

Cooperative Agreement Corner



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

Interest Groups

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

- *Field Services Interest Group*: October 27th at 3:00 ET.
- *Systems Interest Group*: October 29th at 3:00 ET.

If you are interested in joining either interest group, please email NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

Accreditation Webinar

The next Accreditation Webinar will be taking place on October 29th at 3:00 ET. The topic of this webinar is "Preparing for Accreditation: Part 1." Registration information will be available soon.

Call for Vital Statistics Cooperative Program Project Director Meeting Topics

The Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) Project Director call planning committee would like to hear from you about suggestions for future meetings. While the committee is now soliciting potential topics for November, they would like to hear from you about future meeting topics as well. Suggestions may be submitted to hq@naphsis.org.

How to Request Out of State Coded Cause of Death Files

In the last couple of months, requests for Out of State (OOS) files have increased. Through interjurisdictional exchange agreements, jurisdictions may request coded cause of death (TRANSAX) files for OOS resident deaths. Instructions on how to make a request are included below. The process for requesting these data can also be found on the password protected VSCP website.

File requests must include a flat ASCII file in the following format:

Position 1–2: Jurisdiction of occurrence code

Position 3: Blank

Position 4-9: Certificate number (assigned by jurisdiction of occurrence)

Position 10: Blank

Position 11-16: Certificate number the residence jurisdiction would like assigned (OPTIONAL)

Requests can be sent to Kathy Fowler at knr3@cdc.gov and a TRANSAX file will be sent via STEVE/SAMS to the requesting jurisdiction.

If you have questions or need access to the VSCP website, please contact your state assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

Please note: There is no process currently for requesting fetal death data. In addition, NCHS is not permitted to provide information to the jurisdiction of residence without provision of the information outlined above. This ensures that the jurisdiction of occurrence has already provided information on the decedents.

Coming Soon

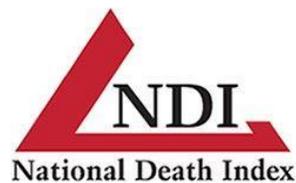
Division of Vital Statistics (DVS) staff are currently testing migration to the new **SAMS** platform: **SDX** (Secure Data eXchange).

Benefits of moving to SAMS SDX include:

- SDX does not depend on a Java Applet so we are able to avoid potential issues with users being unable to install the Java Applet and/or future issues related to Java vulnerabilities.
- SDX is a more powerful solution similar to DropBox or OneDrive. While the current SAMS implementation is fairly limited, SDX offers potential future features we are hoping to utilize in SAMS.
- SDX offers additional security features, robust file transfer support, along with a consistent and easy to navigate user interface.

SAMS users will retain their same credentials and log into SAMS SDX the same as they have been doing with SAMS DPS. The interface will look very different but is user friendly. NCHS will notify SAMS users of any necessary actions prior to the migration.

National Death Index (NDI) Portal



Announcing the launch of the new National Death Index (NDI) Portal, which is projected to go live by the end of September. The NDI Portal will provide an expedited experience for all new NDI

applicants; shorter application forms, faster review by NDI applicants; faster review by NDI staff, easier access and review by the NDI Advisors (including state NDI Advisors), and faster approval by the DVS Director. The NDI Portal will eliminate the need for any paper transactions, mailings, etc. The entire NDI Application process (including revisions as needed) will be electronic. Please contact the NDI staff at ndi@cdc.gov or 301-458-4444 with questions or comments.

New Community of Practice Ignites NVSS Modernization



Come innovate with us toward a faster, stronger National Vital Statistics System! October marks the official launch of the Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice, a virtual learning and innovation forum that welcomes all jurisdictions and partners interested in modernizing vital records – at any level of experience – to promote interoperability for faster, higher quality data.

This growing community welcomes:

- State vital records offices.
- Medical examiners and coroners and related organizations.
- Hospitals and health care organizations.
- IT vendors and consultants working with electronic health records, electronic vital records registries (EDRS, EBRs), ME/C case management systems.
- Public health surveillance systems that interoperate with vital records, such as cancer registries.

No matter where you are in the modernization process, the community offers support. In the community, you'll find frequent opportunities for peer-to-peer learning; access to beginner, intermediate, and advanced trainings; and presentations by technical experts on emerging trends and innovations. We'll also offer focused subgroups on specific topics of interest, as well as opportunities for virtual testing of FHIR-based interoperability across the mortality and natality workflows, including hands-on participation in connect-a-thons.

Most of all, this community is designed to provide a shared space for learning and innovation. We invite you to bring your experience to the table. To stay up to date on our activities or to get involved, send us an email: nvssmodernization@cdc.gov

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Fetal Deaths — United States, 2015–2017

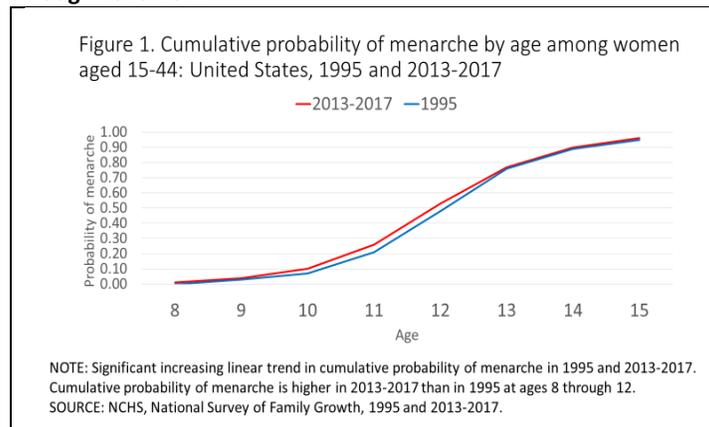
This recent report was released September 18, 2020 and can be found at this [link](#). The report shows the following:

- During 2015–2017, the fetal mortality rate among non-Hispanic Black women was more than twice that for non-Hispanic White women and Hispanic women.
- Fetal mortality rates varied by state and cause of death category

- The rate of fetal death attributable to maternal complications among non-Hispanic Black women was three times that among White women.

Other notable results can be found within the report.

Trends and Patterns in Menarche in the United States: 1995 through 2013-2017



This recent report was released September 10, 2020 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows the cumulative probability of menarche at ages 8 through 12 years was higher in 2013–2017 compared with 1995. In 2013–2017, 10% of women reached menarche by age 10 and 26% by age 11, compared with 7% and 21% of women in 1995, respectively. Other notable results can be found within the report.

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 today!

Vitals 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.

Rosa Avila departed her position as Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Alaska.

Clint Farr was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Alaska.

Cindy Hooley departed her position as VSCP Project Director in Vermont.

Jessie Hammond was appointed VSCP Project Director in Vermont.

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