

poster ABSTRACT



TITLE

Illinois EPHT Legislative Tracking Software

THEME

Disseminate Credible Information to Guide Policy, Practice and Other Actions to Improve the Nation's Health

KEYWORDS

legislative tracking

BACKGROUND

One of CDC's program requirements for EPHT participants was to examine existing state legislation and determine if additional legislation is needed. The division containing EPHT had no mechanism in place for monitoring current legislative proposals that might affect the tracking network.

OBJECTIVE(S)

To develop a multi-user tracking system for current legislative proposals that could also be maintained as an historical archive.

METHOD(S)

A Microsoft® Access database was created to contain bills introduced during a two-year legislative session. Related tables allow background information (for example, a list of legislators, categories of legislation, status options, reviewers, assigned divisions) to be maintained by clerical staff. They also use web links to enter the bills' summaries and full text. Links are created to the bill and fiscal reviews submitted by department staff.

RESULT(S)

The current legislative session just started in mid-January 2005 so the database has only a few entries at this point. However, it has already shown itself to be a time-saving and information-intensive project.

DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION(S)

This database should be able to be replicated by other EPHT states that do not already have a legislative tracking program. Responding to current legislative proposals is both time-consuming and time-critical. This program is helping Illinois EPHT to better manage both conditions. Since it often takes numerous attempts to pass public health legislation, we feel that this will also be invaluable as an archive to record efforts over time.

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