



Oregon Environmental Public Health Tracking

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Oregon Technical Advisory Group (OTAG)

Monday, April 13, 2009 9:00-11:00 am

Portland State Office Building, Conference Room 1A-80

Staff:

Jae Douglas	TATS Section Manager, EPHT Principal Investigator
Curtis Cude	EPHT Program Manager
Jenny Staab	EPHT Research Analyst
Marina Counter	EPHT Research Analyst
Nancy Goff,	EPHT Outreach and Education
Rebecca Chung,	EPHT Intern
Karen Worden,	EPHT Administrative Specialist
John Dougherty	EPHT Program Evaluation
Won Kim	DEQ Data Exchange Specialist

Meeting Attendees	
Dennis Ades	DEQ
Don Austin	OHSU
Anthony Barber	EPA
Kathryn Broderick	DHS
Michael Donchi	EPHT IT
Rodney Garland	DHS
Joyce Grant-Worley	DHS
Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis	OEC
Anna Harding	OSU PH
Rus Hargrave	DHS
Katrina Hedberg	DHS
Toby Harris	CLHO
Gregg Lande	DEQ
Rick Leiker	DHS
Richard Leman	DHS
Pete Mallord	DHS OIS
Gregg Pettit	DEQ
Catherine Riddell	DHS
Ken Rosenberg	DHS
Vivek Shandas	PSU
Nancy Stevens	Kaiser Permanente NW Region
Joanie Stevens-Schwenger	DEQ
Dave Stone	OSU
Susan Strohm	DHS OIS
Cate Wilcox	DHS
Jennifer Woodward	DHS

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Question & Answer Sessions

1. Technical Updates

GEORGE & LOLA **Curtis Cude**

Q: Epi question – Does the chart work better w/Lead count or percentages?

A: You can choose either or both. Table will give both, but graph only gives counts.

Q: Will you be able to display data so local counties can see their data as compared to statewide data?

A: You can look at one county at a time, or a state, but you cannot see them both at the same time.

Q: What is the target audience for the use of this site?

A: This part of the site is aimed more at public health students and people who are doing analytical work such as environmental health personnel, rather than the general public.

IRMA (map query application and indicator based report style map-centric application) **Marina Counter**

There are 120 indicators that EPHT will make queryable on the web by summer 2010.

Q: How did breast cancer rates in post menopausal women get selected? It's hard to see how environmental rates affect this.

A: EPHT has the information on the indicator page

Q: A suggestion was made the word “newborn” be added.

A: This is still in planning mock-up stages for the Birth Outcomes data page.

Q: Is radon on the screen for the future?

A: It is currently in discussion.

Q: Is the data based on Medicare population part of this?

A: No. Not at this time.

Q: Are links to EPHT programs in other states available?

A: Yes.

Comment: Birth defects indicators will be required in 2010. By that time, the only available information comes off of birth certificates. In the next six months CDC will cease funding states to get expanded birth data, including visible birth defects.

- Marina extended an invitation to those present to discuss these data issues and concerns at the regularly scheduled DUNC meeting on the 4th Wed. of every month @ 3pm

2. Outreach Update – Nancy Goff

Q: Can we get the organization level for web visit? Who are the users? Are they from the general public or are they state workers?

A: This data is not available at this point in time.

Q: In regard to website hit reports, are these a good indicator of the ease of use of the website? Can we inquire and develop a list of things we would find more useful for our purposes? Can they just send us the data so we can analyze it? Do most people get to this website by a Google search, or go directly to the website?

A: Google, Yahoo, and MSN have shown the most website hits coming in. Most hits coming in show 1 min. or less spent navigating the website. Perhaps there needs to be changes made to the branding. The specifications for the website do not accommodate the entrance to the portal from the front web page.

Q: Are people actually getting to the queriable data when they visit our website?

A: The web statistics show that most people enter and exit from the front page. It is possible that a subset of people are getting to GEORGE, but that would not be reflected in the web stats, since that is an external website.

Q: Can you do your own evaluation on the website visit data? Can you communicate with those who analyze this data and make requests for specifics that can show more of the information that EPHT needs to know?

A: We can talk to OIS about getting additional information in the reports.

3. Built Environment Indicators - Rebecca Chung

Q: There are varying degrees of some of the indicators, such as air quality and where it is being monitored and in what area. Does the amount of monitoring have to be adjusted so we can see the impact long term?

A: More of the monitoring is being done in urban areas, but wilderness, forested and rural areas are also being monitored. In addition to monitoring, we need modeling which gives us the ability to look at places where we do not have monitors, and allows us to look at data to be added to the system.

4. Climate change indicators and the CDC Indicator List - Jenny Staab

Q: Are you looking for indicators that are available statewide? Does BLM keep track of the wildfires?

A: One participant has data on wildfires that can be made available to EPHT (Gregg Lande of DEQ). What we do on our site is only partially determined by the CDC, and the remainder is up to us.

Master OTAG 4.13 Q&A Final doc. Changes from Curtis, Rebecca, Marina, Nancy and Jenny have been accepted. 5/13 kw

Q: Oregon State University (OSU) just hired the head of the Oregon Climate Research Institute. Climate change and Public Health is not up on this person's radar. Is Public Health going to make a connection with this person?

A: We have had some contact with this person to help figure out some of these indicators.

The invitation was extended to the OTAG group to attend the presentation scheduled for April 30 by the 3PO group with Michael Camen to be held at PSOB. The presentation will include indicators that are specific to this region and to the state of Oregon.

On the topic of Environmental Justice, it was stated that the census bureau puts out information to be accessed by income, and there are places where it might be possible to include this mean income by geographical area so that people can make those connections.