

Abstract

# Infectious Diseases Surveillance and Notification in Jordan: Physicians' Knowledge, Attitude and Practice

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## Abstract

**Background:** Public health surveillance provides crucial information for monitoring the health of the public, identifying public health problems, and triggering action to prevent further illness. Health professionals' knowledge and awareness of the disease surveillance is essential for effective reporting diseases to health departments.

**Objective:** This study aimed to identify the knowledge and attitudes of Jordanian physicians towards public health surveillance.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among resident doctors who were working in four main ministry of health (MOH) hospitals and two teaching hospitals in Jordan in September 2017. Residents from all specialties were visited by the researcher and invited to participate in this study. A self-administered paper-based questionnaire was used to collect the data. The questionnaire collected information about socio-demographic and practice-related characteristics of physicians and included items to assess their knowledge of surveillance and reporting practices.

**Results:** This study included 223 physicians (152 males and 71 females). About 60.1% of the residents were graduates from medical schools in Jordan and the remaining (39.9%) were graduates from medical schools in other countries. Approximately two thirds of residents (62.3%) were doing their residency in MOH hospitals and the rest (37.7%) in two teaching hospitals. Only 44.8% of physicians had defined surveillance correctly. About 53.8% identified population surveys and case reporting as a source of public health surveillance data. Only 27.4% of physicians had been educated or trained on surveillance. About 39.5% of physicians had filled at least one report form during their practice. The main reasons for not reporting mandatory diseases were high workload (49.8%) and being not trained on reporting diseases (46.6%).

**Conclusions:** A relatively high percentage of physicians have insufficient knowledge of surveillance and reporting of notifiable infectious diseases. Training of physicians on surveillance and diseases notification is highly needed. The practice of disease notification should be enforced in Jordanian hospitals.

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