

Evidence-informed public health policy: A model

A summary of

Brownson, R.C., Chirqui, J.F., & Stamatakis, K.A. (2009). Understanding evidence-based public health policy. *American Journal of Public Health*, 99(9), 1576-1583. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2008.156224.



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Method

Relevance For Public Health

This model of evidence-informed policy making can be applied across public health settings to improve a population's health and social outcomes.

Description

This [model](#) explores the use of different types of evidence in evidence-informed policy making. Evidence-informed policy development is characterized by three domains: process, content and outcome.

Healthy public policy helps to create supportive environments to enable people to lead healthy lives ([WHO, 1988](#); [Milio, 2001](#)). Healthy public policy can be defined as "public policies, outside the formal health sector, that have an impact on health, such as education, transportation, and fiscal policies" ([Fafard, 2008, p.4](#)). To learn more about policy processes and the use of scientific evidence to influence healthy public policies, see resources from the [National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy](#).

Evidence-informed policy making includes three domains:

- Process - understanding how the problem, policy and politics interact to successfully change policy
- Content - identifying effective evidence-based elements of policy to be adopted
- Outcome - evaluating policy and its impact

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

Public health researchers, decision-makers and policy-makers can use this model to better understand how different types of evidence can be used to inform healthy public policy.

Steps for Using Tool

The model for evidence-informed policy making outlines steps within three domains:

1. Policy process

- Prepare data for quick and proactive dissemination
- Find new ways of communicating data

2. Policy content

- Identify the elements that lead to evidence-informed policy
- Effectively use existing tools

3. Policy outcomes

- Develop systems for policy surveillance
- Use numerous forms of evidence for tracking outcomes

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.

There is also a table listing barriers to implementing evidence-informed policy making.

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation

Has not been evaluated

Validity

Validity not tested

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

R.C. Brownson
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Method of Development

Information not available

Release Date

2009

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Resources

Title of Primary Resource	Understanding evidence-based public health policy
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2724448/
Reference	Brownson, R.C., Chirqui, J.F., & Stamatakis, K.A. (2009). Understanding evidence-based public health policy. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> , 99(9), 1576-1583. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2008.156224.
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Not specified

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Title of Supplementary Resource	Evidence and Healthy Public Policy: Insights from Health and Political Sciences
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.ncchpp.ca/165/Publications.ccnpps
Reference	Fafard, P. (2008). Evidence and Healthy Public Policy: Insights from Health and Political Sciences. Montreal, QC: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.
Type of Material	Report
Format	On-line Access
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English, French
Conditions for Use	Not specified

Title of Supplementary Resource	Adelaide Recommendations on Healthy Public Policy
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/previous/adelaide/en/index1.html
Reference	World Health Organization (1988). Adelaide Recommendations on Healthy Public Policy. Second International Conference on Health Promotion, Adelaide, South Australia. Available from: http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/previous/adelaide/en/index1.html
Type of Material	Website
Format	On-line Access
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Copyright © 2012 WHO

Title of Supplementary Resource	Glossary: healthy public policy
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://jech.highwire.org/content/55/9/622.extract
Reference	Milio, N. (2001). Glossary: healthy public policy. <i>Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health</i> , 55, 622-623. doi: 10.1136/jech.55.9.622
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	Journal article purchase
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Not specified