

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.