

Pennsylvania's Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

Overview for Medical Certification of Deaths
that Occur at a
Long-Term Care Facility

February 16, 2021

What is EDRS?

- EDRS began in 2016 and was initially offered to funeral homes and coroners to report deaths.
- EDRS is a web-based application that simplifies the process to report a death in Pennsylvania.
- EDRS replaces the “Certificate of Death” form.

Certificate of Death (Paper Form)

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • VITAL RECORDS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Date File Number: _____ Date of Death (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

1. Decedent's Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)		2. Sex	3. Social Security Number	4. Date of Death (MM/DD/YYYY)
5a. Age Last Birthday (Yrs)	5b. Under 1 Year	5c. Under 1 Day	6. Date of Birth (Mo/Day/Year) (Spell Month)	7a. Birthplace (City and State or Foreign Country)
7b. Birthplace (County)		8. Residence (City and State or Foreign Country)		
9. Residence (Street and Number - Indicate Apt. No.)		10. US Decedent lived in _____		
11. Residence (Zip Code)		12. US Decedent lived in _____		
13. Marital Status at Time of Death		14. Marital Status at Time of Death		
15. Father's Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)		16. Mother's Name Prior to First Marriage (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)		
17. Informant's Name		18. Informant's Relationship to Decedent		
19. Informant's Mailing Address (Street and Number, City, State, Zip Code)		20. Place of Death (Check only one)		
21. Place of Death (Check only one)		22. Place of Death (Check only one)		
23. Facility Name (If not institution, give street and number)		24. City or Town, State, and Zip Code		25. County of Death
26. Method of Disposition		27. Date of Disposition		28. Place of Disposition (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place)
29. Location of Disposition (City or Town, State, and Zip Code)		30. Signature of Funeral Service Licensee or Person in Charge of Interment		31. License Number
32. Name and Complete Address of Funeral Facility				
33. Decedent's Education - Check the box that best describes the highest degree or level of school completed at the time of death.				
34. Decedent's Hispanic Origin - Check the box that best describes whether the decedent is Spanish/Hispanic/Latino. Check the "No" box if decedent is not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.				
35. Decedent's Race - Check ONE OR MORE race to indicate what the decedent considered himself or herself to be.				
36. Decedent's Sex and Occupation - Check ONLY ONE to indicate what the decedent considered himself or herself to be.				
37. Decedent's Usual Occupation - Indicate type of work done during most of working life. DO NOT USE RETIRED.				
38. Type of Business/Industry				
39. Date Pronounced Dead (MM/DD/YYYY)		40. Signature of Person Pronouncing Death (Only when applicable)		41. License Number
42. Date Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)		43. Date of Death		44. Was Medical Examiner or Coroner Contacted?
45. CAUSE OF DEATH				
46. Part 1. Enter the <u>chain of events</u> —disease, injuries, or complications—that directly caused the death. DO NOT enter terminal events such as cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, or ventricular fibrillation without showing the etiology. DO NOT ABBREVIATE. Enter only one cause on a line. Add additional lines if necessary.				
47. Part 2. Enter other <u>associated conditions</u> contributing to death, but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part 1.				
48. Was an autopsy performed?				
49. Were autopsy findings available to complete the cause of death?				
50. If Female:				
51. Was Tobacco Use Contributing to Death?				
52. Member of Death:				
53. Place of Injury (e.g. Home, construction site, farm, school)				
54. Location of Injury (Street and Number, City, County, State, Zip Code)				
55. Injury at Work				
56. Describe How Injury Occurred				
57. Certifier - physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant, medical examiner/coroner (check only one)				
58. Name, Address and Zip Code of Person Completing Cause of Death (Item 26)				
59. Date Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)				
60. Registrar's Control Number		61. Registrar's Signature		62. Registrar's License (MM/DD/YYYY)
63. Amendments				

State Use Only

Certificate of Death (Paper Form)

The image shows a full-page view of the Pennsylvania Certificate of Death form. The form is titled 'COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • VITAL RECORDS' and 'CERTIFICATE OF DEATH'. It is divided into several color-coded sections: yellow for personal information, green for cause of death, blue for burial information, and pink for amendments. The form includes fields for decedent information, place of death, cause of death (immediate and underlying), and burial details. A 'State Use Only' section is at the bottom.

Report of Death Color Coded by Reporting Stakeholder

Funeral Director	Medical Professional (or Coroners/ME*)	Medical Professional (Preferred) or Funeral Director	Coroners & Medical Examiners Only	Local Registrars
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*Only if found in accordance with the 1961 Statutory Law #1053

With EDRS, you no longer need to know which portion of the Certificate of Death you need to complete.

EDRS shows you which sections to complete based on your user role.

DEATH REPORTING WORKFLOW

Medical

Manner of Death,
Cause of Death,
Significant
Contributing Factors,
Place of Death

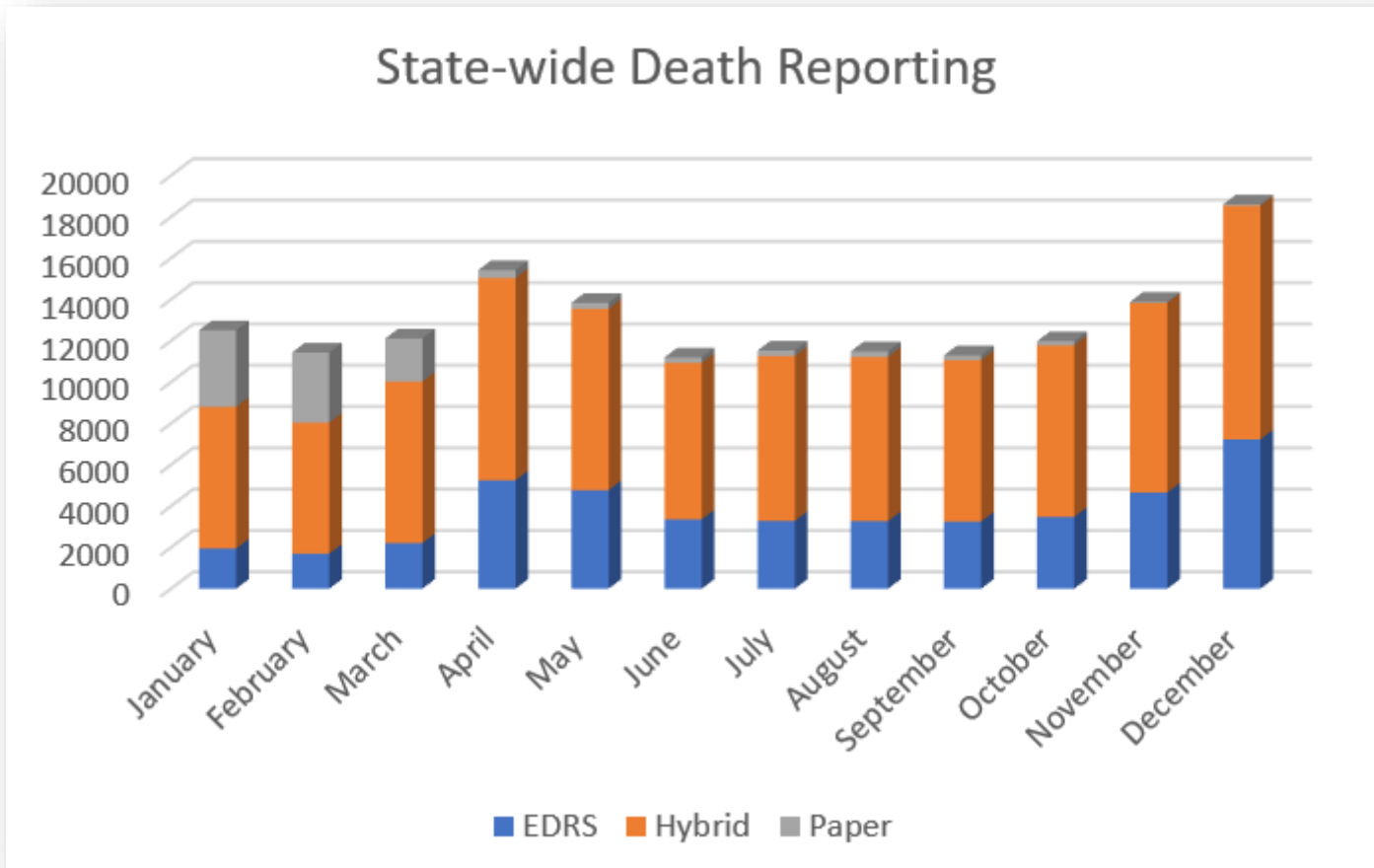
Personal- Demographics

Fact of Death: Name,
Age, Gender, Race,
Ethnicity, Residency

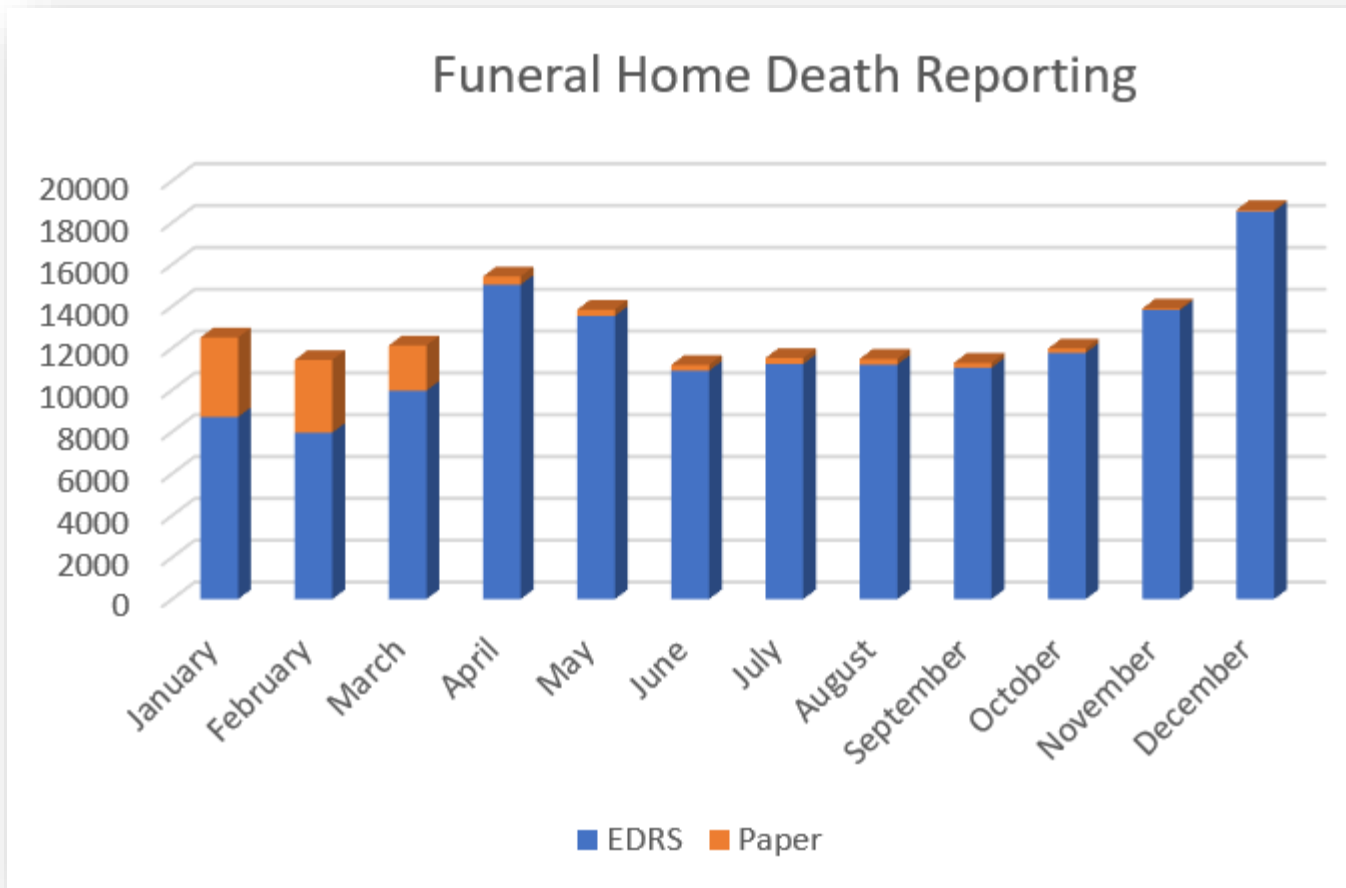
Death Registration

Report of Death is
accepted by DOH and
becomes a death
record

EDRS Adoption Rates

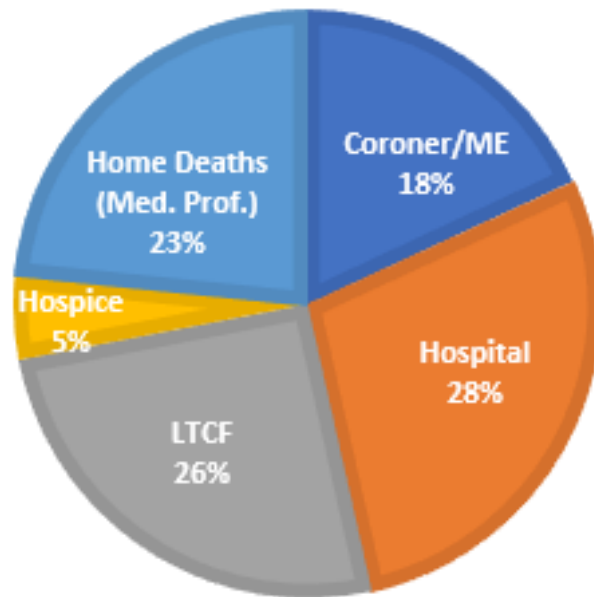


EDRS Adoption Rates

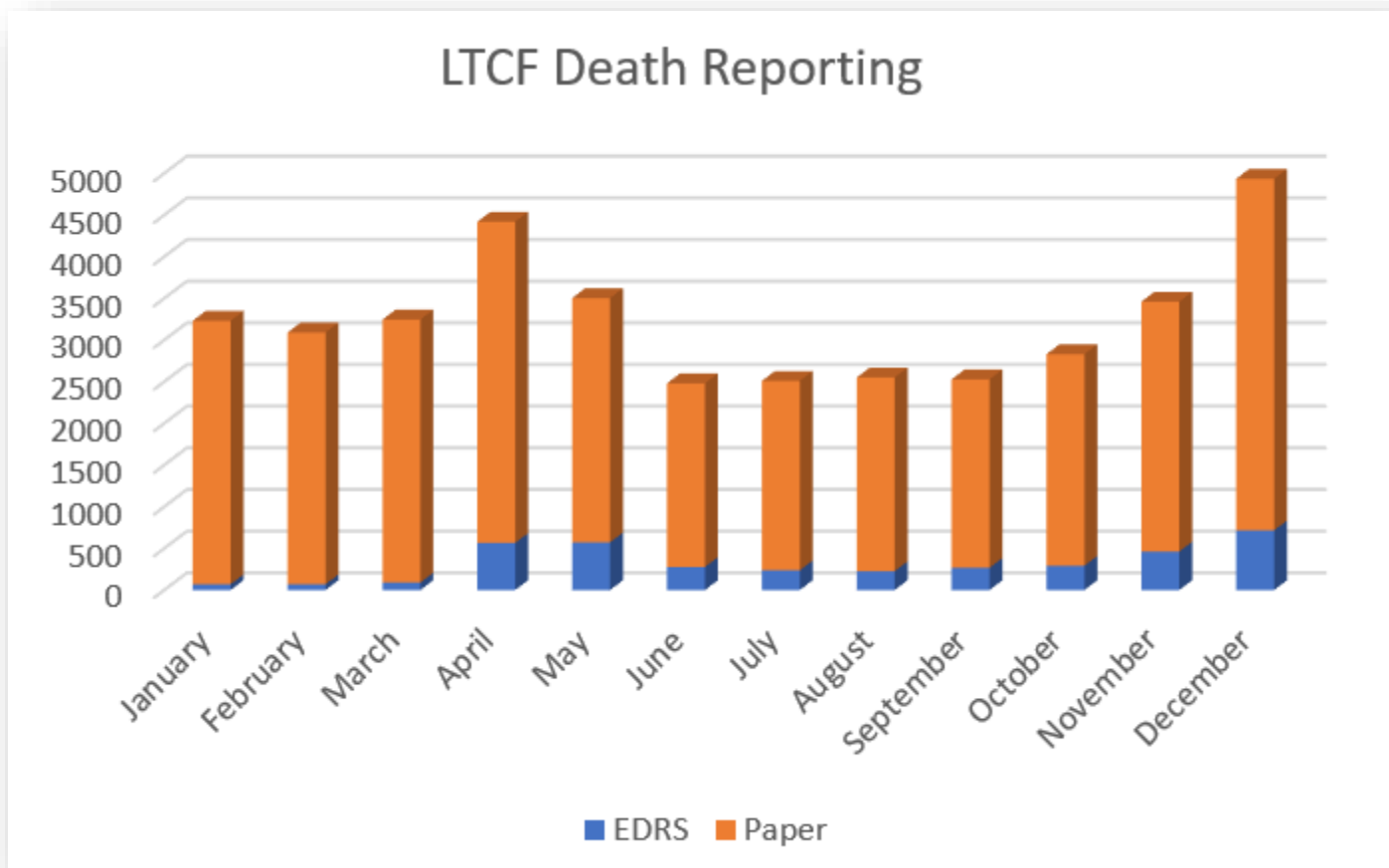


EDRS Adoption Rates

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF ALL DEATH RECORDS IN 2020



EDRS Adoption Rates



▶ What are the Benefits of EDRS?

- Near-time reporting of deaths to PA Department of Health
 - ▀ Critical for public health purposes
- Improved quality control measures to support accurate reporting of deaths that occur at your facility

What are the Benefits of EDRS?

- Online case referrals to funeral directors
 - ▀ Over 99% of all funeral homes in PA use EDRS
- Online access to death records that your facility registered through EDRS
- Online and simplified request to amend death records that you certify

▶ What are the Features of EDRS?

- Highly secure
 - ▣ Each user is assigned credentials
 - ▣ User credentials may be used to report deaths for multiple facilities
- Internet accessible
 - ▣ Available 24 x 7
 - ▣ May be accessed on any device connected to the internet
 - ▣ Can be used on a smart phone, but not recommended

What are the Features of EDRS?

- Flexible

- Allows a medical certifier to create the entire medical portion of the case and sign in one step;
- Allows for support staff to start the case for the medical certifier, who can review and sign later

What are the Features of EDRS?

- Efficient
 - Allows medical certifiers and funeral homes to work on the case simultaneously
 - No need to track down paper forms or ink signatures

What are the Features of EDRS?

- Easy to use
 - ▣ Walks users through death reporting for only those questions that apply to the user
 - ▣ Built in quality controls to reduce errors during data entry
 - ▣ On-line help and instruction



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[Local Registrars](#)



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Reporting of Deaths

The Pennsylvania Vital Statistics Law of 1953 requires that deaths that occur in Pennsylvania be reported to the Department of Health within four days of the date of death. Funeral homes, medical professionals, coroners and medical examiners all have a mandatory role in reporting these deaths. This website outlines our requirements for reporting deaths that occur in Pennsylvania.

ALL DEATHS ATTRIBUTED TO COVID-19 MUST BE REPORTED THROUGH the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

Medical Professionals

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Coroners & Medical Examiners

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Funeral Directors

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Demo on EDRS

**Notice to Death Reporters:
Medical certifications are
processing within 2 business
days. Call 800-323-9613  for
assistance.**

Username:

Password:

Login

[Forgot your password?](#)

EDRS Support

- Vital Events Stakeholder Hotline
 - ▣ 1-800-323-9613
 - ▣ ra-DHEDRS@pa.gov