Description of the Detailed Multiple Cause of Death (MCOD) Research Files

Detailed MCOD files are micro-data files. Publicly-available files are available for download, along with data documentation/users' guides, from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm. Other than the public-use files, there are two types of MCOD files that are available to researchers via the NCHS Data Request application form: the "All Counties" (A.K.A. "Part 2") file, and the "Limited Geography" file. Unlike the publicly-available files, the restricted research files contain geographical variables about the decedent.

Variables available in the "All counties" MCOD research file

General
Record Type
Resident status
Place of death and decedent's status
Day of week of death
Data year
Manner of death

Occurrence
State (FIPS)
County (FIPS)
Expanded State
County Population size

Residence
State (FIPS)
State/Country Recode
County (FIPS)
City (FIPS)
City Population size
Metro/Nonmetro county
Expanded State

The Decedent
Month of Death*
Sex
Race
Race recodes
Age
Marital status
State or country of birth
Hispanic origin
Education

Underlying Cause
ICD-10 code
358 cause recode
113 cause recode
130 cause recode
39 cause recode

Multiple Conditions
Entity-Axis conditions
Record-Axis conditions

Other medical items
Place of injury
Injury at work
Method of disposition
Autopsy
Certifier
Tobacco use
Pregnancy status
Activity code

Variables available in the "Limited geography" MCOD research file

General
Record Type
Resident status
Place of death and decedent's status
Day of week of death
Data year
Manner of death

Occurrence
State (FIPS)
Expanded State

Residence
State (FIPS)
State/Country Recode
Expanded State

The Decedent
Month of Death*
Sex
Race
Race recode 40
Age
Marital status
State or country of birth
Hispanic origin
Education

Underlying Cause
ICD-10 code
358 cause recode
113 cause recode
130 cause recode
39 cause recode

Multiple Conditions
Entity-Axis conditions
Record-Axis conditions

Other medical items
Place of injury
Injury at work
Method of disposition
Autopsy
Certifier
Tobacco use
Pregnancy status
Activity code

* Exact date of death is available only to researchers in federal agencies, as well as their on-site contractors. Non-federal researchers, including federal grantees, may access this variable only through the NCHS Research Data Center, https://www.cdc.gov/rdc/index.htm, after NCHS approval.