II.	Data File Characteristics

Each record on the annual tape files contains two multiple cause-of-death fields which have been coded using ICD-9. In addition, underlying cause, demographic, and geographic detail data accompany the multiple cause-of-death data. The tape files contain the complete level of detail coded by NCHS except where precluded by confidentiality restrictions or lack of data reliability.

Specifications for the 1998 tape files are as follows:

File Organization:	Multiple files, multiple reels
Record Type:	Blocked, fixed format
Record Length:	440
Blocksize:	26400

U.S. DATA SET:

1.	Record count:	2,340,708
2.	Data counts: a. By occurrence:	2,340,708
	b. By residence:	2,337,256
	c. To foreign residents:	3,452

PUERTO RICO, VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA AND NORTHERN MARIANAS DATA SET:

1. Record count: 31,655

PUERTO RICO:

2. Data counts:	a. By occurrence:	29,986
	b. By residence	29,861

VIRGIN ISLANDS:

2. Data counts:	a. By occurrence:	613
	b. By residence:	615

GUAM:

2. Data Counts:	a. By occurrence:	651
	b. By residence:	632

AMERICAN SAMOA:

2. Data Counts:	a. By occurrence:	243
	b. By residence:	243

NORTHERN MARIANAS:

2. Data Counts:	a. By occurence:	162
	b. By residence:	162

1. The data were processed using the PL/1 language on an IBM 9672.

2. The last block for the data year may be a short block.

3. The data are recorded in IBM/EBCDIC 8-bit code for each character.

4. Codes may be numeric, alphabetic, or blank (Hex 40).

5. A code "z" is the EBCDIC code for the letter "z".

6. A code "&" is the EBCDIC code for an ampersand (a punched card code 12).