

# International Activities

## National Center for Health Statistics

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International Statistics Program

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# NCHS International Activities

- Description
- Rationale
- Challenges/solutions
- Overview of various types of international activities
- Detailed look at recent activities

# NCHS International Program

- **Conduct international activities of interest to NCHS**
  - **Multilateral collaborations**
  - **Bilateral collaborations**
- **Participate in activities of international organizations**
- **Relate to health statistics organizations of other countries**

# NCHS International Projects - What's the value?

- Learn from countries doing a better job than the US on certain statistical issues
- Consultation with other countries can lead to improved data comparability, etc.
- Lessons learned from assisting developing countries can be applied at home

# International Organizations - Why do we care?

- Their decisions/actions may impact our activities
- Improved standards can enhance data comparability
- Learn about new developments that may benefit our activities
- Stay abreast of developments in other national statistical organizations

## Relate to other NSOs - What's in it for us?

- Good to be aware of what other national stat offices are up to – especially our neighbors
- Other NSOs may be facing problems similar to ours – useful to discuss jointly
- May lead to collaboration of value to NCHS programs

# Challenges:

- International Office has limited budget and staff
- Other NCHS offices have growing tasks, many vacancies
- NCHS international travel budget is small and shrinking

# Solutions:

- Seek outside funding
- Engage/support other NCHS groups in international activities
- Look for international activities to join
- *Be opportunistic*

# Overview of International Activities

# International Organizations: United Nations

- **WHO: ICD, other topics**
  - **PAHO: Vital statistics**
- **UN Statistics Division: CRVS standards, US demographic data**
- **UNICEF: Birth registration, disability**
- **UN Statistical Commission: Disability**
- **ILO: Disability**

# International Organizations:

- OECD
  - International health data
  - Health care quality study

# Multilateral Collaborations

- International Collaborative Effort (ICE) on Injury Statistics
- ICE on Automating Mortality Statistics / Iris
- Washington Group on Disability Statistics
- Indigenous Health Measurement Group

# Multilateral Collaborations

- **ICE on Automating Mortality Statistics/ Iris**
  - Automated coding spreading worldwide
  - Iris is the new global standard
- **Washington Group on Disability Statistics**
  - Question sets promote comparability
  - Close collaboration with UN
  - CC on Questionnaire Design and Evaluation Research

# Bilateral Collaborations

- **US-Canada Interchange Meetings**
  - Collaborative projects
- **NHANES collaboration with various countries on HANES-type surveys**
- **US-Mexico border activities**

# US-Canada Interchange Meetings

- Center-wide participation
- Collaborations with Statistics Canada
  - HANES collaboration with Health Measures Survey
  - JCUSH
  - Opioid crisis

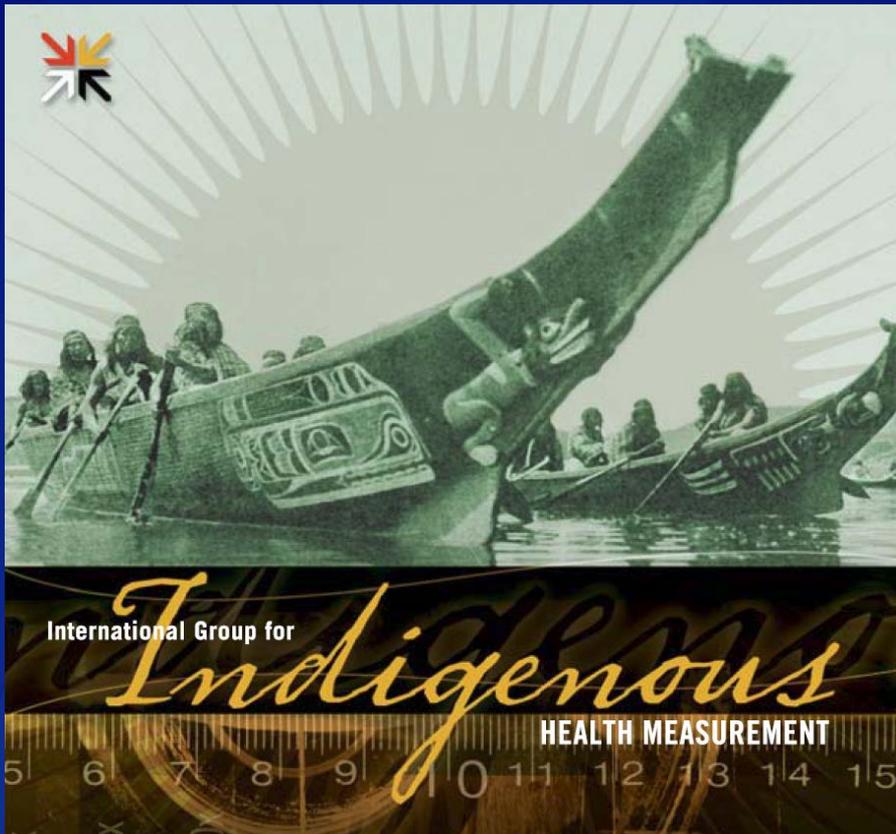
# Relate to other National Statistics Offices

- Overlap with collaborations, work with international organizations
- Visitors' program provides additional information on other NSOs, potential for collaborative projects

# Recent International Activities

- Indigenous Health Measurement
- Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative

# International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement



Interest group  
promoting  
improvements in  
the collection and  
analysis of  
indigenous  
health data

# International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement

- **Members: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA**
- **Similar colonial history**
- **Similar Indigenous health and health data issues**
- **Membership: Indigenous and non-Indigenous, government and private**

# International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement

- Monthly conference calls
- Workshops on specific topics, larger meetings
- Journal articles, country reports
- Lobby governments, NSOs
  - Australia – Close the Gap program
  - Canada – restoration of Census long form

# Indigenous Health Disparities

- Life expectancy disparities:
  - New Zealand: 7 years
  - Australia males:  $\geq 12$  years
- Infant mortality disparities:
  - Approximately 2X higher: AU, NZ, CA
- High suicide rates
- High levels of diabetes, obesity, poor nutrition, substance abuse
- Inadequate health resources

# International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement

- **Data issues:**
  - **Under-identification**
    - Only 5 Australian states report reliable data
    - No routine source of national Indigenous data in Canada
    - US Indigenous data quality best for CHISDA counties
  - **Small, dispersed populations**
  - **Growing Indigenous self-identification**

# International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement

International Group for  
Indigenous Health  
Measurement

Improving Indigenous health and well-being  
through community partnerships and better data

Meeting | October 31–November 3, 2017



Recent/upcoming activities:

- ❑ 2017 Atlanta meeting on community partnerships and improved data
- ❑ 2018 special session on Indigenous issues at IAOS annual meeting
- ❑ 2019 Special issue of IAOS Journal on Indigenous issues
- ❑ Proposed US-Canada-Mexico meeting on Indigenous issues

# Data for Health Initiative (D4HI)

- Four-year program to improve CRVS systems and use of health data
- Focus on causes of death, chronic disease data
- 20 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America
- Multiple partners: CDC, University of Melbourne, Swiss Tropical Institute, WHO, Johns Hopkins
- Funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, DFAT (Australia)



# Data for Health Initiative

- **NCHS responsibilities:**
  - Improve CRVS systems in: Zambia, Mumbai, Morocco, Malawi, Kenya
  - Assist with civil registration issues and ICD coding in all countries
- **CDC Foundation:**
  - Funds country projects
  - Hires CDC contractors to support projects
  - Funds project-related travel

# CRVS Challenges:

- **Change behaviors/attitudes:**
  - Personal
  - Government
- **Convince ministries to collaborate**
- **Leverage personnel & resources**
  - Physicians, Nurses
  - Community Health Workers
- **Establish sustainable system improvements**



# D4HI Country-Specific Activities

- Improve birth and death registration coverage, CR system efficiency:
  - Business process mapping for registration system
  - Registration law review
  - T/A for CR central office system improvements
  - Electronic reporting of vital events in facilities
  - Tap rural health workers to report deaths
- Civil registrars provide expert consultation :
  - US registrars from Hawaii, NYC, Alabama
  - New Zealand Registrar General

# D4HI Country-Specific Activities

- Improve cause of death data quality:
  - Facility deaths:
    - Certification training for MDs
      - Medical school curriculum
    - Cause of death coder training
      - Repeat training required!
    - Automated coding training
      - Iris training workshops
        - South Africa, Dec 2017
        - Morocco, March 2018



# D4HI Country-Specific Activities

- Improve cause of death data quality:
  - Community/home deaths:
    - Mobile technology for home event reporting
    - Verbal autopsy
      - WHO standards for VA questionnaire, analysis
      - Used for urban home deaths in Morocco, Zambia
      - In rural areas, use health supervisors to conduct interviews
      - Sample VA systems required for national results

# D4HI Country-Specific Activities

- Vital statistics data analysis, reports
  - Workshops on vital statistics analysis
    - Assessment of conventional cause of death data quality
    - Assessment of verbal autopsy data quality
    - Preparation of analytic reports
  - Training on preparation of annual reports

# CRVS collaboration:

- Global interest in CRVS calls for collaboration with multiple organizations:
  - World Bank
  - UNSD
  - UNICEF
  - ESCAP
  - WHO
    - Geneva
    - PAHO, EMRO, etc.
  - Canadian Center for Excellence

# Future Activities