

Appendix E - Methods Worksheet (Example 2)¹

Framework and Tools for Evaluating Health Surveillance Systems, March 2004

Criteria / attribute	Evaluation Questions (from evaluation framework)	Expectations of the Program (from evaluation framework)	Findings	Expectations met?
	a. Content			
Acceptability	a1. Do the partners find the variables in the database useful?	At least 75% of the partners rate that all or nearly all (90%+) of the variables in the database are useful	Database Coordinators - 54% ; PHUs - 20% Suggestions for variables to add: 1. Labour and delivery (indication for caesarean section, episiotomies, augmentation, method of induction) 2. Maternal characteristics (alcohol and substance abuse, nutrition, physical activity, prenatal education and postpartum depression) 3. Neonatal variables and outcomes 4. Length of stay in hospital	No
	a2. Are the partners satisfied with the variable definitions?	At least 95% of the partners who are entering data are satisfied with the variable definitions	Database Coordinators – (11/12) 92% satisfied to very satisfied, (1/12) 8% neutral	No (but no one reported dissatisfaction)
	a. Content			
Representativeness	a3. Is the database capturing all the hospital births as well as the home births occurring in Eastern and Southeastern Ontario?	All women giving birth in Eastern and Southeastern Ontario are to be included	There was discrepancy of 0.1% in the number of hospital livebirths between this Database and CIHI Database. (Independent verification of home births was not feasible)	Yes
	b. Data Collection			
Simplicity	b1. Are data entered into CritiCall Program as intended?	Logbook completed in case room on all births Data entered at birth hospital on all births	Sometimes the logbook gets completed later Data entered at birth hospital on all births	No Yes
	b2. Are data entry procedures simple and easy to use?	At least 75% of partners who are entering data, report that data entry is easy or very easy to complete	Database Coordinators - 73% Data Entry Personnel - 86%	Partially
Timeliness	b3. Are the data entered in a timely manner?	All data to be entered within 2 weeks of the last day of the month	With reminders to close the month sent out by PPEESO, all data get entered within 2 weeks of the end of the last day of the month Data were entered within the specified time frame	Yes

¹ From: Ali AH. An evaluation of surveillance systems in eastern and southeastern Ontario. M.Sc. University of Ottawa; 2003.