



REMINDER - 2021 VSCP Annual Meeting

The VSCP contract requires an in-person annual meeting with VSCP Project Directors. Due to the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the in-person requirement will be waived in 2021. In lieu of an in-person meeting, jurisdictions will be required to participate in a virtual meeting to satisfy the contractual requirement. The meeting will be held June 9, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET. Topics will include reminders about preparations for the next VSCP contract (starting January 1, 2022), 2020 file closure status and updates on jurisdiction performance. Registration is required to note your jurisdiction's attendance and may be completed [here](#).

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.

Field Services and Data Quality Workshop

NAPHSIS and the Division of Vital Statistics within the National Center for Health Statistics will host a virtual Field Services and Data Quality Workshop in August. This workshop is intended for field services staff, statistical staff involved in identifying data quality issues, staff who conduct quality queries and any others interested in data quality of birth, death, and fetal death events. We encourage jurisdictions to take advantage of this opportunity! Note that an innovations session has been added to the agenda to highlight advances and improvements made in data quality or field services. Click here to review the [at-a-glance agenda](#). There is no cost to attend this workshop. Please register [here](#).

Vital Records and Their Administration Training Evaluation

The Vital Records and Their Administration Training was conducted virtually on March 15-17, 2021. The training was a collaboration between NAPHSIS and the Division of Vital Statistics and was attended by 49 participants from 21 jurisdictions. Since the training was designed for staff who are new to vital records, many of the attendees had less than 5 years of experience within a vital records office. Topics covered included vital records history, registration, amendments, issuance, legal aspects of vital records, Vital Statistics Act (Model Law), data sharing, data quality improvement, training resources/tools, and the structure of NCHS and NAPHSIS. The post-training evaluation showed the majority of respondents rated the training from good to excellent and would recommend others to attend the course.

Some of the comments regarding lessons learned during the course were:

- “Insight on how other states work and what things we can do or not do to improve our workflow.”
- “I learned information about EVVE, STEVE, VSCP cooperative agreements, fraud detection, reports provided by NCHS.”
- “This course gave me a better worldview or the larger perspective into vital records administration.”

The tools and resources demonstrated by NCHS and NAPHSIS were mentioned as most helpful:

- “It made me aware of various sites and tools to aid in my job.”
- “Learning about the different systems, tools and resources was most helpful.”
- “NCHS error reports, and resource websites and the relationship of different agencies.”

The Vital Records and Their Administration training will continue to be offered once a year. The 2022 training will be held in March.

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 June 22nd at 3 p.m. ET. Email 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 June 24th at 3 p.m. ET. Email hq@naphsis.org to join.

Quality Improvement Training Opportunity: Managing the Change & Continually Improving

Please join NAPHSIS and Continual Impact for this great training opportunity. During each of these two-part training sessions, each participant will actively learn and immediately begin applying approaches and templates to prepare others to embrace change, as well as ways to implement changes so that they stick. Participants need to bring something they want to change to the sessions (for example, accreditation, implementation of a new process, or new system). Space will be limited. Click [here](#) to apply.

June 15, 10:00-11:20 a.m. ET & June 17, 10:00-11:30 a.m. ET

OR

June 24, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET & June 29, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

Email hq@naphsis.org for more information.

PHAB VRHS Accreditation Training

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) will host the annual Vital Records Health Statistics (VRHS) Accreditation Applicant Training session virtually on **July 15, 2021** from 1-5 p.m. ET. A syllabus with detailed information about the training will be available soon. **Attendance is limited to those who plan to apply for**

VRHS Accreditation between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. For more information, contact hq@naphsis.org.



Launching the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice (COP) Video!

As we mark the 6-month anniversary of launching the COP, and take stock of our successes, we notice that we have seen a steady membership composed of mainly of states and partners who are (or recently have been) funded through special projects. The COP is meant for ALL

jurisdictions and partners working in modernization. Along this vein, the NVSS Modernization COP Video was developed in the spirit of improving the diversity and number of members in the COP. This video is a way of spreading the word and bringing more jurisdictions into the fold -- no matter what their level of experience.

Please click the link below to view the video. Current COP members are encouraged to share the video widely with others working in the modernization space.

Check out our new video: [NVSS Modernization COP Video](#)

Thanks to the following presenters during the May COP meeting(s)!

The Theme: *Development and Implementation of Mobile Applications for Death Certification.*

1. New Hampshire – *New Hampshire’s Mobile EDRS Interface - NeCOD*, Catherine Cheney, Business Systems Analyst and Project Manager, NH Secretary of State Information Technology
2. New York City – *New York City eVital: Mobile enabled EDRS & Certification*, Jessica Borrelli, Director, Office of Integrated Electronic Records, Bureau of Vital Statistics, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
3. California – *Developing a Mobile Friendly Death Certification App for California, with input from Certifier and Funeral Home User Groups*, Justin Kaltenbach, Founder at Outcome Healthcare

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Births: Provisional data for 2020

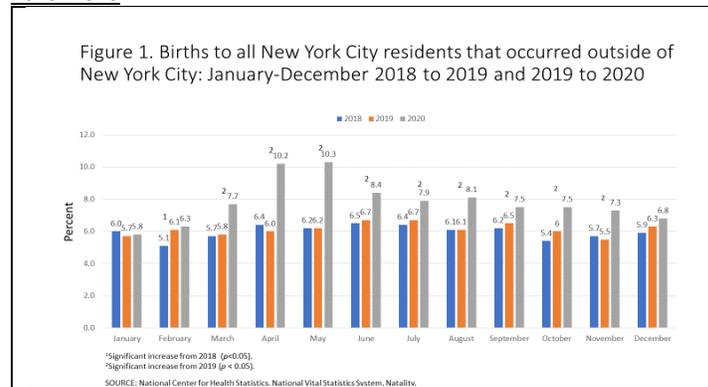
This report was released May 5th, 2021 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows national provisional birth data for 2020 on U.S. births by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother and rates of cesarean delivery and preterm birth. The report shows declines of 4% in the total number of births, and in general and total fertility rates from 2019 to 2020. It also shows an increase in the cesarean delivery rate and a decline in the preterm birth rate for the U.S. in 2020. Findings from this release were reported by media outlets across the country and beyond.

Total Fertility Rates, by Maternal Educational Attainment and Race and Hispanic Origin: United States, 2019

This report, released May 12th, 2021 can be found at this [link](#). It shows 2019 total fertility rates for the United States, by educational attainment and race and Hispanic origin of mother. Total fertility rates (TFR) decreased as level of education increased from women with a 12th grade education or less through an associate’s and bachelor’s degree, and then rose from bachelor’s degree through a

doctorate or professional degree. TFRs for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women with some college credit or less were generally higher than the rates for non-Hispanic white women, but TFRs for non-Hispanic black and Hispanic women with a master’s degree or more were generally lower than the rates for non-Hispanic white women.

Changes in Births to New York City Residents Occurring Outside New York City, by Race and Hispanic Origin of the Mother: 2018–2019 and 2019–2020



This report was released May 5th and can be found at this [link](#). It shows changes between 2019 and 2020 in the percentage of New York City residents giving birth outside of New York City by race and Hispanic origin of the mother and makes comparisons with changes occurring between 2018 and 2019. It found that from 2019 to 2020, the percentage of births to New York City residents occurring outside of the City increased for all months from March through November, ranging from a 15% increase for September to a 70% increase for April. Among non-Hispanic white women, the percentage of out-of-city births was nearly two and one-half times higher in 2020 than in 2019 in April and May. Increases were less pronounced for births to non-Hispanic black and Hispanic residents.

Quarterly Provisional Estimates of Infant Mortality, 2018-Quarter 2, 2020

This report was released May 11th, 2021 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows infant mortality rates based on final data for 2018 and 2019, and provisional data for 2020. Estimates are presented for: infant mortality (deaths of infants under age 1 year per 1,000 live births), neonatal mortality (deaths of infants aged 0–27 days per 1,000 live births), postneonatal mortality (deaths of infants aged 28 days through 11 months per 1,000 live births), and death rates for the five leading causes of infant death (Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities; Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight, not elsewhere classified; Newborn affected by maternal complications of pregnancy; Sudden infant death syndrome; and unintentional injuries).

Vital Staff Spotlights

Tasha Smith departed her position as Acting State Registrar/VSCP Project Director in Indiana.

Alpha Mistry was appointed State Registrar in Indiana.

Rachel Ragland was appointed VSCP Project Director in Indiana.

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