

Federal Perspective on the National Vital Statistics System and the National Death Index

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National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) and the National Death Index (NDI)

- Need for the records?
- Governance of the records?
- Financing of the records?
- Collection, processing, management, and protection of the data?
- Sharing and use of the records?
- Timeliness and Quality of the data?

National Vital Statistics System

- 57 registration jurisdictions
 - Includes 50 states, District of Columbia, New York city and the 5 U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Complete census----births, deaths, & fetal deaths
- Annually, there are about:
 - 4.0 million birth events
 - 2.6 million death events
 - 26,000 fetal death events (20 weeks or more gestation)

Why We Need the Records for the NVSS?

- Describe the health status of the Nation
- Surveillance of new and/or emerging diseases
- Program management and policy making
- Health research

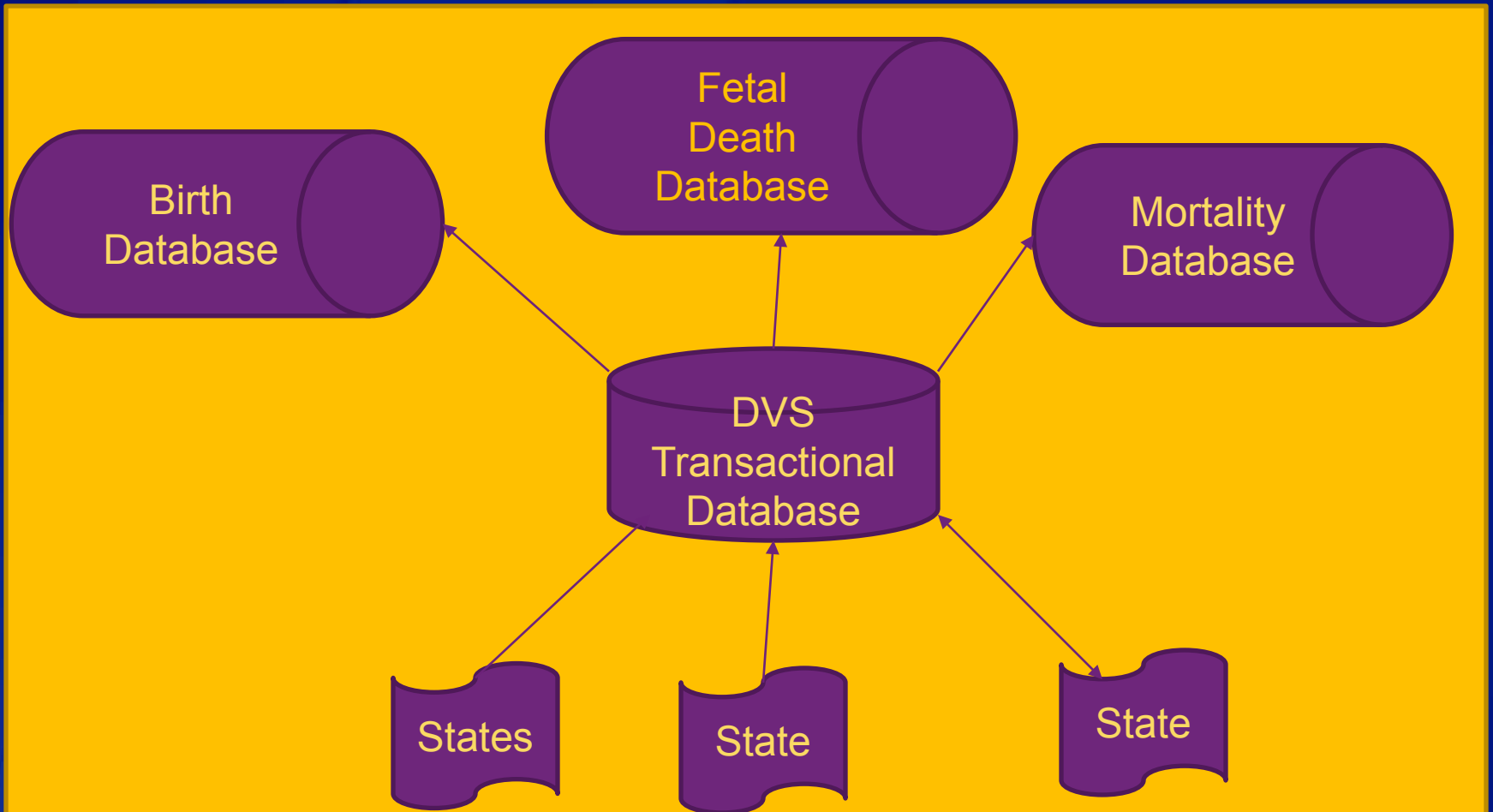
How is NVSS financed? *(Statistics vs. Civil Registration)*

- Vital records financed thru civil registration
 - Civil registration financed through the sale of birth and death certificates, or sale of services.
 - Most states have removed state appropriations from the vital records programs
- NVSS financed through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program contract (VSCP) with the jurisdictions
 - Support civil registration but do not completely finance it.
- In 2017, the total contract is \$21.1 million per year. Components:
 - Births ----- \$9.5 million
 - Deaths ----- \$8.5 million
 - Fetal Deaths ----- \$1.1 million
 - Infant/Death linkages----\$2.0 million

Governance of Records for the NVSS

- Vital records are governed by state, not Federal, laws and statutes
 - Laws/regulations about access & use of the records or parts of the records vary.
 - Model vital records and statistics law exist, but is not implemented nationwide
 - Use of the records are outlined in the VSCP contract
 - Participation in the VSCP contract is optional-----100% participation.
- Electronic vital registration systems
 - All jurisdictions have an electronic birth system
 - 46 jurisdictions have an electronic death registration system, not all of which are statewide or have complete coverage
 - 28 jurisdictions have an electronic fetal death system

Flow of Records from States for NVSS



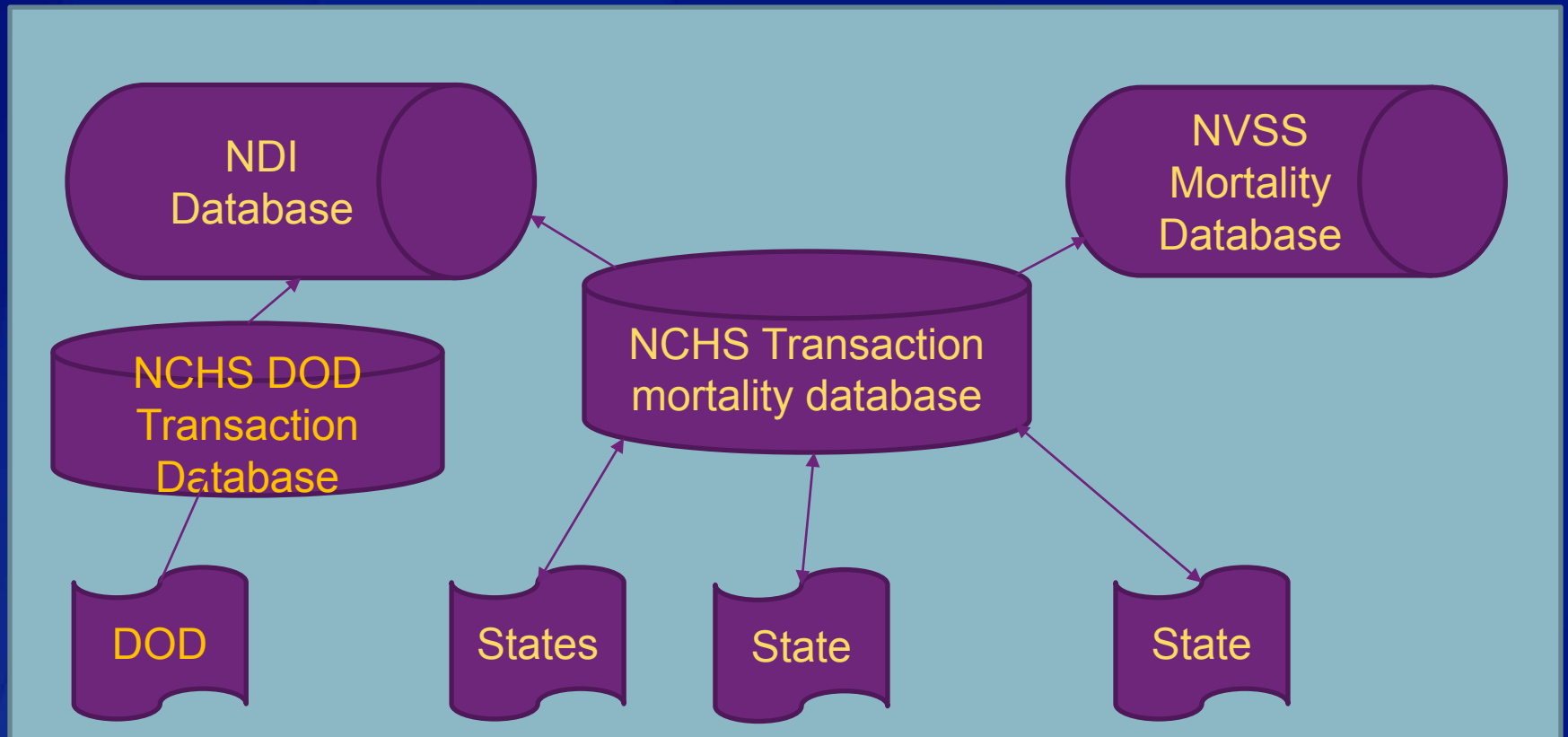
Release of Vital Statistics

- Annual Vital Statistics publications and topic-based Data Briefs
 - Births
 - Deaths
 - Fetal deaths
- Vital Statistics Rapid Release Program
 - Surveillance data on births and deaths
- Public Use Files – births and deaths
- Files on CDC Wonder
- Confidential Research Files (*approval of research project*)
 - Births
 - Deaths
 - Fetal deaths
- Research Data Centers

National Death Index (NDI)

- Comprised of:
 - All deaths occurring within the U.S from 1979 forward
 - All military deaths occurring overseas
- Jurisdictions and DOD owned the records in database
 - NCHS/DVS is an intermediary
 - Actions governed through data use agreements
- Used for data matching of researchers' files with death certificates to determine if a person has died, and if so, the cause of death
- Currently over 90 million records in the database

Flow of Death Records in Creating the NDI and NVSS-Mortality Files



Use of the National Death Index

- Researcher must submit an IRB-approved project to NDI
- NDI Advisory Committee (comprised of state vital statistics professionals, & Federal/state/private researchers)
 - Reviews/approves each NDI application
- DVS Director reviews/approves applications approved by Advisory Comm.
- NDI staff matches researchers' records with NDI database using at least one of the following criteria:
 - First and last name and social security number
 - First and last name and month and year of birth
 - Social security and date of birth and sex
- NDI staff provides the results (fact &/or cause of death) to the researcher and assess the fee for matching services

Financing of and Access to the National Death Index

- 100% receipt operated----*no appropriated dollars.*
 - Receipts must cover:
 - Payment of states for use of their records
 - NCHS NDI salaries and fringe (100%)
 - NDI operating expenses including:
 - Travel
 - IT/computer costs
 - NAPHSIS Cooperative Agreement
 - NDI Advisory Committee
 - NDI fee structure set by the jurisdictions
 - NDI access and use rules set by jurisdictions
 - Must cover the laws in the most restricted states.

What are the challenges and opportunities for the NVSS and the NDI?

Thank You!

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