Why measure Influenza Burden of Disease (BoD)

Measuring influenza BoD

- SUPPORTS the development of public health policy for influenza prevention & control
- COMMUNICATES disease severity
- STRENGTHENS surveillance systems
- EXPANDS knowledge and identifies possible risk groups
- PREPARES for possible pandemic

National influenza BoD estimates

1. PRIORITISE the allocation of resources
2. EVALUATE existing influenza prevention and control strategies
3. INFORM treatment guidelines
4. SUPPORT decisions on vaccine introduction and expansion

Factors to consider

- Data from higher risk groups
- Data from high, middle and low-income countries
- Different population groups assessed in each study
- People facing multiple illnesses

As well as all influenza cases and patients:

- DEATHS
- HOSPITALIZATION
- SICK (At Home)
- UNAWARE OF BEING INFECTED

Measuring the global influenza BoD

is a COMPLEX PROCESS and faces uncertainties due to:

- A LACK of reported BoD at the country level
- The DIVERSITY of data sources & systems
- The UNPREDICTABILITY of virus strains

WHO’s role in measuring influenza BoD

1. PROVIDE GUIDANCE to Member States
2. GATHER COMPARABLE DATA and triangulating methods
3. MAP EXISTING KNOWLEDGE from literature reviews, unpublished data and consultations
4. USE INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE to join results