



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.

VSCP Directors Webinar

The VSCP Project Directors Webinar occurs on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. ET. 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. [Register Here](#) to join the webinar on June 10, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET.

NAPHSIS Annual Meeting – Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2026 NAPHSIS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. Join colleagues June 29, 2026 – July 1, 2026, at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk for three days of connection, collaboration, and conversations shaping the future of vital records and health statistics. This year's meeting brings together leaders and practitioners to share ideas, explore modernization efforts, strengthen partnerships, and offer practical solutions you can use in your jurisdiction. You will gain actionable insights across systems, operations, statistics, and policy while building lasting professional relationships. Enjoy summer in Chicago along the riverfront as you take part in dynamic sessions, networking events, and meaningful discussions with peers who understand your work. To secure your spot, [Register Here](#).

NAPHSIS Special Interest Groups

NAPHSIS Special Interest Groups offer regular opportunities

for members to connect with peers, share best practices, and collaborate on topics related to field services, systems, data quality, and public health statistics. Getting involved is easy. Email hq@naphsis.org to join these groups.

Special Interest Groups and Meeting Schedules

The **Field Services Special Interest Group** meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. ET. The April call discussed several vital records operational issues, including how jurisdictions handle disposition dates on death certificates, the use of quick-reference guides for certifiers, and challenges with special characters and diacritics in names for SSA Enumeration at Birth processing. States shared varying policies and technical limitations related to name matching across birth certificates, Social Security records, DMV systems, and other identity documents. The meeting also included discussion on residency guidance for incarcerated individuals on death certificates.

The **Systems Special Interest Group** meets on the last Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. ET. The April SSIG was about California's Parent Birth Data Entry, the reason/benefits for pursuing this, and the methods for parents/users to input data. California presented the feedback they received from surveys, bugs, and general impressions with responses being positive. Insights were shared from other jurisdictions in their process like NYC.

The **Statistics Special Interest Group** meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. ET. The April meeting focused on how jurisdictions use NCHS RO files to match and update local birth, death, and fetal death records, with participants sharing similar matching and validation processes. The group also discussed ADA and WCAG accessibility challenges for public health dashboards, along with strategies for improving compliance. Additional conversation centered on data consistency across jurisdictions before submission to NCHS and whether shared guidance or repositories could help standardize data cleaning and coding practices.

2025 Data Year Close-Out

The following table includes the 2025 contract closeout and draft 2025 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. (Provisional birth data cuts are no longer provided as CDC Wonder will be used.)

2025 BIRTH FILE	Final timeline
Contract closeout for 2025 birth data (states)	March 2, 2026
Last day 2025 birth updates accepted (states)	May 11, 2026
Final release of 2025 birth data to Hyattsville (DACEB)	June 8, 2026
2025 DEATH FILE	
Contract closeout for 2025 death data (states)	May 1, 2026
Last day 2025 death updates accepted (states)	June 26, 2026
Pause medical processing for data quality review (DACEB)	July 24, 2026
Final release of 2025 death data to Hyattsville and resume medical processing (DACEB)	September 25, 2026
2025 FETAL DEATH FILE	
Contract closeout for 2025 fetal death data (states)	May 1, 2026
Last day 2025 fetal death updates accepted (states)	August 28, 2026
Final release of 2025 fetal death data to Hyattsville	October 26, 2026

Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC)



COMEC works to strengthen ties between medical examiners and coroners (MEC) and public health, serve as a resource for medicolegal death investigation (MDI) offices, and assist public health researchers and practitioners in engaging with MECs.

If you would like to receive COMEC's monthly email updates and an invitation to the seminar series, please email MDI@CDC.gov.

Resources

CDC Resources for Death Certification

- [Physician's Handbook on Medical Certification of Death](#)

- [Medical Examiner and Coroners Handbook: Death Registration and Fetal Death Reporting](#)
- [Possible Solutions to Common Problems in Death Certification](#)
- [Improving Cause of Death Reporting: Online Training](#)
- [Instructions for Completing the Cause of Death Section of the Death Certificate](#)
- [Cause of Death Mobile Application](#)

CDC Resources for Death Investigation

- [Investigation and Certification of Drug Toxicity Deaths – CDC Web Based Training](#)
- [CDC Toolkit: Death Scene Investigation After Natural Disaster or Other Weather-Related Events](#)
- [Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation: A Systematic Training Program for the Professional Infant Death Investigation Specialist](#)

Upcoming COMEC Virtual Seminars

The Seminar Series is designed for MEC, MDIs, medical certifiers, and related partners. In 2026 COMEC will have 6 seminars on the second Tuesday every other month and have ABMDI education credits available.

Title: Stronger Together: OSHA and Medical Examiners and Coroners Collaborating to Safeguard Worker Health

Presenter: Dawn L. Cannon, MD, MS, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

When: 6/9/2026 at 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

Title: Applied Forensic Epidemiologist Approaches to Heat-Related Deaths

Presenters: Natasha Tully, Pima County Medical Examiner's Office, Kimberly Repp, PhD, MPH, Washington County Medical, and Abigail Grande, MPH, Michigan State University

When: 8/11/2026 at 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

The Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



NVSS Modernization CoP Newsletter – May Update

As we move into June, the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice (CoP) continues to see strong

engagement across jurisdictions and partners. This month's update highlights recent CoP activities, upcoming testing opportunities, and key reminders to stay connected.

May CoP Meeting: Jurisdiction Panel on FHIR in Production

The May CoP main meeting featured a panel of four jurisdictions (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, and Kentucky) sharing their experiences implementing and using FHIR in production. These discussions provided valuable insights into real-world implementation approaches, lessons learned, and the ongoing evolution of FHIR-based workflows.

We extend our sincere thanks to these jurisdictions for volunteering their time and expertise to support peer learning across the community. These contributions are critical to advancing collective progress and helping others navigate similar modernization efforts.

NCHS-Organized Testing Events

The second NCHS-organized testing event of 2026 is taking place June 1–2. These quarterly testing events remain a key component of the NVSS modernization pathway, supporting jurisdictions as they progress through testing, pre-certification, and certification toward production.

Additional 2026 testing opportunities with NCHS are currently scheduled for:

- **September 14–15**
- **December 7–8**

Jurisdictions are encouraged to participate as testers or observers, depending on readiness, and to continue engaging with NCHS throughout the process. Testing events provide an opportunity to validate systems, refine workflows, and collaborate with peers and subject matter experts. We encourage jurisdictions to plan ahead and identify the testing windows that best align with their development timelines.

Stay Connected: CoP Recurring Events

The CoP offers several recurring opportunities for engagement and technical support:

- **CoP Main Meeting** – Held monthly on the third Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. ET
- **Technical Subgroup Meeting** – Held monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. ET
- **Optional Weekly Office Hours** – Held Tuesdays at 4:00 P.M. ET

These sessions provide a forum for sharing updates, discussing technical topics, and addressing questions related to NVSS modernization. Regular participation helps ensure alignment with current guidance and visibility into ongoing work across jurisdictions.

Technical Support and Collaboration

For technical questions or issues, jurisdictions are encouraged to use the NVSS Modernization Zulip channels:

- **Death (VRDR):** <https://chat.fhir.org/#narrow/channel/179301-Death-on-FHIR>
- **Birth and Fetal Death (BFDR):** <https://chat.fhir.org/#narrow/channel/434619-Birth-and-Fetal-Death-on-FHIR>

These channels serve as the primary mechanism for technical discussion, issue resolution, and collaboration with peers and NCHS subject matter experts.

Looking Ahead

As jurisdictions continue progressing along the NVSS modernization pathway, ongoing participation in CoP activities, testing events, and peer collaboration remain essential. The CoP will continue to provide structured opportunities to share knowledge, address challenges, and support successful implementation of FHIR-based interoperability.

We look forward to continued engagement across the community in the months ahead.

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.

Rachel Kuria departed her position as VSCP Project Director in Indiana.

Abhishek Henry was appointed VSCP Project Director in Indiana.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)