

## 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.

**October 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. October Topic: Facility “Report Cards,” which have been used as a strategy to improve data quality. Please [register](#) to join us on October 13, 2021 at 2 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 on October 26, 2021 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) to join.

**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 on October 28, 2021 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) to join.

## Invoicing for 2020 Data

Thank you for all your efforts in completing the 2020 data files. Now that the 2020 data files from the jurisdictions are complete, jurisdictions may submit invoices for any outstanding funds for the 2020 VSCP and 2020 NDI contracts and for any prior year outstanding funds. This includes the Industry and Occupation special project and the Geocoding special project. If you have any questions concerning invoices, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

## Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



During August and September, NCHS hosted 4, weekly NVSS “Modernization 101” sessions to provide an overview of the NVSS Modernization effort.

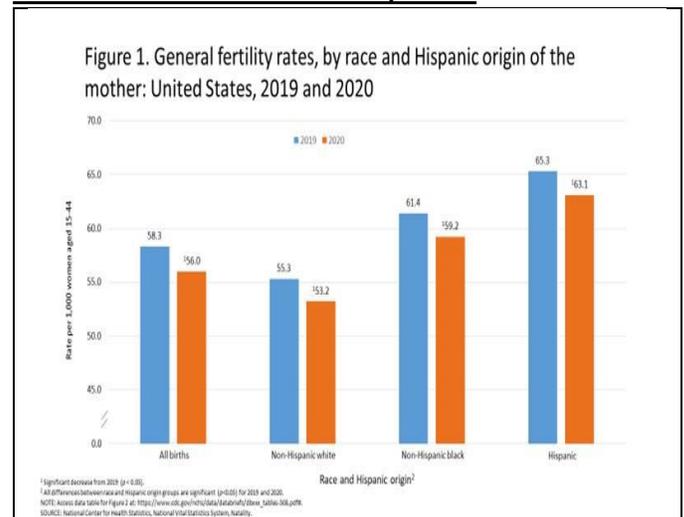
These sessions provided an overview of modernization’s vision, mission, core activities, and the tools, resources, and technical assistance available to states and partners modernizing their vital records systems, as well as opportunities to stay connected through the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice.

- **Session 1 - An Overview of Tier 3 Requirements of Project C2: Data Modernization-COVID and the NVSS Modernization Initiative**

- **Session 2 - Overview of NVSS Modernization Initiative Activities**
- **Session 3 - An Introduction to the NVSS Community of Practice and Available Tools Through the NVSS Modernization Tool Kit**
- **Session 4 - Modernizing State Vital Records Systems for FHIR based Interoperability: Setting the Foundation**

- Each Tuesday @ 4pm ET)
- Monthly NVSS Modernization COP Meeting
  - Each 3rd Wednesday @ 3pm ET)
- Monthly NVSS Modernization COP Technical Subgroup Meeting
  - Each 4th Wednesday @ 1pm ET)

**Notable Publications/Data Briefs**  
**Births in the United States, 2020**



We would like to offer a special thanks to the many speakers and contributors who contributed to the last several weeks' meetings series. Though there are far too many to properly name and acknowledge here, the NVSS Modernization 101 Orientation series, which drew over 150 attendees per week, could not have been a success without the state and jurisdictional staff, technical partners, partner organizations, and NCHS staff who made it possible!

Recordings of the 4 sessions and available speaker slides are currently posted on the Citrix ShareFile, as well as the new externally facing SharePoint site. If you would like to view the uploaded documents and resources and do not already have access, please send an email to NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

As a reminder, the NVSS Modernization COP currently hosts the following standing meetings:

- Weekly Optional Technical Assistance Office hours

This NCHS Data Brief accompanies the release of the public use birth file for 2020 and shows selected birth highlights for 2020. The general fertility rate declined 4% to another record low for the US in 2020. Birth rates declined among women of all age groups 15-44 with the largest declines for women under age 25. The low-risk cesarean delivery rate rose from 2019 to 2020 with increases for each race and Hispanic origin group. The U.S. preterm birth rate declined from 10.23% in 2019 to 10.09% in 2020, with declines among both early and late preterm births.

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