



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

International Society for Disease Surveillance Strategic Plan 2016-2018

Vision

Population health decisions are informed by accurate and timely health surveillance.

Mission

The mission of ISDS is to advance the science and practice of health surveillance worldwide.

What Makes ISDS Distinctive

1. We welcome professionals from many disciplines, including epidemiology, informatics, statistics, health care, and others, who collaborate on improving population health through surveillance.
2. We welcome practitioners, academics, and industry representatives who are interested in improving health surveillance.
3. We welcome members at all stages of their careers, from students through retirees.
4. Our members work at local, regional, national, and international scales.
5. We have members worldwide and have an international focus to much of our work.
6. We have the organizational agility to address new issues as they arise.
7. We advance the knowledge base of health surveillance, apply new knowledge to practice, and support evidence-based population health decision-making.

ISDS has some elements of a scientific society (in its commitment to increasing the science base for health surveillance), some of a professional organization (in its commitment to helping its members and their organizations learn skills and techniques to improve the quality and utility of health surveillance), some of an advocacy organization (in advocating for the steps needed to improve health surveillance in multiple settings), and some of a non-profit consulting firm (in carrying out projects supportive of ISDS's mission that are funded by governments and foundations).

In this document, health surveillance includes the overlapping fields of public health surveillance, animal health surveillance, zoonotic disease surveillance, and surveillance of the environment to monitor threats to health.

ISDS Core Values

ISDS core values are fundamental principles that guide ISDS activities to achieve our mission.

ISDS Values

1. Collaboration across disciplines, work settings, and nationalities.
2. Integrity, transparency, and professionalism in our science and administrative practice.
3. The contributions of our members and the communities we serve.
4. Continuous improvement in the practice and science of health surveillance.
5. Health equity as a driver for surveillance.
6. Evidence-based decision-making in population health.

Key Strategic Opportunity

Syndromic surveillance has served as an early successful example of a mechanism to automatically and rapidly collect and analyze additional health data on a population to inform population health decisions. In the current climate of rapid technical and policy change in population health surveillance, ISDS has a good opportunity to leverage that experience and to continue to expand its scope both into additional surveillance methods (beyond syndromic methods, including methods based on novel data), and into additional domains including One Health, chronic disease, global health security, violence, injury, mental health, healthcare-associated infections, maternal and child health, environmental health, the effects of climate change, substance abuse, risks associated with travel.

ISDS can be a recognized leader in public health informatics as applied to surveillance and be the home of best practices for obtaining and utilizing robust data. It can support collaborations, train the health surveillance workforce, and influence policy for health data and surveillance.

Strategic Priorities

The strategic priorities for ISDS for 2016 to 2018 are to:

1. Provide capacity-building assistance to members and the surveillance community worldwide.
2. Actively shape the national and international health surveillance policy.
3. Develop a sustainable organizational structure by growing the ISDS membership and diversifying sources of financial support.

Activities to Advance the Strategic Plan

Activities to address the strategic priorities identified in this plan will include, but are not limited to:

Priority #1: Provide capacity-building assistance to members and the surveillance community worldwide.

ISDS must actively provide evidence-based capacity-building services to both members and public health stakeholders worldwide. These activities include:

- Establish the annual ISDS conference as the international conference of choice

for presenting practice lessons, research and other information about a broad range of health surveillance topics.

- Position ISDS as a leader in informatics as applied to surveillance, including enhanced uses of clinical data and of web-based content for health surveillance.
- Advance the science and practice of health surveillance through the work of its committees and workgroups, and provide platforms for discussion such as community forums.
- Promote opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration in research, practice software, use cases, and evaluation metrics.
- Develop a list of priorities for applied research in multiple domains to improve the quality and utility of health surveillance.
- Build collaboration among members by making information available to members about other members' affiliations, skills and interests and by establishing a knowledge management repository.
- Build capacity of the surveillance professionals to present data in a form that facilitates priority setting; highlights contextual relevance; shows benefits (or harm) from an intervention; and is thus actionable for policy.
- Provide webinars, in-person trainings, and hands-on learning opportunities for practitioners on topics in epidemiology, statistics, informatics, surveillance practice and research methods, in collaboration with partners.
- Build ISDS's capacity and visibility in surveillance domains other than acute and infectious disease, and using methods in addition to syndromic surveillance.
- Build ISDS's capacity and visibility in the diverse domain known as "One Health."
- Lead and engage members and staff actively in development of informatics standards in surveillance.

Priority #2: Actively shape the national and international health surveillance policy.

In order for ISDS to have an impact in shaping national and international surveillance policy, it should:

- Take an active part in U.S. and other advisory groups related to health surveillance and seek opportunities to influence surveillance policy development.
- Conduct sponsored projects that bring together the knowledge, skills, expertise, experience and interests of the ISDS membership and staff to support advancement of health surveillance tools and practice.
- Advocate for and support the development of standards for surveillance practice as well as data standards.
- Seek opportunities to provide consultations on surveillance practice both in the U.S. and globally.
- Advocate for the sustainability and appropriate growth of infrastructure and systems in the field of health surveillance across multiple domains.
- Actively pursue and establish formal relationships with new and existing stakeholders in the field in order to help shape national and international

surveillance agendas.

- Establish ISDS as a recognized and respected voice for surveillance in diverse health domains, including chronic disease, injury, environmental and maternal and child health, and One Health.
- Participate actively in identifying important research questions in health surveillance and advocate for support of such research.
- Use surveillance methods and results to advance health equity and to identify root causes of disease.

Priority #3: Develop a sustainable organizational structure by growing the ISDS membership and diversifying sources of financial support.

In order to develop a sustainable organizational structure, the society needs to have a diverse funding stream to support ISDS's mission, its annual conference, and its operations. To remain fiscally healthy, ISDS should adopt a model that shall:

- Develop and maintain a business plan for ISDS that includes budgets for all activities along with potential sources of revenue needed to execute those activities.
- Apply for funding under CDC's Cooperative Agreement and similar programs whenever possible, either directly or indirectly, to build its own capacity and that of our members.
- Seek funding from other governmental agencies whose charter is to support the health of national and global populations.
- Identify and align its activities with the global as well as national health agendas and, in the process, map potential sources of funds for our activities.
- Identify private donors, including foundations and other NGOs, as funding sources.
- Maintain an adequate indirect cost rate to cover core operations, and manage contract and grant funds to assure that funds are used completely and effectively.
- Develop strong collaborative relationships with surveillance groups from other domains to encourage development of collaborative and interdisciplinary initiatives, including One Health surveillance.
- Develop a sustainable organizational structure by growing the ISDS membership and diversifying sources of financial support.

This document reflects comments received from ISDS members, Advisory Group members, ISDS Board members, and ISDS staff. It was prepared by the ISDS Board subcommittee on Strategic Planning: Stacey Hoferka, Victor Del Rio Vilas, Vivek Singh, John Berezowski, Laura Streichert, and Richard Hopkins (chair).