
Los Angeles Mommy and Baby (LAMB) Survey

General Description

The Los Angeles Mommy and Baby Project (LAMB) project is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The LAMB survey data are conducted by the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division by surveying mothers who have recently given birth. The survey contains a series of questions about events that happened before, during and after their pregnancy. It is both a population-based surveillance tool and a community outreach program that aims to improve understanding of poor versus healthy birth outcomes in efforts to increase the number of women with healthy babies.

Background

In response to the outbreak infant mortality among African American mothers in 1999-2002 in the Service Planning Area 1 (Antelope Valley), the LAMB survey begun to look at possible causes for a poor birth outcomes. The survey has been aligned with the objectives of Healthy People 2010 in efforts to decrease health disparities and reduce infant mortality, low birth weight and preterm births. By collecting information on a number of Healthy People 2010 objectives including preconception, prenatal and postnatal care, childbirth education classes, breastfeeding, and other pre-conception and perinatal behaviors (folic acid supplementation, pregnancy weight gain, tobacco and alcohol use), the County can focus its resources and develop strategy based on evidence.

The goal of the LAMB project is to improve maternal and fetal health during pregnancy in order to improve post-delivery complications. The three main objectives of the LAMB project are 1) to better understand the causes of poor birth outcomes in Los Angeles County; 2) to identify areas where help and resources are needed the most; and 3) to improve the health and human services of future mothers and babies in Los Angeles County.¹

Data Collection

The LAMB survey captures mothers who recently delivered a baby residing in Los Angeles County within two to six months after birth. According to the LAMB website, the survey asks about some events that happened several months prior to pregnancy, so mothers who have babies over seven months old are ineligible because of the difficulty they might have recalling events accurately.² Because the survey pertained to mothers who have given birth, adoptive mothers are excluded and ineligible for study.

The LAMB project implemented a mixed data collection method from the CDC's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS).² The data are collected and housed through the Los Angeles County Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program.

¹ <http://www.lalamb.org/>

² <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/lamb/lambmethod.html>

All mothers chosen to participate in LAMB receive a letter that explains the project, invites participation, and announces the arrival of the survey packet in 10 to 14 days.² As an incentive, participants would receive a \$20 Ralphs/Food4 Less certificate. Mothers who do not respond to the survey in two weeks are sent a reminder postcard. After 7-10 days, non-respondents are mailed a second survey packet. Non-respondents are called for a telephone interview two weeks after the second packet is mailed.²

Data Coverage

The LAMB survey has collected data from mothers who have recently delivered in the years 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012. Participants are chosen through a lottery of all birth records in Los Angeles County for the given data collection year.

Accessibility

Data are publicly reported by Los Angeles Best Start areas and Service Planning Districts. Individual level data are available through an IRB process through the Institutional Review Board for the California Health and Human Services Agency, CPHS.

Data Link

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/mch/LAMB/LAMB.html>

Funding

The survey is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and partially funded by First 5 Los Angeles.

Comments

LAMB survey data are linkable to vital statistics and hospital discharge data.

Contact

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