

RAPID POLICY ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE



Module II: Existing Data

Topic Areas:
(2) Epidemiology
*(3) Law Enforcement
Tools*

Epidemiology of HIV, Other Communicable Diseases, Injection Drug Use, and Law Enforcement Data

Topic Areas (2) and (3)

In this part of Module II of the RPAR, researchers gather and analyze

- Existing data on the spread of disease in the country and the community
- Existing data on the numbers of drug users and types of drugs used, and
- Existing data about crime and the operation of the criminal justice system.

Purpose

The information collected will provide a foundation upon which to build the remaining research of the RPAR. Data on HIV and other significant diseases is essential to assessing the severity of the health policy problem in the country. Criminal justice statistics are an important measure of crime, the extent of the country's reliance on incarceration, and the extent of drug use.

Process:

This tool includes the following three steps:

Step 1: Obtain data

Be sure that each table or other data item you find is clearly labeled as to source and time period covered.

As you collect data, compare what you find with the domains below to check how well you are doing. Do NOT stop just because you find one source of data covering a topic on the list, because different sources may have different statistics on the same disease or behavior.

We expect that most of the data sources you find will be in tables or contain tables. There is no need to re-enter the data or create new tables in most cases.

Reports and published epidemiological studies or reviews will often include analysis and discussion of the most important data and trends in the epidemic. Part of the work of this Module is to identify and summarize these expert assessments.

Step 2: Assign a number or other identifier to each data source or set of data and fill out the Data Evaluation Form for each one. Sometimes one source, such as a national AIDS center, will provide more than one set of data. Evaluate each set independently.

Step 3: Review the data and identify and list key findings on the Key Findings Form.

Step 1: Obtaining Data

Topic Area (2)

Epidemiology of Relevant Diseases

Characteristics of HIV Epidemic and Other Communicable Diseases

Domains: For each disease listed, try to obtain data covering the past ten years for

- the country
- the site city
- the region surrounding the site city

For each disease listed, collect:

1) Statistics:

- a) Prevalence rates and numbers (actual and / or estimated)
 - i) Overall, and
 - ii) By risk group or population, age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity
- b) Incidence rates and numbers where available or feasible (actual or estimated)
 - i) Overall, and
 - ii) By risk group or population, age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity

2) Analysis and discussion

- a) Identifying the most important data
- b) Summarizing any trends or important points identified in epidemiological reports or studies.

1.1 HIV/AIDS

1.2 TB

1.3 Hepatitis B

1.4 Hepatitis C

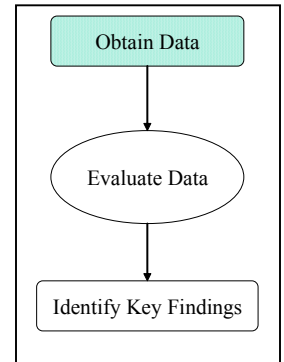
1.5 Syphilis

1.6 Other locally important STDs for which data are available

1.7 Statistics for any of these conditions in prisons or jails

1.8 Data on HIV drug resistance at the national, regional and site city level?

1.9 Data on TB drug resistance at the national, regional and site city level?



Epidemiology of Injection Drug Use

Characteristics of drug use

Domains: For each disease listed, try to obtain data covering the past ten years for

- the country
- the site city
- the region surrounding the site city

For each disease listed, collect:

- 1) Statistics:
 - a) Prevalence rates and numbers (actual and / or estimated), by:
 - i) Risk group or population
 - ii) Age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity
 - b) Incidence rates and numbers where available or feasible (actual or estimated)
 - i) By risk group or population
 - ii) Age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity
- 2) Analysis and discussion
 - a) Identifying the most important data
 - b) Summarizing any trends or important points identified in epidemiological reports or studies.

2.1 Heroin

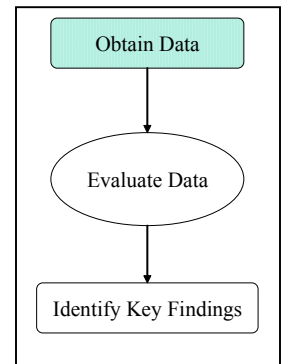
2.2 Home-made opiates (e.g., kompott)

2.3 Methamphetamine

2.4 Home-made methamphetamine (“e.g.. chemistry)

2.5 Cocaine and crack cocaine

2.6 Other locally important drugs such as (ecstasy, ketamine)



Step 2: Evaluate Data

Topic Area (2)

Assign a number or other identifier to the data source and fill out the Data Evaluation Form for each source.

For each source from which you have obtained data, and for distinct sets of data from a single source, use the Data Evaluation Form to record source, citation, and any important information about the reliability or availability of the information.

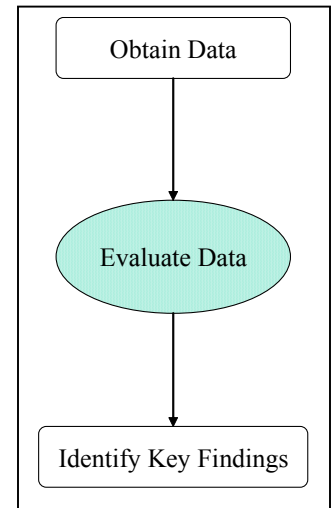
Complete citation - For all data, make sure you have a complete citation for the source. Then assign a number or other unique identifier to the source. This number will allow you to identify the source easily, and to refer to the source in other tables and forms. Record both citation and source on the data evaluation form.

A single source, may provide more than one relevant data set. For example, a national AIDS center may have data taken from a telephone survey on sexual behavior and also data taken from a registry of AIDS cases. In such cases, assign a different identifier to each data set and evaluate them separately.

In the box on disease or topic give a short description of the basic subject matter of the source. For example “Cumulative AIDS cases since 1995”.

In the box on limitations on validity, record any limitations on the validity or accuracy of the data of which you are aware. For example, if official sources estimate drug users using only those identified and registered with the state narcological institute, this would be important to note along with a comment that the actual number of (non-registered) drug users is likely to be much higher. “Non-registered users are not included in state estimate. Local treatment officials estimate 5-10 non-registered/each registered drug user in Kaliningrad.”

In the box on notes on access record any barriers to access you encountered. For example, “Arrest data were only available in paper files stored in basement of police station” or “It took 4 written requests to get permission to inspect data”. Or, conversely, note where data is publicly available in useable format. For example “On-line data available, search possible by year, type of crime, etc.”



Data Evaluation Form

| Source and Citation | Disease or topic | Limitations on validity | Notes on access |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
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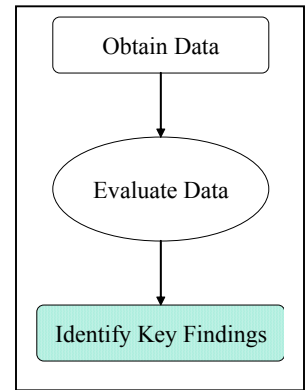
Step 3: Identify Key Findings

Topic Area (2)

Review the Data and Identify and List Key Findings on the Key Findings Form

At the end of each part of this module, we ask researchers to review the data they have collected to identify key findings. Researchers will have available the published statistics as well as the discussion and analysis in any published papers. The goal of this step is to identify the important information that can be used in the RPAR.

To identify key findings you should do several things. One is to note the important, relevant conclusions of the studies and reports you reviewed, these will usually appear in “Discussion” “Findings” “Conclusions” sections of the report. Not all findings or conclusions of all reports will be relevant to this project, but some may be. Additionally, you must look at the actual data for important findings. Some examples follow.



Important information to look for:

- Trends (changes over time) of the same disease or behavior in the same group. For example, are the numbers of cases of HIV (or AIDS, or TB, or hepatitis) among IDUs increasing or decreasing? Are the numbers of IDUs in treatment up, down, or remaining steady? Are arrests up or down for possession of heroin?
- Changes geographically. Are different parts of the city, region or country reporting disease (drug resistant TB) or behavior (methamphetamine use) that was previously rare?
- Changes among demographic groups. Has the distribution of new HIV cases appeared to shift from IDUs to sexual partners of IDUs? Are many new cases in the 15-24 year old age group?
- Absolute numbers can also be noteworthy, even if the numbers do not represent a trend or change. For example, are there focal points, age, ethnic, or risk groups where the epidemic is particularly severe?

The Key Findings form will be used to prepare your presentation for the CAB and as part of your action planning process.

Step 1: Obtaining Data

Topic Area (3)

Domains: For each disease listed, try to obtain data covering the past ten years for

- the country
- the site city
- the region surrounding the site city

For each crime listed, collect:

1) Statistics:

- a) Arrests
- b) Prosecutions
- c) Convictions
- d) Sentences

Where possible, collect data that breaks down statistics by gender, ethnicity, age or other demographic criteria.

2) Analysis and discussion

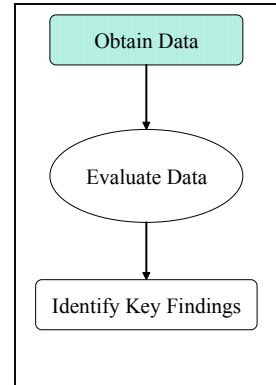
- a) Identifying the most important data
- b) Summarizing any trends or important points identified in criminological reports or studies.

1.0 Criminal law domains:

1.1 Violation of drug laws (possession, sale, manufacture, trafficking)

- By type of drug (e.g. arrest and conviction data for all crimes involving heroin)
- By type of crime (e.g. for criminal possession charges for all drugs*)
- Where possible include data on the drugs listed below
 - Heroin
 - Kompott
 - Other opiates
 - Methamphetamine
 - Other amphetamines
 - Cocaine and crack
 - Ecstasy and other club drugs
 - Other locally significant drugs
 - Drug trafficking patterns

1.2. Possession of syringes



- Alone
- In connection with other charges

1.3 Harm reduction activities

- Overall
- NEP operation
- Providing information
- Other

1.4 Sex work

- By gender?
- By other specifics (selling, buying, running a brothel, etc)

1.5 Homosexual identity or behavior

- By gender
- By particular behavior

2.0 Data on drug seizures:

- For each locally relevant drug: Are there data on purity or quantity of drugs seized?

3.0 Data on civil law suits:

- Are there data on numbers and outcomes of anti-discrimination claims brought by HIV+ persons?
- Are there data on numbers and outcomes of privacy claims brought by HIV+ persons?

4.0 Are there data on the structure, personnel and resources of the legal system?

- Numbers of police, prosecutors, judges, and salaries of each group
- Budgets, distribution of court houses and jails
- Backlog, if any of cases in the court system

5.0 Are there data on incarceration/

- The number of people held in pretrial detention?
- The average time in pretrial detention?
- The number of people held in jails and prisons
- The estimated capacity of jails and prisons
- Number of people on post-sentence supervision (parole)
- Number of people receiving alternatives to incarceration (probation, community service, mandatory drug treatment)

6.0 Are there data on the availability of private or publicly funded lawyers for people charged with crimes?

Step 2: Evaluate Data

Topic Area (3)

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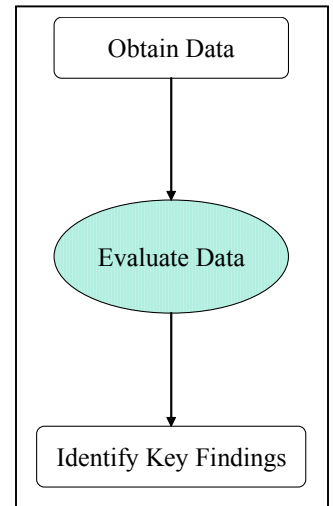
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See form in previous section.



Step 3: Identify Key Findings

Topic Area (3)

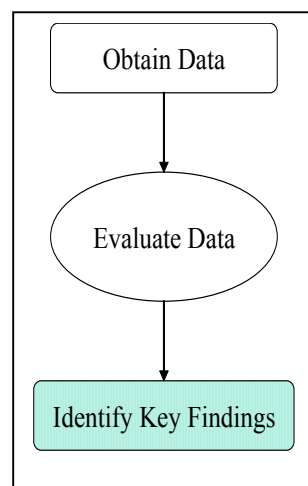
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