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Southeastern Regional Health Information System: a mapping tool for public health actors

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Issue/problem:

Local public health actors often need to identify public health priorities in their territories to guide public health policy and/or action.

Description of the problem:

The Southeastern Health Regional Observatory (ORS Paca) has been developing since 2006 a health information system for Southeastern France (SIRSéPACA). The objective of this mapping tool is to give access to regional and local public health actors to public health indicators for various population groups and geographical scales (municipality, districts...) within the region.

Results:

Indicators are displayed under the format of maps and tables on the following topics: morbidity, mortality, health social, economic or environmental determinants. Indicators are constructed using national and regional databases (open or accessible through agreements). SIRSéPACA is in free access (www.sirsepaca.org) and regularly updated. A function allows the users to obtain a portrait for a defined geographical area and to obtain in one click a description of various indicators (socio-economic and demographic characteristics, mortality and morbidity causes, health care and prevention, environmental health). Indicators for a given territory can be compared to the regional average (or another area). SIRSéPACA is regularly used to provide a description of the main public health characteristics of territories ("territorial diagnose"), e.g. to help health professionals intending to set up of a multidisciplinary group practice designing their project.

Lessons:

Trainings on how to use the tool, interpret the maps produced, and about territorial diagnoses implementation are regularly done. We are also developing a similar tool for all French regions for the Ministry of Health.

Key messages:

- SIRSéPACA facilitates access to and overview of a lot of indicators and data for local public health actors.
- This regional experience has been expanded to national level.