



PROJECT TIMELINE

WHALES Birth

Registration:

- * Training for hospitals and midwives: **May/June 2015**
- * Birth Registration **Go Live:** May/June 2015

WHALES Birth/Death Issuance:

- * Design/Build Screens: **March 2015** - Oct 2015
- * Testing: Jun 2015 - Nov 2015
- * Training for local health jurisdictions: Dec 2015 - Jan 2016
- * Birth/Death Issuance **Go Live:** Jan/Feb 2016
- * Transition from VRWA to WHALES - Jan/Feb 2016 (tentative)
- * Marriage/Divorce Issuance **Go Live:** May 2016

Next Issue: April 2015

WHALES Schedule Status Update

The WHALES project is progressing! The birth registration prototype is nearly ready for testing. Training for users will begin in May while the new system is piloted by select hospitals and midwives across the state. Once we go live with the new birth registration system, the existing birth registration system (BR3) will be retired. Although registration of births will shift from BR3 to WHALES late spring, issuance of birth certificates will continue through the existing vital records system until 2016.

Work to move historical records from our current vital records system (Bedrock) into WHALES will begin just as we are wrapping up on birth registration. The complete transfer of data and issuance functions to WHALES is planned for early 2016. At that time, WHALES will also replace the Vital Records Web Access system (VRWA).

Birth Registration News

During development, we decided to modify the birth filing form based on information gathered from the birth certificate reporting survey conducted by DOH in July 2014. We moved some of the medical information, including smoking history, WIC, mother's height and pre-pregnancy weight to the parent portion of the form in an effort to collect more accurate data. The marital status questions were expanded and instructions provided to facilitate the correct response. The new form will go into effect with the new birth registration system.

Readiness Survey

Just before the launch of each component of WHALES, we will send a readiness survey to those who use that part of the system and anyone involved in the process. The readiness survey for the birth registration system will go out within a week or two of the launch. Please be sure to complete the survey when you get it. Your responses will provide important information about any system issues that could prevent a smooth start on the go live date.

Pilot Site Volunteers Needed!

Do you want to see and use WHALES before it goes live? Would you like to provide valuable feedback? Volunteer your facility as a pilot test site! **Testing with select facilities will occur for two weeks in May.**

We will also need local health jurisdictions to pilot test the certificate issuing functions of WHALES at this time next year. It is never too early to let us know if your LHJ would like to volunteer!

Email whales@doh.wa.gov for more information.

Birth Focus Group

We would like to give a big thanks to the hospital staff and midwives who volunteered to be part of our birth registration Focus Group. The group includes rural, large and small facilities, as well as midwives. As part of the revision process for the birth filing form, we reached out to our focus groups for input on format and ease of use.

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