

# Friends of NCHS Annual Meeting: Update from the NCHS Director

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**Director, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)**

**November 2023**

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# New CDC Director, Dr. Mandy Cohen

## 3 Initial Areas of Focus

1. Readiness and Execution for Fall/Winter Respiratory Illnesses
2. Improving Mental Health and Combatting Opioid Crisis
3. Supporting Young Families



# CDC Moving Forward – Main Objectives:

1. Share science and data faster
2. Translate science into practical policy
3. Prioritize public health communications, with a focus on the American public
4. Develop a CDC workforce ready to respond to future threats
5. Promote partnerships



# NCHS Re-Organization

**Goal:** To position CDC to better respond to and tackle future public health threats, while we continue our important day-to-day work of disease control and prevention.

**Establish:** The Office of Public Health Surveillance, Data, and Technology (OPHDST)

## Key NCHS Changes

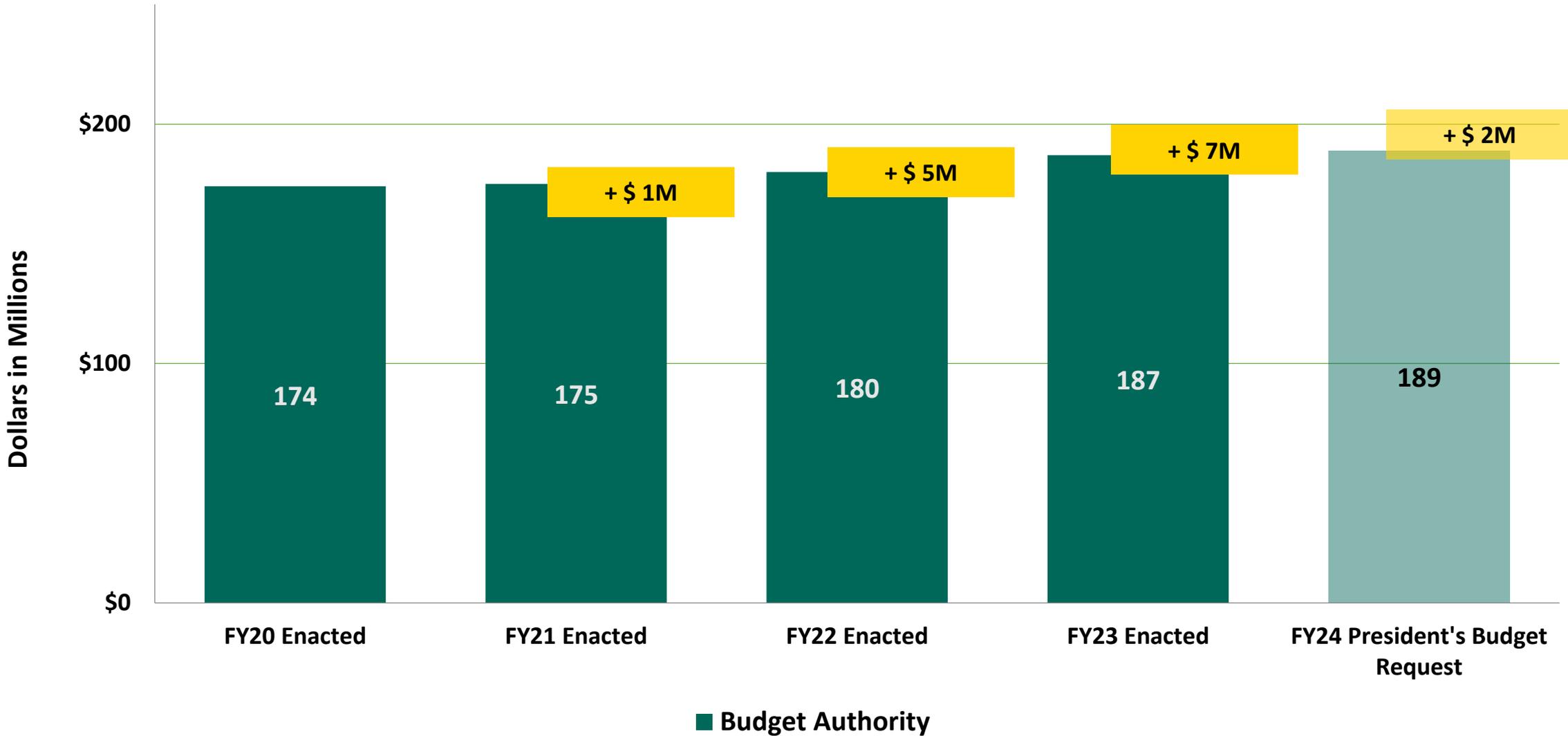
- Establish the Office of Deputy Director for Programs
- Establish the Office of Science
- Establish the Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC)

# Welcoming our Deputy Director for Programs



**Carolyn Greene, M.D.**  
Principal Deputy Director, NCHS

# NCHS Budget Update



# NCHS Strategic Plan – Highlights and Accomplishments

## Goal 1

Expand NCHS's relevance and external engagement

- Conducted **Health Data User Survey** to understand user needs/ interests to inform strategy; June 2023 with **N=2,600+ respondents**
- Developed a **Strategic Partnership Engagement Plan** draft to engage new and existing NCHS Partners
- Evaluating ways to improve the timeliness and quality of **pregnancy mortality data (Div. of Vital Stats and the Div. of Reproductive Health)**
- Initiated plan for new **Health Equity Data Webinar Series** to launch Dec 2023

## Goal 2

Accelerate NCHS's health data capabilities

- Launched **Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC)**
- **46 jurisdictions** participated in quarterly testing events focused on **interoperability** between jurisdictions' **electronic death reporting systems (EDRS)** and NCHS
- **Released 66** experimental, preliminary, provisional, model-based, or early estimates in **FY23** as of Q3 end
- Conducting IT systems assessment in preparation for **cloud based EHR data receipt and processing**
- Led FYQ4 **Cross-cutting program meeting** on NCHS's **data needs** and potential **data linkages**.
- Finalizing **Enterprise Data Analytics and Visualization (EDAV)** rules of behavior to process, store, and analyze data now that a **EDAV CIPSEA zone has been created and tested**

## Goal 3

Build on NCHS's workforce and operational excellence

- Completed review of **Disclosure Review Board** assessment & initiating **pilot to expand the board and increase review frequency** by January 2024
- Developed **NCHS DEAIB plan**
- **Revised Key Performance Indicators** for DEIAB, workforce planning, and professional development
- Delivered **41 trainings** in CY2022 on leadership, technical, and DEIAB topics to NCHS staff

# NCHS FY 2024 Priorities

NCHS is ...



Releasing data faster—continuing aggressive early and provisional data release schedules and improving DRB capacity to review faster



Leveraging emerging technology to improve the quality and timeliness of data—increasing use of new analytic techniques to develop experimental and model-based estimates and ML/NLP uses



Modernizing systems to enhance data access—migrating CIPSEA-protected data to the cloud, exploring a cross-agency National Secure Data Service, assessing IT systems in support of CDC's Data Modernization Initiative, and advancing Web platforms and data query tools.



Maximizing partnerships and collaborations – implementing results from Health User Survey to guide engagement with state/local gov and academia; developing a strategic partnership engagement plan



Cultivating belonging in the workforce – developing a Workforce Development Strategy, leading CDC's Data Science Happy Hour

# Modernizing Data

Data modernization continues to be an implementation priority for CDC.

- To improve the timeliness and accuracy of its data reporting, **CDC is modernizing data** by adopting innovative data systems that get information to CDC and the public quickly and accurately.
- **Data Modernization Initiative** modernizes core data and surveillance infrastructure across the federal and state public health landscape to shift from siloed and brittle public health data systems to connected, resilient, adaptable, and sustainable ‘response-ready’ systems inside and outside CDC (*OPHDST*)

DMI  
@CDC



DATA



PEOPLE



POLICY

# Data Modernization at NCHS

## ■ **DMI Portfolio Review**

- NCHS has a strong array of projects that increase the quality and timeliness of data and improve access to data.
- These projects were greatly enhanced by COVID related funding: CDC's DMI Budget, the CARES Act, and the American Rescue Plan.

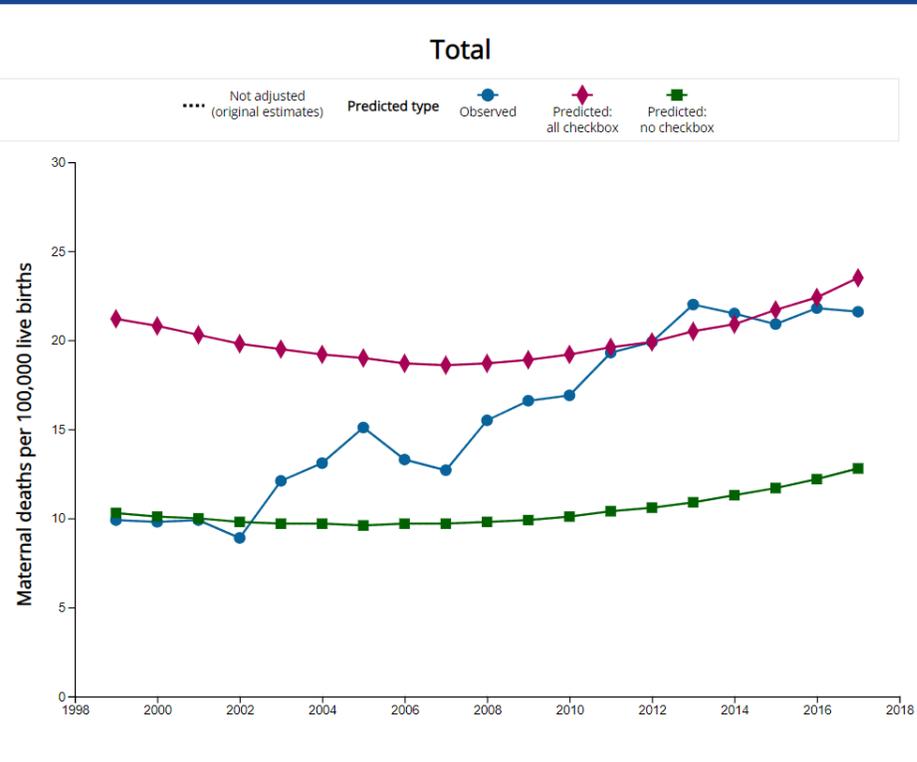
## ■ **Rescission of COVID Related Funding**

- All acquisitions not fully obligated by May 31, 2023 were put on pause.

## ■ **Looking Ahead: Sustaining and Building on Progress**

- The deep cuts have impacted the DMI projects but we have worked to preserve many gains.
- We are reviewing existing programs and prioritizing activities to build on our progress.

# Highlights from NCHS



## CDC EXTENDED BMI-FOR-AGE GROWTH



# NCHS Rapid Surveys System

 **CDC WONDER**

Access the newest provisional  
mortality data

# COMEC

Collaborating Office for **Medical Examiners** and **Coroners**

# National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)

## Back in the field—January 2025

- New for 2025: Trucks instead of trailers
  - Allow NHANES to be in more than one location within a county
  - Will improve statistical power
- Streamlining processes to be more efficient
  - New participant portal
  - Shorter screener



# NVSS Modernization Update

- Several jurisdictions are currently working on completing FHIR messaging certification and expected to begin production by the end of the year.
- A second round of ELC funding (\$79 million) was awarded in FY 2023 to continue NVSS modernization with an expanded focus on FHIR interoperability for birth data.
- In 2023, NCHS further enhanced its provisional data dissemination efforts with provisional mortality and birth data is now being updated in CDC WONDER

# NCHS Rapid Surveys System



Timely health data about emerging issues have never been more important for public health decision-making.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is developing the NCHS Rapid Surveys System as a platform to quickly provide reliable, actionable data of known quality to inform public health experts, government officials, and communities.

# Rapid Surveys are Particularly Well-Suited for:



## Time-sensitive data needs

- Areas where existing statistical resources are unavailable, not timely, or of insufficient or unknown quality



## Measuring public health attitudes and behaviors

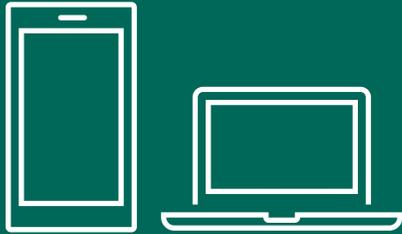
- Cases where things are changing very quickly



## Developmental work

- Areas where concepts are less clear or evolving; measurement can inform future question design

# NHIS-Teen



Determine the feasibility of teenager-report and online data collection



Obtain information about teenagers directly from a representative sample of teenagers



Evaluate concordance between parent and teenager-report

# Virtual Data Enclave (VDE) Updates:

- NCHS continues to progress with developing and enhancing this new mode of data access
- There are currently nine CDC-based teams and one FDA team designated as pilot projects
- Status of pilot projects:
  - Ten teams:
    - Completed VDE orientation training
    - Signed the VDE Data Use Agreements (DUA)
    - Had their secure rooms inspected
  - Six teams participated in VDE login ‘walk through’ trainings
  - Six teams have VDE accounts setup
  - To date, restricted-use data in one account; researchers analyzing data
  - Working with the other nine teams to finalize accounts

# National Secure Data Service Implementation

- Insights from recent efforts to modernize health data interoperability in the National Vital Statistics System are informing best practices for a National Secure Data Service (NSDS).
- The NSDS is intended to function as a centralized coordinating unit for data sharing, linking, and protection across the federal statistical ecosystem.
- Statistical Officials across the federal government are continuing to evaluate questions related to implementing the NSDS, including:
  - the potential use of data from private sources
  - data linkage for non-federal data; and
  - potential incorporation of state, local, tribal, and private data, as well as other emerging topics.

# Questions?

[www.cdc.gov/nchs](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs)

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

