

INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF ASTHMA AND ALLERGIES IN CHILDHOOD

Newsletter - June 1994

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The Newsletter

Thank you for your positive responses to the March newsletter. I would welcome any items for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please let me have these by August 4 1994.

• *Innes Asher*
Auckland

PS Please let me know if you do NOT want to receive the ISAAC Newsletter.

Excerpt II from "Organisation of ISAAC Study"

National Coordinators

The national coordinators are generally responsible for a single country. However, in some instances they may be responsible for several small neighbouring countries, particularly if these only have one participating centre and/or if no suitable national coordinators are available.

Responsibilities:

- recruit and register participating centres
- organise translation and production of the Phase I manual & questionnaires
- organise a national meeting of participating centres to coordinate implementation of Phase Ictd/

DON'T FORGET !!

ISAAC PHASE ONE 13-14 YEAR OLDS

A few reminders from the Western Pacific Regional ISAAC meeting:

- The written questionnaire must be administered before the video is shown.
- The wording of the new international video questionnaire is different to the first video questionnaire produced. Therefore it is very important that the administration of the video questionnaire is followed exactly as outlined in the Video Questionnaire Booklet, which has been provided with the new video.
- All investigators should follow the guidelines that have been developed for administration of the questionnaires [part of the Appendices to the Steering Committee Meeting, Geneva, October 3-4 1993]. Copies are available from your regional coordinator.
- *Richard Beasley*
Chairman, Phase One Implementation Subcommittee

Who receives this newsletter...

Representatives of all collaborating centres, all national and regional coordinators and steering committee members, as well as others who have supported ISAAC or expressed a keen interest in ISAAC. At our last tally the newsletter was sent to people in the following places:

WESTERN PACIFIC (22)

Australia Adelaide, Camperdown, Coorparoo, Liverpool, Parkville, Perth, Sydney, Woodville South, Woolangata
New Zealand Auckland, Christchurch, Hastings, Nelson, Wellington, Whakatane
Asia-Pacific China (Beijing, Canton) Hong Kong, Korea (Seoul), Taiwan (Taipei), Tonga (Nuku'alofa), Japan (Fukuoka)

EUROPE (65)

Austria Graz, Insbruck, Salzburg, Wien
Czechoslovakia Praha
Denmark Århus, Copenhagen
Finland Helsinki
France Eaubonne, Paris, Pessac, Marseille, Montpellier, Strasbourg, Villiejuif
Germany Augsburg, Badd Lippspringe, Berlin, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Freiburg, Großhansdorf, Hamburg, München, Münster, Potsdam
Georgia Tbilisi
Ireland Galway
Italy Bologna, Firenze, Milano, Pisa, Reggio Emilia, Rome, Siena, Torino, Verona
Netherlands Groningen, Maastricht, Rotterdam, Waddinxveen
Norway Oslo
Poland Kraków
Portugal Lissabon
Russia Moscow
Spain Barcelona, Bilboa, Cartagena, Castellón, Huelva, Pamplona, Vallencia, Valladolid

PHASE ONE DATA ENTRY

A brief explanation of the procedure for entering Phase One data follows and might be of use to some collaborating centres.

The stages of Phase One ISAAC include:

- (1) Field work
- (2) Data entry
- (3) Data checking
- (4) Formatting the data (for transfer)
- (5) Transmission of data to the IIDC.

The Coding and Data Transfer Manual has been written and distributed for "formatting the data" (4) and Transmitting the "data to the International ISAAC Data Centre (5).

A "data entry guide" (2) is being drafted in Auckland to be approved by the Data Coordination Subcommittee. Once approved it will be available for distribution. Those who enter the raw data might find this useful. Some centres may prefer to pay a professional data entry service, which could be the most efficient and cost effective method. Double entry is strongly recommended whichever way the data is entered.

Centres can enter and store the data in the most convenient way to them, an advantage being that extra information can be included which may be useful later. For example, we added a code to indicate which school term the survey was collected in, a code to indicate whether the child/parent completed the questionnaire on the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd visit, and a code for ethnic origin, as that is one of our interests.

We hope that the guide will clarify the position between "data entry" (2) and "data formatting" (4). Some centres might find it useful to use the ISAAC variable names and codes when entering data but this is entirely optional. Standardisation is only required when the data is sent to the IIDC.

For those centres where there is no data entry expertise, a program is being developed to enable full screen data input of the questions in the ISAAC manual. The program uses EpiInfo and will be available for distribution from the IIDC in July.

• *Tadd Clayton* • *Alistair Stewart*
 Data Manager *Biostatistician*
 IIDC (ISAAC International Data Centre)
 AUCKLAND

Did you know that...

ISAAC is not a unique acronym. Professor Eugene Weinberg from the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Cape Town, South Africa, has discovered that there is another group known as "ISAAC: Integrated System Architecture for Advanced Primary Care", coordinated by Dr Rosangela Frassine in France.