Vital Statistics
Birth Certificates and Death Certificates

Birth Certificates	
Created:	• Shortly after an individual's birth • By the attending health care provider
Include:	• Gestational age (prematurity or not) • Gender • Weight at birth • Other information about the baby, mother, and father
Relevance to Diabetes:	• Include information about mother's health status during pregnancy • Include gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) diagnosis
Other Considerations:	• GDM is not consistently reported • Clinical criteria for GDM diagnosis need improvement • Efforts are underway to improve both of these issues, which would make birth certificates more useful as a data source

Death Certificates	
Created:	• Shortly after an individual's death • By the attending physician, coroner, or medical examiner
Include:	• Manner of death • Immediate cause of death • Underlying cause of death • Other contributing causes of death • Sequence of events leading to the death
Relevance to Diabetes:	• May include information on deaths attributed to diabetes • May include information on deaths attributed to complications from diabetes
Other Considerations:	• Diabetes is underreported as underlying or contributing causes of death, since most persons with diabetes die of complications like heart disease or chronic kidney disease • Calculating premature mortality may be more useful in describing the burden of diabetes than calculations of overall mortality using this data