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ONLINE PRIORITY HEALTH INDEX: A TOOL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

Public health funds are limited and require data-informed prioritization. We developed a priority health index for diseases (PHI-DZ) to prioritize health issues for 27 Brazilian capital cities using 2000-2012 data from 12 indicators across 51 disease groups: number of deaths; number of hospitalizations; number of days hospitalized, number of deaths before age 70; potential years of life lost; number of deaths among those who were hospitalized, trend over time in the number of deaths; trend over time in the number of hospitalizations; the ratio of the number of deaths among persons with less than high school versus persons with high school or more education; the ratio of the number of hospitalizations among persons with less than high school versus persons with high school or more education; effectiveness of an intervention to prevent illness, injury or death; and cost of preventing and treating diseases per person. Since conducting PHI offline has limited use for the local public health practice, we further developed PHI-DZ into a web-based application for users to upload data and prioritize health issues. We integrated the use of a statistical engine into PHI-DZ application for data analysis. We identified fifteen priority diseases ranging from non-communicable diseases (e.g., heart disease), violence, motor vehicle accidents, and infant health issues to infectious-transmissible diseases. PHI is extendable to summarize data from hundreds of indicators across diseases and years for rapid prioritization of public health issues. Web-based PHI-DZ broadens its availability and convenience to facilitate local level prioritization and planning of public health funds.

Biography

Eduardo J Simoes is Chair of the Department of Health Management and Informatics (HMI), Wesbury Professor and HMI Alumni Distinguished Professor -University of Missouri School of Medicine (2011-current). His degrees: medical from Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Pernambuco-Brazil (1976-1981), diploma & master of sciences from University of London School Of Hygiene Tropical Medicine (1986-1987) and master of public health from Emory University School of Public Health (1989-1991). He is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, reviewer and editor for 12 journals. He published over 100 peer-reviewed publications, eight book chapters and 18 reports. He presented in 150 conferences.

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