

Take note of the years statewide vital-record-keeping officially began in each US state—that’s when counties started to collect birth, marriage and death information and report it to state offices. Some counties or towns kept stats earlier, and some were slow to comply with state laws, so check with your ancestors’ local government for record availability.

	BIRTH RECORDS	MARRIAGE RECORDS	DEATH RECORDS		BIRTH RECORDS	MARRIAGE RECORDS	DEATH RECORDS
Alabama	1908	1936	1908	Montana	1907	1943	1907
Alaska	1913	1913	1913	Nebraska	1905	1909	1905
Arizona	1909	1909	1909	Nevada	1911	1968	1911
Arkansas	1914	1917	1914	New Hampshire	1901	1901	1901
California	1905	1905	1905	New Jersey	1848	1848	1848
Colorado	1907	1907	1907	New Mexico	1920	1920	1920
Connecticut	1897	1897	1897	New York	1880	1880	1880
Delaware*	1861	1847	1881	North Carolina	1913	1962	1913
District of Columbia	1874	1811	1874	North Dakota	1907	1925	1907
Florida	1899	1927	1899	Ohio	1908	1949	1908
Georgia	1919	1952	1919	Oklahoma	1908	1908	1908
Hawaii	1842	1842	1859	Oregon	1903	1906	1903
Idaho	1911	1947	1911	Pennsylvania	1906	1885	1906
Illinois	1916	1962	1916	Rhode Island	1853	1853	1853
Indiana	1907	1958	1899	South Carolina	1915	1950	1915
Iowa	1880	1880	1880	South Dakota	1905	1905	1905
Kansas	1911	1913	1911	Tennessee*	1908	1945	1908
Kentucky	1911	1958	1911	Texas	1903	1966	1903
Louisiana*	1914	none	1914	Utah	1905	1887	1905
Maine	1892	1892	1892	Vermont	1955	1955	1955
Maryland	1898	1950	1898	Virginia	1912	1912	1912
Massachusetts	1841	1841	1841	Washington	1907	1968	1907
Michigan	1867	1867	1867	West Virginia	1917	1964	1917
Minnesota	1900	1958	1908	Wisconsin	1907	1907	1907
Mississippi	1912	1926	1912	Wyoming	1909	1941	1909
Missouri	1910	1881	1910				

\*Delaware’s statewide birth and death records stop in 1863 and resume in 1881. All Louisiana birth records are kept in parish clerk offices. Tennessee has no statewide birth or death records for 1913.

Washington, DC’s birth records go back to 1874, death records to 1855 (but none were filed during the Civil War) and marriage records to 1811.