

Defining Core Data for Case Surveillance

Data Standardization Work Group (DSWG)



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

What are "core" data elements?

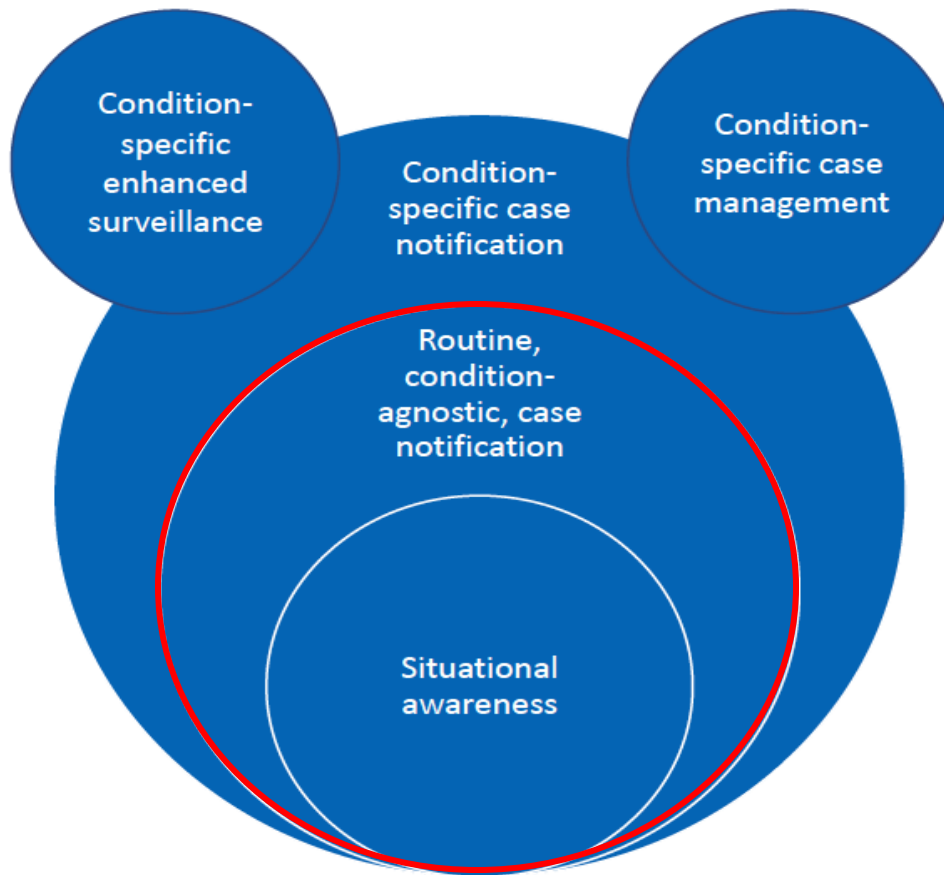


- **Data elements/data classes that are "core" to case surveillance are those that public health wants to collect and define similarly across many conditions and across jurisdictions.**
- Standardization of the structure, value set or definition of these elements should provide value
 - Facilitate receiving elements as part of interjurisdictional exchange
 - Improve efficiency of ingesting elements, regardless of sender
 - Utility across multiple conditions -- elements available for many conditions
 - Facilitate national case notification

Core surveillance data



Case Surveillance Data



Core surveillance data is inside the red circle:
Data classes or elements used for **situational awareness** or **routine, cross-condition case surveillance**

DSWG work will focus on identifying and standardizing the core surveillance data elements appropriate for transmission to CDC

- Identify core data elements for surveillance **for transmission to CDC**
 - For situational awareness or routine, cross-condition case surveillance
 - For case-based surveillance (not syndromic, not aggregate reporting)
 - Within *selected* data classes (e.g., hospitalization, travel history) that are used for multiple conditions
- Identify common definitions, value sets/code sets, structure, and interpretation notes for those core data elements
- Recommend best practices for how selected data elements are collected, structured or populated within PHA surveillance systems, if/when that will affect the interpretation of the data transmitted to CDC

Core Data: Out of Scope for DSWG



- Standardization of data elements that the DSWG does *not* identify as part of routine, case-based data transmission to CDC.
- These may include:
 - Data elements that are critical to case-based surveillance across conditions and/or interjurisdictional data exchange, but that are not appropriate for transmission to CDC (e.g., personally identifying info)
 - Data elements relevant for only a small number of conditions
 - Data elements mainly for research purposes or special studies

Core Data: Out of Scope for DSWG



- Condition-specific details and value sets (even for data elements identified as core data for transmission to CDC)
 - For example:
 - Condition-specific timeframes for core risk/exposure elements
 - Condition-specific value set for a common risk/exposure element, if relevant values vary by condition
- Data exchange mechanism or format for sending data to CDC
- Specific implementation plans/guidelines
- Related (but separate) efforts are out of scope for DSWG:
 - When to send case notifications
 - List of data elements to be sent to CDC in emergencies

Resources for standardization



- Background research presented to the DSWG for each data class will include existing formats, standards and potential data sources
 - USCDI
 - eCR (CDA & FHIR)
 - ELR
 - MMGs
- Experience and expertise of DSWG participants, including surveillance and informatics staff from STLTs and CDC, and representatives from STLT and CDC programs!

Core for CDC Transmission ≠ Required

Even if a data element or class is identified as appropriate for transmission to CDC, this does *not* mean we need to fill in or send an answer for every core element for every case!

- It is okay to leave the data field as blank or Unknown if the information is not available, not a priority, or not useful for particular conditions.

- What information is needed at the national level?
- How can we best take advantage of electronic records and automation?
- How can we best take advantage of and feed into other standardization efforts (e.g., HL7, USCDI, USCDI+)?
- How can we reduce the manual surveillance burden on public health and health care entities?
- Can we position ourselves for a more efficient process for adding emergent conditions to our systems? Exchanging information? Case notification onboarding?