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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Uses of vital statistics data -- The federal-state cooperative relationship -- Methodological issues and the 2003 revision of standard instruments -- Options for a 21st century vital statistics program.
Sommario/riassunto	Vital statistics, the records of birth and death, are a critical national information resource for understanding public health. Over the past few decades, the specific program that gathers the data has evolved into a complex cooperative program between the federal and state governments for social measurement. The Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) is currently maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).