

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.

October VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. October's call will have a new format! Join us for a panel discussion regarding home births. There will be representation from multiple jurisdictions, bring your questions, and learn more about data collection for home births. [Register](#) to join us on October 12, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup

SCHEDULE UPDATE: This workgroup now meets every other month. Join to learn what jurisdictions and NCHS are doing to improve their birth data quality. Our goal is to assess and improve the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, with a focus on improving data at the source (i.e., at the hospital). Email hq@naphsis.org to join. The next BDQW will meet on October 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

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 October 25, 2022, 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 October 27, 2022, at 3 p.m. Eastern, featuring a guest presentation on agile procurement methods for IT systems. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Invoicing for 2021 Data

Thank you for all your efforts in completing the 2021 data files. Now that the 2021 data files from the jurisdictions are complete, jurisdictions may submit invoices for any outstanding funds for the 2021 VSCP and 2021 NDI contracts and for any prior year outstanding funds. This includes the Industry and Occupation special project and the Geocoding special project. If you have any questions concerning invoices, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Infant Mortality in the United States, 2020: Data from the Period Linked Birth/Infant Death File

This report was released September 29th and can be found at this [link](#). It presents 2020 infant mortality statistics by age at death, maternal race and Hispanic origin, maternal age, gestational age, leading causes of death, and maternal state of residence. Trends in infant mortality are also examined. The report found declines between 2019 and 2020 in both the number of infant deaths (19,578 in 2020) and the infant mortality rate (5.42 per 1,000 births). The infant mortality rate declined among births to Hispanic women from 2019 to 2020; declines in rates for the other race and Hispanic-origin groups were not significant.

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 working in the modernization space to come together on topics of mutual interest.

Upcoming Opportunities for Jurisdiction Engagement to Develop and Showcase FHIR Based Interoperability Standards in the NVSS Space

Formation of a Workgroup to Inform the EDRS to Surveillance System Use Case

NCHS has received interest from jurisdictions in working towards FHIR-based interoperability in the EDRS to public health (PH) surveillance systems workflow. In fact, approximately 12 jurisdictions identified interest in this workflow in their ELC CoAg optional activities. The NVSS COP is forming a workgroup with jurisdictions on this flow to be more proactive in articulating the requirements for program areas, data and messaging. For example, the workgroup would spell out the use case within the existing HL7 Vital Records Death Reporting (VRDR) FHIR implementation guide (IG) and identify the PH surveillance systems that vital records offices (VROs) want to interoperate with, as well as the associated content and messaging requirements, such as the data dictionary of the exchange.

The VRDR STU 2 FHIR IG (HL7.FHIR.US.VRDR\Home - FHIR v4.0.1) was recently published, and it addresses the four use cases related to mortality reporting. We want to take advantage of those profiles that have been built in the VRDR and use them as building blocks for other use cases such as the one for interoperability with VRO surveillance systems. Therefore, this EDRS to surveillance system use case would not be a new IG but it would represent an additional use case to build on within the existing IG.

If your jurisdiction is interested in being part of the EDRS to surveillance system use case workgroup, reach out to the NVSS Modernization Mailbox at NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

Participate in the HIMSS (Health Information and Management Systems Society) Interoperability Showcase in April 2023

HIMSS is a global leader in health IT and all things related to the modernization and development of the health IT space. HIMSS holds a global conference each year consisting of demonstrations on real-world stories and initiatives demonstrating the implementation and use of standards. There is usually a large presence from CDC on Public Health reporting use cases at the interoperability showcase.

The HIMSS 2023 Interoperability Showcase takes place April 17-21, 2023, in Chicago, IL and NCHS does plan to participate in the event. State vital record offices and their EDRS vendors are welcome to participate to showcase a mortality workflow of the use case demonstration. NCHS is looking for states who would like to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the work that the NVSS modernization community has been doing in the EDRS to NCHS FHIR-based interoperability space to a diverse audience from both the public health and health care sector(s). The work will be showcased to the larger health and public health IT audience on the exhibit floor in a setting that simulates a “real life” scenario.

There are system and registration costs to consider. More details are forthcoming as they are formalized. The following link contains more information about HIMSS, the conference, schedule, and showcase, etc.: <https://www.himss.org/global-conference>. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

Vital Staff Spotlights

Jean Remsbecker departed her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Washington State.

Katie Hutchinson was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Washington State.

Lisa Hasselbrook was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Pennsylvania.

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