

Final marriage and divorce data are published about 10 months after the end of the data year.

17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate

No exemption to not display the expiration date for OMB approval is being sought.

18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

There are no exceptions to the certification.