Developing Inuit Research Capacity and Access to Statistics for Health Planning and Action

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The Project

- 2 ½ year development project (2008-2011) funded by the Aboriginal Health Transition Fund
- Six partner organizations:
  - Nunatsiavut Government
  - Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (delegated by Makivik Corporation)
  - Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
  - Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
  - Inuit Qaujisarvingat: The Inuit Knowledge Centre, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
  - Inuit Tuttarvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization

www.naasautit.ca or www.inuitknowledge.ca/naasautit
Objectives

- Contribute to the current state of knowledge of Inuit population health indicators

- Facilitate future Inuit population health research by improving access to the relevant research and statistics information

- Enable Inuit communities and organizations to make evidence-based decisions

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Some Project Highlights

- Training courses and on-the-job training for four health data analyst interns

*Introduction to Statistics training course
Aboriginal Statistics Training Program
Nain, Labrador*
Project Highlights

- Knowledgeable, engaged Management Group:
  - representative from each partner organization, good continuity
  - used consensus decision-making and respected different views
  - balanced regional and national interests
  - stayed focused on the goal

Management Group discussing the project evaluation
Project Highlights

- Developed an Inuit data organization tool, based on previous work by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

- Ten “domains” drawn from the determinants of health approach

- Focus is community health and wellness

- It provided the framework for the data
Developed an interactive graphing application and launched statistics directory on March 10, 2011

Features:
- Inuit-specific statistics
- Four Inuit regions, Inuit Nunangat, non-Nunangat and Inuit Canada data
- “Default” graph and table
- Can customize graph using selection menu
- Pop-up glossary, resource list
2011 and Beyond

- Established Naasautit as a permanent service of the Inuit Knowledge Centre

- Continued enhancement of the service to fill Inuit needs:
  - Additional Statistics Canada data
  - Other Inuit-specific data such as the Inuit Health Survey
  - Additional tools and resource materials

- Seeking funding for expansion
How Directory is Being Used

On-line User Survey and Web Stats – March 10 - May 10 2011

- One-half (57%) of users work for an Inuit organization; another quarter (26%) work for an Aboriginal organization

- At least 70% were highly satisfied or satisfied with: the gender specific information, age group breakdowns, cultural relevance and topics covered

- 44% are return visitors to the site

- Most users to date are from Southern Canada
Comments from Data Users

- “Excellent foundation upon which to add topics/data as they become available”
- “This is an excellent, easy to use and innovative site”
- Need to be able to compare to other Canadians
- “The regional and sub-regional breakdowns are very useful; but I imagine others would like more detailed information”
- Statistics to add: community surveys, health services utilization, more health info, workforce participation, climate change, Inuit culture, Inuit law
Preliminary External Evaluation Results

- Unique collaboration among the four regional and two national partners, as well as Statistics Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada.

- Significant contribution to knowledge of Inuit population health indicators; will facilitate future research by increasing access to Inuit-specific statistics.

- Short-term project will be sustained through willingness of Inuit Qaujisarvingat: The Inuit Knowledge Centre to manage the directory.

- Challenges included time needed to build relationships and trust, difficulties recruiting regional staff and software development problems.
Thank you!

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