

CHAPTER 5

1. SUMMARY OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING - 2004

This chapter provides information about practices of local public health agencies to inform mandated disease reporters about the state's communicable disease reporting rules. Information is also included to reveal agencies' uses of the state's electronic system (MOHSIS) that was developed for the purpose of collecting data on communicable disease cases.

Methods to Notify Disease Reporters: there are occasionally changes in the Code of State Regulations that mandate physicians, laboratories, hospitals, and others to report communicable diseases to state or local public health agencies. Addition of new diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or Varicella (Chickenpox) is an example of a change about which mandated reporters must be made aware. When changes occur in reporting rules, 95% of local public health agencies notify disease reporting facilities in their jurisdiction by sending a written advisory, 77% of agencies use redundant methods such as telephoning to explain what has changed, and 72% also send staff to visit and to discuss changes with disease reporters. Other methods including e-mail are employed by approximately 50% of agencies. (See Graph 9.5 & Data Table 9.5)

Use of MOHSIS System: 74% of local public health agencies use MOHSIS exclusively to enter disease case reports. Eighty-six percent (86%) of agencies obtain further benefit from the system by using MOHSIS reports to obtain communicable disease morbidity data used in their community health assessment. Over 60% of agencies rely on MOHSIS reports to ascertain the presence of certain conditions in their city or county, or to analyze disease trends. (See Graphs 9.6 & 9.6.5 and Data Tables 9.6 & 9.6.5)

Preferred Enhancement of MOHSIS System: More agencies (57%) would prefer to have enhancement in the notification components of the system than to have other potential system updates. Seventy-five percent (75%) of agencies would like to have sexually transmitted disease categories added to the system's inventory of disease. (See Graphs 9.7 & 9.8 and Data Tables 9.7 & 9.8)