First Workshop on Satellite Health Accounts in the Americas

IBGE Auditorium
Av Gal Canabarro 706
Bairro Maracanã
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
30-31 May, 2005

Background

Satellite health accounts are an accounting extension of the System of National Accounts that makes it possible to expand the analytical capacity of national accounting to analysis of more specific health-related topics and the operation of national health systems. Satellite health accounts are an instrument to develop a set of economic and financial indicators related to health and health systems that are used for public policymaking and analysis. The indicators are conceptually and methodologically consistent with the countries’ macroeconomic statistics.

The growing importance of health activities within domestic economies, as well as their importance to government authorities looking to improve the allocation of budgetary resources, are among the reasons why there is renewed interest in developing economic and financial indicators that facilitate evaluation of the economic dimensions of health activities. Furthermore, growing concern over the levels of health expenditure associated with the different types of organization and financing of national health systems suggests the need to develop indicators to evaluate the efficiency and equity of those different health system arrangements. In Europe, France and Spain have developed satellite health accounts, while in the Region of the Americas, several countries have conducted studies of health sector expenditure and financing accounts based on the satellite account approach. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, and the Dominican Republic are among the countries that are designing methodologies to implement health accounts, and/or are planning to adopt a satellite health account approach to the design of sector expenditure and financing indicators for inclusion in new methodological proposals for national health accounts or health accounts systems.

1 For more information on areas of PAHO technical cooperation for the development of health accounts/national health accounts, see http://www.paho.org/English/DPM/SHD/HP/ha-nha-sum.pdf. Resources to carry out the activity are being provided through support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).
2 The System of National Accounts (known as SNA 1993) refers to the system adopted by all the countries of the region to estimate principal macroeconomic aggregates. It is defined as a “complete, coherent, and flexible set of macroeconomic accounts designed to meet the needs of public and private sector analysts and those responsible for economic policy-making and decision-making.”
3 Among recent proposals, this refers to an OECD Health Accounts System proposed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and a Producer’s Guide to National Health Accounts with special applications for low- and medium-income countries, proposed by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization.
4 In these approaches, the term “national account” refers to the aggregate character of the indicators, not to the central framework of the National Accounts System of the United Nations (known as SNA 1999 - System of National Accounts).
Objectives

- Present the experiences and summarize the lessons learned from the pilot studies on satellite health accounts.
- Present, discuss, and harmonize the advances made in the design of methodological guidelines to develop satellite health accounts.
- Identify recommendations to promote the development and use of satellite health accounts in the design, implementation, and monitoring of public health policies and the development of the national health systems.

Participants

Professional experts on the methodological aspects and application of guidelines for the National Accounts System of the United Nations, experts on methodological and implementation issues in functioning satellite accounts, and professionals with experience in designing health accounts.

Coordinators

**Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)**
Roberto Luiz Olinto Ramos
National Accounts Coordinator
Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
E-mail: ramosrob@ibge.gov.br

**Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**
Marcelo Ortúzar
Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC
Av. Dag Hammarskjold 3477
Vitacura
Santiago, Chile
Tel. (56-2) 471-2000
E-mail: MORTUZAR@eclac.cl

**Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**
Rubén M. Suárez-Berenguela
Regional Adviser; Health Economics and Financing
Pan American Health Organization
Washington, D.C. 20037 USA
Tel. (202) 974-3482
Fax: (202) 974-3612
E-mail: suarezu@paho.org
Amparo Gordillo-Tobar  
Consultant on Health Economics and Financing  
Pan American Health Organization  
Washington, D.C. 20037  USA  
Tel. (202) 974-3019  
Fax: (202) 974-3612  
E-mail: gordilam@paho.org

Julio M. Suárez  
Focal Point for Brazil on Economics and Financing  
Pan American Health Organization  
Setor de Embaixadas Norte, Lote 19  
70800-400 - Brasilia, D.F., Brasil  
E-mail: suarezj@bra.ops.oms.org