



Get your 2022 Cause of Death Data Submitted for Inclusion in the Final File!

As a reminder June 29, 2023, is the last day to submit files/updates for inclusion in the 2022 death medical file. Files and updates submitted after June 29 will likely not be included in the final file. As of February 17, 2023, there are approximately 32,500 (.98%) records pending.

Event Month	Percent Pending
Jan	1.55%
Feb	1.55%
Mar	1.97%
Apr	2.05%
May	2.76%
Jun	3.36%
Jul	4.53%
Aug	6.92%
Sep	10.08%
Oct	13.08%
Nov	19.73%
Dec	32.41%

Jurisdictional Goal for 2022 Pending's:

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

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
- 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 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.

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.

NCHS is excited to announce that it has contracted with Certified Technical Experts (CTE), Inc. in September 2022 to train and provide first-level support (technical assistance) to the jurisdictional VRO to transition to FHIR-based interoperability. Below is a brief overview of CTE staff members that are on board and available to assist:

CTE Management Team

John Sigmon, Project Manager. As a Project Manager with over 15 years of experience, John's role is to organize, plan, and execute the project to successful completion.

In addition to John Sigmon, Cherrie Johnson is also a Project Manager with over 5 years of experience in project management and Agile Scrum.

CTE Technical Assistance Team

John Burns is a Principal Software Engineer with a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and over 15 years of professional experience in product development. John is the Technical Lead on the team and is responsible for providing technical assistance to jurisdictions via Zulip and during NVSS organized events such as Office Hours, Technical Subgroups, and Testing Events.

Fabian Martina is a Helpdesk Specialist with 13 years of experience in Network Management, Server Management, and Helpdesk Support. Fabian is responsible for providing one-on-one support to jurisdictions through technical support in Zulip and NVSS organized events.

Skylyer Jackson is a Helpdesk Specialist with an extensive background in both IT and military matters. Skylyer is also responsible for providing one-on-one support for jurisdictions through technical support on Zulip chat and at NCHS organized testing events.

CTE Outreach Team

Spencer Barron is a Technical Writer and Business Analyst with over 20 years of government experience. He has earned both a master's and doctorate in public health and is responsible for providing outreach and one-on-one customized support to jurisdictions.

CTE Dashboard Team

Andrew Aboma is a Data Architect with over 5 years of experience in designing and implementing large and complex end-to-end analytics architectures for global clients. Andrew is working with the Community of Practice team to build a knowledge management system which will allow NCHS to monitor and track progress in the NVSS modernization space.

Eddy Chimi is a Database Administrator with over 8 years of experience in SQL Server Database Administration, Azure Cloud, and Data Visualization using PowerBI. Eddy is also responsible for building customized technical systems and tools for the CoP team.

Everett Miles is a Power Platform Developer with 15 years of experience building complex data collection, process automation, and reporting solutions meeting a wide range of business needs. Everett will be serving as the PowerApps and SharePoint developer for the NVSS Modernization Knowledge Management System.

"CTE is extremely excited for the opportunity to partner with NVSS in their modernization efforts and looks forward to a very successful collaboration." – CTE Management Team

February NVSS Testing Event

The most recent NCHS-hosted testing event was held on February 27th and 28th, 2023, and focused on the bidirectional flow from EDRS to STEVE to NCHS. Testing jurisdictions included Maine, Nevada, Connecticut, Idaho, Florida, Louisiana, District of Columbia, Kansas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, the Northern Mariana Commonwealth, and Nebraska. Observing jurisdictions included Oregon, West Virginia, Maryland, Alabama, Utah, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, Texas, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey and New York.

A highlight of this event is that it included an additional tier of testing which allowed the testing of the interjurisdictional exchange functionality of STEVE using FHIR.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to continue informal testing using the NCHS API and STEVE API between events, to continue to post questions on [Zulip chat](#), and to attend CoP Office Hours. Also, please be sure to note the remaining 2023 NCHS-Hosted Testing Event dates of June 12-13th 2023, September 25-26th 2023, and December 4-5th 2023. Jurisdictions are encouraged to participate as either a tester or observer in these events.

*Correction to the January 2023 Newsletter: The June 2023 NCHS hosted testing event will be held on June 12-13th, not on June 19th-20th as previously indicated. The September and December testing dates will be held as advertised.

Special thanks to technical partners MITRE, CTE, Lantana, Ruvos, and the EDRS vendor/technical integration community for their ongoing collaborations with the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice.

Precertification Pathway

The NVSS CoP is developing a new precertification pathway for those jurisdictions which have completed all testing phases and are simply waiting their turn for certification. Precertification followed by certification will be required, final activities for jurisdictions to move to sending mortality data in production via FHIR. In essence, a piece of certification testing will be moved to precertification to enable jurisdictions to 1) ensure their readiness for certification ahead of certification and 2) complete this testing on their own timelines. No release date is set for the precertification pathway, but further information—including

detailed instructions and test records—will be shared with and precertification opened to all jurisdictions following the NCHS pilot currently underway. Once FHIR precertified, a jurisdiction will proceed to certification when it's their cohort's turn to certify.

Precertification Pathway Requirements Overview:

Each jurisdiction will complete three phases of testing:

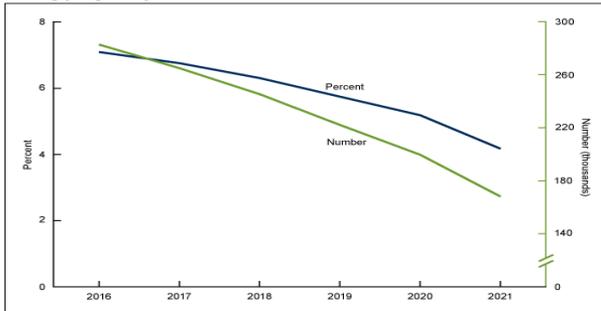
- Phase 1 will involve the successful submission of 10 clean records.
- Phase 2 will involve the submission of 10 additional records including validation/verification errors and absolute/conditional errors.
- Phase 3 will involve 15 actions building on the records from Phases 1 and 2. These actions will include submitting corrections and updates to existing records and submitting void and alias records.

The Precertification Pathway will require an operational SAMS account, and the ability to send and receive messages through both the STEVE API and NVSS API. Technical assistance will be available to jurisdictions as they complete precertification.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Declines in Cigarette Smoking During Pregnancy in the United States, 2016–2021

Figure 1. Number and percentage of mothers who smoked cigarettes during pregnancy: United States, 2016–2021



NOTES: Significant declining trends in numbers and rates from 2016 to 2021 ($p < 0.05$). SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

This NCHS data brief was released January 31st and can be found at this [link](#). As shown in Figure 1, the percentage of mothers who smoked during pregnancy declined 36% from 2016 to 2021, with the largest single-year decline of 16% occurring from 2020 to 2021. The number of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy declined by 41% from 2016 to 2021 and included a 16% drop from 2020 to 2021. Declines were seen across maternal age, race and Hispanic-origin groups, and in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

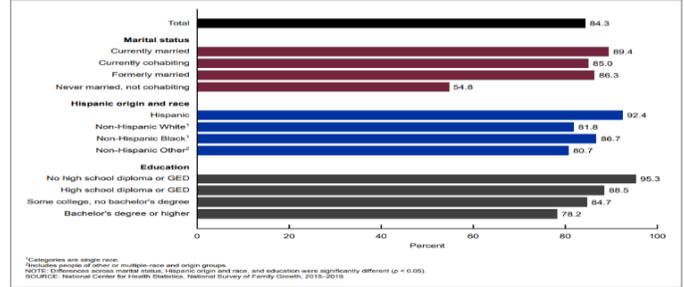
Quarterly Provisional Estimates for Selected Birth Indicators 2020-Quarter 3, 2022

This web release was made available in February 2022 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows provisional birth data through September 2022 on selected reproductive indicators (e.g., teen birth rates, method of delivery, preterm birth rates, NICU admission) by race and Hispanic origin of the mother (non-

Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic). Other notable information can be found within the web release.

Fertility of Men and Women Aged 15–49 in the United States: National Survey of Family Growth, 2015–2019

Figure 1. Percentage of women aged 40–49 who have ever had a biological child, by selected characteristics: United States, 2015–2019



This National Health Statistics Report was released January 10th and can be found at this [link](#). As shown in Figure 1 above, among women aged 40–49, 84.3% had ever had a biological child. The percentage of women aged 40–49 who had ever had a biological child was lower among never married, not cohabiting women compared with women of other marital or cohabiting statuses. The percentage of women who ever had a biological child decreased with additional education. The percentage of Hispanic women aged 40–49 who ever had a biological child was higher than the percentage of women of other race groups. Other notable results can be found within the report.

Vital Staff Spotlights

Devin George departed his position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Louisiana.

Nadine Smith was appointed State Registrar and Acting VSCP Project Director in Louisiana.

Patricia Piecuch was appointed Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Hampshire.

Denise Gonyer retired from her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Hampshire.

Robert Lee was appointed VSCP Project Director in North Carolina.

Jean Luka was appointed Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Hawaii.

Lorin Kim departed his position as Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Hawaii.

Janet Rainey retired from her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Virginia.

Seth Austin was appointed Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Virginia.

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