



HIV Prevention: Maximizing Data Utilization Efforts in Planning and Decision Making

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Purpose

❖ CDC set expectations for local and state governments to decrease the number of new HIV infections each year and increase prevention efforts through strategic community planning. CDC's Community Planning Guidance requires planning bodies to carry out a logical, evidence-based process to ensure that the highest priorities are set.

❖As an ongoing effort to fulfill these expectations, the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP) collaborated with the local HIV Prevention Planning Committee (PPC) to make recommendations for setting priorities among target populations. These recommendations were followed through by identifying data for the comprehensive 2009-2013 HIV Prevention Plan.

❖Recognizing the critical role of community planning and data in prioritizing HIV prevention needs, a data summit was created to inform the HIV prevention planning process. The data summit is now an annual event designed to disseminate local surveillance, needs assessment, and program evaluation data.



Data Summit

From May to November 2008, the PPC, Commission on HIV (HIV care community planning body), epidemiologists, and other researchers on the Data Summit committee planned a half-day data summit event. The purpose was to inform participants of the different types of data sources available throughout Los Angeles County and discuss data utilization in priority setting and decision making.

Some of the topics discussed included 1) assessing and interpreting data, 2) using data in funding allocations, 3) increasing the reliability of data by comparing multiple data sets and finding similarities, also known as "triangulation," and 4) the importance of needs assessments.

The Los Angeles Coordinated HIV Needs Assessment (LACHNA) was selected as a focal point because it was Los Angeles County's first effort to examine both HIV prevention and care related needs through a single needs assessment process.

Background

The 2008 Data Summit was held at a community-based organization in Los Angeles. The goal was to present best practices in data utilization for priority setting. Participants were presented with information on where to find data, how to interpret the data, and how data can be used in funding and decision making.

The targeted audience included HIV prevention and care service providers of OAPP-funded agencies, and included grant writers, project directors, project managers, researchers, and executive directors.

Participants were also provided with handouts on how to request data from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and a list of available LACHNA statistical summaries.

Results

Figure 1

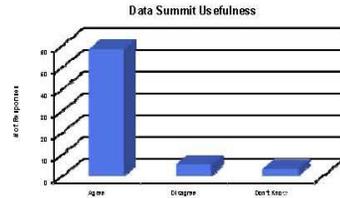


Figure 2

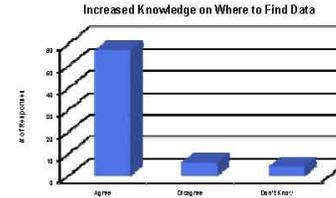


Figure 3

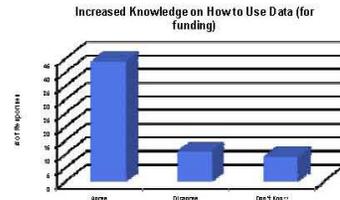


Figure 4

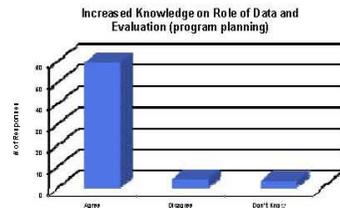


Figure 5



The following are results from the data summit evaluation:

- ❖86 participants attended the data summit
- ❖79% of participants (n=68) completed an evaluation form
- ❖The event was useful for prevention planning needs (87%, n=58)

Participants increased their knowledge of:

- ❖where to find data (85%, n=57)
- ❖how to utilize data for funding opportunities (69%, n=44)
- ❖the role of data and evaluation in program planning (89%, n=59)
- ❖LACHNA (97%, n=66)

Participants would have liked to receive more data on special populations, local surveillance summaries, and various data collection methods to assist with their needs assessment process.

Due to the various levels of expertise, some participants felt overwhelmed with the amount of information provided while others would have benefited from hands-on activities, panel discussions and mini workshops.



Discussion

The Data Summit was a successful event in informing participants of:

- ❖The various types of HIV data sources available throughout the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, such as LACHNA
- ❖How to interpret data
- ❖How to use data in program planning and priority setting
- ❖How to use data in funding opportunities



Lessons Learned

There is an abundance of data available for HIV prevention planning. Data summit events such as these should be an ongoing effort to ensure that data are disseminated and planning recommendations are carried out according to the Community Planning Guidance.

Future planning should include a full day event that allows participants ample time to absorb all the information given, and topics should vary in degrees of expertise to best suit the participants' needs.



Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the staff at OAPP, the Data Summit Workgroup members, and the Commission on HIV for their support and countless hours in planning this 2008 event. Also, many thanks to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center for assisting with the coordination of this data summit.

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