



## VSCP Contract Market Research: Your Input Requested!

As mentioned in the December 2019 newsletter, the current VSCP contract will expire at the end of 2021 and NCHS must have the scope of work finalized by the summer of 2020. To prepare for the next contract, a small group of NCHS staff and jurisdictional representatives met January 28 – 30 in Hyattsville, MD to discuss potential improvements to the contract. The jurisdiction members attending the meeting were Chris Harrison (GA), Ken Jones (FL) and Mariah Pokorny (SD); NCHS attendees included Steve Schwartz, Paul Sutton, Isabelle Horon, Karen Knight and Kelly Brown. While no increases in base funding are expected, the group held a productive discussion about potential changes to the contract that would be beneficial to both jurisdictions and the National Vital Statistics System. Ideas discussed included modernizing the language to reflect accurate current practice, adding transmission of fields that would benefit jurisdictions, such as street address and certifier IDs for the death record. More information about desired changes will be shared at the **March VSCP call on March 11 at 2 p.m. All Jurisdictions are strongly encouraged to attend this call to provide their input!**



Pictured above are those who attended the January 28 – 30 meeting in Hyattsville, MD. Standing from left to right are Chris Harrison (GA), Karen Knight (NCHS), Mariah Pokorny (SD), Ken Jones (FL), and Kelly Brown (NCHS). Seated from left to right and representing NCHS are Steve Schwartz, Paul Sutton, and Isabelle Horon.

## VSCP Contracts

Work is underway to complete task orders for the procurement of VSCP data for CY 2020. Some task orders have already been awarded. If your jurisdiction has not received its 2020 task order, it should be awarded soon.

## Cooperative Agreement Corner: Upcoming Training Opportunities

Our Cooperative Agreement with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) supports several training opportunities for jurisdictions throughout the year. Below are a few that may be of interest.

- A series of Vital Records and Health Statistics Accreditation webinars are underway to provide information about the accreditation standards and measures. The next webinar topic is on Issuance and Data Collection and is scheduled for March 25 at 3:00 p.m. EST.
- A new webinar series on fetal deaths will begin in March. The first webinar is scheduled for March 18 at 3:00 pm EST and will focus on the importance of fetal death data and differentiating fetal deaths from infant deaths and Induced Terminations of Pregnancy.

If you are interested in these or other training opportunities, please contact [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org)

## Implementing New Systems

Before new systems are implemented in jurisdictions, please remember that NCHS needs to review test files for each event using the new system. Staff at NCHS will review each test file and provide feedback to your jurisdiction. This review will ensure that the files are being sent in the correct file format and that there are no programming errors affecting the data. NCHS staff will also review the quality of the data being collected in the new system to ensure that it is acceptable. Before sending test files, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist for the correct naming format for test files, providing sufficient time for us to prepare the test environment.

## Address Data for Geocoding Project

The address data for geocoding project is a follow-up to USALEEP (United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project). In this project, NAPHSIS is assisting NCHS with the newest VSCP Special Project - Address Data for Geocoding, which consists of jurisdictions transmitting to NCHS data files that contain residence address data from 2018 and 2019 deaths. Almost half of the jurisdictions funded for this Special Project have already sent or begun the process to send 2018 data to NCHS. We encourage the remaining states to submit as soon as possible.

The geocoded data will form the first two years of the five years (2018-2022) needed to calculate the next iteration of small area (specifically census tract) life expectancy estimates across the entire United States. Besides updating the census tract life expectancy estimates, the address data provided will be used by NCHS to evaluate the potential for improving the existing geographic data (city, county, state) that are currently collected as part of the VSCP. And finally, the potential for creating other small area mortality indicators will be studied. For more information, contact [George Tolson](#) at NCHS.

## Innovations

Iowa has created a birth registration facility report card to support positive change with birth registration and birth registration facilities. The report card (shown with redacted data below) includes facility specific data that demonstrates the successes or areas of improvement for their birth registration staff. Using the report, Iowa can provide a summary for the department and can monitor the averages of birth registration times. Iowa has seen great improvement in timeframes and data quality since implementing this report card. The below graphics were submitted by Melissa Bird, Bureau Chief, of Health Statistics, Iowa Department of Public Health. She can be contacted at [melissa.bird@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:melissa.bird@idph.iowa.gov).



Iowa Registration Facility Report Card, sample, redacted.

**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!

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.

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