

CHRONIC DISEASE/MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH/ORAL HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE

The Chronic Disease/Maternal & Child Health/Oral Health Steering Committee strives to strengthen the epidemiology workforce in chronic disease, maternal and child health, and oral health; develop and disseminate products to support and guide epidemiologists in these fields; and advocate for resources and scientifically-based policies that strengthen these fields while providing a forum for collaboration between state, local, territorial, and tribal health agencies.



To that end, CSTE has released two supplemental reports to the CSTE 2009 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment in the areas of chronic disease and maternal and child health. Both reports are available at www.cste.org. Data from these reports were collected using the online rapid assessment tool to measure epidemiology capacity in state health departments. Individual state profiles in chronic disease epidemiology capacity have been created to allow states to compare their results to the national response. The results of these assessments have allowed CSTE to depict trends in capacity measures, identify gaps in resources and provide recommendations to improve capacity where needed.

In addition to the state chronic disease profiles, CSTE has also provided funding to three states to perform data linkages of one chronic disease in particular, cardiovascular disease. This pilot project linked existing data sources to improve the quality of CVD data to provide information

needed for monitoring CVD risk factors, morbidity and mortality. This project is a first step in developing better regional understanding of CVD burden and can serve as a model for providing more comprehensive data on other episodic chronic diseases.

The Chronic Disease Surveillance/Informatics Subcommittee previously conducted an assessment of electronic health information activities in chronic disease surveillance. The Chronic Disease Epidemiology Capacity Subcommittee has begun drafting an orientation manual for chronic disease epidemiologists in state and local health departments.

The Maternal and Child Health Subcommittee continues to partner with the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and CityMatCH to support the MCH Epi Group and collaborate on matters of mutual importance. The MCH Epi group has recently conducted and assessment to gain information on current and best practices employed by maternal and child health epidemiologists.

STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

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