



Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry Analysis of the Timeliness and Uniqueness of Data Sources

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Background and Objectives

The Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry (KBSR) has reporting by multiple data sources including vital statistics (live birth, stillbirth and death certificates), inpatient hospital discharge data, medical laboratory reporting, voluntary outpatient genetics clinic reporting, and telephone reporting for neural tube defects. One objective of KBSR is to improve the timeliness of case ascertainment for congenital anomalies, and the purpose of this study was to determine baseline data for these reporting sources.

Methods

All persons included in the KBSR database in 2003 were reviewed to determine the data source that initially contributed the individual to the system. These records were then evaluated for the average age of the child when they were imported into the database.

Results

The majority of cases identified by KBSR were created from hospital discharge data. Vital statistics and active surveillance were the other two primary sources of data. Combined, these three sources accounted for a total of 97.7% of the 2003 cases. In 2003, the average age of the child when created in the KBSR database was 191 days. Active surveillance was the timeliest with an average age of 107 days from birth, while vital statistics data averaged 178 days and hospital discharge data averaged 198 days.

DATA SOURCE	% CONTRIBUTED	AVERAGE AGE (DAYS)
Hospital Discharge Data	78.94	198
Vital Statistics	16.52	178
Active Surveillance	2.27	107
ALL		191

Conclusions

This data will be utilized to enhance the timeliness of data by expanding active surveillance to the top seven birthing hospitals in Kentucky accounting for 42% of total births. Other activities to improve the timeliness include monthly electronic reporting of vital statistics data and requesting hospital discharge data on a monthly rather than quarterly basis.

