

Evidence to Policy: Strategies and Methods for Stakeholder Engaged Evidence-to-Policy Translation to Promote Health Equity

Presenters

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Abstract

The San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership (SFHIP) was established in 2010 to promote health equity using a collective impact model, with an emphasis on translating evidence into local policy to achieve sustainable changes in conditions promoting community health. SFHIP has brought together a diverse array of local health stakeholders under a governing council that includes ethnic-based community health equity coalitions, public health department, hospitals, a health sciences university, school district, faith community, and other sectors. Initial efforts have focused on reduction of consumption of sugary beverages, regulation of retail alcohol sales, and eliminating disparities in children's oral health. For each goal, partnership working groups mobilized community stakeholders to form stable platforms for ongoing health improvement using the tools of community engagement. Working groups in consultation with translational scientists identified evidence-based policy changes that would create stable funding bases for ongoing health promotion in each improvement area (e.g., soda taxes), and changes in rules and regulations that would promote scalability and sustainability. SFHIP has made measurable progress towards community health equity in each of these areas. Two will be highlighted in this Learning Lab to frame an interactive workshop on strategies and methods for stakeholder-engaged, evidence-to-policy translation.

For sugary beverages (SB), local ordinances have been enacted requiring health risk warnings on SB advertisements and prohibiting city agencies from buying SBs, and SF is on the verge of enacting a soda tax; almost all hospitals in San Francisco have implemented or committed to implementing bans on sale and serving of SBs; and the Public Utilities Commission is installing water filling stations in low income neighborhoods and partnering with community-based organizations. SB consumption is decreasing in San Francisco, with a study of employees at one hospital demonstrating the greatest relative reduction in consumption among lower-income employees.

The alcohol policy group has revitalized implementation and enforcement of San Francisco's existing Deemed Approved Uses Ordinance (DAO) regulating off-sale/off-site retail sale of alcoholic beverages. Armed with new research conducted by the group demonstrating that alcohol-related harms are significantly associated with density of alcohol outlets, community advocacy groups have succeeded in engaging UCSF, the health department and police department to demonstrate the need for an upstream, equity framework for understanding alcohol harms, and multi-sector, public health-informed and community-engaged regulation.

Thematic Areas Innovative Methods of Community Engagement, Methods of Engaging Underrepresented and Underserved Populations in Research, Novel Methods of Advancing Collaboration, Engagement and Team Science

Learning Objectives

Participants will learn the key elements for successful stakeholder engaged, evidence-to-policy collective action, including:

- 1) how to bring diverse community partners/stakeholders together to form a partnership working group,
- 2) how to collaboratively prioritize feasible, meaningful, well-defined health equity goals,
- 3) how to promote knowledge exchange of health policy evidence among researchers and community partners/stakeholders to communicate and act upon research findings in relevant, accessible, and strategic ways, and
- 4) how to collaboratively define a policy agenda and mobilize stakeholders to successfully develop and implement mutually reinforcing policies in the public and private sectors.

A Schedule for the Session that Includes Brief Descriptions of the Interactive Components

- 1) 10 min: Introductions and Overview of Session
- 2) 20 min: Evidence-to-Policy Model and Case Study: Review of SFHIP as a case study for illustrating the key elements of stakeholder engaged evidence-to-policy action
- 3) 35 min: Interactive Group Exercise – Using pre-set scenarios, participants to group according to stakeholder sectors, share their roles, and propose a policy agenda based on their sector interests. Collectively, the small groups will report back and discuss opportunities for aligning interests developing policy that is evidence based and stakeholder responsive.
- 3) 20 min: Reflection & Discussion
- 4) 5 min: Evaluation

A Statement of the Relevance of the Work to Community Engaged Research

We leverage research to strengthen community capacity for meaningful structural and policy change in partnership with the community. Our work highlighted here, is to build community, university and policy-maker capacity to gather, understand and develop policies to sustain healthy environments. We complement evidence-based policy approaches with community-driven priorities for policy.