

The Use of Existing Birth Defects Surveillance Programs to Enhance Surveillance Data on Stillbirth

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Rationale

- **Fetal Death Reports (FDRs) limited: “passive reporting”**
 - Reporting
 - Data quality
- **2006: CDC funded to conduct pilot studies**
 - Assess the feasibility of leveraging resources of birth defects surveillance programs to conduct surveillance of stillbirths
 - Could active case finding improve surveillance data?

Surveillance of Stillbirth Using Birth Defects Surveillance Programs

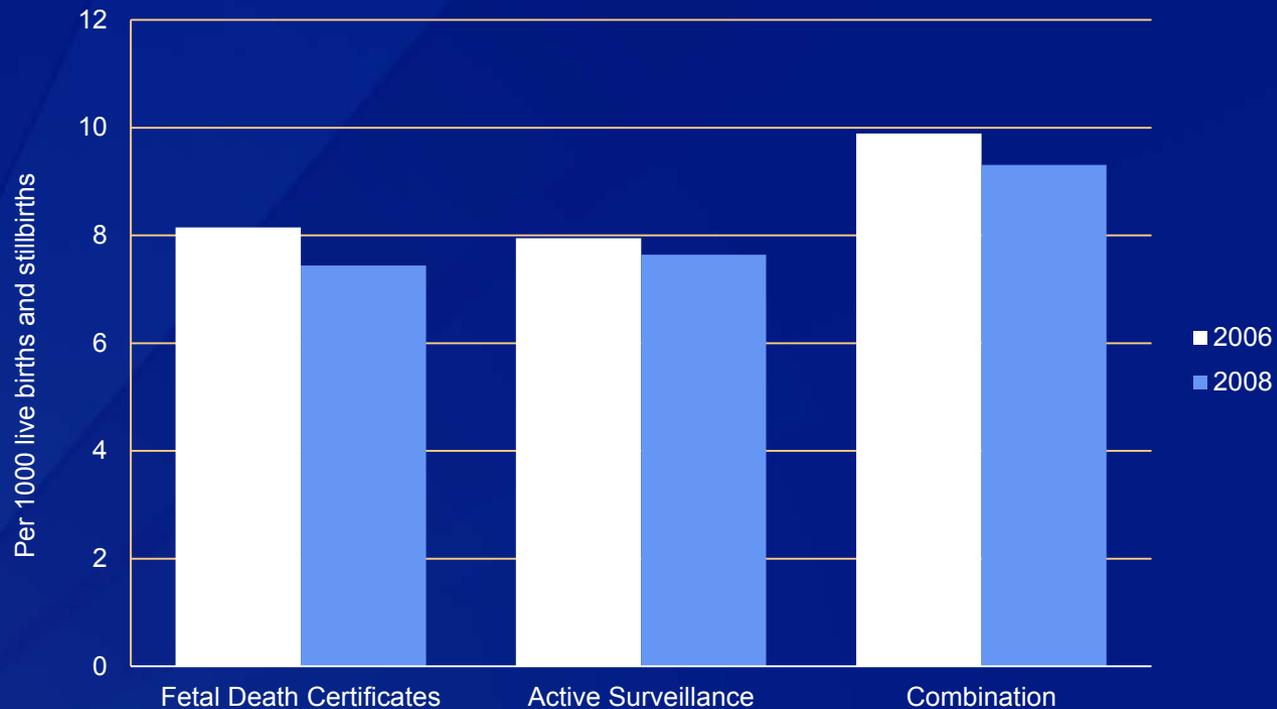
- Atlanta*
 - Active case finding using multiple sources
 - Medical chart review
 - Until 2011, included 5 counties, ~55,000 births/year
 - 2012 forward, 3 counties, ~30,000 births/year
- Iowa**
 - Active case finding using multiple sources
 - Medical chart review
 - State-wide
 - ~40,000 births/year
- Expansion in 2010
 - Colorado – 5 counties
 - New York – 12 western counties
 - Hawaii

*Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program

**Iowa Registry for Congenital and Inherited Disorders

Impact: Ascertainment and Prevalence

Prevalence of stillbirths by data source,
metropolitan Atlanta, 2006 and 2008



Impact:

Data Enhancement and Misreporting

Using Active Birth Defects Surveillance Programs to Supplement Data on Fetal Death Reports: Improving Surveillance Data on Stillbirths

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Duke W.; Williams L.; Correa A. Using Active Birth Defects Surveillance Programs to Supplement Data on Fetal Death Reports—Improving Surveillance Data on Stillbirths. *Birth Defects Research – Part A* 2008; 82 (11): 799 – 04.

Use of Active Surveillance Methodologies to Examine Over-reporting of Stillbirths on Fetal Death Certificates

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Makelarski JA, Romitti PA, Caspers KM, Puzhankara S, McDowell BD, Piper KN. Use of active surveillance methodologies to examine over-reporting of stillbirths on fetal death certificates. *Birth Defects Research – Part A* 2011 Sept 30

Next Steps and Future Directions

- Potential for expansion to other state-based birth defects programs
 - Standardized protocol/methods
 - Guidelines for the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)
- Strengthen partnerships and identify strategies to increase use of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Guidelines for postmortem stillbirth evaluations

Thank You

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