

Accelerating Implementation of the 2007 Port of Spain Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)

SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING

The 2007 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Summit produced the landmark Port of Spain Declaration on NCDs. An evaluation of successes and challenges in implementing the Declaration's commitments has been undertaken.ⁱ This fact sheet highlights evaluation results, the current situation and how we can accelerate action.

2007 NCD Declaration mandates: Establish programmes necessary for research and surveillance of NCD risk factors

Where we are

- There are 21 different and overlapping NCD reports required by regional and international bodies.
- It is clearly a challenge to respond to these monitoring and surveillance demands, especially in the smallest countries.
- Some key surveillance activities need better support and capacity building to ensure that the countries make full use of the data collected.
- Data are not always shared between national and regional organisations.
- Despite these limitations, the Caribbean has made significant contributions to the global NCD agenda, including in the areas of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation and the development of a minimum data set.

The way forward

Goal: to improve and streamline surveillance and monitoring so that these tools play a key role in an enhanced national and regional response to NCDs.

Policies and plans

- Collaborate and consult with international organisations to reduce/streamline reporting demands. We could conduct Global Youth Tobacco and Global School Health Surveys at the same time, for example.
- Revise the Port of Spain reporting grid, including definitions of indicators. Pilot and introduce in 2016.
- Improve data collection and analysis to guide policy development and evaluation.
- National data audits and sharing of data across sectors for UN NCD global monitoring requirements and Sustainable Development Goals should be authorised.
- Standardise data collection to facilitate WHO global NCD monitoring and reporting.
- Review WHO baseline estimates; establish nine country-specific voluntary NCD Global Monitoring Framework targets (and interim targets) to achieve outcomes for 2025.
- Implement national disease registries to monitor incidence, case fatality and complications.
- A strategic alignment can be pursued with Pacific Islands and other Small Island Developing States to include environmental NCD indicators.

Supporting activities

- Regional organisations should continue to enhance capacity building in reporting indicators.
- Country epidemiologists should receive support and training so that locally-collected data, such as from STEPS surveys, can be locally analysed.
- Enhance surveillance of clinical quality of care, audit alignment with Treatment Guidelines.
- The NCD response of regional bodies should be monitored, including number of staff and budget.

We are making progress

An example: The Barbados National Registry



The Barbados National Registry (BNR) for NCDs is unique in the Caribbean as the region's only active, population-based, multi-disease registry. This surveillance system consists of three registries for stroke, heart attacks and cancer which provide statistics on incidence, mortality and survival rates for the entire population.

Conducted by the Chronic Disease Research Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Health, the Registry is a key resource in the NCD response both in Barbados and across the region and is used to monitor trends, and inform clinical practice, epidemiological research and health policy. For example, BNR data was instrumental in the decision to establish a Stroke Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and will help evaluate the impact of the new unit on stroke mortality. This is one example of the BNR team's timely and accurate collection of data contributing to the prevention, control and treatment of NCDs in Barbados. The high-quality database, with its regular reporting, can also estimate future disease impact and investigate interventions and preventative measures, showing what works. And what does not.

For more information go to: <http://www.bnr.org.bb/cms/>

Visit our website at www.onecaribbeanhealth.org for full Evidence Briefs from the evaluation, recommendations for accelerating action and much more on NCDs.

