



150 YEARS
OF ADVANCING
PUBLIC
HEALTH

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

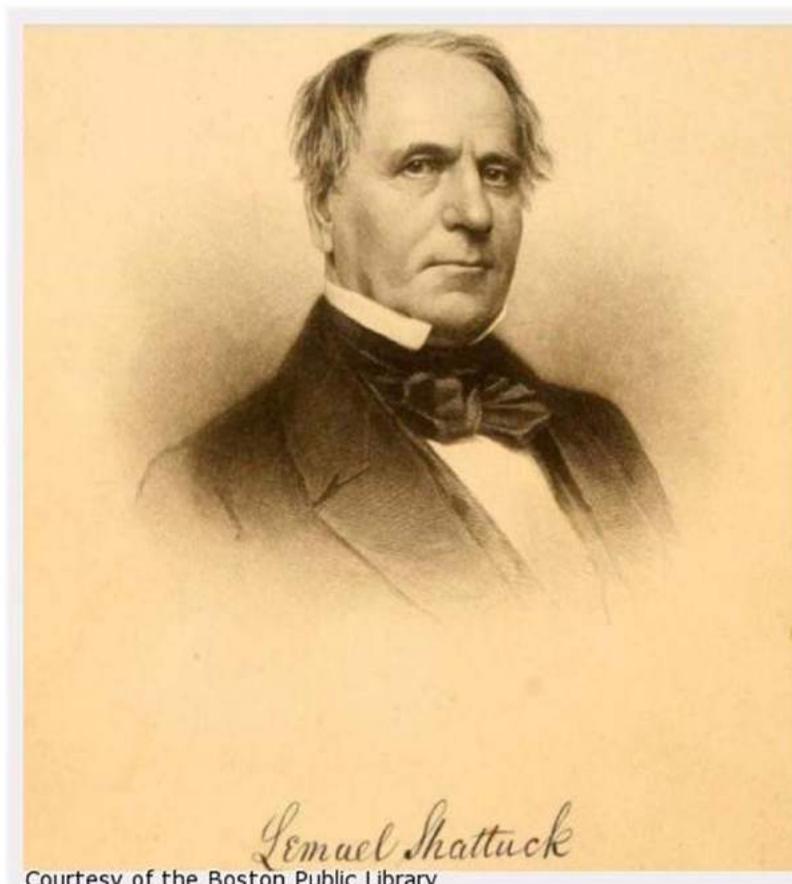
Registry of Vital Records and Statistics: A Foundation for Public Health & Identity

Public Health Council
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Office of Population Health
Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Informing Public Health for 177 Years

- 1639 – Massachusetts mandates civil registration of vital events (even before England!)
- 1842 – Lemuel Shattuck writes legislation to create the first-in-the-nation statewide vital statistics registry





Public Document #1

tain to the average age of 64, while mechanics attain only to that of 46. This most astonishing difference of 18 years, or nearly 40 per cent., between one large class of the community and another, cannot fail, sooner or later, to attract the attention of the public mind, and awaken those inquiries which they evidently suggest. Whence this wide disparity? How can it be removed or lessened? What are the peculiar circumstances incident to mechanical employments, which consign so large a part of our citizens to premature graves? What sanitary measures can be adopted, by persons engaged in these employments, to prevent this appalling waste of life? By what means can the great manufacturing and mechanical employments of man-

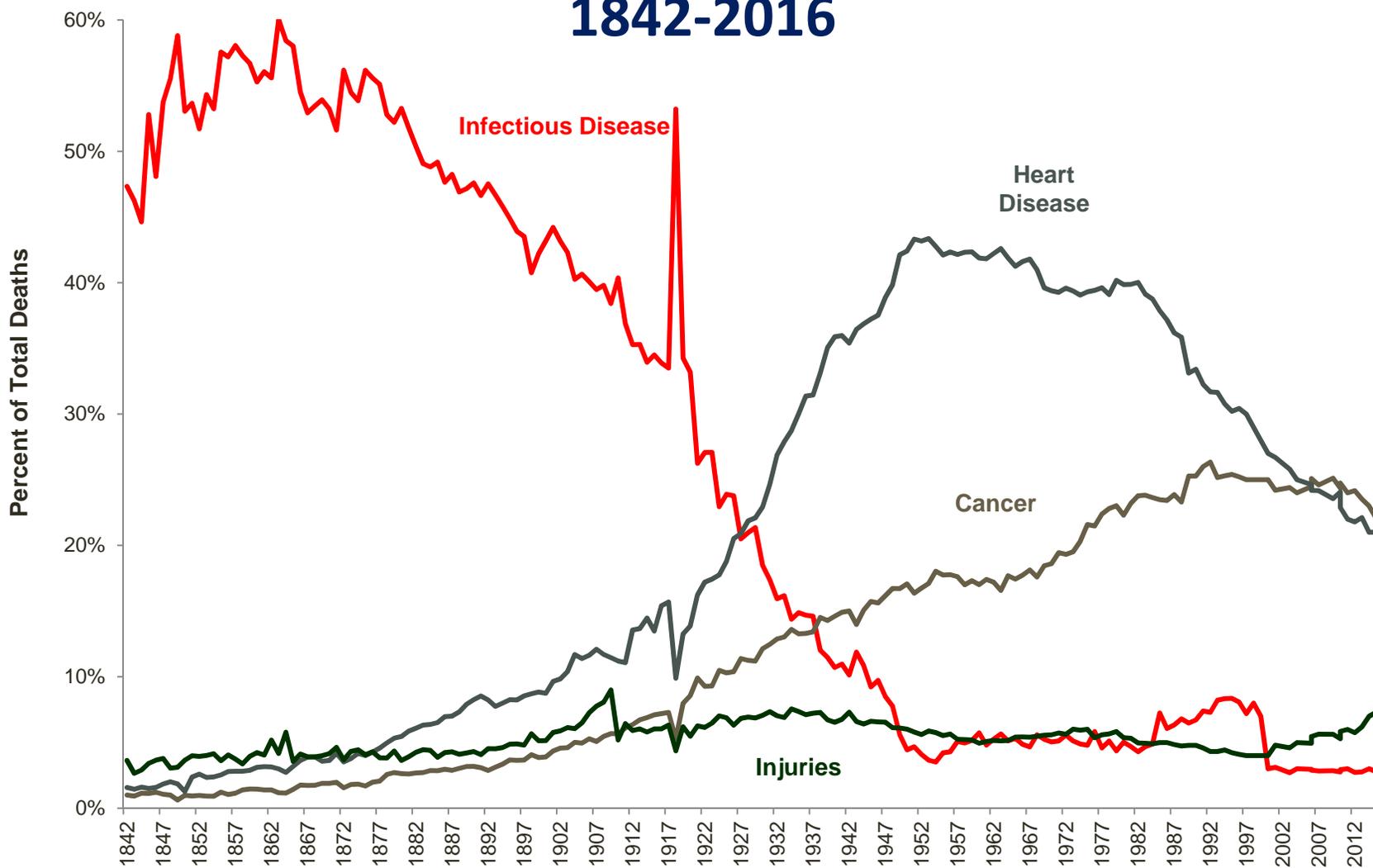


--Amasa Walker
Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1850

The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics' (RVRS) Public Document #1 (*Annual Report of Vital Statistics*) is the oldest continuous publication in the Commonwealth beginning with 1842.

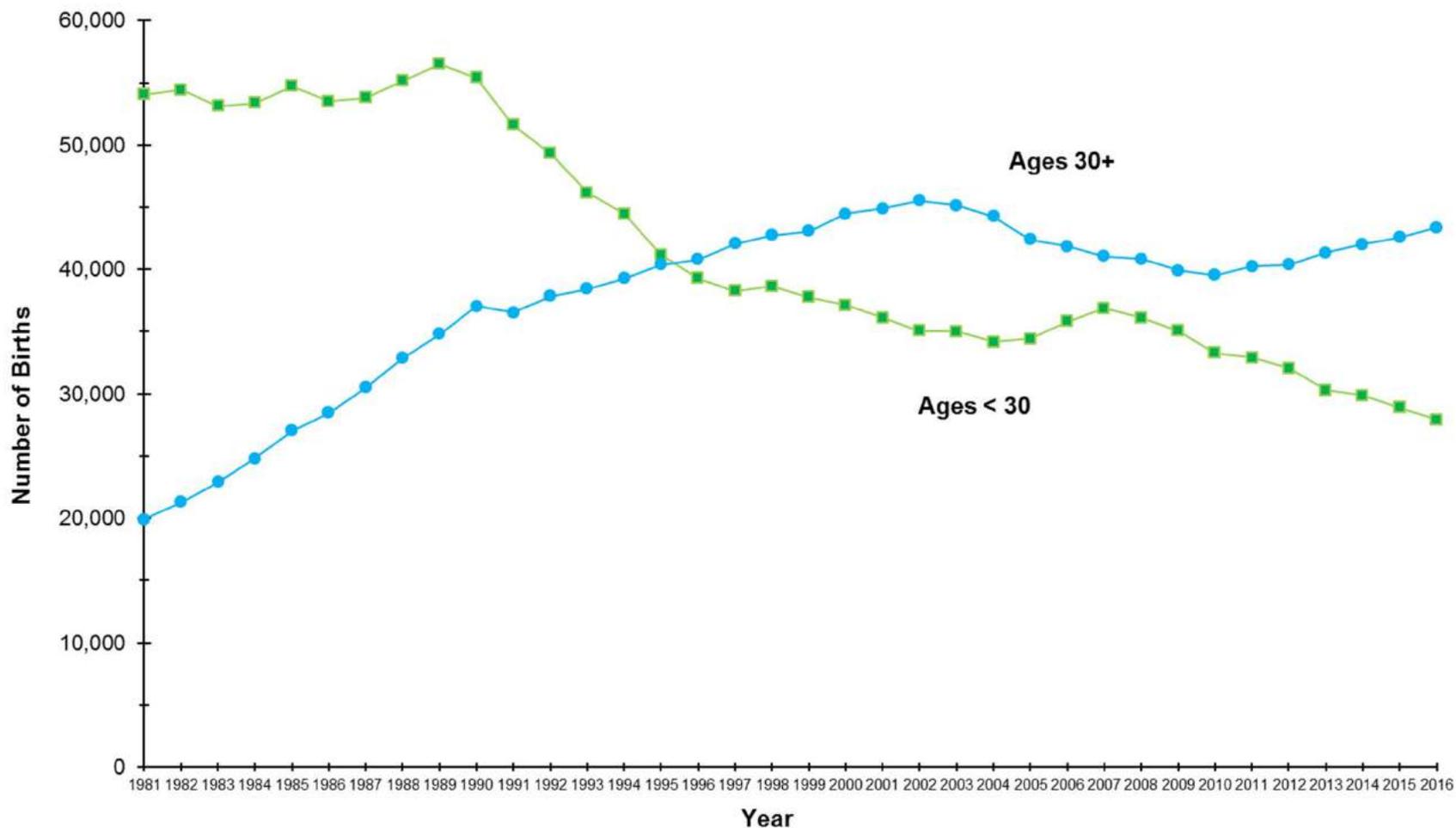


Deaths from Selected Causes, Massachusetts: 1842-2016





Trends in the Number of Births by Mother's Age Group, Massachusetts: 1981-2016





RVRS Now

What do these recent headlines have in common?

Teen births continue decline but disparities remain

Lawrence, Haverhill rates remain high

15 years later, gay couple recalls their role in Massachusetts' historic marriage ruling

Lining up to get Real ID at a Massachusetts RMV or AAA office? Make sure you bring these documents

Study: Massachusetts Residents Are Living Longer

Why are black residents in Massachusetts more likely to die young?
Posted Jan 2, 3:30 PM; Posted 6:00 AM

NEWS LOCAL NEWS

Bay State suicide rate on the rise

Minor marriages in Massachusetts
Unions involving underage spouses in Massachusetts declined over the last two decades; the vast majority of underage spouses have been female.

For Same-Sex Couples, a New Path to Legal Parenthood

Massachusetts sets up new college fund for children of same-sex partners rather than

More than 1,500 people have died from opioids in Massachusetts so far in 2018
"The opioid epidemic, fueled by an all-time high level of fentanyl, remains a tragic

Public Health “+”

- Today, RVRS supports a wide range of services and mandates



Public Health “+”

- The Registry is often the face of DPH, assisting the public in multiple ways



Constituent
Services

- Registration & amendments
- Establishment of Parentage
- Certified copies
- Nationwide verifications
- Genealogy/ Research Room
- SSA Enumeration at Birth
- *New* – collaboration with Treasurer and MEFA

~20,000,000 paper documents in the vault: vital records, paternity/parentage acknowledgments, amendment evidence dating back to 1926.

Public Health “+”

- The Registry supports fraud and waste prevention activities through death matching, secure paper and systems, nationwide electronic verifications and more.



Fraud Mitigation

Our fraud prevention partners include:

- MassHealth
- Dept. of Children and Families (DCF)
- Dept. of Transitional Assistance (DTA)
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV)
- Dept. of Housing and Community Development
- Massachusetts Secretary of State - voter rolls
- Massachusetts and Federal Court Systems
- Department of Revenue, Child Support Enforcement
- US State Department, Passport Division
- Law enforcement agencies

Public Health “+”

- Local, state, federal and private entities rely on vital records and statistics to fulfill their mission



Mission Critical
Support for
Partner Agencies

For example --

- Vitals Information Partnership (VIP) system
 - A statewide system supporting over 9,000 users
- Interjurisdictional exchange and nationwide vital statistics
- Partner with courts for adoption, paternity name changes and divorces
- Data for grants & contracts

Public Health “+”

- The Registry is core to the mission of the Department of Public Health



Public Health
Benefits

Collection of data for multiple DPH programs

- e.g., Immunization tracking, newborn hearing and metabolic screening, WIC, PRAMS

Core data for the Population Health Information Tool (PHIT) and the Public Health Data Warehouse (PHD)

Data quality assurance

Data feeds & data requests

Public Health “+”

- We are responsive to legislative changes and changing cultural norms



Legislative
Compliance

- Establishment of parentage
- Pre-adoption records
- Gender reassignment
- Same-sex marriage
- Protecting identity information
- New mandates?
 - Last session there were 27 bills that would have affected the Registry’s operation



DPH House

VISION

Optimal health and well-being for all people in Massachusetts, supported by a strong public health infrastructure and healthcare delivery.

MISSION

The mission of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is to prevent illness, injury, and premature death; to ensure access to high quality public health and health care services; and to promote wellness and health equity for *all* people in the Commonwealth.

DATA

We provide relevant, timely access to data for DPH, researchers, press and the general public in an effective manner in order to target disparities and impact outcomes.

DETERMINANTS

We focus on the social determinants of health - the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, which contribute to health inequities.

DISPARITIES

We consistently recognize and strive to eliminate health disparities amongst populations in Massachusetts, wherever they may exist.

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE

PASSION AND INNOVATION

INCLUSIVENESS AND COLLABORATION



RVRS is in the House (the DPH House)



...relevant, timely access to data...

Opioid mortality, PHIT, newborn metabolic screening, immunization, hearing screening, MassHealth, infant death, disease surveillance, news media, maternal mortality, WIC, birth defects, violent death reporting, environmental health, occupational health, family health, CDC, child fatality, medical and public health research, teen pregnancy, SSA, PRAMS, injury prevention, consumer product safety, genealogy, cancer registry, students, law enforcement, HIV surveillance, DCF, DTA...and more

...strong public health infrastructure...

Data and registration partners rely on VIP for their daily time-sensitive work: funeral homes, hospitals, physicians, city and town clerks, boards of health...and more. DPH relies on vitals revenue and accurate data for multiple grants.

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*...determinants...
...disparities...*
Detailed demographic data for population and school planning estimates and population health analysis, paternity acknowledgment program...and more

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE
PASSION AND INNOVATION
INCLUSIVENESS AND COLLABORATION

...collaboration...
MassHealth, DOR, DCF, RMV, CDC/NCHS, DPH programs, SSA, local public health, courts, interjurisdictional exchange...and more

...everyday excellence...
Massachusetts citizens rely on same day services for IDs, fraud prevention, MassHealth, death & other benefits, personal health histories, record amendments, EVVE verifications...and more

21st Century RVRS

What's next?

- Upgrade systems and integrate with electronic medical records
- Modernize outdated law
- Streamline customer service
- Digitize records of all types
- Gender X?
- More than 2 parents?
- Data quality improvement





On a final note... who are we to disagree?

wealth.

When years shall have rolled on, and the returns shall have formed a great collection of facts concerning the domestic relations of man, both in health and disease, then will it be rare to find a person sufficiently misanthropic as not to be grateful for the labors and experience of those who have devoted themselves to the intricate studies connected with vital and mortuary statistics.

The accumulated results of more than eleven years have

-Ephraim M. Wright
Secretary of the Commonwealth 1852



Questions?

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