

## SPF/SIG Epidemiology Influences Subgroup

June 22<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (10:30 AM- 12:00)

Meeting Minutes

Teleconference participants: included the following Jesse Metzger, Sarah Dewane, Andrew Jessen, Charles Utermohle, June Sobocinski, Bill Herman, Rhonda Johnson, Marny Rivera, James Gallanos, and Becky. *Guests: DBH staff Michael Powell, James Gallanos, Natasha Pineda, Genevieve Casey*

**June 15<sup>th</sup> minutes** – No corrections, other than Rhonda was mistakenly listed as a participant.

- ✓ *Make sure to include Jesse and Sarah to the list (they keep getting forgotten!)*
- ✓ *Clarification/Question for Deborah and Diane: Are we needing to provide trend data by July 18<sup>th</sup> or just a single point in time (ie. 2008 or 2009 data)?*

### Developmental Indicators – Follow-Up discussion from June 15th.

Three of the influences that were identified by the 2007 Epi-Influences were not discussed at the 6/15 meeting. DBH staff were invited to participate and comment on the three specific factors. *Guests: Natasha Pineta, Michael Powell, Genevieve Casey*

### Availability of alcohol and other drugs

Discussion focused on 2 potential indicators and their sources. *NOTE: there was no discussion regarding availability or access to other drugs.*

Potential Indicators for Access to Alcohol:

- YRBS measure: During the past 30 days, how did you usually get the alcohol you drank? There are seven response options including: didn't drink, purchased; given it; took it from store or family; other, etc.
- ABC Compliance Checks: The Alcohol Beverage Control Board conducts compliance checks & shoulder tap checks in the major communities in Alaska as funding is available.

Action Item: Marny and Natasha (both are on the Under-Age Drinking Task Force) *will get together discuss both, and make a recommendation back to the group which would be the best indicator and data source for this risk factor. If the data is easily obtainable please provide that as well for 2008 or 2009.*

### Community norms and laws related to alcohol and drugs

*Thanks to Michael Powell for your contributions and insights...*

*In summary: lengthy discussion about this influence and the need for a better definition in order to measure it. After we get a clear definition, the challenge will be how to create a statewide measure for what is community-centric. It might be better to have this be a community level indicator, instead of trying to create a state-wide indicator. We have some local option law-information, policies and stats for tobacco & alcohol sales enforcement, ASAP (alcohol safety action program) and data from grantees (comprehensive prevention). Could look at density of sellers in a community; laws related to sales in proximity to schools.*

Rhonda referenced national indicators from HP2020, related to perception of risk as a norm. YRBS asks about perceptions of risk. The committee agreed to consider these:

Q: How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they:

- smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day?
- have 1 or 2 drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, or liquor) nearly every day?
- if they smoke marijuana regularly?

A. No risk      B. Slight risk      C. Moderate risk      D. Great risk

**Note:** Becky found an *additional YRBS measure* related to perceptions & policies, for consideration (?):

Q: Do you agree or disagree that your school has clear rules and consequences for behavior?

A. Strongly agree      B. Agree      C. Not sure      D. Disagree      E. Strongly disagree

*Action Item: Marny will explore this indicator, further. Are there others that could assist in this discussion? (Rhonda is leaving for her sabbatical for six months) Charles please share YRBS 2009 data related to those 4 questions with Becky and Marny. We will need a recommendation from this group on an indicator.*

### **Cultural Identity** (loss of/or connection to)

*Thanks to James for your contributions and insights...*

- In summary, this influence while very important, is challenging for many reasons. Need to define this indicator, for what populations? Alaska is a very diverse state made up of multiple cultures. Alaska Native population is one of the largest sub-populations, with high prevalence of risk behaviors. Multiple other populations eg. Hispanic, Asian/PI, Russian, etc. but we'll focus on Alaska Native, first.
- Do we look at language, subsistence practices, dance, specific customs? There is minimal quantitative research to draw from to create an indicator. Most research is qualitative. New emerging research from Canada. For example, related to suicide: communities with higher levels of governance & self determination are less likely to experience suicides. G. Mohatt research was qualitative and used a resiliency and protective factor approach. Additional sources, CANA. We assume culture is protective, it may not always be.
- Other Comments:
  - Rhonda: other research has determined a link among other cultures between rapid acculturation and substance use.
  - June asked about feeling very connected to ones culture and still being hopeless. What about feeling valued?
  - Note: Becky remembered that YRBS has a measure related to feeling like I matter: 'Do you agree or disagree that in your community you feel like you matter to people?'

*Action Item: James will continue to research this topic; Sarah D is interested too, Becky noted Cristy, might have some insights as well. It would be helpful for this group to offer a recommendation for consideration*

### **Update on Indicators, Data sources & 2008 or 2009 data**

We ran out of time to go over the status of each indicator, in detail:

- ✓ Charles sent YRBS data to Becky, she will meet with him to go over it.
- ✓ Becky shared the updated SCCS data for SEL and School Connection.
- ✓ James will explore if there is a better indicator related to suicide and its link to substance use.
- ✓ Andrew waiting for **Deborah Hull-Jilly** return to discuss death rates by family members for suicide".
- ✓ **Becky** will wait until next meeting to discuss Connection to Family potential indicators

Becky followed up on Marny's leads re: **indicators for children witnessing family violence**. Spoke with Public Health about their PRAMS, CUBS & BRFSS data bases. Three indicators to consider:

- ✓ % of mothers who report their child has (ever experienced), seeing violence or physical abuse, in person. <sup>CUBS (1500#)</sup>
- ✓ % of mothers who report their husband/partner has push, hit, slap, kick, choke or physically hurt you in any other way, in the past 12 months. <sup>CUBS</sup>
- ✓ % of \_\_\_ who report: having feared for their safety or been physically hurt by a current or former intimate partner in the past 5 years. <sup>BRFSS</sup>

Note about data sources: CUBS (annual phone interviews of moms of 3 year olds)

- PRAMS(annual phone interviews of pregnant women or recently gave birth).
- BRFSS (annual phone interviews of adults, can break it out by those that are parents), this particular question is part of the survey, only when there is enough support to do so.

**Discussion/Decision:** Decided it makes the most sense to use: % of mothers who report their child has (ever experienced), seeing violence or physical abuse, in person. <sup>CUBS survey</sup>

**Becky** will confirm with Linda Chamberlain and get the actual data from WCFH Epi unit.

**Next Meeting Thursday July 8<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm**