

Meeting Minutes
Epidemiology Workgroup
Subgroup: Consumption

May 14th, 2010

- ❖ This group met via video conference and teleconference from 10:15 AM-12 PM. The afternoon session was canceled, as most group members had prior engagements. Participants included the following: Jesse Metzger, Sarah Dewane, Deborah Hull-Jilly, Charles Utermohle, Randy Burton, Andrew Jessen and Devon Urquhart.
- ❖ Jesse Metzger and Sarah Dewane are working on the data collection of the Consumption Workgroup. Charles Utermohle will collect additional information from YRBS and Andrew Jessen will collect additional information from BVS to assist us with the scoring of indicators.
- ❖ *Definitions for Indicator List*
 - Availability:
 1. The data should be readily available and accessible. The measure must be available in disaggregated form at the Alaska Native/American Indian Anchorage level.
 2. Is the data available?
 - Validity:
 1. The measure must meet basic criteria for validity. There must be research-based evidence that the indicator accurately measures the specific construct and yields a true snapshot of the phenomenon at the time of the assessment.
 2. Does the indicator provide a true representation of what is actually occurring in our in our population?
 - Timeliness:
 1. Are we able to get the information in a reasonable amount of time?
 - Please note that timeliness is data being collected, published and available for review within a 12 month period.
 2. Are we able to analyze the information in a reasonable amount of time?
 - Consistency:
 1. The measure must be consistent. The method or means of collecting and organizing data should be relatively unchanged over time, such that the method of measurement is the same from time I to I+1. Alternatively, if the method of measure has changed, sound data should exist that determine and allow adjustment for differences resulting from data collection changes.
 2. Is the question asked the same way over a period of years?
 3. Is the indicator collected the same way over a period of time?

4. Is it currently available for past years?

Sensitivity:

1. The measure must be sufficiently sensitive to detect change over time that might be associated with changes in alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drug use.

2. If we collect this information, will we see a change over the five year period in our grant in the indicator?

❖ *Ranking scores*

Ranking Scores are as follows:

0. Not Evident

1. Sometimes Evident

2. Always Evident

For example, YRBS is scored as “always” although data is gathered every other year. These scores are subject to your own interpretation—some of the scorers are adjusting what some rankers may put as a 2, but they consider a 1.

❖ *Data Collection Systems*

YRBS: Youth participation is voluntary, there are consistency checks, and there must be a 60% response rate. If less than 100 respondents participate then the data is suppressed.

BRFSS: Adult participation is voluntary, there are consistency checks, and there must be a 60% response rate. If less than one hundred (100) respondents participate then the data is suppressed.

BVS: This data is current for ten (10) years. There is no anonymity for respondents. There are questions in regards to how much data is under-reported because of the nature of the gathering system. For example, the parent fills out a worksheet stating whether or not they consumed alcohol while pregnant. Respondents may not answer honestly in fears of the repercussions of using while pregnant. Also, if a newborn’s father fills out the paperwork he may not know about usage during pregnancy.

PRAMS: There is a ten (10) percent sample of live births.

NSDUH: This is only a state wide average, and some workgroup participants find this data not as useful. This data is also not as available as YRBS. Accurate data collection may be underreported, as a primary method of data gathering is going to the respondent’s home and having them answer whether a household member is dependent on alcohol.

❖ *Discussion Topics*

Topic: From what year are we basing our scores? Answer: We are using data from 2008.

Topic: Will we be exploring Alternative vs. Traditional Schools? Answer: It is uncertain as to whether future data will be collected. The data demonstrates high relevance, but low consistency. Not included in data are home school students as well as those who are residing in youth correctional centers. This is a high interest area for several Epi Workgroup members. Members are also interested in seeing merging statistics for alternative and traditional schools.

Topic: Data which will **not** be collected in the future? Answer: Current inhalant usage has not been documented in YRBS the last two (2) years. Steroid usage has not been documented in YRBS in the last two (2) years.

Topic: Lifetime questions? Answer: When using lifetime questions to gather data, it is hard to mark improvement, as respondents may be answering the question on more than one occasion in their lifetime.

Topic: Changes/clarification in terminology? Answer: The term “binge drinking” has changed to “episodic drinking”. Heavy alcohol use consists of 5 or more drinks for men daily and 4 or more drinks for women daily. Changes regarding heavy alcohol usage occurred before 2008. The term “too much to drink” refers to a person having too much to drink before driving a motor vehicle.

Topic: Tribal ER information? Answer: In the past Tribal ER information has not been gathered. Reporting may not have been accurate in AK AIMS, as there was not consistency in reporting and it was not reported in a timely manner.

❖ *Influences Sub-Group*

The Influences Sub-Group will meet on June 3rd from 1:30-3 PM. This group is welcoming new members; if you would like to participate please contact Becky Judd at becky.judd@alaska.gov or Devon Urquhart at devon.urquhart@alaska.gov so that we can include you in the mailing list, as well as give you the call-in information for the “Meet Me” teleconference.

- ❖ For the time being the Epi Workgroup should focus on completing their scoring of the indicators. If you do not have a copy of this sheet, please contact Devon Urquhart and she will e-mail you a copy. As you have questions/comments/concerns regarding new information please e-mail them, as we will be discussing them via e-mail with the Epi Workgroup. Completed scoring sheets can be sent to Deborah Hull-Jilly at deborah.hull-jilly@alaska.gov. If you have any questions for Deborah Hull-Jilly, her direct line is (907) 862-4611.