

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

The role of substance abuse in adverse health outcomes is a recognized problem and has been the topic of several CSTE Position Statements released over the past two decades. To address some of these issues, the CSTE substance abuse subcommittee was established. This subcommittee rallies the efforts of alcohol and substance abuse epidemiologists within CSTE's membership to address state and local public health needs and/or interest in the epidemiology and surveillance of alcohol and drug abuse. Subcommittee activities include assessing and building epidemiologic capacity in drug overdose fatalities, development and enhancement of relevant indicators for surveillance, and administration of surveys to assess substance abuse epidemiologic capacities in states. CSTE has several related subcommittees focused on different activities.

Alcohol Subcommittee

The Alcohol Epidemiology Subcommittee was formed to address various issues pertaining to the integrity of the field: data inventory, data development, indicator development, data analyses, outreach to other agencies, and support for prevention activities. In accordance with its goals, this group is currently working on a project to assess state-level estimates of alcohol-attributable death rates by demographic factors.

Alcohol & Other Drugs Indicators Subcommittee

The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Indicators Subcommittee supports CSTE's efforts to promote state-level epidemiological capacity for AOD surveillance and establish CSTE guidelines for the selection and use of AOD indicators for surveillance. This group is in the process of defining an indicator for alcohol and other drug-induced/related hospitalizations to provide better information on the burden of these events. Monthly conference calls allow Subcommittee members to discuss components of the indicator as well as the utility and benefits of such an indicator.

Substance Abuse Epidemiology Capacity Subcommittee

The Substance Abuse Epidemiology Capacity Subcommittee has drafted a questionnaire in conjunction with the National Association of State Alcohol/Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) to assess substance abuse epidemiology capacity by surveying state health departments and other substance abuse

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SUBCOMMITTEE

Alcohol

AOD Indicators

Epidemiology Capacity

Overdose

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agencies. This assessment is an expansion of the substance abuse epidemiology capacity questions asked in the 2009 Epidemiology Capacity Assessment and will be used to support advocacy and funding efforts to build capacity in substance abuse epidemiology.

Overdose Subcommittee

The Fatal Drug Overdose Subcommittee was formed in order to raise visibility of the topic of drug overdose deaths for CSTE members and to improve surveillance for fatal drug overdoses at the state level. The subcommittee has conducted a comparative analysis of heroin miscoding in select states and will be working with the Safe States Alliance to test recommendations outlined in the newly released ISW7 report on poisonings.

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