

## July/August 2016 County Webinar Q & A Data Analysis and Business Continuity

1. **Question:** What is an age-adjusted rate?

**Answer:** Whenever a rate is discussed, it is important to know what is used to determine the rate. For instance, the **Crude Death Rate** is the number of deaths per 1,000 or 100,000 total population. An **adjusted rate** is used to compare relative risks among groups and over time. An example of an adjusted rate is an **age-adjusted rate** which controls for ages differences between populations or over time. However, adjusted rates should be viewed as relative indexes (useful for comparison, but limited value in itself) rather than as actual measures of mortality risk.

A useful source of information about calculating and using statistical measures is *The Data Difference – Data User’s Guide* available at <http://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/VitalStatistics/Pages/index.aspx>.

2. **Question:** Does OPHAT require counties to collect more information so it can be used?

**Answer:** No, OPHAT uses several data sources that are already available. The value of OPHAT is not unique information, but the advantage of having the data easily accessible by county, CCO or state level in a way that you get to decide what question to ask and how you want the resulting information broken out (total, by male and female, age groups, etc.). No additional data collection is required.

3. **Question:** Is there a way to report when the cause of death is suicide how many of those are under the influence of drugs or alcohol? (within OPHAT)

**Answer:** To clarify, suicide is a manner of death, not a cause of death when talking about standardized coding for cause of death. This will be important when looking for the information in OPHAT or in the Annual Report. Generally, whether the decedent was intoxicated is not directly reflected in the International Classification of Death (ICD) cause of death codes.

OPHAT allows users to do analyses by manner and intent. There’s a special menu for “Injury by Intent and Mechanism” that can be selected. It lists manners or mechanisms of death (ex. “cut/pierce”) by intent (“suicide”, “homicide”, “unintentional”, etc.). Within OPHAT there is an ICD-10 code (X65: Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol), and OPHAT does allow users to do analyses with individual ICD-10 codes. For any questions about how to find this information in OPHAT or to receive free training of

the system, contact Juanita Heimann at [Juanita.A.Heimann@state.or.us](mailto:Juanita.A.Heimann@state.or.us) or 971-673-1267.

Additionally, the Center for Health Statistics has table 6-33 on suicide, but that does not include whether the decedent was under any influence at the time of death. Sometimes other sources may have more information. For example, the PHD Injury and Violence Prevention Program has more data at <http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/SafeLiving/SuicidePrevention/Pages/sdata.aspx>).

4. **Question:** Where would I find a template for a Business Continuity Plan?

**Answer:** You can go to your local office of emergency management. We've received word from the preparedness staff at the State Office of Emergency Management that templates will be available soon on their website. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website also has free templates to download on their website, which can help get you started. It's located here: <https://www.fema.gov/planning-templates>.