

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review

Evaluation Supplement

Program evaluation for FIMR provides the opportunity to thoughtfully and critically consider how FIMR is maximizing its partnerships, resources, and impact, and ways to strengthen the program to support infant mortality reduction and health equity in communities. It allows programs to celebrate and communicate their strengths while identifying feasible, actionable program improvements to refine the FIMR process further. It further builds accountability into the process, increasing the program's credibility and evidence base.

Chapter 9 of the FIMR Program Manual explores the basics of Program Evaluation for FIMR. This supplement guidance will provide a more in-depth look at program evaluation concepts for FIMR, the benefits, guiding principles, key evaluation questions, and potential data sources programs can use to evaluate their processes and outcomes.



Center for Fatality Review & Prevention

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Potential Data Sources for FIMR evaluation

FIMR leaders provided insights into how they would recommend programs assess, measure, or describe the following aspects of the FIMR process in communities. A local FIMR evaluation does not need to include all these data elements or measure and describe each of these aspects of the program in order to be effective and answer the key evaluation questions. These are provided simply as examples to support teams in their efforts. For each category, some suggestions are made for teams who are developing, teams who are more well-established, teams focused on process evaluation, and those focused on outcome evaluation. **These are not prescriptive categories or data sources, but rather are provided to help FIMRs consider the types of information that could be used to support the evaluation process in describing FIMR activities, outputs, and outcomes.**

This document is intended to be a supplement to chapter 9 of the FIMR program manual, *Program Evaluation for FIMR Teams*.

Building Relationships with Agencies and the Community

Describe the diversity of the FIMR membership through identifying the organizations, agencies, and individuals represented on the CRT and CAT, the services they provide or populations they serve, and the diversity of groups both contributing records for case review and receiving data and recommendations.



Developing Teams

Identify and list key partners and agencies, how many have been engaged with FIMR and describe in what ways. Indicate if there are enough of the necessary partners to conduct a thorough and meaningful case review for the leading causes of death. Consider how well the racial, ethnic, and cultural make up of the community is represented.



Established Teams

Using interview or surveys with FIMR leaders and team members, identify gaps in membership, deficits or opportunities related to equitable team representation. Describe if/ how the community's voice is represented in the FIMR program.



Process Metrics

Identify and describe the breadth of FIMR outreach communications across the community, including recruitment efforts, progress toward diverse membership, and challenges faced in establishing a representative, complete team.



Outcome Metrics

Identify, enumerate, and describe agency-level representation on the FIMR CRT and CAT. Identify and describe the agencies and organizations with which FIMR partners to implement recommendations. Identify any gaps in membership.

Collecting Case Information

Identify the diversity and value of records available to contribute to FIMR case summaries and reviews and describe any additional information that may be informative.



Developing Teams

Identify and list key agencies from which records are regularly acquired. Identify from FIMR leaders either in interviews or surveys what barriers are faced to acquiring case records.



Established Teams

In addition to the above, provide numbers and percentages of cases for which a family interview is sought and successfully conducted. Identify through interview or surveys the barriers that are faced in acquiring interviews.



Process Metrics

Describe the case identification process and the process used for requesting and conducting family interviews. Identify through interview or surveys opportunities for process improvement. Consider providing interviewed families with a brief survey to assess their experience with the FIMR family interview.



Outcome Metrics

If the team participates in the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting system, use the annual data quality summary to identify progress toward data completeness, timeliness, and consistency. Identify if challenging data elements are items collected from records or from the family interview.

Summarizing Case Information for Review

Determine completion rates for key data elements to determine if case summaries include information that is necessary to support effective case review within a health equity framework.



Developing Teams

When the CRT is surveyed, ask if they find case summaries to have adequate information for them to review the death and make meaningful case findings.



Established Teams

In addition to the above, ask if there is adequate information to make findings that effectively identify root causes of feto-infant mortality, focused on the social determinants of health.



Process Metrics

Through interviews with FIMR leaders and case abstractors, identify opportunities to reduce redundancy or improve key aspects of case record abstraction, summary, and case presentation to the CRT.



Outcome Metrics

If the team participates in the National Fatality Review-Case Reporting system, use the annual data quality summary to identify progress toward data completeness, timeliness, and consistency.

Conducting Multidisciplinary Case Review

A survey for FIMR team members is a valuable way to determine if the multidisciplinary FIMR meeting is efficient, respectful, focused on systems-level issues, and resulting in relevant findings and actionable recommendations.



Developing Teams

Report on the number of meetings held and the number of hours spent in review. Enumerate the number of cases reviewed; compare this to the goal for number of reviews and describe any barriers the FIMR leaders identify to reviewing cases in either surveys or interviews.



Established Teams

In addition to the above, using surveys or interviews, ask team members to rate their satisfaction with the case review process; if they feel like they have opportunities to share their professional perspective; and if they believe the process for making findings and recommendations is effective.



Process Metrics

In surveys or interviews, FIMR members if their process focuses on systems-level barriers (as opposed to personal responsibility) and the extent to which their work advances health equity in the community.



Outcome Metrics

Enumerate the number of cases reviewed; compare this to the goal for number of reviews. Identify the percentage of the total fetal/infant deaths in the FIMR program community the cases reviewed represent. Describe any barriers the FIMR leaders identify to reviewing cases in either surveys or interviews.

Identifying Root Causes, Systems Gaps, and Needs for System Improvement

Summarize and categorize findings and recommendations into those directed at patients/families; systems of care; or community.



Developing Teams

Categorize how many of the team findings and recommendations were focused on either individual behaviors or systems-level barriers.



Established Teams

In addition to the above, consider categorizing findings and recommendations based on levels of the Health Impact Pyramid¹. Use existing community needs assessment data or data from the most local Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)² to compare FIMR findings and recommendations to overall needs in maternal and infant populations.



Process Metrics

Enumerate the number of recommendations received by the CAT. Ask FIMR team members in surveys or interviews the extent to which they think their process identifies and focuses on root causes and systems-level issues in CRT and CAT meetings and efforts. Identify opportunities for improvement.

¹ Frieden T. R. (2010). A framework for public health action: the health impact pyramid. *American journal of public health, 100*(4), 590–595. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2009.185652>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/prams/states.htm>



Outcome Metrics

Consider categorizing findings and recommendations based on levels of the Health Impact Pyramid³. Use existing community needs assessment data or data from the most local Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)⁴ to compare FIMR findings and recommendations to overall needs in maternal and infant populations.

Implementing Prevention Initiatives

Compare FIMR recommendations to the prevention initiatives that have been implemented in the community.



Developing Teams

Describe progress toward moving team findings and recommendations to action, including whether or not a CAT has been implemented as part of the FIMR program.



Established Teams

Using vital statistics data, determine the populations most at risk for fetal or infant mortality; compare this to intended audiences for health messages, interventions, or policy/practice improvements implemented as a result of FIMR efforts.



Process Metrics

Describe the process for moving from findings and recommendations to action and identify any opportunities for process improvement shared in surveys, interviews, or evaluator observations.



Outcome Metrics

Describe the number and types of actions implemented through the CAT: compare the percentage of actions fully implemented of those planned. Describe the reach and impact of any health promotion campaigns or interventions initiated as a result of FIMR efforts using programmatic data or communication data, such as number of impressions.

Continuous Quality Improvement Through Case Review and Systems Evaluation

Describe systems improvements that have been recommended and implemented by FIMR.



Developing Teams

Using team recommendations, and information from the CAT if the program has one, identify system-level improvements that have been recommended by the FIMR team, as well as progress toward implementation.



Established Teams

Using team recommendations, NFR-CRS standardized reports, and interviews, identify process improvements or policy changes that have been identified and addressed through the FIMR process.

³ Frieden T. R. (2010). A framework for public health action: the health impact pyramid. *American journal of public health, 100*(4), 590–595. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2009.185652>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/prams/states.htm>



Process Metrics

Review FIMR work plans to determine if FIMR is implemented in a way that supports ongoing CQI and is positioned to advance health equity.



Outcome Metrics

Using team recommendations, NFR-CRS standardized reports, and interviews, identify process improvements or policy changes that have been identified and addressed through the FIMR process.

Psychosocial and Community Contextual Factors Effecting Pregnancy Outcomes

Determine if the FIMR findings and recommendations reflect risk factors identified in the FIMR case data.



Developing Teams

In a survey for team members, ask team members the extent to which they think findings and recommendations focus on the risk factors identified in case reviews.



Established Teams

In addition to the above, if the team uses the NFR-CRS, use the data quality summary and the standardized reports on to compare priority variables and *Life Stressors* data to the team findings (Standardized Report 30).



Process Metrics

In a survey for team members, ask team members the extent to which they think findings and recommendations focus on the risk factors identified in case reviews.



Outcome Metrics

If the team uses the NFR-CRS, use the data quality summary and the standardized reports on to compare priority variables and *Life Stressors* data to the team findings (Standardized Report 30).

Data Summaries, Reports, Issue Briefs, and Presentations

Enumerate FIMR data, findings, and recommendations in dissemination products, efforts, and reach.



Developing Teams

Describe the types of data dissemination efforts and information products produced by the FIMR program and the audiences with which they were shared.



Established Teams

In addition to the above, determine through surveys or interviews from FIMR leaders and key partners if they think there are missed opportunities to maximize FIMR findings and data for strategic audiences.



Process Metrics

In a survey, ask FIMR leaders if the process for summarizing data, reporting, and disseminating information is effective and how the processes may be improved.



Outcome Metrics

Describe the type of strategic data dissemination efforts, publications, and information products produced by the FIMR program and their impact and estimated reach.