

Oregon's Birth Anomalies Surveillance System: Design and methods

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: The purpose of the abstract proposal is to provide an overview of the Oregon Birth Anomalies Surveillance System. This includes discussion of the surveillance system design and methodology as well as opportunities and challenges related to building the dataset and using the surveillance information. This presentation targets public health professionals who are interested in areas such as maternal and child health and surveillance system methods.

ABSTRACT: Birth anomalies (BAs) are a leading cause of infant mortality in the U.S. and contribute substantially to health care costs and life-long disabilities. OHA Maternal and Child Health staff developed the Oregon Birth Anomalies Surveillance System (BASS) in 2011, collecting information on BAs in Oregon children to better understand BAs and their impacts in Oregon. BASS is a passive system linking administrative data such as birth certificate, Medicaid claims, and hospital discharge data for case identification. BASS initially tracked 12 “core” birth anomalies for children from birth to age six. Since 2016, the program has expanded to include death certificates as an additional data source and to track 50 BAs recommended by the National Birth Defect Prevention Network. The 2010-2014 birth cohort is the first cohort reported with these expansions. BA estimates vary from state to state. Some of the challenges in comparing data between states may involve differences in data sources, length of surveillance time, and specific surveillance type. Further development of BASS provides opportunities to evaluate validity and reliability of our data for methodological refinement. This work will lead to a robust system useful for understanding different birth anomalies, planning public health interventions and educational materials.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Describe the design of the Oregon’s Birth Anomalies Surveillance System
- List the data sources involved in the Oregon’s Birth Anomalies Surveillance System
- Explain the need for a birth anomalies surveillance system
- Identify challenges with establishing the Oregon’s Birth Anomalies Surveillance System

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