



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.

November VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. In November, join us to learn about the wrap-up of the Mortality Data Quality Workgroup and to hear from NAPHSIS staff about the Jurisdictional Database and the Code Repository created for jurisdictions to share their code with one another. [Register](#) to join us on November 9, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Field Services Special Interest Group

What questions do you have regarding field services and data quality? Want to hear about best practices in training your providers? Do you need guidance on quality assurance programs? If so, the Field Services Interest Group monthly meetings can be a great resource. Hear from jurisdictions sharing their experiences and lessons learned in dealing with their internal and external partners on various field services, data quality improvement and training topics. The next Field Services Interest Group meeting time is TBD because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Email hq@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Systems Special Interest Group

Come ask your technical peers about how they grapple with adjusting their vital records systems to meet the needs of vital records, data partners, and interoperability with other systems. The next Systems Special Interest Group meets on November 18, 2022, at 12 p.m. ET. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

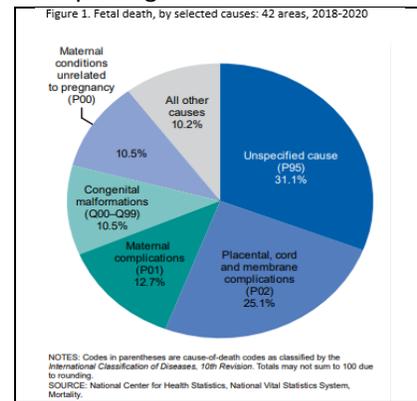
Request for 2023 procedures and documentation

The VSCP contract requires each jurisdiction to provide documentation on state procedures and software used in the coding, keying, and editing of birth data records, death demographic data records, mortality medical information, linked birth/infant death data and fetal death data records. For 2023, NCHS will be requesting copies of all certificates and worksheets for each event from each jurisdiction. We also ask that you let us know if you anticipate any electronic system changes for 2023. You should have received this request from your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Cause of Fetal Death from the Fetal Death File, 2018-2020

This report was released in October 2022 and can be found at this [link](#). It presents data on fetal cause of death by maternal age, maternal race and Hispanic origin, fetal sex, period of gestation, birthweight, and plurality. Figure 1 shows in detail that five selected causes of fetal death accounted for 89.8% of fetal deaths in 42 reporting areas.



Quarterly Provisional Estimates of Selected Birth Indicators 2020-Quarter 2 2022

This web release was made available in October 2022 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows provisional birth data through June 2022 on selected reproductive indicators (e.g., teen birth rates, method of delivery, preterm birth rates, NICU admission) by race and Hispanic origin of the mother (non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic).

Provisional Estimates for Selected Maternal and Infant Outcomes by Month, 2018 through June 2022

This web release was made available in October 2022 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows national provisional birth data by month for January 2021 through June 2022, compared with 2019 and 2020 for selected medical and health items.

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



The [Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice \(NVSS COP\)](#) is a shared space for learning and innovation and provides a forum for jurisdictions and their partners working in the modernization space to come together on topics of mutual interest.

CDC Director Speaks at 10/26 NVSS COP meeting

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, CDC Director, addressed nearly 250 members of the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice during the COP Main meeting held on October 26th. After being introduced by Brian Moyer, NCHS Director, Dr. Walensky acknowledged several of the accomplishments made by jurisdictional Vital Records Offices in the modernization space. She acknowledged the 41 jurisdictions that have participated either as a tester or observer in one of the NCHS-organized testing events to demonstrate FHIR-based interoperability. Dr. Walensky recognized that over 70 percent of jurisdictions have access to the NVSS API test environment, allowing them to carry out formal and informal testing as part of their systems-strengthening efforts. She mentioned that thirteen jurisdictions have signed up for certification by NCHS to begin exchanging mortality data with NCHS using new FHIR standards, and the five jurisdictions that are in production with FHIR between at least one coroner medical examiner case management system and Electronic Death Registration Systems. Dr. Walensky thanked the community for advancing the work in the modernization space for vital records. She said, "This is just the beginning," expressing the agency's gratefulness for the community's efforts, and stating that she looks forward to the improvements to come. The full recording of the meeting, including Dr. Walensky's remarks, is available to Community of Practice members on the [NVSS COP SharePoint Site](#).

Quarterly NCHS-Hosted Testing Event and Outcomes

The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice organized a successful testing event on October 17th and 18th. The workflow of focus was between EDRS to STEVE to NCHS. Eighteen (18) jurisdictions, including Kentucky, Idaho, New Hampshire, Delaware, Michigan, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Louisiana, Florida, Washington DC, the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, Arkansas, and Kansas, Minnesota, New York City, Wyoming, and Mississippi, as well as NVSS and NAPHSIS participated as testers. Additionally, twelve (12) jurisdictions to include North Dakota, Oregon, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, California, Washington, Georgia, Utah, Texas, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Virginia participated as observers.

Testing Results include:

- Participants were able to successfully connect with the STEVE and NCHS API.
- Several states were able to work through tier 1 and tier 2 of the test plan with a plan to finish the two tiers at the end of the testing events.

Lessons Learned Include:

- Observers felt engaged - they had a chance to interact and learn during the jurisdiction-led break out session.
- Breakout sessions on the MDI modernization with FHIR were well appreciated by the observing jurisdictions and were well aligned with optional activities under Tier III.

Special thanks to the MITRE, NAPHSIS, GTRI, and Ruvos for their ongoing collaborations in the NVSS modernization space. The next NCHS-hosted testing event will be held December 5-6th and will focus on the EDRS to STEVE to NCHS flow. Preparation calls will begin during office hours on November 8th. Jurisdictions interested in participating in upcoming testing events should send an email to the NVSS Modernization [mailbox](#). In the meantime, jurisdictions are encouraged to continue informal testing using the NCHS and STEVE API (test) in between events, to complete all 4 tiers if they would like, and to continue to post questions on [Zulip chat](#) and attend office hours meetings. The community looks forward to hearing from the testing jurisdictions during the 11/16/22 combined COP meeting and to continued collaboration in working towards our collective NVSS modernization goals.

Special thanks to our Round Robin presenters during the October NVSS Modernization COP Main meeting:

- *Pennsylvania: VRMS Modernization Progress. Michael Adelberg*, Assistant State Registrar, PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries.
- *Rhode Island: Center for Vital Records Modernization Project – Rhode Island Vital Events Registration System. Blake Ducharme*, Sr Program Registration Manager, Center for Vital Records, RI Department of Health.

October 5 ELC HIS All-Hands Webinar Recording and Slides Available

The ELC HIS All-Hands, which was held on October 5th, drew over 500 participants, maxing out the available Zoom lines, so many jurisdictions may not have been able to access the call. For your convenience, a recording of the All-Hands is available here: [October 5 All Hands Presentation Recording](#), and the finalized slide deck is available on the NVSS SharePoint Site here: [NVSS COP SharePoint Site](#) (Click Meeting Proceeds→ELC Program Orientation and All Hands Folder).

Vital Staff Spotlights

Mariah Pokorny departed her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in South Dakota.

Shawna Flax was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in South Dakota.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)