



CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) conference call on April 16, 2020

Staff from the Mortality Statistics Branch, including Lee Anne Flagg, Farida Ahmad, Margaret Warner, and Bob Anderson, participated in a CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) conference call on April 16, 2020. The topic of the COCA call was “Guidance for Certifying Deaths Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).” The group presented information on how to certify cause of death properly, especially in cases where death was due to COVID-19, and shared provisional data on COVID-19 deaths to illustrate how the data are being used. Video of the COCA call can be found at:

https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_041620.asp.

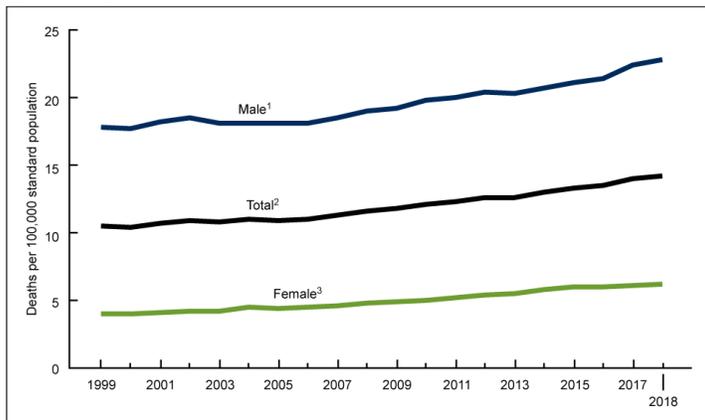
Over 5,200 people attended via Zoom. In addition, the call was streamed on Facebook Live. This video can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/212097412153701/videos/2993085494047013/>. As of April 21, 2020, this video has been viewed approximately 11,500 times.

Deaths of Despair: Story on How Connecting Opioid Data Extends the Possibilities for Suicide Research

Suicide, drug overdose, and alcohol-related deaths – known together as “deaths of despair” – are increasing across the United States.

Figure 1. Age-adjusted suicide rates, by sex: United States, 1999–2018



¹Stable trend from 1999 to 2006, significant increasing trend from 2006 through 2018 with different rates of change over time, $p < 0.05$.
²Significant increasing trend from 1999 through 2018 with different rates of change over time, $p < 0.05$.
³Significant increasing trend from 1999 to 2015 with different rates of change over time; stable trend from 2015 through 2018, $p < 0.05$.
 NOTES: Suicides are identified using *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* underlying cause-of-death codes U03, X60–X84, and Y87.0. Age-adjusted death rates were calculated using the direct method and the 2000 U.S. standard population. Access data for Figure 1 at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db362-tables-508.pdf#1>.
 SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality (NVSS-M).

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), often uncovers clues – and new questions – by examining **mortality data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS)**.

Using NVSS data, NIMH is working to identify the most potent, and modifiable, risk factors for suicide and suicide attempts. [See our new blog post](#) to learn more about how getting better data

on drug overdose deaths can also advance our understanding of suicide.

VSCP Annual Meeting June 10 at 2 p.m. EDT!

As mentioned in the [March newsletter](#), the contractually required annual VSCP meeting will be held via webinar this year. The in-person meeting requirement is being waived due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main topic of the webinar will be the outcome of our 2022 VSCP Contract market research and decisions based on this feedback.

Please mark your calendars for June 10 at 2 p.m. EDT.

Attendance is required to meet the VSCP contract meeting obligation; attendance will be taken. If your jurisdiction is not able to be represented, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist stating why you are unable to attend.

You will receive an invitation from NAPHSIS and will need to register for the webinar as for other VSCP Project Directors’ calls.

2019 Data Year Close-out Dates

As a reminder, the table below includes the contract closeout and file release dates for 2019 data. 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.

2019 Birth File

(States) Contract closeout for 2019 birth data	March 1, 2020
(States) Last date 2019 birth file updates accepted	April 10, 2020
(DACEB) Release of final 2019 birth data to Hyattsville	May 7, 2020

2019 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2019 deaths	May 1, 2020
(States) Last date 2019 death file updates accepted	June 15, 2020
(DACEB) Release final 2019 death file to Hyattsville	October 1, 2020

2019 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2019 fetal deaths	May 1, 2020
(States) Last date 2019 fetal death file updates accepted	June 26, 2020
(DACEB) Release final 2019 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 27, 2020

As the 2019 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.

Cooperative Agreement Corner

Our Cooperative Agreement with the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) supports several webinar series. We encourage you to register and participate in these upcoming sessions in May:

VSCP Project Directors Webinar

Wednesday May 13th at 2:00 pm EDT

Topics: COVID-19 Q&A, a 2022 VSCP contract update and, time permitting, Guy Beaudoin (WY) on Case Management Systems.

Use the following link to register:

<https://naphsis.webex.com/naphsis/onstage/g.php?MTID=e27f614248da8ede4040209cd4d7789fe>

May VRHS Accreditation Webinar

Wednesday, May 27, 2019 @ 3:00 pm EDT

Topic 7: Administration and Management of VRHS. Use the following link to register:

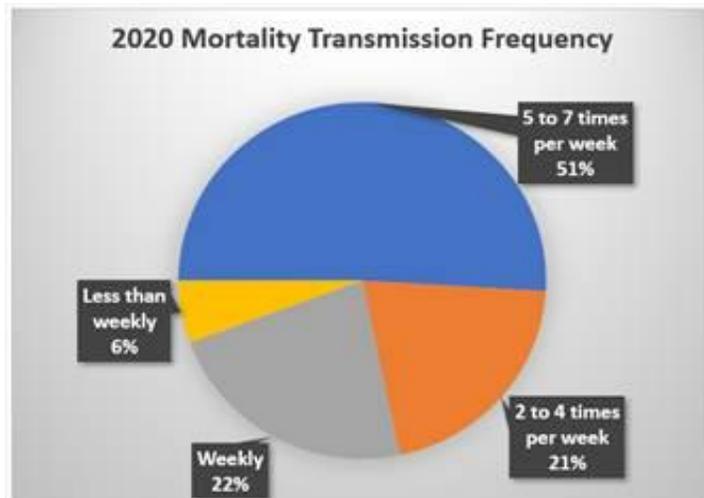
<https://naphsis.webex.com/naphsis/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed4c553b02cb1ae62d0b8708c4917398c>

2020 Mortality Transmissions during COVID-19

During this pandemic, our ability to quickly publish data about COVID-19 is greatly enhanced because more than half of the jurisdictions transmit mortality records to NCHS five or more times each week. While we know that not all jurisdictions have that capacity, if you have the capability to increase your frequency of transmission, it will improve the timeliness and completeness of the data we are publishing each weekday. Most of our tabulation processes run overnight, so transmission more frequently than daily is not necessary, but our system is generally available to accept data 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and those with the STEVE ThinClient installed are often able to schedule their transmissions without manual intervention.

We can also work with you to change the frequency with which we send you reports from our Specialist teams. Many jurisdictions that submit daily elect to receive their checklists and

other routine reports on a weekly basis; just contact your assigned DACEB staff to figure out what will work best for your situation.



We extend continued appreciation to all jurisdictions for your dedication and support of the National Vital Statistics System during these extraordinary times. If you have other suggestions about improvements in our services to you, please contact Karen Knight at ylp2@cdc.gov or Steve Schwartz at zaj7@cdc.gov.

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.

State updates

Angie Saleeby retired from her position as Assistant State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in South Carolina.

Daniela Nitcheva accepted the position of Acting Assistant State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in South Carolina.

Matthew Wickert was appointed the position of State Registrar in West Virginia.

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