

PATCHWORK INFORMATION SYSTEMS: HOW TO MANAGER MENTAL HEALTH BASED ON FRAGMENTARY DATA?

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Introduction: Positive experiences of health policies in England, Canada and Australia have been disseminated worldwide. Their premise is that with appropriate use of information technologies it is possible to improve the health system for the development of diagnostic actions, planning of infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation. The health information system in Brazil started in 1975. The mortality data has been used to analyze the health situation and impact of interventions. The use of new technologies and information systems expanded, as the data sources: the Outpatient Information System, the Hospital Information System and the National Registry of Health Facilities. Objective: To analyze the Brazilian mental health care based on the information available by the public systems, to ascertain whether they provide enough inputs for monitoring and evaluating the mental health services to identify their suitability to the demands of access from the population, following the evolution of diseases, investments in research. Methods: Analyses were performed using public Brazilian databases from January 2004 until December 2009 by region of the country. Results: Psychiatric hospital admissions represent 2.5% of the total annual admissions, 6.1% of the annual value invested, the second longest average stay, and the second highest average cost per admission. About 24,000 outpatient procedures are produced annually of mental and behavioral disorders. The public structure is greater than private in any level of attention or type of facility. Conclusions: The health system network needs to be mapped - by collecting more specific data. It is necessary to provide methods to link records from different databases, and define an analytical model that can be used by investigators to monitor Brazilian mental health network.