

Experience with the Pregnancy Check Box

Lisa M Hollier, MD, MPH
Baylor College of Medicine

Sonia Baeva, MA
Office of Program Decision Support
Department of State Health Services

Evolution of the Check Box

- * Revision of the US Standard Death Certificate occurred in 2003 to include a pregnancy status check-box
- * Texas included these revisions in 2006
- * Updated version of the pregnancy inquiry has single list with five choices:
 - * Not pregnant within the past year
 - * Pregnant at time of death
 - * Not pregnant, but pregnant within 42 days of death
 - * Not pregnant, but pregnant between 43 days and one year before death
 - * Unknown

Pregnancy Check Box & Matching

2012	Not Pregnant	Pregnant at death	Pregnant 42 days before death	Pregnant 43-364 days before death	Unknown/NA
<i>From Death Certificate:</i>					
13-21 yrs		10	6	5	
22-29 yrs		27	14	12	
30-39 yrs		37	17	14	
40-49 yrs		25	5	6	
>50 yrs		34	3	7	

222 women with pregnancy checked

Birth – Death Certificate Matching

- * Deaths of females 50 and under matched to “delivery events”
 - * Live births or fetal deaths (20+ wks gestation)
- * Matched on SSN or a combination of name, birth date, and county of residence
- * Days elapsed between delivery event and death calculated
 - * Keep only cases 365 days elapsed or under
- * Cases included regardless of cause of death
 - * Not only obstetric deaths (ICD-10 codes O00-O99)

Pregnancy Check Box & Matching

2012	Not Pregnant	Pregnant at death	Pregnant 42 days before death	Pregnant 43-364 days before death	Unknown/ NA
<i>From Matched Birth-Death Certificate file</i>					
13-21 yrs	5	10	5	3	10
22-29 yrs	16	27	11	10	32
30-39 yrs	21	37	11	10	22
40-49 yrs	2	25	1	4	5

Matched birth/death file plus women identified as currently pregnant = 267 women

Pregnancy Check Box & Matching

2012	Not Pregnant	Pregnant at death	Pregnant 42 days before death	Pregnant 43-364 days before death	Unknown/NA
<i>From Matched Birth-Death Certificate file</i>					
13-21 yrs	5	10	5	3	10
22-29 yrs	16	27	11	10	32
30-39 yrs	21	37	11	10	22
40-49 yrs	2	25	1	4	5

Pregnancy Check Box & Matching

2012	Not Pregnant	Pregnant at death	Pregnant 42 days before death	Pregnant 43-364 days before death	Unknown/NA
<i>From Matched Birth-Death Certificate file</i>					
13-21 yrs	5	10	5	3	10
22-29 yrs	16	27	11	10	32
30-39 yrs	21	37	11	10	22
40-49 yrs	2	25	1	4	5

2 of these cases contained additional information in the causes of death that specify pregnancy

Pregnancy Check Box & Matching

2012	Not Pregnant	Pregnant at death	Pregnant 42 days before death	Pregnant 43-364 days before death	Unknown/NA
<i>From Matched Birth-Death Certificate file</i>					
13-21 yrs	5	10	5	3	10
22-29 yrs	16	27	11	10	32
30-39 yrs	21	37	11	10	22
40-49 yrs	2	25	1	4	5

Pregnancy Check Box & Matching

2013	Not Pregnant	Pregnant at death	Pregnant 42 days before death	Pregnant 43-364 days before death	Unknown/NA
<i>From Matched Birth Death File</i>					
	4	88	38	29	2

Limitations of the Check Box

- * Identified as “not pregnant” N = 4
 - * Death certificate narrative identified pregnancy in all 4
 - * Deaths were certified by:
 - * MD = 3
 - * ME = 1

- * Identified as “unknown” N = 2
 - * Death certificate narrative identified pregnancy in 1 certified by MD

Lessons Learned

- * The pregnancy check box both under and overestimates the number of pregnancy associated deaths
- * Role of educational initiatives

Contact Information

* Lisa M. Hollier

* lmhollier@bcm.edu

* Sonia Baeva

* Sonia.Baeva@dshs.state.tx.us

O-codes

- * Identified all maternal deaths in 2013 using O-codes
- * 161 deaths

Late Maternal Deaths

Based on O-Codes

43-364 days
N = 28

Pregnant at
time of death
N = 4

≤ 42 days
N = 6

43-364 days
N = 18

Based on Pregnancy Check Box