

Virginia

Virginia Congenital Anomalies and Reporting Education System (VaCARES)

Purpose: Surveillance, Research, Referral to Services, Referral to Prevention/Intervention Services

Partner: Local Health Departments, Hospitals

Program status: Currently collecting data

Start year: 1985

Earliest year of available data: 2004

Organizational location: Department of Health (Office of Family Health Services, Division of Child and Family Health)

Population covered annually: 94,650

Statewide: Yes

Current legislation or rule: Code of Virginia, § 32.1-69.1 <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacodefull/title32.1/chapter2/article8.1/>

Legislation year enacted: 1985

Case Definition

Outcomes covered: Major and non-major birth defects

Pregnancy outcome: Livebirths (All gestational ages and birth weights)

Age: Up to 2 years of age

Residence: Any diagnoses occurring in-state

Surveillance Methods

Case ascertainment: Passive case-finding without case confirmation

Vital records: Birth certificates

Other state based registries: Newborn hearing screening program, Newborn metabolic screening program

Delivery hospitals: Discharge summaries

Pediatric & tertiary care hospitals: Discharge summaries

Other specialty facilities: Genetic counseling/clinic genetic facilities

Case Ascertainment

Conditions warranting chart review in newborn period: Any chart with selected defects or medical conditions (i.e. abnormal facies, congenital heart disease)

Coding: ICD-9-CM/ICD-10-CM

Data Collected

Infant/fetus: Identification information (name, address, date-of-birth, etc.), Demographic information (race/ethnicity, sex, etc.), Birth measurements (weight, gestation, Apgars, etc.), Infant complications, Birth defect diagnostic information

Mother: Identification information (name, address, date-of-birth, etc.), Demographic information (race/ethnicity, sex, etc.), Gravidity/parity, Illnesses/conditions, Prenatal care, Pregnancy/delivery complications, Family history

Father: Identification information (name, address, date-of-birth, etc.), Demographic information (race/ethnicity, sex, etc.)

Data Collection Methods and Storage

Data collection: Printed abstract/report submitted by other agencies (hospitals, etc.), Electronic file/report filled out by staff at facility (laptop, web-based, etc.)

Database collection and storage: Web-based reporting system is linked to electronic birth certificate and populates Oracle data tables

Data Analysis

Data analysis software: SAS

Data use and analysis: Public health program evaluation, Baseline rates, Rates by demographic and other variables, Monitoring outbreaks and cluster investigations, Time trends, Epidemiological studies (using only program data), Needs assessment, Referral, Grant proposals, Education/public awareness

System Integration

System links: Link to other state registries/databases, Link case finding data to final birth file

System integration: VaCARES is part of the Virginia Vital Events Screening and Tracking System, which also houses electronic birth certificate reporting and the Virginia Early Hearing Detection and Intervention tracking systems.

Funding

Funding source: 100% MCH funds

Other

Web site: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vacares/>

Contacts

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