

THE PERINATAL INFORMATION SYSTEM III: AN INSTRUMENT FOR  
EPIDEMIOLOGIC CONTROL

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The Latin American Centre for Perinatology and Human Development (C.L.A.P. PAHO/WHO) has designed the Perinatal Information System which includes the Simplified Perinatal Clinical Record (SPCR) and a software package for local data processing.

The system was designed fundamentally to be used in the very place where perinatal care is given. We show in this paper how it can be used, in addition, for epidemiologic studies. The Perinatal Information System meets the following requirements:

- coverage of geographic areas
- pertinence of data
- standardization of data

The SPCR form contains all the information that is necessary to handle normal deliveries and it is the basic form for high risk pregnancies. It is therefore a document to be filled in for all the population of pregnant women.

The data entered to the personal computer are complete and consistent since data entry is performed by members of the very health team that has direct access to the information. The system also encourages local correction of data.

The format of the data (2048 SPCR's per diskette) is the same for all the institutions that use the Perinatal Information System.

C.L.A.P. or any centralized computing facility can merge diskettes from a number of Perinatal Institutions on a periodic basis.

The processing of data that cover all the institutions of a given region allows to undertake epidemiologic studies to detect spatio-temporal trends in perinatal morbidity and mortality.