Private-Sector Health Data: Overview of Data Infrastructure, Initiatives, & Lessons Learned

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Brian C. Moyer, Director

December 16, 2021

Using Private-Sector Health Data

- **Key Attributes of a Data Infrastructure**
  - Capacity
  - Consistency
  - Sustainability

- **NCHS Initiatives**
  - Electronic Health Records
  - Data Linkage/Social Determents of Health
  - Vital Statistics

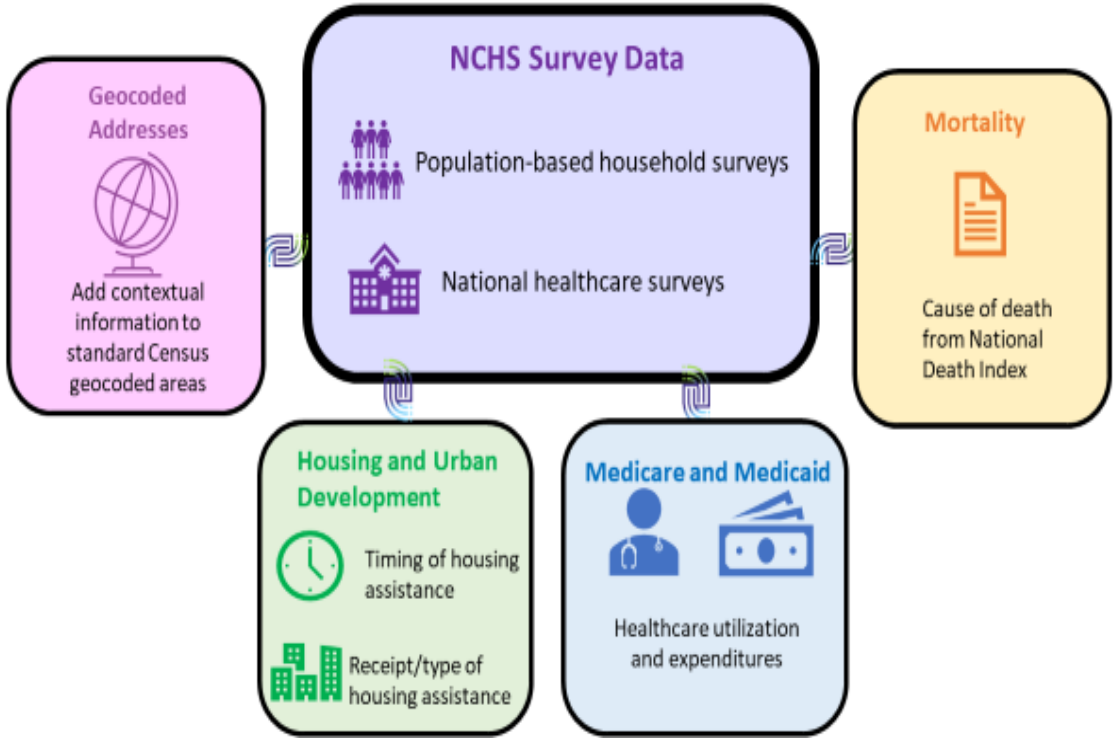
Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

- **Opportunities**
  - Single repository for multiple uses
  - Reduced burden on healthcare providers
  - Higher-quality and more timely statistics

- **Challenges**
  - Significant storage and processing costs
  - Lack of common/consistent data standards
  - Privacy concerns
  - Acquisition hurdles

NCHS Data Linkage Program

- Linked data provide policy-relevant information in an efficient way
- NCHS links many of its surveys to administrative & private data sources
- Geocodes are often included



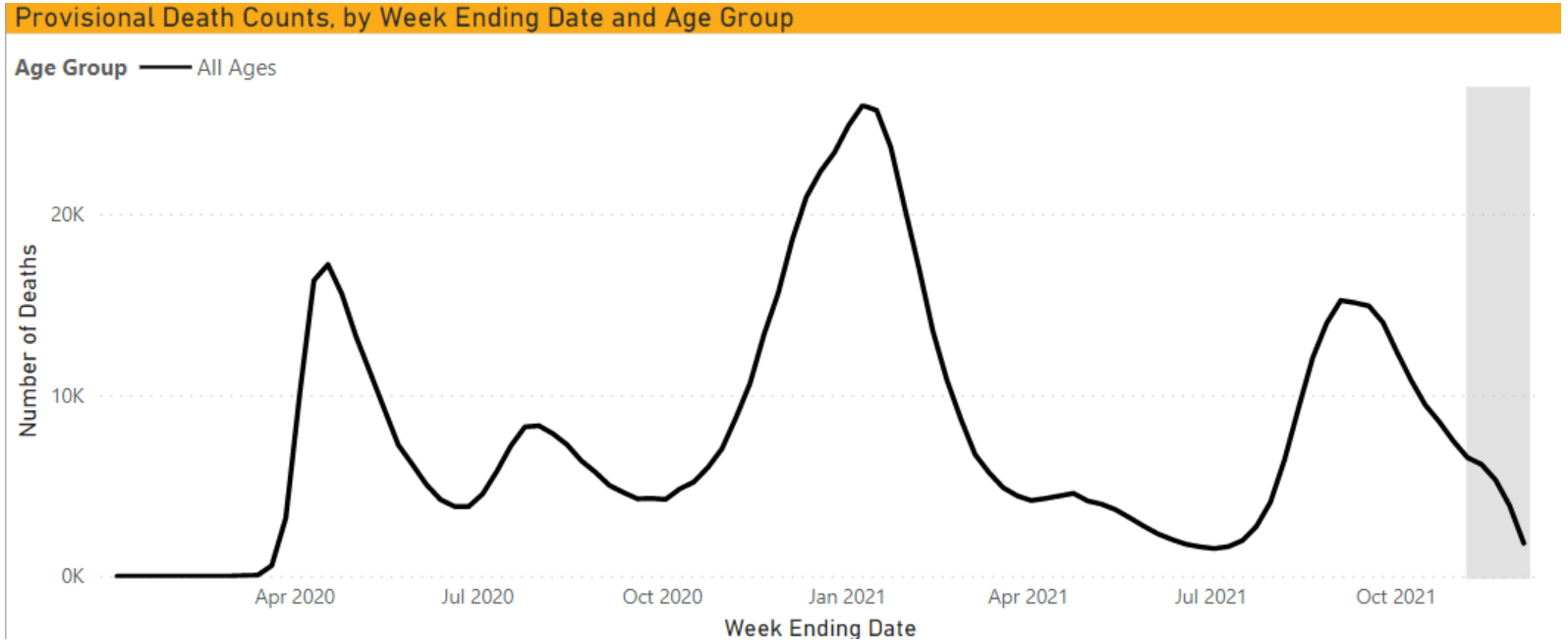
Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

- **Expanded data sources and linkage to examine SDOH**
  - Conduct new and updated linkages, including private data
  - Improve privacy protections for linked data—e.g., Privacy Preserving Record Linkage

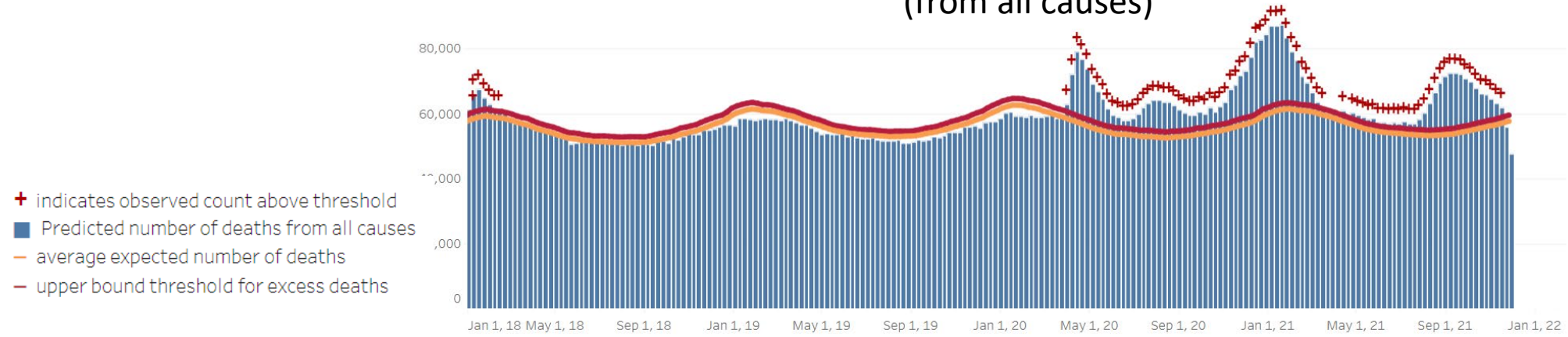
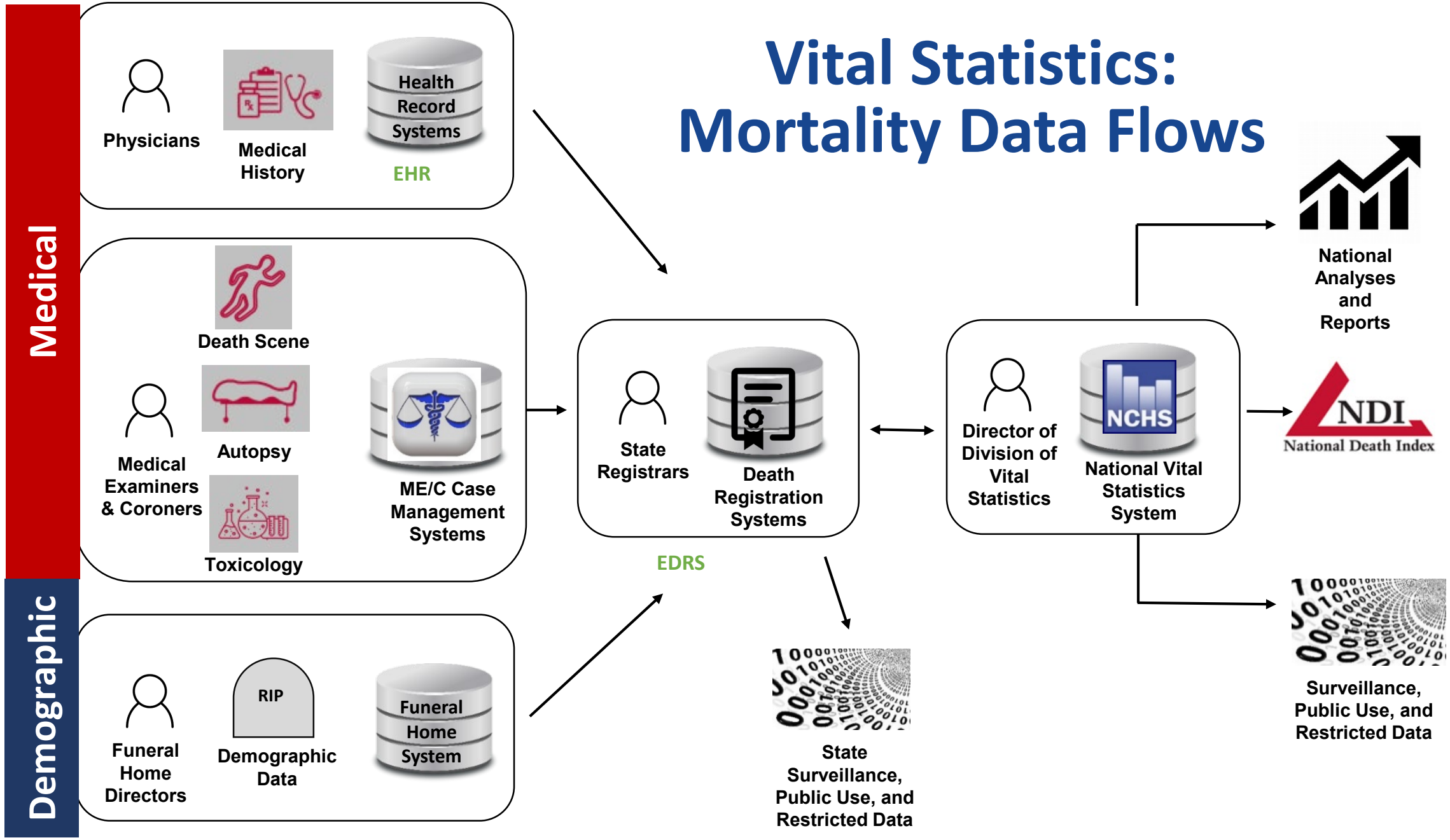
- **Integrated SDOH data for cross-government evidence-building efforts**

Vital Statistics

Provisional Death Counts for COVID-19



Excess Deaths – Weekly number of deaths (from all causes)



Vital Statistics: Mortality Data Flows