

Title: Developing an Online Health Outcome Report Generation System for Asthma in Wisconsin.

Keywords: Asthma, Hospitalization, Wisconsin, Healthy People 2010

Background: Improving the ability to provide relevant, timely data on asthma-related health outcomes is an important goal of Wisconsin's state asthma program. Wisconsin's Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program is a key partner for meeting the environmental and data enhancement goals of the state asthma plan.

Objectives: An online report generation system for asthma hospitalization data that can be customized on the basis of demographic, geographic and other parameters was developed. Key objectives to be met include:

- Pilot system for generating standard and customized reports and charts on asthma-related hospitalizations;
- Promote the system to stakeholders to assess progress toward state and federal goals on asthma-related health outcomes;
- Obtain feedback to guide development of an electronic system featuring integrated health outcome and environmental data for asthma;

Methods: Based on success with modules for other health outcomes, an online tool was created to present data on asthma hospitalization for the years 1990 – 2002. Primary data sources for this system were hospitalization data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and federal census data.

Results: SAS-based reports summarizing asthma hospitalization data can be designed, generated and retrieved based on county, age, sex, ethnicity, date, method of payment and other variables for 1990 – 2002. The system references how observed rates compare with goals from Healthy People 2010.

Conclusions: The online asthma hospitalization report generation system provides a valuable tool for stakeholders in the state's asthma and EPHT programs to evaluate their progress and identify segments of the population for which interventions are required to meet federal health goals.

Evaluation: Applicability of this system to meet the needs of stakeholders and the state's EPHT program will be characterized.

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