

Los Angeles Health Overview of a Pregnancy Survey (L. A. HOPE)

General Description

L. A. HOPE is a population-based survey project sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and conducted through the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division. The survey serves as a data collection tool for maternal interviews for the Los Angeles County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Project. The L. A. HOPE survey is adapted from the Los Angeles Mommy and Baby (LAMB) survey which asks women who have recently given birth about the time before, during, and after their pregnancy. By using these two surveys together, we will be able compare the prevalence of risk factors within the general population with their presence in cases of fetal and infant mortality. The purpose of the L. A. HOPE survey is to improve our understanding of why some babies have better health outcomes than others. As part of the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) process, the L. A. HOPE survey provides key information about maternal experiences, attitudes, and histories for fetal and infant death cases in Los Angeles County.

Background

The survey serves as a data collection tool for maternal interviews for the Los Angeles County Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Project. The goal of the L.A. HOPE project is to reduce infant morbidity and mortality and to promote maternal health by improving maternal and child health programs, policies, and maternal behaviors during pregnancy and early infancy. The information gleaned from the survey results help to improve the grief and bereavement support service offered to them. The four main objectives of the survey are 1) to collect quality population-based data on topics related to pregnancy, fetal loss, and infant death; 2) to conduct data analyses to increase understanding of maternal behaviors and experiences during pregnancy and early infancy, and their relationship to birth outcomes; 3) to translate results from analyses into useable information for planning and evaluation of public health programs and policy; and 4) to improve grief and bereavement support for families affected by fetal and infant loss in Los Angeles County.

Data Collection

L.A. HOPE is an ongoing, population-based survey of women in Los Angeles County seven to nine months after they have experienced a fetal or infant loss. Women were selected from infant and fetal death records and contacted by mail. If there is no response to repeated mailings, women are contacted and interviewed by telephone. The survey can be administered in English and Spanish, with translators available for other languages. In addition, grief and bereavement resources and \$20-25 gift certificates were provided with each mailed survey regardless if moms chose to participate. L.A. HOPE Project uses stratified random sampling and an over-sample of African American mothers

Data Coverage

The LA HOPE survey data have been collected countywide data since 2006. Based on estimates from the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the survey has a roughly 60% response rate.

Accessibility

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

Data Source

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

Funding

The survey is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Comments

L.A. HOPE is a population-based survey allowing generalization to all women who have experienced fetal or infant loss in Los Angeles County. However, sample sizes for some subpopulations were too small for precise estimates.
