



## Multi-Center Cross-Cultural Data-Driven Collaboration

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### Abstract

The United Nation (UN) and its agencies predict major population shifts in the rest of the 21st Century. These changes will substantially impact Physical and Mental Well-being of billions of people. Predictions are based on current trends and are subject to various interpretations. Assessments of current status and trends should consider uncertainties and allow for flexibility if needed. Especially culturally sensitive and subjective Psychometric data should be collected and documented with embedded metrics flexibility.

**Keywords:** Psychometrics; Statistics; Epidemiology; Psychiatric Methodology; Urban Health

### Background

The 2022 United Nations (UN) Populations Reports predict that by 2050 there will be major shifts in world populations. Populations of Low-income and emerging countries will substantially increase. Populations of established and developing economies will age, rural people will migrate from their farms and villages to major Metropolitan conglomerates seeking opportunities and jobs and at least 2/3 of people will be Urbanites. Violence and poverty will result in migration from disadvantaged countries to more prosperous economies, increasing diversity and inequities especially in Urban areas. These trends are predicted to even accelerate towards the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century [1-3].

The predicted population shifts, especially the substantial Urbanization will have a profound impact on Mental Health and Well-being [4] and will necessitate adequate re-alignment of Social and Mental Health services. This re-alignment is a major current challenge that should be addressed shortly. For operational planning and effective executive decisions and actions we should learn

from industry and for-profit corporations for whom adaptation for changing conditions and markets is essential for survival and thriving.

### Attitudes and initial actions

First and foremost, we should adjust to data-driven attitude which is about making decisions based on numbers and insights generated using actual data. It's about leaving behind a traditional decision-making approach based on conventions, assumptions and "gut feelings", and encouraging data usage across all teams, day-to-day activities and tasks.

Decisions should be informed by data. Meaning not just having sufficient data but also ensuring the data is tested, treated, governed and accessible to all in order to satisfy all stakeholders needs quickly and nimbly.

Not only that operations should be created and sustained based on actual data, but Alation recommendations [5] for Data-Driven Culture should be very useful: "Choose metrics with open mind. Do

not limit data analysts to pre-determined assumptions. Allow uncertainty and attempt to quantify it. Fix data access issues quickly. Make proof-of-concept attempts simple and robust. Train clinician data collectors to a point of being comfortable with all procedures. Be able to be flexible with programming languages and methodology. Be willing to lose consistency in the short-term local. And: Discuss and explain analytical choices to all participants.”

For a Multi-Sites Multi-Cultural Assessments (MSMCA) of Well-being and Health there is a need to consider multiple factors. First, the definition of “Well-being” varies from discipline to discipline [6], quantifying it is complex on an individual subjective level. Even though generalizations for description of larger populations may make it seemingly simpler, in-depth analyses are needed to achieve closer perspective. Furthermore, expressions of complaints and descriptions of a person’s life circumstances are culturally and language dependent. Economic variables differ among different economies (e.g., poverty and self-employed rural workers). Integrating data collected from different cultures is a challenge.

The reliability and validity of metrics of Epidemiological data and Physical Health Indicators may still be a matter for debate [7,8]. Metrics and metrics methodology may need even more clarifications when Mental Health parameters are self-reported by patients or are collected by front-line non-academic clinicians. Enhancement of data-literacy may be an important task of the Chief Data Officer- CDO of a multinational interdisciplinary service-oriented program. The CDO should drive human transformation as much as the technological transformation. This task should show the way how to embed data into the organizational eco-system without clinicians` resentment of increased paperwork and computer time.

The designated CDO should be activated immediately once opinionated descriptions of each site and its perceived needs are formulated [4]. She will assist in answering the question “where are we now”. The descriptions would be followed by quantitative assessments of current state and gaps in needs. There should be documentation of complete inventory of available tools, technologies and systems in use, the technical and physical infrastructure. Assessing people skills and organizational procedures is of importance for future planning.

Next question is “where we would like to go”. It starts with the

ideal-optimal future situation and proceed with adaptation to a scaled-down to the practical-realistic-achievable goal. The practical process should answer the question “What are the challenges that we face”, what are the current roadblocks and limitations, how may we realistically overcome them. Specifically, plan how to collect data, document them and use them to reach the optimal goal. A priority for practical planning is forming Interdisciplinary Partnerships [9], training professional personnel and Leadership training of local ambitious Mental Health professionals to be capable of leading and managing integrative multidisciplinary Psycho-Social Service Teams.

### Conclusion

Optimally, we should identify a realistically achievable goal answering the needs of each specific community within the collaborative network. Plan, define timeline and budget for how to implement the desirable future service operation. Prioritize efforts and identify quick achievements so we can start seeing and demonstrating gains and values quickly. The ensued enhanced community appreciation and moral will straighten the move towards continuous long-term sustained, productive, efficient and mature people-oriented services. Solid data, flexible metrics and adaptable methodology are of utmost importance to a long-term, sustainable people-oriented program.

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