

Health policy content analysis method

A summary of

Collins, T. (2005). Health policy analysis: A simple tool for policy makers. *Public Health*, 199, 192-196.



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Categories:

Method, Policy development

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Method

Relevance For Public Health

Collins (2005) does not specify whether or not this policy content analysis method was developed exclusively for public health-related issues and goals. However, its process for analyzing a policy issue so that a decision can be made can easily be used for any public health policy issue. Examples are varied and include policy issues related to preventing health disparities, addressing determinants of health, and content-related areas such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, childhood chronic disease due to obesity, aboriginal issues and organizational promotion of workplace health.

Description

This method for conducting and evaluating [health policy content analysis](#) was developed to address a lack of process for health-focused policy analysis. This method relies on the World Health Organization's definition of public health policy as the ability of a group to achieve agreement or consensus on priority health issues and goals to be addressed and the direction to be taken to meet these goals. Collins (2005) acknowledges that, although many factors are involved in generating and disseminating health policy, there is a need for a rational process for discussing and evaluating ways to meet a policy objective or goal. Further, health policy-makers need to make crucial decisions regarding population-based health care in a short period of time. This method involves eight steps from defining the context of the policy issue to evaluating the options to making the final decision. Information regarding the evaluation of this method is not available.

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

Policy-makers who need to evaluate health policy issues and establish consensus regarding the issue.

Steps for Using Tool

The method proposed includes the following steps:

1. Define the context, including background of issue, contextual factors, situational factors, internal structure, other direct or indirect factors.
2. State the policy issue or problem, including potential adverse effects, any discrepancy between what currently exists and what is needed, and any possible solutions.
3. Search for evidence, such as research and other forms of evidence that can identify significant features of the policy problem or directly relates to the policy problem being evaluated.
4. Consider different policy options that demonstrate the alternative courses of action, including potential interventions required.
5. Project the outcomes, such as potential conclusions or consequences of following a certain course of action outlined in the policy options.
6. Apply evaluative criteria, such as relevance of the intervention, progress of the proposed policy option, efficiency of the intervention especially in relation to cost and monetary output, effectiveness of the intervention in attaining proposed objectives, and the overall impact of the activity for population health.
7. Weigh the projected outcomes, NOT debating the merits of alternatives.

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8. Decide, based on evaluation, which policy option to pursue.

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation

Information not available

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

T. Collins

Method of Development

Information not available.

Release Date

2005

Contact Person

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Resources

Title of Primary Resource	Health policy analysis: A simple tool for policy makers.
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.publichealthjrnl.com/article/S0033-3506(04)00099-X/abstract#
Reference	Collins, T. (2005). Health policy analysis: A simple tool for policy makers. <i>Public Health</i> , 199, 192-196.
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	Cost for periodical.
Language	English
Conditions for Use	

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