

Newsletter



Publication Date – December 2025

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 2:00 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 VSCP Project Directors Webinar has been cancelled. The VSCP Project Director's webinar will resume in January 2026.

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 3:00 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 3:00 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 2:00 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 other month at 2:00 pm Eastern. This work group discusses data quality topics related to natality. If you are interested in assessing and improving the quality of vital statistics birth and fetal death data, contact NAPHSIS at hq@naphsis.org.

Invoicing for 2024 VSCP and NDI Data

Thank you for all your efforts in completing the 2024 data files. Now that the 2024 data files from the jurisdictions are complete, jurisdictions may submit invoices for any outstanding funds for the 2024 VSCP and 2024 NDI contracts and for any prior year outstanding funds, including any completed special projects funds. If you have any questions concerning invoices, please contact your assigned Vital Statistics Specialist.

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

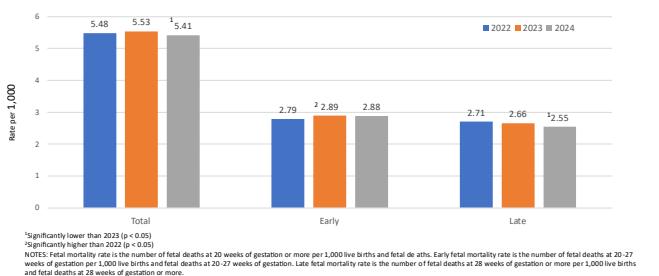
dates are highlighted in red, as are the contract closeout dates and the dates for final updates. The dates for final updates are subject to change and may be earlier, depending on the quality of the national file. (Provisional birth data cuts are no longer provided as CDC Wonder will be the source of provisional data.)

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
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
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

Notable Publications/Data Briefs

Fetal Mortality in the United States: Final 2022–2023 and 2023–Provisional 2024

Figure 1. Total, early, and late fetal mortality rates: United States, 2022 and 2023 final and 2024 provisional



This report was published in December and can be found at this link [Vital Statistics Rapid Release, Number 041 \(December 2025\)](#). The report found that Between 2023 and 2024, the fetal mortality rate declined 2%, from 5.53 to 5.41 fetal deaths at 20 weeks

of gestation or more per 1,000 live births and fetal deaths. During this time, the early fetal mortality rate (20–27 weeks of gestation) was essentially unchanged in 2024 at 2.88, while the late fetal mortality rate (28 weeks of gestation or more) declined by 4% to 2.55 in 2024. No significant changes in fetal mortality rates between 2023 and 2024 were observed among the race and Hispanic origin groups. Fetal mortality rates decreased in three states, increased in one state, and were not significantly different for 46 states and the District of Columbia from 2023 to 2024.

Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC)

COMEC

Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners

[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, an invitation to the seminar series, or both, please email MDI@CDC.gov and let us know your preference.

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 are working on continuing education credits for the 2026 series.

Title: From Gaps to Guidance: Homeless Mortality Surveillance in Utah

Presenters: Megan Broekemeier, MPH and Tyler Riedesel, MPH, Utah Department of Public Health and Human Services

When: 2/10/2026 at 3:00-4:00 pm Eastern

Title: Hidden Homicides: Overcoming the Challenges of Staged Crime Scenes

Presenters: Casey Gwinn, Esq, and Bill Smock, MD, Louisville, KY Police Dept

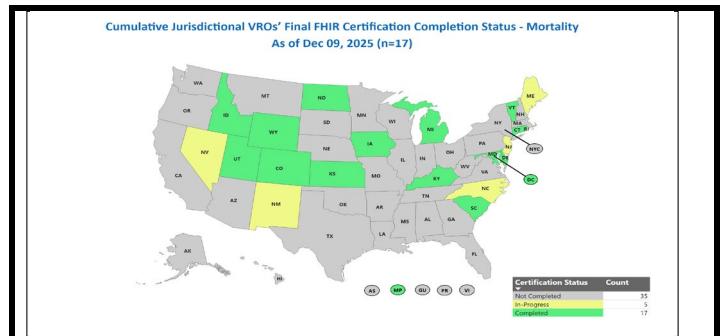
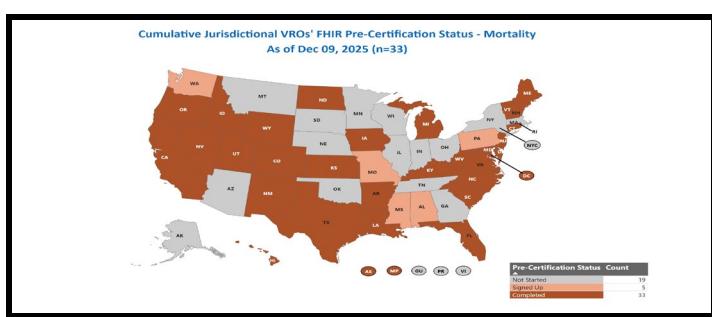
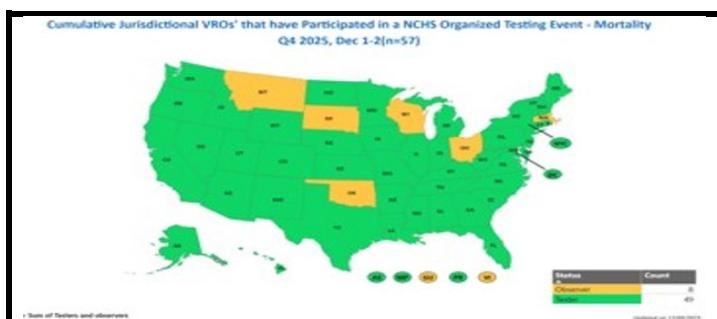
When: 4/14/2026 at 3:00-4:00 pm Eastern

Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice



The Vital Statistics Modernization Community of Practice (NVSS COP) is a collaborative space for learning and innovation. It provides a setting for jurisdictions and their partners to collaborate in the modernization space.

As we close out 2025, here is an at-a-glance overview of the NVSS Modernization community's progress towards modernizing and strengthening vital records. Vital records offices (VROs) achieved this through participation in NCHS testing, certification, and production activities. These maps highlight how jurisdictions across the country are engaging in organized testing events, advancing through FHIR pre-certification, completing full certification, and ultimately moving into live production with FHIR-enabled mortality reporting. As shown, participation continues to grow, with more states progressing through each milestone—reflecting steady nationwide momentum toward faster, more accurate, and more interoperable mortality data.



In addition to the progress with mortality reporting, there has also been early progress in natality and fetal death testing as part of NCHS-organized events. While participation is still in its initial stages, several jurisdictions have already stepped forward to engage in these important testing activities. For fetal death, four jurisdictions—including Wyoming, New Hampshire, Vermont, and American Samoa—have participated so far. Natality testing has had slightly broader involvement, with seven jurisdictions, including Washington, Utah, Wyoming, New Jersey, Delaware, American Samoa, and Rhode Island joining the effort. This growing engagement marks an encouraging end to the year as more jurisdictions begin to test and prepare for future FHIR-enabled reporting improvements across vital events.

Save-the-Dates for the 2026 NCHS testing events February 23-24, June 1-2, September 14-15, and December 7-8.

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](#)