DDATA staff recently met with two sub-committees—the Data In Subcommittee and the Data Out Subcommittee—to identify areas of interest for analysis and increased data collection (Data In) and to identify target populations and the types of data products which would be appropriate and helpful to provide them.

Areas of interest for data collection and analysis included the NOMs measures of past 30 day use, perceived risk, parental, peer and self-disapproval of use, and age of onset. Also mentioned were juvenile and adult arrests related to alcohol and to drugs, Emergency Room visits relating to alcohol and to drugs, DUls and sexual risk behaviors. Most of this data has been collected in the past and will continue to be collected. One group that was mentioned for which there is little data is the elderly and DDATA will investigate the possibility of obtaining current data from that sub-population.

The sub-committees really functioned as one sub-committee as their meetings were contiguous and when the first meeting “ended” and the second meeting began, no one from the first group left, which significantly increased the input provided by the Data Out Subcommittee. The group identified a set number of data products to be produced by DDATA, to include the annual Epidemiological Report, an annual DDATAbook to track specific indicators, monthly DDATAgrams illustrating and explaining a single point or analysis relating to alcohol or drug abuse, monthly fact sheets to be used to generate conversations about drug and alcohol use among youth, an annual updating of the “Sophia Slides” to include either an audio track or notes to explain the slides, ongoing website postings and special reports, presentations and trainings as needed. A table has been developed according to the direction of the Sub-committees and is included below. The table will also establish timing for the publications and will require the establishment of extensive contact lists for dissemination—groups named by the committee to receive specific data products include legislators, cabinet Secretaries and their Division Directors, colleges and universities, School Superintendents and Principals (public, private and parochial), heads of both community-based and faith-based organizations, community coalitions and prevention professionals, various levels of law enforcement, physicians and psychologists, the Youth Division of the Mayor’s Office of the City of Wilmington, and the media. Through these pathways, the DDATA Out Subcommittee believes the information will reach the public with consistent messages.