

Surveillance in Public Health Practice

Anas Malik Radif Alubaidi, MBChB, PgDip, Prof Dip Paeds (RCPI)*

Bachelor of Medicine and General Surgery, Baghdad University

Postgraduate Diploma Degree in Acute Medicine, University of South Wales

Postgraduate Diploma Degree in Public health, University of South Wales

Postgraduate Diploma Degree in Care of the Elderly, University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Professional Diploma in Pediatrics, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Abstract

Surveillance in Public Health is one of the most important aspects and roles of Public Health practice in medicine. Surveillance is a major fundamental in Public Health including in disease screening in Public Health. In order to improve the quality of the healthcare services and to promote health overall then surveillance is needed. Surveillance is required and necessary in the healthcare systems and in the Public Health systems everywhere. So, Public Health surveillance is a necessity for health promotion.

Keywords: Public health surveillance; Passive surveillance; Active surveillance

Public Health Surveillance

Public Health surveillance is the continuous, systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of the health data. Public Health surveillance is the disease surveillance in the Public Health and in the healthcare systems. The data of the disease surveillance serves as an early warning system for any possible outbreaks that could become public health emergencies; enables monitoring and evaluation of the impact of any intervention; and monitors and clarifies the epidemiology of the health problems.[1]

Public Health surveillance tools are fundamental through the screening programs in Public Health practice. The data of the surveillance can be used to know where the health burdens are and to determine the health risks.

Surveillance is able to monitor any disease trends; to monitor any changes in any infectious disease; to identify an area of research; to plan Public Health policy; and to evaluate Public Health policy/interventions. So, surveillance is vital to Public Health practice.

Types of Surveillance Systems

There are Passive and Active surveillance systems in Public Health.

- **Passive Surveillance:** The majority of the Public Health surveillance systems are passive. Such surveillance system relies on the healthcare providers and the laboratories to report cases of the disease to the health departments. It is efficient, simple, and occurs continuously. However, such surveillance system might lead to incomplete data due to underreporting.
- **Active Surveillance:** Such surveillance system is when the health departments contact the healthcare providers and the laboratories requesting information about certain disease or medical condition. The advantage of this surveillance system is having complete data. However, requires resources and time.

Reference

1. [WHO \(World Health Organization\). Surveillance in emergencies. 2022.](#)
-

Citation: Anas Malik Radif Alubaidi. *Surveillance in Public Health Practice. World J Med Res. 2023;3(2):1-2.*

Received Date: 08 August, 2023; **Accepted Date:** 12 August, 2023; **Published Date:** 14 August, 2023

***Correspondence to:** Anas Malik Radif Alubaidi, MBChB, PgDip, Prof Dip Paeds(RCPI)