

Vital Statistics Advisory Committee (VSAC)
Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee (VRPAC)
Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, July 7, 2010
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Attendees

Convener: Linette Scott

Committee Members:

Present: Debbie Williams, Jonathan Teague

Phone: Sue Holtby, Erlinda Valdez, David Grant, Krista Hanni,
Michelle Baas, Debbie Castanon

CDPH Staff:

Present: Linette Scott, Scott Fujimoto, Debbie McDowell, Dave
Fisher, Jane McKendry, Julie Turner, Karen Vinson, Krista Christian,
Ratha Sun, Thi Nguyen, Cindy Tanaka-Fong

A. WELCOME

Debbie McDowell welcomed committee members and asked permission of attendees to tape the meeting. Permission was granted.

CDPH staff were introduced: Krista Christian, Thi Nguyen, Ratha Sun. Krista is Chief of the Vital Statistics Unit and is available for data request questions. VSAC presentation duties will be transferred to Krista over the next few meetings.

B. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

May 5, 2010 minutes approved as written.

C. State Registrar's Response

Twenty one projects reviewed on May 5th were approved.

D. New business

8 projects (1 continuing, 7 new) were reviewed.

Project Title: An Epidemiologic Study of the Semiconductor Workforce

Principle Investigator(s): Joseph McLaughlin, President, International Epidemiology Institute

Project Type: Continuing Research

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 08-DD-01

Expiration: Approved for life of the project as specified by CPHS.

File(s) Requested: 2008 Death Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: Name, Certificate Number, SSN

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

Summary: A retrospective mortality study on wafer fabrication workers is being conducted. The objective of this study is to determine if there is an increased cancer mortality risk compared to the general population or compared to other company employees not involved in wafer fabrication work. The specific aims are (1) to conduct a cohort mortality study of current and former workers at the fabrication facilities and (2) to relate specific causes of death with job history.

Background: This is a continuing project, not yet reviewed by VSAC. They are looking at fabrication workers, requesting the 2008 Death Statistical Master File. There will be no contact with human subjects. The project has been approved for the life of the project by CPHS. They will have signed the agreement to destroy or return the data.

VSAC Discussion: Committee members questioned the Principal Investigator's use of vital statistics death data instead of cancer registry data. Linette suggested the cancer registry staff should be notified of the study and asked to provide information on their policies and procedures regarding data requests and access.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: Evaluating the Effectiveness of a 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine among Children

Principle Investigator(s): Mirasol Apostol, MPH, California Emerging Infections Program

Project Type: New Research Project

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 10-02-02

Expiration: February 4, 2011

File(s) Requested: 2005-2008 Birth Statistical Master File, 2005-2008 Infant Death Records

Requested Identifiers: BSMF – Name, Certificate Number
Infant Death Records

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

Summary: Primary objective of the project is to measure effectiveness of one or more doses of PCV13 against IPD caused by PCV13 serotypes (as a group) among children recommended to receive PCV13 as part of the routine immunization schedule.

In addition to the evaluation of vaccine effectiveness overall, they will monitor performance in certain groups with known risk factors for invasive disease (e.g., children with underlying conditions, African-American children). This information will be useful for determining whether PCV13 recommendations should be refined to better target children who, despite the availability of PCV13, continue to develop IPD.

This protocol outlines case-control methods for evaluation of PCV13 effectiveness and characterization of risk factors for IPD among children recommended to receive PCV13. The evaluation will be conducted in ABC's/EIP sites and in Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) sites.

Cases eligible for enrollment will include persons meeting all of the following criteria: Children aged 2-59 months of age who have had *S. pneumoniae* isolated from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood, CSF) after PCV13 is licensed in the U.S.; AND Who are residents of surveillance areas on the date their culture is obtained; AND Whose *S. pneumoniae* isolates are available for stereotyping; AND Whose vaccination records are available for review.

Background: The project has CPHS approval through February 4, 2011. This is one of two protocols with the same title, but for two different areas, being reviewed at this time. This project is for the bay area counties – Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Francisco, dealing with children under 5. They will keep the data until the project is completed. All data forms will be destroyed at the end of the project.

VSAC Discussion: No comments.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: Evaluating the Effectiveness of a 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine among Children

Principle Investigator(s): Ramon Guevara, Epidemiologist, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

Project Type: New Research Project

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 10-02-04

Expiration: February 4, 2011

File(s) Requested: 2005 -2008 Birth Statistical Master File;
2005-2008 Death Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: BSMF – Name, Certificate Number
DSMF – Name, Certificate Number, SSN

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: No

Summary: Primary objective is to measure the effectiveness of one or more doses of the new 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) caused by the PCV13 serotypes (as a group) among children recommended to receive PCV13 as part of the routine immunization schedule.

In addition to the evaluation of vaccine effectiveness overall, they will monitor performance in certain groups with known risk factors for invasive disease (e.g., children with underlying conditions, African-American children) to determine whether PCV13 recommendations should be refined to better target children who, despite the availability of PCV13, continue to develop IPD.

This protocol outlines case-control methods for an evaluation of PCV13 effectiveness and characterization of risk factors for IPD among children recommended to receive PCV13. The evaluation will be conducted in ABCs/EIP sites and in Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) sites. Los Angeles is an ELC site.

Background: This project is based on the same protocol as the previous request but using data from Los Angeles County, Department of Public Health. CPHS Approval is through February 4, 2011.

VSAC Discussion: No comments.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: Northern California Consortium for the National Children's Study

Principle Investigator(s): Irva Hertz-Picciotto, Professor UC Davis

Project Type: New Research

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 08-02-55

Expiration: February 4, 2011

File(s) Requested: 2008 Birth Statistical Master File, Infant Death Records

Requested Identifiers: Name, Certificate Number

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: Previous Data Request

Summary: PI is requesting to use birth data files and infant death records previously approved for project #01-12-13, Childhood Autism Risks from Genetics and the Environment (CHARGE) Study, which received recommended approval from VSAC May 5, 2010.

The study will examine important health issues, including: birth defects and pregnancy related problems; injuries; asthma; obesity; diabetes; and behavior, learning, and mental health disorders to establish links between children's environments and their health. By tracking children's development through infancy, childhood, and early adulthood, the study hopes to determine the root causes of many childhood and adult diseases. Findings from the study will benefit all Americans by providing researchers, health care providers, and public health officials with information from which to develop prevention strategies, health and safety guidelines, and possibly new treatments and cures for disease.

The full study will be conducted in 105 locations (counties or groups of counties) across the United States. All locations were selected using a probability-based method to ensure that children and families across the nation from diverse ethnic, racial, economic, religious, geographic, and social groups are fairly represented in the study. In these locations, study teams will work with health care professionals and community leaders to recruit women who are pregnant or are likely to become pregnant in the near future for participation in the study. Most families will be recruited door-to-door. Others will join through their local physicians' offices, health clinics, and hospitals.

Background: The project has CPHS approval through February 4, 2011.

VSAC Discussion: No comments.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: The Influence of Air Pollution in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Areas on the Occurrence of Birth Defects

Principle Investigator(s): Beate Ritz, Professor, UCLA Department of Epidemiology

Project Type: New Research

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 96-08-08

Expiration: August 6, 2010

File(s) Requested:

1983-1986 and 2007-2008 Birth Statistical Master File; 1980-1988; 2001-2002 Death Statistical Master File; 2005-2008 Death Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: BSMF – Name, Certificate Number, Address

DSMF – Name, Certificate Number (1980-1988; 2001-2002)

DSMF – Name, Certificate Number, SSN (2005-2008)

Personal Contact: No

Identifiers Released: No

History: No

Summary: This pilot project will examine how routinely-collected air pollution and birth defects data for the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB) can be

used for environmental surveillance purposes. This project should enable them to demonstrate the adequacy of the proposed modeling approach to address multiple exposures and outcomes, and, thus, enable them to apply for external funding to perform extended analyses with the existing data and subsequently perform nested case-control studies to identify environmental causes for malformations. Case-control studies would allow them to obtain important information not routinely collected by the California malformation registry such as information regarding commuting, occupational, and residence history necessary to create more valid estimates of individual exposure to ambient air and to collect other risk factor and potential confounder information as well.

Background: This project is a non-contact study.

VSAC Comments: No comments.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title: The Physiology of Positive Emotions and Behaviors in Mothers and Children

Principle Investigator(s): Paul D. Hastings, PhD, Professor

Project Type: New Research Project

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 09-12-04

Expiration: February 4, 2011

File(s) Requested: Birth files previously purchased (approved) by Dr. Lisa Oakes for her contact study (Project No. 07-04-06)

Requested Identifiers: Name, Address

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: New Research Project

Summary: The purpose of this investigation is to examine the psychophysiological mechanisms by which parental love generates a relational context within which children develop the capacities for prosocial behavior and empathic concern for others. Effective emotion regulation during potentially challenging interactions with others is expected to be the mechanism by which mothers' compassionate love supports their positive parenting behavior, and also by which children benefit from their experiences of positive socialization in order to show sympathy and offer to others.

The specific aims of the study include: testing the affective a social-cognitive bases of mothers' effective emotion regulation and positive parenting during positive and challenging interactions with children.

Background: The project has CPHS approval through February 4, 2011. The project will be using Lisa Oakes' data.

VSAC Discussion: This project uses Lisa Oakes' data - Project Number 07-04-06. Other researchers using Lisa Oakes' data are Dr. Susan Rivera (501-1080) and Katharine Graf Estes (542-1722)

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Project Title 1: Deprivation and Enrichment in infant Spatial Cognitive Development

Project Title 2: The Development of Infant Detection of Inauthentic Emotion

Principle Investigator(s): Dr. Joseph Campos, Professor of Psychology, U.C. Berkeley

Project Type: New Research Project

CPHS Approval: Yes

Project No.: 10-04-04

Expiration: April 1, 2010

File(s) Requested: 2008, 2009, 2010 Birth Statistical Master File

Requested Identifiers: Name, Certificate Number, SSN

Personal Contact: Yes

Identifiers Released: No

History: No

Summary: The goal of the work to be proposed is to trace the onset of the child's appreciation of the manifestation of authentic and inauthentic emotional displays. Its fundamental assumption is that we need to determine the age when the infant acquires the capacity to distinguish between authenticity and inauthenticity in communication, and to determine what processes underlie an observable developmental shift in this important phenomenon.

The series of studies presented in this application will investigate the development of the detection of authentic emotional displays. Each experiment will look at what are component processes involved in emotional authenticity detection, which develop into more organized and functional systems present in adults. These components include: (I) matching emotional

expressions to contextual information, (2) detecting discrepant vocal and facial information, and (3) using knowledge gained through past experience with an individual in future encounters.

Authentic displays of emotion should fit the situation in which they are displayed. This fit should be perceived along different facets of perception, including intensity, context, and accordance with past experience. When the emotion display and the situation in which it is perceived are incongruent, the authenticity of the emotion may be called into question, helping the perceiver maintain accurate knowledge of the social environment and properly engage in interpersonal interaction. Each of these aspects of perception is noticeable by the infant at a very young age, a finding demonstrated by habituation and looking time studies (Walker-Andrews, 1997; Nelson, 1987; Sarmi, Campos, Camras, & Witherington, 2006). The proposed research will extend this research by focusing on how the child is able to use authenticity detection to guide their social behavior. The present work stresses differential regulation of behavior by incongruent displays, as well as qualitatively different emotional reactions by the infant (e.g., laughter) to incongruent displays than congruent ones.

Background: Joseph Campos submitted two projects for the use of the same data.

VSAC Discussion on Project 1: The board questioned how both vital statistics data and Experion data would be used and that an explanation should be included in the protocol.

VSAC Recommendation: Approved. The data will not be held for additional information, but we will confirm how Experian data is being used.

VSAC Discussion on Project 2: No comment.

VSAC Recommendation: Approval

Presentation - Protecting Personal/Private Information on Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates

Jane presented an overview of issues regarding personal information protection. Many of these issues have been encountered with the passage of AB 130 which affects marriage indices, adding the same protection to marriage indices as supported by the birth and death indices.

Highlights of Presentation and Subsequent Discussion:

Birth and death (and recently marriage) certificates and data derived from them, each have inconsistencies set in law to which data fields are accessible under different situations.

Certain fields on birth certificates are redacted for informational copies; however, other fields are visible, yet still could be problematic in terms of Information Privacy Act violations.

Currently, paper certificates are not offered the same protections as data files.

Vital records information is protected at different levels depending on the way it is obtained. Certain statutes pertain to data files, other statutes pertain to public and non-public indices, and other statutes apply to regular informational certified copies.

The advent of the Internet has led to new problems regarding privacy violations—laws were originally based on problems associated with paper documents and have not kept pace with electronic media. Furthermore, the Internet has resulted in the propagation of new and diverse media organizations and the possible argument that allowing only 'legitimate' or well-known media groups access to records while denying other, lesser-known groups could be interpreted as discriminatory.

Jane mentioned the possibility of the "Model Law" which, recommends that vital records would be closed for a period of time (i.e. 75 to 100 years for birth records) before allowing the public access to these records.

Relevant Health and Safety Codes that pertain to this discussion included 102230 and 103655, among others.

Handouts included the PowerPoint presentation and a PDF file that has mock-up of birth, death and marriage certificates.

CDPH is asking for feedback from the Vital Records Protection Advisory Committee members regarding inconsistencies in interpreting statutes related to the protection of vital records.

The committee must weigh the adequacy of procedures to safeguard individual privacy and prevent fraud versus procedures to ensure the public appropriate access to birth, death and marriage records.

Linette thanked the committee for their general feedback from the conversation and encouraged committee members to think about these issues further and present their thoughts over the next few meetings.