Equity toolkit for policy making and evaluation

A summary of

How to cite this NCCMT summary:

Categories:
Tool, Synthesize, Implement, Evaluate, Communication, Knowledge dissemination, Partnership development and maintenance, Policy development, Stakeholder analysis and engagement

Relevance For Public Health
This resource could be used to assess the mix of policy actions that currently exist and/or to design new policies to reduce health inequities. The components of the tool can be used selectively or comprehensively for different purposes (such as a rapid assessment of current policies or a more in-depth review).

Description
This comprehensive toolkit, Gradient Evaluation Framework, provides a framework and tools to develop and assess policies to address health inequities. Developed by the Gradient Project, this resource includes checklists, worksheets, activities, strategies and case examples on the design and evaluation of policy actions to reduce health inequalities.

The evidence base on the effectiveness of policies and interventions to reduce health inequities is weak. Thus, policies and interventions that seek to address health inequities need to be adequately evaluated to increase the evidence base. For more equity resources, see NCCDH's Resource Library.

The Gradient Evaluation Framework can be used when designing new policies or to review existing policies retrospectively. The toolkit consists of two major components:

- Dimension 1: provides checklists for eight key areas to inform the design and evaluation of effective policy actions to address health inequities
- Dimension 2: provides more detailed self-assessment tasks outlining specific activities related to the design and evaluation of policy actions

Another useful resource from the Gradient Project that provides evidence on the effectiveness of policy interventions to address health inequalities is:

- The Right Start to a Healthy Life: Levelling-up the Health Gradient Among Children, Young People and Families in the European Union - What Works?

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?
This tool could be used by policy-makers, practitioners, decision-makers, researchers and evaluators working locally, regionally or nationally.

Steps for Using Tool
The Gradient Evaluation Framework consists of a series of tools to assist in policy development, implementation and evaluation to address health inequities.
Dimension One: Applying the Gradient Equity Lens

This dimension includes checklists, worksheets and notes for each area:

- Proportionate universalism
- Intersectoral tools for all
- A whole systems approach
- Scale and intensity
- Life course approach
- Social and wider determinants
- Non-geographic boundaries
- Gradient friendly indicators

Dimension Two: Applying the Gradient Equity Lens

This dimension includes six steps with sample activities for design and evaluation of policies, including developing indicators to assess policy impacts on health inequities:

- Describe the policy and its related actions
- Engage stakeholders
- Focus evaluation design
- Collect relevant data (using relevant indicators)
- Analyze, interpret and synthesize data
- Disseminate findings and feedback

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation

Information not available

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating

N/A Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

John Kenneth Davies
Nigel Sherriff
The Gradient Project
University of Brighton
Website: www.health-gradient.eu

Method of Development

The Gradient Evaluation Framework was developed by the Gradient Project coordinated by EuroHealthNet. The Gradient Project is a research project with 12 collaborating organizations from across Europe in academia and public health, which is funded by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme. In developing the Gradient Evaluation Framework, a realist review was conducted to understand evaluation frameworks that could be used to address health inequities. Through the review, 34 evaluation frameworks were assessed and since no appropriate existing framework could be identified, the Gradient Evaluation Framework was developed. The new framework has undergone a formal consensus-building process with external experts from European Member States.

Release Date

2012
Resources

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<tr>
<th>Title of Primary Resource</th>
<th>The gradient evaluation framework (GEF): A European framework for designing and evaluating policies and actions to level-up the gradient in health inequalities among children, young people and their families.</th>
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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.