

March 15, 2011

Ms. Cheryl Sullenger  
PO Box 781045  
Wichita, KS 67278

Via United States Mail and e-mail to [cherylsullenger@gmail.com](mailto:cherylsullenger@gmail.com)


**Re: Open Records Requests Concerning Abortion Related Deaths**

Dear Ms. Sullenger,

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is in receipt of your request for open records delivered by e-mail on March 12, 2011. We have created a record which does not identify any individual person, a copy of which is attached hereto, which we believe is responsive to your request. The report sets forth the number of maternal deaths bearing ICD 10 codes O04-O07 and O08.0-O08.9 from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2009. The reason we did not include data after December 31, 2009, is because this is the most recent year for which final data are available.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (785) 296-1333.

Yours very truly,



Daric S. Smith  
Staff Attorney

DSS/pml

cc: Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary  
Caleb Stegall, General Counsel  
Charlie Hunt, State Epidemiologist  
Lou Saadi, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology

# Reported Abortion-Related Maternal Deaths in Kansas, 2000-2009



## Background

Kansas state law requires physicians and coroners to certify the cause for each death that occurs in the state. Collection of this information occurs on a standard form based on the U.S Standard certificate of death prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Physicians certifying the cause enter narrative information on the death certificate. Once the information is collected, funeral homes submit the death certificate to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Vital Statistics.

Once received, the information on the death certificate is checked for completeness and the record is registered. The narrative cause of death information is entered into a nosology software program from the NCHS. This program standardizes the information and assigns cause codes. The software is used throughout all states and many other countries to assure consistency of the cause of death coding.

Another element of the standardized cause of death coding is the use of ICD-10 codes. ICD stands for the International Classification of Diseases, which is now in its tenth revision.\* These codes facilitate the grouping of like causes of death and their evaluation for public health purposes.

The ICD-10 codes for pregnancy-related mortality (maternal deaths, stillbirths, and infant deaths) include:

- O00-O99 Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, involving pregnant and post-partum women;
  - O00-O03 (ectopic pregnancy, hydatidiform mole, abnormal products of conception, miscarriages)
  - O04-O07 (abortion);
  - O08.0-O08.9 (complications following abortion and ectopic and molar pregnancy);
- P00-P96 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period, involving live born and still born children and conditions that have their origin in the perinatal period (defined as stillbirths over 350 grams to live births less than 7 days in age), even though death or morbidity occurs later; and
- Q00-Q99 Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, involving live born and still born children.

This document was prepared in response to requests for abortion-related maternal mortality information. Data from 2000 – 2009 are included; 2009 is the most recent year for which final data are available.

## Reported Occurrence of Abortion-related Maternal Deaths

Reported Maternal Deaths from Selected Abortive Outcomes  
Kansas Occurrence, 2000-2009

Cause Group	Count
O04-O07 & O08.0-O08.9	1
Total	1

Source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment

\* World Health Organization. Geneva, Switzerland. [Internet] Classifications - International Classification of Diseases (ICD) [cited 2011 Mar 15] Available from: <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>.