

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

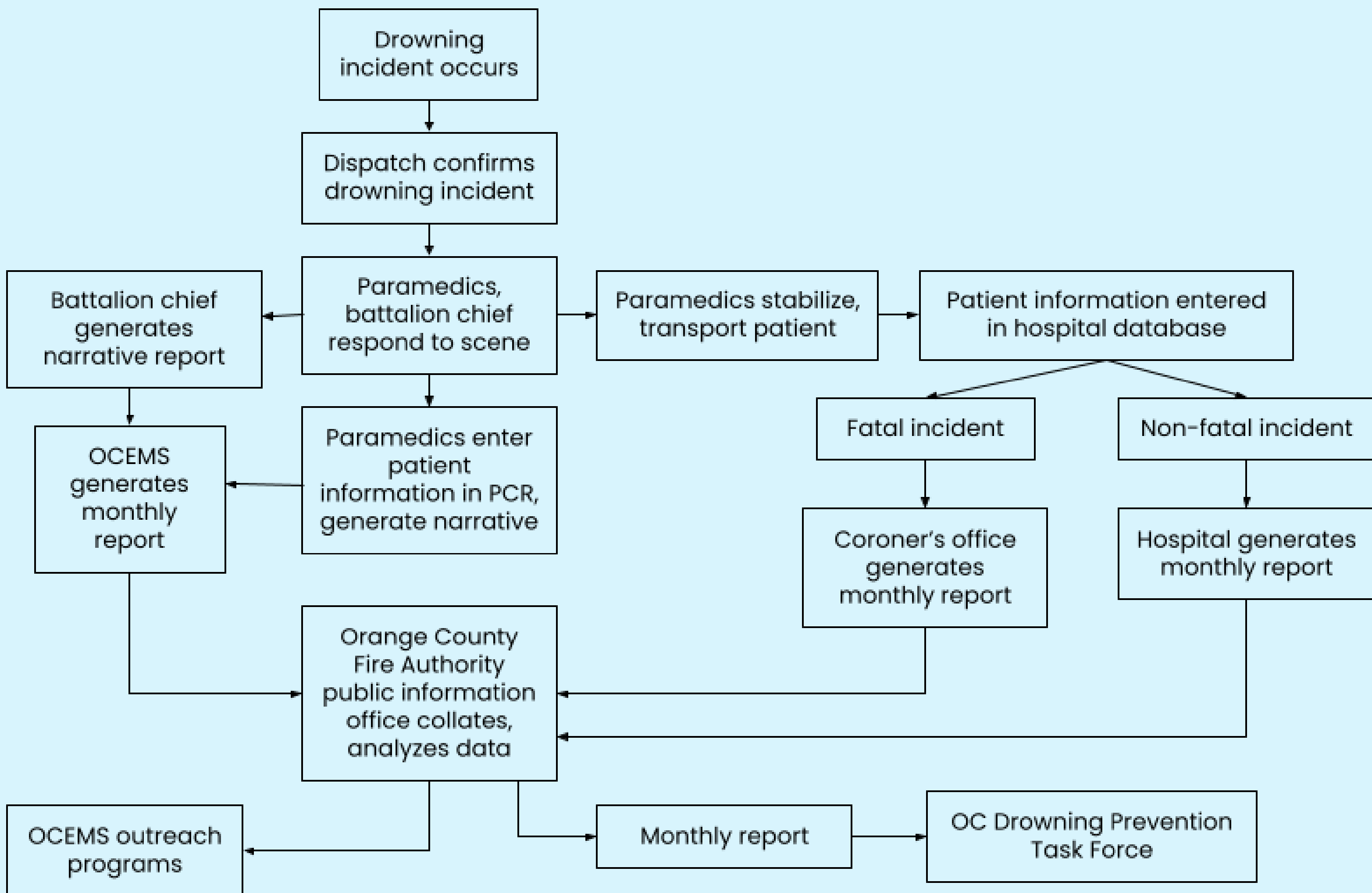
- Describe the drowning surveillance systems in Riverside and Orange County
- Evaluate the attributes of the drowning surveillance systems in both counties
- Synthesize lessons learned that can be applied in other counties initiating surveillance systems

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

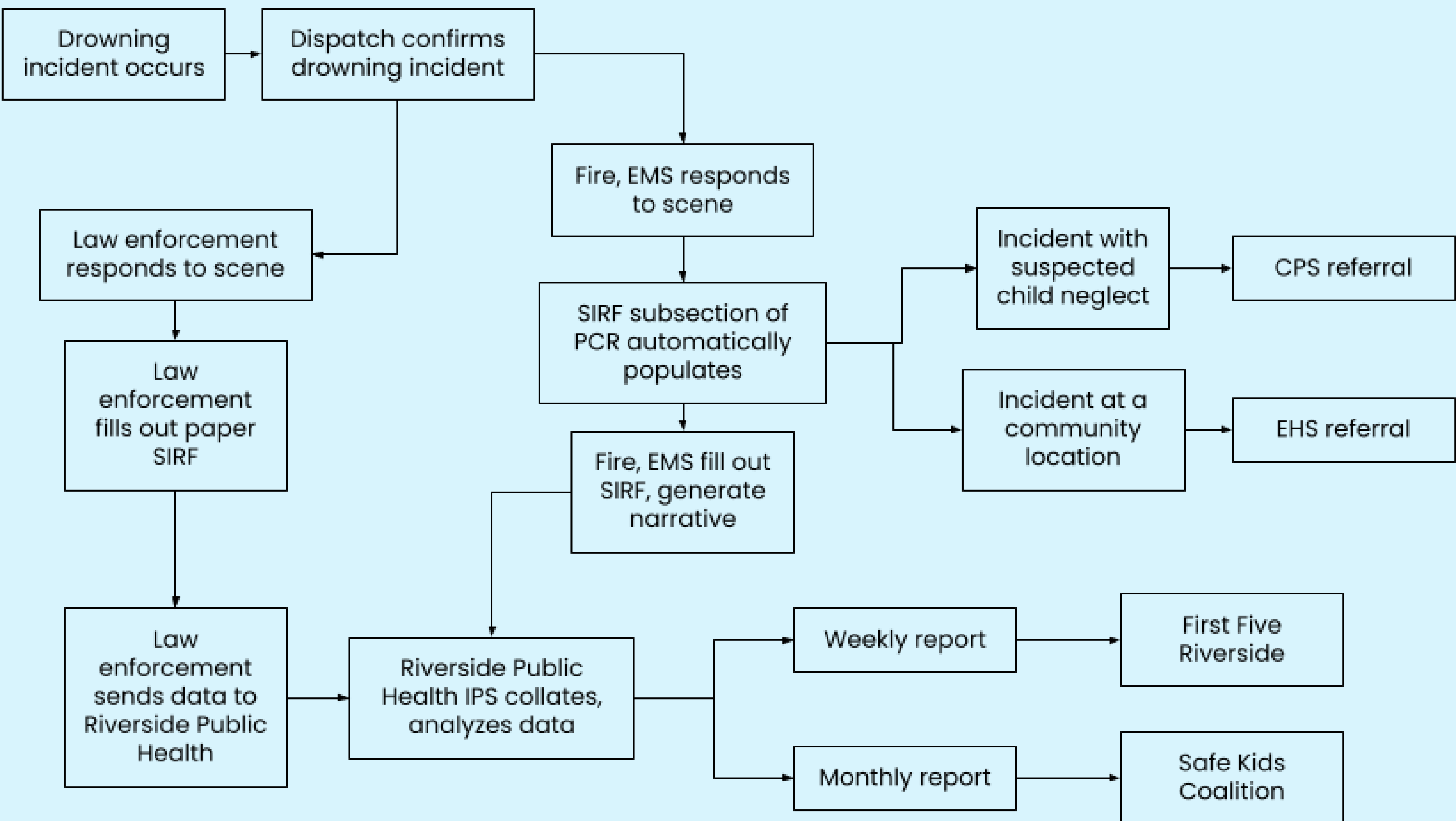
RESULTS

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	+	++
Immediate intervention	-	+++
Policy development	++	+
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

