Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Partnerships & Alliances

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Discovery EDUCATION

VANDERBILT School of Medicine

GLOBAL COMMISSION

SPRINGER NATURE

Takeda

Background

   Takeda established a centre of excellence called the Center for Health Equity and Patient Affairs. The centre is composed of a dedicated multidisciplinary team working internally and externally globally to address health inequities and build structural and knowledge capacity in communities. The centre also provides eligible patients with early access to Takeda medicines, brings together stakeholders from multiple sectors to solve problems that are too large for one entity to solve, and engages patients throughout the development process. One of our goals is to inspire and motivate others, mindful that we are still at a critical early stage of action.

   During the summer of 2022, I worked with the Partnerships & Alliances team whose mission is to leverage private sector resources, civil society, and governmental expertise to deliver reciprocal impact. Quickly, I realized that the team needed a repository to store their data, and to fully leverage each partner's particular resources and strengths, a plan for management, analysis, visualization, and continued monitoring.

Aim

   Document institutional knowledge, integrate external data sources to uncover connections between current stakeholders to build local capacities, and meet local needs.

Methods

1. Identify disparate data sources that are relevant to our internal team and key stakeholders.
2. Developing a plan for data collection, analysis, storage, and business question we are initially answering.
3. Collecting data from vendors and external partners, advising on data collection methods, data structure, and conduct analysis.
4. Disseminating the findings to partners, as well as to other internal stakeholders.
5. Continuously monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the data warehouse and dashboards and make adjustments as needed.

Outcomes

Data collection, management, integration, analysis, and visualization led to several outcomes:

1. Identification of Disparities: By analyzing data from WHO, CDC, the Census, and internal data sets sociodemographic information was identified among partnership participants.
2. Targeted Interventions: By understanding the specific needs and challenges facing different populations, Takeda can develop targeted interventions that address the root causes of health disparities.
3. Increased Efficiency: Integrating data allows for more efficient use of resources by identifying overlaps and gaps in services and reducing duplication of effort.
4. Better Collaboration: Facilitation of better collaboration among partners by understanding connections between organizations.
5. Evidence-based decision-making: Integration of data provided evidence-based decision-making by providing a comprehensive picture of population's health status and trends, as well as guidance for measuring the impact of interventions.

Discussion

   Addressing social determinants of health (SD0H) through partnerships with mission-driven, science-based organizations is crucial for improving health outcomes and reducing disparities. Social Determinants of Health are the non-medical factors that influence health, such as access to education, housing, and transportation. Partnerships between organizations can play a key role in addressing SDoH by leveraging the resources, expertise, and networks of multiple stakeholders. For the Center for Health Equity and Patient Affairs, the lack of data and subsequent analysis prevented the development of effective strategies regarding resource allocation. Data integration is a key component of these partnerships and alliances, as it allows stakeholders to make informed decisions and develop effective strategies for addressing health inequities.

Summary

Partnerships and alliances can be an effective way to address social determinants of health by bringing together different stakeholders to share resources, expertise, and networks. Integrating data is a key component of these partnerships, as it allows stakeholders to make informed decisions and develop effective strategies for addressing SDOH. These collaborations can help identify and address the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to health disparities, and ultimately improve health outcomes for marginalized populations.

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