Overview: CSTE and Position Statements

NASTAD’s Prevention and Surveillance VLC

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About CSTE

• Founded in 1951, first convening of State and Territorial Epidemiologists at request of CDC
  • Purpose: to "consider nationwide problems of morbidity reporting"
  • Outcome: first *Nationally Notifiable Conditions List*

• 1950s-1990s: Council met annually to decide which diseases and conditions should be nationally notifiable

• 1992: CSTE National Office opened
  • Function expanded to include standardization of case definitions, reportable conditions
• Today:
  • Professional association for applied public health epidemiologists (3300+ members)
  • Policy setting by Council (59 member jurisdictions)
  • Capacity building organization (CBO) to support STLT health departments
  • Note: Original function continues through annual position statement process
    • 740+ position statements since 1980s
  • Position Statement Archive: https://www.cste.org/page/PositionStatements
Position Statements

To document and analyze policy and/or standardized surveillance issues affecting public health, that are of interest to CSTE members, and that could result in state/local law, rule, or regulation change(s).

Policy:
- Intended for issues that would require a vote by the Council.

Standardized Surveillance for Diseases or Conditions:
- Intended to standardize case definitions for diseases or conditions of importance that state and local health departments can adopt for daily surveillance activities.
  - Includes case ascertainment and case classification criteria
  - Can be solely for standardization or can also include a recommendation to add to the Nationally Notifiable Conditions (NNC) list.
• Annual, member-driven process
• Developed in CSTE subcommittee(s) or workgroup(s)
• Accepted into process by CSTE Program & Policy Committee
• Consensus building amongst all members and Council
• Process concludes with final approval at Annual Conference
  • Active (STLT) Members first vote to approve
  • Council final vote to approve and make CSTE policy
• Adoption may result in changes to STLT law, rule, or regulation