

CURRENT DROWNING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS: A case study of Riverside and Orange County

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BACKGROUND

- Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury among children under the age of five and affects all age groups
 - Average 22 non-fatal and 11 fatal drownings a day in the US
 - Drowning injuries can lead to long-term, sustained damage and disability
- Drowning surveillance is critical to prevention and policy development
- Case studies undertaken to identify best practices and inform surveillance efforts

OBJECTIVES

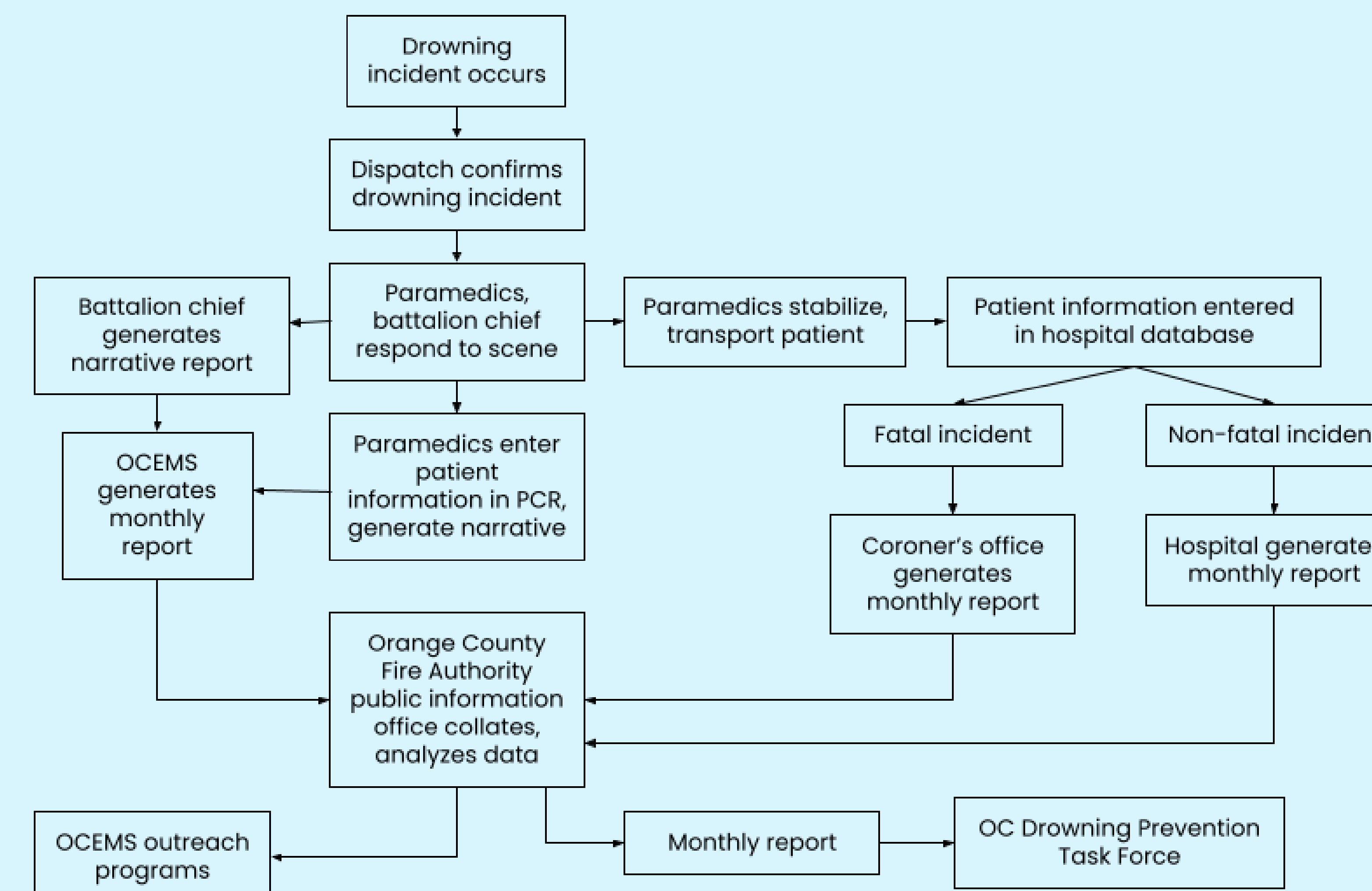
- Describe the drowning surveillance systems in Riverside and Orange County
- Evaluate the attributes of the drowning surveillance systems in both counties
- Synthesize lessons learned that can be applied in other counties initiating surveillance systems

METHODS

- Used CDC surveillance evaluation framework
- Conducted key informant interviews to gain a better understanding of each system
 - Primary stakeholders:
 - Riverside Program Coordinator for Drowning Injury Prevention Services
 - Orange County Fire Authority
 - Secondary stakeholders:
 - Local public health and safety agencies, environmental health services, hospitals, EMS, local advocacy and interest groups
- Used interview findings to identify data flow and evaluate system attributes

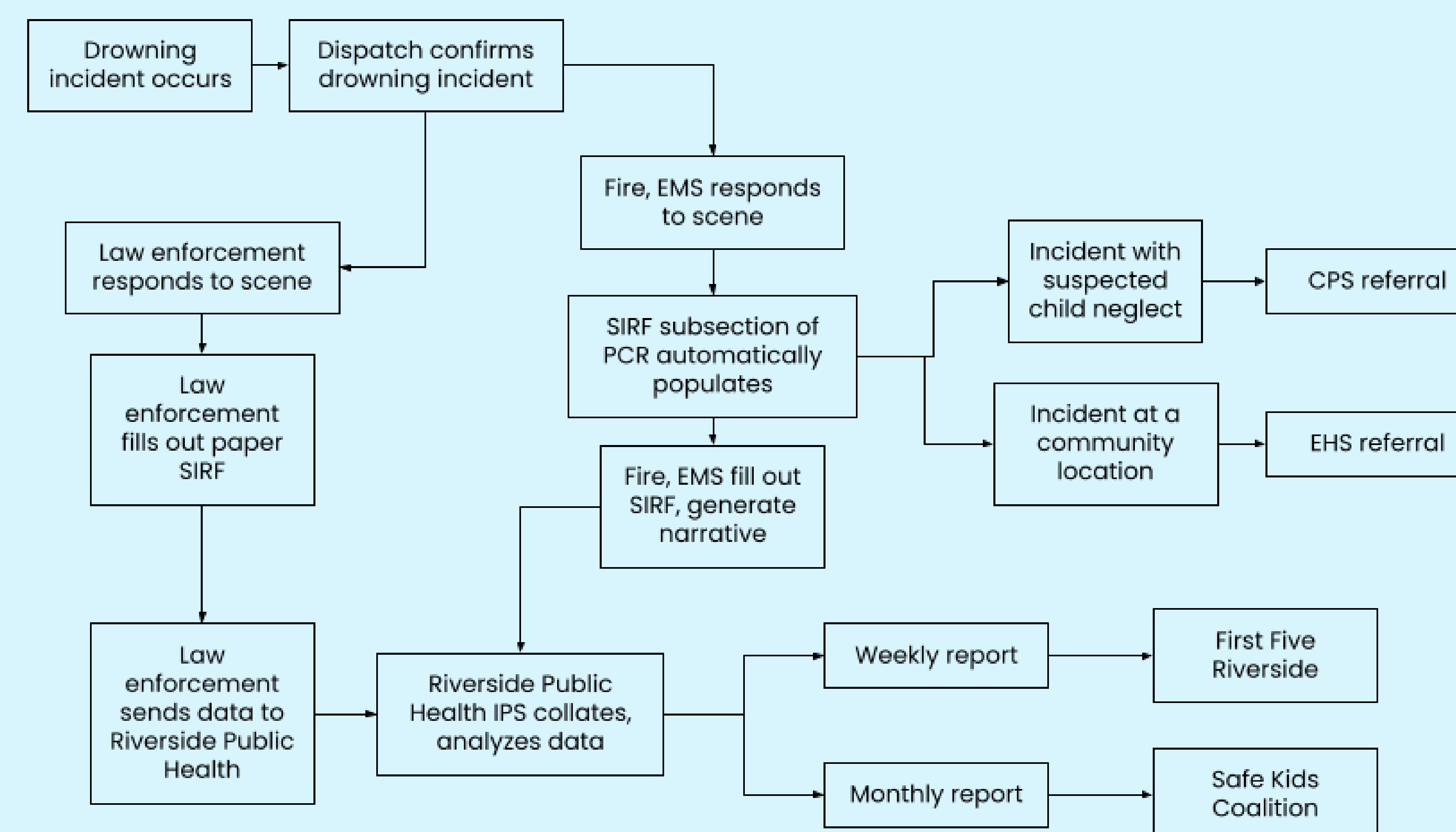
RESULTS

ORANGE COUNTY



- Fire department-based system
- Purpose is to inform prevention and educational programs
- Case reports provided through a paper form
- No dedicated budget, lack of full-time personnel

RIVERSIDE COUNTY



- Health department-based system
- Purpose is to enable immediate response and identify trends in drowning
- Case reports provided through standardized electronic form (SIRF)
- No dedicated budget, lack of dedicated personnel

DEFINING CDC ATTRIBUTES

| Attribute | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| Simplicity | Structure and ease of operation |
| Timeliness | Speed between steps of surveillance |
| Acceptability | Willingness to participate in the system |
| Data Quality | Completeness and validity of data |
| Representativeness | Ability for system to capture all events |
| Usefulness | Contribution to prevention |

ASSESSING CDC ATTRIBUTES

| Attribute | Orange County | Riverside County |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Usefulness | + | ++ |
| Simplicity | - | ++ |
| Timeliness - overall | + | ++ |
| <i>Immediate intervention</i> | - | +++ |
| <i>Policy development</i> | ++ | + |
| Acceptability | + | ++ |
| Data quality | + | ++ |
| Representativeness | + | + |

CONCLUSIONS

- Potential best practices for surveillance:
 - Electronic data entry and sharing
 - Adequate funding and personnel through dedicated data management
 - Data dissemination to those who can bring about change

DATA FLOW AND ABSTRACT

