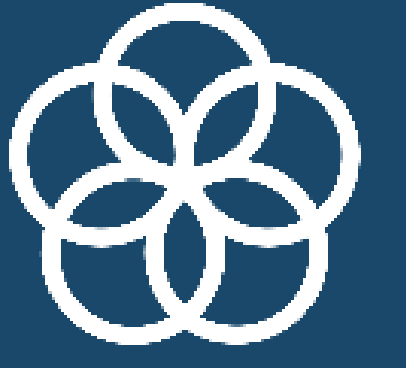


Using science to guide city planning, policy, and practice: achieving healthy and sustainable future cities.

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



INTRODUCTION

- Land use and transport policies can contribute to non-communicable diseases through:
 - Air and noise pollution
 - Low physical activity
 - Traffic exposure and traffic injuries
- If urban transport and planning policies take health effects into account, they could not only benefit a wide range of common health problems, but also benefit environmental sustainability and economic vitality

POLICY PROCESS

Three streams of the policy process

1. Problem Stream

Decision makers need to recognise the issue as a problem

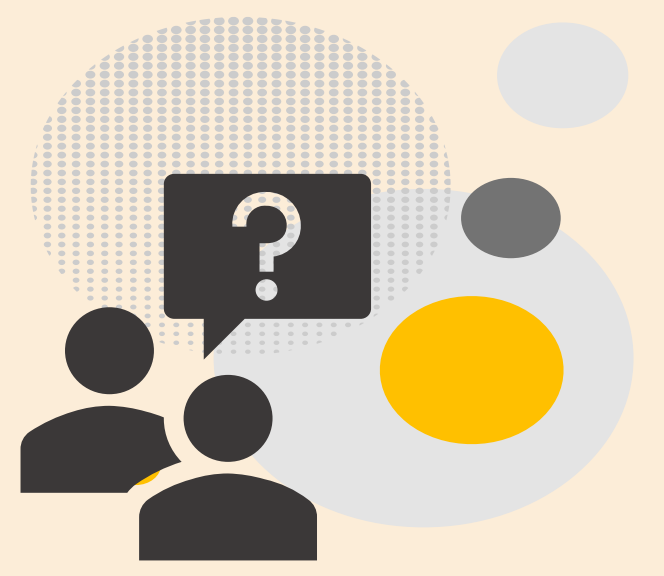
2. Proposal Stream

Requires identification of feasible solutions

3. Policy Stream

Politicians must be willing to make a decision

FOUR-PHASE MODEL OF RESEARCH TRANSLATION



1. Policy-relevant research questions

- Collaborations amongst researchers, practitioners and policy makers
- Research questions should be designed to address relevant and timely policy questions
- Teams should be interdisciplinary



2. Policy-relevant research methods

- Research measures should be compelling to policy makers
 - E.g. natural experiments and case studies
- Should be an emphasis on local evidence
- Multiple outcome measures to enhance relevance to multiple sectors
 - Health, environmental and economic benefits



3. Dissemination strategy to decision makers

- Actively distribute findings to policy makers via appropriate communications methods
- Use research briefs and infographics with clear policy implications to be accessible to non-technical audiences
- Evidence should be relevant to the context of decision making



4. Engagement in advocacy

- Develop relationships with knowledge brokers who can take research findings to decision makers
- Become known by decision makers as a source of useful and credible information
- Schedule one-on-one meetings, group briefings, and testimony to policy makers

EXAMPLE CASE STUDY: RESIDE, Perth, WA, Australia

- Department of Planning wanted evidence of health benefits of their *Liveable Neighbourhoods* policy
- Researchers wanted evidence on relationship between urban design and physical activity, and to undertake assessment of state governments *Liveable Neighbourhoods* policy
- Goals relevant to both researchers and policy makers

- Study assessed level of policy implementation and the impact of the *Liveable Neighbourhoods* design code on health outcomes
- Showed policy recommendation were only ~47% implemented
- Showed for every 10% increase, odds of walking increased by ~50%

- Frequent communication with government officials throughout RESIDE study
- Trust established between researchers and decision makers
- Resulted in Department of Planning inviting direct input from researchers into the review/update of the *Liveable Neighbourhoods* policy

- Health evidence communicated to diverse stakeholders – government departments, news media etc..
- Developed a partnership with the National Heart Foundation and capitalised on their experience in advocacy
- Collaboration with Planning Institute of Australia ensured results reached planning community

Key Lessons:

Evidence directly related to specific policies and, as trust built overtime, interest in findings eventually grew to the point where they were used in the *Liveable Neighbourhoods* policy review.

EXAMPLE CASE STUDY: Active Living Research (ALR), USA

- Required a policy rationale for grant proposal
- Encouraged interdisciplinary teams that included a policy maker or practitioner

- Interdisciplinary teams broadened range of study designs and methods = enhanced scientific value and policy relevance
- Policy makers indicated they placed high value on case studies and economic data

- ALR developed research translation grants that provided an incentive for research translation activities.
- ALR enhanced communication of findings to policy makers, advocates and practitioners who could use their research
- Used non-technical briefs, infographics, social media and web engagement

- Interdisciplinary teams with members from urban planning, transport, education, etc. served as bridge between research and research users
- Worked with knowledge brokers

Key Lessons:

50% of ALR grantees had input into decision making processes that contributed to policy/practice change and 80% of relevant policy and advocacy organizations were familiar with ALR research

FINAL POINTS

- The negative health impacts from motor vehicle-orientated land-use and transport policies make it imperative that we make use of research evidence to move city planning and transport policies in directions that are health promoting.
- Case studies such as RESIDE and ALR demonstrate that health research can play an influential and beneficial role in land-use and transport decision making.
- Better systems and collaborations are required in government and academia to facilitate policy-relevant interdisciplinary research and its timely translation into city-planning policy and practice.