



Association of Public Health
Epidemiologists in Ontario

APHEO-Core Indicators Project Survey Results

Presented by
Kim Bergeron, Consultant
December 5, 2008

Opportunity to Share Thoughts:

- 2 surveys were conducted between November 13, 2008 and November 24, 2008.
- 1 survey with **all** APHEO members and 1 survey with Core Indicators Project (**CIP**) Members/interested parties.

**Big thanks to all those who
participated!**

Purpose of Survey:

- To assess the extent to which APHEO members use the indicators and resources.
- To assess how the Core Indicators Project can be improved from a members perspective.

58 members completed the survey

57% full APHEO members

43% affiliate APHEO members

Number of years working in public health epidemiology:

2-5 years 31%

10+ years 22%

<2 years 16%

6-10 years 16%

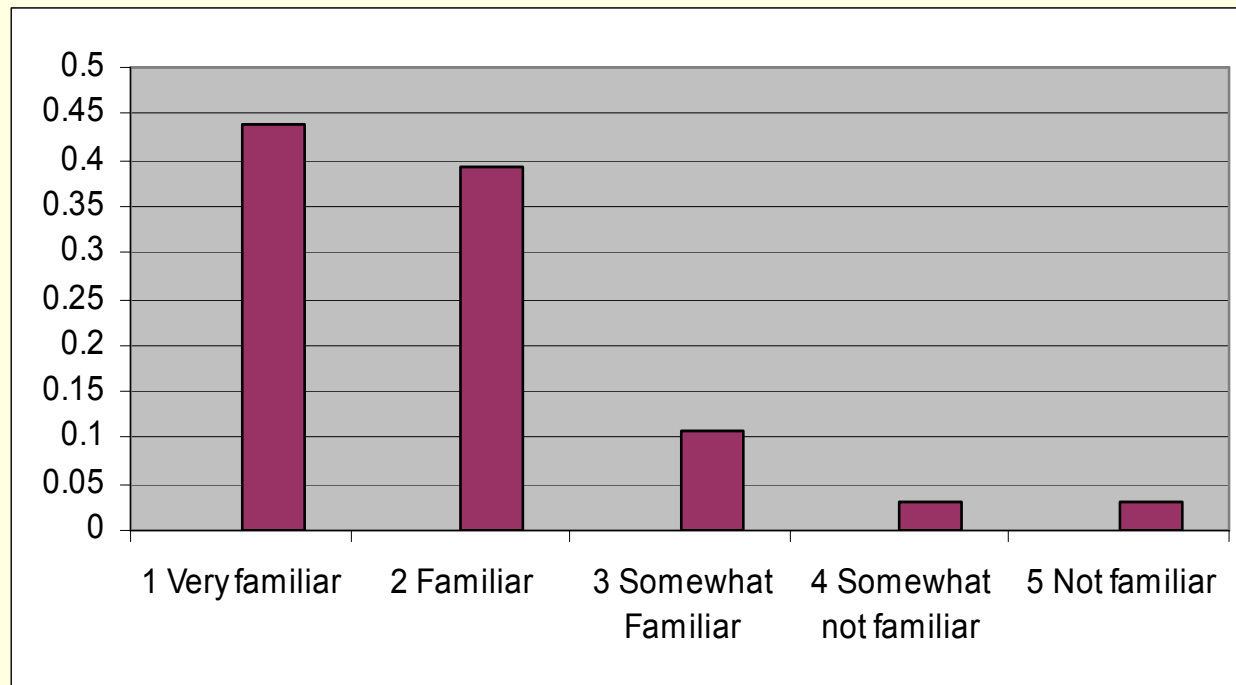
Not working in public health epidemiology 16%

Results:

How familiar are you with the Core Indicators for Public Health in Ontario project?

43% Very familiar

39% Somewhat Familiar



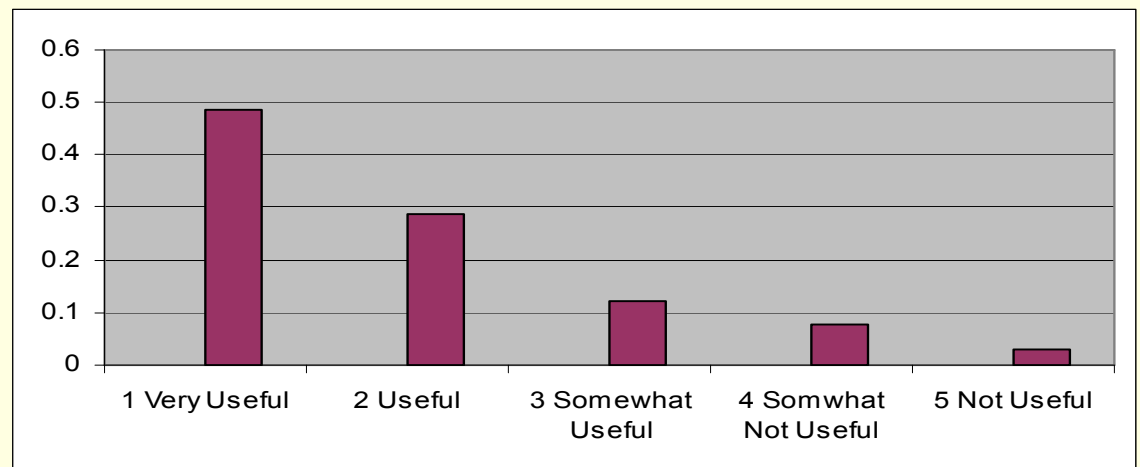
Usefulness:

How useful do you feel the Core Indicators for Public Health in Ontario are in general?

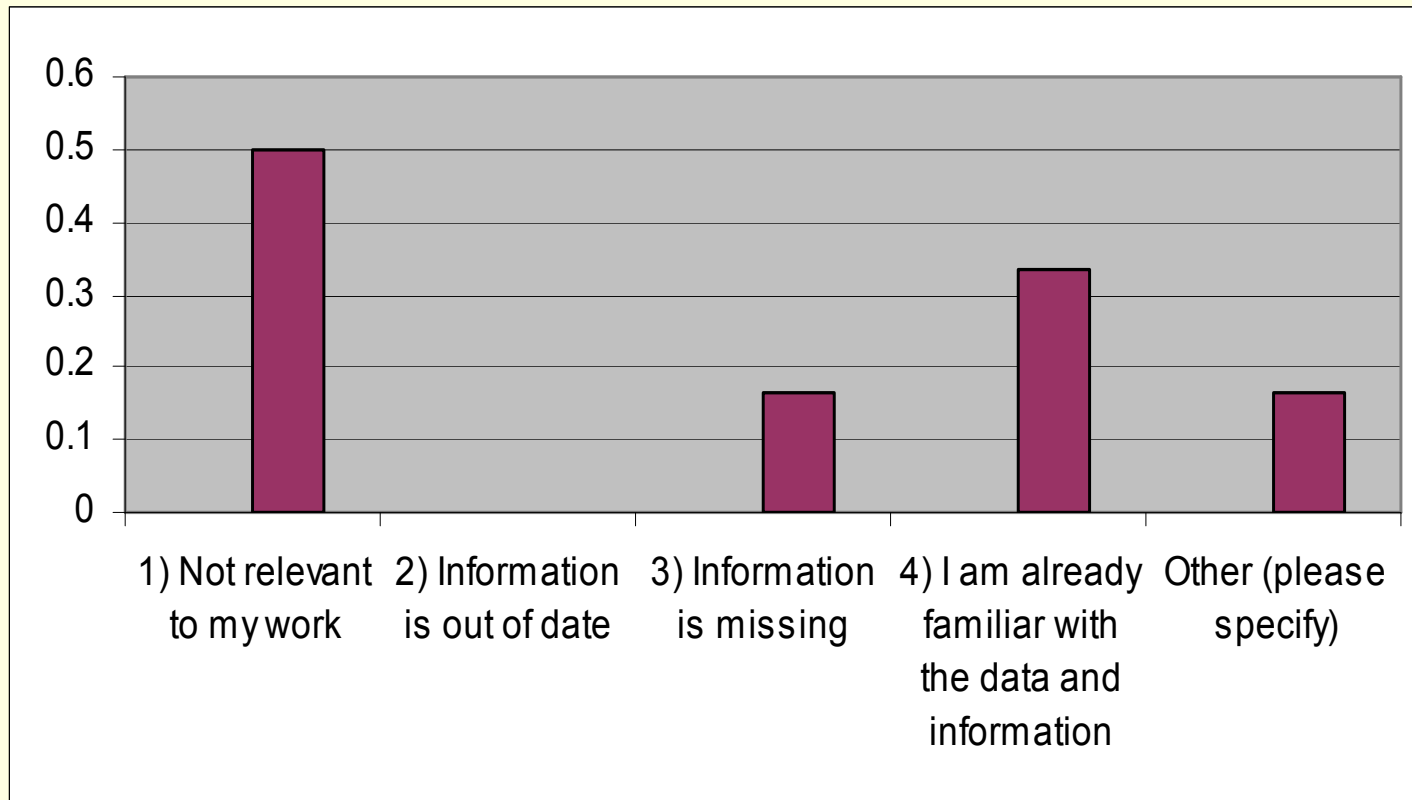
76% Very useful

18% Useful

How useful are the Core Indicators and the resources in your day-to-day work?




For Ratings of 4 or 5:




What makes them Useful?

- One-Stop Shop
- Increases Ability to Analyze Data
- Indicator Descriptions and Definitions
- Standard Way to Gathering and Reporting Information
- Helpful to those New to Epidemiology



“In my work, we often have to calculate indicators. It is very useful to have the agreed upon definitions from the APHEO project- someone has done all the work!”



Frequency of Use

Indicate how frequently you use the Core Indicators:

1) At least monthly	47.6%
2) Within the past year	42.9%
3) Less than annually	3.2%
4) Not at all	6.3%

Improvements:

- More resources: Human and Financial
- Update the Indicators
- Be more critical
- Collaborate with others
- Expand Indicators
- Recruit newer epidemiologists
- Market Project/Indicators

Indicators to Develop:

Many!

For example:

- Built environment
- Healthy Communities
- Geographic indicators
- Family Health
- Health inequality measures
- Environmental Health

Resources to Develop:

- Align with the OPHS
- Archive list serve discussion on indicators
- Interactive and downloadable pdf's
- Link with APHEO-Chronic Disease Risk Factor Matrix project
- Indicators and resources on Ministry of Transportation data

2nd Survey: CIP Members

Purpose:

- 1) Brainstorm ideas and kick-start the strategic direction process;
- 2) Allow people who will not be attending the session to provide input;
- 3) Understand the direction the Core Indicators Work Group and Sub-group members would like the Core Indicators project to take from now until 2011.

22 members completed the survey!

Importance:

- Quality and consistency of measurements across agencies including public health units.
- Central source for standardized indicators.
- Standard measurement for calculating indicators and data analysis.
- Fulfills the need for local health status information and allows epidemiologists to do their job better.

Prioritizing Indicators:

With a response rate of 54.5%, **physical environment was ranked as the greatest importance.**

Improving how new indicators are created:

- Conduct assessments/surveys
- Collaborate
- Annual review of all indicators
- Develop criteria
- Seek direction from the Ministry
- Develop a formal process

Improving how existing indicators are revised:

- More collaboration
- Dedicated staff
- Set a revision cycle
- Consider the needs of different health units
- Reorganize on the website

Ways to improve the website:

- Dedicated person
- Identify key indicators to be updated
- Better tracking system
- Easier navigation and search function
- Tools to aid in calculating the indicators
- Capture errors

New Resources to Pursue:

- Seek funding for project continuance from the Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Literature reviews of risk factors associated with the indicator;
- Align with OPHS;
- Situational assessment resource;
- Sharing the more complex syntax files to assist PHUs with data analysis;
- Surveillance resource “how to”; GIS;

New Content Areas:

- Mental health and well-being;
- Physical environment;
- Chronic disease prevention;
- Built environment;
- Child growth and development;
- Healthy pregnancies; preconception health;
- Positive parenting;
- Social determinants of health;

Challenges:

- Depends on "volunteer" time
- Work Group Issues: Reliance on the energy of key people
- Lack of Resources and Finances
- Lack of alignment with OPHS
- Revising indicators time consuming
- Field is changing rapidly, hard to keep up.
- Other competing indicators projects

Important activities and initiatives to accomplish by 2011:

Obtain resources

Collaborate

Identify Data Gaps

Other thoughts shared:

“This is such valuable work, and it is important to keep up the momentum that has been established.”

“Be realistic. Try to recruit more people to work on the project; especially new people. Some original members are approaching the burn-out stage.”

“This is a great grass roots project which, with a little bit of funding and support, could become an even greater resource in Ontario for health professionals.”