

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Occupational Health Work Group Meeting#
April 23-24, 2008
Cincinnati, OH

Minutes

Attendees: See list attached

Slides: Slides of presentations at this meeting are available on the CSTE Web board:

<http://www.cste.org/cgi-bin/discus/discus.pl>

NIOSH Update

Marie Sweeny provided an update on NIOSH Surveillance planning activities. Notably, calls for increased surveillance have been included in both NAS program reviews and NORA sector goals. Seven new internal NIOSH proposals for work on surveillance have been submitted. John Sestito provided an update on the proposed and NIOSH state-based surveillance webpage. This webpage is intended to promote distribution of state products and also increase visibility of the state programs both within and outside of NIOSH. This webpage will include PDF's of some documents such as the CSTE *Minimum Guidelines* document and links to state products developed with NIOSH funding. There was some discussion as to whether state products not produced by state funding could also be listed. If so, they would need to be identified as such. One practical issue for NIOSH is that all PDF's posted materials have to be 508D compliant (i.e. adapted for use by blind readers). Another issue raised was if state documents are posted vs. listed on the NIOSH website, it would be difficult for states to track website hits. Any state submissions of products or product lists for the webpage will be voluntary. Linda Frederick indicated that this webpage would be a good place to post the Annual Performance Reports that states will be required to complete this summer (within 30 days of the beginning of the new budget period). (See slides on CSTE web board)

Action items:

- John Sestito will send an outline of how to submit state publications for listing or posting on the NIOSH state-based surveillance website. States should respond using this guideline. State response is voluntary. *(Note: John has subsequently sent guidance on submitting materials to the states, seeking input.)*

BLS Update

John Ruser provided an update of BLS activities including ongoing undercount research, new demographic (occupation, age category and gender) rates, collection of public sector data, and revisions to OIIC manual. (See slides on CSTE web board)

Discussion:

- The possibility of a joint federal state collaborative project to combine data from multiple sources for a specific condition. It would be challenging to come up with a case definition but the idea should be explored.

- States again expressed need for direction from national BLS to their state partners to collaborate with public health at the state level.
- BLS is interviewing employers about their recordkeeping practices. The point was made that upper level management may have a very different perspective than floor level management.
- It was also suggested that firms cited by OSHA for record-keeping violations would be a good place to look for underreporting.
- The sampling frame for the new public sector data collection initiative is the unemployment compensation database.
- The point was made that it is not possible to completely align the OIIC with the ICD 10. It is not possible given the lack of clinical specificity in employer provided data.

Action items:

- Tish Davis and Ken Rosenman will follow-up with John Ruser and Kate Newman about the possibility of a collaborative surveillance project focusing on a single target condition such as amputations.
- BLS will share their employer interview instrument with the states for feedback.
- States should submit comments on needed improvements/clarifications in the OIIC to Janie Windau at BLS. Although the time for formal comment has passed, BLS is still open to input from users.

BRFSS Workers' Compensation module

Dave Bonauto provided an overview of the analysis plan for the BRFSS module on use of Workers' Compensation. Timeline and publication were discussed. It was suggested that we also look at injuries in the self employed and to the extent feasible look at injuries and WC by age, gender, ethnicity, education and income. Dave also asked whether states were planning on including any work-related questions in their 2009 survey. Washington State is interested in possibly including some questions on contingent work. The general sense was that most states won't have the resources in 2009 to include any questions.

Action Items:

- Dave Bonauto will take the lead on revising the BRFSS WC analysis plan and working with states to complete the analysis and report findings at the CSTE annual conference. He will also contact MMWR editors to determine suitability for publication in MMWR.
- States interested in 2009 BRFSS questions should follow-up directly with Dave.

Occupational Health indicators (OHI)

Tom Largo of Michigan presented the results of the subcommittee working on exploring possibility of a multi-year multi state OHI document. The general sense of the meeting was that CSTE should not take this on at this time. The possibility of NIOSH taking the lead on multi-year multi state analysis of targeted indicators was discussed. If NIOSH proceeds, it was suggested that they include other states not currently reporting OHI data to CSTE given that those states currently reporting are not a representative sample of states.

Tom also presented proposed statistical methods (Poisson regression) for doing time trend tests and generating p values and confidence intervals for comparisons of state vs. national OHIs. Thanks to members of the subcommittee working on this helpful guidance: Tom, John Myers, Shona Fang, Becky Hoen, Erin Simms. (See slides on CSTE web board)

Action item:

- Tom Largo will continue working with the subcommittee to develop recommended statistical methods for analyzing OH indicator data. Once complete, the finalized methods will be forwarded to states.

Several proposed new indicators were discussed (See proposals on CSTE web board)

Action items:

- Dave Bonauto will take the lead in enlisting several states to pilot the proposed low back MSD indicator.
- Pam Archer will do the same for the proposed CO indicators. It was suggested that the statement “the same steps can be taken for ED data” be added to the hospitalization indicator.
- Susan Payne has forwarded an email to states in order to solicit more information regarding how many states are able to provide data on BLLs below 25 µg/DL. Please forward your responses to Susan Payne (Susan.Payne@cdph.ca.gov).
- States should send comments on the proposals by email to above individuals.
- Barbara Materna will work on a proposal to delete indicators 14-16 to be considered by the Work Group.

Nationally notifiable conditions

Martha Stanbury provided an update on CSTE activities to develop the list of nationally notifiable conditions. The continuing issue is that the currently proposed criteria for a nationally notifiable condition have been developed from a communicable disease perspective precluding most non-infectious conditions. After some discussion to clarify the purpose of this initiative, it was agreed that some edits to the CSTE proposed Criteria for Nationally Notifiable Conditions Position Statement would help to ensure that non-infectious diseases would at least stay on the radar of this initiative. This led to a discussion about the importance of getting occupational information in electronic medical records. Peggy Filios and Mike Artfield are working on this at the national level. The need to be more specific about what data elements we should ask to be included for was raised. States have experience that can inform what would be most feasible to collect.

Action items:

- Martha will work with Bob Harrison, Andy Anderson, and two other members of the CSTE Executive Committee who focus on non-infectious (John Horan – GA and Mel Kohn – OR) to agree on a submission of proposed revisions to the draft Position Statement. [Note – this was done and a draft of the Position Statement with our edits using track changes was submitted to CSTE 5/6/08] They will keep states informed and states should feel free to submit their own

comments to this draft Position statement as well. It will be posted on the CSTE website shortly, but whether it will include our proposed changes remains to be seen.

- The following individuals will take the lead in developing CSTE position statements for June 2009 calling for national surveillance of the following conditions:
 - Lead: Susan Payne
 - Silicosis: Ken and Martha
 - Pesticides: Kathy Leinenkugel
- Tish Davis will take the lead in following up with Peggy Filios and Mike Artfield to promote further discussion about which specific data elements the occupational health community should be advocating to be included in electronic medical records.

Educational conference call

Action item:

- Tom St. Louis will send out an email to states in order to vote on the ideas previously generated for the educational (capacity building) conference call and work with Erin to schedule this call before the September WEST/ON meeting.

NIOSH E-news

NIOSH has agreed to include a brief less than 200 word update from the states in their monthly e-news. Three articles have been submitted to date – an introductory article describing the new initiative, diacytel activities (CA and WA) and asthma deaths (MI). The articles are due at the NIOSH press office by the 20th of each month. Articles describing any NIOSH supported activity have to be submitted through OEP and possibly intramural programs as well therefore they should be submitted to Linda Frederick through Erin Simms at CSTE by the 10th of each month. Erin will keep track of these submissions. It is good to link to some product/website in these articles.

Volunteers for the coming months were solicited. It was agreed that if some “hot issue” emerges this should take precedence over the established schedule. John Sestito encouraged states to include reference to state activities such as at the CSTE annual meeting and regional meetings. It is important to let readers know about these kinds of ongoing activities that many in the occupational health community may not be aware of.

Action items:

- NIOSH E-news articles should highlight state OH activity and be current. NIOSH E-news articles generated by funded states are due to Linda Frederick (cc Erin Simms) by the 10th day of every month. Articles generated by non funded states (or pertaining to activities not funded by NIOSH) may be submitted directly to Erin Simms by the above deadline. The following states will take the lead on developing short 200 word articles for NIOSH E-news in the assigned months:

May- New Jersey

June- Massachusetts

July- Connecticut
August- California
September- Oregon
October- Washington
November- Wisconsin
December- New York
January- New Mexico

Revising the state strategic planning document

The group briefly discussed that we not spend time on developing the full profile for each condition (rationale and goals of surveillance) but rather discuss proposed national – state activities for each condition with new consideration given to sectors, geographic representation and disparities. NIOSH will share their current surveillance planning document which is based on sectors.

Cross cutting issue section of the 2001 document was discussed. Changes to current issues as well as several new issues were recommended. See attached document.

To maximize the practicality of the outcome, it was be most useful if the action items and a revised document could be developed by Fall 2009 when the new NIOSH request for funding document is to be reviewed and finalized.

Action items:

- The following individuals will take the lead on revising/developing the cross cutting recommendations to be included in an updated state surveillance strategic planning document. (if your name has been placed by an issue other than what was discussed at the meeting, please contact Erin Simms)

Short Term Priorities:

Issue 1: Technical advisors- Dave B
Issue 2: Technical assistance- David V
Issue 3: Integrating OH- Mandy G
Issue 4: Links btw surveillance- Terry B
Issue 5: Coordination among feds- Dawn C.
Issue 6: CDC surveillance- J. Shire
Issue 7: OH info. systems- Kathy L
Issue 8: Surveillance research- Kitty G

Long Term Priorities

Issue 1: State specific analysis- Ken R
Issue 2: Coordination of NIOSH- John V
Issue 3: Special pop.- Tish D
Issue 4: OH indicators- Pam R
Issue 5: Employment data- Stephanie M
Issue 6: Rapid response- Michelle L

New issues:

Evaluation- Tom St. L

Workforce development- Bob H

- Ken Rosenmen will take the lead on organizing a discussion of the profiles at the upcoming CSTE conference and if necessary by calls and emails over the summer?

CSTE Business

Annual Conference-

The Occupational Health agenda is set for the 2008 annual conference. Kitty Gelberg did a wonderful job of putting it all together, along with Yvonne Boudreau. CSTE looks forward to seeing everyone at the Sunday workshop where we will discuss OH & S in the Intermountain West and Issues from NIOSH. Terry will lead a COSS meeting on Tuesday (June 10th), and there will be a host of breakout sessions available to attend.

CSTE Website-

The new website will be revealed the first week in May. CSTE's goal is to make information easier to find. Once fully functioning, Erin will be given the ability to edit/update the occupational health page herself.

Erin is working on compiling the 2004 data into one document. This will be completed mid May, then sent to Tom Largo and Kathleen Grattan to begin the quality assurance process. The final product should be on the website late June.

OH indicator leads have taken the time to update the indicator document (includes all templates and how-to guides). It is not currently on the website, but should be posted mid May.

Cooperative Agreement-

The 2008-2009 occupational health cooperative agreements have been submitted. The budgets have remained the same.

Indicator Evaluation

CSTE is responsible for collecting data on indicator evaluation. Each funded state doing the indicators should submit completed indicator evaluation tracking tool for FY 08 to CSTE by the end of July. Tish is working on a slightly modified version of the tool which she will forward by the end of May. If states have used the current form on an on-going basis, it is fine to submit that form. Otherwise please use the revised form. Non-funded states doing the indicators are encouraged to complete and submit the evaluation tool as well.

Action item:

- Tish will send states a revised indicator evaluation tracking tool by the end of May.

Other action items

- Larry Jackson announced NIOSH development of new electronic tools to assist with OIIC coding (electronic OIIC) manual and to generate CPS data. He solicited states to review the tools. States interested should contact Larry at:
- The OH Work Group should invite OSHA to participate in our work group meetings. Tish/Ken will take the lead in talking with staff of the statistical office - Joe Dubois and Dave Schmidt. John Villanacci will explore who from the state plan program might be invited. Some invitations to OSHA program staff may be ad hoc depending on specific topics to be addressed at meetings.
- Individuals interested in working with the APHA Occupational Health Section in developing OH priorities to be present to a new administration should contact Bob Harrison.
- Tish Davis will forward a logic model developed by NCEH asthma state programs for use in evaluating surveillance programs. Notably the end outcomes in this model differ markedly from the approach taken by NIOSH.

Fall COSS/CSTE meeting

Several locations and dates were discussed: Austin, TX, Seattle, WA and Lexington, KY. The states voted for Seattle recognizing that this may need to be changed given potential travel restrictions on NIOSH staff in the fall.

Action item:

- Terry Bunn, new chair of the COSS, will follow up with states to confirm place and date.