

## 100-Year Anniversary Vital Statistics Fact Sheet (1911-2011)

- Vital Statistics first became a division of the Health Department on July 1, 1911 by legislation (1911 Session Law, Chapter 296).
- Kansas has had 14 State Registrars, the first was W.J.V. Deacon, and the current is Elizabeth W. Saadi, PhD.
- According to the first State Registrar, W.J.V. Deacon, in 1911, the top three reasons deaths should be recorded were:
  - To keep track of the movement of the population (demographic value);
  - To learn where plague spots are and obtain the opportunity for the installation of preventive measures (sanitary value);
  - To provide information in cases of inheritance by descent, in insurance matters, and in the detection of criminal practice (legal value).
- W.J.V. Deacon's top three reasons births should be recorded were:
  - To keep track of the movement of the population (demographic value);
  - To provide courts with a definite statement of age for determination of age of offenders (legal value);
  - To provide proof of citizenship and proof of inheritance rights (personal & legal values).
- W.J.V. Deacon in 1911 on filing births and deaths: "There is another argument cited which cannot be improved on. For years it has been the custom to register horses, cattle, hogs and other livestock but the human race has not, until now, seen fit to spend twenty-five cents for the registration of a birth or death."
- When Vital Statistics was first created, 478 local registrars were appointed – every city clerk of an incorporated city in Kansas.
  - The number of local registrars was reduced later to 148, then in 1986 reduced to 105 (one per county).
  - In 1988 – 1990, filing vital records with local registrars was discontinued and all records were registered directly with the State Office.
- Prior to World War II, federal laws were passed prohibiting underage military enlistment, resulting in required proof of date of birth for military recruits.
  - Kansas birth certificate requests increased from 17,089 in 1939 to 295,208 in 1942.
  - The Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) implemented three around-the-clock work shifts, employing 145 individuals to meet the demand.
  - The request increase lasted until 1945, but numbers never did decrease to pre-World War II amounts.

- Currently, around 100,000 Kansas vital events are registered annually and 365,000 certified copies are issued with an Office of Vital Statistics staff of 48.
- Around 12 million records have been filed since 1911.
- In 1911, all vital record processes were manual. Electronic Birth Certificate (EBC) Registration was implemented in 1989 and Electronic Death Registration (EDR) in 2005, adding physicians in 2009. Electronic marriage and divorce registration was introduced in 2006.

<b>POPULAR MALE BABY NAMES</b>		
	<b>1911</b>	<b>Current</b>
1	John	Jacob
2	William	William
3	Charles	Alexander
4	George	Ethan
5	James	Elijah
6	Harold	Gabriel
7	Robert	Mason
8	Paul	Noah
9	Frank	Landon
10	Joseph	Jackson

<b>POPULAR FEMALE BABY NAMES</b>		
	<b>1911</b>	<b>Current</b>
1	Mary	Isabella
2	Helen	Ava
3	Dorothy	Sophia
4	Mildred	Emma
5	Ruth	Olivia
6	Margaret	Addison
7	Thelma	Abigail
8	Anna	Avery
9	Frances	Emily
10	Gladys	Chloe

<b>TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH</b>		
	<b>1911</b>	<b>Current</b>
1	All Other Diseases	Cancer
2	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
3	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Disease
4	Kidney Disease	Cerebrovascular Disease
5	Violent Deaths (other than suicide)	Unintentional Injuries
6	Pneumonia	Alzheimer's Disease
7	Congenital Debility &	Pneumonia & Influenza
8	Diarrhea & Enteritis	Diabetes
9	Cerebral Hemorrhage	Kidney Disease
10	Cancer	Suicide

Contact: Donna Calabrese at [dcalabre@kdheks.gov](mailto:dcalabre@kdheks.gov)