



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 – Call for Proposals

NAPHSIS invites you to submit proposals for oral and poster presentations that align with the theme of advancing Vital Records operations, modernization efforts, registration/issuance systems, statistical projects, or addressing current and emerging public health issues. Please submit your abstract for consideration [here](#). The abstract submission deadline is February 1, 2024. To learn more about the NAPHSIS Annual Meeting visit their website [here](#).

VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. As a reminder: The December VSCP call has been cancelled but will resume in January. 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. [Register to join](#) the webinar on January 10, 2024, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

SAVE THE DATE - 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 January 23, 2024, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org for information on how 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 January 25, 2024, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org for information on joining the monthly call.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW)

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 learn how to join the next BDQW on February 1, 2024, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Fetal Death Subgroup

The Fetal Death Subgroup was born from members of the Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW) to help jurisdictions improve the reporting, timeliness and quality of fetal death data. The workgroup is co-chaired by Elizabeth Gregory (NCHS) and Ashley Vice (AL) and meets in the months that the BDQW does not meet. The next meeting will be January 4, 2024, at 2 p.m. Eastern. Email hq@naphsis.org for information on joining the next call.

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.

The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice successfully organized the fourth and final formal NCHS-organized testing event of 2023 on December 4th -5th. The focus was on advancing jurisdictional capabilities to exchange mortality

data using FHIR. NVSS CoP is proud to report that 26 of 57 (or 46%) of the jurisdictions participated in the testing event, with seventeen (17) jurisdictional Vital Records Offices and their respective technical partners as testers. This included Idaho, Kentucky, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, Iowa, Illinois, Florida, Arkansas, Kansas, Washington (new), Vermont, Alabama (new), Northern Mariana Islands, Mississippi, District of Columbia, and Maine.

Additionally, nine (9) jurisdictions, including Texas, American Samoa (new), Pennsylvania, Montana, New Hampshire, New York City, North Carolina, New York, and Guam participated as observers.

Key takeaways from the testing event include:

- Jurisdictional focus primarily on later testing plan tiers suggests advances in system maturity and notable progress through modernization pathway. Several states decided to bypass earlier tiers because they had completed them at past events.
- The community was very engaging and supportive of each other with issues they encountered.
- 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.
- Over 3,000+ messages were successfully transmitted to NCHS during the testing event, per ITB.

NVSS has announced the new testing event dates for 2024: February 26-27, June 3-4, September 9-10, and December 2-3. We encourage stakeholders to please mark your calendars and plan accordingly. Any jurisdictions interested in participating as an observer or tester are encouraged to email the NVSS CoP mailbox (nvssmodernization@cdc.gov).

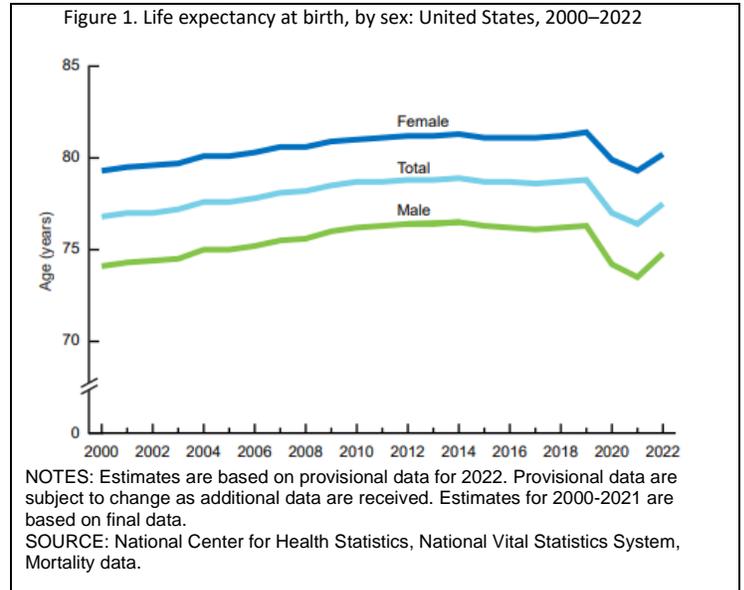
The NVSS Modernization CoP continues to work towards 75% of jurisdictions completing FHIR Certification by the end of 2024. Jurisdictions must remember that **precertification and certification** are required steps in the NVSS FHIR Certification Pathway. The overarching goal of the precertification process is to ensure a jurisdiction's readiness for certification. A successful precertification effort should provide a problem-free path through the final certification process. As a reminder, the six steps of the NVSS Certification Pathway include enhancing systems, informal testing, formal testing, precertification, certification, and production. NCHS would

like to offer special thanks to its technical partners, CTE, Ruvos, NAPHSIS, and MITRE for their ongoing collaboration in the modernization efforts. Their valuable contributions have been instrumental in the success of our recurring meetings and organized testing events.

Jurisdictions are reminded to use our peer-to-peer connection for announcements that are of interest to the Community of Practice, including job vacancies and upcoming conferences. Please feel free to send them to the NVSS mailbox.

[Notable Publications/Data Briefs](#)

Provisional Life Expectancy Estimates for 2022



This report was released November 2023 and can be found at this [link](#). It presents life expectancy at birth by year, Hispanic origin and race, and sex. In 2022, life expectancy at birth was 77.5 years, increasing by 1.1 years from 76.4 in 2021. Life expectancy at birth for males in 2022 was 74.8 years, representing an increase of 1.3 years from 73.5 in 2021. For females, life expectancy increased to 80.2 years, increasing 0.9 year from 79.3 in 2021. Other notable results can be found within the report.

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 today.

Josef Gasimov was appointed State Registrar in the District of Columbia.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues!](#)