



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.

NAPHSIS Annual Meeting Recap

The NAPHSIS Annual Meeting was held May 20-22, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan. Thank you to everyone who participated to make it the most attended NAPHSIS Annual Meeting ever! Paul Sutton & Robert Anderson from NCHS presented a session covering a comprehensive overview of NCHS activities, showcasing recent successes, current initiatives, and future projects and issues for the vital statistics community. They also shared detailed updates on ICD-11 developments and implementation, which many attendees found to be one of the most valuable sessions of the meeting. To view photos from the event, visit our website [here](#). We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX.

VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. 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. The next VSCP Project Directors Webinar will be August 14, 2024, at 2 p.m. Eastern. [Register Here](#) to join the webinar.

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 at 3 p.m. Eastern on July 23, 2024. We will also meet on August 27, 2024, and again on September 24, 2024. 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 next at 3 p.m. Eastern on July 25, 2024, August 29, 2024, and September 26, 2024. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Statistics Interest Group

NAPHSIS launched a new Statistics Interest group earlier this year. This will be an opportunity to gather virtually on a monthly basis to discuss topics of interest related to public health statistics. Please email us at hq@naphsis.org if you are interested in participating.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW) and Fetal Death Subgroup

The BDQW meets on the first Thursday of every other month at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. There is also a Fetal Death subgroup that meets in the months the BDQW does not. If you are interested in assessing and improving the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, contact NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

2023 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2023 contract closeout and draft 2023 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.

2023 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2023 deaths	May 1, 2024
(States) Last date 2023 death file updates accepted	June 27, 2024
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 25, 2024
(DACEB) Release final 2023 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	September 26, 2024

2023 Fetal Death File

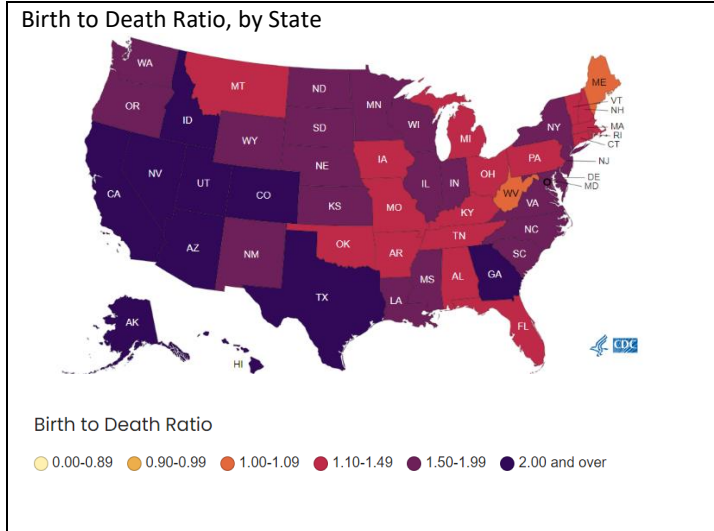
(States) Contract closeout for 2023 fetal deaths	May 1, 2024
(States) Last date 2023 fetal death file updates accepted	July 25, 2024
(DACEB) Release final 2023 fetal death file to Hyattsville	August 22, 2024

As the 2023 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

Natality and Mortality Trends in the United States, 2000-2022

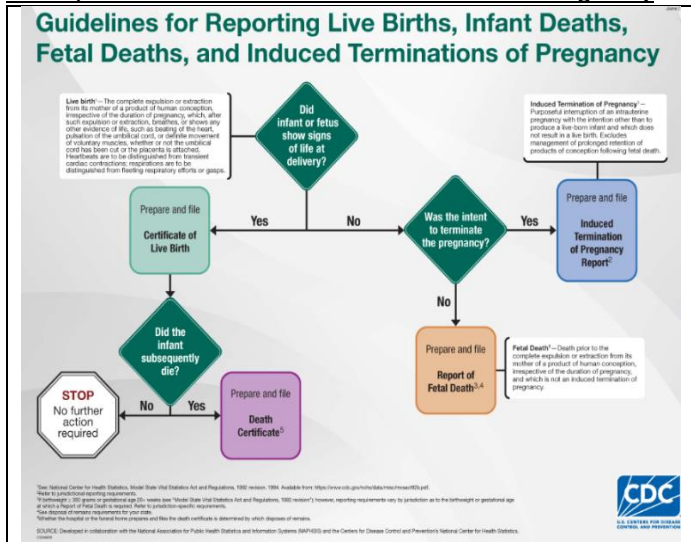


The new data visualization is found at this [link](#) and shows trends in births and deaths from 2000 through the most current year available. Also shown are numbers of births and deaths, crude birth and death rates and birth to death ratios. Data are shown by state of residence, by the three largest race and Hispanic origin groups (Black, non-Hispanic; White, non-Hispanic; Hispanic) and by urbanicity.

The 2016-2020 Matched Multiple Birth and Fetal Death Data Set

This data set was released on June 3rd and can be found at this [link](#). It allows for analyses of characteristics of sets of births and fetal deaths in multiple deliveries. The file includes records of all births and fetal deaths of 20 weeks and more to U.S. residents in multiple deliveries (i.e., twins, triplets and quadruplets) in 2016-2020. Deaths up to one year of age occurring to infants born in these years are also included.

New Decision Tree! Guidelines for Reporting Live Births, Infant deaths, Fetal Deaths and Induced Terminations of Pregnancy



A new and improved Decision Tree, re-worked by the Birth Data Quality's Fetal Death Subgroup, is now available. Please contact Elizabeth Gregory (kkn6@cdc.gov) or NAPHSIS for copies.

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



The NVSS [Modernization Community of Practice \(NVSS CoP\)](#) is a shared space for learning and innovation. It provides a forum for jurisdictions and their partners to collaborate on modernization.

Phase IV of the NVSS CoP Jurisdictional Outreach is officially underway, marking another significant step in our collective journey as we focus on jurisdictions completing pre-certification.

We are thrilled to share that an impressive 100% of the 57 jurisdictions participated in an NCHS-organized testing event. We look forward to even more great achievements as we transition into the next phase. The next formal NCHS-organized testing event, another key milestone in our journey, is scheduled for September 9th-10th, 2024. We encourage stakeholders to mark this date in their calendars and email the NVSS CoP mailbox (nvssmodernization@cdc.gov) if any jurisdictions are interested in participating as observers or testers. In preparation for this event, observing and testing jurisdictional participants must ensure access to the NVSS API (test environment) through SAMS. If you are not already in the process of getting access (or already have access based on past testing events), please reach out to nvssmodernization@cdc.gov and make the request. The individuals doing the hands-on testing are the intended target audience for receiving API access.

During the testing event, the NVSS CoP offers jurisdictions the ability to complete their FHIR mortality pre-certification steps and attempt the new natality flow, which will be described in more detail in the upcoming prep calls. It is also important to note that jurisdictions that have started pre-certification during testing events will still need to notify CoP of their start and end dates. We strongly encourage any jurisdictions interested in participating as observers or testers to email the [NVSS CoP mailbox](#). Your active involvement is critical to our collective success.

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

As the NVSS Modernization CoP continues to assist jurisdictions with their readiness for production with FHIR, we want to highlight the pre-certification and certification steps in the NVSS Modernization Pathway. These steps are mandatory and equip your jurisdiction to handle FHIR data submissions and demonstrate your commitment to data quality. The Mortality FHIR Pre-Certification Guidance documents that NCHS published last September on the NVSS SharePoint site have been recently updated as of May 2024. The

This newsletter is a publication of the NVSS, intended to enhance the community of vital records and vital statistics practice, to provide useful information for vital statistics and vital records professionals, and to inform the broader community of interested stakeholders.

update does not represent a material change to the previous version but provides for better clarity and addresses minor data issues. Due to the minor nature of the changes, in anticipation of the next quarterly testing event and moving forward, all jurisdictions are asked to use the updated version. We strongly encourage all jurisdictions to sign up and request to be added to the participant list.

All NVSS Main CoP meetings, technical support meeting recordings, and other resources and tools can be found on the [NVSS Modernization Community Practice SharePoint site](#). Users can also click the 'quick links' option to access the certification and pre-certification documents.

Special thanks to technical partners MITRE, Ruvos, NAPHSIS, and CTE 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.

Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC)



The [Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners \(COMEC\)](#) provides broad support for public health activities to professionals who conduct medicolegal death investigations (MDIs). COMEC was established last year at CDC in recognition of the important role of medicolegal death investigation for public health and CDC. If you would like to receive monthly announcements from the Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners, please send a note to MDI@CDC.GOV.

MDI Connect May Test Event

MDI Connect continues its mission of helping medical examiner and coroner offices (MECs) committed to the modernization of data-sharing systems using Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) standards by hosting virtual test events. These events are an

opportunity for jurisdictions and their data-sharing partners to test bi-directional data exchanges between the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS), toxicology partners, surveillance systems vendors, and other defined use-case workflows.

	MDI Offices	CMS Vendor	EDRS Vendor
Offices participating in EDRS projects:	Marion County Coroner's Office	Salesforce/Boomi	VitalChek/DRIVE
	Mississippi Department of Public Safety	MDILog	Axiell
	Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office	QuincyTech	VitalChek
	MDI Offices	CMS Vendor	Data-Sharing Partner
Offices participating in public health and toxicology workflows:	Butler County Coroner's Office	MAPSYS	Butler County General Health District
	Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner	VertiQ	Southern Nevada Health District
	York County Coroner's Office	Cohero	NMS Labs

Test Event Accomplishments by Site

Marion County Coroner's Office (IN)	Generated Vital Records Death Reporting (VRDR) records in extensible markup language (XML) and validated integration using Raven Test Platform.
Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MS)	Demonstrated case submission, documentation of access and security; and validation on the Raven Test Platform.
Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office (MI)	Documented VRDR form used for the cremation request and response, and documentation of successful data exchange between case management system (CMS) and EDRS.
Butler County Coroner's Office (OH)	Demonstrated case submission and secure access report documentation
Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (NV)	Continued FHIR mapping/profiling of data elements in scope, developed MDI FHIR implementation guide (IG), produced initial FHIR data & NVDRS flat file, and developed a client user interface to demonstrate generic message creation.
York County Coroner's Office (PA)	Submitted final reports on message exchange gap analysis between toxicology laboratory reports and MDI FHIR IG and submitted reports to Lantana Consulting Group for toxicology IG.

Test Event participants receive support from hosts CDC, CDC Foundation, and Georgia Technical Research Institute (GTRI). They also receive technical support from subject matter experts, including Lantana Consulting Group, and Dan Chaput of Chaput Consulting.

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.

Karin Ferlicka departed her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Montana..

Ann Kurtz was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Montana.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)