

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)
Joint Meeting
Minutes for Wednesday, January 12, 2011
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Attendees

Convener: Laura Lund, Science Advisor for HISP, will chair this committee

Committee Members:

Present: Debbie Castanon

Phone: Jonathan Teague, Sue Holtby, Erlinda Valdez, Krista Hanni,
David Grant

CDPH Staff:

Present: Linette Scott, Krista Christian, Karen Roth, Julie Turner,
Thi Nguyen, Cindy Tanaka-Fong

A. WELCOME

Krista C informed committee members that the meeting would be tape recorded to assist with minute taking.

Linette thanked committee members for their participation. Laura Lund will chair and serve as a reference person for VSAC/VSPAC as Linette is currently assisting the Deputy Secretary for Health Information Technology at the California Health and Human Services Agency.

B. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

November 3, 2010 minutes approved as written.

C. State Registrar's Response

3 continuing projects and 1 new project were approved for release of data.

D. New business

4 new projects were reviewed.

Project Title: "The Advancement Project – Healthy City"

Principle Investigator(s): Christine Schweidler, MPH, MA, Senior Research Manager

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 10-8-63

Expiration: October 7, 2011

File(s) Requested: 2008 & 2009 Birth Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: Address only

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

Summary: Healthy City requests approval for the Birth and Death Statistical Master files in order to support ongoing and future direct technical support projects. Two examples of ongoing projects for which they hope to use the updated Birth and Death Statistical Master files are presented. 1) Best Start Communities research and planning with First 5 Los Angeles; 2) Community Health Needs Assessments with Kaiser Permanente.

1) Best Start Communities, First 5 Los Angeles: In collaboration with First 5 Los Angeles, Healthy City employs the Birth and Death Statistical Master files to evaluate the needs of low income communities in Los Angeles County, specifically with respect to total number of births, low birth weight, level of prenatal care, and teen births. First 5 Los Angeles has selected twelve communities in Los Angeles County for its Best Start Community child and family programming, and sustained grant-making and advocacy. The Best Start Communities are based on census tracts, and therefore provide an accurate account of these and other key indicators, relying on our use/possession of the Statistical Master Files with address level information, as well as data they can use to cross tabulate for specific populations. This summer, and in the years to come, they will be supporting planning activities for First 5 and its community partners, and will use birth and mortality data to identify key planning targets.

2) Community Health Needs Assessments, Kaiser Permanente Fontana, Downey, West Los Angeles, Riverside, South Bay: In support of SB697, Healthy City is working with several of the Kaiser Foundation Hospitals in southern California to conduct in-depth community health needs assessments. The goal of these assessments is to identify the most critical health needs in Kaiser service areas, and support stakeholders in these communities. The updated statistical master files will allow them to conduct

in-depth analysis using the most current data available. This is essential to providing up-to-date information that will ultimately inform decision-making (with respect to the allocation of resources or the enactment of policies) to address key health concerns at the community level.

The goal is to help improve conditions in low-income communities, specifically by providing research that supports the use of additional resources for these communities.

VSAC Discussion: No Comments

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: "Physician Induced Demand: Evidence from Patients with MDs"

Principle Investigator(s): Erin M. Johnson, Assistant Professor of Applied Economics MIT Sloan School of Economics

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 09-10-55

Expiration: August 5, 2011

File(s) Requested: OSHPD Linked PDD/Birth Data 1996-2005

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers only

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

Summary: The purpose of the project is to provide a new empirical test of the physician induced demand hypothesis. The induced demand hypothesis states that physicians exploit the information asymmetry between themselves and patients to create demand for their own services.

VSAC Discussion:

- Sue asked if the list of licensed physicians and nurses were updated every year. Jonathan responded that OSHPD obtained the list from a 3rd party source. The concern was that matching names and birthdates of female physicians and RNs (the study group) may be difficult if they change their names when they marry. Thus, researchers may have difficulty in obtaining a representative sample of 200 people from the lists if they were not current. OSHPD questions

the researchers about potential flaws in research design, however, there were no questions based on this proposal.

- A discussion was raised regarding special requirements or agreements for releasing data internationally. Jonathan responded that the same constraints apply to international data release as applies to domestic release.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: "Language Acquisition in Children"

Principle Investigator(s): Fei, Xu, Ph.D., U.C. Berkeley Infant Cognition and Language Lab, Christie Reed, Lab Manager

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 10-10-04

Expiration: October 7, 2011

File(s) Requested: Access to share 2008-2009 birth files purchased by Dr. Joseph Campos

Requested Identifiers: California identifiers only

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

Summary: The request is to use data previously obtained by Dr. Joseph Campos (customer #661) at his UC Berkeley lab and approved by the VSAC and CPHS.

The proposed research plans to investigate the acquisition of language in children 15 months of age to 36 months of age. This research experiment will focus on how children learn the meaning of words. The rationale behind this study is to investigate children's acquisition of homonyms. The objective is to understand how children classify homonyms through exploring the mechanism by which children categorize words and modify these categorizations with new input. We hypothesize that this process relies upon Bayesian networks.

Participants will be children living in the San Francisco Bay and surrounding areas, including the following counties: Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus.

VSAC Discussion: No comments

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: "Probabilistic Inference and Categorization Development in Infants at the University of California, Berkeley"

Principle Investigator(s): Fei, Xu, Ph.D., U.C. Berkeley infant Cognition and Language lab, Christie Reed, Lab Manager

Project Type: New Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 10-10-05

Expiration: October 7, 2011

File(s) Requested: Access to share 2008-2009 birth files purchased by Dr. Joseph Campos

Requested Identifiers: Special Request

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

Summary: Requesting to share 2008-2010 birth data obtained by Dr. Joseph Campos (cust#661) for a contact study.

This contact study plans to investigate the cognitive development of probabilistic inference (looking time), categorization (looking time), along with single event probability (crawling procedures) in infants, ages 4 months & 15 days to 15 months of age.

Measures such as looking behavior and search behavior will be used to test whether infants can make probabilistic inferences, focusing on their ability to reason about relationships between samples and populations. The objective of this research is to investigate the developmental trajectory of infants' ability to utilize a probabilistic inference mechanism. The rationale behind this research is finding out if infants can use sampling information to make inferences about object properties and psychological states (probabilistic inference). They hypothesize that this mechanism is available in infants beginning at roughly 6 months of age and that infants can utilize the mechanism in a variety of domains. By testing infants that are slightly younger and slightly older, they can then study the infants' developmental trajectory.

The subject population will consist of infants ranging from 4 months & 15 days to 15 months of age, of a healthy status, with no mental disabilities or severely premature at birth, and exposed to English a minimum of 50% of the time. All participants will reside in the San Francisco Bay and surrounding areas.

The expected end product will be publication in a journal article to the scientific community.

VSAC Discussion: No comments

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: "The Impact of Palivizumab on Hospitalization Rates for Bronchiolitis in California"

Principle Investigator(s): Andrew D. Racine, M.D., Ph.D.

Project Type: Continuing Project

CPHS Approval: Approved

Project No.: 09-08-58

Expiration: July 1, 2011

File(s) Requested: 1996–2005 Linked PDD/ED/AS/Birth Cohort Data

Requested Identifiers: Data on all CA births, with the hospital discharge information on every member of each of those cohorts through the first 3 years of age.

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

Summary: The research proposes to use data from the linked California Vital Statistics Birth and Infant Hospital Discharge data with follow-up in the Patient Discharge Dataset to test whether the introduction of Synagis has had a detectable impact on the hospitalization rates of high risk newborns eligible for receipt of this new therapy. Using the experience of term infants as a comparison group, analysis will be conducted by comparing trends in hospitalization rates for bronchiolitis among three sets of high risk newborns: (1) infants born at less than 32 weeks gestation, (2) infants with chronic lung disease as indicated by discharge from the newborn hospitalization on oxygen or diuretic therapy, and (3) infants born between 32 and 35 weeks gestation.

VSAC Discussion:

- Jonathan verified the names of researchers who would be working on the proposal: Dr. Racine, Dr. Joyce at the National Bureau of Economic Research and Ryan Conrad, graduate student research assistant.
- This is a continuing project which has received OSHPD data from 1996–2006 and is adding prior years' data — 1992–1995 to expand the baseline of the study.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Items of Discussion:

Applications

- Vital Statistics applications have been updated as a result of information discussed at previous meetings, to encourage researchers to provide more detailed descriptions regarding security measures. The security section is based on content in the OSHPD data request form.

Recommended Practices for Safeguarding Access to Confidential Data

- This document has been uploaded to the HIRS website and we will be forwarding the document to our Information Security Officer for review.
- These guidelines were created in response to the committee's recommendation to explain specific security measures requesters may follow for vital statistics data file management as HIRS has noted wide variation in how researchers report security practices.
- Linette asked if the committee had additional recommendations and mentioned that this was an interim step that may eventually become more formalized. We have had internal conversations as to whether to include these practices as requirements or recommendations.

Committee Composition

- The committee discussed the rotational nature of membership. Linette announced there has been interest from the general public in diversifying the membership to ensure relevant stakeholders are represented.
- Statutory reference for the committee implies rotating membership with additional committee members added annually. Statutory

reference does not mention the total number of committee members comprising VSAC/VSPAC. Requested term of service is 3 years.

- We are considering posting a website announcement to recruit 3 additional members. Existing committee members will be notified of the announcement and are advised to think of other constituents who represent key stakeholder groups not currently represented.