Health Equity Tools for Policy Change

Karen Fish
National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health

Thrive
Halifax, NS
September, 2014
3 well-established tools

- Policy Readiness Tool (Alberta)
- Equity-focused health impact assessment framework (Australia)
- Gradient Evaluation Framework (Europe)

Good sources of health equity tools

- Health Equity Tools (2013) by Equity Lens in Public Health (ELPH) University of Victoria
- National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools
Assessing readiness for policy change and strategies for taking actions

http://policyreadinessstool.com/

Based on Roger’s diffusion of innovation theory

Tested with municipal representatives throughout Alberta

Strategies developed with wide-ranging membership of advisory board

Met NCCMT assessment criteria
Policy Readiness Tool

**Tool includes**

1. Introduction to Rogers’ Diffusion of Innovation Theory
2. A note on policy change
3. Assessing a municipality’s readiness for policy change
4. Key strategies for policy change
5. Extensive resources for people advocating for change

Depending on the municipality’s readiness, take different strategies

- **Innovator municipalities** adventurous
- **Major municipalities** deliberate
- **Late adopter municipalities** traditional
Equity-focused health impact assessment framework

Australia

Does a policy, program or project have the potential to create, maintain or reduce health inequities?

Equity-focused health impact assessment framework Australia

**Can be used for**
- Policy
- Program
- Project

**Assesses impact on population subgroups**
- Prospectively
- Retrospectively

---

Equity-focused health impact assessment framework Australia

**Rapid**

**Intermediate**

**Comprehensive**
Equity-focused health impact assessment framework

Developed by
3-university collaboration funded by PH education Research Program

How developed (over 2 years)
- literature review
- formal and informal consultations with experts
- testing with 5 partners from a range of health settings

Assessed
ELPH

Equity-focused health impact assessment framework Australia

SCREENING
- Policy/program is suitable for assessment
- Potential for inequitable impact

SCOPING
- Terms of reference [who, values]
- What is to be included in equity
- Brainstorming likely impacts

IMPACT IDENTIFICATION
- Policy context
- Target populations
- Data collection
- Variables of interest
Equity-focused health impact assessment framework Australia

Application

- Australian Better Health Initiative
- Community Health Boards
- Dietary guidelines
- Cardiac rehabilitation program
Gradient Evaluation Framework

Developed by
The Gradient Project, University of Brighton, coordinated by EuroHealth Net

How developed
• Consensus building workshops
• Peer review process
• Extensive literature review

Assessed
NCCMT
