

AEASat
National Vital Statistics Report Forms, National Center for Health Statistics
Public Comment Opportunity

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) proposes to continue to collect National Vital Statistics Reports Forms from State and/or county vital registration offices to report to the Federal government (a) provisional counts of births, deaths, and infant deaths at the end of each month and (b) annual counts of marriages and divorces/annulments in support of the National Vital Statistics System. NCHS proposes no changes to the data collection forms.

AEA members are invited to inform NCHS about the value of the National Vital Statistics System data collection for economic research and suggest changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost. NCHS will summarize and respond to public comments in its subsequent submission to OMB.

Federal Register notice: [December 13, 2017](#) (includes instructions for submitting comments)

- [Data collection instruments](#) (currently in use)
 - Due date: February 12, 2018
 - More information: Delton Atkinson, Director, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics/CDC, 301-458-4467, DAtkinson@cdc.gov
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Information on ICR Process:

- By law, each data collection carried out by a federal agency must be cleared by OMB. Through the *Federal Register* notice, NCHS is announcing that it plans to submit a request to OMB for clearance to conduct the National Vital Statistics data collection and offers the public a 60-day opportunity to submit comments to it.
- After the close of the 60-day comment period, NCHS will prepare and submit its proposal to OMB in light of comments received. When it does so, the public will have another 30-day comment opportunity.

Guidance on Preparing Comments:

- AEA members may comment on any aspect of the proposed data collection. Possible topics, for instance, include needs, uses, methodology, survey design, cost, schedule, and consultation with data users.
- AEA members may frame their comments on specific topics in any way, such as:
 - assessments – identifying what they do and do not like and support
 - suggestions – for how USITC might proceed in this or future collections
 - requests – for example, for a change in the design of the survey instrument, to be consulted in the future, to carry out research on an alternative approach

- observations – for example, implications of the sample size for statistical reliability

For assistance in preparing comments, feel free to contact AEASat staff—Andrew Reamer (Research Professor, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University) at areamer@gwu.edu or (202) 994-7866.