Hospital Birth Registration Timeliness Improvement Project– 2014

Natalia Sejbuk, MPH
Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology
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BACKGROUND – Birth certificate

- Vital legal record that documents live birth
- Establishes legal identity, residence, citizenship
- Includes sociodemographic information
- Required for:
  - Obtaining essential benefits (e.g., health insurance)
  - Entering school
  - Social security, passport, licenses
A 2010 billboard displayed in South Gate, California questioning the validity of President Obama's birth certificate.
“Each live birth shall be registered with the local registrar of births and deaths for the district in which the birth occurred within 10 days following the date of the event.”

- California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 3, Section 102400
INTRODUCTION – Ideal registration process

Baby is born → Mother leaves hospital → Certificate is signed → Mail certificate to Vital Records Office → Registration complete!

Each year, only 20% or less of LAC births are registered within 10 days.
Percentage of births registered within 10 days in LAC, 2004-2013

80% recommended by CDPH
PLAN – Hospital Birth Registration Timeliness Improvement Project

- Baby is born
- Mother leaves hospital
- Certificate is signed
- Mail certificate to Vital Records Office

Registration complete!

Day
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
PLAN – Hospital Birth Registration Timeliness Improvement Project

- Project Plan:
  - One-year intervention project to improve hospital timeliness in birth certificate submission to the Vital Records Office
  - Send 3 performance reports to each hospital with improvement recommendations:
    - Baseline
    - Follow-up
    - Final
  - Quarterly newsletters
PLAN – Hospital Birth Registration Timeliness Improvement Project

- Measurement:
  - Percentage of birth certificates submitted by hospitals to Vital Records Office within 10 days
    - In 2013, 75% of births submitted within 10 days countywide (baseline)
    - Goal: 90% timeliness from each hospital in 2014
  - Data collection using Automated Vital Statistics System (AVSS)
DO – Project timeline

Feb 18: Introduction letters mailed to all hospitals

Mar 17: Baseline performance reports sent (for 2013)

Jul 28: Follow-up performance reports sent

Feb 9: Final performance reports sent (for 2014)

2014 Monitoring of timeliness  Continued monitoring of timeliness  2015
PERFORMANCE REPORTS – 2013 Hospital Rankings

Percentage of Births Submitted to the Vital Records Office within 10 days of Birth at All Los Angeles County Birthing Hospitals for 2013

Goal: 90%
STUDY – Did we reach our goal?

Yes!

Countywide, hospitals submitted 90% of birth certificates to the Vital Records Office within 10 days in 2014.
STUDY – 2014 Hospital Rankings

Percentage of Births Submitted to the Vital Records Office within 10 days of Birth at All Los Angeles County Birthing Hospitals for 2014

Goal: 90%
Percentage of births registered within 10 days in LAC, 2004-2014

Ranked 47th!

Percentage (%)

Year


0  10  20  30  40  50  60  70  80  90  100

2  17  6  3  8  9  16  16  18  20  53

53% of 123,918 births registered within 10 days.
ACT – PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved speed in hospital birth certificate submission to Vital Records Office from 75% in 2013 to 90% in 2014
- Improved LAC birth registration timeliness from 20% in 2013 to 53% in 2014
- Increased county rank: 54th in 2013 to 47th in 2014
- Received Improvement Award from CDPH
- Overall, very good feedback from hospital staff → many would like project to continue