

Knowledge translation processes: Bridges between research and policy making

A summary of

Lavis, J. (2006). Research, public policymaking, and knowledge-translation processes: Canadian efforts to build bridges. *J Contin Educ Health Prof.* 26(1), doi: 10.1002/chp.49



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools
Centre de collaboration nationale
des méthodes et outils

How to cite this NCCMT summary:

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2013). *Knowledge translation processes: Bridges between research and policy making*. Hamilton, ON: McMaster University. (Updated 05 September, 2017) Retrieved from <http://www.nccmt.ca/resources/search/173>.

Categories:

Method, Knowledge exchange, Organizational capacity and management, Policy development

Date posted:

April 12, 2013

Date updated:

September 5, 2017

Method

Relevance For Public Health

Practical examples are outlined for how knowledge translation has been used to bridge research and public policy, including health policy, in a Canadian context.

Description

Five different types of knowledge translation processes are identified as being essential for evidence-informed policy making, bridging the gap between research and policy. Evidence-informed policy making is best achieved when both research and the policy making process are purposefully linked. Knowledge translation activities can act as a bridge between the two sectors. The article, [Research, Public Policymaking, and Knowledge-Translation Processes: Canadian Efforts to Build Bridges](#), outlines five knowledge translation processes.

These five knowledge translation processes are part of a larger framework linking research to policy making at the national level ([Lavis et al., 2006](#)). Within this larger framework, efforts to link research to action include:

- assessing if the general environment is supportive of using research in policy making
- determining if user needs are identified through priority setting in producing research
- using knowledge translation processes linking research to policy making (this article)
- supporting and funding rigorous evaluation of efforts to link research to action

Key practice implications include the following:

- Knowledge translation processes need to be timely and rigorously evaluated.
- These processes need to be done on a sufficiently large scale with strong evaluations to increase evidence on the effectiveness of knowledge translation activities.

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

Knowledge translation activities could be undertaken with public health managers, directors, decision-makers or anyone involved in informing policy decisions.

Steps for Using Tool

Five types of KT activities have been identified to bridge research and public policy making:

- Production activities—methods that involve integration of policy making during research production. For an example, see [Partnerships for policymaking](#).
- Push—methods often used by researchers to direct their information and efforts toward those

These summaries are written by the NCCMT to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

involved in public policy making.

- Facilitating user pull—methods that enhance the accessibility of research, as well as those that assist public policy-makers in *identifying* high quality, high relevance research. To facilitate the use of research in decision making, see questions listed in [Understanding user context in knowledge translation](#).
- User pull—methods to enhance public policy organizations' capacity to acquire, assess, adapt and apply research evidence (e.g., [CHSRF self assessment tool](#)).
- Exchange—methods to establish and sustain partnerships and two-way communication between researchers and policy-makers.

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation

Information not available

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

John N. Lavis

Method of Development

Information not available

Release Date

2006

Contact Person

John N. Lavis
McMaster University
1280 Main St W, CRL-209
Hamilton, ON L8S 4K9
Phone: (905) 525-9140, ext. 22521
Fax: (905) 529-5742
Email: lavisj@mcmaster.ca

Resources

Title of Primary Resource	Research, public policymaking, and knowledge-translation processes: Canadian efforts to build bridges
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16557509
Reference	Lavis, J. (2006). Research, public policymaking, and knowledge-translation processes: Canadian efforts to build bridges. <i>J Contin Educ Health Prof.</i> 26(1), doi: 10.1002/chp.49
Type of Material	Journal Article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	Journal purchase
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Copyright © 2006. The Alliance for Continuing Medical Education, the Society for Academic Continuing Medical Education, and the Council on CME, Association for Hospital Medical Education. All rights reserved.

Title of Supplementary Resource	Assessing country-level efforts to link research to action
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2627430/?tool=pubmed
Reference	Lavis, J.N., Lomas, J., Hamid, M. & Sewankambo, N.K. (2006). Assessing country-level efforts to link research to action. <i>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</i> , 84(8), 620-628.
Type of Material	Journal Article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Copyright © 2006 World Health Organization