

# *SURGICAL AND REHABILITATION INTERVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE*

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# Reminder of the Haiti earthquake

- Richter scale magnitude 7.0 earthquake
- 222,570 deaths and 300,572 injuries (OCHA).
- Over **600** agencies responded in first month (PAHO)

Excessively high amputation rate reported in media – criticisms of response



# Study on the humanitarian response:



## Aims:

- Review surgical response in relation to amputations
- Links to rehabilitation services
- Implications for response to future disasters and responses

# Methodology

- Quantitative data element:
  - Statistical data from surgical organizations
  - HI/CBM/SEIPH database
- Qualitative data:
  - 83 semi-structured interviews
  - Local interviewer



# Findings: Surgery

- Variation in amputation rates
- Lack/inconsistency of medical record keeping
- Day 2: population rumours
- Day 5: amputation peak

average amputation rate =  
14%



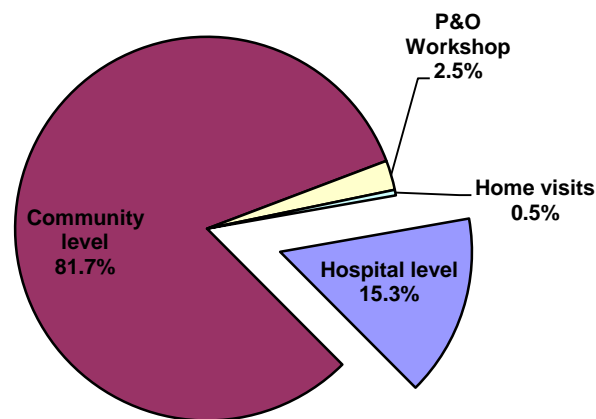
**BUT**

range = <1% to 46%

# Findings: Rehab

- Surgery to rehab limited pathways:
  - Community and self referrals
- Amputees only a fraction of total rehab clients:
  - Orthotic vs. prosthetic requirements
- Prosthetic “shopping around”

Activity Distribution, Patient wise



# Implications and conclusions

- Rehab and surgical sectors showed evidence of excellent practices individually. BUT
  - Needs to be better coordinated
  - Integrated trauma care pathways
- Medical record keeping reinforcement
- Proportionalise not sensationalise

# Questions for the ISPRM...

- How to advocate and achieve a multidisciplinary approach
- How to ensure all actors are aware of protocols and standards...
- How to practically facilitate medical communication in the chaos of disaster...