



Online training course by the NCCHPP: A framework for analyzing public policies

Summary list – Dimensions for analyzing public policies

May 2014

Reminder: For each dimension, consider the associated durability.

Effectiveness

- What are the effects of the public policy being analyzed (positive, neutral, negative) on the targeted health problem?
- How effective is this policy in terms of its intermediate effects?
- Is the intervention logic of this policy plausible?
- What impact does the implementation context have on the policy's effectiveness?
- How much time is needed before effects can be observed? Do the effects persist over time?

Unintended Effects

- Does the public policy under study produce unintended effects, whether positive or negative?
- How can the negative unintended effects be mitigated?

Equity

- What effects (intended or unintended) do the policy being analyzed have upon different groups? (Criteria to examine: age, gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity and race, religion, language, place of residence, sexual orientation, physical or intellectual functional limitation, etc.)
- Does this policy create, reinforce or correct social inequalities in health?

Costs

- What are the financial costs and gains for the government? For other actors (industry, community organizations, consumers, taxpayers, etc.)?
- How are the costs distributed over time?
- To what extent are the costs apparent?
- How do the costs of the policy being analyzed compare with those of other potential policies, including that of inaction? What is the cost-effectiveness (from the perspective of the government, from the perspective of society as a whole) of the policy being analyzed?

Feasibility

- Are the required human, material, and technological resources available?
- Does the public policy being analyzed fall under the legal jurisdiction of the authority that wishes to adopt it? Is it in conformity with existing legislation?
- Is the policy a follow-up to a pilot program?
- Can the policy be administered by pre-existing mechanisms?
- Is the authority promoting this policy also the one that will implement it?

- If not, how many different actors are involved in implementing this policy? Are they effectively guided by the policy's promoters? Do they cooperate well?
- Do the opponents of this policy have the ability to interfere with its adoption or implementation?

Acceptability

- Which actors are (or would be) affected by the public policy under consideration?
- Is the problem targeted by this policy considered a social issue that requires intervention? What are stakeholders' reactions to the idea of intervening to address this problem?
- How do stakeholders think the issue should be addressed?
- What do stakeholders think of the proposed policy? Of its effectiveness, its unintended effects, its effects on equity, its cost, its feasibility? Of the degree of coercion it involves?
- What do stakeholders think of the conditions surrounding adoption and implementation of this policy?
- Can this policy's acceptability evolve during the period in which it is being implemented?

May 2014

Author: Florence Morestin, National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Morestin, F. (2014). *Summary list – Dimensions for analyzing public policies* [Online training course handout]. Montréal, QC: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.

The National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP) seeks to increase the expertise of public health actors across Canada in healthy public policy through the development, sharing and use of knowledge. The NCCHPP is one of six centres financed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The six centres form a network across Canada, each hosted by a different institution and each focusing on a specific topic linked to public health.

In addition to the Centres' individual contributions, the network of Collaborating Centres provides focal points for the exchange and common production of knowledge relating to these topics. The National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy is hosted by the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), a leading centre in public health in Canada.

Production of this document has been made possible through a financial contribution from the Public Health Agency of Canada through funding for the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy (NCCHPP). The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Information contained in the document may be cited provided that the source is mentioned.

