Minutes of Pathways Meeting 5/8/02

Present: Jean Schensul, Raul Pino, Bill Disch, Ed Stanek

Handouts:
- Reliability of recall information about historical paths of drug use by current users. (draft) Loureiro, Stanke, Sun, and Zou. (ptxx02d03.doc)
- Use logistic regression model to predict the effect of some risk factors on the agreement of responses of age at first drug use (Based on the 9-drug use categories). (Rrisk-factor-logistic.doc)

Summary of Discussion

A. The results on reliability of age self-reporting were discussed. It seems that these results are fairly straightforward, and should lead to a manuscript that can be submitted soon. Some changes were suggested for the manuscript.

1. Add a measure of average age at first use (and std) at each time period.
2. Use completed follow-up data (which contains 192 subjects). A copy of the data was provided.
3. Write the entire paper using study subjects that are black or Hispanic (using the ethnicv1 classification). There are not enough non-black, non-hispanics to form meaningful conclusions.

The paper should be completed soon with discussion.

B. Other possible papers on reliability were discussed. These possibilities should be listed and ranked. One possible paper is reliability of STD reporting. A concern over this is the wording of the questions (and ordering) which may have changed between the baseline and follow-up interview. Raul will check on that and report back to the group.

C. Path analyses: This was the main focus of the grant. Ed said that Oscar had additional ideas and was in progress on them. There is much interest in this. Upon discussion, we agreed to take out subjects for the analysis that had injected cocaine (e5k), injected heroin (e5m) or had used speedball (heroin and cocaine (e5n)). It was agreed that a formal summary of the ideas, and where everything stands regarding the implementation is needed soon. We hope to have that summary on May 20th, with the results presented (with Oscar and Ed) in Hartford.

D. Network paper: Based on initial test-retest pilot results, it seemed that there were ‘slots’ of types of people in an ego’s network. These slots (such as ‘brother’) were not occupied by the same person necessarily at recall, but the recall network had the same ‘slots’. It this really true with the follow-up data? This question is of great interest to
Jay. If such networks, characterized by different slot patterns, are stable over time, do different networks relate to different drug use? Scott had conducted some similar analyses using pilot data that will be helpful in formulating this analysis.

Network Analysis Futures: Jay suggested that Ed get manuscripts by Stan Wasserman on “Social Networks”.
http://kentucky.psych.uiuc.edu/pstar/index.html

Also, we should investigate Steve Borgatti’s web site (Borgatts@bc.edu).? (Jay, do you have a different link?) Ed