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 2022 Highlights

VSCP calls had an increase in attendance of 24% in 2022 compared to 2021 and had a wide variety of topics from facility report cards to national reports on mortality and changes in birth trends. 2022 brought the conclusion of the Mortality Data Quality Workgroup with a great report out from the chairs on the many successes of that group. The Field Services Interest Group saw a general increase in members, including a rise in members from jurisdictions that had never attended a meeting before. The members suggested topics from how to handle home births, sovereign citizen, data sharing, certificate sample sharing, ensuring data quality, training techniques, and more. We look forward to new growth and more engaging discussions in 2023 – we hope you will join us.

January VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern. In January, presentations will be made on Model Law Activities and Updates as well Bridged Race Q&A. Register to join us on January 11, 2023, 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 working 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 January 24, 2023, at 2 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 January 26, 2023, at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

2022 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2022 contract closeout and draft 2022 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.

2022 Birth File

(States) Target for States to correct errors for provisional file	January 26, 2023
(DACEB) Release provisional 2022 birth data to Hyattsville	**February 9, 2023**
(States) Contract closeout for 2022 birth data	**March 1, 2023**
(States) Last date 2022 birth file updates accepted	April 6, 2023
(DACEB) Release of final 2022 birth data to Hyattsville	**May 4, 2023**

2022 Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2022 deaths	**May 1, 2023**
(States) Last date 2022 death file updates accepted	June 29, 2023
(DACEB) Pause medical processing for data quality review	July 27, 2023
(DACEB) Release final 2022 file to Hyattsville and resume medical processing	**September 28, 2023**

2022 Fetal Death File

(States) Contract closeout for 2022 fetal deaths	**May 1, 2023**
(States) Last date 2022 fetal death file updates accepted	July 27, 2023
(DACEB) Release final 2022 fetal death file to Hyattsville	**August 24, 2023**

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.

Quarterly NCHS-Hosted Testing Event and Outcomes

The NVSS Modernization Community of Practice organized a successful testing event on December 5th and 6th, 2022. The

workflow focus was the bidirectional flow from EDRS to STEVE to NCHS. Seventeen (17) jurisdictional Vital Records offices and their respective technical partners participated in the event as repeat testers. These included Minnesota, Idaho, Utah, Connecticut, New Jersey, Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Michigan, Wyoming, Florida, Mississippi, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Louisiana. NAPHSIS and Ruvos were critical partners in this testing event representing the STEVE system. Additionally, eight (8) jurisdictions including Main, Arizona, Oregon, Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and New York participated as observers.

Testing Results include:
- Most participants were able to successfully connect with the STEVE and NCHS API.
- Several jurisdictions were able to work through tier 1 and tier 2 of the test plan with a plan to finish the remaining two tiers either between testing events or at the next event.
- Seven jurisdictional VROs were able to complete all four tiers of testing including "bring your own data."
- Observers felt engaged - they had a chance to interact and learn during the breakout sessions.
- The breakout session led by Idaho VRO in demonstrating their hands-on testing effort was appreciated by participants and will be a regular offering at future events by jurisdictions that are willing to volunteer.
- The testing event uncovered the need to make updates to the .net libraries which have since been made

Special thanks to technical partners MITRE, GTRI, CTE, Lantana, Ruvos, and the EDRS vendor/technical integrator community for their ongoing collaborations with NVSS modernization.

The dates for the next NCHS-hosted testing event will be February 27th and 28th, 2023, and will focus on the bidirectional flow between EDRS to STEVE to NCHS flow. A call for participation will be sent out in early January so please stay tuned. In the meantime, jurisdictions are encouraged to continue informal testing using the NCHS and STEVE API (test) in between events, to complete all 4 tiers if they would like, to continue to post questions on Zulip chat, and to attend office hours meetings. The community looks forward to hearing from the testing jurisdictions and continued collaboration in working towards our collective NVSS modernization goals.

Please be sure to note the remaining 2023 NCHS-Hosted Testing Event Dates: June 19-20th, Sept 25-26th, and Dec 4-5th
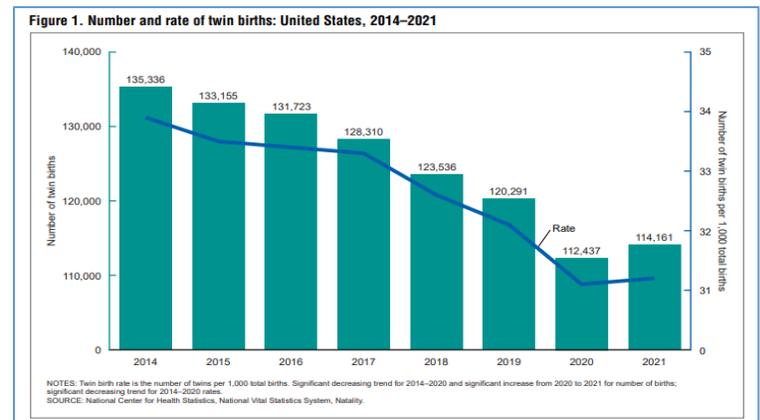
Special thanks to our Jurisdictional VRO presenter during the December NVSS Modernization COP Main meeting:
- Utah*: Utah VRO's Roadmap to Modernization.* **Dr. Valli Chidambaram,** Director of the Office of Informatics and Data Systems.

- Michigan*: Experiences in SMART-on-FHIR testing (EHR to EBRS) for three Michigan facilities: Round 1 testing results,* **Dr. Jeff Duncan, State Registrar, and Director,** Division of Vital Records, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

The NVSS COP team wishes everyone a happy, safe, and peaceful holiday season and best wishes for 2023. We look forward to working with you in the new year as we continue to advance our collective efforts in the NVSS modernization space with FHIR-based interoperability.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Figure 1. Number and rate of twin births: United States, 2014–2021

NOTES: Twin birth rate is the number of twins per 1,000 total births. Significant decreasing trend for 2014–2020 and significant increase from 2020 to 2021 for number of births; significant decreasing trend for 2014–2020 rates.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality.

Changes in Twin Births in the United States, 2019-2021
This report was released on December 7th and can be found at this link. As shown in Figure 1, the number of twin births in the U.S. fell by 7% from 2019 to 2020, compared with a 3% decline in the number of singleton births. The twin birth rate declined by 3%. By month, the largest declines from 2019 to 2020 occurred in November and December when the number of twin births declined by 15% and 19%, respectively, and twin birth rates declined by 10% and 14%. From 2020 to 2021 the total number of twin births rose by 2%; the increase in the twin birth rate, from 31.1 to 31.2 per 1,000 total births, was not significant.

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.**

Vincent T. Arrisi retired from his position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Jersey.

Tiffany Drennon was appointed Acting State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in New Jersey.

Ellen Badley departed her position as VSCP Project Director in California.

Michelle Miles was appointed VSCP Project Director in California.

Click here for previous newsletter issues

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.

2