The National Vital Statistics System: Getting from Good to Great
Everyone takes vital statistics for granted

Maybe even finds it dull...
SEX
and
DEATH!
GRAPHIC Depictions Inside!
ALL ages, Races and Ethnicities!
NO ONE LEFT OUT!!
Marriage and Divorce
CONFIDENTIAL!!
Sneak peak at TEEN PREGNANCIES!
This has been going on for YEARS!
Information on you, your friends, neighbors and FAMILY!
What the government knows about us all!
DETAILS on unmarried mothers!
Special investigations linking infant deaths to births, and MORE!
NOTHING
held back!!
How do we get from

Dull to SPARKLY

Good to GREAT
Getting from good to great

- Improving the national system
- Establishing achievable goals
- Working through
  - VSCP contracts
  - NAPHSIS
  - NCHS
  - The states
National Vital Statistics System

• 57 Vital Registration jurisdictions in the US
• 50 States
• 5 territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands)
• District of Columbia
• New York City
States’ responsibilities

• Registration of births, deaths, pregnancy terminations, marriages, divorces
• Issuance of certified copies
• Public health data collection and analysis
  – Timeliness
  – Quality
• Fraud prevention
What’s wrong with the system?

- Not timely
  - Data
  - Reports
- Not a single dataset
  - 1989 v. 2003 revisions, esp. births
- Not high enough quality
- Not enough resources
What’s going to change?

• More timely data for births, deaths, fetal deaths
• Faster data releases and publications by NCHS
• Improved quality
How will this happen?

- Stronger partnership between NCHS and NAPHSIS
- NCHS will improve its systems
- VSCP contract will help states improve realistically
- Joint data quality studies
- Commitment by NCHS, NAPHSIS, states
- New Model Law and Regulations
• More effective monitoring of state performance
• Stronger and faster action to identify problem states
• Corrective Action Plans
• More funding for system and special projects
• Complete implementation of EBR, EDR
• NCHS will provide cause of death coding for all states
• All states on 2003 certificate revision by 2013
• States sending and exchanging data faster
• NCHS will review and process faster
• More training tools to improve quality
• More resources
What it means for you

- More timely, cleaner data
- More uniform data across states
- Better electronic systems
- Better fraud prevention
- More informed policy and decision making
When?

- Five year VSCP contract period
- New model Law draft in 2011
- New projects, system starting in 2011
- All states on uniform dataset in 2013
- Stronger partnership between NCHS and the states: NOW
You saw it here FIRST!