Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health

Data Quality, Timeliness & Decision Making:

Angela Hinds,
Health Information and Data Analysis, CARPHA

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Laboratory Services and Networks, CARPHA

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Timely, Quality Data…..

…….Why is this important ???

High quality data effectively satisfies its intended use in decision making and planning

POOR DATA QUALITY COSTS

To American businesses:

Six Hundred Billion Dollars Annually

Source: the Data Warehousing Institute, USA

To public health, it may lead to

- ✓ Ill health
- ✓ Temporary/permanent loss of quality of life
- ✓ Ultimately, premature loss of life
- ✓ Poor planning and budgeting

How does poor data quality affect you

- May miss a potential public health problem
- Inaccurate description/picture of a public health problem
- Unable to share data as agreed to by the government in international forums or for donor agreements
- Regional data is affected by the absence of country data
- Insufficient data to substantiate certain donor funding

HEALTH INFORMATION SENT TO CARPHA

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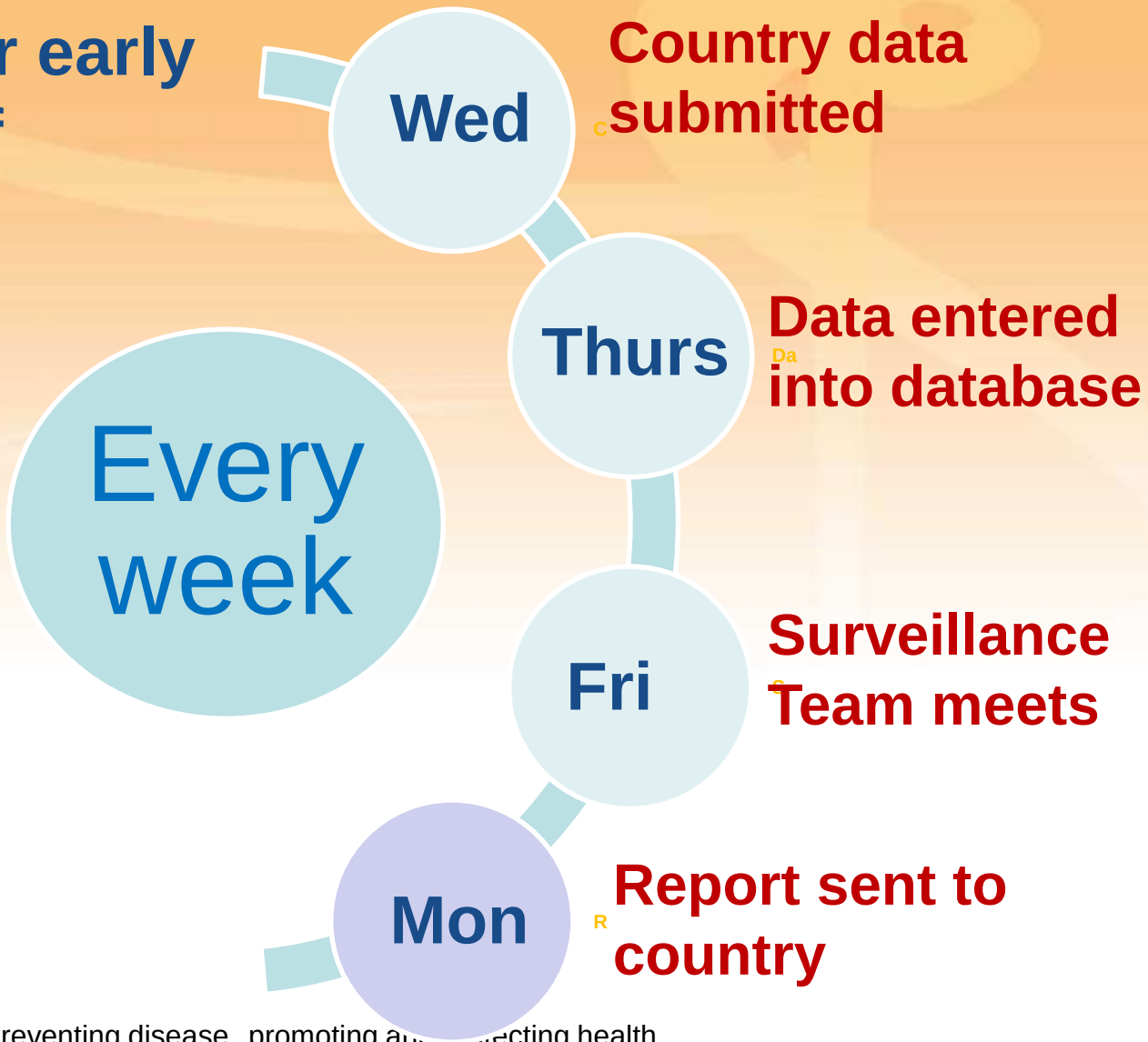
Syndromic Surveillance

Primarily for early detection of outbreaks



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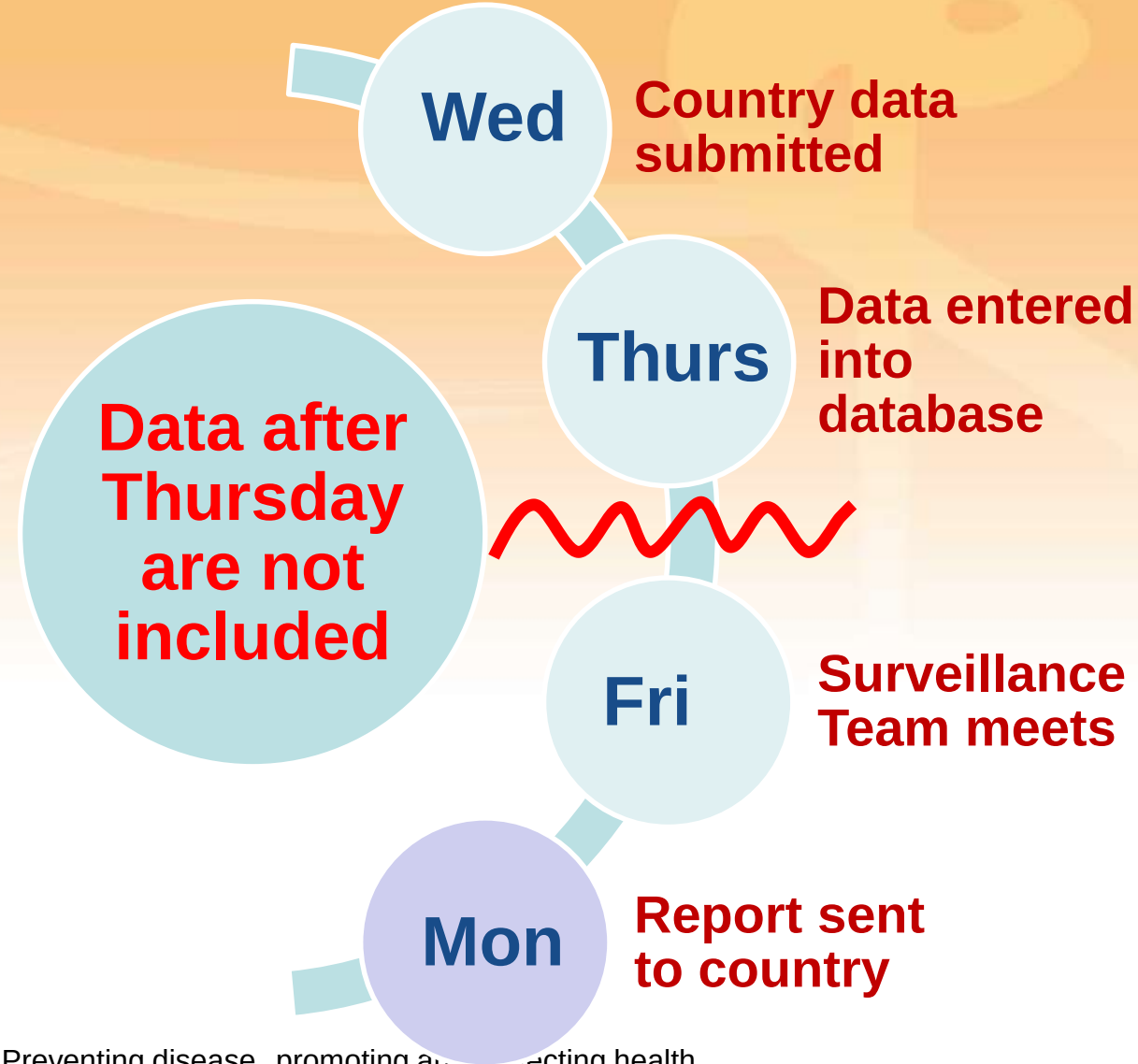
Syndromic Surveillance



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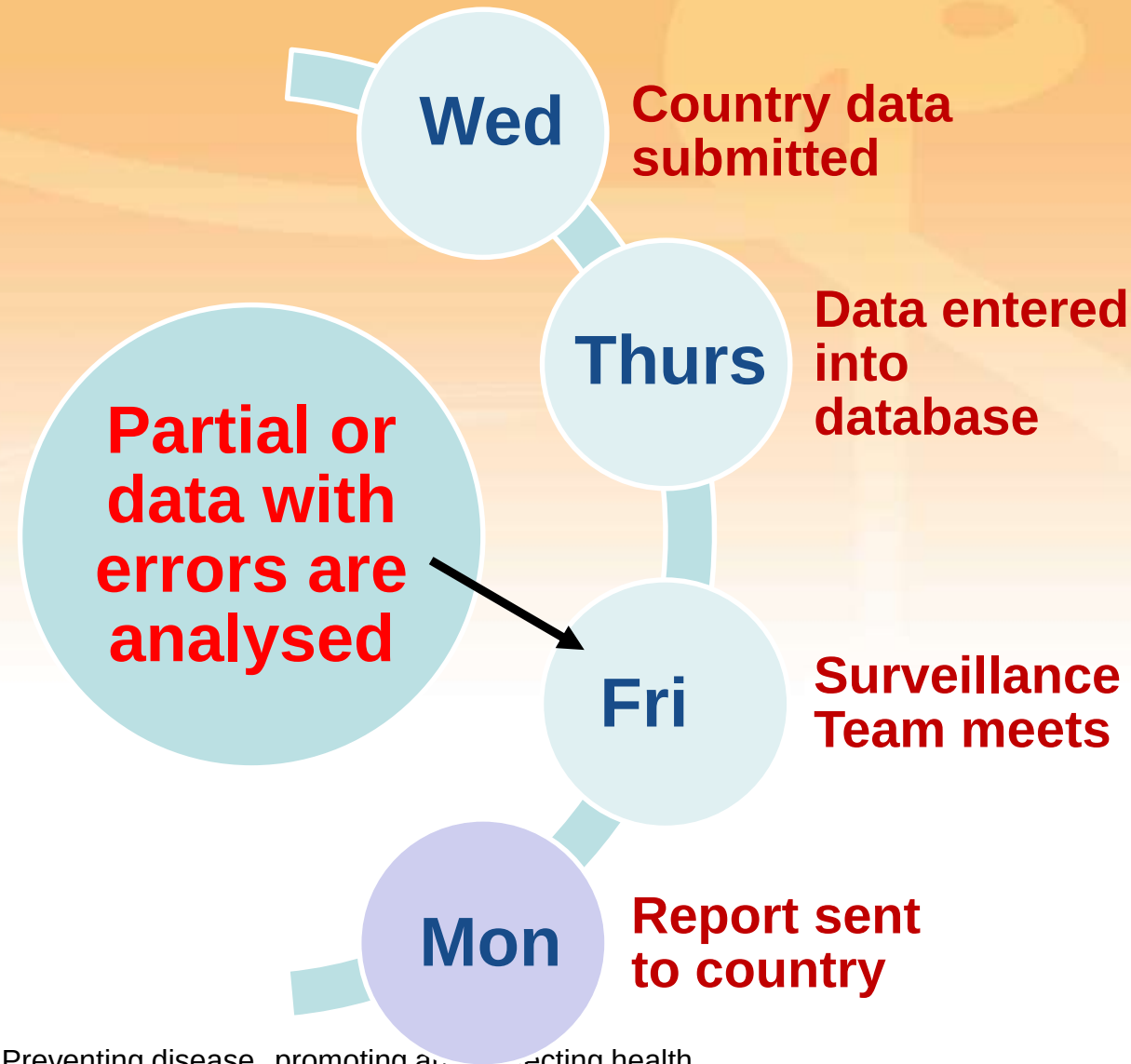
Syndromic Surveillance



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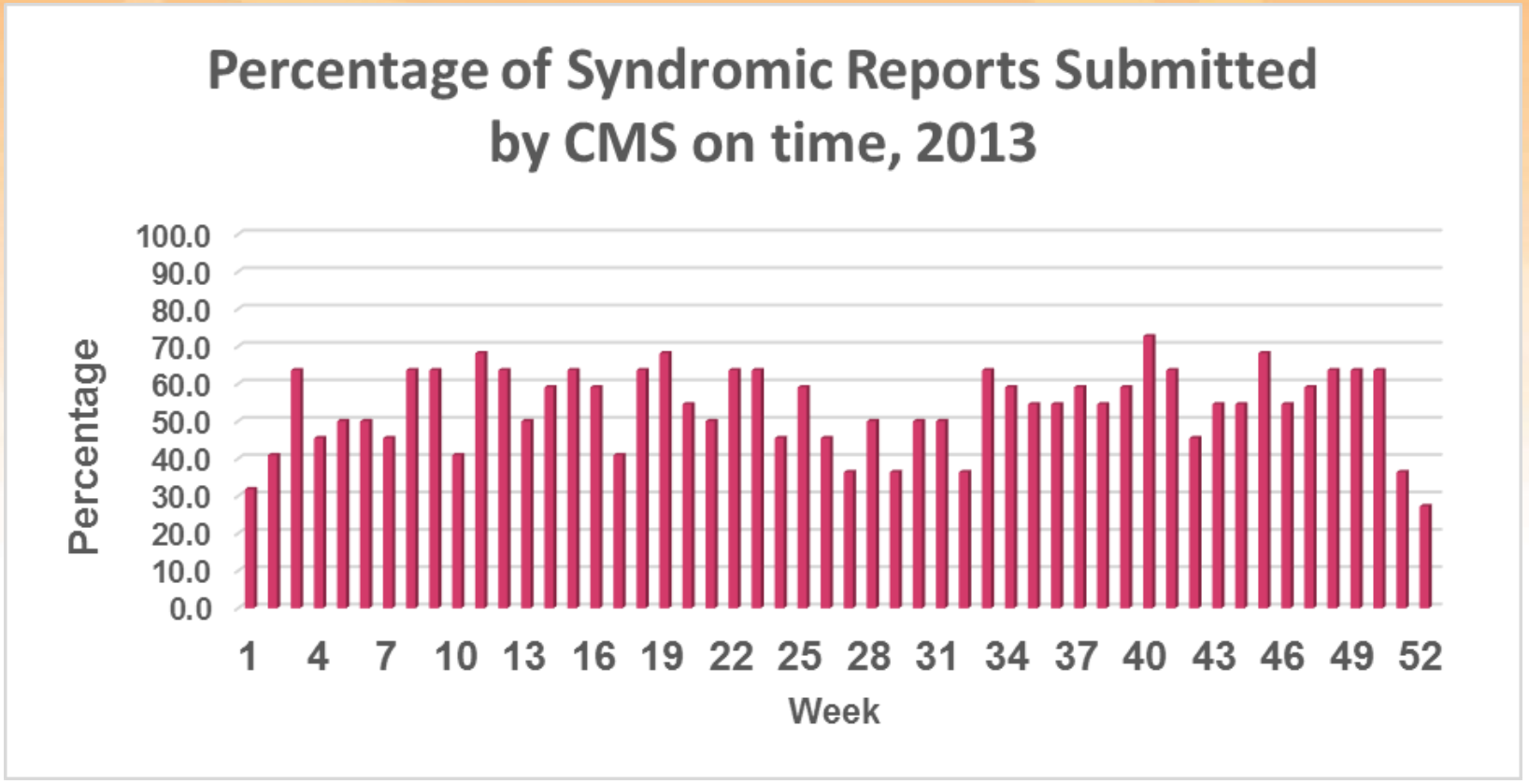
Syndromic Surveillance

At the Team meeting

Over 30% of reports are late every week



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Four Weekly Surveillance

Well done!

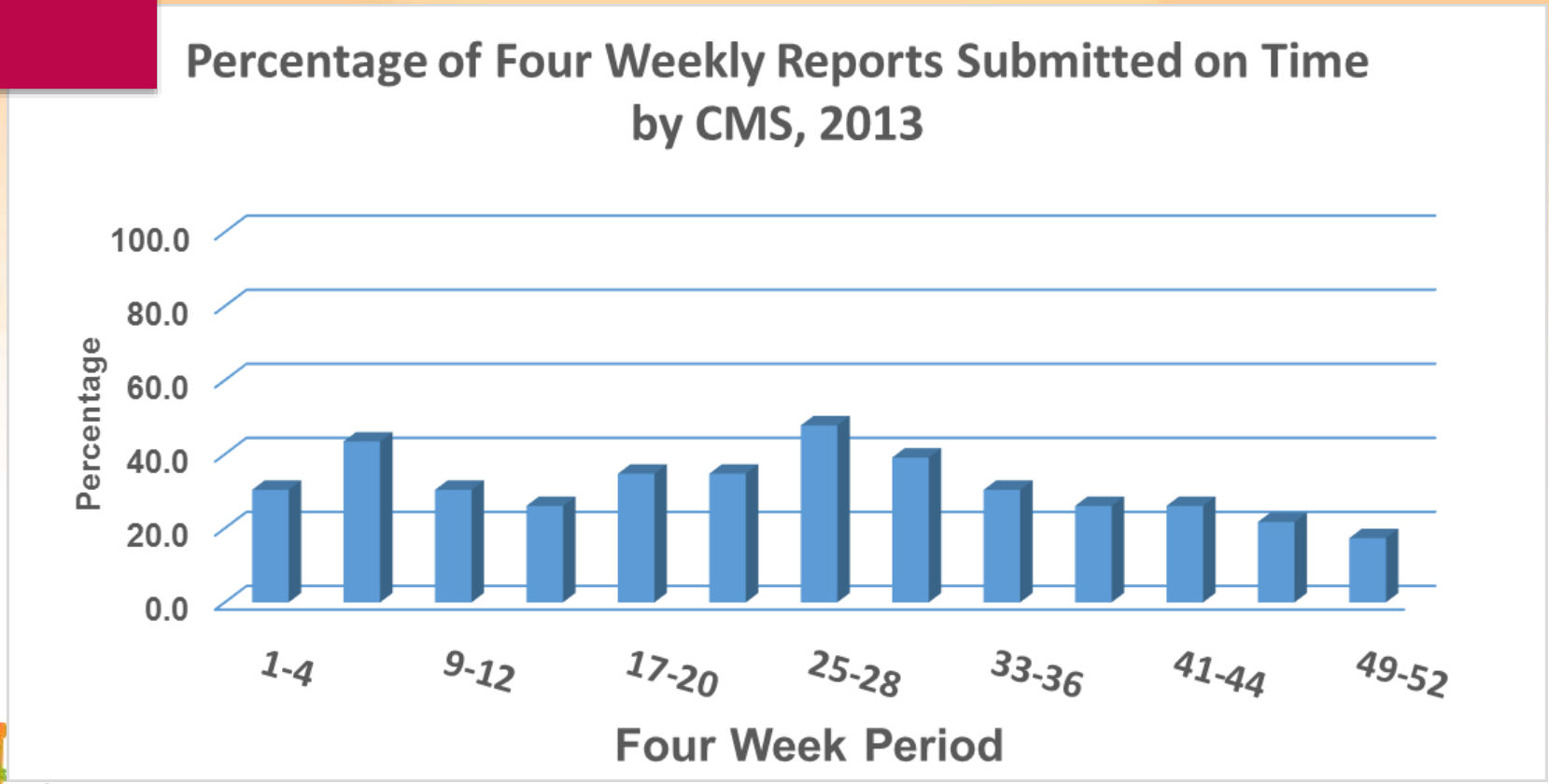
- **Age group categorized**
- **Tallies across much improved**
- **Data entered on the correct disease line**

Some work is needed

- **Timeliness**
- **Updates need to be detailed**

Four Weekly Surveillance

Over 55% of reports late



Four Weekly Surveillance:

Country: _____ Reporting Year:_____ Reporting Period (Circle one only):

1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21-24	
25-28	29-32	33-36		41-44	45-48	49-52/53

DISEASES	Laboratory Confirmed cases																				Cumulative Total	
	< 1		1 - 4		5 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65+		Unknown Age or Gender	Total lab confir-med cases	Suspect-ed cases	Epi-linked cases	Total cases for rep. period [1]	Total Deaths	Curr. Yr	Last Yr.
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F								
AIDS																						
Campylobacter					4											4			4		34	20
Chicken Pox (Varicella)				2				3	4		1	1				11			11		53	76
Chlamydia																						

Unclear Updates in cumulative total column

Need to send the revised figures on the 'Amendments page'

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Four Weekly - Amendments page

AMENDMENTS FOR PREVIOUS FOUR WEEK PERIODS

Four Week Period	Disease (Please list)	Laboratory Confirmed cases														Unknown Age or Gender	lab confir-med	Su d c
		< 1		1 - 4		5 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65+				
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
####	Dengue	3		1		5				2		11						

Enter the final totals for the period

This will be further discussed in the Session on revision of forms

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HIV/AIDS/STI

YEARLY…Long time to collect this data

Data still submitted very late

WHY?

- **STI - 12 countries**
- **AIDS - 6 countries**
- **HIV - 5 countries**

NCDs Minimum Dataset

No reports received since 2012

Of those submitted, many indicators were missing.

This will be further discussed in the NCD group session

Annual Totals

- Annual totals on what was collected during the year are returned to member states for validation
  - Long process
  - Necessary to sync our database with those of member states

2013 validation reports from 12 countries

- Validations show disparities between CARPHA and member states' data
- *Remember,* CARPHA's data is shared with the public, inclusive of the non-validated

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In-country Challenges

We KNOW

- You depend on the cooperation of other departments
- Departments are challenged with financial and human resources.
- The process is manpower-intensive.

So…….

Communicate the issues to us

- »Call us
- »Email us
- »Return our phone calls

We can advocate and work with you towards a solution

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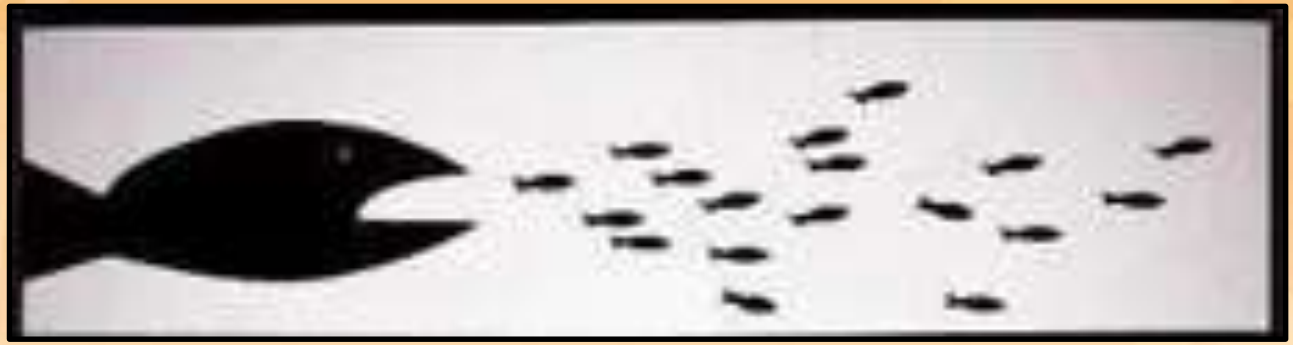
We seem to flee from our challenges



Let's work together!

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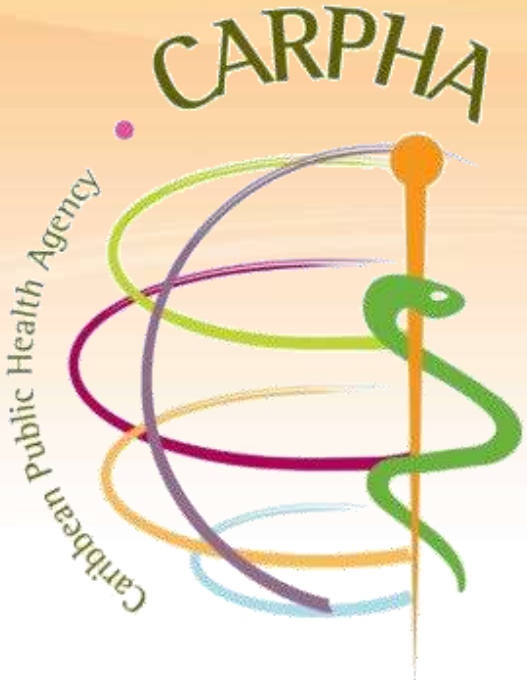
Questions

- **Appropriate Amount of Data**: Are we asking for too much data? Or for data that is not readily available?
- **Timeliness:** What is affecting timeliness? Frequency of some reports, is it unreasonable given the in-country resources?
- **Value-Added:** Are these data requests in-line with in-country requirements or is it just for CARPHA

CARPHA Thanks You



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