

PERISTAT

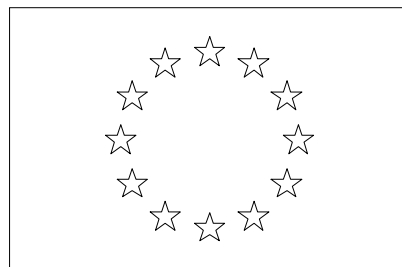
Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluating Perinatal Health in Europe

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Scientific final Report

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Programme d'action communautaire en matière de surveillance de la santé



Summary of tasks accomplished in relation to work plan established in the contract.

The PERISTAT project was successful in attaining its objectives. After a review and consensus process, the PERISTAT scientific advisory group developed recommendations on 10 core indicators and 23 recommended indicators of perinatal health, of which 12 are targeted for further development. Because of the decision to complete a publication on the results of the PERISTAT project, an extension was requested through the end of July 2003.

Section 3 of this report describes the contribution of the scientific advisory committee and external experts to this process. The scientific process for developing the PERISTAT indicators is described in section 4. Preliminary documents describing tasks A1-A4 are available in the midterm report and will not be repeated here.

To achieve its consensus on indicators and organize the completion of the tasks defined in the work programme, PERISTAT organized the following meetings:

Steering Committee Meeting	4 December 1999
Steering Committee Meeting	19 March 2000
Scientific Advisory Committee	21-22 September 2001
Steering Committee Meeting	19 June 2002
Scientific Advisory Committee	4-5 October 2002
Steering Committee Meeting	31 March 2003

The PERISTAT project also carried out a feasibility study for the collection of its recommended indicators in the member states and constituted a database of the indicators that were available for 2000 (or most recent year) – please see part II of the work plan.

For this survey, funds were provided to member states that needed to undertake additional data preparation to complete the PERISTAT data collection forms. Funds were provided to the following countries: Austria, Finland, Denmark, the UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. Some country visits were undertaken during the project to meet with data providers (Spain, Portugal, UK), but most communication was possible via the scientific advisory member to PERISTAT or directly by telephone and email.

Technicians at INSERM U149 developed the data instrument. The instrument (included in Annex 2) was transmitted both as an MS-Word document and as an MS-Excel spreadsheet. Definition of the data fields and the construction of a database was done by INSERM U149. Data entry and analysis was also carried out at INSERM. The files were structured to allow automatic tabulation of each indicator by subgroup using excel spreadsheets. An interface was developed to allow the use of statistical software, in particular STATA 8.

The methods for the survey and the results are described in detail in Section 5 and Annex 3 of this report.

PERISTAT project has placed significant emphasis on the dissemination of indicators and results from the feasibility study, to make the project known both to scientists and policy makers, as presented in the initial project proposal.

The following scientific publications will be forthcoming before the end of 2003. Thirty-five copies of the special issue of the European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology will be provided to each member of the SAC for dissemination in their country. Copies will also be sent to the data providers, members of the HMP scientific commission and to the SANCO directorate as well as to the many experts that contributed to the project.

1. ZEITLIN J, WILDMAN K, BREART G, ALEXANDER S, BARROS H, BLONDEL B, BUITENDIJK S, GISSLER M, MACFARLANE A, and the PERISTAT scientific committee. PERISTAT : Indicators for monitoring and evaluating perinatal health in Europe. Eur J Publ Health, 2003 Sep;13(3 Suppl):29-37.
2. BUITENDIJK S, ZEITLIN J, LANGHOFF-ROOS J, CUTTINI M, BOTTU J. Indicators of fetal and infant health outcomes. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).
3. LACK N, ZEITLIN J, KREBS L, ALEXANDER S. Methodological difficulties of comparisons across Europe. . Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).
4. MACFARLANE A, GISSLER M, BOLUMAR F, RASMUSSEN S. The availability of perinatal health indicators in Europe. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).
5. BRÉART G, BARROSH H, WAGENER Y, PRATIS. Characteristics Of The Childbearing Population In Europe. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).
6. WILDMAN K, BLONDEL B, NYGUIS J, DEFOORT J, BAKOULA, C. European indicators of health care during pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).
7. ALEXANDER S, WILDMAN K, ZHANG W, LANGER M, VUTUC C, LINDMARK G. Maternal health outcomes in Europe. Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).
8. ZEITLIN J, WILDMAN K, BREART G, ALEXANDER S, BARROS H, BLONDEL B, BUITENDIJK S, GISSLER M, MACFARLANE A. Selecting an indicator set for monitoring and evaluating perinatal health in Europe: criteria, methods and results from the PERISTAT project. . Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol, 2003 (in press).

PERISTAT has also presented information on its results at several conferences, including a session at the EUPHA conference on health information systems in Brussels in December 2001, the European Association of Perinatal Medicine congress in Oslo in June of 2002, the 2002 EUROCAT meetings in Lisbon, and the European Perinatal Epidemiology Network in Oxford in October of this year (this congress was not funded by PERISTAT as the project had already been completed).

Other publications based on the data collected in this project are planned over the next year. All members of the SAC can submit proposals for additional analysis to the coordination team. After approval from the group, the data requested will then be made available for analysis.

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