

Fetal Death Underreported in 2020

The Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics has released preliminary statistics on Fetal Death reporting in Iowa. The Iowa Bureau of Health of Health Statistics was notified that 2020 preliminary report shows that compared to previous years, fetal deaths in Iowa, are being underreported by 17%.

Per Iowa Code 144.1(7)

“Fetal death” means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy. Death is indicated by the fact that after expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. In determining a fetal death, heartbeats shall be distinguished from transient cardiac contractions, an respirations shall be distinguished from fleeting respiratory efforts or gasps.

Possible reasons for underreporting:

1. The death was reported as a death but not as a Fetal Death (the death was entered in the Electronic Death Registration System);
2. The fetal death was reported as an Induced/Spontaneous Termination;
3. The fetal death record was completed but was not submitted to Vital Records; or
4. The fetal death record was never completed.

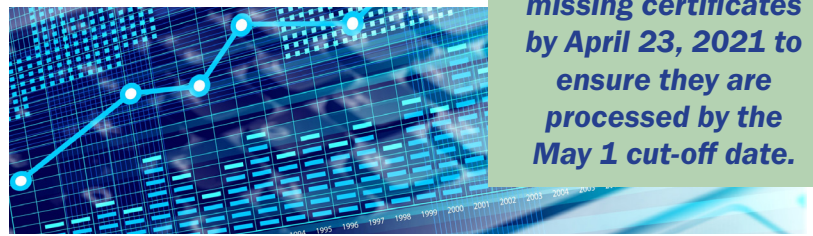
Your assistance is needed to identify these missing records. Please verify that all fetal deaths have been reported correctly. Reporting accurate information to the National Center for Health Statistics is one of our top priorities. This information is a valuable resource which is used by many of our local and federal partner.

If you have fetal death that were overlooked, please complete the Certificate of Fetal Death form. The form is available on the [Vital Records Portal Page](#). The original form, on registration paper, must be submitted to:

**Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Statistics
321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319**

Please submit any missing certificates by **April 23, 2021** to ensure they are processed by the May 1st cut-off date. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the death registration team. Thanks for your assistance with this very important matter.

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2020/2021 Statistics

Listed below are the statistics for the registration of Iowa death records. The chart below shows the number of days it takes to register a record. The charts include preliminary results for 2020 and First quarter of 2021.

Month	Deaths Reg./Month		Average Days Between DOD and Date Filed					
	2020	2021	Certifier		ME		Combined	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Jan.	3,069	2,895	8	12	20	22	11	14
Feb.	2,509	-	7	-	20	-	10	-
March	2,778	-	8	-	22	-	10	-
April	2,728	-	7	-	18	-	9	-
May	2,606	-	8	-	17	-	10	-
June	2,674	-	9	-	17	-	10	-
July	2,679	-	8	-	19	-	10	-
Aug.	2,774	-	8	-	21	-	10	-
Sept.	2,794	-	8	-	20	-	11	-
Oct.	3,082	-	7	-	20	-	10	-
Nov.	3,562	-	7	-	18	-	9	-
Dec.	4,298	-	8	-	19	-	10	-

Navigating IVES NX ~ Hints and Tips Steps to Follow if IVES Does Not Load

Clear IVES-Specific Cookies & Cache

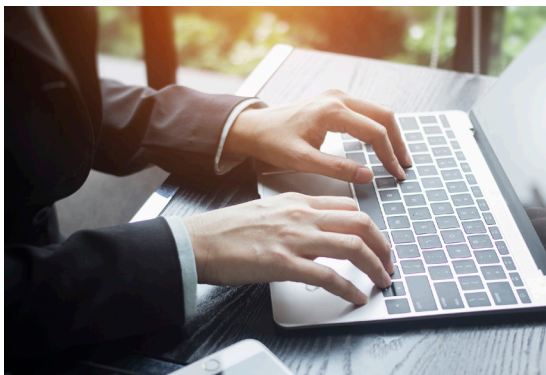
As a best practice, reload the IVES page using F5 or the  button on a regular basis. This will refresh the page and any new data will update appropriately. In addition, you can clear cookies for IVES by performing the following:

1. On any window that has IVES currently open, click on the padlock icon in the top-left of your window, just left of the IVES link.
2. Click on the word Cookies that appears in the popup window.
3. In the new window, click the Remove button at the bottom to clear idphvrs.netmartcloud.com out of the top half.
4. If the Cookies window is still open, close it and navigate back to the main IVES login screen.

NOTE

If you are trying to get to the login screen but the browser just spins the loading animation, go to [this link](#) (it will load a blue screen with Windows Server listed at the top) and follow the steps above.

If this does not work, please continue to the steps shown at right.

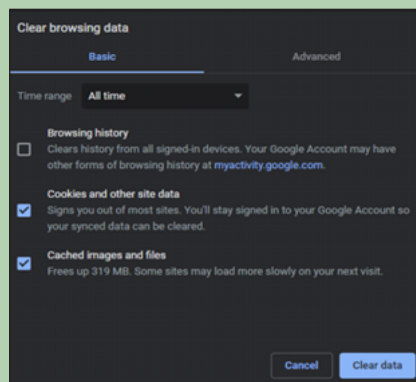


Clearing your cache and allowing popups will resolve most issues.

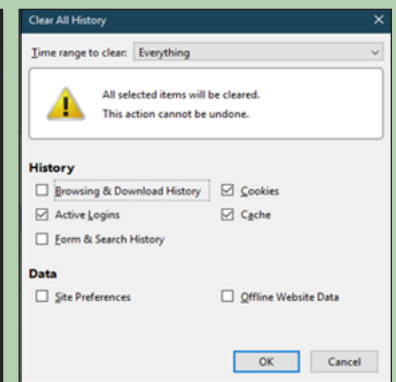
Clear Your Cache

While in your browser press the keyboard combination **CTRL+SHIFT+DEL**. This should bring up the Clear Browsing window (these images show what it looks like Chrome or Firefox). Match the settings in your window based on the browser you have and click the button at the bottom of that window to clear the data. After it has completed, close all of your browser windows and try to log in as normal.

Clear browsing data for Chrome



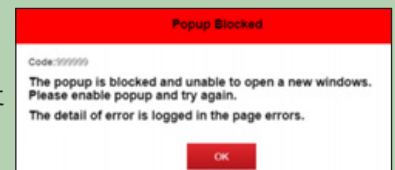
Clear browsing data for Firefox



Setting your Popup Blocker will ensure you can print documents and your data saves correctly. Make sure you Always Allow popups settings for IVES.

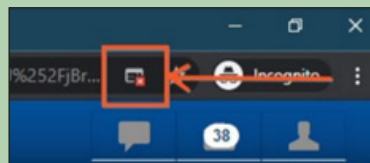
Issue: Popup Blocked (Document does not appear)

After clicking Print on a document and the following error appears.

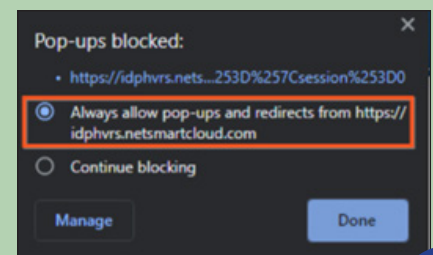


Resolution

Set the site to allow popups; look for the following on the right side of the URL bar, near the browser Close buttons.

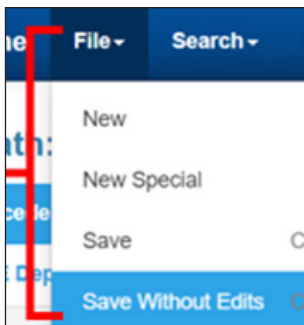


Clicking on the icon will open a menu where the user can change popup settings for IVES. Select the Always allow option, and try to print again.



Just A Few Reminders!

- **Security** is a priority and we take it seriously.
- All Users sign a participant agreement which outlines the user's responsibilities for safeguarding their confidential information.
- Sharing Login ID's or passwords is prohibited.
- Allowing staff to do final signoff or certification on a record for the licensed professional is **PROHIBITED** and against the law.
- ALL USERS SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN ACCOUNT
- New Users! Remember to follow all the instructions on the **Checklist** that is included in your new user email.
- Use the "Tab" key on your keyboard to navigate through the pages.
- File>Save Without Edits - Use this feature to save your incomplete record.



- Ives User Accounts: Keep your account current you don't want to miss any important information. Request forms from the Ives Helpdesk.
 - Update Email Address
 - Add and Remove Locations
 - Add and Remove Users
- "New" Buttons were added to improve user experience

Signature Page

- Manner/Cause is Complete and Record is Signed

Is The Record Complete and Ready To Sign?

Email Notifications

- Record has been Assigned to Certifier

Send Email To Certifier

- Cremation Permit has been Assigned to Medical Examiner

Send Email To ME

- Order Certificates & Print Receipt

Request Certificates

Print Certificate Order Receipt

Who Starts the Record

A funeral director starts a death record when:

The manner of death is **NATURAL**,
AND

The death occurred in a hospital, nursing home or under hospice care.

A medical examiner is REQUIRED to start the death record when:

The manner of death is **NON-NATURAL**,
OR

The death occurs outside of a hospital or nursing home setting regardless of manner of death.

Funeral directors please note:

- For deaths where the manner is **NON-NATURAL**, or the death occurs outside of hospital or nursing home setting, search for the decedent record in Ives first.
- If you are unable to locate the decedent record, either contact the Bureau of Health Statistics or call the medical examiner/medical examiner investigator in the county where the death occurred and ask to be assigned to the death record.
- **DO NOT IMMEDIATELY START A DEATH RECORD FOR ME CASES.**

For additional guidance on these and other topics, please review the [Announcements and Newsletters](#) on the Death Registration Portal page.

A funeral director starts a death record when the death is natural.

COVID-19

Reporting and Certifying COVID-19 Deaths

Here's how Funeral Directors can assist?

If you have information that COVID-19 contributed to the death and it is not listed on the record, please contact the Bureau of Health Statistics, our staff will follow up with the medical certifier to ensure the record reflects the appropriate information.

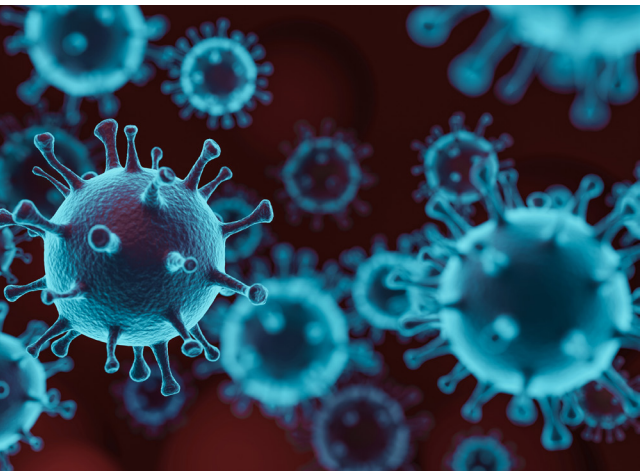
Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 should be reported on the death certificate for all decedents where the disease caused or is assumed to have caused or contributed to death. We ask that all deaths use the standard terminology COVID-19.

Resources and guidance is ongoing, we will continue to provide updates via announcements and newsletters. Use the CDC guidelines to format the cause of death for all COVID-19 related deaths.

COVID-19 Deaths and Coding Rules

Video Guidance for Certification of COVID-19 Deaths and COVID-19 Coding Rules

To supplement the published guidance on filing out death certificates for deaths related to COVID-19, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has released a short video on the NCHS YouTube channel. The video runs a little over 3 minutes and can be accessed directly at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL3VMwieAms>



COVID-19 Resources

Iowa Department of Public Health:
COVID-19 webpage

Governor's Proclamations: <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/pages/proclamations>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/coding-and-reporting.htm>
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvss/vsrg/vsrg03-508.pdf>

Newsletters and Announcements:
VR Death Registration Portal Page:
<https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/vital-records/drportal>

Review these resources for additional information.



FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress authorized FEMA to provide financial assistance to individuals who incurred COVID-19-related funeral expenses after January 20, 2020. FEMA anticipates launching this program in early April 2021.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

How to Apply

In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

To view the complete press release: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210324/fema-help-pay-funeral-costs-covid-19-related-deaths>

For more information about this assistance, visit COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, FEMA.gov. <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Contact Information

Name	Phone	Email
Sandra Lyles Field Representative	515-725-2963	Sandra.Lyles@idph.iowa.gov
Michele Houston Death Registration Specialist	515-281-5153	Michele.Houston@idph.iowa.gov
Jennifer Caskey Death Registration Manager	515-281-7996	Jennifer.Caskey@idph.iowa.gov
Death Registration Email		Death.Registration@idph.iowa.gov
IVES Help Desk	866-309-0831	IVESHelpDesk@idph.iowa.gov