



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.

June VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar typically occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. The July VSCP Directors Webinar has been cancelled and the next webinar will be on August 9, 2023, at 2 p.m. Topics for this webinar will be shared at a later date.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup

The Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW) works to 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 August 3, 2023, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

New Fetal Death Subgroup

The Birth Data Quality Workgroup has formed a new subgroup with the goal of establishing best practices for the accurate and timely reporting of fetal deaths. If you would like to join us for future meetings, contact Elizabeth Gregory at kkn6@cdc.gov.

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 July 25th 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 July 27th at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

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 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

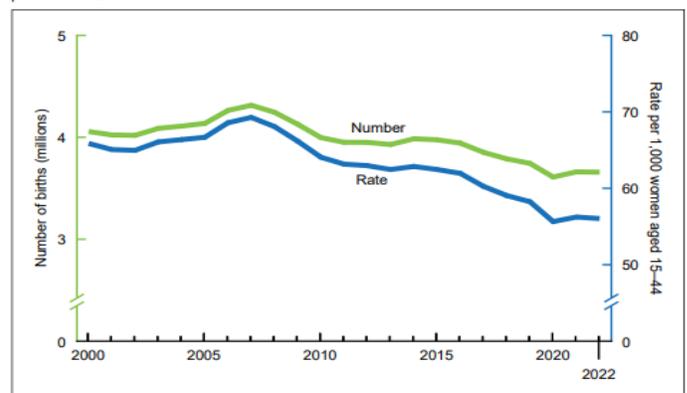
(States) Contract closeout for 2022 fetal deaths	May 1, 2023
(States) Last date 2022 fetal death file updates accepted	July 27, 2023
(DACEB) Release final 2022 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 24, 2023

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

Births: Provisional Data for 2022

Figure 1. Number of live births and general fertility rates: United States, final 2000–2021 and provisional 2022



SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

This report was released June 1st and can be found at this [link](#). It presents provisional 2022 data on U.S. births. Provisional data based on 99.9% of births are shown by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother. Data on cesarean delivery and preterm births are also presented. As shown in Figure 1, the provisional number of births for the United States in 2022 was 3,661,220, a non-significant decline from 2021. The general fertility rate was 56.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15–44, down less than 1% from 2021. The total fertility rate was 1,665.0 births per 1,000 women in 2022, essentially unchanged from 2021. Birth rates declined in 2022 for women in the age groups between 15 and 24 and 30–34 years, rose for women 25–29 and 35–49 years, and was unchanged for

adolescents aged 10-14. The birth rate for teenagers aged 15–19 declined 3% in 2022. The cesarean delivery rate rose to 32.2% in 2022 and the preterm birth rate declined 1% to 10.38%. Other notable results can be found within the report.

Quarterly Provisional Estimates for Selected Birth Indicators 2020-Quarter 4, 2022

This web release was made available June 1st, 2022, and can be found at this [link](#). It shows provisional birth data through December 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).

Quarterly Provisional Estimates of Infant Mortality, 2020-Quarter 4, 2022

This webpage was released on June 1st and can be found at this [link](#). It shows trends in 12-month ending infant mortality rates by quarter by age of death (neonatal, postneonatal) and for the top five causes of infant death (congenital malformations, short gestation/low birthweight, SIDS, unintentional injury, maternal complications) from Q1 of 2020 through Q4 of 2022.

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. Phase II of the NVSS CoP Jurisdictional Outreach effort

began in April 2023 and is making great progress. Phase II consists of efforts to increase formal testing participation among jurisdictions.

The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice organized a successful testing event on June 12th and 13th, 2023. The workflow focus was VRDR IG validation and MDI support. NVSS CoP is proud to report that 34 of 57 jurisdictions participated in the testing event with eighteen (18) jurisdictional Vital Records Offices and their respective technical partners as testers. These included Oregon (New), Pennsylvania, Nevada, Idaho, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois (New), Florida, Maine, Wyoming, Kansas, Arkansas, Georgia (New), Minnesota, Kentucky, Utah, Michigan, New York City.

Additionally, sixteen (16) jurisdictions including Alaska, Alabama, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Maryland, South Dakota (New), Mississippi, Northern Mariana Islands, District of Columbia, Guam (New), Puerto Rico and New Hampshire participated as observers.

Key takeaways from the testing event include:

- An impressive 40% of testers partially completed Tier 5 testing. This indicates that they have completed Tiers 1-4 at this or previous testing events.

- An impromptu session was led by Hawaii on the use of a filtering feature which allows them to streamline receiving responses from the NVSS and STEVE APIs.
- An informative and beneficial session was led by Ruvos on the use of STEVE and its routing function.
- CTE played a critical role in this testing event welcoming two additional software developers on the team resolving the back-end fixes and investigation which allowed the CTE principal software engineer to provide more front end VRO facing support.
- There were no blocking issues with the libraries, Canary or the IGs that would prevent a VRO from completing the tests, and several VROs were able to go all the way through to Tier 5. The below table summarizes the testing tier progress:

Testing Tier	Number of VROs fully completing Tier during June 2023 event	Number of VROs partially completing Tier during June 2023 event
*Several experienced jurisdictions skipped Tier 1		
Tier 1*	5	2
Tier 2	8	0
Tier 3	8	2
Tier 4	4	1
Tier 5	2	7 (~ 40%)

Special thanks to technical partners MITRE, CTE, NAPHSIS, and Ruvos for their ongoing collaborations in the NVSS modernization space.

The next formal organized testing event will occur on September 25-26, 2023. Any jurisdictions interested in participating as an observer or tester are encouraged to email the NVSS CoP mailbox (nvssmodernization@cdc.gov).

As the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice assists jurisdictions in their readiness for production with FHIR, precertification and certification are requirements. The NVSS CoP has reported an impressive 37 jurisdictions that have signed up for certification as of today. We encourage all jurisdictions who have not signed up to please send an email to nvssmodernization@cdc.gov to request that your jurisdiction be added to the list.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to continue informal testing using their API access between testing events, to continue to post questions to Zulip for technical assistance, and to attend weekly optional CoP Office Hours.

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**.

Patricia Piecuch departed her position as Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Hampshire.

Kristin Kenniston was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Hampshire

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