**Dissemination meeting with PHAC**

**2017-12-07**

Attendees: PHAC (Surveillance Systems and Data Management): Jean-Francois Godin- Chief, Peter Walsh- Senior Analyst, Hongbo Liang- Epidemiologist; HC (BFSSI): Isabelle Massarelli- Chief, Food Surveillance Integration Division, Julie Ennis- Project Coordinator

-PHAC team provided an overview of the different tools that they are using for data visualization and dissemination and some historical context for how this was developed.

* Presently, their tools are all posted on the [Infobase](https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-en.html) website which has been around for ~10 years. Infobase is hosted through their own server which has allowed them to avoid dealing with Communications and Shared Services when updating the site or adding new data (they retain administrator rights of the page).
  + When initially posting Infobase they had to get communications approval
  + They are able to avoid working with communications on a regular basis by not doing any interpretation and just presenting the data and stating the facts.
* They will be moving from their current server (Onyx) which is on a rental agreement to an Azure cloud-based server.
* Since the Infobase is housed on their own server it does not have a Canada.ca URL; however, it has been integrated into the Canada.ca website.
* They are positioning Infobase like an “application” or a suite of applications and the various apps include Data Tools, Indicators and Data Lab.
* After hearing the description of the CCHS Nutrient Intake data, the PHAC team suggested that this is most similar to the [Health Inequalities Data Tool](https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/health-inequalities/). The Health Inequalities tool was developed using a combination of DOT Net and D3 programs. (older pages were also built using PowerPlay Studio from Cognos, Microsoft SQL server)
* Tools need to follow compliance rules for the visually impaired and should aim to meet the Treasury Board’s web experience requirements. There are sources where you can submit a site to make sure that it meets certain accessibility standards (tablet, iphone etc). It also has to be bilingual. Add features to share the page on Twitter, Facebook etc.
* Track the use/activity of their site with Google Analytics
* They also showed some data visualization tools that STC has developed: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm>
  + Note from Julie: Focus on Geography Series is interesting. Could consider developing a “Focus on Nutrition Series”. The drop down menu at the top could include each nutrient and the different figures displayed could include intakes by DRI groups (or % > or < relevant DRIs) and major food sources contributing to intakes. It doesn’t look like there is an option to export the data.

-Current situation at BFSSI:

* We are interested in developing tools for data visualization similar to those found on Infobase and are seeking advice regarding the steps required to get this started.
* HC has access to cloud service (Microsoft Azure) through IMSD.
* We have a member of our bureau who has experience and skills for tool development using D3 and he will have two more staff in the new FY to support this type of work

-Options discussed were for HC (BFSSI) to fully develop our own page on our own servers and post our tools on there or we build the tools and post on the Infobase.

* Re: posting on Infobase. Pro: benefit from the background work that PHAC has put in to develop the site and avoid lengthy process of working with Shared Services and Communications; good short term solution until HC has the same kind of website with servers. Con: we are dependent on PHAC

-Future discussions:

* cost of posting on Infobase- would the only cost be to help share the cost of the server? (PHAC unsure of what the cost will be once they are on the cloud… they currently pay $50K annually through Onyx; however, they expect cost will be lower through a cloud-based server).
* specific format in which the raw data have to be presented
* security consideration, etc.
* 2 questions we need to answer: who do we want to reach? And what information do we want them to reach/access?