

INTRODUCING THE *MORTALITY DATA INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE HEALTH*



The Mortality Data Interagency Working Group to Improve Health fosters collaboration among federal agencies to improve mortality data access, collection, reporting and analysis.

Mortality data provides key information to federal agencies working in health, public health, science, and defense. Mortality data, collected by states and provided to the federal government through the National Center for Health Statistics, do not currently

meet timeliness or accuracy needs of those addressing key health issues and emerging public health concerns that federal agencies must surveil and manage today.

Initiation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), in collaboration with federal agencies and programs whose missions depend on vital records and who agree to dedicate time and resources to building vital records capacity, established the Mortality Data Interagency Working Group to Improve Health.

Participation

Initially, federal agencies and programs including the CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR), National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP); and institutes and programs from the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration, will participate.

Value

The Mortality Data Interagency Working Group to Improve Health – the Working Group – offers a unique opportunity for its members to share information and collaborate on projects and research to improve mortality data timeliness, quality and use, providing value to its members and to the nation.



WHY MORTALITY DATA?

Mortality data are important to many stakeholders for public and population health purposes, programming and policy decisions, and for health research. They are also used to establish fact of death for administrative purposes.

Why the Mortality Data Interagency Working Group to Improve Health?

Federal agencies and programs want to take action to enhance the readiness and capacity to address key health issues and emerging public health concerns with high-quality, timely mortality data. The group brings together diverse expertise and capabilities to accomplish more than could be achieved separately.



WHY TAKE ACTION?

- ✓ The mortality data ecosystem challenges are complex and require collaboration and collective action
- ✓ Establishing the Mortality Data Interagency Working Group to Improve Health – the Working Group – is feasible and necessary to:
 - Improve mortality data timeliness
 - Improve the quality of mortality data
 - Enhance mortality data matching and use to improve public and population health

“Improvement needs more than NCHS – we can accomplish more together than we can separately.”

Delton Atkinson, Director, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC

WHAT'S NEXT?

Over the next 6 – 12 months, the Working Group will pursue specific actions to improve mortality data timeliness, quality, matching and use, while advancing their respective agency and program missions. The Working Group has acknowledged the complexity of the system, the common challenges that exist, and the urgency to work together to improve the mortality data ecosystem. As a group, these agencies and programs identified common needs for and willingness to support mortality data to improve health.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact us: H. “Mac” McCraw, Senior Public Health Advisor, National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Vital Statistics at hdm4@cdc.gov

Visit the National Vital Statistics System website: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/index.htm>