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Informatics and data analytics: How to make vaccination data meaningful?

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Background: Epidemiologists and health analysts need vaccination data from multiple sources/systems to produce meaningful insights. Health informatics have done a great job of acquiring data, especially over the last ten years such as:

- Electronic health records became common.
- Improved disease registries.
- Collection of improved quality of mortality and birth data.
- Conducting health and health related survey.
- Implementation of new tools to standardize data collection.

However, the vaccination coverage data still sits in a dark warehouse without creating value for decision makers (data are sitting unused in storage).

Purpose: Data is not created equally and implementation of new technology i.e. software is not enough to improve data collection. Therefore, it is important to understand the key challenges that necessarily require intervention to provide meaningful data through applying proper processes during integration vaccination data.

Method: In order to carry out this assessment we applied qualitative and quantitative methodology. We performed structured in-depth interviews and focus groups with 50 identified health, informatics experts. We assessed currently healthcare information data such as hospital, mortality, birth, population health related surveys.

Key findings:

- Accurate understanding of the vaccinations is crucial in navigating the trade-offs that support decision making, including considerations of public health, economic growth, and civil liberties that must be integrated into intervention responses at the national level.
- The vaccination data quality in terms of: relevance; accuracy; credibility; accessibility; interpretability; and consistency should be considered as priority in collection of any vaccination data collection.
- The data collection process is slower than other provisional data; it might take up to 3 years to review.
- Under reporting of vaccination, can limit our understanding of true burden of diseases.

Biography

Kadhim Alabady is a fellow of the faculty of public health UK (FFPH) and fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (FRCP – Glasgow), hold a doctorate degree in public health and epidemiology, master degree in clinical epidemiology (MSC), master degree in public health (MPH), all from the Netherlands universities with broad experience driving research and development (R&D) strategies and operations.

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