



National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS)

Next Generation Vital Statistics Project Scope

Subcommittee on Population Health

1) Description

- a) Purpose: Building the case and establishing the value proposition for the importance of the Vital Statistics system in the US as a national asset and key component of our national security program. The answer to the question, “Is the centrality of vital records to inform national health planning, support cost containment of entitlement programs and as a component of national security sufficiently understood?” seems to be no. We want to explore how to get to yes.
- b) Summary of what is to be created or delivered: We want to hold a 1-2 day hearing to address the following issues:
 - 1) Importance of Vitals as foundational for many federal functions and sectors;
 - 2) Current status of system from a variety of perspectives;
 - 3) Linkage of vital records data with other data systems (e.g.: health records and local/state data systems); and
 - 4) Where do we go from here? Report and recommendations to follow.

A crucial element in these hearings will be testimony from key Federal agencies that rely heavily on the use of Vital Statistics. For example:

- 1) Vitals are used in the projections made by the Office of the Chief Actuary (OCA) of the Social Security Administration used to determine the future revenues and costs of Social Security, Medicare, and other major programs.
 - 2) Vitals are a critical component of the population estimates that the Census Bureau is required to produce by law between decennial censuses. These population estimates are used to allocate over ~\$300 billion in federal funds each year, and they are also used by some states in their funding formulas.
 - 3) Vitals used in the Census periodic long-term population projections to describe the demographic character of the future U.S. population are used in turn by other federal agencies---the Bureau of Labor Statistics uses the population projections as the basis for its own projections of the future labor force, and the National Center for Education Statistics uses them to plan education estimates. At the state and local level, these projections are used for specific planning objectives, such as assessing demand for roads, schools, and other infrastructure improvements.
- c) In scope: broad visioning understanding current systems parameters and constraints
 - d) Out of scope: addressing specific data quality content issues

2) Outline of major components/elements of work to be done

- a) Continue planning process

- b) Identify key players
- c) Decide whether to address all Vitals or focus on specific system (births, deaths, fetal)
- d) Develop detailed hearing outline/agenda

3) Key inputs

- a) From HHS or other federal sources: NCHS Vitals staff, Federal data users (Census, SSA, HRSA, CDC, CMS, Office of Chief Actuary, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, etc.)
- b) Other inputs should the project move forward: NAPHSIS/jurisdictions; researchers; health care providers; other private sectors (insurance industry); E-Vitals system designers; data intermediaries; NAS

4) Timeframe

- a) Overarching: Targeting hearings for Summer or Fall with report and recommendations to follow in winter
- b) Task(s) to be considered 2018: preparation and holding the hearing described here