Minutes of Pathways Meeting 5/20/02

Present: Jean Schensul, Bill Disch, Ed Stanek Oscar Loureiro

Handouts:
• Strategies to Build a tree summarizing paths of Drug use, Loureiro (ptxx02d04.doc)
• Illustration of how to build a similarity-based tree, Loureiro (ptxx02d05.doc)

Summary of Discussion

A. We discussed the two basic strategies for building and summarizing trees. The strategies are given in the first handout and correspond to a similarity-based tree (with the idea that paths are ‘collapsed’ by clustering or pruning according to how similar they are relative to an outcome variable), and an information-based tree (where a set of paths with a set of notes is constructed that retains as much information as possible).

B. There are some problems with the similarity based trees- basically the problem is that different trees are constructed for each outcome.

C. For this reason, an information based strategy was to be first attempted. We will try to develop such a strategy for the next meeting.