

THE ATLAS INDIGENOUS PRIMARY CARE SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH NETWORK: INNOVATIVE DATA PROVISION TO SUPPORT IMPROVED CLINICAL CARE

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Background/Purpose:

The ATLAS Indigenous Primary Care Surveillance and Research Network collates service level data from a national network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs). The data are then used for a range of surveillance, monitoring and evaluation activities to drive better, more precise clinical care for sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs).

Approach:

Deidentified person-linked clinical records are regularly extracted – weekly in most cases – from the >34 ACCHSs that comprise the ATLAS network. These data then sit behind six-monthly surveillance reports and a custom interactive dashboard, a secure online portal accessible only to authorised ACCHS and program staff. The analyses available within the dashboard are structured around the 12 key performance measures used in ATLAS reports, based on national clinical guidelines and further developed in partnership with network members. The dashboard is used to support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) activities at the site, evaluate service provision and facilitate a systems-thinking approach to embed change within the ACCHS.

Outcomes/Impact:

The ATLAS network analyses stimulate opportunities for improvement in the way ACCHS provide STI and BBV care. The ATLAS dashboard allows access to near real-time data and facilitates comparisons over time and against similar clinical groups or the network overall. The interactivity of the dashboard allows flexibility and customisation of analyses to suit community priorities and specific CQI activities. Collaboration between network members and analysis of aggregated data further strengthen performance and increase our understanding of these infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Innovation and Significance:

The ATLAS surveillance network's innovative, interactive dashboard embodies the principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and provides a vital tool that strengthens capacity and supports CQI. The dashboard and the wider ATLAS program support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to make decisions that achieve better health outcomes for their communities.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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