

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.

Mortality Data Quality Subgroup: If you are interested in participating in the Mortality Data Quality Workgroup (MDQW) and/ or the MDQW EDRS Enhancements subgroup please email NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

December VSCP Directors Webinar | NAPHSIS invites you to the monthly VSCP Project Directors Webinar on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. December Topics include: Birth Interoperability Project with EHRS and EBRIS and Decline in Birth Rates 2020-2021. Please [register](#) to join us on December 8, 2021 at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Making the Case for VRHS Unit Accreditation Webinar

Recording: To promote the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) training for Vital Records/Health Statistics (VRHS) jurisdictions interested in applying to PHAB for its accreditation process during July 2021-June 2022, NAPHSIS hosted a webinar titled Making the Case for VRHS Unit Accreditation which was held on April 15, 2021. The webinar included presenters from PHAB, NAPHSIS, and three vital records jurisdictions. PHAB provided evaluation results from accredited health departments that reported on the impact on their operations by having completed the accreditation process. While VRHS unit accreditation is different than health department accreditation, there are similar benefits derived from the accreditation process. Representatives from South Dakota, Florida, and Arizona provided VRHS unit-specific perspectives, describing the positive impact of having

completed the VRHS unit accreditation process in the following areas: Accountability, Partnerships, Preparedness (security and COOP), Quality Improvement, and Workforce. NAPHSIS concluded the webinar with a description of technical assistance available to jurisdictions interested in pursuing accreditation. If you missed the webinar and your jurisdiction is interested in the benefits of accreditation, please contact NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

Reminder: File Layouts Effective Starting with 2022 Data

The 2022 – 2026 Vital Statistics Cooperative Program (VSCP) contract includes collection of residence address and placeholder fields on the birth, death and fetal death files and Industry and Occupation on the death file. The revised Interjurisdictional Exchange (IJE) file layout and the NCHS file layouts were shared via e-mail with the jurisdictions July 29th and July 30th, respectively. These layouts will be in effect starting with 2022 events. 2021 data will continue to use the current layouts. For questions about the IJE layout, please contact NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org. The NCHS file layouts and in processing documentation are also available on the password protected VSCP website. For questions about the NCHS file layouts, please contact Karen Knight at kknight1@cdc.gov.

2021 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2021 contract closeout and draft 2021 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.

2021 Birth File

(States) Target for States to correct errors for provisional file	January 27, 2022
(DACEB) Release provisional 2021 birth data to Hyattsville	February 10, 2022
(States) Contract closeout for 2021 birth data	March 1, 2022
(States) Last date 2021 birth file updates accepted	April 7, 2022
(DACEB) Release of final 2021 birth data to Hyattsville	May 5, 2022

2021 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2021 deaths	May 1, 2022
(States) Last date 2021 death file updates accepted	June 30, 2022
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 28, 2022
(DACEB) Release final 2021 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	September 30, 2022

2021 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2021 fetal deaths	May 1, 2022
(States) Last date 2021 fetal death file updates accepted	July 28, 2022
(DACEB) Release final 2021 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 25, 2022

As the 2021 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



Beginning in 2022, NCHS will organize quarterly events to provide jurisdictions with an opportunity to test their health systems strengthening efforts with FHIR based interoperability. While the focus will be on the Electronic Death Registration Systems (EDRS) to NCHS flow, some

events will also include opportunities to test FHIR based interoperability between ME/C Case Management Systems (CMS) and Electronic Death Registration Systems (EDRS). These events will be free of cost and less formal than traditional connectathon events and will focus on assisting jurisdictions with achieving the milestones highlighted in their ELC cooperative agreement project plan. A jurisdiction can participate in more than one event in a year.

Participating in these events will be a productive way for jurisdictions and their technical partners to get comfortable in using some of the tools in place to achieve interoperability using FHIR (i.e., implementation code libraries, testing framework, and implementation guides). NCHS will begin organizing preparation calls a few weeks in advance of the testing event. There is not a significant amount of pre-work required to participate other than attending these prep calls. Ensuring that jurisdictional technical staff are available to attend on both days will also be important to make sure jurisdictions get the most benefit.

The testing opportunity will take place over two half-days (tentatively from 1pm to 5pm ET). The tentative dates are:

Dates	Flow
January 24-25, 2022	EDRS to NCHS
May 16-17, 2022	EDRS to NCHS
October 14-15, 2022	EDRS to NCHS and CMS
December 5-6, 2022	EDRS to NCHS

Space is limited and is on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in participating in one or more of these testing opportunities, send an email to the COP mailbox (NVSSModernization@cdc.gov) with the following information:

1. Jurisdiction
2. Person in the VRO who will serve as the POC for the testing event:
3. What workflow you wish to test
4. Dates:
5. Technical partners/vendors participating:

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Maternal and Infant Characteristics among Women with COVID-19 during Pregnancy

This web release can be found at this [link](#). It shows data for April 2020 through August 2021 from fourteen states and the District of Columbia that are collecting information on confirmed or presumed COVID-19 cases among pregnant women and reporting this information to NCHS. These data continue to show a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 for certain race and Hispanic origin groups, higher rates of ICU admission among mothers with COVID-19 compared with those who did not have COVID-19, and higher rates of preterm birth, low birthweight and NICU admission among infants born to mothers with presumed or confirmed COVID-19.

Provisional Estimates for Selected Maternal and Infant Outcomes by Month, 2018 through August 2021.

This web release can be found at this [link](#). It shows national provisional birth data by month for January 2020 through June 2021, compared with 2019 and 2018 for selected medical and health items.

Vitals Staff Spotlights

Terra Abrams departed her position as State Registrar in the District of Columbia.

Fern Johnson-Clark was appointed Interim State Registrar in the District of Columbia.

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