Invest in the future of US health statistics:

The case for funding the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) at $215 million in FY24
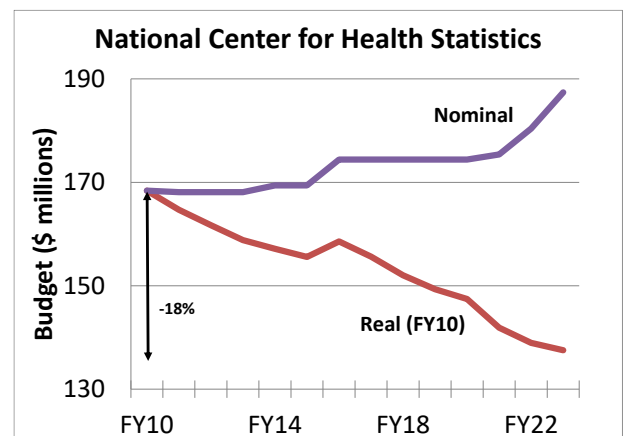
WHAT IS NCHS?

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data and compiling statistical information to help guide public health and health policy decisions.

WHY SUPPORT NCHS?

- Demand for data has never been greater and NCHS is uniquely positioned to deliver unbiased, objective data for policy.
- Health innovations and health care delivery rely on timely, accurate data collected through cutting edge methods.
- NCHS supports:
  - **Timely monitoring of birth outcomes** and **causes of death** through our nation's **electronic vital records system**, which allows policymakers to **track and respond** to public health crises.
  - **Collecting data** of policy relevant information on **acute and chronic conditions**, **disability, risk factors** and the **use of health care services** through representative **interview and examination surveys**.
  - Providing information on utilization of **outpatient, inpatient, and long-term care services** and the characteristics of the providers of those services.

THE FUNDING CHALLENGE: NCHS must modernize its data products with real-time capability, higher frequency, and more granular information while maintaining its current data systems.

- NCHS data have long been the gold standard for measuring health status and changes in health outcomes.

- To meet evolving data needs and keep pace with advancing technology, **NCHS' statistical systems need to be overhauled over the next several years**.

- **NCHS must continue to provide data products** while the necessary wholesale changes take place.

- **Without funds to innovate in a significant way,** NCHS must find a way to maintain quality with insufficient resources.

National Center for Health Statistics

THE ASK: FUND NCHS AT $215 MILLION FOR FY 2024

- NCHS needs **additional resources** to **improve on Electronic Health Record data collection and interpretability**.

- Expanding the **successful data linkage program** will allow use of predictive analytics and produce estimates of health differences in smaller geographic areas, **allowing for microtargeting of various policies**.

- Increasing sample sizes in the agency's signature surveys will **produce more granular detail for population subgroups and geographic areas that will benefit policy makers**.

- Vital records are the original public health data. Investing in the **vital records sharing process**—through NCHS and CDC's Data Modernization Initiative—will allow NCHS to track critical mortality trends, such as **opioid overdoses, suicides, and deaths relating to pandemics like COVID-19**.