2 Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of PRAMS is to reduce infant morbidity and mortality and to promote maternal health by influencing maternal and child health programs, policies, and maternal behaviors during pregnancy and early infancy. The information from PRAMS may lead to improvement in the health of mothers and infants in the states participating in PRAMS. A *goal* is defined as the intended outcome of the project. An *objective* is a measurable result that one strives to achieve in reaching the goal. The *activities* are the specific steps that are needed to meet the objectives and ultimately the goals of the project. The major objectives and activities for the PRAMS project are presented below.

Objective:

To collect population-based data of high scientific quality on topics relating to pregnancy and early infancy.

Activities:

- Identify data items or topics not available from other sources that address maternal and child health (MCH) issues.
- Establish a surveillance system that efficiently collects information from a defined sample of women who have recently delivered live-born infants.
- Utilize a standard methodology and data collection instrument that are epidemiologically sound and based on the most current research.
- Collect data in a timely and systematic manner.

Objective:

To conduct data analyses in order to increase understanding of maternal behaviors and experiences during pregnancy and early infancy, and their relationship to health outcomes.

Activities:

- Describe maternal behaviors, attitudes, and experiences during pregnancy and early infancy.
- Describe differences among groups in the prevalence of behaviors.

- Determine the relationships between behaviors that occur before, during, and after pregnancy and selected outcomes (e.g., prematurity, low birthweight).

- Track changes in prevalence of maternal behaviors over time.

Objective:

To translate results from analyses into useable information for planning and evaluation of public health programs and policy.

Activities:

- Assess factors that relate to the use of MCH services and programs.
    - Determine whether target groups are receiving services.
    - Describe barriers to service use by target groups of women.
    - Assess changes in service use over time.
    - Explore whether the content of MCH programs is changing to reflect the most current knowledge regarding the health of mothers and infants.
- Use data in the development and implementation of new programs or to modify existing programs.
- Monitor progress toward established health objectives.
- Influence public health policy by working with policy makers to incorporate findings into the decision-making process.
    - Provide input into legislative proposals.
    - Make recommendations for new policies.
- Disseminate research findings to the health community so they may incorporate the latest information into their standards of practice.

Objective:

To build state capacity for collecting, analyzing, and translating data to address relevant maternal and infant health issues.

Activities:

- Obtain high-level support for data-driven decision making as a useful tool for addressing public health issues.
- Commit state staff and resources to develop expertise in the skills required to conduct surveillance.
- Commit state staff and resources to develop and sustain data analysis and data use skills.
- Promote use of data and inform programs and policies with PRAMS data by distributing results to legislators and other agencies.

Protocol Development Task

State any additional state-specific objectives and activities here.