Pregnancy Checkbox QA Pilot

David A. Goodman, PhD
Senior Scientist, Division of Reproductive Health, CDC

Andrea Catalano, MPH
ORISE Research Fellow, Division of Reproductive Health, CDC

Patricia W. Potrzebowski, PhD
Executive Director
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
Pregnancy Checkbox
2003 Standard Certificate of Death

IF FEMALE:
- □ Not pregnant within past year
- □ Pregnant at time of death
- □ Not pregnant, but pregnant within 42 days of death
- □ Not pregnant, but pregnant 43 days to 1 year before death
- □ Unknown if pregnant within the past year
Need for Quality Assurance

• Revised standard death certificate
  • Pregnancy checkbox added to improve identification

• Increase in maternal deaths?
  • Reports of false positives
  • Problem for maternal mortality review (MMR) committees
  • Problem for calculation of state/national maternal mortality rates

• Confirmation of pregnancy needed
  • Use existing structures (VROs and MMR committees)
  • Address problem and correct errors timely
Project Implementation

• Pilot began in January 2016
  • Data capture for the entire calendar year

• Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, and Ohio

• State-specific process to fit structure & resources

• Quarterly calls with states
  • Discuss challenges, successes, lessons learned
Interim Results

• From first two months of pilot

• 20 checkbox only identified cases
  • 8 confirmed not pregnant
  • 7 cases currently pending follow-up
Future Steps

• Continue collecting data & refining process

• Evaluation of impact on
  • Quality of pregnancy check-box data
  • Maternal Mortality rate calculations
  • Resources - staff time of vitals offices and review committees

• Development of best practices for state VROs
Questions?

Contact me:  
ppotrzebowski@naphsis.org 
www.naphsis.org