



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.

NAPHSIS Annual Meeting, June 13-15, Omaha, NE

NAPHSIS Annual Meetings take place in June each year and brings together people who work in the realm of vital records. Attendees enjoy networking with peers and learning about the latest products or technology to improve vital records and health statistics functions. Informative sessions, exhibitors, and social gatherings make this a fun way to make connections and learn the latest in the world of vital records and health statistics. This year's theme is **Reunite, Recalibrate, and Reignite**. With no in-person meetings for the past two years, NAPHSIS wants to bring everyone together to *Reunite* people from the vital records world in order to *Recalibrate* through informative sessions and exhibitors and *Reignite* our excitement for the future. You can look forward to sessions on lessons learned over the past two years, topics related to legal and registration activities, and what's new in technology. To learn more and register, please visit www.naphsis.org/annualmeeting

April VSCP Directors Webinar

NAPHSIS invites you to the monthly VSCP Project Directors Webinar on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. April Topics: Automated linkages for birth and death quality and Cyberattacks – Lessons Learned. Please [register](#) to join us on April 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup

Assess and improve the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, focusing on improving data at the source (i.e., at the hospital). Email hq@naphsis.org to join. The next BDQW will meet on April 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Mortality Data Quality Workgroup

Identify high-priority death data quality issues, metrics, and strategies to improve data quality. Email hq@naphsis.org to join. The next MDQW will meet on April 11, 2022, at 1 p.m. Eastern.

Field Services Special Interest Group

Past topics have included electronic signatures, strategies when working with reluctant certifiers, hard and soft edits within jurisdictions systems, sharing of field program/staff responsibilities, and more. The next Field Services Interest Group Call will be held on April 26, 2022, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Systems Special Interest Group

Discuss and share how your vital records systems respond to ongoing developments in the vital records world. Topics include FHIR, special characters in names, interoperability, and streamlining the data lifecycle. The next Systems Special Interest Group Calls will be held on April 28, 2022, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join.

2021 Data Year Close-out Dates

As a reminder, the table below includes the 2021 contract closeout and 2021 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.

2021 Birth File

(States) Contract closeout for 2021 birth data	March 1, 2022
(States) Last date 2021 birth file updates accepted	April 7, 2022
(DACEB) Release of final 2021 birth data to Hyattsville	May 5, 2022

2021 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2021 death data	May 1, 2022
(States) Last date 2021 death file updates accepted	June 30, 2022
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 28, 2022
(DACEB) Release final 2021 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	September 30, 2022

2021 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2021 fetal death data	May 1, 2022
(States) Last date 2021 fetal death file updates accepted	July 28, 2022
(DACEB) Release final 2021 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 25, 2022

As the 2021 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.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Changes in Births by Month, January 2019-June 2021

This report was released March 2022 and can be found at this [link](#). It uses provisional data for 2020 and final data for 2019 and 2020 to explore changes in the number of births for the first six months of 2021, compared with the previous periods for 2019 and 2020 by maternal race and Hispanic origin and state. It shows that the number of births declined for January (down 9%), February (2%) and May (1%) and rose by less than 1% for March (nonsignificantly) April (1%) and June (3%) resulting in a total decline of 2% for the first half of 2021.

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. A common question we receive from the community centers around workforce capacity building in the areas of data modernization in general and public health informatics in particular.

To this end, the NVSS COP is sharing selected resources offered by the Public Health Informatics Institute; this curated list is not exhaustive and is being offered as a suggestion only.

Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) Planning Toolkit – PHII

This toolkit supports recipients of the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement in planning data modernization ventures at jurisdictional health departments. It is not an implementation plan, as each jurisdiction's data modernization projects will differ. Instead, it is a guide to build leadership and partner buy-in

for data modernization work and to assist health departments in developing plans that prioritize data modernization activities.

The [“Establish a data modernization team”](#) section of the toolkit serves as a starting point for the DMI planning process, providing guidance about how to assemble a team for planning and implementation work. It includes an [Identify the Data Modernization Planning Team Worksheet](#) which can serve as a guide to identify individuals who should be part of the data modernization planning team.

Informatics Workforce Position Classifications and Descriptions – PHII

PHII worked with CDC, ASTHO and NACCHO to develop four template job descriptions and critical skills needed to support the creation of a team to advance your agency's modernization efforts. These include:

- [Executive](#) (e.g. Chief Public Health Informatics Officer)
- [Management/Supervisory](#)
- [Professional/Technical](#), such as:
 - Public Health Informatics Analyst
 - Public Health Informatics Specialist I (Data Exchange Processor)
 - Public Health Informatics Specialist II (HL7 Specialist, Interface Developer, Data Reporting/Visualization Specialist)
 - Public Health Informatics Specialist III (Data Quality Team Lead, Data Analysis Team Lead)
- [Clinical](#)

If you have suggestions on resources that could be added to this list or have questions, please send a note to NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

Citation:

1. PHII (March 28, 2022) **Informatics Workforce Position Classifications and Descriptions**. Retrieved from <https://phii.org/resources/informatics-workforce-position-classifications-and-descriptions/>.

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** today.

Christen Johnston was appointed VSCP Project Director in Oklahoma.

Derek Pate departed his position as VSCP Project Director in Oklahoma.

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