Caribbean Public Health Agency

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health
Data Quality, Timeliness & Decision Making:

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Timely, Quality Data.....

.......Why is this important ???

High quality data effectively satisfies its intended use in decision making and planning
POOR DATA QUALITY COSTS

To American businesses:
Six Hundred Billion Dollars Annually
Source: the Data Warehousing Institute, USA

To public health, it may lead to

- Ill health
- Temporary/permanent loss of quality of life
- Ultimately, premature loss of life
- Poor planning and budgeting

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How does poor data quality affect you

• May miss a potential public health problem
• Inaccurate description/picture of a public health problem
• Unable to share data as agreed to by the government in international forums or for donor agreements
• Regional data is affected by the absence of country data
• Insufficient data to substantiate certain donor funding
Syndromic Surveillance

Primarily for early detection of outbreaks

Every week

- Wed: Country data submitted
- Thurs: Data entered into database
- Fri: Surveillance Team meets
- Mon: Report sent to country

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Syndromic Surveillance

- Wed: Country data submitted
- Thurs: Data entered into database
- Fri: Surveillance Team meets
- Mon: Report sent to country

Data after Thursday are not included

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Syndromic Surveillance

- **Mon**:
  - Report sent to country

- **Wed**:
  - Country data submitted

- **Thurs**:
  - Data entered into database

- **Fri**:
  - Surveillance Team meets

Partial or data with errors are analysed
Syndromic Surveillance

At the Team meeting

- We look for aberrations in the data using thresholds calculated on the previous 12 months of data.
Over 30% of reports are late every week.
Four Weekly Surveillance

Well done!

- Age group categorized
- Tallies across much improved
- Data entered on the correct disease line

Some work is needed

- Timeliness
- Updates need to be detailed
Percentage of Four Weekly Reports Submitted on Time by CMS, 2013

- 1-4: 40.0%
- 9-12: 20.0%
- 17-20: 30.0%
- 25-28: 60.0%
- 33-36: 20.0%
- 41-44: 10.0%
- 49-52: 5.0%

Over 55% of reports late
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Need to send the revised figures on the ‘Amendments page’
### Four Weekly - Amendments page

#### AMENDMENTS FOR PREVIOUS FOUR WEEK PERIODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four Week Period</th>
<th>Disease (Please list)</th>
<th>Laboratory Confirmed cases</th>
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This will be further discussed in the Session on revision of forms.

**Enter the final totals for the period**

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The table above shows the amendments for previous four week periods. The data includes laboratory confirmed cases categorized by age and gender. The disease listed is Dengue with the specified counts for each category.
HIV/AIDS/STI

YEARLY…Long time to collect this data

Data still submitted very late

WHY?

• STI - 12 countries
• AIDS - 6 countries
• HIV - 5 countries
Of those submitted, many indicators were missing.

This will be further discussed in the NCD group session.
Annual Totals

- Annual totals on what was collected during the year are returned to member states for validation
  - Long process
  - Necessary to sync our database with those of member states

- Validations show disparities between CARPHA and member states’ data
  - *Remember*, CARPHA’s data is shared with the public, inclusive of the non-validated
In-country Challenges

We KNOW

• You depend on the cooperation of other departments

• Departments are challenged with financial and human resources.

• The process is manpower-intensive.

So…….
Communicate the issues to us

» Call us
» Email us
» Return our phone calls

We can advocate and work with you towards a solution

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We seem to flee from our challenges

Let’s work together!

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Questions

• **Appropriate Amount of Data**: Are we asking for too much data? Or for data that is not readily available?

• **Timeliness**: What is affecting timeliness? Frequency of some reports, is it unreasonable given the in-country resources?

• **Value-Added**: Are these data requests in-line with in-country requirements or is it just for CARPHA
CARPHA Thanks You

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