



Publication Date – September 2025

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.

VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. You can forward this invitation to others in your office who might be interested. However, you cannot forward your approved registration, as each attendee must register separately. The next VSCP Project Directors Webinar will be October 8, 2025, at 2 p.m. Eastern. Join the webinar at <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/8L4DT1eURtWm4-2UXHwp9A>.

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 Field Services Interest Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m. Eastern. 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 Systems Special Interest Group meets on the last Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Statistics Interest Group

The Statistics Interest Group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. Eastern. This is an opportunity to gather virtually each month to discuss topics of interest related to public health statistics. Please email us at hq@naphsis.org if you are interested in participating.

Birth Data Quality Interest Group (BDQW)

The BDQW meets on the first Thursday of every other month at 2 pm Eastern. This workgroup discusses data quality topics related to natality and is also working on recommendations for the birth and fetal death certificate revisions. If you are interested in assessing and improving the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, contact NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

NAPHSIS is launching a VRHS Accreditation Cohort

Join a small group of motivated jurisdictions to tackle accreditation together with shared goals, monthly check-ins, and expert support. Cohort members will receive customized coaching, peer learning, tools and templates, feedback from NAPHSIS staff, and a scholarship to attend the Accreditation Coordinator Workshop. To join this cohort, submit your application by May 2026, complete your documentation by May 2027, and participate in monthly group calls plus periodic individual check-ins. [Learn more and submit your application here.](#)

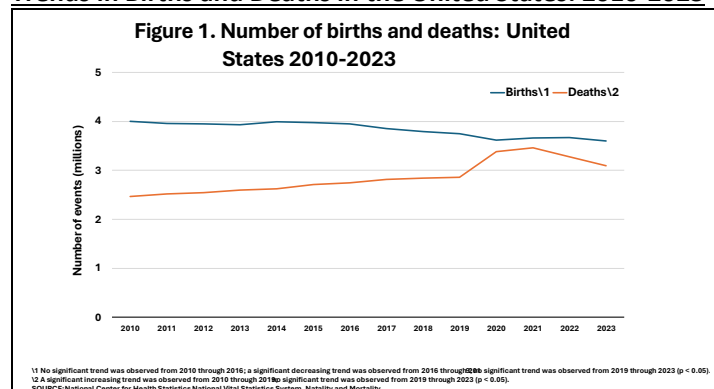
Invoicing for 2024 VSCP and NDI Data

Thank you for all your efforts in completing the 2024 data files. Now that the 2024 data files from the jurisdictions are complete, jurisdictions may submit invoices for any outstanding funds for the 2024 VSCP and 2024 NDI contracts and for any prior year outstanding funds. If you

have any questions concerning invoices, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Trends in Births and Deaths in the United States: 2010-2023



This report was published in August and can be found at this link: [National Vital Statistics Reports Volume 74, Number 11 August 27, 2025 Trends in Births and Deaths: United States, 2010–2023](#). According to the findings of the report, the number of births in the United States declined by 10% from 2010 through 2023. In contrast, the number of deaths generally increased from 2010 through 2023, by a total of 25%. The crude birth rate decreased 18% while the crude death rate increased by 15%. The birth-to-death ratio declined 28% overall from 2010 through 2023 and generally declined for the three largest race and Hispanic-origin groups. The differences in the ratios among the groups narrowed during this time period. The birth-to-death ratio declined for both urban and rural counties, with differences between ratios narrowing.

Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC)



[COMEC](#) works to strengthen ties between medical examiners and coroners (MEC) and public health, serve as a resource for medicolegal death investigation (MDI) offices, and assist public health researchers and practitioners in engaging with MECs.

If you would like to receive COMEC's monthly email updates, an invitation to the seminar series, or both, please email MDI@CDC.gov and let us know your preference.

Upcoming COMEC Virtual Seminars

The Seminar Series is designed for MEC, MDIs, medical certifiers, and related partners. Below are the remaining

seminars for 2025. In 2026 we will have 6 seminars, and we are working on continuing education credits for the 2026 series.

Title: Modernizing Mortality Data: Linking Medicolegal Death Investigation and Public Health Systems

Presenters: Ashley Ottewell, MPH, CPH, Director of Public Health Data Modernization, ASTHO and Michele Trofatter, MPH, MLS (ASCP), Technical Advisor, CDC Foundation

When: 10/14/2025 at 3:00-3:50 p.m. Eastern.

Title: Strengthening Medicolegal Death Investigation Systems Through a Global Community

Presenter: Olga Joos, DrPH MPH RN, Managing Director, Medicolegal Death Investigation International Community of Practice (MLDI ICoP)

When: 11/18/2025 at 3:00-3:50 p.m. Eastern

Title: CPSC and Consumer Product Investigations

Presenter: Justin McDonough, Director, Division of Field Investigations, Office of Compliance and Field Operations, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

When: 12/9/2025 at 3:00-3:50 p.m. Eastern

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



[The Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice \(NVSS COP\)](#) is a collaborative space for learning and innovation. It provides a setting for jurisdictions and their partners to collaborate in the modernization space.

The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice hosted the 3rd quarter NCHS-organized testing event of 2025 on September 8th-9th. The focus was on advancing jurisdictional capabilities to exchange mortality, fetal death, and natality data using FHIR. We are excited to report that 13 of 57 (or 22%) jurisdictions participated in the testing event, with twelve (12) jurisdictional Vital Records Offices and their respective technical partners as testers. These included Alabama, American Samoa, Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and

Wyoming. Additionally, New York State participated as an observer. All participants' feedback was instrumental in the success of the event.

Key takeaways from the testing event include:

- The jurisdictions came prepared and were able to assist other jurisdictions even more effectively. Many jurisdictions successfully tested interjurisdictional exchange with one another.
- CTE, SAMS, and STEVE resources were readily available and on-call during the testing event, which helped resolve connectivity issues swiftly.
- Six jurisdictions (Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania) successfully worked on pre-certification
- Arizona and Indiana successfully tested the EDRS-->STEVE-->NCHS mortality flow for the first time.
- Five jurisdictions (American Samoa, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah, Wyoming) successfully tested data exchange with natality.
- American Samoa, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Wyoming tested fetal death data exchange.
- Some discrepancies were found with the natality and fetal death test cases and Canary testing tools, which will require minor fixes. We appreciate the jurisdictions who identified those and brought them to our attention so they can be addressed. Such feedback is valuable, especially for the less mature natality and fetal death workflows, as it helps us strengthen the systems, tools, and documentation.

Jurisdictions should remember that pre-certification and certification are essential steps in the NVSS FHIR Certification Pathway. The primary aim of the pre-certification process is to ensure that a jurisdiction is fully prepared for certification. A well-executed pre-certification effort should facilitate a smooth final certification process.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to sign up for FHIR validation by emailing the NVSS mailbox, contacting CTE

through the #deathonfhir stream on Zulip (chat.fhir.org), or selecting the self-service option available on GitHub. Please note that while FHIR validation is optional, it is highly recommended as a prerequisite for pre-certification. The primary goal of FHIR validation is to assess the jurisdiction's ability to analyze the structure of FHIR messaging and generate FHIR records in accordance with the Vital Records Death Reporting Implementer Guidance standard.

NVSS encourages jurisdictions to utilize our peer-to-peer connection to share announcements that may benefit the community of practice, such as job vacancies and upcoming conferences. Please feel free to send these announcements to the NVSS mailbox. Recordings of the main community of practice meetings and technical support meetings are available in the meeting proceedings section of the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice [SharePoint](#) site. Users can access the certification and pre-certification documents through the 'quick links' option.

CTE encourages all jurisdictions to post any technical questions related to the Mortality or Natality workflow in the #DeathonFhir stream on [Zulip](#) chat. When you post an issue, please include as much relevant information as possible, including any attachments. For programmatic problems, such as needing assistance with your SAMs account, please email nvssmodernization@cdc.gov. Additionally, the minutes from the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice Weekly Office Hours meetings are posted weekly in the NVSS CoP Office Hours stream on Zulip.

We extend special thanks to our technical partners NAPHSIS, Ruvos, and CTE for their continued collaboration in our modernization efforts. Their invaluable contributions have been crucial to the success of our regular meetings and organized testing events.

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.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)