Reviewer's report

Title: National data quality standards for population-based birth defects surveillance programs in the United States

Version: 1 Date: 13 April 2015

Reviewer: Bukola Fawole

Reviewer's report:

My comments are as follows:

Authors have described an initiative aimed at determining the quality of Birth Defects Surveillance Programmes in the United States. The work involved assessment of data collection approaches and data quality practices. The question addressed is certainly of public health significance.

Major revisions

Authors stated that the NBDPN Standards Workgroup queried existing birth defects surveillance programs. as written, this is rather ambiguous. Authors need to expatiate on this or otherwise express the activity differently.

Authors need to explain criteria employed to designate a population-based birth defects surveillance programme as eligible in the Methods section.

It is also important to explain the 'minimum inclusion criteria' mentioned In the Results section, in the Methods section.

Minor Revisions

A sentence describing the study design will be appropriate.

Authors may consider reviewing the title to reflect what was done.