



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.

Systems Special Interest Group

Past topics have included electronic signatures for vital records documents, out of state records, e-certification and more. The next Systems Special Interest Group Call will be taking place on February 25th at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org to join.

Field Services Special Interest Group

Past topics have included mother/parent worksheets, working with the funeral director community, retention schedules and more. The next Field Services Interest Group Call will be taking place on February 23rd at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org to join.

Save the Date: The Mortality Data Quality Workgroup (MDQW) will be holding a webinar on March 8, 2021 at 1:00 ET for a presentation on recommended strategies to improve mortality data quality.

2020 Data Year Close-out Dates

By the time of this publication, all jurisdictions should have completed correction of any errors for the provisional 2020 birth file. As a reminder, the table below includes the 2020 contract closeout and 2020 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.

2020 Birth File

(States) Target for States to correct errors for provisional file	January 22, 2021
(DACEB) Release provisional 2020 birth data to Hyattsville	February 11, 2021
(States) Contract closeout for 2020 birth data	March 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 birth file updates accepted	April 9, 2021
(DACEB) Release of final 2020 birth data to Hyattsville	May 6, 2021

2020 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 deaths	May 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 death file updates accepted	June 15, 2021
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 26, 2021
(DACEB) Release final 2020 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	October 1, 2021

2020 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2020 fetal deaths	May 1, 2021
(States) Last date 2020 fetal death file updates accepted	June 25, 2021
(DACEB) Release final 2020 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 26, 2021

As the 2020 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.

Questions Regarding New Strains of SARS-CoV-2

We have recently received questions regarding new strains of SARS-CoV-2 that have been identified in many states and whether there will be changes in certification guidance and/or coding to account for these new variants. At this time, there are no plans to change the certifier guidance or coding. CDC describes the new strains as variants of SARS-CoV-2 and continues to refer to the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 and its variants as COVID-19

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>). Thus, we do not expect the terminology on death certificates to change substantially, nor do we expect that coding changes will be necessary. We will continue to monitor the situation and will alert you in advance if the circumstances change.

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



The NVSS Modernization COP, started in October 2020, 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. The COP is meant to be 'Communities within a community' with a vision of having self-sustaining subgroups formed based on topics of mutual interest with leadership from within the community. The COP serves an important role by laying the foundation and serving as a connector to facilitate some of these special interest groups to take off and collaborate on their own. The special interest groups can come back and share updates with the larger COP. If you have ideas for a special interest group you would like to form, please share them during a COP call or send us an email at NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.

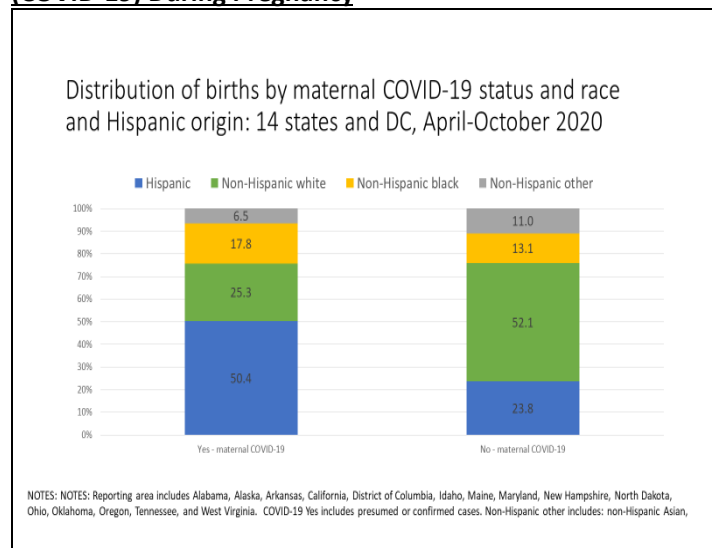
Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Provisional Estimates for Selected Maternal and Infant Outcomes

This second report was released January 12th and can be found at this [link](#). NCHS includes monthly provisional estimates through September 2020 on selected pregnancy characteristics and birth outcomes that may be directly or indirectly related to COVID-19. This includes data on timing and adequacy of prenatal care, cesarean delivery, preterm delivery, and infant birth weight. Estimates are

shown for each month in 2020 and compared with final data for the same period in 2019 and 2018 to identify changes. Updates will be released on a quarterly basis.

Maternal and Infant Characteristics Among Women with Confirmed or Presumed Cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) During Pregnancy



This second report on cases of maternal COVID-19 was released January 12th and can be found at this [link](#). It includes data for April through October 2020 from 14 states and the District of Columbia on characteristics of women with COVID-19 during pregnancy, and their newborns. These data are based on cases of COVID-19 reported to NCHS and linked to the standard birth record, allowing for an analysis of birth-related data by maternal COVID-19 status. While these data are not representative of all births in the United States and have other limitations, they provide a multi-state view of the impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy. Additional jurisdictions have recently begun reporting maternal COVID-19 cases to NCHS and their data will be included in future updates, which will be released on a bimonthly basis.

If your jurisdiction would like to collaborate on this important project please contact Joyce Martin at jcm9@cdc.gov or Claudia Valenzuela at qat5@cdc.gov.

Vital Staff Spotlights

Lenny Kluz departed his position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New York State.

Diana Yang was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New York State.

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