Data Overview: Prevention Agenda Tracking Indicators - State Baselines and Targets

General Description

The New York State Prevention Agenda 2013-2017 serves as the blueprint for state and local community action to improve the health of New Yorkers and address health disparities. The Prevention Agenda establishes goals for each priority area and defines indicators to measure progress toward achieving these goals, including reductions in health disparities among racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups and persons with disabilities.

These are two of the three datasets related to the Prevention Agenda Tracking Indicators – state level data posted on this site. Each dataset consists of State Level Tracking Indicators that include the most recent data points, trend data and 2017 targets for numerous indicators for the five major Prevention Agenda areas: Chronic Disease, Health and Safe Environment, Healthy Women, Infants and Children, Mental Health and Substance Abuse and HIV, STDs, Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Healthcare Associated Infections.

Certain indicators include sub-indicators, which focus on the relative or absolute differences between groups for the given indicator. This is measured by the ratio or the difference. Such groupings include race, ethnicity, income level, age, health plans, and high-risk or vulnerable populations such as people with disability or poor mental health. An example is the indicator for premature deaths as a percentage of total deaths. Sub-indicators consist of ratios when comparing one race/ethnicity group to another, in order to measure health disparities among these groups. For premature deaths, the sub-indicators include *Ratio of Black non-Hispanics to White non-Hispanics* and *Ratio of Hispanics to White non-Hispanics*.

Data Collection Process

The Office of Public Health Practice analyzes the Vital Statistics data (i.e., death and birth records), and Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) inpatient and outpatient data to generate measures relating to the health tracking indicators. Furthermore, the Office also obtains aggregated data from various DOH programs such as the obesity related data from the New York State Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, HIV and STDs related data from the Bureau of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology and child preventive care data from the Office of Quality and Patient Safety.

Limitations in Data Use

This dataset consists of various types of indicators with different units of measurement such as rates per 10,000 population, percentages, and ratios. Therefore, comparison of data across indicators might not be valid.