

Update on ICE International Inventory of Data Systems

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We are planning to develop an international directory of data systems that collect nationwide injury- and violence-related data. The inventory will include brief descriptions of the data system, types of injury data obtained, data sources, coding schemes (e.g., ICD, EHLASS, NOMESCO), a summary of data elements, and principal contacts and addresses for each system. This international inventory will be modeled after an *Inventory of Federal Data Systems in the United States for Injury Surveillance, Research and Prevention Activities*. This US report is scheduled to be released in May, 1996 by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC, Atlanta, GA.

Government and, in some cases, private organizations that oversee national data systems will be asked to participate in the inventory. The scope of the inventory will be determined after obtaining a comprehensive list of nationwide data systems and contact persons. Potential data systems include criminal justice, law enforcement, fire safety, road safety, home and leisure, labor/occupational, medical examiner/coroner, vital statistics, hospital discharge, ambulatory care clinics and emergency departments, emergency medical services, and ongoing and periodic health and risk factor surveys.

A letter will be mailed out to central health statistics offices and agencies in different countries asking them for names of data systems and contact persons that contain nationwide injury- and violence-related data. From the universal list of data systems obtained via this mail out, we will define selection criteria for data systems to be included in the inventory. Contact persons directly responsible for selected data systems will then be sent a letter asking them to complete a general Worksheet about their data system. Using data obtained from the completed Worksheets, a data base will be developed at CDC for use in developing an international inventory report.

A Worksheet has been designed to capture information about data collection/reporting methods, data sources, types of injury data obtained, and strengths and limitations of data for injury research and practice. This Worksheet is generic by design, allowing us to obtain inventory information from various types of data systems using a standardized instrument.

This inventory will potentially be useful to the international injury research and academic community, organizations and agencies that manage injury data systems, and injury control practitioners around the world.

We plan to complete and publish the inventory by September 1997.