

CPP serological testing

HOW MANY IN STORAGE?: over 800,00 vials from 227,000 drawings in the serum specimen inventory.

COMMON INFECTIONS: *toxoplasmosis gondii*, *rubella virus*, and **IgA/M/G** are the agents/indicators sought at various spells in the overall population, but there are many others sought in case-comparison and geographically localized (one or a few of the sites) investigations

SERENDIPITY: a mid-study rubella epidemic presented an unforeseeable opportunity to study a naturally evolving phenomenon, and resources were switched from testing for *toxoplasma gondii* to rubella virus.

OTHER INFECTIONS: MANY sought in case-comparison and localized studies.

TERMINOLOGY: the CPP documentation uses the word **SPECIMEN** ambiguously: the serum specimen inventory refers to the ideal 4 vials of sera drawn at each blood **DRAWING**. Ideally, 4 **VIALS** of blood was drawn from the mother at each of her prenatal visits, and 4 vials of blood was drawn from the umbilical card. The blood vials were then sent to the PRB laboratory set up specifically to test these sera for various infectious agents in case-comparison and sample wide populations.

By eschewing (avoiding) the word **SPECIMEN** the analyst can focus on the event (when drawn: **DRAWING**) and physically what was drawn; # **VIALS** and their physical condition when drawn from these data.

The number of individuals tested is far fewer in number than both the number of drawings and vials.

These data do NOT specify, in any way, the current existence or physical state of each vial.

ELECTRONIC DATA SETS: 5: Serum specimen inventory' and 4 serological test results.

MASTER DATA FILE (mdfo378p.asc): these data are **not** in it.

PUNCHCARD NUMBERS: 19?

Essentially, these data are **STORED** according to the serological test result. However, substantive **MEANING** of results (stored similarly) depends on the study design and test site .

DATABASE (AB)NORMAL FORMS: i.e. unique id # and common position and location of variables in a common structure are **VIOLATED**.

Columns 1-4: 4 digit **FORM** number, usually 2-4, and column 5 may be card number (not form version/revision) or case-control (comparison) status.

SUBSTANTIVE MEANING SPECIFICATION:

NINDB DRAWING VIAL and STUDY(=TEST('form') CARD 'REQUISITION NUMBER')

Because of these issues, deliberately, there is

ELECTRONIC DATA(set(s)) for each study i.e.

Serum specimen inventory and a

dataset for each study/form requisition.

LET THE USER DECIDE.