

Points Regarding the ABLES Data
CSTE Talk
June 5, 2006

Future Plans for ABLES:

- We are going to put up an interactive database screen for ABLES so that one will be able to view the collected data in the master database file in various ways. Would like for you all to consider what kinds of views of the data would be most beneficial to you. What ways you would like to be able to search the data; for example by State of Residence, by Elevated Blood Lead Levels, by Sex, by Race. Etc. Any other ideas you might have for an interactive database system would be greatly welcomed.

Please send in your ideas to Robert Roscoe with a copy to me (Janet Graydon) so that we can create the best system for all the states. This will be put on the ABLES topic page on the NIOSH Internet.

- Like other NIOSH programs we are going to do a coding exercise in the near future where we will give you several narrative descriptions for you to code the occupation and industry codes required by the ABLES program. (SIC 1987, 2002 NAICS, 2000 COC) We will try to make a short list as not to take up too much of your valuable time.

Would like to remind everyone that if they have any of the following changes to please contact me:

1. Name of ABLES contact
2. E-mail address
3. Mailing address
4. Phone Number
5. Links as shown on the State Site on the ABLES topic page
6. New publications to be added to the State Site on the ABLES topic page
7. Need to add or delete someone from the ABLES list
8. Problems with getting payments from CDC's Financial Management Office

I have several handouts if anyone would like a copy they are on the table by the doors for you to pick up on your way out:

- List of the ABLES State Contacts
- Spreadsheets of the NAICS, SIC, and COC codes with titles most used by the states in the calendar years of 2004 and 2005.

I would like to go over some points regarding coding of data:

- 1) End-of-Year file should be a complete calendar year (1/1 to 12/31/YYYY) of data containing updated records. End-of-Year (calendar year) annual data should be sent in as soon as can be done after the calendar year ends or notify me by e-mail to use the data already submitted quarterly so that the Federal National ABLES Report can be accomplished as soon as possible. Saying that as you can guess, I am still waiting on some states to send in their 2005 data file.
- 2) Although the deadline for getting the data submissions into ABLES is at the end of the next month on the four Tasks; the date shown is the latest we should receive it. We prefer to receive it as soon as you can send it in.
- 3) A unique ID is to be assigned to an individual with multiple BLL records, and is to remain the same for that individual all through the different calendar years as well as different database systems used.
- 4) Most variables are left justified, and the exception is the numeric variables. No leading zeroes should ever be used in the variables to fill up the length of the field. I noticed that some of the states are putting zeros in the ID variable to fill the length of the variable that is not necessary.
- 5) Importance now being placed on Age versus the DOB variable. Age is now a numeric variable that ABLES will convert the DOB to the Age. DOB variable should not contain dates which would convert to Ages of over 100 or more years old. If DOB is unknown, code it correctly by leaving DOB blank and coding AGE with a 999 do not code so that the person is over 100 years old.
- 6) The Status variable still giving some problems if you have questions give Bob or myself a phone call.
- 7) Codes made-up by the States for the SIC or COC variables should not be used, and are not allowed on data submissions to the ABLES program.
- 8) The column headings should be entered **exactly** as shown on the formatting page supplied with the agreement between NIOSH and the States. This enables the steps for an easier joining of all of the states data into a master database file.
- 9) ABLES now prefers that you code the 2002 NAICS variable instead of the 1987 SIC code variable, if you can.