CaribData: An ecosystem for data resilience

Ian Hambleton, The UWI
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CaribData: An ecosystem for Caribbean data-driven resilience

- Infrastructure

- Training & Guidelines

- Analytics & Communication

- Collaborative Working

To enable & encourage Caribbean data sharing / re-use

We aim to do this by

Building Infrastructure		Online software • Data Entry • Data Sharing
Developing training and guidelines		Workshops • Online learning • Longer-term mentoring
Analytics & Communication		Analytics for Caribbean evidence • Data stories • Datathon
Establishing networks for collaborative working		Conferencing and workshops. Cross-sector collaborations.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

CaribData

IDB

Why?

Data handling in this fast-moving field is increasingly complex

Move toward big-data

Data now mostly collected online
Collection often automated

Associated analytics increasingly complex

Fast-changing regulatory environments
E.G.
Barbados Data Protection Act (2019)
Jamaica Data Protection Act (2020)

Why?

Data handling in this fast-moving field is increasingly complex

Data without best-practice data handling is regularly unusable

Data wastage from poor data-handling

"Improve data-handling and data-handling infrastructures" (Lancet, 2016)

Useful data are:
- Well-documented
- Easily available

Data graveyards

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Why?

Data handling in this fast-moving field is increasingly complex

Data without best-practice data handling is regularly unusable

Small Island Developing States - the need for data sovereignty

International collaborations common

'Centre-of-gravity' important

But many projects now use overseas data infrastructures

Critical risk to regional data sovereignty

Goal is to provide a Caribbean solution for data handling and secondary data analysis

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Why?

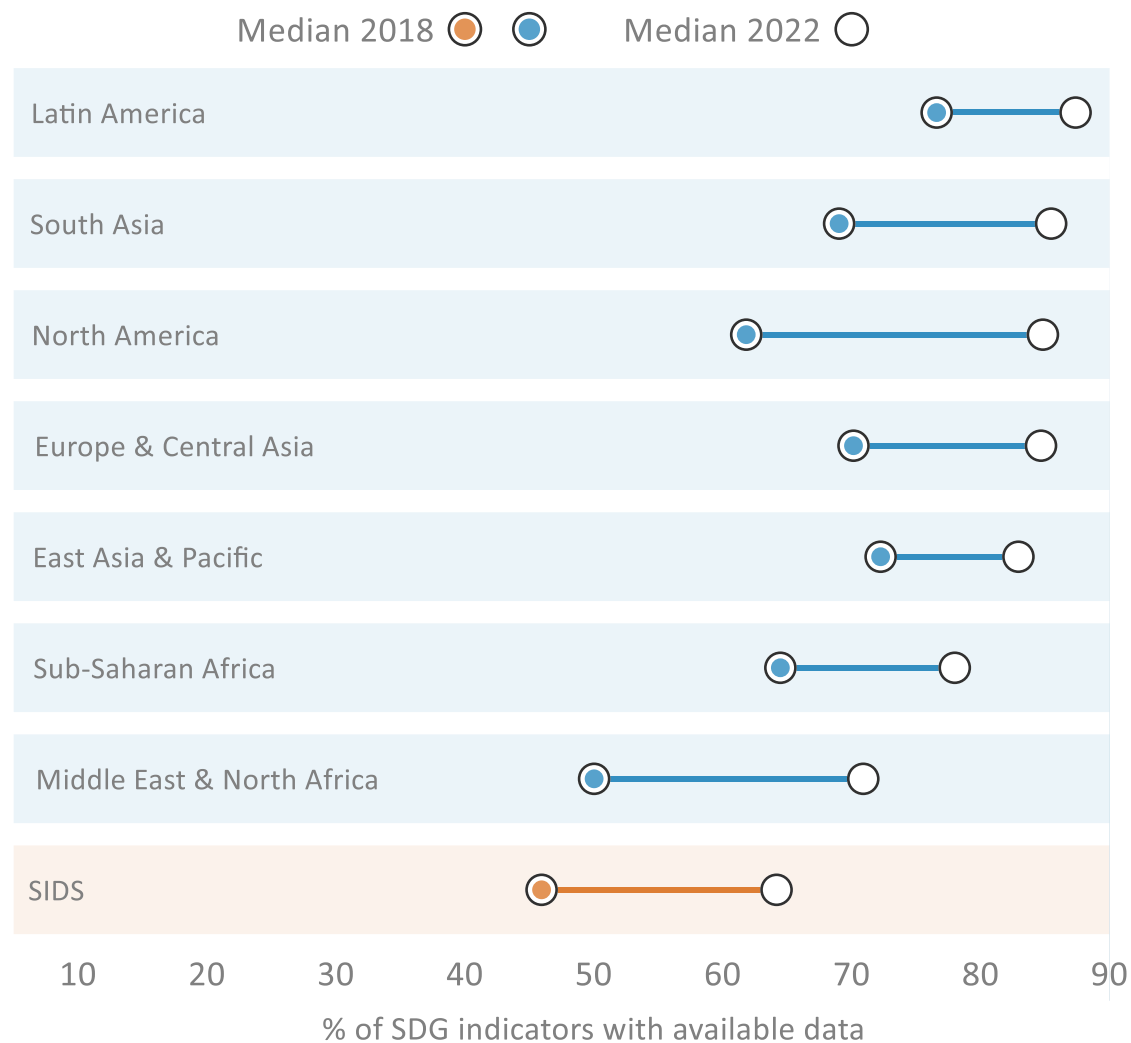Data handling in this fast-moving field is increasingly complex

Data without best-practice data handling is regularly unusable

Small Island Developing States - the need for data sovereignty

Data availability and accessibility in the Caribbean is limited

World Bank (2022)
Statistical Performance Indicators.

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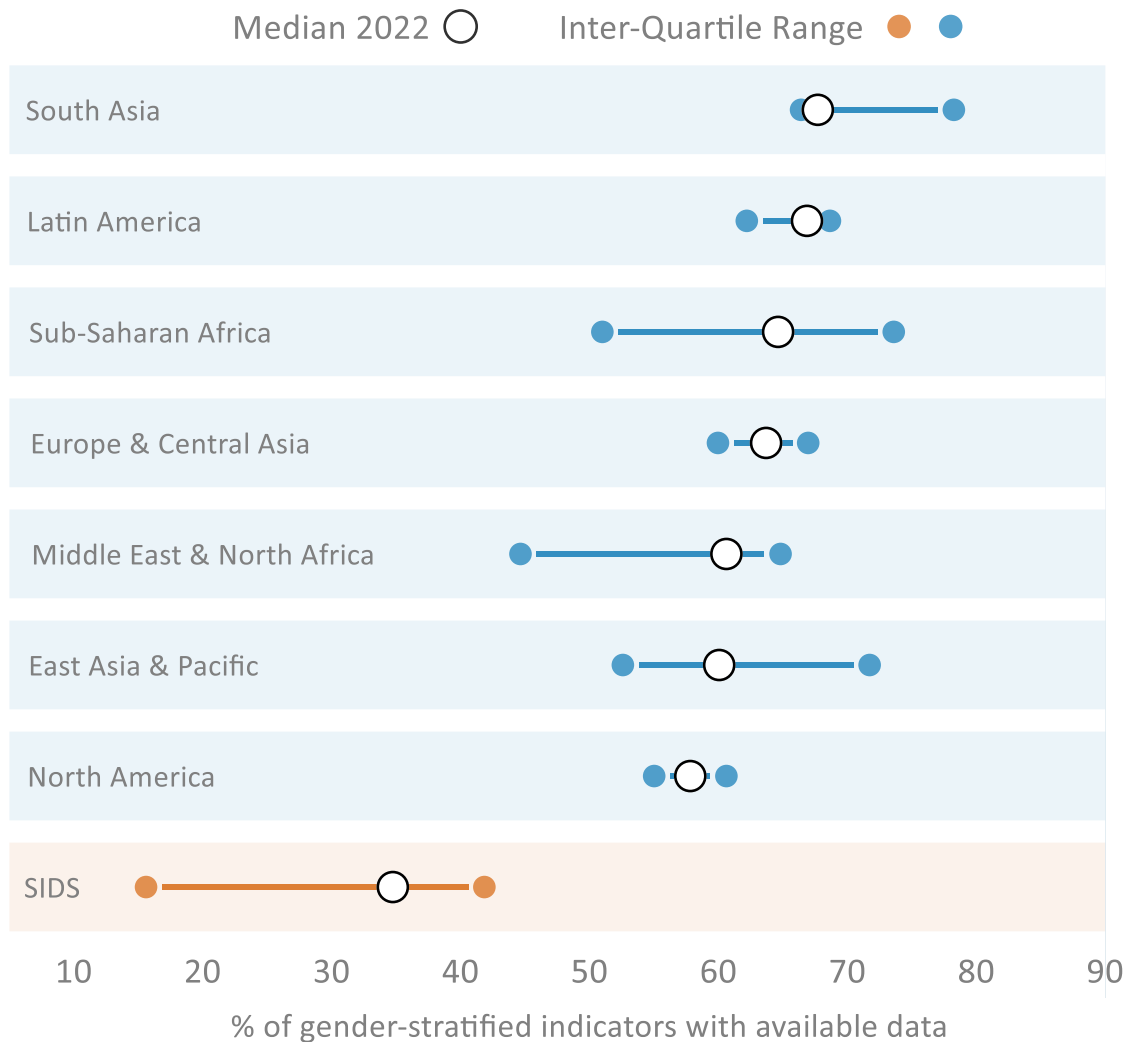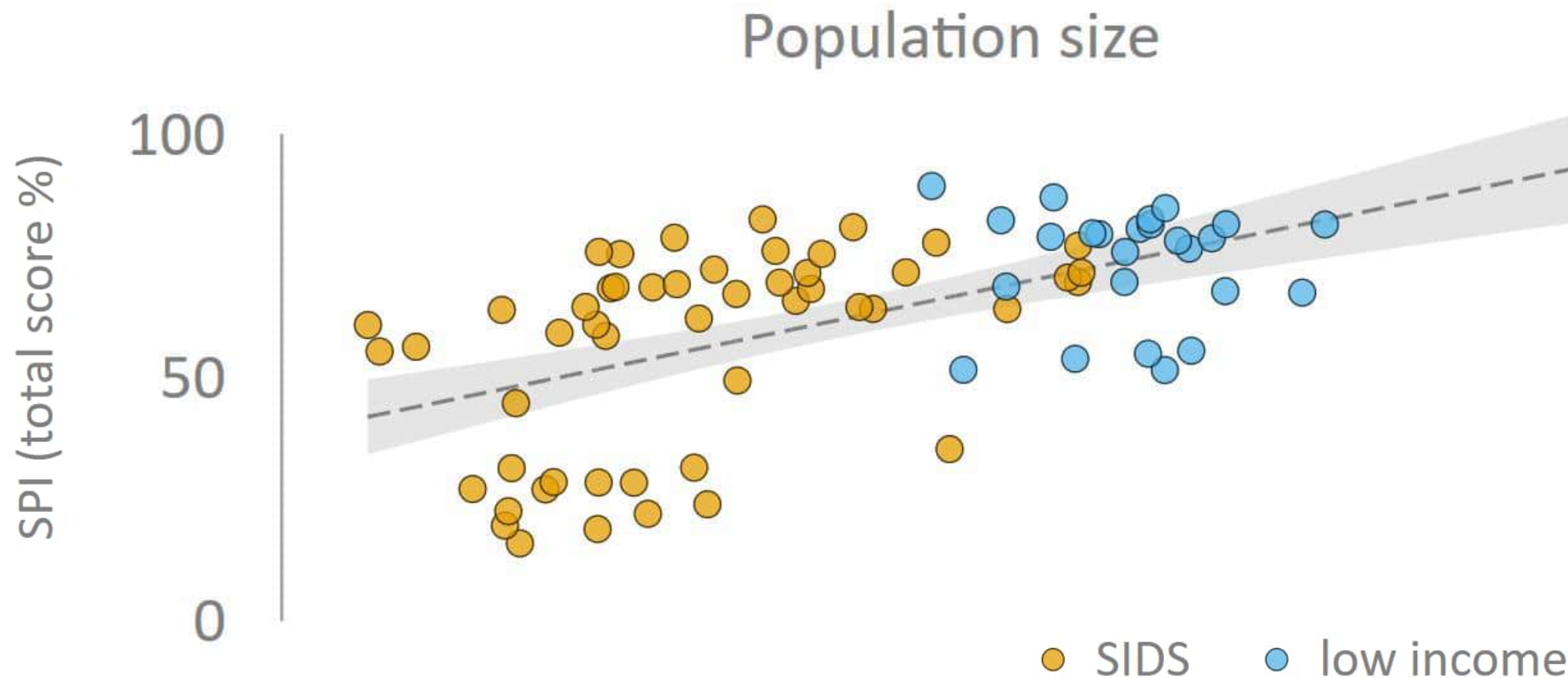# Statistical capacity and population size
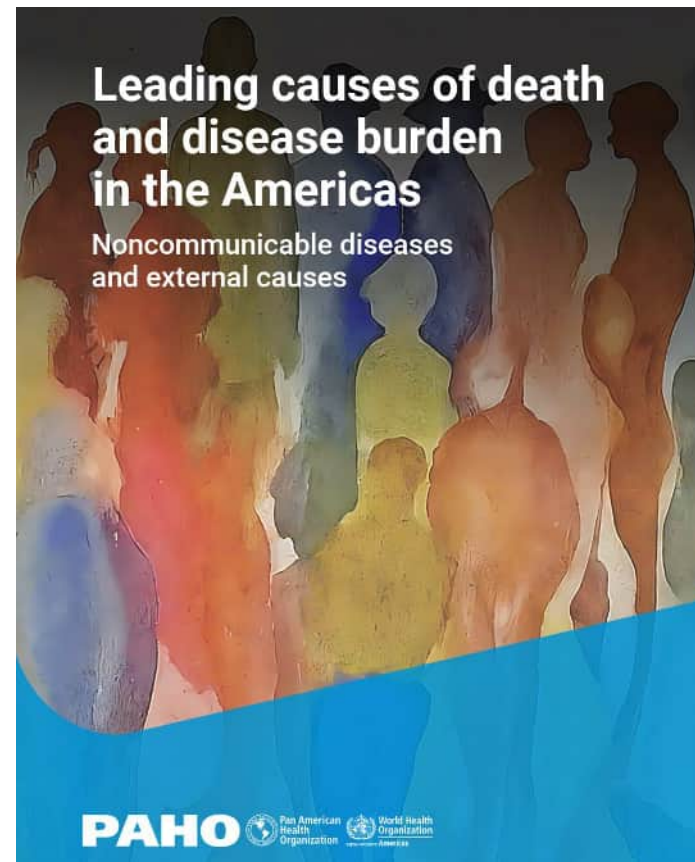

Population size

Sub-Projects

1. Open data publications

2. Online platforms for data collection and data sharing

3. Data communication programme

4. Training and mentoring programme

5. Regional data landscape: systematic reviews for data

6. Sustainability roadmap

Sub-Project 1: Open-data publications

- Partnering with PAHO to promote data reuse

- **Output 1.** Analysis of GHE data (June 2024)

- **Output 2.** PAJPH Special Edition

  - ► Open Data for Caribbean Health
  - ► 13 articles in preparation
  - ► November 2024

Regional partners	Country partners
The UWI and IDB PAHO, CDEMA Soton Univ, PDC	National Statistical Offices Ministries of Health & Env. NGOs / Civil Society

- A network to enable Caribbean data re-use
- Focus on sustainability
- Complement other regional data initiatives
- Support country partners according to their level of data development

Extra Slides

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Sustainability

A pragmatic sustainability plan, tailored to the Caribbean reality is a key deliverable for the project

• Commitment to open-data and open-science •

By project end

Full-service virtual centre serving partner organizations

Regionally recognized centre for Caribbean data and evidence

Longer term

Self financing

Globally recognized centre for Caribbean data and evidence

A resource hub for Caribbean data

Carib**Data**

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CaribData sub-projects

CaribData sub-project 2:
Regional Review of Data Legislation

The ability to share data across the region is influenced by the governance frameworks in place to protect personal information and privacy. This ongoing project will summarize and compare national legislation across the region, providing a legislative backdrop for future data sharing endeavours.

CaribData sub-projects

CaribData sub-project 3:
Regional Data Landscapes

Among the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean (SIDS), limited data availability has been repeatedly recognized as a perennial limitation, yet – somewhat paradoxically – there have been few attempts to quantify this limitation. This project is developing standardized protocols for understanding data availability, accessibility and quality in a range of Caribbean territories and subject-matter domains. The work can be likened to Systematic Evidence Reviews for data. Gap Maps of key regional data needs will be an important deliverable.

CaribData

CaribData sub-projects

CaribData sub-project 4:
CaribData Online Platforms for Data Collection and Sharing.

CaribData is already operating an online platform for data collection (caribdata.org/redcap/). It is now developing an associated platform for data sharing. The platform will be free-for-use and aims to simplify access to otherwise hard-to-find data resources. Many data producers operate their own platforms (for example, World Bank, United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization) and the CaribData platform will *federate* with already existing data sources, creating a network of interconnected data sources. A longer-term goal is for CaribData to operate as a triage service for Caribbean data.

CaribData sub-projects

CaribData sub-project 5:
Impact Stories / Data Communication Program

The most visible project from the CaribData stable, we are developing a data communication program focusing on data stories for non-academic audiences. Our Impact Stories will use available data to tell engaging Caribbean stories. One arm of this work will involve working closely with UWI staff to showcase the wider societal impact of UWI research.

CaribData sub-projects

CaribData sub-project 6:
Regional Data Producers Ecosystem

We are building a network of data producers and users, with a view to exploring data re-use synergies. Since the last quarter of 2023, we have developed relationships with UN-Women, on a project to better understand gender statistics availability, with the British High Commission as they continue their support for regional data initiatives, and with the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), on a project to incorporate health data into their disaster resilience online platform. We expect to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with PDC in the coming months.

CaribData sub-projects

CaribData sub-project 7:
Training and Mentoring Programme

I continue to provide informal statistical support to a range of University colleagues. As part of CaribData, we plan to formalize such support by developing campus data handling support, particularly for data analytics, curation, sharing and re-use. CaribData is also developing a mentorship / internship program, providing longer-term practical data handling support to early career data professionals. An early initiative within this program is as a training partner with the Intra-Caribbean Academic Mobility Program (ICAMP).