

Bulletin: Health Economics Units or Departments in Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.¹

The bulletin summarized information pertaining to the “First Meeting of Health Economics Units/Departments of Public Health Institutions in Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,” held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 30th, 2006, as well as information received from surveys sent to the health economics units or departments of ministries of health during 2006 to July 2008.

As of November 2008, there were ten health economics units or departments out of forty-eight countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Depending on the country, these health economics units or departments may be found at different levels within the organizational structure of ministries of health or public health institutions of the central government. In general, these health economics units or departments belong to vice-ministries, secretariats, sub-secretariats, or divisions related to planning, strategic development, financing or evaluation.

Links	Unit or Department	Name of Institution
DES-Brazil	Department of Health Economics	Ministry of Health
DESAL-Chile	Department of Health Economics	Ministry of Social Protection
DGF-Colombia	Department of General Finance	Ministry of Health
UGF-Costa Rica	Unit of Expenditure and Financing	Permanent Secretary of Health
UAE-Mexico	Unit of Economic Analysis	Ministry of Public Health and Social Well-Being
DES-Paraguay	Department of Health Economics	Ministry of Public Health
DES-Uruguay	Division of Health Economics	Ministry of Public Health

Work areas for these health economics units or departments include:

- i) Design, evaluation, and monitoring of the economic and financial dimensions of public health policies;
- ii) Studies on expenditure and financing of national health systems and national health accounts;
- iii) Studies on cost benefit analysis and cost effectiveness analysis.

Areas of future work interest are as follows:

- i) Financial sustainability and fiscal dimensions of universal access to health care;
- ii) Studies on the economic evaluation of health programs and activities;
- iii) Studies on the markets and costs of medicines and subjects related to pharmaco-economy.

¹ Prepared by the staff of Public Policies, Regulation, and Health Financing of the Area of Health Systems and Services of the Pan American Health Organization.

These health economics units/departments aim to promote the exchange of research ideas, the development of economic indicators, and the programming of technical activities between countries.

The “Second Meeting of Health Economics Units or Departments in Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean,” will be held on April 15-16th, 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Directory of Health Economics Units or Departments

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