Overview of Evaluating Surveillance Systems

Created: 2013
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Overview of Evaluating Surveillance Systems

**Learning Objectives**
- Using a sample evaluation report of a noncommunicable disease (NCD) surveillance system, identify how the components were described and evaluated.

**Estimated Completion Time**
- 120 minutes (90 minutes interactive presentation; 30 minute skill assessment)

**Training Techniques**
- Content and examples will be presented using lectures and group discussion. Participants will complete the skill assessment in small groups.

**Suggested Readings**
- NCD Training Modules: NCD Surveillance and Evaluating Programs

**Materials and Equipment**
- **For the Facilitator:**
  - PowerPoint file for presentation
  - Flip chart and markers

- **For the Participant:**
  - Participant Guide
  - Sample Evaluation Report

**References and Resources**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated guidelines for evaluating public health surveillance systems: recommendations from the guidelines working group. MMWR 2001;50(No. RR-13).

**Preparation Checklist**
The following are action items to be completed by the facilitator prior to training:
OVERVIEW OF EVALUATING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

___ Review slides
___ Make sure you have made enough copies of the evaluation report for the skill assessment

**FONT GLOSSARY**
The following fonts are used in this guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Font Type</th>
<th>Font Meaning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>Script</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bold</strong></td>
<td>Instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Italics</em></td>
<td><em>Answers</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ICON GLOSSARY**
The following icons are used in this guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image Type</th>
<th>Image Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Question Icon" /></td>
<td>Question for facilitator to ask participants.</td>
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### MODULE CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration/ Slide Number</th>
<th>What To Do/What To Say</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 minutes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slide 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overview of Evaluating Surveillance Systems</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Welcome participants to this lesson. Introduce yourself if you are a new facilitator.
- Tell participants that this lesson will take approximately 2 hours to complete.
- Explain that this module will teach them the CDC Framework for Evaluating Surveillance Systems.
- Explain that after learning the lesson content they will complete a skill assessment individually.

| **1 minute**          | **Slide 2**             |
| **Learning Objective**|                        |

- Read the learning objective.

**Learning Objective**

Using a sample evaluation report of a noncommunicable disease (NCD) surveillance system, identify how the components were described and evaluated.
• Tell participants that we will first discuss the importance of evaluating surveillance systems and then review the CDC Evaluation Framework and discuss the differences in the 6 steps.

• Explain that throughout the discussion, you will be using an example of an evaluation of a surveillance system.

• Explain that they will practice what they learn at the end of the lesson by reviewing a sample evaluation report.

• Remind participants what they have learned in previous lessons about surveillance systems. Ask someone to give you an example of a surveillance system used in their country.
### Duration/Slide Number | What To Do/What To Say
---|---
2 minutes Slide 5 | • Explain that you will now begin with a discussion of why it is important to evaluate surveillance systems.

#### Why is it Important to Evaluate?
- Produce recommendations in order to improve:
  - Efficiency
  - Quality
  - Effectiveness
  - Usefulness
  - Cost

2 minutes Slide 6 | • **Ask**: Why is it important to evaluate a surveillance system?
  - **Show answers on slide, one bullet at a time.**

#### When is an Evaluation Effective?
- An evaluation is effective when...
  - It is useful, feasible, advisable and precise.
  - The information can be used in decision-making and allocation of resources.
  - It contributes information in order to generate lines of research.
  - It meets the performance standards.

2 minutes Slide 6 | • **Ask**: When is an evaluation effective? (Or ask: what makes an evaluation effective?).
  - **Show answers on slide, one bullet at a time.**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration/Slide Number</th>
<th>What To Do/What To Say</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 minutes Slide 7</td>
<td>Who is Interested in Evaluation Results?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Users</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Staff members</td>
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<td>- Policy makers</td>
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<td>- General public</td>
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<td>- Communications media</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ask: Who is interested in evaluation results?</td>
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<td>• Show answers on slide, one bullet at a time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 minute Slide 8</td>
<td>CDC EVALUATION FRAMEWORK</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tell participants that the overall steps they learned about during program evaluation are the same here, but some of the details are different. Tell them that you will review the steps and discuss the details about each step.</td>
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</table>
**OVERVIEW OF EVALUATING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration/Slide Number</th>
<th>What To Do/What To Say</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 minutes Slide 9</td>
<td><strong>CDC Framework for Program Evaluation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Diagram of CDC Evaluation Framework" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Question</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Ask for a volunteer to read each step of the CDC evaluation framework for evaluating a surveillance system.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ask</strong>: Which step appears to be a bit different? <strong>Answer</strong>: Describe the surveillance system instead of “program”.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tell participants that during this lesson we will be looking at an evaluation of a surveillance system that was conducted by an EIS officer.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 minute Slide 10</td>
<td><strong>Evaluation of National Surveillance of Arthritis in the U.S.: The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Image of Evaluation Report" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduce the evaluation by Dr. Kamil Barbour, EIS Officer at CDC. Dr. Barbour performed an evaluation of the National Surveillance of Arthritis in the U.S. using the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Read the components of Dr. Barbour’s report and highlight that the 6 sections correspond to the 6 steps of the Evaluation Framework.

Tell participants that you will first discuss step 1 – engage stakeholders.

Ask: Who are possible stakeholders for a surveillance system? How do we engage them?

Remind participants what stakeholders are by revealing the bullets on the slide.

Tell participants that you will show them the stakeholders that Dr. Barbour used in his evaluation on the next slide.
1 minute
Slide 13

- **Read the stakeholders for this evaluation.**
- **Ask:** Which of the stakeholders do you think would be interested in the results of the national arthritis surveillance system evaluation? Which stakeholders would be interested in the arthritis surveillance program? Which stakeholders would have a stake in what was done with the results of the evaluation?

1 minute
Slide 14

- **Tell participants that you will now go over the second step in the evaluation framework – describe the surveillance system.**
Tell participants to think about how they described the program to be evaluated when they learned how to evaluate a program.

Ask: Does anyone know the 3 main areas you will need to describe in step 2 for evaluation of a surveillance system?

Read the slide.

Explain that the first one describes the importance of the health-related event under surveillance; the second one describes the purpose and operation of the surveillance system, and the third one describes the resources used to operate the surveillance system.

Click on next slide to explain #1 in more detail.
Tell participants that to describe the importance of the health event in public health, there are 7 categories that they can address.

- Explain that they do not have to describe all 7 categories.

**Ask:** Does anyone know what categories you can address under “importance in public health”?

- Reveal answers one at a time and ask participants to help you define each one.

**2 minutes**

**Slide 17**

**System Description: Public Health Importance of Arthritis**

- An estimated 49.9 million (22.2%) cases of doctor-diagnosed among adults. 
- Conservative estimate.

- Approximately 21.1 million have arthritis-attributable activity limitations (AAAL).
  - 9.1% of adults overall
  - 42.4% of arthritis cases

- $128 billion (1.2% of GDP).

**Explanation:**

- Explain that in this section of Dr. Barbour’s report he describes the public health importance of arthritis.

- Read the bullets from the report.

**Question**

- Ask participants to refer to the previous slide in their Participant Guide that lists the criteria for importance in public health.

**Question**

- **Ask:** Which criteria did Dr. Barbour include on this slide?

- **Answer:** Severity and cost.
OVERVIEW OF EVALUATING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

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<th>Duration/Slide Number</th>
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<td>2 minutes Slide 18</td>
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</table>

**Question**

- Ask participants to refer to the criteria for importance in public health.
- **Ask:** Which criteria did Dr. Barbour include on this slide?
- **Answer:** Disparities or inequities associated with the health-related event, potential future clinical course in the absence of intervention (i.e., obesity)

2 minutes Slide 19

**Describe Surveillance System:**

**Step 2**

2. Purpose and operation
   a) Purpose and objectives of system
   b) Planned uses of data from system
   c) Health-related event under surveillance, including case definition
   d) Legal authority for data collection
   e) The organization(s) where system resides
   f) Level of integration with other systems, if appropriate
   g) Flow chart of system
   h) Components of system

- Tell participants that the next section under step 2 is to describe the purpose and operation of the surveillance system.
- **Ask:** Does anyone know what categories you can address under “purpose and operation”?
- Explain that they do not have to describe all 8
categories.

- Reveal answers one at a time and ask participants to help you define each one.

- For letter “h”, turn to next slide for more details.

2 minutes

Slide 20

**Describe Surveillance System: Step 2, Part H**

h) Components of system
   1. Population under surveillance
   2. Period of time of data collection
   3. Data collection
   4. Reporting sources of data
   5. Data management
   6. Data analysis and dissemination
   7. Patient privacy, data confidentiality, and system security
   8. Records management program

- **Ask**: What do you think you will describe for “components of system”?

  - Read bullets one at a time and discuss through questioning. Continue to use example from previous slide.

2 minutes

Slide 21

**Purpose of Arthritis Surveillance System Using Data from NHIS**

- Estimate magnitude of arthritis burden
- Interpret data
- Make recommendations

- **Ask** participants to refer to the previous 2 slides in the Participant Guide.

  - Point out that in this section of Dr. Barbour’s report he
covers item 2a: purpose and objective of the system. His description is as follows: “to estimate the magnitude of various measures of arthritis burden in the U.S. population and use the data to interpret and make recommendations for use in public health action to reduce arthritis burden.”

2 minutes
Slide 22

- Explain that in this section of the evaluation, Dr. Barbour discusses the components of the system. In describing the NHIS, he mentions that it is “an annual, multi-purpose, nationally-based, in-person, household interview survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NHCS) among 35,000-40,000 households (75,000-100,000 individuals) across the country.” He explains that “the sampling plan follows a multi-stage probability design that permits the representative sampling of households and non-institutional group quarters. Sampling is redesigned every decennial census. Minority groups including blacks, Hispanics, and Asians are oversampled.”

- Ask participants to refer to the slide that lists the criteria under section 2h.
- Ask: What criteria does Dr. Barbour include in this evaluation?
- **Answer:** Population under surveillance: 35,000-40,000 households (75,000-100,000 individuals) across the country.
  - Period of time of data collection: annual
  - Reporting sources of data: household interview
  - Data collection: stratified, multi-stage probability design
• Explain that in this section of the evaluation report, Dr. Barbour describes the NHIS core questions that are asked annually and the optional questions that are asked every 3 years.

• **Ask:** What criteria does Dr. Barbour cover in this section of the evaluation report?

• **Answer:** Period of time of data collection, data collection, and reporting sources of data.

• Explain that the next section under describe the purpose and operation of the surveillance system is item 3 – resources used.

• **Ask:** What do you think you will describe for “resources used”? 
Read bullets one at a time and discuss through questioning.

Explain that other resources may include cost of travel, training, supplies, equipment services (telephone, mail).

Tell participants that you will look at what Dr. Barbour included in his evaluation report.

**Question**

- **Ask**: What resources does Dr. Barbour include in this section of his report?
- **Answer**: Cost ($600,000) and funding sources (CDC and NIH)

Briefly summarize what steps they have taken thus far in the Evaluation Framework.

Tell participants that you will now go over the third step.
### Step 3 – Focus the Evaluation

1. Determine the specific purpose of the evaluation
2. Identify stakeholders who will receive findings and recommendations
3. Consider how information will be used
4. Specify questions to be answered by evaluation
5. Determine standards to assessing performance of system

- **Say:** The purpose of evaluating a surveillance system is to promote the best use of public health resources by ensuring that important problems are under surveillance and that the surveillance system is operating effectively.

- **Ask participants to think about what they did when they focused the evaluation design for program evaluation and whether those are applicable to surveillance system evaluation.**

- **Discuss what focus the evaluation means by revealing bullets one at a time.**

- **Tell participants that you will next look at Dr. Barbour’s evaluation report.**
### Duration/Slide Number | What To Do/What To Say
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2 minutes | Slide 28

**Tell participants to refer to the criteria for step 3.**

**Say:** In Dr. Barbour’s report, he explains the purpose of the evaluation is to “provide a comprehensive review of CDC’s Arthritis Program’s national surveillance of arthritis, designed to assess arthritis prevalence and other measures of arthritis burden”.

**Say:** Dr. Barbour explains that the “information for this report was gathered by speaking with key informants involved in surveillance, and by reviewing data sources and results.”

**Say:** Dr. Barbour explains that this evaluation will focus on one of the various arthritis burden measures: the case definition question from the 6 question core module. Respondents are prompted at the beginning of the arthritis section to not include back or neck related arthritis or symptoms. Arthritis prevalence is assessed with a single question: “Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health care professional that you have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia”?

**Ask:** What criteria under step 3 does the information on the slide cover?

**Answer:** #3 – specify the questions that will be answered by the evaluation

**Point out that the criteria for identifying stakeholders was met when he listed the stakeholders in the first section of the report.**
**Question**

- **Ask:** Which additional criteria could Dr. Barbour have included in this section of the report?

- **Answer:** *What will be done with the information gathered from the evaluation; determine standards for assessing the performance of the system.*

1 minute  
Slide 29

- Briefly summarize where they are in the Evaluation Framework thus far.

- Tell participants that you will now go over the fourth step in the evaluation framework – gather credible evidence.

1 minute  
Slide 30

- Explain that this step in the evaluation framework is quite different from step 4 in program evaluation.

- Read the 2 items it includes.
• Explain that you will next describe these 2 in greater detail.

2 minutes
Slide 31

When is a Surveillance System Useful?
• Detects the events under surveillance
• Presents estimates on magnitude of event
• Detects trends, changes in occurrence
• Contributes to the prevention and control of the monitored events
• Promotes research
• Identifies measures of performance

• Ask: When is a surveillance system useful?
• Reveal and discuss possible answers on slide.

2 minutes
Slide 32

System Attributes
• Simplicity
• Flexibility
• Data quality
• Acceptability
• Sensitivity
• Predictive value positive
• Representativeness
• Timeliness
• Stability

• Explain that the fulfillment of certain system attributes affects the usefulness and performance of the surveillance system.

• Ask: can anyone name some attributes?

• Read the 9 system attributes and tell participants you will next explain each one.
How Can You Evaluate Simplicity?

• Type and quantity of data to identify occurrence of the event
• Data collection methods
• Methods for handling data
• Methods of analyzing and disseminating data
• Integration with other surveillance systems and information
• Steps to process the report of the event
• Flow of the data: average time between steps and transfer of data
• Who analyzes data and how

• Explain that there are many methods to use to evaluate simplicity.

? Question

• Ask participants how they would evaluate simplicity.

• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.

How Can You Evaluate Flexibility?

• Response of the system to new demands
• Analysis of design and flow of system
• Capacity to respond to information needs

? Question

• Ask participants how they would evaluate flexibility.

• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.
• Explain that in Dr. Barbour’s report he provides credible evidence on usefulness, simplicity, and flexibility.

• Say: In Dr. Barbour’s report, he explains the following: In terms of usefulness, the NHIS case definition for arthritis accurately and precisely assessed the national prevalence of self-reported doctor diagnosed arthritis, which is published regularly.

Regarding simplicity, this surveillance system uses an existing data collection infrastructure with standardized questions and standardized survey methodology.

This surveillance system is relatively flexible. From 1996 to 2001, the case definition included self-report of chronic joint symptoms in the last 30 days, in addition to self-report of doctor-diagnosed arthritis. However, due to variability in state estimates of arthritis prevalence, the validity and reliability of the chronic joint symptoms section of the case definition was questioned and removed in 2001.
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<th>Duration/Slide Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 minutes Slide 36</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>How Can You Evaluate Data Quality?</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identify percentage of responses that have &quot;do not know&quot; or are blank</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Compare registered data with the real values</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• Determine fulfillment of standards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Question</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ask participants how they would evaluate quality of data.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.</td>
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<td>2 minutes Slide 37</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Quality: Validation Study #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Compared validity of self-reported doctor-diagnosed arthritis to self-reported chronic joint symptoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 389 Subjects from a Massachusetts clinic aged 45-64 years (N=179) and aged ≥65 years (N=210)</td>
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<td>• Telephone interview followed by clinician interview</td>
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<td>• Rheumatologist diagnosed arthritis was gold standard</td>
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<td>• Aged 45-64: Self-report of doctor diagnosed arthritis was more specific than chronic joint (79% vs. 67%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Aged ≥65: Similar specificity and sensitivity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Specificity higher for older group</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comments:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Barbour evaluated Data Quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review briefly.</td>
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2 minutes
Slide 38

**Data Quality: Validation Study #2**

- Compared validity and reliability of self-reported doctor-diagnosed arthritis to self-reported chronic joint symptoms.
- A convenience sample of 487 participants from Georgia aged >50 years. Telephone survey followed by medical examination.
- Rheumatologist diagnosed arthritis was gold standard.
- Specificity and sensitivity similar. Combining case definitions led to low specificity (36.1%).
- Reliability very high for doctor-diagnosed ($k=0.88$) compared to chronic joint symptoms ($k=0.44$).

2 minutes
Slide 39

**How Can You Evaluate Acceptability**

- Obtain percentage of:
  - Subject participation
  - Complete forms
  - Questions rejected

**Question**

- Ask participants how they would evaluate acceptability.
- Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.
- Explain that Dr. Barbour discussed acceptability later on in the evaluation report.
How Can You Evaluate Sensitivity

- Estimate the proportion of the total number of cases in the population under surveillance being detected by the system.
- Measuring sensitivity requires:
  - Collection of or access to data to determine the true frequency of the condition in the population under surveillance.
  - Validation of the data collected by the system.

How Can You Evaluate Predictive Value Positive?

- Confirm number of cases reported by the system.
- Identify number of false positives.
- Identify effects of the PVP on use of resources in public health.

- Ask participants how they would evaluate sensitivity.
- Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.

- Explain what is meant by PVP, or predictive value positive.
- Say: PVP is the proportion of reported cases that actually have the health-related event under surveillance.

- Ask participants how they would evaluate PVP.
- Say: In assessing PVP, primary emphasis is placed on the confirmation of cases reported through the surveillance system. You would also identify the number of false positives.
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Say: In terms of PVP’s effect on resources, a low PVP means that noncases might be investigated, which can lead to unnecessary use of resources: a high value can lead to fewer misdirected resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Explain that Dr. Barbour did not evaluate sensitivity or PVP.</td>
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<td>2 minutes</td>
<td>Slide 42</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="How Can You Evaluate Representativeness?" /></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Explain that a surveillance system is representative when it precisely describes the occurrence of events in time and the distribution in the population according to place and person.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ask participants how they would evaluate representativeness.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Explain that Dr. Barbour discussed acceptability and representativeness on the same slide.

• Say: Acceptability for the NHIS Arthritis Surveillance System is high. The estimated response rate is 90% of all eligible households in the sample. The question refusal rate is low; only 0.04% of respondents refused to answer the case-finding question. This sample is representative of the adult civilian non-institutionalized population in the U.S.

• Explain that timeliness reflects the speed or delay between steps in a surveillance system.

• Ask participants how they would evaluate representativeness.

• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.
• Explain that the stability of a surveillance system refers to its resilience to system changes, and that it can be demonstrated by the duration and consistent operation of the system.

• Explain that stability also can be reflected in the extent of control over costs and system changes that the sponsoring agency maintains.

? Question

• Ask participants how they would evaluate stability.

• Reveal answers on slide and briefly explain each one.

• Explain how Dr. Barbour evaluated timeliness and stability.
• **Say:** In regards to timeliness, data can be made available 6 months after survey completion. If requested, data from NHIS can be made available after 3 months. The NHIS surveillance system is also stable. Since NHIS was established in 1957, surveillance has been conducted annually, and the arthritis case definition question has not changed since 2001.

1 minute  
Slide 47

- **Briefly summarize where they are in the Evaluation Framework thus far.**

- **Tell participants that you will now go over the fifth step in the evaluation framework – justify conclusions.**

2 minutes  
Slide 48

- **Read and explain the slide.**

  *State whether or not the surveillance system is addressing an important health problem.*
  *Explain if the surveillance system is meeting its objectives.*
  *Recommendations should address the continuation and/or modification of the surveillance system.*
### Conclusions and Recommendations
- Current case definition for arthritis should remain in NHIS.
- Case definition has been validated in two studies.
- Specificity and reliability is high.
- Make optional questions mandatory and annual.

**What To Do/What To Say**

- **2 minutes**  
  **Slide 49**
  - Explain the conclusions and recommendations made by Dr. Barbour.
  - **Say:** The current question used in NHIS to estimate arthritis prevalence in the U.S. population should remain in the survey. The question has been validated in 2 studies and the specificity and reliability of the case definition is high. A recommendation would be to make the optional questions mandatory and administered annually, which would provide greater statistical power to evaluate arthritis related burden, and the frequency of specific activities performed to alleviate arthritis-associated symptoms.

- **1 minute**  
  **Slide 50**
  - Briefly summarize where they are in the Evaluation Framework thus far.
  - **Tell participants that you will now go over the sixth and final step in the evaluation framework – ensure use and...**
share lessons learned.

**Ensure Use and Share Lessons Learned Questions**

- How can you ensure use of the evaluation?
- How can you communicate findings and recommendations from the evaluation?

**Question**

- Ask participants the question on the slide.
- Ensure the point is made that the recommendations are to be disseminated to stakeholders and actively interpreted for all appropriate audiences.
- Tell participants that in a moment you will talk about how to present the evaluation in a report and in a PowerPoint presentation.

**Lessons Learned**

- Prior case definition has low specificity and reliability.
- CDC arthritis program recommended lowering burden of false positive arthritis diagnoses at the expense of more false negatives.
- Arthritis has a high prevalence in the population therefore a specific case definition would capture a high percentage of true positives.
- More accurate annual arthritis prevalence can be estimated.

- Explain the lessons learned from this report.

- **Say:** The prior case definition of arthritis that included chronic joint symptoms, while sensitive, had low specificity and reliability, and therefore was excluded. CDC’s Arthritis Program recommended lowering the burden of false positive arthritis diagnoses at the expense of more false negatives.
### Duration/Slide Number | What To Do/What To Say
---|---
30 minutes | Slide 53 | Arthritis has a high prevalence in the population; therefore, a specific case definition would capture a high percentage of true positives. More accurate annual arthritis prevalence can be estimated.

**Skill Assessment**

1. You will work in small groups to complete the skill assessment.
2. You will read background information about a surveillance system.
4. Spend no more than 30 minutes on the assessment.
5. Be prepared to share your work with the class.

- Read the instructions to the participants.
- Have participants continue working in the same groups they worked in for the previous lessons.
- Tell participants what slide to turn to in their Participant Guide.
- Tell participants to spend no more than 30 minutes on the assessment.
- Hand out the sample surveillance report.
- Walk around the room and assist the groups as needed.
Activity

Instructions:
- You will work in small groups to complete the skill assessment.
- Your group will read a report about an evaluation of a surveillance system and answer the questions below.
- Spend no more than 30 minutes completing the assessment.
- Be prepared to share your work with the rest of the class.

Answer the following questions:
1. What stakeholders did the evaluator include in the report?

2. Which tasks and sub-tasks under step 2 (System Description) did the evaluator include in the evaluation report?

3. Which tasks and sub-tasks under step 2 did the evaluator omit but should have included? Please explain.
4. How did the evaluator describe the components of the system (step 2, item h)?

5. How did the evaluator describe the system resources?

6. For step 3 (Focus the Design), which tasks did the evaluator describe? Which tasks did the evaluator omit but should have included?

7. How did the evaluator describe

8. evaluate the following?

   - usefulness:

   - simplicity:
- flexibility:

- data quality:

- acceptability:

- sensitivity:

- predictive value positive:

- representativeness:

- timeliness:

- stability:

9. Summarize the evaluation recommendations and lessons learned in the space below.

10. How would you recommend that the evaluator ensure use of evaluation findings?