Health Information System (HIS)

Antigua and Barbuda

Overview

The Health Information System in Antigua and Barbuda is a set of processes and procedures implemented to capture a key set of data at the various health service delivery points to facilitate Informed Decision-making. The are ten reporting sites, nine Health Districts plus hospital. The system
is not documented or recorded in any way. It is mostly manual, and there is no direct policy or Legislation to guide the operation.

Data Collection

The HIS collects data on:-

- Child & Maternal Health
- Hypertension & Diabetes
- Reproductive Health
- Communicable Diseases
- Births
- Deaths

Data Collection Con't

As it relates to HIV/AIDS, VCT reports are captured at nine Health Centers, the APPA, as well as quarterly reports from the lab. The Health Information Division undertakes the Analysis and storage of data except HIV and AIDS. This is done using Epi Info, MMDS, Mortbase and Microsoft customized data bases using Excel and reporting tools introduced by CAREC.

Data Collection Con't

Although there are existing units and agencies that records information on cancer, morbidity and mental health this information is not fed into the system but may be accessed where necessary.
The Mount St. John Medical Center manages its own data independent of the Health Information System, with its own IT maintenance and monitoring.

Challenges

There are several Challenges that the system presents which affects its efficiency and effectiveness. The top 3 major challenges are:

- Human Resource
- Infrastructure
- Policy/Legislation

Human Resource

- Staff Coverage is Inadequate and in some areas are person driven
- Inadequate Training for staff
- Inadequate Financing

Infrastructure

- Most facilities not computerized
- Networking is done through telephone contact for rapid response
- Data Management Software limited
- Laboratory testing equipment limited
- Approved Budget inadequate

Policy/Legislation

- No direct policy existing
- Medical Act is old and needs revising
- Data from private facility is not collected as a result
- Approved budget allocation inadequate

Ongoing Efforts for Strengthening

- Introduction of the Perinatal Information System (SIP)
- Initiatives for Proficiency Testing and Information system for Lab capability
- Introduction of Mental Health Information system
- Initiative for Patient Monitoring system for HIV/AIDS
- Initiative for the Strengthening of the HIS as it relates to Policy formulation and Legislation
- Strengthening Communicable Disease Surveillance Project (CAREC)