

SPF/SIG Epidemiology Influences Subgroup

June 3rd, 2010 (1:30-3:05 PM) minutes

Teleconference participants included the following: Becky Judd, Jesse Metzger, Deborah Hull-Jilly, Andrew Jessen, Jim Sellers, Devon Urquhart, Charles Utermohle, June Sobocinski, Cristy Willer, Bill Herman, Rhonda Johnson and Marny Rivera.

The purpose of the Epi-Influences Workgroup

Identify and track over time research-based factors (influences) of substance use in Alaska.

The steps in doing so include:

- 1) Identify populations to study
- 2) Prioritize (based on criteria) the factors/influences for the selected populations;
- 3) Identify or develop population-based, *statewide* indicators (for the priority factors);
- 4) Identify or work with others to develop systems for tracking these indicators over time;
- 5) Provide data for the selected indicators

Note: This group is Research driven and Data driven. We start with the research, only then do we look for the indicators and data systems that support research identified factors of substance use.

Work Group Logistics

The initial task timeline is June 3rd – July 15th.

July 15th deadline ensures that the identified influences/factors indicators and current data are compiled and presented to the larger Epi group who will in turn present to the Advisory Council on August 2nd and 3rd. We were asked to limit our indicators to around ten.

Dates were established to meet the quick time line. Meeting times were adjusted to accommodate member's schedules. *If there are changes we will let you know!* Meeting reminders & materials will be sent to workgroup members a few days prior to each of the meetings.

Phone number will always be: 1-800-315-6338
Code number will always be: 8078

Thursday June 3rd 1:30-3:00pm	Thursday July 8th 2 -3:30 pm
Tuesday, June 15th 10:30 -12 pm	Thursday July 15th 2 -3:30 pm
Tuesday June 22 10:30 -12pm	July 19th week final edits

Teleconference highlights

Past Epi-Influences work group were sent ahead of time for review (this included the literature review and final reports.) Former committee members Rhonda & Cristy overviewed the process by which the indicators were selected. This is most succinctly summarized on page 3 of the final report. Becky asked if new participants had any questions about the process.

Discussion

- *Why was the adolescent population originally selected?*
Two reasons: 1) The behavioral patterns established in adolescents have a strong impact in subsequent adult behavior. 2) Most of the research on risk and protective factors has been conducted on adolescent behavior. 3) The committee believed that some of the indicators had relevance for other ages as well.
- *Jim: How did the group members factor "Willingness/Readiness to Change"?*
Becky: This was highly subjective. We looked at considering willingness/readiness to change, one must be subjective. Can a community change something that is out of their control? It is important to remain as unbiased as possible while considering willingness/readiness to change.
- *Bill: Multi-part question-- Will the indicators be sensitive enough detect to changes made through community based interventions? Will the Federal Government hold us accountable for effectiveness of a community based work through the population based indicators? For example if 25% of a community's schools participate in prevention efforts, are the other 75% measured in the evaluation process?*
Deborah: This group should keep in mind that establishing a process for continuous improvement and reaching goals is key.
Becky: noted that some influences/factors may best be left to community-level indicators, but perhaps "place hold" the influence or factor at a statewide level with a proximal indicator. She will follow up with Deborah and Diane regarding this concern.
Cristy: indicated from the CITC experience we will not be "dinged" if there is not improvement in selected indicators. There is an interest in developing an infrastructure to address the priority areas.
- Rhonda noted several new indicators are emerging from the national "Healthy People 2020" that may help us in our existing developmental indicators sections.

Final Discussion: What be the initial focus of this workgroup? (next six weeks)

Use and *update* the 2007 Epidemiology Influences on Adolescent alcohol use? **OR**
Expand to additional populations (this includes: conducting the literature review, selecting the priority factors, determining indicators for each and collecting/analyzing the data)

Final Decision

- 1) Use & *update* the 2007 Epidemiology Influences on adolescent alcohol use
- 2) Becky will meet with Jim to hear about his work with the senior populations

Future Epi-Influences Workgroup efforts (over the next year or two)

There is interest in expanding the Influences profile to include other populations. This group will need to determine which populations and the process for selecting which populations, and a process to conduct the research, identify the priority factors, appropriate indicators, and systems to track over time.

Becky encourages the group to consider other age groups or special populations, for example young adults 18-30; military & veterans, (given the high number of military families in Alaska) Additionally, if you know of additional research-based factors that influence adolescent substance use that were not included in the original literature review, please contact her.

The next Influences Workgroup will meet on June 15th from 10:30 AM-12 PM. If you are unable to participate, please contact Becky Judd at becky.judd@alaska.gov or Devon Urquhart at devon.urquhart@alaska.gov.