Sexual health in Germany

Using an indicator as an instrument to describe, plan and evaluate
A catalogue of indicators of the German STI Society

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Background

- Sexual health is integral part of the personal well-being of human beings
- To improve sexual health, instruments are needed to:
  - measure the respective needs in terms of sexual health
  - to design appropriate and effective interventions
  - to evaluate impact and success of interventions
- Tools should be adopted on a local, regional and national level

Methods

- Basis for defining indicators: sets of indicators of WHO and EU
- Indicators used internationally: explanation of explanatory power and applicability for German situation
  - political structures
  - medical care
  - epidemiology
- partly adopted, revised or complemented by new indicators

Operationalization of indicators

- Unit of measurement (e.g. infections/100,000 persons, budgets)
- type of data (e.g. routine surveillance, studies, registries)
- data source (e.g. research institutions, ministries, insurance companies)
- administration level (communal, federal, national)
- Decision making process: by consensus

How to make use of the indicators?

Example: Hepatitis B-infection (HBV)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Policy and social determinants</th>
<th>Access &amp; availability</th>
<th>Use of services</th>
<th>Outcome/impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Recommendations on vaccination against STI/RTI-agents</td>
<td>Facilities offering counselling, testing and vaccination against STI/RTI voluntarily and free of cost</td>
<td>Vaccination against HBV (general and in specific groups at risk)</td>
<td>Newly diagnosed and laboratory confirmed HBV-infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit of measurement</td>
<td>Yes / no</td>
<td># of facilities, # of monthly counselling time / 500,000 residents</td>
<td>Vaccination rate against HBV (general and in specific groups at risk)</td>
<td># / 100,000 residents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overview on indicators, by subdivision of sexual and reproductive health (row 1) and categories of indicators (column 2-5)

Subcategories of sexual and reproductive health

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy and social determinants</th>
<th>Availability and access</th>
<th>Use of services</th>
<th>Outcome and impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Strategic and political health and an equal treatment to protect human sexual health</td>
<td>Facilities offering counselling and testing for vaccination against STI/RTI voluntarily and free of cost</td>
<td>Vaccination against HBV (general and in specific groups at risk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>Basis for defining indicators: sets of indicators of WHO and EU</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- Selected indicators display the German situation and are highly comparable internationally
- Potential users of indicators: health experts, policy developers, researchers, other health care professionals
- Indicator set should be implemented when planning or evaluating health services

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