

Evaluation of the Cost of Smoking Workshop, Bangkok

Dec 14 – 15, 2003

Specific Aims of the workshop on “Estimating Costs of Tobacco Consumption”:

- To assess progress on the currently funded research project
- To help with the revisions of the research proposals submitted for the second round of funding
- To determine the common issues/problems facing the researchers in all countries
- To determine country specific issues/problems facing the researchers in their own country
- To provide technical assistance to both ongoing and future research projects
- To improve mentor protégé communications
- To brainstorm on possible approaches, methods to estimate cost of smoking given the existing data

Notes taken during the Workshop

Bangkok, Thailand

14 & 15 December, 2003

Expectations of Participants

- To improve research proposals
- Improve research
- Improve proposals in order to affect public policy
- Eliminate weaknesses of proposals
- Learn how to improve proposals
- Learn for my country
- Learn to improve ongoing projects and proposals
- Observe with an eye toward advocacy
- Improve research for use in advocacy
- Get feedback from international faculty and learn about data collection
- Common research methodologies among countries
- Get feedback on proposals
- Mutual help and skills sharing to help create TOOLKIT
- Not work alone
- Learn how to work within limits of data

Further Research Issues Identified on Day One

- MALAYSIA
 - Measurement of productivity loss
 - Data Collection (comparability with National data)

- Relative risk of selected diseases in Malaysia
- Selection of patient sample
- Estimation of tobacco tax revenue is not essential to project and could be open to misinterpretation
- Leave time for necessary ethical and human subjects approvals from individuals and hospitals
- VIETNAM
 - Restate AIM to include all potential tobacco control legislation, not just taxation
 - Need to measure SOCIAL costs for policy purposes
 - Need AVERAGE HOSPITAL BED DAY COSTS
 - Confirm intended sample size
 - Obtain health insurance data
 - Derivation of Attributable Fraction
 - Leave time for necessary ethical and human subjects approvals from individuals and hospitals

Impediments to Effective Communication

- Cross-cultural issue
 - Asian culture respect for teachers and experts
 - Don't want to bother them
 - Don't want to look disrespectful for lacking in knowledge
- Reluctance to admit lack of progress
- Procrastination
- Work not done yet
- Busy
- Want to wait until we have something to present
- Cambodian culture:
 - Need to know a person well and know that person cares before contacting expert or teacher
- Busy with other work, family, wife, etc.
- Problems with Yahoo e-groups?
- Need to formalize groups more
- No country coordinators any more
- Management and delegation issues: participants are not always the ones doing data collection, doing coding, running numbers, doing analysis

Proposed solutions

- Emphasize that all are welcome to call anyone in network
- Establish Listserv on UIC ITEN site
- Use e-mail to keep in touch frequently, even when little to report

Effectiveness of the Workshop

Evaluated by the participants at the end of the workshop on scale 1 (min) – 5 (max)

4.73

Own level of participation during the Workshop

Evaluated by the participants at the end of the workshop on scale 1 (min) – 5 (max)

3.73