DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Health Data Nova Scotia

VITAL Data Dictionary

Vital Statistics - Death

Last Revised: November 24, 2017

Summary of the VITAL dataset

Purpose: Recording Nova Scotia population death information.

Data Years: Calendar 1990* – 2013   (January 1 to December 31)

Source Agency: Statistics Canada

Database Contact: Jordan Farrell – 902.494.3688 – jordan.farrell@nshealth.ca

Type: Annual administrative records

ICD Coding: ICD-9: 1990 – 1999
                               ICD-10: 2000 – 2013

Target Population: Deceased Nova Scotians in Nova Scotia

Size: Approx. 8500 Individuals recorded annually.

Security & Access: Apply for access

Legality: Custodian: Department of Health and Wellness
                               Use of data for research purposes must be PHIA and PIPEDA Compliant

Variable Summary:

Underlying and supporting causes of death, place of birth, place of residence, age, sex, marital status, hospital, autopsy and/or medical exam performed.

More Information:

* - The 1996 data set is cumulative from the year 1990. The data sets from 1997 onward are not cumulative.

Dataset Details

The datasets are named such that *nn* represents the last two digits of the calendar year the dataset records. E.g. VITAL13 contains vital statistics (death) records for the calendar year 2013.

VITAL*nn*

The VITAL datasets contain records detailing the death of an individual in Nova Scotia. While events such as marriages, divorces, and child birth are also considered vital statistics, HDNS only has vital statistics records regarding an individual's death certificate.

Each record represents the death a single individual, and is identified by the individual's encrypted health care number (*msi*). The data are compiled annually for each calendar year, and are not cumulative between years. The only exception to this is the 1996 dataset which holds records from the calendar years 1990 until 1996.

More information regarding the Canadian Vital Statistics - Death Database:

- Definitions, Data Sources, and Methods - Statistics Canada Vital Statistics - Death Database
- Glossary - Statistics Canada Vital Statistics - Death Database

Definitions

ICD-9-CM & ICD-10-CM Codes:
ICD-9-CM is the: *International Classification of Diseases, 9th edition, Clinical Modification.*

ICD-10-CM is the: *International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition, Clinical Modification.*

The ICD classification system is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and health workers to standardize diagnosis and procedure records for all medical service encounters.

There are also ICD-9-CM (E) codes which indicate an external cause or injury which resulted in morbidity. These codes are in the *External Causes of Injury* (The E-Section) of the ICD-9-CM library. In the ICD-10-CM library these are found in the *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* (S00 to T88) section.

Identification of appropriate codes for a research project requires clinical judgment, it is the responsibility of the investigator to provide HDNS with the requested ICD codes for a research project. HDNS does *not* identify ICD codes for research projects, however a library of ICD codes used in previous projects does exist for reference.

SAS Date Format:
Variables representing dates are stored in the SAS date format. This format is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and the specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers. SAS dates account for all leap year days, and can reliably tell you what day of the week a particular day was going back to Sept. 1752.

SAS dates can be formatted by HDNS to appear as human-readable dates for research projects.

Cause of Death:
The cause of death coded and tabulated is the underlying cause of death. This is defined as "(a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury". This underlying cause of death is selected from a number of conditions listed on the medical certificate of cause of death.

Beginning in the year 2000 in Canada, causes of death and stillbirth are coded to the 10th revision of the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10). The previous revision, ICD-9Note3 was used in Canada for the classification of cause of death and stillbirth from 1979 to 1999.

The information in this document is subject to be updated and changed without notice. If this document was downloaded or sent from a source other than Health Data Nova Scotia (HDNS) it is highly recommended to visit our website for the latest version of our data dictionaries.

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Variables in the VITAL Datasets

Age (Years)

Variable Name	age
Label	Age at Death (Years)
Definition	The individual's age in years when pronounced dead
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	8
Field Values	
Additional Information	Individuals who are younger than one year must use age in months (*agemon*) and age in days (*ageday*) for age. If an individual was younger than one year at the time of death then age in years (*age*) will be 0, and the individual's age in months (*agemon*) and age in days (*ageday*) will record how old the individual was prior to death.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Age (Days)

Variable Name	
	ageday
Label	
	Age – Days
Definition	
	The number of days the individual has lived during the month in which they were pronounced dead
Data Type	
	NUM
Data Element Length	
	3
Field Values	
Additional Information	
	If the deceased individual is less than one year old then their age is recorded in two variables which represent days of life (*ageday*) and months of life (*agemon*). Once an individual reaches one year of age then the variable for age in years (*age*) is used to record their age without any information regarding months and days of life. The individual's age in days (*ageday*) cannot be higher than 31, because *ageday* represents the number of days within a month that the individual has lived. To see how many months old the individual was prior to death check the variable *agemon*.
Dates Available	
	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Age (Months)

Variable Name	agemon
Label	Age – Months
Definition	The number of months the individual has lived during the year in which they were pronounced dead
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	Null Values: "."
Additional Information	If the deceased individual is less than one year old then their age is recorded in two variables which represent days of life (*ageday*) and months of life (*agemon*). Once an individual reaches one year of age then the variable for age in years (*age*) is used to record their age without any information regarding months and days of life. The individual's age in months (*agemon*) cannot be higher than 12, because *agemon* represents the number of months within a year that the individual has lived. If the individual was older than one year prior to their death then you will have to use the variable for age in years (*age*) to determine their age.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Attendant Type

Variable Name	attype
Label	Last Attendant Type
Definition	The last healthcare professional to attend the individual
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	M (Medical Examiner) O (Other) P (Physician)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Autopsy

Variable Name	autopsy
Label	Autopsy Performed
Definition	Flag indicating whether or not an autopsy was performed
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	Y (Yes) N (No)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Birth Province

Variable Name	bprov
Label	Birth Province of the Patient
Definition	Province or country in which the individual was born
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	AB (Alberta) BC (British Columbia) CA (Canada (unspecified)) MB (Manitoba) NB (New Brunswick) NF (Newfoundland & Labrador) NS (Nova Scotia) NT (Northwest Territories) ON (Ontario) PE (Prince Edward Island) QC (Quebec) SK (Saskatchewan) ZZ (Outside Canada)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Cause (Underlying)

Variable Name	
	ucause
Label	
	Underlying Cause of Death
Definition	
	Provider identified underlying cause of death
Data Type	
	CHAR
Data Element Length	
	7
Field Values	
	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	
	The underlying cause of death is defined as (a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury. ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	
	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	
	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 1

Variable Name	cause
Label	1st Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 1st cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes

Null Values: " " |
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 2

Variable Name	cause2
Label	2nd Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 2nd cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 3

Variable Name	cause3
Label	3rd Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 3rd cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 4

Variable Name	cause4
Label	4th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 4th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 5

Variable Name	cause5
Label	5th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 5th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 6

Variable Name	cause6
Label	6th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 6th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 7

Variable Name	cause7
Label	7th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 7th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 8

Variable Name	cause8
Label	8th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 8th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 9

Variable Name	cause9
Label	9th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 9th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 10

Variable Name	cause10
Label	10th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 10th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 11

Variable Name	cause11
Label	11th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 11th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 12

Variable Name	cause12
Label	12th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 12th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

Cause 13

Variable Name	cause13
Label	13th Cause of Death
Definition	Provider identified 13th cause of death after the underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	ICD-10-CM Codes Null Values: " "
Additional Information	ICD-10-CM is a series of codes used by physicians, hospitals, and allied health workers to standardize diagnosis records for all service encounters.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	ICD-9-CM codes were recorded up to, but not during FY 2000

County of Death

Variable Name	dcounty
Label	Death County
Definition	County in which the individual died
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	00 (Unknown) 01 (Annapolis) 02 (Antigonish) 03 (Cape Breton) 04 (Colchester) 05 (Cumberland) 06 (Digby) 07 (Guysborough) 08 (Halifax County) 09 (Hants) 10 (Inverness) 11 (Kings) 12 (Lunenberg) 13 (Pictou) 14 (Queens) 15 (Richmond) 16 (Shelburne) 17 (Victoria) 18 (Yarmouth) 99 (Out-of-Province)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Death Geocode

Variable Name	dgeocd
Label	Death GeoCode
Definition	Geocode for the location in which the individual died
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values (Label)	1000 (Shelburne County [**]) 1001 (Barrington [MD]) 1004 (Clark's Harbour [T]) 1006 (Shelburne [MD]) 1008 (Shelburne [T]) 1009 (Lockeport [T]) 2000 (Yarmouth County [**]) 2001 (Argyle [MD]) 2004 (Yarmouth [MD]) 2006 (Yarmouth [T]) 2040 (Yarmouth 33 [RES]) 3000 (Digby County [**]) 3001 (Clare [MD]) 3004 (Digby [MD]) 3006 (Digby [T]) 3009 (Bear River (Part) 6 [RES]) 4000 (Queens County [**]) 4001 (Queens, Subd. A [SCM]) 4006 (Liverpool [T]) 4008 (Queens, Subd. B [SCM]) 4015 (Wildcat 12 [RES]) 5000 (Annapolis County [**]) 5001 (Annapolis, Subd. D [SCM]) 5002 (Bear River (Part) 6 [RES]) 5004 (Annapolis, Subd. A [SCM]) 5006 (Bear River 6B [RES]) 5008 (Annapolis Royal [T]) 5009 (Annapolis, Subd. B. [SCM]) 5012 (Bridgetown [T]) 5014 (Annapolis, Subd. C [SCM]) 5016 (Middleton [T]) 6000 (Lunenburg County [**]) 6001 (Lunenburg [MD]) 6004 (Bridgewater [T]) 6006 (Lunenburg [T]) 6008 (Mahone Bay [T]) 6009 (Chester [MD]) 6011 (Gold River 21 [RES])

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 6014  (Pennal 19 [RES])
 6016  (New Ross 20 [RES])
 7000  (Kings County [**])
 7001  (Kings, Subd. A [SCM])
 7002  (Cambridge 32 [RES])
 7004  (Berwick [T])
 7011  (Kings, Subd. C [SCM])
 7012  (Kentville [T])
 7016  (Kings, Subd. B [SCM])
 7021  (Kings, Subd. D [SCM])
 7024  (Wolfville [T])
 7027  (Horton 35 [RES])
 8000  (Hants County [**])
 8001  (West Hants [MD])
 8002  (Windsor [T])
 8004  (Hantsport [T])
 8008  (East Hants [MD])
 8014  (Indian Brook 14 [RES])
 9000  (Halifax County [**])
 9001  (Halifax, Subd. B [SCM])
 9008  (Halifax, Subd. A [SCM])
 9012  (Halifax, Subd. C [SCM])
 9018  (Halifax, Subd. D [SCM])
 9019  (Cole Harbour 30 [RES])
 9021  (Halifax [C])
 9022  (Dartmouth [C])
 9024  (Bedford [T])
 9026  (Halifax, Subd. E [SCM])
 9029  (Shubenacadie 13 [RES])
 9031  (Halifax, Subd. F [SCM])
 9036  (Halifax, Subd. G [SCM])
 9038  (Sheet Harbour 36 [RES])
 9041  (Halifax, Subd. H [SCM])
10000  (Colchester County [**])
10001  (Colchester, Subd. C [SCM])
10002  (Stewiacke [T])
10003  (Millbrook 27 [RES])
10006  (Truro [T])
10008  (Colchester, Subd. B [SCM])
10012  (Colchester, Subd. A [SCM])
11000  (Cumberland County [**])
11001  (Cumberland, Subd. A [SCM])
11002  (Parrsboro [T])
11006  (Cumberland, Subd. B [SCM])
11008  (Springhill [T])
11009  (Cumberland, Subd. C [SCM])
11011  (Amherst [T])
11012  (Oxford [T])
11014  (Cumberland, Subd. D [SCM])
12000  (Pictou County [**])
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12001 (Pictou, Subd. A [SCM])
12004 (Pictou [T])
12006 (Pictou, Subd. B [SCM])
12008 (Westville [T])
12009 (Stellarton [T])
12011 (Pictou, Subd. C [SCM])
12014 (New Glasgow [T])
12016 (Trenton [T])
12019 (Fishers Grant 24 [RES])
12023 (Merigomish Harbour 31 [RES])
13000 (Guysborough County [**])
13001 (St. Mary's [MD])
13004 (Guysborough [MD])
13006 (Canso [T])
13008 (Mulgrave [T])
14000 (Antigonish County [**])
14001 (Antigonish, Subd. A [SCM])
14002 (Antigonish [T])
14006 (Antigonish, Subd. B [SCM])
14010 (Pomquet And Afton 23 [RES])
14024 (Summerside 38 [RES])
15000 (Inverness County [**])
15001 (Inverness, Subd. C [SCM])
15002 (Port Hawkesbury [T])
15006 (Inverness, Subd. B [SCM])
15008 (Whycocomagh 2 [RES])
15011 (Inverness, Subd. A [SCM])
16000 (Richmond County [**])
16001 (Richmond, Subd. C [SCM])
16006 (Richmond, Subd. A [SCM])
16011 (Richmond, Subd. B [SCM])
16014 (Chapel Island 5 [RES])
17000 (Cape Breton County [**])
17001 (Cape Breton, Subd. C [SCM])
17004 (Louisbourg [T])
17006 (Cape Breton, Subd. B [SCM])
17008 (Membertou 28B (Sydney) [RES])
17009 (Glace Bay [T])
17011 (Dominion [T])
17012 (New Waterford [T])
17014 (Sydney [T])
17016 (Cape Breton, Subd. A [SCM])
17018 (North Sydney [T])
17019 (Sydney Mines [T])
17020 (Eskasoni 3 [RES])
17030 (Cape Breton [RGM])
18000 (Victoria County [**])
18001 (Victoria, Subd. B [SCM])
18003 (Wagmatcook 1 [RES])
18006 (Victoria, Subd. A [SCM])

Additional Information	First two digits represent county corresponding to Census Division Last three digits represent Census Subdivision
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Date of Birth

Variable Name	dob
Label	Date of Birth
Definition	Individual's date of birth
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	8
Field Values	Null Values: "."
Additional Information	Due to confidentiality reasons date of birth will not be released in full to external researchers because of the potential to identify individuals. Month and Year of birth may be released if required for a research project and approved by the HDNS Data Access Committee. Alternatively, a variable for age at a given index date may be derived by HDNS and released. Date of birth (*dob*) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Date of Death

Variable Name	dod
Label	Date of Death
Definition	Date in which the individual died
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	8
Field Values	Null Values: None
Additional Information	Date of death (*dod*) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Marital Status

Variable Name	marital
Label	Marital Status
Definition	The marital status of the individual at the time of death
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	D　　　(Divorced) M　　　(Married) S　　　(Single) W　　　(Widowed) U　　　(Unknown)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Medical Exam

Variable Name	medexam
Label	Medical Exam Performed
Definition	Flag indicating whether or not a medical exam was performed
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	Y (Yes) N (No)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Health Care Number

Variable Name	msi
Label	Patient MSI Health Card Number (HCN)
Definition	Encrypted MSI health care number of the individual
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	
	Individual's msi health card number is not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. It is used internally by HDNS for data linkage. In some cases a valid HCN is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a "dummy" HCN. Observations containing a dummy HCN, or a null value are to be excluded from most analysis which focus on the MSI eligible population. Unique IDs can be generated by HDNS for research projects which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Nature 1

Variable Name	nature1
Label	1st Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a primary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the first nature of injury (*nature1*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Nature 2

Variable Name	nature2
Label	2nd Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Nature 3

Variable Name	nature3
Label	3rd Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 4

Variable Name	nature4
Label	4th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 5

Variable Name	nature5
Label	5th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 6

Variable Name	nature6
Label	6th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 7

Variable Name	nature7
Label	7th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 8

Variable Name	nature8
Label	8th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 9

Variable Name	nature9
Label	9th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Nature 10

Variable Name	nature10
Label	10th Nature of Injury
Definition	ICD-10-CM injury code describing a secondary external cause or injury resulting in morbidity
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	The values in the second nature of injury (*nature2*) are ICD-10-CM code groups S and T. Where S codes represent a physical injury related to morbidity and T codes are other external causes of morbidity such as burns or poisoning.
Dates Available	Calendar 2004 – present
History	

Number of
Underlying Causes

Variable Name	numunder
Label	# of underlying causes
Definition	The number of underlying causes contributing to death
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	Null Values: "."
Additional Information	The number of underlying causes (*numunder*) is a quality assurance variable used by HDNS to ensure that all individuals in the dataset were recorded properly during the data roll up process.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Place of Injury

Variable Name	placeinj
Label	Place of Injury
Definition	Non-specific location of fatal injury or injury leading to death
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	0 (Home) 1 (Farm) 2 (Mine/Quarry) 3 (Industrial Location) 4 (Recreational Location) 5 (Street/Highway) 6 (Public Building) 7 (Residential Institution) 8 (Other) 9 (Unspecified)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

County of Residence

Variable Name	rcounty
Label	County of Residence
Definition	County of correspondence for the individual before being pronounced dead
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	00 (Unknown) 01 (Annapolis) 02 (Antigonish) 03 (Cape Breton) 04 (Colchester) 05 (Cumberland) 06 (Digby) 07 (Guysborough) 08 (Halifax County) 09 (Hants) 10 (Inverness) 11 (Kings) 12 (Lunenberg) 13 (Pictou) 14 (Queens) 15 (Richmond) 16 (Shelburne) 17 (Victoria) 18 (Yarmouth) 99 (Out-of-Province)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Registration Number

Variable Name	regnbr
Label	Registration Number
Definition	Registration number used to link death and cause datasets
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	6
Field Values	Null Values: None
Additional Information	The registration number (*regnbr*) is used at HDNS during data rollup. Each individual has one record in the deaths dataset but may have many records in the cause dataset. Therefore, when the two datasets are merged all of the cause records are made into *cause1* to *cause13* and the underlying cause (*ucause*) variables. This is procedure is completed during data rollup to maintain a standard of one record of death per individual.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Residence Geocode

Variable Name	
	rgeocd
Label	
	Death GeoCode
Definition	
	Geocode of the individual's correspondence address prior to being pronounced dead
Data Type	
	NUM
Data Element Length	
	4
Field Values (Label)	
	1000 (Shelburne County [**]) 1001 (Barrington [MD]) 1004 (Clark's Harbour [T]) 1006 (Shelburne [MD]) 1008 (Shelburne [T]) 1009 (Lockeport [T]) 2000 (Yarmouth County [**]) 2001 (Argyle [MD]) 2004 (Yarmouth [MD]) 2006 (Yarmouth [T]) 2040 (Yarmouth 33 [RES]) 3000 (Digby County [**]) 3001 (Clare [MD]) 3004 (Digby [MD]) 3006 (Digby [T]) 3009 (Bear River (Part) 6 [RES]) 4000 (Queens County [**]) 4001 (Queens, Subd. A [SCM]) 4006 (Liverpool [T]) 4008 (Queens, Subd. B [SCM]) 4015 (Wildcat 12 [RES]) 5000 (Annapolis County [**]) 5001 (Annapolis, Subd. D [SCM]) 5002 (Bear River (Part) 6 [RES]) 5004 (Annapolis, Subd. A [SCM]) 5006 (Bear River 6B [RES]) 5008 (Annapolis Royal [T]) 5009 (Annapolis, Subd. B. [SCM]) 5012 (Bridgetown [T]) 5014 (Annapolis, Subd. C [SCM]) 5016 (Middleton [T]) 6000 (Lunenburg County [**]) 6001 (Lunenburg [MD]) 6004 (Bridgewater [T]) 6006 (Lunenburg [T])

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 6008  (Mahone Bay [T])
 6009  (Chester [MD])
 6011  (Gold River 21 [RES])
 6014  (Pennal 19 [RES])
 6016  (New Ross 20 [RES])
 7000  (Kings County [**])
 7001  (Kings, Subd. A [SCM])
 7002  (Cambridge 32 [RES])
 7004  (Berwick [T])
 7011  (Kings, Subd. C [SCM])
 7012  (Kentville [T])
 7016  (Kings, Subd. B [SCM])
 7021  (Kings, Subd. D [SCM])
 7024  (Wolfville [T])
 7027  (Horton 35 [RES])
 8000  (Hants County [**])
 8001  (West Hants [MD])
 8002  (Windsor [T])
 8004  (Hantsport [T])
 8008  (East Hants [MD])
 8014  (Indian Brook 14 [RES])
 9000  (Halifax County [**])
 9001  (Halifax, Subd. B [SCM])
 9008  (Halifax, Subd. A [SCM])
 9012  (Halifax, Subd. C [SCM])
 9018  (Halifax, Subd. D [SCM])
 9019  (Cole Harbour 30 [RES])
 9021  (Halifax [C])
 9022  (Dartmouth [C])
 9024  (Bedford [T])
 9026  (Halifax, Subd. E [SCM])
 9029  (Shubenacadie 13 [RES])
 9031  (Halifax, Subd. F [SCM])
 9036  (Halifax, Subd. G [SCM])
 9038  (Sheet Harbour 36 [RES])
 9041  (Halifax, Subd. H [SCM])
10000  (Colchester County [**])
10001  (Colchester, Subd. C [SCM])
10002  (Stewiacke [T])
10003  (Millbrook 27 [RES])
10006  (Truro [T])
10008  (Colchester, Subd. B [SCM])
10012  (Colchester, Subd. A [SCM])
11000  (Cumberland County [**])
11001  (Cumberland, Subd. A [SCM])
11002  (Parrsboro [T])
11006  (Cumberland, Subd. B [SCM])
11008  (Springhill [T])
11009  (Cumberland, Subd. C [SCM])
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11011 (Amherst [T])
11012 (Oxford [T])
11014 (Cumberland, Subd. D [SCM])
12000 (Pictou County [**])
12001 (Pictou, Subd. A [SCM])
12004 (Pictou [T])
12006 (Pictou, Subd. B [SCM])
12008 (Westville [T])
12009 (Stellarton [T])
12011 (Pictou, Subd. C [SCM])
12014 (New Glasgow [T])
12016 (Trenton [T])
12019 (Fishers Grant 24 [RES])
12023 (Merigomish Harbour 31 [RES])
13000 (Guysborough County [**])
13001 (St. Mary's [MD])
13004 (Guysborough [MD])
13006 (Canso [T])
13008 (Mulgrave [T])
14000 (Antigonish County [**])
14001 (Antigonish, Subd. A [SCM])
14002 (Antigonish [T])
14006 (Antigonish, Subd. B [SCM])
14010 (Pomquet And Afton 23 [RES])
14024 (Summerside 38 [RES])
15000 (Inverness County [**])
15001 (Inverness, Subd. C [SCM])
15002 (Port Hawkesbury [T])
15006 (Inverness, Subd. B [SCM])
15008 (Whycocomagh 2 [RES])
15011 (Inverness, Subd. A [SCM])
16000 (Richmond County [**])
16001 (Richmond, Subd. C [SCM])
16006 (Richmond, Subd. A [SCM])
16011 (Richmond, Subd. B [SCM])
16014 (Chapel Island 5 [RES])
17000 (Cape Breton County [**])
17001 (Cape Breton, Subd. C [SCM])
17004 (Louisbourg [T])
17006 (Cape Breton, Subd. B [SCM])
17008 (Membertou 28B (Sydney) [RES])
17009 (Glace Bay [T])
17011 (Dominion [T])
17012 (New Waterford [T])
17014 (Sydney [T])
17016 (Cape Breton, Subd. A [SCM])
17018 (North Sydney [T])
17019 (Sydney Mines [T])
17020 (Eskasoni 3 [RES])

17030 (Cape Breton [RGM])
18000 (Victoria County [**])
18001 (Victoria, Subd. B [SCM])
18003 (Wagmatcook 1 [RES])
18006 (Victoria, Subd. A [SCM])

Additional Information	First two digits represent county corresponding to Census Division Last three digits represent Census Subdivision
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Postal Code of
Residence

Variable Name	rpostcod
Label	Residence Postal Code
Definition	Postal code of the individual's correspondence address prior to being pronounced dead
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	6
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	Only the first three digits are available for release. Full postal code may be released only if deemed necessary for the research project by the HDNS Data Access Committee.
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Province of Residence

Variable Name	rprov
Label	Province of Residence
Definition	Province of the individual's correspondence address prior to being pronounced dead
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	AB (Alberta) BC (British Columbia) CA (Canada (unspecified)) MB (Manitoba) NB (New Brunswick) NF (Newfoundland & Labrador) NS (Nova Scotia) NT (Northwest Territories) ON (Ontario) PE (Prince Edward Island) QC (Quebec) SK (Saskatchewan) ZZ (Outside Canada)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Sex

Variable Name	sex
Label	Patient Gender
Definition	The individual's sex
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	F (Female) M (Male) U (Unknown) Null Values: None
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2013
History	

Discontinued Variables

Source of HCN

Variable Name	hcnfrom
Label	Source of HCN
Definition	Location of origin of individual's Health Care Number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 1998
History	Discontinued after 1998

Social Insurance Number

Variable Name	sin
Label	Social Insurance Number
Definition	Encrypted SIN of the Individual
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 – 2010
History	Discontinued as of 2011

Postal Code
(Death)

Variable Name	dpostcod
Label	Death Postal Code
Definition	Postal code of the location in which the individual died
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	6
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2010
History	Not provided as of 2011

Hospital

Variable Name	hospital
Label	Hospital
Definition	Hospital in which the individual was pronounced dead
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	01 (OPD Facility) 02 (Acute Care Outside N.S.) 03 (Homes for Special Care) 04 (Home Hospital Care) 09 (Admitted for Organ Donation) 10 (Admitted for Organ Donation) 11 (Aberdeen) 12 (All Saints) 13 (Annapolis Health Center) 14 (South Shore Health Services) 15 (Buchanan Memorial) 16 (Camp Hill Hospital) 17 (Izaak Walton Killam) 18 (Colchester) 19 (South Shore Regional) 20 (Digby General) 21 (Eastern Kings Health Center) 22 (Eastern Memorial) 23 (Eastern Shore Memorial) 24 (Fishermen's Memorial) 25 (Glace Bay General) 26 (Grace Maternity) 27 (Guysborough Memorial) 28 (Halifax Infirmary) 30 (Highland View) 32 (Lillian Fraser) 33 (Musquodoboit Valley) 34 (Inverness Consolidated) 35 (North Cumberland) 36 (Nova Scotia Rehab Center) 37 (Hants Community) 38 (Queens General) 39 (Roseway) 40 (St. Anne Community) 41 (Northside Harbour View) 42 (Glace Bay Community) 43 (St. Martha's) 45 (St. Mary's Memorial)

	46	(Sydney Community Health)
	47	(Sacred Heart)
	48	(Soldiers Memorial)
	49	(South Cumberland)
	50	(Sutherland Harris Mem.)
	51	(Sydney City)
	52	(Twin Oaks)
	53	(Victoria County)
	54	(Victoria General)
	55	(Western Kings)
	56	(Yarmouth Regional)
	58	(Bayview Memorial)
	61	(Cobequid Multi-Service Center)
	63	(New Waterford)
	64	(Point Pleasant Lodge)
	65	(Dartmouth General)
	67	(Valley Health Services)
	68	(Strait-Richmond)
	69	(N.S. Hearing & Speech)
	70	(N.S. Cancer Research Center)
	72	(Cape Breton Hospital)
	73	(Cape Breton Regional)
	74	(Abbey Lane)
	75	(Glace Bay Health Care)
	76	(Kings Regional Health Centre)
	77	(Nova Scotia Hospital)
	78	(QEII - no site specified)
	79	(QEII - V.G. Site)
	80	(QEII - New Hfx Infirmary)
	81	(QEII - Camp Hill Site)
	82	(QEII - NS Rehab Center)
	83	(C.B. Regional - Glace Bay)
	84	(C.B. Regional - Sydney)
	85	(C.B. Regional - North Sydney)
	86	(IWK Grace for Women & Children)
	87	(Cape Breton Health Care Complex)
	88	(Other Facilities)
	89	(N.S. Coordinated Home Care)
	90	(Other Home Care Program)
	99	(Unknown Hospital)
Additional Information		
Dates Available	Calendar 1990 - 2010	
History	Not provided as of 2011	

Underlying Cause
(ICD-9-CM)

Variable Name	ucause9
Label	ICD-9 encoding of underlying cause
Definition	The ICD-9-CM equivalent of the ICD-10-CM underlying cause
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	5
Field Values	ICD-9-CM codes
Additional Information	
Dates Available	2000 - 2001
History	Introduced when the VITAL datasets switched from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM encoding.

End of Document.