



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.

2024 NAPHSIS Annual Meeting

The NAPHSIS Annual Meeting will be May 20-22, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan. 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.

VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. You can forward this invitation to others in your office who might be interested, however, you cannot forward your approved registration, as each attendee must register separately. The next VSCP Project Directors Webinars will be May 8, 2024, at 2 p.m. Eastern and you can [Register Here](#).

Maximizing Collaboration for Accreditation Success Webinar

Join us for a webinar on April 16, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern where we delve into the coordination between Health Department (HD) and Vital Records and Health Statistics (VRHS) units. Gain valuable guidance and firsthand experiences from South Dakota and Arizona, uncovering lessons learned and best practices. This session is tailored to enhance understanding among HD and VRHS staff, spotlighting the relationship between accreditation processes and offering practical examples of successful integration. [Register Here](#)

Field Services & Data Quality Workshop

NAPHSIS and the Division of Vital Statistics within the National Center for Health Statistics is happy to announce that we will host the Field Services and Data Quality Workshop on August 19-21, 2024, in

Providence, Rhode Island. The workshop is tailored for field services staff, statistical staff involved in identifying data quality issues, staff conducting quality queries, or anyone interested in enhancing data quality of birth, death, and fetal death events. Gain valuable insights, collaborate with experts, and enhance your skills in ensuring the utmost data quality for vital events. This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to address challenges and share best practices. Registration closes May 31, 2024. [Register Here](#)

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 April 23, 2024, at 3 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 April 25, 2024, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Statistics Interest Group

NAPHSIS is launching a new Statistics Interest group. The first meeting will take place in April. This will be an opportunity to gather virtually on a monthly basis to discuss topics of interest related to statistics. Please email us at hq@naphsis.org if you are interested in participating.

2023 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2023 contract closeout and draft 2023 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.

2023 Birth File

(States) Contract closeout for 2023 birth data	March 1, 2024
(States) Last date 2023 birth file updates accepted	April 11, 2024
(DACEB) Release of final 2023 birth data to Hyattsville	May 9, 2024

2023 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2023 deaths	May 1, 2024
(States) Last date 2023 death file updates accepted	June 27, 2024
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 25, 2024
(DACEB) Release final 2023 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	September 26, 2024

2023 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2023 fetal deaths	May 1, 2024
(States) Last date 2023 fetal death file updates accepted	July 25, 2024
(DACEB) Release final 2023 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 22, 2024

As the 2023 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 NVSS [Modernization Community of Practice \(NVSS CoP\)](#) is a shared space for learning and innovation and provides a forum for jurisdictions and their partners working in the modernization space.

The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice

successfully hosted the first formal NCHS-organized testing event of 2024 on February 26th -27th. The workflow focus was advancing jurisdictional capabilities to exchange mortality data using FHIR. NVSS CoP is proud to report that 32 of 56 (or 57%) of the jurisdictions participated in the testing event, with seventeen (17) jurisdictional Vital Records Offices and their respective technical partners as testers. These included Idaho, Connecticut, Alabama, Missouri (New), Hawaii, Nevada, Arkansas, Kansas, Vermont, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Tennessee (New), Alabama, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Additionally, fifteen (15) jurisdictions participated as observers, including Guam, Texas, American Samoa, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Utah, Mississippi, New Mexico (New), Oregon, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and New York.

Key takeaways from the testing event include:

- A panel of jurisdictions, who had all been NVSS FHIR Certified for Mortality shared their experiences with observing jurisdictions, which was very beneficial.
- Hands-on demonstrations displayed the basic steps/functions in the FHIR interoperability process, which immensely helped first-time jurisdictions.
- SAMS support and STEVE API technical support resources were readily available and on-call during the testing event, which provided substantial aid in answering questions and resolving connectivity issues swiftly.
- No bugs that would require code fixes were identified, and there were no blocking issues with the libraries, Canary, or the IGs that would prevent a VRO from completing the tests.
- An issue was identified about Canary not displaying correctly parsed FHIR values; this is a display artifact only.

NCHS has announced the following upcoming 2024 testing event dates: June 3-4 and September 9-10, 2024. We encourage all stakeholders to mark these dates in their calendars. If any jurisdictions are interested in participating as observers or testers, they should contact the NVSS CoP mailbox at nvssmodernization@cdc.gov.

The NVSS Modernization CoP continues to work towards having as many jurisdictions as possible begin the certification process this year, as well as having many more states in production and certified sending mortality data to NCHS using FHIR

National Death Index

In mid-March, 2024, the National Death Index received the completed Final File 2022 and the Early Release File 2023 for mortality records. NDI clients have since been lining up to submit their search requests for those two files. We've been busy! Our thanks to all the folks in DVS who worked so hard to provide these files to us as soon as possible. And of course, our perennial thanks to the jurisdictions for providing the data. Our biggest client came in with a search request for 84+ million records! We're still working on that one.

CDC WONDER

Provisional birth data are now in CDC WONDER!

The first ever release of provisional birth data in CDC WONDER was published on October 3rd. Data are currently available through February 29, 2024 and now include data for Puerto Rico. Data are updated monthly and include nearly every item on the birth public use file.

CDC and CDC Foundation Partner Progress



CDC's Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners ([COMEC](#)) partnered with the CDC Foundation to create a

This newsletter is a publication of the NVSS, intended to enhance the community of vital records and vital statistics practice, to provide useful information for vital statistics and vital records professionals, and to inform the broader community of interested stakeholders.

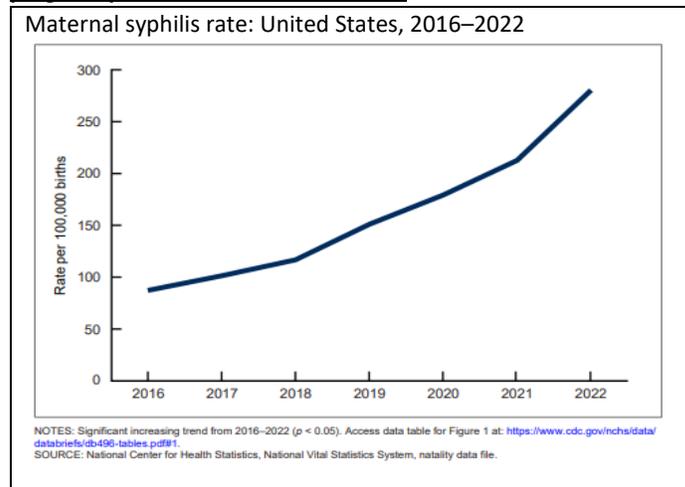
collaboration supporting data modernization. MDI Connect was born and is a funded group of fourteen medical examiner and coroner jurisdictions committed to modernization of data sharing, including developing interoperable systems, and improving data flows using Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®). These fourteen sites modernization applications will improve data quality; provide timely or real time delivery/sharing of data; and reduce or eliminate the need to manually enter data.

- The Alaska State Medical Examiner’s Office, Marion County Coroner’s Office (IN), the Midwest Medical Examiner’s Office (MN), the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and the Wayne County Medical Examiner’s Office (MI) all operate using a [medicolegal death investigation case management system \(CMS\)](#). Individual CMS vendors work with the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) and the EDRS vendor to collect and exchange MDI data.
- Charleston County Coroner’s Office (SC), the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office (IL), the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (NM), and the York County Coroner’s Office (PA) are all working to exchange postmortem toxicology results between their CMS and laboratory information management systems (LIMS) used for toxicology.
- Butler County Coroner’s Office (OH), the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (NV), the DeKalb County Medical Examiner’s Office (GA), and the Office of the Medical Examiner/Sparrow Forensic Pathology (MI) are all working towards exchanging MDI data between their CMS vendor and public health partners, including the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS).
- Greenville County Coroner’s Office (SC) is working towards sending de-identified information on drug overdoses from their CMS vendor to the Overdoes Detection Mapping Application (ODMAP). ODMAP is part of the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.
- Jefferson County Coroner/Medical Examiner’s Office (AL) is also working on improving communication with their district attorney’s office. The Jefferson County office uses an in-house CMS vendor -Acoer/FileMaker Pro CMS to achieve bi-directional data sharing.

The MDI Connect awardees receive technical support from subject matter experts, including Lantana Consulting Group, the Georgia Technical Research Institute (GTRI), and Dan Chaput of Chaput Consulting. Awardees work with their data-sharing partners and information management system vendors to design, build and test FHIR-enabled MDI data exchange practices, and innovate using standards-based approaches that are scalable and reusable.

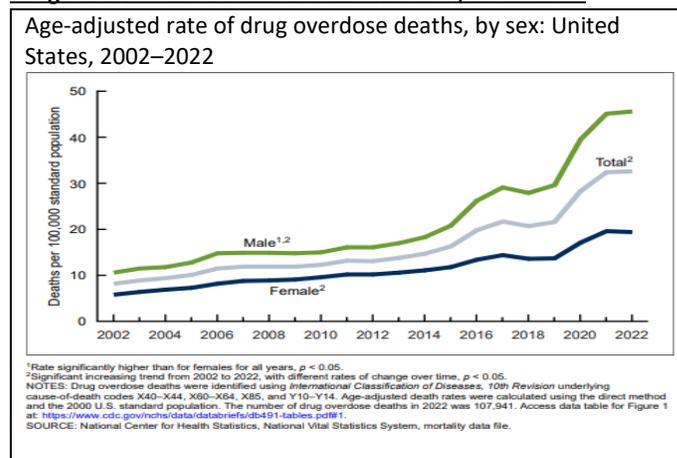
Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Trends and characteristics in maternal syphilis rates during pregnancy: United States, 2016–2022.



This report was released in February 2024 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows that the rate of syphilis in mothers giving birth in the US more than tripled from 2016 to 2022, rising from 88.2 to 280.4 per 100,000 births. Increases were seen for all maternal race and Hispanic origin groups, all maternal age groups, all prenatal care categories and in 47 states and DC. Other notable results can be found within the report.

Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2002–2022



This report was released in March 2024 and can be found at this [link](#). It shows that the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths nearly quadrupled from 8.2 in 2002 to 32.6 in 2022; however, the rate did not significantly change between 2021 (32.4) and 2022 (32.6). Between 2021 and 2022, the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths for males increased 1.1% from 45.1 to 45.6, while the rate for females decreased 1.0% from 19.6 to 19.4, although this decrease was not significant. Other notable results can be found within the report.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)