

Core Indicators Work Group Terms of Reference

Revised: February 13, 2007; December 18, 2009

Purpose

The purpose of the Core Indicators Work Group (CIWG) is: to ensure that the Core Indicators for Public Health in Ontario are accurate, up-to-date and reflect the Ontario Public Health Standards; to advocate for health unit access to good quality data in a timely manner; and to promote the use of the Core Indicators.

Responsibilities

- To manage the Core Indicators project and ensure that sufficient resources are available to achieve the purpose.
- To identify new areas for indicator development or revision and to strike corresponding sub-groups that will complete the work.
- To advise sub-groups and ad hoc groups on revising and/or creating indicators and resources.
- To work with various partners to improve data quality and facilitate public health unit access to good quality data for public health assessment and surveillance.
- To house information and resources on the Core Indicators website which is part of the website of the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO).
- To ensure that the Core Indicators website is maintained.
- To promote the usefulness of the website to Ontario public health epidemiologists and other health professionals.
- To encourage public health units, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion, and others to adopt the indicators as defined and to generate the indicators for their areas.

Definition of a Health Indicator

Health indicators are measures of the health of individuals and their communities. They reflect complex concepts in a concrete, clearly defined way using standardized definitions and methods.

Criteria for Selecting Health Indicators

- Applicable to outcomes and requirements from the Ontario Public Health Standards, including the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol
- Useful
- Meaningful
- Relevant to health status
- Applicable data available to all or most public health units
- Core indicator important to public health

Membership

CIWG members are from the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) and may include people from the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Statistics Canada and other organizations. Members from APHEO reflect different geographical areas in Ontario. Membership is on a volunteer basis. The Chair is designated by the Work Group members; the appointment is reviewed annually. The Work Group creates sub-groups for more in-depth work on specific issues or topics. Sub-group leads are members of the CIWG.

Meeting Frequency

The CIWG meets as required but at least quarterly. Meetings generally occur by teleconference. Decisions can also be made through e-mail correspondence.

Reporting

The CIWG is a sub-committee of APHEO. Status reports from the CIWG and each sub-group are submitted to the APHEO membership prior to each APHEO meeting.

Decision-Making

Decisions are made by consensus