Rape Crisis Network National Statistics Project:

Key Data Issues

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Overview of Presentation

1. Overview of Data Types

2. Categorising 'RCNI Data'

3. Advantages of Administrative Data

4. Weaknesses of Administrative Data

5. Principals of Administrative Database Creation and Integrity

6. Practices re Database Creation and Integrity

7. Dealing with Missing Data

8. Final Word: Reporting of administrative data

Types of Data

Quantitative

– **Census**

– **Surveys**

– **Administrative/
   Register- based
   Data**

Qualitative

– **Interviews**

– **Focus Groups**

– **Participant/Non-
   Participant
   Observation**

Key Features of Administrative Data (AD)

- The data originate from the 'activities of an organisation'
- Definitions and Variables driven by administrative purposes
- Organisation is responsible for data production: recording, checking/cleaning/editing, storing and using locally
- Further preparation of raw data for statistical purposes
- Analysis of raw data: Derived variables are created – example, 'Typology of Abuse' used in Report

Advantages of Administrative Data (AD)

- No further burden on Service Users
- Low cost compared to other data types
- Complete coverage [census] of population of SUs
- SUs respond carefully to important administrative questions
- Good possibilities for reporting for individual RCCs, small areas, regional statistics as well as national statistics
- Additional long term possibility of longitudinal data

Drawbacks of Administrative Data (AD)

- Cannot ask questions other than those occurring in normal 'work context' ->Helpline or Counselling;

- Dependent on administrative system's population and variable definitions

- Reporting of AD can be slow; time between reference period and when data available for statistical purposes can be long

- Changes and developments in administrative systems make comparisons difficult;

- Variables that are less important for administrative work can be of lower quality;

Key Principles of Administrative Database Integrity

- Clarity re <u>Purpose</u> and <u>Use</u> of individual information/data items
    - Example: Gender, Current Age, Age at Time of Abuse, Nationality, Social Class
- Precision and accuracy of recording in line with <u>Definitions:</u> RCNI database has advantage of inbuilt definitions,dropdown menus and filters to assist accurate and complete data input
- <u>Ethical considerations: re</u> confidentiality, data access and storage

Data Integrity: Good Practice Checklist

Data Integrity - Checklist:

1. **How** will data be input? **Who and When**?
2. Are data recording and related data tasks **CENTRAL TO** your Centre's goals [and the job descriptions of relevant personnel]?
3. Is Training, Support & Supervision **AN INTEGRAL PART OF YOUR CENTRE'S APPROACH TO** Data Recording, Data Preparation and Reporting of Local Data?
4. **What checks** will be used to find inconsistent responses, incomplete records, errors and missing data?
5. **When will checks be conducted** and will independent quality control be built into the process? If so, how will this operate? If not, what double checking is possible and practical?
6. Are there **additional checks** re **computer hardware and software**

Missing Data

- MD arise in at least 5 different ways:

  1. Refusal/No Answer
  2. Don't Know
  3. Processing Error
  4. Not Applicable
  5. No Data Available

- Most important to understand how MD arise
- BLANKS – what do they mean?
- Reporting missing data – two bases 1]. N=1,000 and 2.] N=400 because data missing for other 600. Ask yourself how representative are the 400 responses of the overall 1,000?
- Problem is that Blanks/MD may not be random but may be eliminating the most common but possibly problematic type of SU

Reporting

- **Mistakes in interpretation COSTLY- CHECK,CHECK,CHECK!**
- Example: Perpetrators -> Authority Figures -> Gardai?
- If something looks odd it probably is WRONG
- Media – looking for an angle, a shocking headline …10
- Worry that SAME OLD STORY will not capture attention and keep Sexual Violence on the political agenda
- Must be true to data = being true to RCC Service Users

- Reflect what data actually capture
  - RCC SUs: Sub-group of total in current population who 'ever experienced Sexual Violence'
  - Year on year analysis provides a Snapshot view of SUs of RCCs in that calendar year, it does NOT reflect incidence of SV in that year;
  - Cannot make general statements about SV – for example, comment on how nature of sexual violence has changed in society or whether incidence has increased/decreased