



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-Call for Abstracts

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 December 13, 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. 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 December call has been cancelled.

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 Field Services Interest Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 3 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 Systems Special Interest Group meets on the last Thursday of every month at 3 p.m. Eastern. Email systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call.

Statistics Interest Group

The Statistics Interest Group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. Eastern. This is an opportunity to gather virtually each month 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)

The BDQW meets on the first Thursday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. If you are interested in assessing and improving the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, contact NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

Enhanced Technical Assistance

NAPHSIS has a Cooperative Agreement with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and as part of this agreement we offer an enhanced Technical Assistance (eTA) program. This program is designed to complement our ongoing support by providing targeted assistance in a variety of areas, including:

- Business Process Improvement
- Funding Proposal Writing
- Implementation of NCHS Standards
- Implementation of Electronic Systems
- Vital Records/Health Statistics Accreditation

If you're interested in learning more or applying for the eTA program, email hq@naphsis.org.

Vital Records 101 – Applications Open

As you know, the Vital Records and Health Statistics field offers much to learn. Join your peers for the annual Vital Records 101 Course, presented by NAPHSIS and NCHS. Open to new employees and those seeking a refresher, this course covers fundamental information for all VRHS professionals. Mark your calendar for April 7-9, 2025 and plan to meet in Nashville, Tennessee. The application deadline is December 13, 2024, [apply here](#).

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 in the modernization space.

We are thrilled to announce that the upcoming formal NCHS-organized testing event, a pivotal milestone in our journey, is set for December 2-3, 2024. This event marks an important step in our collective progress, and we encourage all stakeholders to mark this date on their calendars.

An astounding 57 Vital Records Offices (VROs) have participated in an NCHS-organized testing event as either observers or testers, which covers 100% participation, and 23 jurisdictions have already registered for the upcoming testing event. Jurisdictions are now being encouraged to consider becoming testers. If a jurisdiction is not yet ready to test, they may still be able to participate as an observer if we have sessions for them to observe. To that end, we ask for volunteers from testing jurisdictions to share their screens with observing jurisdictions during the testing event. If you are willing to volunteer, please email nvssmodernization@cdc.gov.

In preparation for the event, it is crucial for testing jurisdictional participants to ensure access to the NVSS API (test environment) through SAMS. This is an essential step toward the event's success. 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 recipients for API access.

Every Tuesday from November 12th–26th, NVSS has dedicated the CoP office hour to test preparation as we gear up for the NCHS-organized testing event in December. For this quarter, we will conduct three prep calls, as well as offer FHIR validation services to all participating jurisdictions. We encourage any jurisdiction starting/completing the FHIR mortality precertification steps 1 and 2 to continue this process during the testing event. DACEB will invite jurisdictions to begin certification after they have validated their precertification data. It is also important to note that jurisdictions that have started precertification during testing events will still need to notify CoP of their start and end dates.

During the testing event, the NVSS CoP will also offer jurisdictions the ability to test the developmental version of the Birth and Fetal Death Reporting (BFDR) .NET library. During this testing event, NCHS aims to provide support for the following goals:

- The ability to create birth reporting messages in FHIR format.
- Basic capability for exchanging natality messages, including sending acknowledgment messages and extracting error notifications.
- Enhanced (additional) natality test case.

CTE also announced recently that new releases have been made to the VRDR .NET, VRDR Java, and Canary libraries. The latest changes target [Vital Records Death Reporting \(VRDR\) IG STU 2.2.0](#). New releases have also been made to the BFDR .NET including changes that target Birth and Fetal Death Reporting (BFDR) IG STU 2.0 and Vital Records FHIR Messaging (VRFM) IG 2.0.0. It is important to note that the NVSS API (test) has also been updated to use VRDR .NET 4.4. **Please update your libraries in preparation for the December 2024 testing event.**

We want to thank our technical partners, MITRE, Ruvos, NAPHSIS, and CTE, for their continuous collaboration in our modernization efforts. Their valuable contributions have been instrumental in the success of our recurring meetings and organized testing events. We greatly

appreciate their support and look forward to continuing our partnership.

ICD-11 Status Update

Two groups within NCHS (ICD-11 Implementation Workgroup and Automated Coding for ICD-11) are currently meeting to strategize requirements and feasibility of approaches to implement ICD-11 in the United States. Updates will be posted periodically in the NVSS monthly newsletter.

Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners



The Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) aims to strengthen ties between medical examiners and coroners (MEC) and public health, serve as a resource for MEC offices, and assist public health researchers and practitioners engaging with MEC. CDC established COMEC in 2022 in recognition of the important role of medicolegal death investigation (MDI) for public health. If you would like to receive the COMEC monthly announcements, please email MDI@CDC.GOV.

The COMEC webpages have been updated. It is the gateway page for the MDI community, and the webpage includes a curated set of resources and information. Check out the updated webpage at: Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) (cdc.gov). Note that if your organization links to COMEC site or any resources, you will need to update your hyperlink from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/comec> to <https://www.cdc.gov/comec/>.

Upcoming COMEC Virtual Seminars

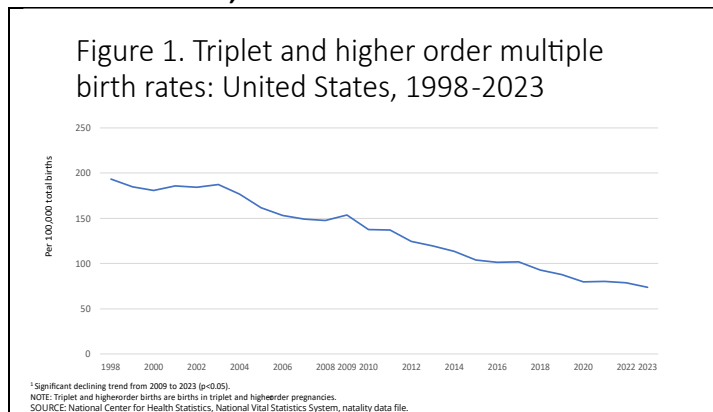
Title: Informing Drowning Prevention for Children and Youth through Death Scene Investigation and Child Death Review of Water-Related Incidents

Presenter: Shericka Harris, Health Scientist, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

When: 1/14/25 at 3:00-3:50 pm ET [Register Here](#)

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Declines in Triplet and Higher-Order Multiples Births in the United States, 1998-2023



This report was published October 31st and can be found at this [link](#). From 1998 to 2023 the triplet and higher-order multiple birth rate declined 62%, from 193.5 to 73.8 births per 100,000 total births; the largest declines were from 2009 to 2023. From 1989 to 2023 the number of triplet and higher-order births declined from 7,625 to 2,653. Declines were observed for White non-Hispanic (71%) and Hispanic mothers (25%) while the rate for Black non-Hispanic mothers increased (25%). Triplet and higher-order birth rates declined for all age groups 20 and older from 1998 to 2023 and the largest declines were for mothers ages 30 and older.

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.

Maria Quinata departed her position as Acting Territorial Registrar and Acting VSCP Project Director in Guam.

Sandra Cruz was appointed Acting Territorial Registrar in Guam.

Virginia Manglona was appointed VSCP Project Director in Guam.

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