

**DEATH STATISTICAL MASTER FILE <sup>(1)</sup>**  
**LIST OF VARIABLES**  
(March 2009)

AGE OF DECEDENT	LAST NAME OF DECEDENT
AUTOPSY PERFORMED ON DECEDENT	LOCAL REGISTRAR'S NUMBER
AUTOPSY USED	LOCAL REGISTRATION DISTRICT
BIOPSY PERFORMED ON DECEDENT	MANNER OF DEATH
BIRTH SURNAME OF DECEDENT'S MOTHER <sup>(2)</sup>	MARITAL STATUS OF DECEDENT
CAUSE OF DEATH CODE CHANGE FLAG	METHOD OF DISPOSITION
CENSUS TRACT OF DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE <sup>(3)</sup>	MIDDLE NAME OF DECEDENT
CITY OF RESIDENCE OF DECEDENT	MONTH DEATH CERTIFICATE PROCESSED
DATE OF DECEDENT'S BIRTH	OPERATION PERFORMED PRIOR TO DEATH
DATE OF DECEDENT'S DEATH	PLACE OF DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE
DATE OF INJURY	PLACE WHERE DEATH OCCURRED
DAYS BETWEEN INJURY AND DEATH	RACE/ETHNICITY OF DECEDENT (CODE #1) <sup>(4)</sup>
DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER	RACE/ETHNICITY OF DECEDENT (CODE #2)
DECEDENT'S CITY OF RESIDENCE FIPS CODE	RACE/ETHNICITY OF DECEDENT (CODE #3)
(OUT OF STATE RESIDENCE ONLY)	RACE-ETHNICITY OF DECEDENT (TEXT 1)
DECEDENT'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE FIPS CODE	RACE-ETHNICITY OF DECEDENT (TEXT 2)
DECEDENT'S MULTI-RACE CODE	RACE-ETHNICITY OF DECEDENT (TEXT 3)
DECEDENT'S PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF DECEDENT
DECEDENT'S RESIDENTIAL ZIP CODE	SEX OF DECEDENT
EDUCATION AS KEY ENTERED	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF DECEDENT <sup>(2)</sup>
EDUCATION COMPLETED	SPECIAL MEDICAL INDICATOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PLACE OF INJURY	STATISTICAL CORRECTION FLAG
ESTIMATED FLAG	SURNAME OF DECEDENT'S FATHER
EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES	TIME OF DEATH
FIRST NAME OF DECEDENT	TRUNCATION CODE
GROUP CAUSE OF DEATH CODE	TYPE OF CERTIFIER OF DEATH
HISPANIC ORIGIN OF DECEDENT	TYPE OF EVENT
HISPANIC ORIGIN OF DECEDENT (TEXT)	TYPE OF PLACE OF DEATH
IF FEMALE, PREGNANT IN LAST YEAR	UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH
INFANT GROUP CAUSE OF DEATH CODE	YEAR OF EVENT
INITIALS OF DECEDENT'S SPOUSE, IF MARRIED	YEARS IN OCCUPATION OF DECEDENT
INJURED AT WORK	YEARS IN THIS COUNTY

Footnotes:

1. Death Statistical Master Files are available with or without data for California residents who died in other states. Access to this data is governed by the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems' (NAPHSIS) Inter-Jurisdictional Exchange Agreement.
2. The decedent's social security number and mother's maiden name are protected data elements. Researchers must obtain approval from Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) and Vital Statistics Projection Advisory Committee (VSPAC) in order to access these variables.
3. Census Tract is not consistently collected. Some Local Registration Districts code it, while others do not.
4. Multiple race fields are available on the death files from 2000 onward.
5. The International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes have undergone revisions over time. The data files are coded as follows: 1960 to 1968 used ICD-7; 1969 to 1978 used ICD-8; 1979 to 1998 used ICD-9; 1999 to present uses ICD-10.