



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 July 8, 2026, at 2 p.m. ET.

NAPHSIS Annual Meeting – Registration Now Open

Registration is still 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 conversation 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 May meeting focused on improving data collection and processes across jurisdictions, including the introduction of customizable prenatal education materials developed by NAPHSIS, with the help of Rhode Island, to enhance information sharing between providers, birthing facilities and expectant mothers. Members also discussed operational challenges and explored potential updates to worksheets to better capture prenatal care data. Additionally, the group examined legal and policy issues around record access and verification, sharing different state approaches to balancing open records requests with data security and identity protection.

The **Systems Special Interest Group** meets on the last Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m. ET. The May meeting focused on the New DRH and CPSC FHIR Routes. The group discussed the ICD-10 coding process and alternatives if jurisdictions were not sending records to NCHS for manual coding, including AI options and homegrown solutions. The group also briefly discussed the NCHS API and the fact that it is available as a backup in rare situations when STEVE is not operational.

The **Statistics Special Interest Group** meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. ET. The May meeting focused on upcoming initiatives, including testing the NAPHSIS Community platform and promoting the August Statistics and Data Innovation Workshop. Members also discussed accessibility challenges in data presentation, shared resources for best practices, and explored current practices around ICD-10 coding and electronic death reporting systems. The group highlighted ongoing collaboration opportunities,

including a desire for some members to join the new Standards Committee and preparing for the annual meeting and next STIG session.

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.

Atlantic Hurricane Season Resources:

Atlantic hurricane season officially began June 1st. In preparation for the season, medicolegal death investigators, medical examiners, and coroners should familiarize themselves with preparedness and investigation and certification resources.

- Each season make sure you and your community are prepared by [planning ahead](#).
- Each season make sure you and your staff are prepared with the following resources:

Primary Guidance: [Certification of Deaths in Disasters Reference Guide](#)

Quick Reference: [MDI Quick Guide for Severe Weather Events](#)

DSI Toolkit: [Death Scene Investigation Toolkit & Checklists](#)

Interactive Training: [CDC eLearning: Death Certification in Disasters](#)

Official Position: [NAME Position Paper: Disaster-Related Deaths](#)

Hurricane (fillable scene form): [Download Form](#)

Extreme Heat (fillable scene form): [Download Form](#)

Tornado (fillable scene form): [Download Form](#)

Other forms: [Tools and Resources | Disaster Epidemiology and Response | CDC](#)

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 ABMDI education credits are available.

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 pm ET

Title: Medicolegal Support for Human Spaceflight Contingency Planning and Mishap Recovery Operations

Presenter: Katherine A Grosso, MA, D-ABDMI, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

When: 10/13/2026 at 3:00-4:00 pm ET

The Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



June Updates from the NVSS Modernization Community of Practice

June NCHS-Hosted Testing Event

On June 1–2, NCHS hosted its second quarterly FHIR testing event of 2026. Twelve jurisdictions participated as testers, exercising mortality, natality, and fetal death workflows. The event included testing across all currently available FHIR-based exchange pathways and provided jurisdictions an opportunity to validate system functionality, identify issues, provide feedback on tools and processes, and gain hands-on experience with FHIR-based exchange in a structured and collaborative environment.

Several jurisdictions completed mortality FHIR pre-certification activities during the testing event, contributing to a total of **39 jurisdictions that have now completed mortality FHIR pre-certification**. Pre-certification remains a key readiness activity that helps jurisdictions verify their ability to submit and receive the full range of mortality FHIR messages before entering certification. The next NCHS-hosted testing events are scheduled for September 14–15 and December 7–8, 2026.

Community of Practice Offerings

The NVSS Modernization CoP provides several recurring opportunities for learning, collaboration, and technical support:

Monthly Main Meeting

Held on the third Wednesday of each month from 3:00–4:30 PM ET, the Main Meeting provides programmatic updates, implementation presentations, demonstrations, jurisdiction success stories, and community discussion on NVSS modernization topics.

Monthly Technical Subgroup Meeting

Held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 1:00–2:30 PM ET, the Technical Subgroup focuses on implementation details, testing experiences, FHIR artifacts, implementation guides, testing tools, reference libraries, and other technical topics supporting NVSS modernization.

Weekly Office Hours

Held every Tuesday from 4:00–5:00 PM ET, Office Hours provide an informal forum for questions, troubleshooting, implementation discussions, and shared problem-solving with NCHS staff and community members.

Quarterly NCHS-Hosted Testing Events

Two-day virtual testing events are offered quarterly and provide opportunities to test mortality, natality, and fetal death workflows, validate system functionality, and prepare for pre-certification, certification, and production implementation.

Technical Questions and Peer Support

Jurisdictions and partners are encouraged to use the Zulip channels to ask questions, report technical issues, and collaborate with peers:

- [Death on FHIR \(Mortality\)](#)
- [Birth and Fetal Death on FHIR \(Natality and Fetal Death\)](#)

These channels are often the fastest way to obtain technical assistance, review previously resolved issues, and engage with the broader implementation community.

Stay Connected

[The NVSS Modernization CoP SharePoint site](#) remains the central repository for meeting recordings, presentation materials, testing resources, certification guidance, and other implementation materials. Community members can also stay informed through monthly newsletters, email announcements, and recurring CoP meetings.

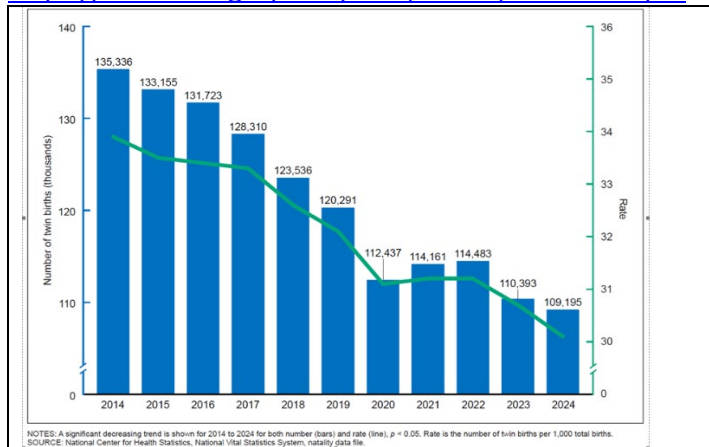
If you have questions regarding NVSS modernization activities, testing events, certification processes, or Community of Practice participation, please contact NVSSModernization@cdc.gov.

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Number and rate of twin births: United States, 2014–2024

This report was released on June 10, 2026, and can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/hestat117.pdf>.



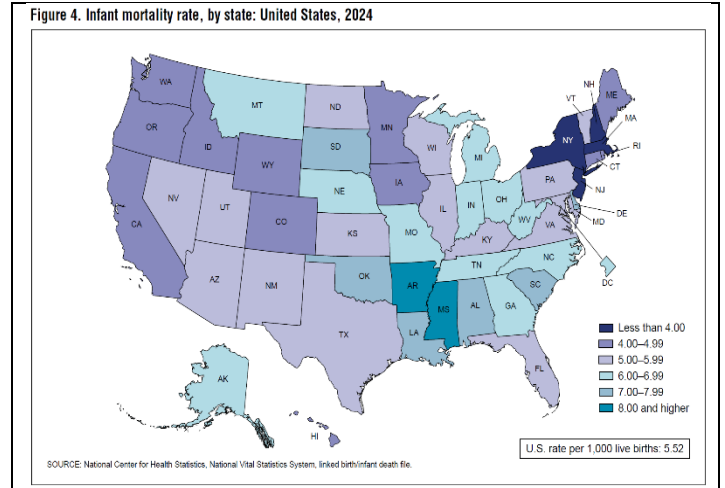
Findings from this report show that the twin birth rate decreased an average of 1% per year from 2014 (33.9 twins per 1,000 births) to 2024 (30.1) for a total decline of 11%. The number of births in twin deliveries decreased an average 2% per year from 2014 (135,336) to 2024 (109,195) for a total decline of 19%. By maternal age, the largest decreases in twinning rates from 2014 to 2024 were for mothers age 30 and older, with declines of 18% for mothers ages 30–34, 27% for mothers 35–39, and 46% for mothers 40 and older. The twinning rates decreasing 5% for mothers ages 25–29; changes in the rate for mothers age 24 and younger were not significant.

Among the three largest race and Hispanic-origin groups, twin birth rates have decreased by 15% for non-Hispanic White mothers and by 3% for Hispanic mothers, while there has been a 5% increase among non-Hispanic Black mothers.

Infant Mortality in the United States, 2024: Data From the Period Linked Birth/Infant Death File

This report was released on June 16, 2026, and can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr75/nvsr75-03.pdf>



Findings from this report show that a total of 20,048 infant deaths were reported in the United States in 2024, which was not significantly different from the number in 2023 (20,162). The infant mortality rate was 5.52 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2024, which was not significantly different from the rate in 2023 (5.61). The change in the neonatal mortality rate from 2023 to 2024 was not significant, but the postneonatal mortality rate decreased 4.6%. Changes in mortality rates for infants by maternal race and Hispanic origin and among Hispanic-origin subgroups were not significant. The mortality rate decreased from 2023 to 2024 for infants born at 39–40 weeks of gestation, but changes were not significant for the other gestational age categories. Infant mortality rates by state for 2024 ranged from a low of 2.97 in New Hampshire to a high of 9.65 in Mississippi.

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.

[Click here for previous newsletter issues](#)