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dents and nonresidents. Births to nonresidents of the United States are excluded from all tabulations by place of residence beginning in 1970. (See "Classification by occurrence and residence" for further discussion.) Births occurring to U.S. citizens outside the United States are not included in any tabulations in this report. Similarly the data for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam are limited to births registered in these areas.

Standard Certificate of Live Birth

The U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth, issued by the Public Health Service, has served for many years as the principal means of attaining uniformity in the content of the documents used to collect information on births in the United States. It has been modified in each State to the extent required by the particular State's needs or by special provisions of the State's vital statistics law. However, most State certificates conform closely in content to the standard certificate.

The first standard certificate of birth was developed in 1900. Since then it has been revised periodically by the national vital statistics agency through consultation with State health officers and registrars; Federal agencies concerned with vital statistics; national, State, and county medical societies; and others working in the fields of public health, social welfare, demography, and insurance. This procedure has assured careful evaluation of each item for its current and future usefulness for legal, medical, demographic, and research purposes. New items have been added when necessary, and old items have been modified to ensure better reporting or, in some cases, dropped when their usefulness appeared to be limited.

1978 revision—Effective January 1, 1978, a revised U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth (figure 4-A) replaced the 1968 revision. Changes on the 1978 standard certificate include a new item on 1- and 5-minute Apgar

FIGURE 4-A.

