Integrating Evidence Into Health Policy: Navigating Cross-sectoral and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Tessa Heeren  
*University of Iowa*

Diana Dulf  
*Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj*

Elena Bozdog  
*Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj*

*Please see article for additional authors.*
This systematic review assesses the extent to which evidence is used in European public health decision-making, with a focus on highlighting barriers and facilitators to developing and implementing evidence-based policy. Two reviewers used terms including "evidence-based public health" and "public health policy" to search for articles across seven databases: Medline, Embase, Cinahl, PsycInfo, Scopus, Embase, and ClinicalKey. Records identified in the search were then screened for eligibility, resulting in 2525 studies. After exclusions based on title and abstract, 30 studies remained. These studies included a total of 71 interviews with policymakers, researchers, public health professionals, and community members.

One-third of studies (n=10) discussed the widely varying interpretations of the evidence, sources used as evidence to inform policy, and barriers to evidence use. For example, policymakers can be wary of bias in research and skeptical of the motives of researchers. Researchers can generate evidence that is specific or generalizable, but the results of this review are specific to the public health policy and political climates of Europe, and cannot be generalized to settings outside of Europe.

The results of this review highlight the need for continued research and policy action to improve the use of evidence in public health. Policies to enhance evidence use include: improving the accessibility and availability of evidence, improving the quality of evidence, and enhancing the capacity of policymakers and stakeholders to use evidence in decision-making.

Integration of Evidence Into Health Policy: Navigating Cross-sectoral and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Tessa Heeren,1 Diana Düll,2 Elena Bozdog,2 Răzvan Cerecheres,2 Ahmed Syed,1 Anja R. Aro1

1University of Iowa Public Policy Center, 2The University of Warwick Medical School, 3Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj School of Public Health

The research leading to these results is within the University of Iowa Public Policy Center, and has received funding from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIH/NIH) under grant number 5R00MD002689-04, awarded to the University of Iowa Public Policy Center. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Please visit https://www.who.int/wpr/ to access the full report and related materials.

Selected References

Immunization Policy of Public Health Professionals and Community Members: A Systematic Review

Tessa Heeren,1 Diana Düll,2 Elena Bozdog,2 Răzvan Cerecheres,2 Ahmed Syed,1 Anja R. Aro1

1University of Iowa Public Policy Center, 2The University of Warwick Medical School, 3Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj School of Public Health

The results of this review highlight the need for continued research and policy action to improve the use of evidence in public health. Policies to enhance evidence use include: improving the accessibility and availability of evidence, improving the quality of evidence, and enhancing the capacity of policymakers and stakeholders to use evidence in decision-making.

Integration of Evidence Into Health Policy: Navigating Cross-sectoral and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Tessa Heeren,1 Diana Düll,2 Elena Bozdog,2 Răzvan Cerecheres,2 Ahmed Syed,1 Anja R. Aro1

1University of Iowa Public Policy Center, 2The University of Warwick Medical School, 3Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj School of Public Health

The research leading to these results is within the University of Iowa Public Policy Center, and has received funding from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIH/NIH) under grant number 5R00MD002689-04, awarded to the University of Iowa Public Policy Center. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Please visit https://www.who.int/wpr/ to access the full report and related materials.

Selected References