

Standardized Intake Form: The Barbados Experience from the Coordinator's Perspective



Laura Lee Foster, Research Assistant, The National Council on Substance Abuse

Background

- National Council on Substance Abuse is the local coordinating agency for the project
- Barbados was part of the 3 country pilot (2012-2013)
- Rejoined the project in 2015
- 3 treatment centres currently participating in the project:
 - Substance Abuse Foundation
 - Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives
 - Inmate Drug Rehabilitation & Counselling Programme at HMP Dodds



In-country Coordination

- Monthly contact made via email with the participating centres to check progress, answer questions, assess need for additional forms
- Additional contact made as needed
- Coordination generally going well
- Submission deadlines are being met i.e. treatment centres to NCSA, NCSA to CICAD)
- No major coordination issues to report at this time



Working with Epi-Info Software

- NCSA carries out data entry for all of the participating treatment centres
- Has improved over time
 - Adjustments to database and instructions for handling missing data have made the data entry process less problematic
- Data entry issues sometimes arise when treatment centres are not using the correct version of the form resulting in item and response option differences
 - Mainly an issue with the agency which does not rely on NCSA for the printing and collating of forms



Challenges Faced

- Operating on good-will, therefore treatment centres are not mandated to participate and meet deadlines
- Data currently collected does not reflect the full treatment picture for the island as all treatment centres are not participating at this time
- Ensuring that treatment centres are using the form consistently and correctly
- Ensuring that treatment centres are using the current version of the form
- Changes in personnel at the treatment centres



What is Needed?

- Get the Psychiatric Hospital on board
- MOU or another formalized agreement with participating centres
- Training/re-training of treatment centre staff re: current version of form to improve use
- Knowledge of how to analyze data within Epi-Info would be beneficial
 - This knowledge can facilitate use of the data within BARDIN reports



Dissemination & Use of the Information

- Information has not been used to date
 - Concerned about whether or not the form is being used consistently & correctly which can affect accuracy of the data
 - Overall data not complete as it does not include information from the ever important Psychiatric Hospital
- Hope to incorporate into the DIN in the future

