National Vital Statistics System

2021 VSCP Annual Meeting

The VSCP contract requires an in-person annual meeting with VSCP Project Directors. Due to the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the in-person requirement will be waived in 2021. In lieu of an in-person meeting, jurisdictions will be required to participate in a virtual meeting to satisfy the contractual requirement. The meeting will be held June 9, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 ET. At a minimum, topics will include reminders about preparations for the next VSCP contract (starting January 1, 2022) and 2020 file closure status. Details about virtual meeting registration will be shared as we get closer to June.

For those jurisdictions that would like a more thorough discussion of their performance, we would be happy to schedule a separate meeting. These discussions might be especially helpful for relatively new staff and those facing specific challenges. Please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist to set up a mutually convenient time.

Change in Invoice Submissions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Commercial Payments Branch recently changed its Accounts Payable (AP) invoice email address, effective March 01, 2021. The new email address is cpbapinv@cdc.gov. The previous email address will continue to be monitored during the transition. Please use the following guidelines when submitting invoices to CDC via the **CPB AP Mailbox**:

- Send invoices to cpbapinv@cdc.gov.
- Include the word "Invoice" in the subject line of the email.
- Include in the body of the email the Contract or Purchase Order Number, Invoice Number, Invoice Amount and Vendor Name.
- Submit **only one invoice** in PDF format per email; multiple invoices should be sent in multiple emails.
- Do not send Links, Zip Files, or .DAT files containing PDF Invoices.

- For the status of invoices, contact the OFR Service desk at ofrservicedesk@cdc.gov.

NOTE: If your invoice has supporting documents, please combine the invoice and supporting documents as one **PDF file**. Do not submit the invoice and its supporting documents separately.

Coded Race Files

With each shipment of data that is sent to NCHS, a coded race file is created and placed in the STEVE and SAMS download areas for each jurisdiction to retrieve. These files are available for 60 days and then removed from the jurisdiction's download area. If for some reason a jurisdiction misses a coded race file, these files can be requested for each missing shipment of data, or a year to date coded race file can be produced. If you need coded race files for your jurisdiction, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist at NCHS.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

**Provisional Estimates for Selected Maternal and Infant Outcomes by Month, 2018-2020.**
This report was released March 2021 and can be found at this link. It shows national provisional birth data by month for January-December 2020, compared with 2019 and 2018 for selected medical and health items. Other notable results can be found within the report.

Maternal and Infant Characteristics among Women with COVID-19 during Pregnancy
This report was released in March 2021 and can be found at this link. It shows data for April-December 2020 from fourteen states and the District of Columbia that are collecting information on confirmed or presumed COVID-19 cases among pregnant women and reporting this information to NCHS. These data continue to show a disproportionate impact of COVID-19 for certain race and Hispanic origin groups, higher rates of ICU admission among mothers with COVID-19 compared with those who did not have COVID-19, and higher rates of preterm birth, low birthweight and NICU admission among infants born to mothers with presumed or confirmed COVID-19. Other notable results can be found within the report.

Births: Final Data for 2019

Figure 1. Number and rate of twin births: United States, 1980-2019
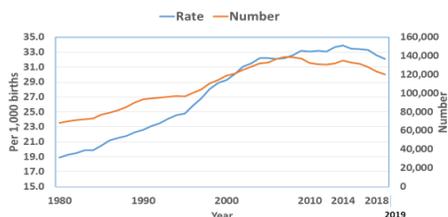
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Natality

This report was released March 23 and can be found at this link. It shows detailed data on numbers and characteristics of births in 2019, birth and fertility rates, maternal demographic and health characteristics, medical and health care utilization, source of payment for the delivery and infant health characteristics.
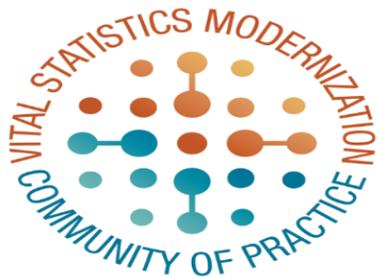
The NVSS Modernization Community 'Office Hours' – A Gateway to Ongoing Technical Assistance

The NVSS Modernization Community Office Hours, launched in December 2020, is a technical assistance service that is open to all jurisdictions and their partners working towards modernizing their vital records systems space. Offered every week on Tuesdays from 4 to 5pm (ET), Office Hours focus on providing support to those working towards FHIR based interoperability to further their modernization efforts. NCHS's technical partners and collaborators, Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) and The MITRE Corporation, actively participate in providing the technical assistance while sharing existing tools and technologies. These meetings, modeled around the concept of 'Office Hours' in academic settings, are dynamic and evolve organically based on the questions that the community brings.

The questions that the community brings are varied and range from themes including RESTful API design principles, FHIR REST and transaction standards, workflow design for management systems, connectathon testing, usage and adoption of the VRDR implementation guide, authentication/authorization security, and general standard practices. To date, representatives from over 10 states have participated in

this effort and the meetings are growing. Office Hours are also meant to be an avenue to foster peer to peer sharing. Jurisdictions and partners do not have to have specific questions to attend these meetings and are welcome to call in and listen and learn from the questions posed by others.

In addition to providing technical assistance, these weekly touch points also provide a manageable way to understand partner training requirements which inform NCHS's efforts in developing future tools/technologies. Additionally, these interactions have helped support upcoming efforts for developing a MDI (Medicolegal Death Investigation)-FHIR implementation guide.

We hope you will attend one or more of these weekly offerings as your needs evolve. If you have suggestions on how Office Hours can be improved, to learn more or to receive an invitation to the Office Hours, send a note to the NVSS COP mailbox at nvssmodernization@cdc.gov

Thanks to the following presenters during the April COP meeting(s).
The Theme: *Expanding the use of Electronic Death Registration Systems (EDRS) in Jurisdictions*
1. New Hampshire – *Expanding the Use of the Death Registration System (EDRS) in New Hampshire,* Catherine Cheney, Business Systems Analyst and Project Manager, NH Secretary of State Information Technology
2. Delaware - *Expanding the use of EDRS Through Legislative Change,* Tanya Lyons, VSCP Project Director, DE VRO
3. Pennsylvania – *Expanding the Use of the Death Registration System (EDRS) in Pennsylvania*, Audrey Morocco, Director & State Registrar, PA Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries

Vital Staff Spotlights
It is with great sadness that we report the sudden passing of **Tony Argurto.** He was formerly the State Registrar in California.

Dana Moore was appointed State Registrar in California.

Renee Valencia departed her position as VSCP Project Director in New Mexico.

Michael Padilla was appointed VSCP Project Director in New Mexico.

Click here for previous newsletter issues!