

## Cooperative Agreement Corner



Our Cooperative Agreement with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) supports activities for jurisdictions. Upcoming opportunities are provided below.

### Interest Groups:

NAPHSIS is hosting monthly special interest groups for jurisdictional members to share and learn from one another on the topics below.

- Field Services Interest Group
- Systems Interest Group

If you are interested in joining either interest group, please email NAPHSIS at: [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org).

### Accreditation Webinar

The next Accreditation Webinar will be taking place on December 10th at 3:00 ET. The topic of this webinar is "Preparing for Accreditation: Part 2." [Click here](#) to register.

### Reporting injuries on the death certificate

When manner of death is reported as Accident, Homicide or Suicide, many times the "Describe How Injury Occurred" item is being reported as "blank." When items are reported as "blank" it is unknown whether the item was skipped or if there was an issue in transmitting that information to NCHS. As of November 2020, 42 out of 57 jurisdictions have at least 1 record where the Manner of Death is reported as Accident, Homicide, or Suicide and the injury description is blank. NCHS specifications require that this item be completed by the medical certifier and should not be left blank. When this information is not known, "Unknown" should be reported. Otherwise, a clear, brief statement as to how the injury occurred should be included, indicating the circumstances or cause. For example, "Burned using gasoline to light stove," "Slipped and fell while shoveling snow," or "Self-inflicted handgun wound." Please ensure that your EDRS is exporting this information to NCHS. It is also recommended that you reach out to the medical certifiers that are responsible for completing this information when items are left blank.

As a reminder all of the NCHS Specifications can be found [here](#).

### 2020 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2020 contract closeout and draft 2020 file release dates. Note that to include a jurisdiction's most current information in the file release, all corrections and final file deliverables are due no later than the target dates listed. The target dates are highlighted in red, as are the contract closeout dates and the dates for final updates. The dates for final updates are subject to change and may be earlier, depending on the quality of the national file.

#### 2020 Birth File

(States) Target for States to correct errors for provisional file	January 22, 2021
(DACEB) Release provisional 2020 birth data to Hyattsville	February 11, 2021
(States) Contract closeout for 2020 birth data	March 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 birth file updates accepted	April 9, 2021
(DACEB) Release of final 2020 birth data to Hyattsville	May 6, 2021

#### 2020 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 deaths	May 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 death file updates accepted	June 15, 2021
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 26, 2021
(DACEB) Release final 2020 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	October 1, 2021

#### 2020 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 fetal deaths	May 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 fetal death file updates accepted	June 25, 2021
(DACEB) Release final 2020 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 26, 2021

As the 2020 files are closed, jurisdictions are encouraged to contact their assigned Data Acquisition, Classification and Evaluation Branch (DACEB) staff with any questions or feedback on the file closeout process.

### Reminder: SAMS Access and SAMS Migration

Current SAMS users, have you checked your access recently? If not, this is a friendly reminder to log on to your SAMS account to maintain access. Although we do not anticipate an extended outage with STEVE, in such an unlikely event, you can still send

files or images via SAMS. Each jurisdiction **must** maintain at least one user with access to SAMS, and we suggest adding another user as a backup. If you received notification that your SAMS account has not been active for an extended time we encourage you to log into SAMS. This will also help you to avoid having to re-register or complete the ID proofing requirement again.

As mentioned in the September NVSS Newsletter, SAMS will be moving to a new platform for secure data transmission. The transition to SAMS SDX is expected to begin November 30<sup>th</sup>. SAMS DPS will be taken offline and final programming will occur after 4:00 p.m. (ET) November 30<sup>th</sup> and SAMS SDX will be ready for use December 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (ET). Existing SAMS users should have received an email notification November 25<sup>th</sup> related to this change. Navigation instructions, the new link and the NVSS file naming convention were included..

If you have any issues with SAMS, please contact:  
SAMS Helpdesk Support  
1-877-681-2901  
[samshelp@cdc.gov](mailto:samshelp@cdc.gov)

### Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



The Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice, launched in October 2020, is a virtual learning and innovation forum for sharing ideas, technical tools, resources, and promising practices to improve the

timeliness and quality of birth and death data. In addition to the main COP monthly meetings, it also convenes a monthly technical subgroup focused on more detailed discussions on technical topics of interest, as well as offers opportunities for virtual testing of FHIR-based interoperability, including preparing for participation at connect-a-thons. The COP welcomes all jurisdictions and partners interested in modernizing vital records – at any level of experience – to promote interoperability for faster, higher quality data.

The NVSS Modernization COP currently hosts the following standing meetings:

- Technical Assistance Office hours (each Tuesday @ 3pm ET)
  - Next weekly meeting: December 1<sup>st</sup> (12/22 and 12/29 office hours cancelled)
- NVSS Technical Subgroup Meeting (each 4<sup>th</sup> Wed @ 1pm ET)
  - Next monthly meeting: December 9<sup>th</sup> (Nov and Dec meetings combined due to holidays)
- NVSS Modernization COP Meeting (each 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed @ 3pm ET)
  - Next monthly meeting: December 16<sup>th</sup>

### Upcoming Highlights:

- During the **December 9<sup>th</sup> Combined Technical Subgroup meeting**, we welcome our technical partner MITRE, to give a detailed demonstration of a suite of tools for EDRS to NCHS/NVSS interoperability.
- The theme of the **December 16<sup>th</sup> COP meeting** will be “Carrying out a process analysis to identify and eliminate

bottle necks in the mortality flow and improve timeliness of data.” We look forward to a facilitated discussion including best practices, directly from state vital registration offices.

- We welcome feedback on a recorded training demonstration on Canary (testing tools for FHIR based interoperability) posted on the Citrix Share File site.

### How to stay up to date on our activities or to get involved

To get added to the NVSS Modernization Email Distribution List, send us an email: [nvssmodernization@cdc.gov](mailto:nvssmodernization@cdc.gov).

### Notable Publications/Data Briefs

#### Maternal and Infant Characteristics Among Women with Confirmed or Presumed Cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) During Pregnancy

This recent report was released November 17<sup>th</sup> and can be found at this [link](#). This release includes data from 12 states and the District of Columbia on characteristics of women with COVID-19 during pregnancy, and their newborns. These data are based on cases of COVID-19 reported to NCHS and linked to the standard birth record, allowing for an analysis of birth-related data by maternal COVID-19 status. While these data are not representative of all births in the United States and have other limitations, they provide a multi-state view of the impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy. Additional jurisdictions have recently begun reporting maternal COVID-19 cases to NCHS and their data will be included in future updates, which will be released on a bimonthly basis.

If your jurisdiction would like to collaborate on this important project, please contact Joyce Martin at [jcm9@cdc.gov](mailto:jcm9@cdc.gov) or Claudia Valenzuela at [gat5@cdc.gov](mailto:gat5@cdc.gov)

#### Provisional Estimates for Selected Maternal and Infant Outcomes by Month, 2018-2020

This recent report was released November 17<sup>th</sup> and can be found at this [link](#). NCHS released provisional estimates, using national data, for selected pregnancy characteristics and birth outcomes that may be directly or indirectly related to COVID-19. This includes data on timing and adequacy of prenatal care, cesarean delivery, preterm delivery, and infant birth weight. Estimates are shown for each month in 2020 and compared with final data for the same period in 2019 and 2018 to identify changes. Updates will be released on a quarterly basis.

### State and Jurisdiction Input Goes Here!!

Have a topic to share with the monthly newsletter audience? We want to hear from you and feature your segments! Please send us your initiatives from the broader community, questions, or lessons learned. Send it to **George Tolson** at [gct1@cdc.gov](mailto:gct1@cdc.gov) today!

### Vital Staff Spotlights

Jurisdictions may add as many names as they would like to our NCHS Newsletter mailing list! Just send a note to **George Tolson** at [gct1@cdc.gov](mailto:gct1@cdc.gov) today.

Click [here](#) for previous newsletter issues!