

Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 498-1210. Send written comments to CDC, Desk Officer, Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Emergency Epidemic Investigations (0920-0008)—Extension—(Epidemiology Program Office, EPO)—One of the objectives of CDC’s epidemic services is to provide for the prevention and control of epidemics and protect the population from public health crises such as man made or natural biological disasters and chemical emergencies. This is carried out, in part, by training investigators, maintaining laboratory capabilities for identifying potential problems, collecting and analyzing data, and recommending appropriate actions to protect the public’s health. When state, local, or foreign health authorities request help in controlling an epidemic or solving other health problems, CDC dispatches skilled epidemiologists from the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) to investigate and resolve the problem. Resolving public health problems rapidly ensures costs effective health care and enhances health promotion and disease prevention. Annually, the EIS Program coordinates 400 Epidemic Assistance Investigations (Epi-Aids) and state-based field investigations.

Epidemics are prevented and controlled by mobilizing and deploying CDC staff, primarily EIS officers to respond rapidly to disease outbreaks and disaster situations. At the request of public health officials—at the state, national, or international level—CDC provides assistance by participating in epidemiologic field investigations.

The purpose of the Emergency Epidemic Investigation surveillance is to collect data on the conditions surrounding and preceding the onset of a problem. The data must be collected in a timely fashion so that information can be used to develop prevention and control techniques, to interrupt disease transmission and to help identify the cause of an outbreak. Since the events necessitating the collections of information are of an emergency nature, most data collection is done by direct interview or written questionnaire and are one-time efforts related to a specific outbreak or circumstance. If during the emergency investigation, the need for further study is recognized, a project is designed and separate OMB clearance is required. Interviews are conducted to be as unobtrusive as possible and only the minimal information necessary is collected. The Emergency Epidemic Investigations is the principal source of data on outbreaks of infectious and noninfectious diseases, injuries, nutrition, environmental health and occupational problems.

Each investigation does contribute to the general knowledge about a particular type of problem or

emergency, so that data collections are designed taking into account similar situations in the past. Some questionnaires have been standardized, such as investigations of outbreaks aboard aircraft or cruise vessels.

The Emergency Epidemic Investigations provides a range of data on the characteristics of outbreaks and those affected by them. Data collected include demographic characteristics, exposure to the causative agent(s), transmission patterns and severity of the outbreak on the affected population. These data, together with trend data, may be used to monitor the effects of change in the health care system, planning of health services, improving the availability of medical services and assessing the health status of the population.

Users of the Emergency Epidemic Investigations data include, but are not limited to EIS Officers in investigating the patterns of disease or injury, investigating the level of risky behaviors, identifying the causative agent and identifying the transmission of the condition and the impact of interventions.

It is difficult to predict the number of epidemic investigations which might occur in any given year. The previous three years’ experience shows an annualized burden of 3,000 hours and respondent total of 12,000. For this clearance, we are requesting 3,750 total burden hours. This is due to the increase in the number of investigations performed over the past two years.

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/respondent	Avg. burden per response (in hrs.)
Total Respondents	15,000	1	15/60

Dated: July 29, 2003.
Thomas A. Bartenfeld,
Acting Associate Director for Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day-55-03]

Proposed Data Collections Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 498-1210. Send written

comments to CDC, Desk Officer, Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 or by fax to (202) 395-6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Congenital Syphilis (CS) Case Investigation and Report Form (OMB Control No. 0920-0128)—Revision—National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC proposes to continue data collection for congenital syphilis case investigations under the “Congenital Syphilis Case Investigation and Report Form” (CDC73.126 REV 11-98); this form is currently approved under OMB

No. 0920-0128. This request is for a 3-year extension of clearance. Reducing congenital syphilis is a national objective in the DHHS Report entitled Healthy People 2010 (Vol I and II). Objective 25-9 of this document states the goal: "Reduce congenital syphilis to 1 new case per 100,000 live births". In order to meet this national objective, an

effective surveillance system for congenital syphilis must be continued to monitor current levels of disease and progress towards the year 2010 objective. This data will also be used to develop intervention strategies and to evaluate ongoing control efforts.

Respondent burden is approximately 15 minutes per reported case. The

estimated annual number of cases expected to be reported using the current case definition is 500 or less. Therefore, the total number of hours for congenital syphilis reporting required will be approximately 130 hours per year.

Respondents	Number of respondents	Number of responses/respondent	Average burden/response (in hours)
State/Local Health Departments	65	8	15/60

Dated: July 29, 2003.
Thomas A. Bartenfeld,

Acting Associate Director for Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 03-19686 Filed 8-1-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel (SEP): Minority Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Research Initiative To Build Capacity in Black and Hispanic Communities and Among Researchers Who Conduct HIV/AIDS Epidemiologic and Prevention Research in These Communities, Program Announcement Number 03097

In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting:

Name: Disease, Disability, and Injury Prevention and Control Special Emphasis Panel (SEP): Minority Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) Research Initiative to Build Capacity in Black and Hispanic Communities and Among Researchers Who Conduct HIV/AIDS Epidemiologic and Prevention Research in these Communities, Program Announcement Number 03097.

Times and Dates: 8:30 a.m.-9 a.m., August 18, 2003 (Open). 9 a.m.-5 p.m., August 18, 2003 (Closed). 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., August 19, 2003 (Closed).

Place: The Westin Hotel at Perimeter, 7 Concourse Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30328, Telephone 770.395.3900.

Status: Portions of the meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with provisions set forth in Section 552b(c) (4) and (6), Title 5 U.S.C., and the Determination of the Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, CDC, pursuant to Public Law 92-463.

Matters to be Discussed: The meeting will include the review, discussion, and evaluation of applications received in response to Program Announcement Number 03097.

Note: Due to program oversight, this **Federal Register** Notice is being published less than 15 days before the date of the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beth Wolfe, Prevention Support Office, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC, 1600 Clifton Road, NE., MS-E07, Atlanta, GA 30333, Telephone 404.639.8531.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign **Federal Register** notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Dated: July 30, 2003.

Alvin Hall,

Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[FR Doc. 03-19829 Filed 7-31-03; 11:41 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[Document Identifier: CMS-255, CMS-R-199]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HHS.

In compliance with the requirement of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (CMS)), Department of Health and Human Services, is publishing the following summary of proposed collections for public comment. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including any of the following subjects: (1) The necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Type of Information Collection Request: Extension of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Municipal Health Services Cost Report Form and supporting Regulations 42 CFR 405.2470; *Form No.:* CMS-255 (OMB# 0938-0155); *Use:* The Municipal Health Services Program Cost Report (CMS 255) is used by the participating clinics to report costs for health care services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries. It is