



## 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 Webinar will be March 13, 2024 at 2 p.m. Eastern and you can [register to join here](#). The VSCP Project Directors Webinar for April will be April 10, 2024 at 2 p.m. Eastern and you can [register to join here](#).

### **Field Services & Data Quality Workshop-Save the Date**

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.

### **Vital Records 101**

As you know, there is a lot to learn in the field of Vital Records and Health Statistics. Let us help you provide your employees with the training they need! NAPHSIS and NCHS offer the Vital Records 101

Course annually for anyone - new employees and those looking for a refresher. This course covers fundamental information for all VRHS employees and will take place March 25-27, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### **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 March 26, 2024 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) to join the monthly call. The April monthly call will be April 23, 2024 at 3 p.m. Eastern.

### **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 March 28, 2024 at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email [systems@naphsis.org](mailto:systems@naphsis.org) to join the monthly call. The April monthly call will be April 25, 2024 at 3 p.m. Eastern.

### **Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW) and Fetal Death Subgroup**

The BDQW meets on the first Thursday of every other month at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. The Fetal Death subgroup meets in the months that BDQW does not meet. Email [hq@naphsis.org](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) to join the next Birth Data Quality Workgroup call on April 4th at 2:00 Eastern.

### **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](mailto:hq@naphsis.org) if you are interested in participating.

### **2024 VSCP Documentation**

The VSCP contract requires each jurisdiction to provide documentation on state procedures and software used in the coding, keying, and editing of birth data records, death demographic data records, mortality medical information, linked birth/infant death data and fetal death data records. A request for this documentation was sent to jurisdictions in late 2023. For 2024, NCHS is requesting copies of all certificates and worksheets for each event from each jurisdiction. If your jurisdiction has not provided this information to NCHS please forward the requested documents to NCHS. If you have questions you may contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist at NCHS.

## 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	<b>March 1, 2024</b>
(States) Last date 2023 birth file updates accepted	<b>April 11, 2024</b>
(DACEB) Release of final 2023 birth data to Hyattsville	May 9, 2024

### 2023 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2023 deaths	<b>May 1, 2024</b>
(States) Last date 2023 death file updates accepted	<b>June 27, 2024</b>
(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

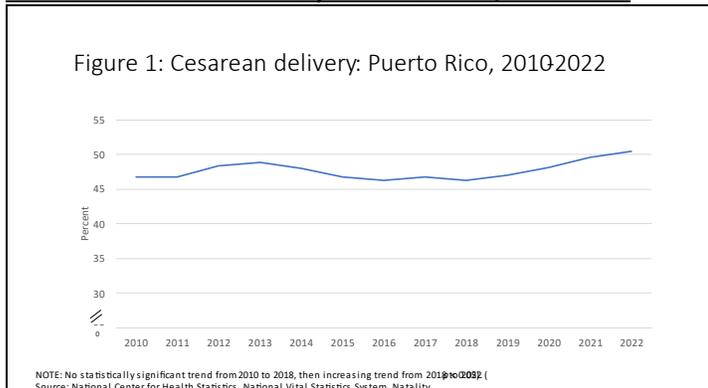
### 2023 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2023 fetal deaths	<b>May 1, 2024</b>
(States) Last date 2023 fetal death file updates accepted	<b>July 25, 2024</b>
(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.

## Notable Publications/Data Briefs

### Trends in Cesarean Delivery in Puerto Rico, 2018-2022

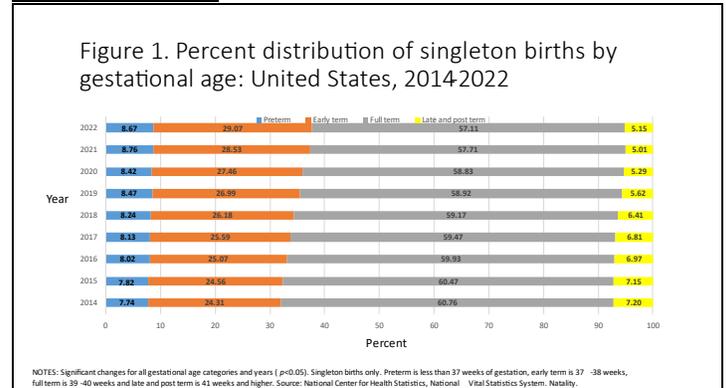


This report was released January 10<sup>th</sup> and can be found at this [link](#). It describes trends in Puerto Rico's cesarean delivery rate from 2010 to 2022 and explores changes by maternal age, gestational age, and municipality from 2018 to 2022. After fluctuating from 2010 to 2018, the cesarean delivery rate in Puerto Rico increased every year from 2019 to 2022, reaching a high of approximately 50% of all births in

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.

2022. From 2018 to 2022, rates of cesarean delivery increased for mothers in all age groups under age 40 and for late preterm, early term, and full-term births. Among the six municipalities with the largest number of births in Puerto Rico, cesarean delivery increased in Ponce, San Juan, and Bayamón by 12%-16% from 2018 to 2022.

## Shifts in the distribution of births by gestational age, United States, 2014-2022



This report was released January 31 and can be found at this [link](#). It describes changes in the distribution of singleton births by gestational age in the United States from 2014 to 2022, by maternal age and race and Hispanic origin. Despite some fluctuation in most gestational age categories during the pandemic years, trends from 2014 to 2022 demonstrate a shift towards shorter gestational ages. Preterm and early term birth rates rose from 2014 to 2022 (by 12% and 20%, respectively) while full-term and late- and post-term births declined (6% and 28%, respectively). Similar shifts for each gestational age category were seen across maternal age and race and Hispanic origin groups. By single week of gestational at term, the largest change was for births at 37 weeks (increase of 42%).

## 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 next Quarterly NCHS-organized testing event is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 with 18 testers and

14 observers already signed up.

NCHS encourages jurisdictions to begin precertification as soon as they are ready. Both Pre-Certification and Certification are required steps prior to moving into production with FHIR. Congratulations to Utah, Michigan, and New Jersey for their hard work in reaching the critical milestone of completing NVSS Mortality FHIR certification. As a reminder, certification will require jurisdictions to demonstrate that FHIR data submissions match IIE data submissions and that the jurisdiction can submit large amounts of FHIR data. Once jurisdictions

are certified and in production with FHIR, NCHS will send FHIR messages with the coded resource as a single record response.

Monthly CoP Main meeting and CoP Technical Subgroup meeting agendas, slide decks, and recordings can be found in the Meeting Proceeds area of the NVSS Modernization Community Practice [SharePoint site](#). Users can also click the 'quick links' option to access Certification and Pre-Certification documents. NVSS recommends jurisdictions use the peer-to-peer connection for artifacts that are of interest to the Community of Practice. Alternatively, please feel free to send them to the NVSS Modernization mailbox.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to post technical questions on the #DeathonFHIR stream in the Zulip chat. This is a reminder to any user who posts an issue to Zulip to include as much relevant information as possible, including any attachments. The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice Weekly Office Hours meeting minutes are posted on the [Zulip NVSS CoP Office Hours stream](#) every week.

### [Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners \(COMEC\)](#)



The [Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners](#) (COMEC) provides broad support for public health activities to professionals who conduct medicolegal death investigations (MDIs). COMEC was established this year at CDC in recognition of the important role of medicolegal death investigation for public health and CDC. If you would like to receive monthly announcements from the Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners, please send a note to [MDI@CDC.GOV](mailto:MDI@CDC.GOV).

#### **COMEC Seminar Series**

On the second Tuesday of every month COMEC hosts a virtual seminar to discuss topics related to medicolegal death investigations, vital records and statistics, and public health. Dr. Robert Anderson, Chief of Mortality Statistics at CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the March 12<sup>th</sup> guest speaker. He will lead a discussion on "Mortality in the United States 2000-2022, Provisional 2023." To learn more about Dr. Anderson's work with NCHS, you can listen to his interview on [death certificates](#).

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)

In 2023, COMEC held 11 virtual events as part of the Seminar Series. All events are recorded and available on the CDC's COMEC [SharePoint page](#). If you would like to share information about COMEC with your medical examiner or coroner community, send us an [email](#) and we will be happy to craft an introductory email to share with your local associations/communities.

#### **MDI Connect**

Our data modernization implementer's collaborative, MDI Connect, held its first ever virtual test event January 24-25, 2024. Three jurisdictions worked on completing the minimum testing requirements for interoperability with their data-sharing partner or with the Bluejay test environment, which can substitute as the electronic death registration system (EDRS) partner.

Butler County Coroner's Office, Ohio, successfully converted case data into MDI and EDRS documents, as well as developed the initial FHIR mapping between the case management system and the public health system for surveillance data fields.

Greenville County Coroner's Office, South Carolina, working with MDILog and the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area's Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (W/B HIDTA ODMAP) created a case management view for ODMAP variables, created a local implementation guide for sending the data, tested the submission, and demonstrated the new case data populating into the ODMAP system.

Marion County Coroner's Office, Indiana, working with the Indiana Department of Health continued to resolve connectivity issues. They also completed FHIR mapping for EDRS data transfer. Marion County had unexpected barriers due to not using a standard case management system programming language but relying on a messaging integration tool to convert the case management data structure to the format required by the EDRS system.

The next MDI Connect Test Event will be held March 27-28, 2024 to support various workflows in our [16 funded Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices](#).

#### **Vital 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](mailto:gct1@cdc.gov).

Kyndra Herrera was appointed (Deputy) State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Wyoming.

Guy Beaudoin retired from his position as (Deputy) State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Wyoming.