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, June 13-15, Omaha, NE
NAPHSIS Annual Meetings take place in June each year and bring together people who work in vital records and health statistics. Attendees enjoy networking with peers and learning about the latest products or technology to improve vital records and health statistics functions. Informative sessions, exhibitors, and social gatherings make this a fun way to make connections and learn the latest in the world of vital records and health statistics. This year's theme is **Reunite, Recalibrate, and Reignite**. With no in-person meetings for the past two years, NAPHSIS wants to bring everyone together
to *Reunite* people from the vital records world
to *Recalibrate* through informative sessions and exhibitors
and *Reignite* our excitement for the future. You can look forward to sessions on lessons learned over the past two years, topics related to legal and registration activities, and what's new in technology. To learn more and register, please visit www.naphsis.org/annualmeeting

June VSCP Project Directors Webinar
NAPHSIS will not be holding a VSCP Project Directors webinar in June since we will be meeting in person at the Annual Meeting in Omaha. Please plan to join us in July when we resume these monthly webinars. The July VSCP webinar is required for all VSCP directors. Register to join us on July 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Birth Data Quality Workgroup
The Birth Data Quality Workgroup (BDQW) works to assess and improve the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, focusing on improving data at the source (i.e.,

at the hospital). Email hq@naphsis.org to join. The next BDQW will meet on June 2, 2022, at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Mortality Data Quality Workgroup
The Mortality Data Quality Workgroup (MDQW) works to identify high-priority death data quality issues, metrics, and strategies to improve data quality. Email hq@naphsis.org to join. The next MDQW will meet on June 6, 2022, at 1 p.m. Eastern.

Field Services Special Interest Group
If you work in field services or would like to hear what other jurisdictions are doing in their quality assurance program, please join us! Past topics have included data sharing, the IJE, informants' entitlements, Model Law, home births, and more. The next Field Services Interest Group will meet in person at the NAPHSIS Annual Meeting on June 14, 2022. Email us at hq@naphsis.org to join the monthly call when it resumes virtually in July.

Systems Special Interest Group
Discuss and share how your vital records systems respond to ongoing developments in the vital records world. Topics include FHIR, special characters in names, interoperability, and streamlining the data lifecycle. The next Systems Special Interest Group will meet in person at the NAPHSIS Annual Meeting on June 14, 2022. Email us at systems@naphsis.org to join the monthly call when it resumes virtually in July.

Continual Impact Training
This two-part webinar series will teach attendees how to create a visual map of a detailed work process. Swim-lane maps capture step-by-step tasks, including who is responsible, who receives the handoff, what system and/or job aids are required to complete the task and other key data. Register here to join the July 12 and 19, 2022, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Eastern webinar. Or Register here to join the July 14 and 21, 2022, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern webinar.

REMINDER - 2022 VSCP Annual Meeting
The VSCP contract requires an in-person annual meeting with VSCP Project Directors. Jurisdictions will be required to participate in a virtual meeting to satisfy this contractual requirement. The meeting will be held July 13, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. Registration is required to note your jurisdiction's attendance and may be completed here.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Births: Provisional Data for 2021
This report was released May 24th and can be found at this link. It presents provisional 2021 data on U.S. births and shows the number of births rose 1% from 2020 for the first increase since 2014. The general fertility rate and the total fertility were also up 1% between 2020 and 2021. The cesarean delivery rate rose to 32.1% in 2021; the low-risk cesarean delivery rate also rose to 26.3%. The preterm birth rate rose 4% in 2021 to 10.48%, the highest rate reported since at least 2007. Other notable results can be found within the report.

Maternal and Infant Characteristics and Outcomes Among Women with Confirmed or Presumed COVID-19 During Pregnancy: 14 states and DC
This report was released May 17th and can be found at this link. It describes characteristics and pregnancy outcomes among mothers with and without confirmed or presumed COVID-19 during pregnancy by maternal age, educational attainment, race and Hispanic origin, and source of payment for the delivery for a 14-state (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, and West Virginia) and DC reporting area between April 2020 and December 2021. Other notable results can be found within the report.

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.

Minnesota Launches API Gateway and FHIR
Leveraging the advancements from its NVSS NCHS special project funded in the Fall of 2019 and building upon the successes of Georgia and Michigan, the Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Vital Records and Minnesota Information Technology Services welcomed interoperability with a medical examiner case management system (CMS) last month. *"We kept the momentum going beyond our 24-month task order project knowing that with a little more effort and time, we could implement HL7 FHIR,"* commented Molly Crawford, Minnesota State Registrar, about their partnership with the Mayo-based Southern Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office and their CMS vendor. Southern's Chief Medical Examiner and forensic pathologist, R. Ross Reichard, M.D., had this to say, *"The collaboration across organizations resulted in something greater than the individual parts and is a model for death certification."* In April, the first Minnesota death record was certified with cause and manner of death completed by exchanging data via a new application programming interface. Under their ELC plan, Minnesota intends to expand interoperability with additional medical examiner and coroner offices to eventually bring all offices on board.

Invitation to Participate in NCHS Organized Quarterly Testing Events
Jurisdictions are invited to participate in NCHS organized quarterly testing events that are intended to provide jurisdictions with an opportunity to refine their health systems strengthening efforts with FHIR based interoperability. These events are free of cost, less formal than traditional connectathon events, and focus on assisting jurisdictions with achieving the milestones highlighted in their ELC cooperative agreement project plan. Jurisdictions are encouraged to 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 become familiar with the VRDR Implementation Guide (IG) and to get comfortable in using some of the tools in place to achieve interoperability using FHIR (libraries, testing framework, etc). Starting on May 24th, NCHS has begun organized preparation calls during optional weekly Office Hours calls in advance of the June organized testing event.

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

Dates	Flow
June 27-28, 2022	EDRS to NCHS
October 14-15, 2022 (tentative)	EDRS to NCHS and CMS to EDRS
December 5-6, 2022 (tentative)	EDRS to NCHS

Invitation to participate in pilot testing with NCHS (internal systems)- Early July to late August 2022
NCHS is seeking states to participate in pilot testing related to FHIR during July and August of 2022. Although the primary goal of the pilot is to test NCHS' internal systems and perform data quality checks as we move to modernizing mortality data with FHIR, it will also be an

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

opportunity to help participating states move closer to their modernization goals. NCHS requests participation of a variety of states (those with "home-grown" and different vendor-based EDRS systems) that can pilot test with NCHS and its technical partner MITRE in systems refinement. Pilot testing will be a 5-phased testing and will include testing 1) the ability to send and receive clean mortality records, 2) handing of records with deficiencies, 3) handling changes to existing records, 4) volume testing, and 5) manual coding. Participating states do not need to commit to being among the first to certify with FHIR. In order to participate, states need to be able to send and receive mortality records via FHIR messages (consistent with the 1.3 version STU2 VRDR IG and associated tools). NCHS will provide pilot instructions and test death records. **If you are interested in participating in these testing events, please contact NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov.**

Special thanks to our presenters during the April and May 2022 NVSS Modernization Main COP meetings:
1. *Round Robin Presentation.* **Tanya Lyons**, Management Analyst III/VSCP Director, Delaware Department of Health
2. *Round Robin Presentation*. **Michael Elston**, IT Manager, Office of Technology and CyberSecurity Indiana Department of Health
3. *Birth on FHIR in Michigan* and *Round Robin Presentation.* **Jeff Duncan**, State Registrar and Director, Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
4. *The BFDR-FHIR Project: Assessing data quality of specific birth certificate data elements collected through FHIR APIs from EHR.* **Valli Chidambaram**, Senior Health Informaticist, Health Informatics Office, Center for Health Data and Informatics, Department of Health

Please note special meeting changes for June
1. Please note that due to the NAPHSIS Annual meeting, the monthly COP meetings will be moved one week later such that the Main COP meeting will be held on June 22nd and the June technical subgroup meeting will be held on the 29th.

2. The weekly optional office hours meetings will continue as planned; however, similar to the office hours calls prior to the January testing event, Office hours meetings starting on 5/24 and throughout the month of June will be dedicated to technical assistance in support of the June 27-28 testing event.

Introduction of the NVSS Modernization COP Steering Committee
We ae excited to announce the inaugural members of the newly formed NVSS Modernization COP Steering Committee. The Steering committee was created to helping to inform the agenda of monthly COP meetings, as well as suggesting additional services and initiatives that the COP might offer, in order to continue to add value to the community. State/jurisdictional representatives include Guy Beaudoin (WY), Molly Crawford (MN), Kim Haggan (ME), Christopher Harrison (GA), Maria M. Juiz Gallego (PR), Jeremy Peterson (ID), and Mariah Pokorny (SD). Heidi Lengdorfer is the NAPHSIS representative, and Prachi Mehta, CAPT Kelly Brown, Paul Sutton, and Bontu Fitta will be representing NCHS. The Committee held its kick-off meeting on May 16th, where it has already generated some great ideas for COP meetings and content in June. More to come!

Have a story you want to highlight or a notable mention for a member of your team? Please send your contributions to the NVSSmodernization@cdc.gov for the June edition of the NVSS newsletter

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** today.

Judy Nagy departed her position as State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Ohio.

Rena Boler was appointed State Registrar and VSCP Project Director in Ohio.

Click here for previous newsletter issues!