

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Collaboration Updates

The Terms of Clearance in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS') OMB (Control No: 0920-0607) Package states the following:

“NCIPC’s NVDRS and SUDORS programs will continue to collaborate with NCHS’ NCVS to share knowledge and optimize investments associated with collecting data from state CMEs. The goal of this collaboration is to a) reduce duplicative reporting of the same data by States to different components of CDC; b) to improve the quality and timeliness of CME data to CDC (e.g., by increasing electronic interoperability of CME case management systems and public health reporting systems); and c) to maximize the value of the data being reported.”

The Mortality Surveillance Team (MST), where the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) resides in the Surveillance Branch (SB) of the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is continuing collaborations with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) including the Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) to share knowledge and optimize investments.

In response to this requirement, below is a summary of activities that have occurred between NCIPC and NCHS for the period 6/1/21 – 5/20/25 (including ongoing activities):

Ongoing: NCHS, NVDRS, and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) staff participate in NVDRS and MDI Data Modernization Collaborative Discussions with the Georgia Tech Research Institute. The meetings include discussion of NCHS Review of “modernization” efforts related to medico-legal death investigation (MDI) data, including toxicology and review of FHIR based standards for death certificate data. Georgia Tech Research Institute present overviews of their work.

Ongoing: Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) attends the Cross Center Institute Office MEC meetings, now Medical Examiners and Coroners Center/Institute/Office (CIO) Coordinating Meetings.

Ongoing: Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) attends CDC NCIPC and NCHS suicide-related bimonthly meetings where colleagues share information about work being done in this area.

Of note, scientists from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) have presented updates on the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) at NVDRS Reverse Site Visits, in December 2014, May 2016, December 2016, May 2017, December 2018, May 2019, May 2021 (virtual meeting), May 2022, May 2023, and May 2024 (presentation on NVSS and NCHS’s Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC).

May 2025: Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead), Dr. Katherine Fowler (MST Senior Scientist), Dr. Kristin Holland (SB Chief), and Dr. Marissa Zwald (SB Associate Chief of Science) met with Ms. Carri Cottengim (NCHS/COMEC). MST and COMEC have previously partnered on activities in the mortality data and coroner/medical examiner space, and this meeting was held to discuss continued collaborations. The next meeting is scheduled for June and COMEC colleagues will be presenting on enhancing the timeliness of coroner/medical examiner data.

July 2024: NVDRS, SUDORS, and NCHS colleagues from COMEC attended the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) Medicolegal Death Symposium. Dr. Kristin Holland (SB Chief) presented on NVDRS, Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) attended the meeting, and all the programs gave presentations

discussing their group's activities. The COMEC table at the meeting contained information about NVDRS and SUDORS.

December 2023: MST participated in a Surveillance Data Roundtable at the Medicolegal Death Investigation (MDI) Connect In-Person Meeting sponsored by NCHS' COMEC Office. Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) presented information on NVDRS and the role of C/ME partners. Dr. Kristin Holland (SB Chief) presented information on suicide. Other attendees included Ms. Bridget Lyons, MPH (NVDRS Science Officer), Mr. Craig Bryant (Computer Scientist), and Mr. Scott Van Heest (Information Technology Specialist)

July 2023: Ms. Grace Liu, MPH (NVDRS Science Officer) presented "Introduction to the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)" at the COMEC Virtual Seminar. The seminar was geared toward the coroner and medical examiner community.

June 2023: Attended follow-up meeting to May meeting in Atlanta with the Medicolegal Death Investigation (MDI) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Implementation Collaborative, MST participated in the conversation and NCHS talked about their vision/next steps for this Collaborative. After the meeting, Mr. Scott Van Heest (MST IT Specialist) gave updates on the NVDRS Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) work and Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) introduced Dr. Margy Warner (COMEC Director) to the NCIPC's Office of Informatics Director to continue discussions about the ongoing DMI work in NCIPC and how to optimize investments.

May 2023: NVDRS staff attended NCHS' MDI FHIR Implementation Collaborative at the Georgia Tech Research Institute in Atlanta, GA, a set of MDI offices along with external data sharing partners who are working on local collaborations to design, build, and test innovative ways to exchange data more efficiently. The CDC Foundation hosted the MDI FHIR Implementation Collaborative (MDI FIC) with support from NCHS and awardees are described here -- [CDC Foundation Announces Awardees For Collaborative Aimed At Improving Data Sharing for Medicolegal Death Investigation | CDC Foundation](#). Some of the awardees were doing activities around NVDRS and SUDORS.

April 2023: Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) attended a workshop on child and youth suicide with colleagues at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), CDC's Division of Vital Statistics (NCHS/CDC), and National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC/NCIPC), the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the child/youth practice/ suicide research community, Medical Examiner /Coroner death investigation teams, those who conduct post suicide death investigations or data collection activities and members of the state Child Death Review teams. This convening resulted in a publication in the Journal of Safety Research: [Research, practice, and data informed investigations of child and youth suicide: A science to service and service to science approach - ScienceDirect](#)

January 2023: Participated in meeting with NCHS and MST staff (IT specialist, Science Officer, Senior Scientist, SB Branch Chief) regarding NVDRS data needs and data available from electronic case management systems used by medical examiner/coroner offices. MST staff attended meetings with NCHS regarding data modernization with coroners and medical examiners (C/ME), including the work that they are doing at NCHS to create FHIR data standards for the C/ME data.

September 2022: Dr. Janet Blair (MST Lead) and Dr. Katherine Fowler (MST Senior Scientist) of the NVDRS Team participated in meetings to discuss and plan for the new COMEC at the National Center for Health Statistics

(NCHS); also provided input as an NVDRS subject matter expert (ongoing), including feedback on the COMEC website.

April 2022: NVDRS Team members participated in meetings regarding sprint foundational tasks to help inform the new COMEC office. Discussed environmental scans of interactions of C/ME across CDC, challenges, and barriers to support for C/ME offices, and engagement with C/ME and among CIOs to ensure connection. As a result of the engagement piece, NVDRS shared their C/ME focused NVDRS Fact Sheet with COMEC colleagues an example of work that NVDRS has done in the space with C/ME partners.

December 2021: Members of the NVDRS Team met with NCHS colleagues to discuss tribal affiliation on death certificates and ICD-11 codes.