



## 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.

### Fetal Death Webinar

The next Fetal Death Webinar will be held on November 4 at 3:00 pm ET. The topic for this webinar is data quality of fetal death records. Registration is available here: <https://naphsis.webex.com/naphsis/onstage/g.php?MTID=e26cefd1d56f6cbc368bef4f207ecb65f>.

### Interest Groups

NAPHSIS hosts special interest groups for jurisdictional members to share and learn from one another on the topics below.

- *Field Services Interest Group*: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 3:00 pm ET
- *Systems Interest Group*: Fourth Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm ET

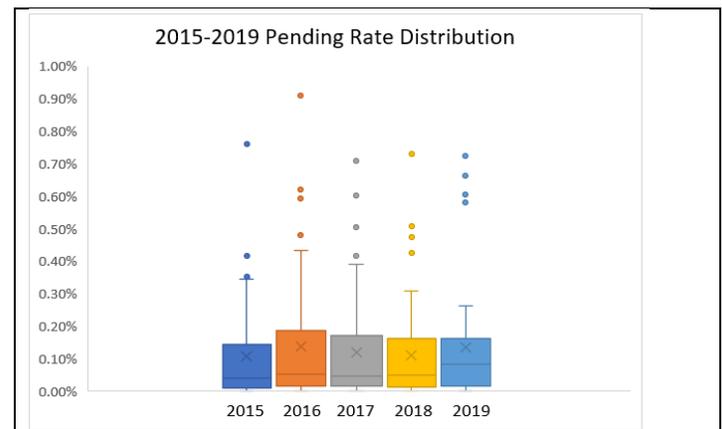
If you are interested in joining either interest group, please email NAPHSIS at [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org).

### Jurisdiction Targets for Final Pending Cause of Death Rate

To close the national mortality file, the pending cause of death rate must be small enough to accurately reflect the distribution of causes of death for population groups across the country. In recent years, the national mortality file has been closed with a rate of approximately 0.17%, with a range of rates among non-territories from 0.00% to 0.91%. While there is no specific target pending rate in the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) contract, the contract does include a financial penalty if the status of a jurisdiction's file would delay closure of the national file.

Not only is a sufficiently low pending rate a necessary condition for final closure, it is also an important measure of data quality.

Creating a jurisdiction-specific pending rate goal could help jurisdictions to reduce rates throughout the year and ensure timely closure of final files. The chart below shows the distribution of pending rates by jurisdiction at closeout from 2015-2019, which indicates improvements over time. Currently, the 2020 pending rate is 1.63%. The 2020 pending target for jurisdictions at final close out is 0.17% or the jurisdiction's 2019 rate, whichever is smaller. Over the past few years, several reports were developed and are updated regularly to assist in monitoring and follow up with certifiers. These reports may be found on the VSCP website; if you would like access to the site, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.



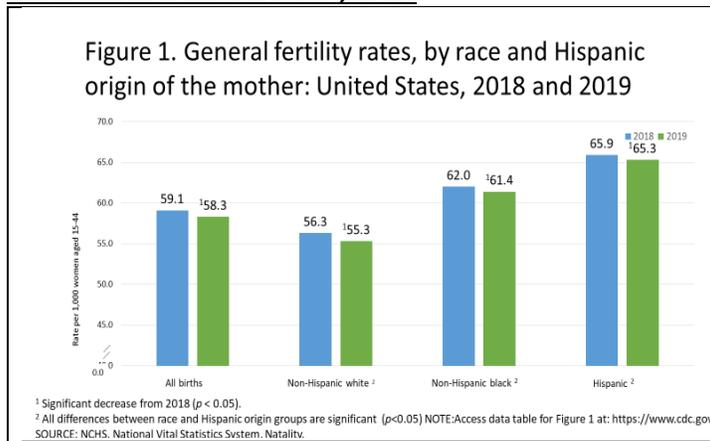
### IEWS II Help

As more states are working to identify ways of improving the quality of the cause of death, one of the tools available is the Validations and Interactive Edits Web Service (IEWS II). IEWS II is a web service that provides validations and spell checks directly at the point of data entry. Jurisdictions are encouraged to use IEWS II, incorporate spell checks into their electronic death registration systems, and continually educate certifiers on the importance of accurate and complete cause of death information for improving auto-coding and expediting real-time mortality surveillance.

For IEWS II documentation, questions, or concerns, you may contact [IEWSHelp@cdc.gov](mailto:IEWSHelp@cdc.gov).

## Notable Publications/Data Briefs

### Births in the United States, 2019

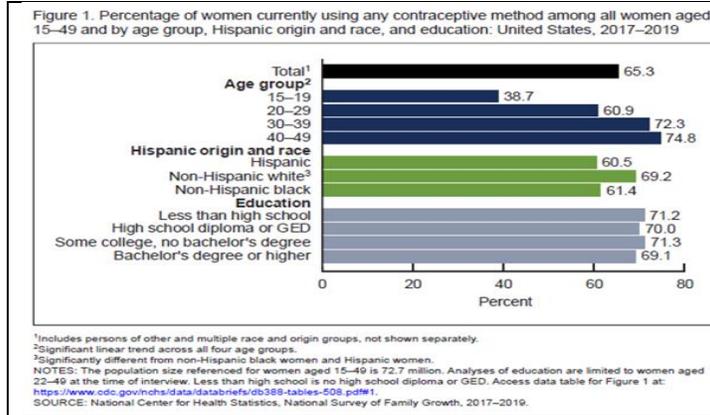


This recent report was released this month and can be found at this [link](#). This report shows the following:

- Fertility rates declined for the three largest race and Hispanic-origin groups from 2018 to 2019, down 2% for non-Hispanic white women (56.3 to 55.3) and 1% for non-Hispanic.
- In 2019, the fertility rate was highest for Hispanic women, followed by non-Hispanic black and non-Hispanic white women.

### Current Contraceptive Status Among Women

#### Aged 15-49: United States, 2017-2019



This recent report from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) was released October 20, 2020 and can be found at this [link](#). The report shows the following:

- In 2017-2019, 65.3% of women aged 15-49 in the United States were currently using a method of contraception.
- Current contraceptive use increased with age, from 38.7% among women aged 15-19 to 74.8% among women aged 40-49.
- The percentage of non-Hispanic white women currently using contraception (69.2%) was higher compared with non-Hispanic black (61.4%) and Hispanic (60.5%) women.

### MMWR: Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age, Race, and Ethnicity — United States, Jan 26–Oct 3, 2020

An estimated 299,028 excess deaths occurred from late January through October 3, 2020, with 198,081 (66%) excess deaths attributed to COVID-19. The largest percentage increases were seen among adults aged 25-44 years and Hispanic or Latino persons. Read more [here](#).

### 2011-2019 Combined Files: Selected NSFG Data and Documentation

A new webpage for combined-file analyses using NSFG data for 2011-2019 can be found at this [link](#).

### Public Use NSFG File

The 2017-2019 public use NSFG data have been released and are available at this [link](#).

### Public Use Birth File

The 2019 public use birth file has been released and is available at this [link](#).

### Public Use Fetal Death File

The 2016 and 2017 fetal death public use files have been re-released to include cause of death information. National information on fetal cause of death are now available for 2014-2017 at this [link](#).

### State and Jurisdiction Input Goes Here!!

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!

### 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](mailto:gct1@cdc.gov)** today.

**Alvin Onaka** departed his position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Hawaii.

**Brian Pang** was appointed Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Hawaii.

**Carolyn Garrido** departed her position as Territorial Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Guam.

**Enrique Torres** was appointed Acting VSCP Project Director in Guam.

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