

# How to construct a logic model for healthy public policy

## A summary of

Morestin, F. and Castonguay, J. (2013). Constructing a logic model for a healthy public policy: why and how? Montréal, Québec: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.



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 (2018). *How to construct a logic model for healthy public policy*. Hamilton, ON: McMaster University. (Updated 07 December, 2018) Retrieved from <https://www.nccmt.ca/resources/search/329>.

## Categories:

Tool, Implement, Evaluate

## Date posted:

December 7, 2018

## Date updated:

December 7, 2018

## Tool

---

## Relevance For Public Health

Logic models are useful for public health actors when designing, implementing and evaluating public policies. This particular tool focuses on logic models that support healthy public policies, making it highly relevant to the field of public health.

## Description

This briefing note, designed by the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP), shows users how, why and in which contexts one can create a logic model centred on healthy public policy. The goal of the logic model is to gain a better understanding of how the policy works.

## Implementing the Tool

### Who is Involved?

This tool is useful for anyone looking to create a logic model centred on a healthy public policy. It is particularly useful for public health practitioners as it allows for the analysis of the effects of a healthy public policy. A Logic model as it is defined here represents the chain of expected effects that link a public policy to a health problem it aims to solve.

### Steps for Using Tool

This tool answers the following three questions:

1. What is a logic model for a healthy public policy?
2. Why construct a logic model for a healthy public policy?
3. How does one construct a logic model?

In order to construct a logic model, the user needs to first reflect on the chain of effects that must occur to achieve the ultimate expected effect of the policy in question. This tool then instructs users on how to create a deliberately pared-down logic model, along with providing examples. The tool also suggests enhancements for using the logic model in planning or decision-making.

The tool supplies definitions and examples of causal models and logic models in health impact assessment.

The reasons provided for constructing a logic model are as follows:

1. To define the public policy being studied
2. To assess plausibility
3. To guide data collection and indicator selection
4. To articulate causal links
5. To communicate the logic of the intervention
6. To foster collaboration

The basic steps provided for creating a logic model include identifying the policy being studied on the left-

---

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.

hand side, while indicating the desired effect on the right-hand side. The logical steps leading from the policy to the ultimate effect are identified using if/then statements. The tool specifies that logic models are flexible and iterative documents.

## Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

### Evaluation

Information not available

### Validity

Information not available

### Reliability

Information not available

### Methodological Rating

Not applicable

## Tool Development

### Developers

Florence Morestin  
Julie Castonguay

### Method of Development

This tool was developed by two authors from the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy. The preliminary version was reviewed by two reviewers who provided feedback and comments.

### Release Date

2013

### Contact Person

Florence Morestin  
The National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy  
Email: [florence.morestin@inspq.qc.ca](mailto:florence.morestin@inspq.qc.ca)

## Resources

<b>Title of Primary Resource</b>	Constructing a Logic Model for a Healthy Public Policy: Why and How?
<b>File Attachment</b>	None
<b>Web-link</b>	<a href="http://www.ncchpp.ca/172/publications.ccnpps?id_article=898">http://www.ncchpp.ca/172/publications.ccnpps?id_article=898</a>
<b>Reference</b>	Morestin, F. and Castonguay, J. (2013). Constructing a logic model for a healthy public policy: why and how? Montréal, Québec: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.
<b>Type of Material</b>	Online document
<b>Format</b>	On-line Access
<b>Cost to Access</b>	None.
<b>Language</b>	English, French
<b>Conditions for Use</b>	None

*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.*