

## Past, present and future of NCD- PH and surveillance (Behind the fifth conference)

This presentation focuses on the need to develop political, management, and technical strategies to increase the performance and sustainability of the surveillance systems. The past and present limitations to achieve the surveillance systems objectives are nowadays well known, however the actions that have had success to solve it are limited; therefore some problems have broken out again and others have emerged. The boarding of this topic includes conceptual, political, technical, ethical and financial aspects which interact within each other causing synergies that influence the surveillance practice and the use of its results. For instance it refers to the influence which, in the practice, the concepts have over the risk factors surveillance. The accepted definition of surveillance makes us believe that its principal objective and therefore emphasis as well, is the data production that give an account of the presence and distribution of the study events, instead of producing information to modify those events. The difference between both prior emphasis, is that the surveillance over being a goal is also a mean to formulate politics and programs to prevent and control health problems and create favorable health conditions. In this sense the question to be asked is: What is the information that has to be produced and what are the negotiations that have to be done to achieve this objective? The surveillance scope as a method, process and strategy of public health are analyzed and concrete examples are offered of the differences of these focuses in the practice. The author justifies why the surveillance systems have to be seen as a Public Health Strategy, signifying with it the application of methods, processes and abilities of negotiation with the purpose of: position the surveillance in the political agenda; use the results of the surveillance to control and prevent the supervised events; create conditions that promote health; and the systems sustainable. In relation to the type of information required to make decisions, cases come up in which other sources of information are articulated to the results of surveillance to, in addition to prevalence's and tendencies of the risk factors, point out the influence that the economical and social conditions exert in a differential manner in accordance with the distribution of these determinants in the population. This way the decision maker has the capacity not only to know

and quantify the problem but also to understand it characterizing the context in which the events are produced and therefore the context that has to interfere to change them, as well as the resources available to do it. Finally, through recent examples we show five successful actions to achieve positioning the surveillance conceived as strategy in public health, in the public agenda and to make it sustainable:

Information production to identify, quantify and understand the context in which the risk factors are produced.

Articulation of the results of surveillance systems to other public health functions: planning and evaluation of politics and programs in SP.

Responding to countries particularities: documenting and adjusting the system in a participative process of successive approximations (sensitive and flexible)

Incorporating the surveillance system to health management, not as vertical program, (sharing resources and structures)

Negotiation to use surveillance results: It is an intermediate goal (information production) tied to a major goal (actions to reduce presentable diseases NCD)

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