



Pan American Health Organization

Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

<http://www.paho.org>

**Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an
Integrated Approach to the Prevention
and Control of Chronic Diseases—**

Line of Action: Surveillance

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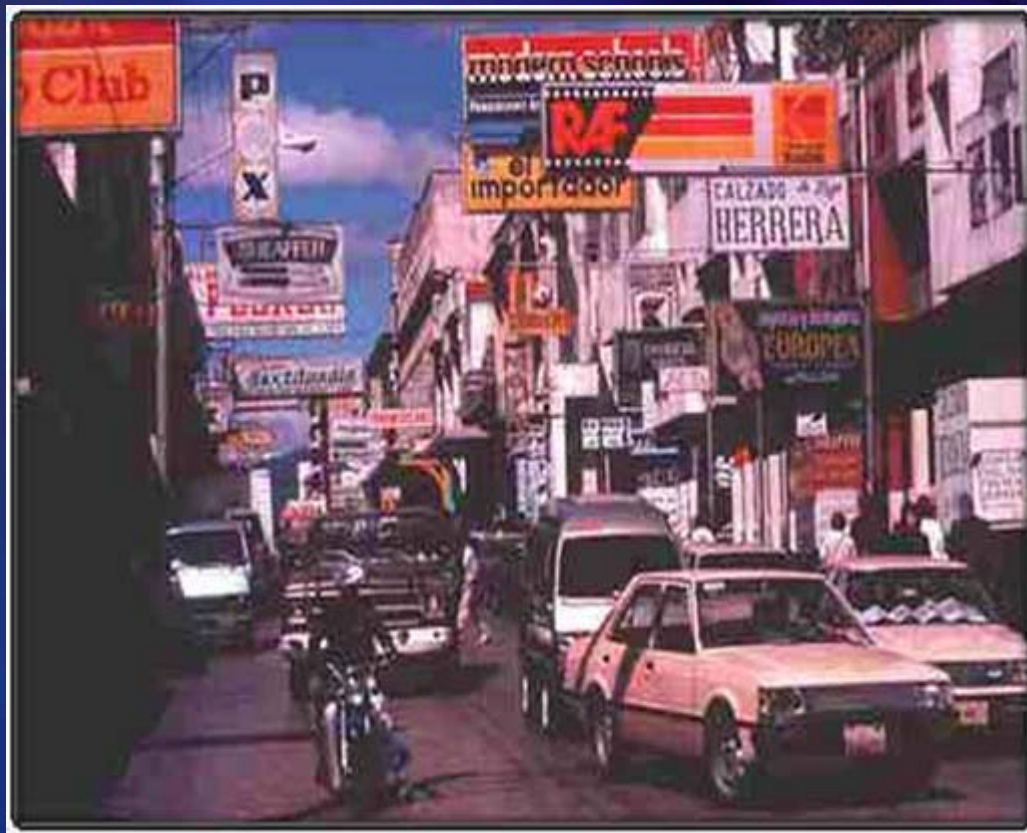
The Need for a Public Health Response to Chronic Diseases

“The total number of people dying from chronic diseases is double that of all infectious diseases (including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria), maternal and perinatal conditions, and nutritionally deficiencies combined.”

*Source: World Health Organization.
Preventing Chronic Diseases: a vital investment. Geneva: 2005.*

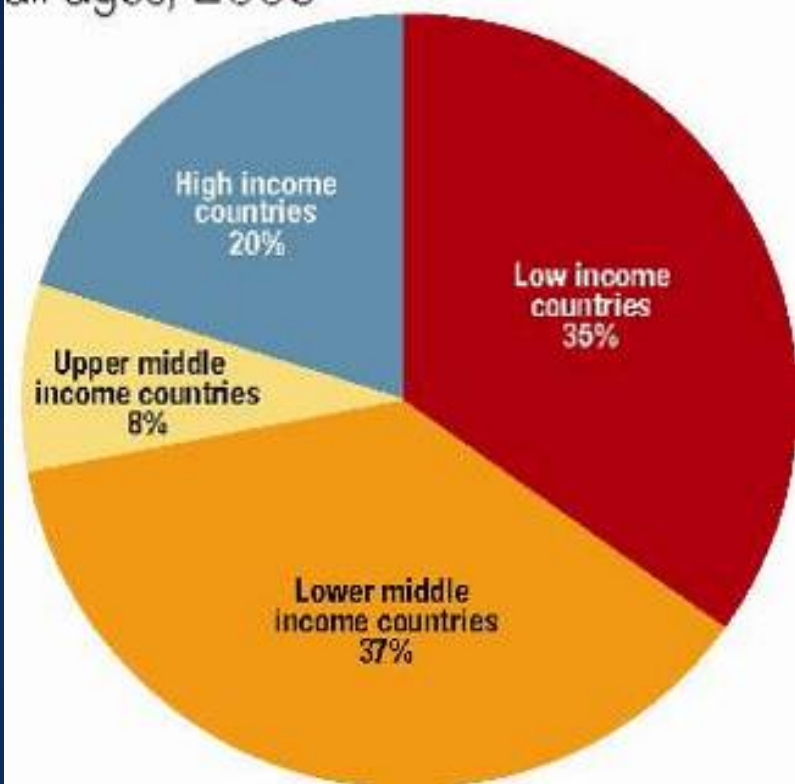
The Growing Epidemic of Chronic Diseases, Driving Factors and What They Contributed to:

- *Driving factors*
 - Urbanization
 - Globalization
 - Technology
 - Aging
- Behavioral risk factors
 - Unhealthy diet
 - Physical inactivity
 - Tobacco and alcohol use
- *Social and economic burden*
- *Disproportionate burden of chronic diseases on the poor*

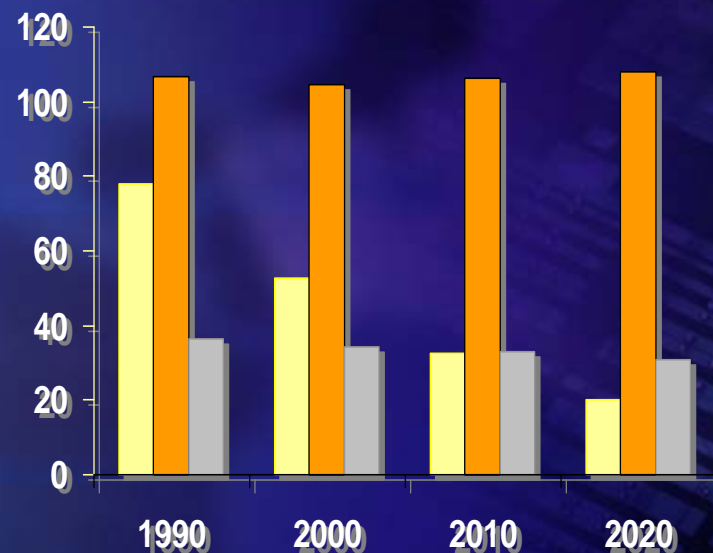


The Threat is Growing ...

Projected global distribution of chronic disease deaths
by World Bank income group, all ages, 2005



■ Communicable Diseases, Malnutrition & Reproductive Health
■ NCD
■ Injuries



Estimated Trends in Disability-Adjusted Life Years by Cause in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990–2020



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Major Chronic Diseases and Their Risk Factors

- Hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases
- Cancers
- Diabetes
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Injuries and violence
- Mental health disorders
- Risk factors of unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco, and alcohol use



Countries' Capacity

- Lack of integrated action on chronic diseases
- Countries still lacking tobacco-control or food and nutrition legislation as part of the prevention and control of chronic diseases
- Few countries have assigned resources to NCD prevention and control

Source: WHO Survey on Country NCD Capacity (Unpublished document, 2005).

PAHO CNCD Framework

- 2002 “Public Health Response to Chronic Diseases” was accepted at the 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference as a position document.
- **2006 *Regional Strategy and Plan of Action***
 - Integrated Approach**
 - Common risk factors - Life course perspective
 - Comprehensive approach - Multisectoral
 - Multilevel that includes promotion, prevention and control

Goal: To prevent and reduce the burden of chronic diseases and related risk factors in the Americas.

Lines of Action

- Public Policy and Advocacy
- Surveillance
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Integrated Management of Chronic Diseases and Their Risk Factors

Public Policy and Advocacy

Outcome Goal

To ensure and promote the development and implementation of effective, public policies on chronic disease, their risk factors and determinants, that are integrated, sustainable and evidence-based.



Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Outcome Goal

To foster, support, and promote social and economic conditions that address the determinants of chronic diseases and empower people to increase control over their health and to adopt healthy behaviors.



Integrated Management of Chronic Diseases & Risk Factors

Outcome Goal

To facilitate and support the strengthening of the capacity and competencies of the health care system for prevention and control in the integrated management of chronic diseases and their risk factors.



Surveillance

Outcome goal

To encourage and support the development and the strengthening of countries' capacity to better monitor chronic diseases, their impacts, their risk factors, and the impact of interventions as part of the integrated strategy on NCD prevention and control.



Public Health Surveillance

“Public health surveillance is the systematic and ongoing recompilation, analysis and interpretation of data of specific events used for planning, executing and evaluating of public health practice”.

Thacker, SB, Stroup DF. Future directions of comprehensive public health surveillance and health information systems in the United States. *Am. J Epidemiology*, 1994; 140:1-15.

What is a task for epidemiology within essential functions related to health?

To provide:

- Elements for the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of
 - Policies
 - Health programs
- Guarantees that standards are met
 - Laws and regulations
- Disease prevention and control

Subgoal 1

To encourage the *development and strengthening of chronic disease surveillance systems* that are linked to public health actions.

- *Expected Results:* By 2010, 50% and by 2015 95% of Member states will have
 - Defined indicators for CNCD national surveillance, including RF, and public health interventions, within their national basic data
 - Have established a CNCD surveillance system as part of their national public health surveillance system
 - Have collected population-based information on major chronic diseases, diet, physical activity, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and preventive health services use



Activities: Secretariat

- Provide situational analysis
- Propose core and optimum list of indicators
- Establish guidelines/templates for each level of surveillance system.
- Assist countries with the development and implementation of national surveillance systems.

Activities: Member States

- Include surveillance of NCD, as an essential component of national chronic disease prevention and control programs.
- Utilize and modify if necessary recommended guidelines/tools.
- Define country-specific indicators.

Subgoal 2

To improve *multi-partner collaboration* to mobilize community, national, sub regional and regional partnerships to stimulate the effective development of surveillance systems and utilization of information

– *Expected Results*

- By 2010, a Regional discussion forum for NCD surveillance has been established that involves 75% of Member states; 95% by 2015.
- By 2010, 75% of Member states have established a national coordinating committee with partners such as governments, NGOs, academia, professional networks, industries, experts, and general public; 95% by 2015

Activities: Secretariat

- Identify regional and subregional priorities.
- Conduct Regional stakeholder analysis
- Assist countries in their formation of national coordinating committee.
- Monitor progress of formation of national coordinating committees to decide on the best time to establish the Regional discussion forum.

Activities: Member States

- Identify country stakeholders and partners for collaboration.
- Identify resources to establish national coordinating committee with stakeholders and partners.
- Facilitate development of national surveillance strategy.

Subgoal 3

To support improvement of *quality* (accuracy, completeness and comprehensiveness), *availability*, and *comparability* of NCD *information* used for surveillance purposes

- ***Expected Results:*** by 2010, 75% of Member states and by 2015 100% :
 - Have defined their core set of indicators (NCD, RF and public health interventions);
 - Have core NCD, RF and public health intervention indicators available; 75% by 2015.
 - Have demonstrated a reduced underreporting and misclassification related to NCD mortality

Activities: Secretariat

- Propose standard- core and optimum set of indicators
- Ensure comparability through standardization of instruments and units of measurements, and training.
- In collaboration with Member states stimulate horizontal cooperation between UN and other agencies and countries in planning joint research and training to improve surveillance for the Region.

Activities: Member States

- Develop national core and optimum set of indicators
- Participate in development of Regional core and optimum indicators
- Suggest best mechanisms to reduce misclassification and underreporting.

Subgoal 4

To develop indicators in the surveillance system for *evaluation* of the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of population-based health services and interventions; as well as the operations of the surveillance system itself

- *Expected Result:* By 2010, 75%, and by 2015, 95% of Member states will produce at least one report on the situation of chronic diseases, risk factors and/or evaluation of public health interventions

Activities: Secretariat

- Encourage Member states to evaluate all chronic disease surveillance, prevention, and control activities through surveillance
- Prepare standardized format for reporting, indicators, and data sources
- Evaluate countries' operations and performance ('surveillance of surveillance') and policies (policy surveillance)

Activities: Member States

- Evaluate operations and performance of country's surveillance systems as well as
- Effectiveness of translating surveillance information into policies and programs

Subgoal 5

To support the timely and *effective communication of information* on chronic diseases and risk factors to the appropriate target audiences

- *Expected Result:* By 2010, 50% and by 2015, 75% of Member states will
 - Contribute regularly their core or optimum data set to regional and global databases
 - Based on available data have developed differential information packages for different target group audiences.

Activities: Secretariat

- Train countries to establish their own NCD Data base and contribute to Regional InfoBase.
- Develop a Regional InfoBase that is linked to WHO InfoBase and other information databases.
- Working group with communication experts
- Set of information packages/materials at regional and national level

Activities: Member States

- Establish country InfoBase.
- Contribute data to Regional InfoBase.
- Develop differential information packages.

Subgoal 6

To encourage development of strategies/modalities for exchange with decision makers information necessary for *strategic planning* and evaluation of public health programs and policies.

- *Expected Results*

- By 2010, 50% and by 2015, 75% of Member states have a surveillance system based on WHO's surveillance framework within their national strategy for NCD prevention and control
- By 2010, 25% and 40% by 2015 of Member Countries documented the use of surveillance information for policy formulation

Activities: Secretariat

- Provide terms of reference for national coordinating committees and assist in their development
- Assist Member states in development of national surveillance strategies
- Use the CARMEN policy observatory as a channel for assessment and measurement of the transfer of surveillance data into policy formulation
- Produce regional map (s) of the Americas on country surveillance capacity, including stages of development of national surveillance strategy.

Activities: Member States

- Establish national coordinating committee
- Develop a national surveillance strategy within the national NCD strategy
- Collect and document information on the use of surveillance for policies and programs
- Assist Secretariat in development of Regional surveillance strategy

Subgoal 7

To foster *continuous education and training* in order to improve capacity, human resources, expertise, and technical competency of the surveillance workforce.

- *Expected Results:* That by 2010, 50% and by 2015, 75% of Member states will:
 - Have incorporated chronic disease surveillance training in health professional training programs (e.g. university medical and nursing courses);
 - Have implemented continuing education for the surveillance workforce to reinforce the skills and competencies for conducting NCD surveillance

Activities: Secretariat

- Curriculum proposal for chronic disease surveillance training (Member States, universities and professional networks/societies (e.g. AMNET))
- Offer training for countries on surveillance system protocol and tools application and placement of data on InfoBase
- Prepare supporting materials for chronic disease surveillance training: (such as a textbook on basic surveillance)
- Conduct studies to identify expertise gaps and training needs.
- Identify countries which are in need of surveillance training.

Activities: Member States

- Develop surveillance training curriculum
- Engage Universities in training in surveillance
- Assist Secretariat in Region-wide surveillance training and workshops



Subgoal 8

Encourage novel thinking and innovative ideas in chronic disease surveillance to meet new challenges and needs

- *Expected* result: Novelty, by definition, cannot have pre-determined performance measures

Activities: Secretariat

- Encourage development and utilization of novel methods
- Collect and identify new ideas and practice
- Develop new methods to tackle new challenges in surveillance data collection (e.g. privacy in information act; emergence of cell phones etc.)

Activities: Member States

- Encourage development and utilization of novel methods in surveillance
- Provide country novel ideas and practice in surveillance for promotion to the Region

What's next?

- Approval of Strategy and Action plan by Directing Council: September 2006
- Resolution on Integrated Prevention and Control of CNCDs, including Diet and Physical activity
- Implementation plan

On what are we building an implementation plan for surveillance?

- *Situation Analysis:* Country capacity, availability of data, integration of the national or local system, etc.)
- *PAHO Interprogrammatic Working Group*
 - *Tasks:* Proposal of core and expanded set of indicators (Caribbean proposal for a core starting point), PAHO Basic Data initiative, guidelines for each level of system
- *RF Surveillance Modalities:* Pan American version of STEPS (Aruba and Grenada trained), BRFSS tested in Trinidad
- *InfoBase:* WHO InfoBase decentralization
- *Quality, Underreporting, Timelines:* Part of PAHO program for quality improvement of vital statistics