

Graham, Laverne

From: Boyle, Coleen
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 3:55 PM
To: Destefano, Frank
Cc: Sinks, Tom
Subject: comments of analysis

Frank: Just a few comments from yesterday's presentation:

General comment: Given the complexity of the analysis, it would be helpful to me to have more information on the cohort -- basic descriptive statistics.

1. how consistent were the findings by various subgroups -- e.g. between HMOs, race groups, gender, etc.

2. Since most of the dx's are generally not picked up until the 2nd or 3rd year of life had you considered eligibility criteria of at least 18 months or 2 years?? What happens if you do this?

3. Show analyses with and without perinatal/congenital conditions deleted (by eliminating the premature kids you have already excluded those at greatest risk of a DD.)

4. Early dx of these disorders is strongly associated with SES -- can you control for your marker variable of SES (Not sure if SES is related to thimerosal, but surely compliance with vaccination schedule.)

5. For me the big issue is the missed cases -- and how this relates to exposure. Clearly there is gross underreporting -- 1.4% of the kids dx'ed with a speech and language problem vs. 4-5% from reported in national surveys; <1% with ADHD vs 3-10% reported previously; etc.

6. There seem to be small numbers in the none and low exposure groups -- how do the characteristics of these groups differ from the higher exposure groups

7. Just a note: your case definition slide does not match what are presented in the tables.

Hope this is helpful -- let me know if there is anything else I can do.

tlx

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