

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.

PHAB VRHS Accreditation Training

NAPHSIS and the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) are offering the annual VRHS Accreditation Applicant training session in person on June 25, 2023, from 1- 5 p.m. Central in conjunction with NAPHSIS Annual Meeting. This training is a required step in the accreditation process. Accreditation Coordinators from VRHS Units that plan to apply for VRHS accreditation between July 15, 2023, and July 15, 2024, will need to attend Applicant training before they can pursue accreditation. In addition to registering for the 2023 NAPHSIS conference, attendees should [click here](#) to register for the PHAB training.

Field Service and Data Quality Workshop

NAPHSIS and the Division of Vital Statistics within the National Center for Health Statistics will host a Field Services and Data Quality Workshop in Boise, ID August 21-23, 2023. The objective of the workshop is to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage quality assurance activities and improve data quality within their jurisdiction. Through a combination of presentation, discussions, and networking, participants will learn about NCHS data quality reports, common issues and best practices in resolving issues and ensuring data accuracy and completeness. There is no registration fee, but accepted applicants will be responsible for all travel costs. [Register here.](#)

May VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. In May, we will hear from Michelle Osterman with NCHS and Monique Wilson, Matthew Daniel and Elaine Tretter with Maryland Department of Health. Michelle's presentation will discuss publications and data releases based on provisional birth data. Our friends in Maryland will discuss the tools they use

to improve the overall accuracy and quality of birth data. [Register to join](#) us on May 10, 2023, at 2 p. m. Eastern.

NAPHSIS Annual Meeting

The NAPHSIS Annual Meeting will be June 26-28 in Milwaukee, WI. Attendees will learn about products and technology to improve vital records and health statistics functions. The meeting offers informative sessions led by industry experts, an exhibits expo, and networking activities with peers. The Annual Meeting will help you develop connections and learn the latest in the world of vital records and health statistics that you can immediately bring back to your jurisdiction. [Registration is now open.](#)

Birth Data Quality Workgroup

Assess and improve the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, focusing on improving data at the source (i.e., at the hospital). Email hq@naphsis.org to join the next BDQW on June 1, 2023. The BDQW has established a new subgroup to focus on improving the quality of fetal death data. The first meeting of the new subgroup took place May 4, 2023. Future dates will be provided henceforth.

Field Services Special Interest Group

What questions do you have regarding field services and data quality? Want to hear about best practices in training your providers? Do you need guidance on quality assurance programs? If so, the Field Services Interest Group monthly meetings can be a great resource. Hear from jurisdictions sharing their experiences and lessons learned in dealing with their internal and external partners on various field services, data quality improvement and training topics. The next Field Services Interest Group will meet on May 23rd at 2 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Systems Special Interest Group

Come ask your technical peers about how they grapple with adjusting their vital records systems to meet the needs of vital records, data partners, and interoperability with other systems. The next Systems Special Interest Group will meet on May 25th at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Reminder to Get your 2022 Death Records Cleaned-up in Preparation for Closing the 2022 death file

Status of 2022 pending records

As a reminder, June 29, 2023, is the last day to submit files/updates for inclusion in the 2022 death file. Files and updates submitted after June 29 will likely **not be** included in the final file. As of April 14, 2023, there are approximately 15,590 (.47%) records pending. We have seen this number decrease over 50% since February! Thank you for ongoing efforts to get these amendments submitted.

Jurisdictional Goal for 2022 pending records:

The jurisdictional goal for pending records is to be as low as the 2021 file or .17%, whichever is lower.

For example:

- Jurisdiction A had .54% pending when 2021 closed, their pending goal for 2022 is .17%.
- Jurisdiction B had .06% pending when 2021 closed, their pending goal for 2022 is .06%.

Resources for pending records:

Pending counts and rates are available through multiple means:

- Pending Reports sent to each jurisdiction
- Mortality Data Quality Report sent quarterly to the VSCP Directors
- VSCP Performance reports sent monthly to VSCP Directors
- Pending Report on VSCP Website

While part of the lag may be due to delays from the Medical Examiner, Coroner, or Toxicology labs, **it is worth double checking to ensure amended information is being submitted to NCHS.** Please ensure your systems are extracting everything you think they are. Trust but verify!

2022 Cause of Death Corrections/Follow-up

In addition to getting the 2022 pending's submitted we need to ensure that the other corrections are being resolved as well. Including:

- Ensuring submitted values are valid values (i.e., 00 for the month of injury is not valid or an "N" for the pregnancy question.)

- Ensuring the injury section is completed and submitted to NCHS when the manner of death is Homicide, Suicide, or Accident.
 - Date and Time of Injury
 - Describe How the Injury Occurred
 - Place of Injury
 - Injury at work (Required when the deceased is 14 years or older)
 - Information submitted when the death was a result of a transport injury (i.e., driver/operator, passenger, and etc)
- Verify 2022 Rare Causes. For records that can't be confirmed, or a correction is needed please communicate that to your Assigned Medical Classification Specialist.

2022 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2022 contract closeout and draft 2022 file release dates. 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.

2022 Birth File	
(States) Target for States to correct errors for provisional file	January 26, 2023
(DACEB) Release provisional 2022 birth data to Hyattsville	February 9, 2023
(States) Contract closeout for 2022 birth data	March 1, 2023
(States) Last date 2022 birth file updates accepted	April 6, 2023
(DACEB) Release of final 2022 birth data to Hyattsville	May 4, 2023
2022 Death File	
(States) Contract closeout for 2022 deaths	May 1, 2023
(States) Last date 2022 death file updates accepted	June 29, 2023
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 27, 2023
(DACEB) Release final 2022 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	September 28, 2023

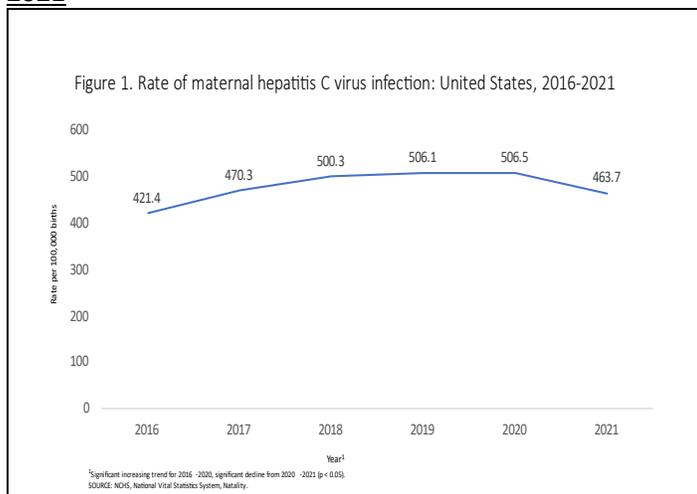
2022 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2022 fetal deaths	May 1, 2023
(States) Last date 2022 fetal death file updates accepted	July 27, 2023
(DACEB) Release final 2022 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 24, 2023

As the 2022 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.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Trends and Characteristics in Maternal Hepatitis C Infection Rates During Pregnancy: United States, 2016-2021



This report was released April 11th and can be found at this [link](#). It presents data on trends for hepatitis C virus infection among mothers giving birth in the United States from 2016 through 2021. As shown in Figure 1 above, the overall rate of hepatitis C infection rose 20% from 2016 to 2020 (from 421.4 to 506.5 per 100,000 births), and then declined 8% from 2020 to 2021 (463.7). Hepatitis C infection rates increased from 2016-2020 for mothers aged 25 and older, all maternal race and Hispanic origin groups (the increase for non-Hispanic Asian was not significant), all maternal educational attainment categories, for mothers who smoked cigarettes during pregnancy and those who did not, all prenatal care categories, and all source of payment groups (the increase for “other” was not significant). From 2020 to 2021, rates decreased or were unchanged for all characteristics.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



[The Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice \(NVSS COP\)](#) is a shared space for learning and innovation and provides a forum for jurisdictions and their partners to collaborate in the modernization space.

Several important program dates and milestones are upcoming:

Phase II of the Jurisdictional Outreach effort began in April 2023. Phase II consists of efforts to increase formal testing participation by reaching out to jurisdictional VROs that have participated in a NCHS organized testing event as an observer and not a tester.

The next formal organized testing event will occur on June 12-13, 2023. An invitation email will be sent out in May 2023; all jurisdictions interested in participating are encouraged to email the NVSS COP mailbox (nvssmodernization@cdc.gov). The testing event will follow the same test plan as the February 2023 testing event. Full details are available on the NVSS SharePoint site.

On March 31st, 2023, NCHS (DACEB) began the formal certification process for the first cohort (March 1st to May 2023) of vital records offices. As a reminder, certification is the final step on the 6 Step Pathway to Modernization. NCHS will be working with **MI, CT, and ID as part of the 1st cohort of VROs working towards certification.**

Earlier this month, many NVSS COP members were able to attend the 2023 Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Conference in Chicago. The interoperability show case demonstrated end to end FHIR based interoperability between clinical care and public health to include vital records and cancer registries. It was a productive and collaborative effort across diverse teams including EndoSoft, Epic, Philips, Vital Records, Cancer Program, MN VRO and NAPHSIS/STEVE. The NVSS CoP meeting on April 26th, 2023, provided a detailed overview of the show case including pictures from the conference. You can check them out on the NVSS CoP sharepoint site. For further information regarding the conference and related HIMSS resources, please visit [HIMSS Global Health Conference & Exhibition | HIMSS](#).