

Environmental/Occupational/Injury Committee Update

September 2011

Steering Committee Chair: Martha Stanbury
CSTE lead staff: Erin Simms and Annie Tran

Injury Surveillance and Control Subcommittee chair: Holly Hedegaard (CO)

- Members of the Injury Subcommittee participated in the Injury Surveillance Workgroup (ISW) on poisoning surveillance led by the Safe States Alliance. Kyla Shelton, FL, is the official CSTE representative. A draft report with recommendations will be finalized in September and interested CSTE participants will be asked to pilot the report recommendations for 6-8 months to identify areas for improvement. An abstract describing the work of the ISW will be submitted for presentation at APHA and at the 2012 World Injury Conference.
- Holly will attend the NVDRS Reverse Site visit in Atlanta in September to represent CSTE

Occupational Subcommittee: Tish Davis (MA) and Ken Rosenman (MI) Co-Chairs

- CSTE continued data collection and quality assurance activities for Occupational Health Indicators (OHIs) and will support the transition from CSTE members to NIOSH for performance of QA functions. The number of states doing OHIs has been increased from 17 to 23, based on the new funding awards from NIOSH for state-based surveillance that began July 23rd.
- CSTE staff continue to facilitate publication state-based surveillance articles in monthly e-newsletter from NIOSH
- The Western States Occupational Network (WestON) meeting will be held on September 22-23, 2011.
- A meeting in was convened in Washington, DC this past March to discuss increasing the capacity to protect the health and safety of workers by improving collaboration between state occupational public health programs and OSHA at the national and regional/area/state levels. A guidance for making referrals to OSHA was developed as a product of the meeting and will be distributed to meeting participants, subcommittee members and state epidemiologists later this month
- Subcommittee members are participating in the planning of a joint meeting of the NIOSH/states grantees' and OH Subcommittee members in Orlando in December 2011 to discuss subcommittee initiatives in collaboration
- Members developed a joint publication with NIOSH on state occupational health and safety "success stories" (currently in CDC clearance).

Environmental Subcommittee: Henry Anderson (WI) and Martha Stanbury (MI) Co-Chairs

- Martha and Henry participated on the steering committee and leadership council for the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures. A publication is pending.
- In partnership with APHL, a meeting was held in September 2010 to develop epidemiological guidance for biomonitoring projects. Workgroup members are in the process of writing the epidemiological guidelines document. The draft will be finalized for CSTE publication in the upcoming months.
- Subcommittee convened a meeting with CDC/NCEH leadership to discuss previous and future subcommittee activities in September 2011 in Atlanta.
- The Disaster Epidemiology subcommittee convened a 2nd National Disaster Epidemiology Workshop on May 11-12, 2011 in Atlanta, GA in collaboration with CDC and the Safe States Alliance. Over 50 participants from state, territorial, local, and tribal health departments, academic centers, and representatives from seven Centers at CDC gathered to share experiences from disaster responses to develop a framework for the role of epidemiology in the public health emergency preparedness system.
- The guidance document on core and essential functions of environmental epidemiology in state health departments has been finalized and submitted to the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice for publication soon.
- The climate change subcommittee developed a suite of 25 climate change indicators that were pilot tested by 10 states and the District of Columbia. CSTE is finalizing the indicator documents based on the comments from the pilot and has completed a summary report. The report and 14 completed indicators will be available on the CSTE website shortly.
- CSTE completed a survey of states on best practices in cancer cluster response. A summary report of the assessment and MMWR (in CDC Clearance) of the recommended guidelines will be published this fall.
- CSTE signed on as an official member of the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness and did an assessment of state public health capacity in radiation preparedness and response capabilities. The summary report has been finalized and an article has been published in the journal Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness.