

PAHO Webinar Series

Tackling NCDs, risk factors and mental health during the time of COVID-19



Health is a *systemic* outcome



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Overview



The pandemic exposed much of what we already knew about **the challenges for improving health in the Americas**

The challenge ahead is **to identify lines of action** that help us go beyond the “old normal”



Healthcare services declined sharply in 2020, including management of NCDs



Overall, **non-COVID healthcare services declined** throughout the region



Routine public health functions were disrupted



NCD consultations were affected



COVID-19 alarmed society regarding many familiar challenges ...

- ✘ The **quality** of healthcare services is often poor, uneven, and inequitably distributed
- ✘ Healthcare provision is mostly **curative, fragmented** and process oriented
- ✘ The terrible toll of **NCDs because of comorbidities** contribute to vulnerability to the virus
- ✘ The frequent struggle to align priorities, funding, and healthcare service performance



...and by exposing vulnerabilities that were less familiar

- ✘ **Public health functions** were put under enormous pressures
- ✘ **Inequities** in healthcare access and quality have been **sharp and visible**
- ✘ **Public administration** has been **stressed**, trying to reconcile fiduciary control systems with the need for rapid response
- ✘ **Disease categories** are not useful if they lead us to compartmentalize: NCDs and COVID-19 are a syndemic
- ✘ Where data and digitized information are **lacking**, service management and disease management are **difficult**



In the midst of this tragedy, we are seeing some silver linings



**Governments can
move faster and more
innovatively than
previously thought**



**The digital
transformation of
health has moved
particularly quickly**



**Innovations are
also happening in
management and
cross-sector
coordination**



Lines of Action: Going Beyond the Old Normal

- ✓ **Health is a systemic outcome:** Primary prevention is essential, especially for the growing burden of NCDs
- ✓ **Improving quality of healthcare service** is the goal that can drive change.
- ✓ **The digital transformation is essential** to having the information necessary for managing services and people-centered care.
- ✓ **Fiscal Sustainability:** Focusing on results, with efficiency, quality, and equity, is critical in a fiscally-constrained world.





Thank you

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