



### 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.

**Systems Special Interest Group** | Past topics have included electronic signatures for vital records documents, out of state records, e-certification and more. The next Systems Special Interest Group Call will be taking place on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. ET. Email NAPHSIS at [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) to join.

**Field Services Special Interest Group** | Past topics have included mother/parent worksheets, working with the funeral director community, retention schedules and more. The next Field Services Interest Group Call will be taking place on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. ET. Email NAPHSIS at [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) to join.

### Reminder: File Layouts Effective Starting with 2022 Data

The 2022 – 2026 Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) contract includes collection of residence address and placeholder fields on the birth, death and fetal death files, and Industry and Occupation on the death file. The revised Interjurisdictional Exchange (IJE) file layout and the NCHS file layouts were shared via e-mail with the jurisdictions July 29<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>, respectively. These layouts will be in effect

starting with 2022 events. 2021 data will continue to use the current layouts. For questions about the IJE layout, please contact NAPHSIS at [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org). The NCHS file layouts and in-processing documentation are also available on the password protected VSCP website. For questions about the NCHS file layouts, please contact Karen Knight at [kknight1@cdc.gov](mailto:kknight1@cdc.gov).

### Reminder: 2020 Mortality Review Process

Thanks to the efforts of jurisdiction staff sending in updates and corrections to their 2020 mortality files, DACEB closed the national file July 27<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, we have **paused processing for all 2020 cause of death files. This pause should last about eight weeks.** During this period, we are undergoing a significant quality review and correction process to ensure any needed corrections between our database and the final, published file are consistent. During this period, jurisdictions will receive any coding corrections to their 2020 records. Note: jurisdictions should have already received recoded maternal death records using the pregnancy checkbox information. As soon as processing is resumed, queued files will be coded in the order in which they were received and returned back to the sending jurisdiction. We understand that these files are time sensitive to the jurisdictions; however, we want to ensure the national file is of the highest quality. This process will not impact processing of 2021 files.

## Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



As part of the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” or the “CARES Act” of 2020, the CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity

cooperative agreement has funded Project C2: Data Modernization of CK19-1904, henceforth ‘Data Modernization - COVID’. The intention of \$77 million of this funding is to accelerate recipients’ implementation of data modernization efforts, including modernization of the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), to move towards faster, more automated sharing of vital statistics between the 57 jurisdictional vital records offices and national levels. **This funding will support the development and implementation of FHIR-based interoperability between jurisdictions Electronic Death Registration Systems and NCHS.**

During August and September, NCHS is hosting 4, weekly NVSS “Modernization 101” sessions to provide an overview of the NVSS Modernization effort. These sessions will provide an overview of modernization’s vision, mission, core activities, and the tools, resources, and technical assistance available to states and partners modernizing their vital records systems, as well as opportunities to stay connected through the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice. The sessions are as follows:

- **Session 1 (August 18<sup>th</sup>) - An Overview of Tier 3 Requirements of Project C2: Data Modernization-COVID and the NVSS Modernization Initiative**

- **Session 2 (August 25<sup>th</sup>) - Overview of NVSS Modernization Initiative Activities**
- **Session 3 (September 1<sup>st</sup> @ 3pm ET) - An Introduction to the NVSS Community of Practice and Available Tools Through the NVSS Modernization Tool Kit**
- **Session 4 (September 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm ET) - Modernizing State Vital Records Systems for FHIR based Interoperability: Setting the Foundation**

If you would like more information about the “NVSS Modernization 101” series or would like to be added to the NVSS Modernization e-mail distribution list, please email [NVSSModernization@cdc.gov](mailto:NVSSModernization@cdc.gov).

### **Strengthening state and national vital records systems with FHIR based interoperability**

NCHS, in collaboration with several jurisdictions, vendors and technical partners (GTRI and MITRE), will be participating in the Virtual HL7 Connectathon scheduled from September 13-15, 2021

<http://www.hl7.org/events/fhir-connectathon/index.cfm>. The purpose of the event will be to validate updates to the VRDR Implementation Guide (IG) and to strengthen and refine both state and NCHS systems for FHIR based interoperability. Participating jurisdictions include DC, GA, HI, NH, NYC, NYS and UT. Both the EDRS to NCHS and CMS to NCHS workflows will be tested. We thank the community for its ongoing collaboration and engagement in building a stronger and interoperable NVSS using FHIR.

To learn more about the Connectathon or to register go to: <http://www.hl7.org/events/fhir-connectathon/index.cfm>

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