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BACKGROUND
- Marin County is located in the San Francisco Bay Area with a population of approximately 356,000 people.
- Marin County ranks as the healthiest county in California, yet has a history of substance abuse indicators, including drug overdose mortality.
- Marin County developed a drug overdose mortality surveillance system in response to this concern.

OBJECTIVES

- Surveillance System
- Track local drug overdose deaths, including manner of death, and associated suicides.
- Evaluate if the system is in place, is functioning properly, and is producing useful information.

METHODS

- Drug Overdose Mortality Surveillance System
- Initial Drug Overdose Mortality Surveillance System Evaluation Survey administered to coroners.
- Conduct structured interviews with the Marin County Sheriff’s Office, Division of the Coroner.

RESULTS

- Distribution of drug overdose mortality surveillance system.
- Unit of analysis: individual drug overdose mortality surveillance system.
- Levels of analysis: system level.
- Data sources: Drug overdose death records from the coroner system.
- Outcome measures: availability and use of drug overdose mortality surveillance system.

DATA QUALITY: COMPLETENESS OF PHARMACUTICAL DATA

- Table 1: Completeness of pharmaceutical data in drug overdose mortality surveillance systems.
- The completeness of pharmaceutical data used for drug overdose mortality surveillance systems.
- Data were collected from various sources, including prescription drug utilization data, and were analyzed for completeness.
- The completeness of pharmaceutical data used for drug overdose mortality surveillance systems.

STABILITY

- Table 2: Manner of death for drug overdose deaths.
- The manner of death for drug overdose deaths.
- The data are presented as a percentage of respondents.

CASE DEFINITION COMPARISON

- Table 3: California jurisdictional-specific case definitions.
- The California jurisdictional-specific case definitions.
- The data are presented as a percentage of respondents.

CONCLUSIONS

- The system meets its objectives, but several weaknesses reflect that the system is in development.
- Drug overdose surveillance is sensitive to individuals involved in the death classification process.
- There is a need for more timely information to adequately respond to emergent events.

LIMITATIONS

- No "gold standard" to compare the current surveillance systems against, to assess positive predictive value and sensitivity.
- Little guidance on formal, standardized ways to assess drug overdose mortality surveillance systems.

REFERENCES

- CDC, California Poison Control System.
- Marin County, CA 2015.
- The National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) for California.
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