Evaluation Working Group Webinar

Evaluation of population health approaches addressing health inequalities

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(hosted by East Suffolk & North Essex NHS FT)

26th April 2022
12:30 – 1:30
Conceptualising health inequalities

Health inequalities: differences in the population driven by disadvantage

Clinical variation: differences in the provision of health care driven by organisational factors

Parity of esteem: differences in the relative attention paid to different conditions

Three important distinct, but overlapping concepts.
Unpacking health inequalities

- Health care and health outcome gaps
- Conditions intrinsically associated with disadvantage
- Inclusion health groups
Evaluation principles - MRC framework

Develop intervention
- Either developing a new intervention, or adapting an existing intervention for a new context, based on research evidence and theory of the problem

Identify intervention
- Choosing an intervention that already exists (or is planned), either via policy or practice, and exploring its options for evaluation (evaluability assessment)

Feasibility
- Assessing feasibility and acceptability of intervention and evaluation design in order to make decisions about progression to next stage of evaluation

Core elements
- Consider context
- Develop, refine, and (re)test programme theory
- Engage stakeholders
- Identify key uncertainties
- Refine intervention
- Economic considerations

Implementation
- Deliberate efforts to increase impact and uptake of successfully tested health innovations

Evaluation
- Assessing an intervention using the most appropriate method to address research questions

Reflections of evaluating complex interventions

1. Generating useful evidence
2. Context is King
3. Engagement with patients and communities
4. Transdisciplinary
5. Live evaluation with real-time feedback
Evaluating inequalities

Targeted interventions

Universal interventions

Neutral

Narrowing

Widening
Key principles

1. Engage with citizens, communities and senior decision makers early
2. Explore data at baseline and throughout disaggregated by disadvantage
3. Start roll out with those most in need
4. Enable evaluation to improve equity of service throughout
Equity-focused evaluation – approaches and available resources
Place-based action on health inequalities

- Place-based action on health inequalities

- Evaluation toolkit
  - Intermediate outcomes
  - Long term outcomes
  - Addressing complexity
Place-based action on health inequalities

- Place-based action on health inequalities

- Evaluation toolkit

-Intermediate outcomes
  ➔ Range of stakeholders identified during the initial planning process
  ➔ Regular monitoring recommended
Place-based action on health inequalities

- Place-based action on health inequalities
  

- Evaluation toolkit
  

- Intermediate outcomes
- Long term outcomes
- Addressing complexity

Realist evaluation

What works, for whom and in what circumstances?

- Move beyond looking at quantifiable outcomes from datasets to incorporating the wider contextual factors which will impact on how well the programme works, and how this might change in different populations or settings.
- What different outcomes might be observed when a programme is attempted in different contexts or with different populations
Long term outcomes

• Standard evaluation steps
  - Understanding the intervention and the problem it is intended to solve
  - Defining the evaluation question
  - Reviewing what evidence or data are currently available or would be needed to answer this question
  - Designing your evaluation: logic model, methodology, suitable control group, anticipating challenges
  - Collecting the evidence or data (baseline assessment)
  - Analysing the evidence or data
  - Reporting on the findings (Feedback loop allowing ongoing results to influence the design and iterative improvements)
  - Drawing conclusions or making recommendations
Data and measurement

Consider.....

the **health measure** that is being considered/question that is being asked

how to identify and differentiate the **different population groups**

the **overall geographic scale** of the population set being considered by the health measure

the **scale of aggregation of data**. Conceptually we can think of inequalities existing between individuals e.g. someone more deprived having a worse health outcomes. However, in practice we generally cannot see the deprivation of an individual directly and instead have data on average deprivation by geographic areas such as a Lower Super Output Area (LSOA).

the **inequality metric** that summarises, in a single number, the relationship between a health measure and different population groups for a certain overall geographic scale and scale of aggregation of data.

the **measurement uncertainty** in the estimate.
# A guide to using national and local data to address health inequalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Levels of Geography</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Different population Groups</th>
<th>Inequality Metric</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHE Health Inequalities Dashboard</td>
<td>Display trends in health inequalities in England</td>
<td>England, regions, local authorities (inequality data at region and local authority level for some indicators)</td>
<td>18 key indicators including health outcomes and wider determinants of health</td>
<td>Specific to each indicator, but includes: Deprivation, Sexuality, Ethnicity</td>
<td>Gini &amp; Relative Index of Inequality, Absolute &amp; Relative gaps, mean difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHE Segment Tool</td>
<td>Present causes of death and age groups driving life expectancy gap</td>
<td>England, regions, local authorities</td>
<td>Breakdown of life expectancy gaps between local authorities and England, and between most and least deprived within each area, by cause of death and age group</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Contribution to the life expectancy gap expressed as a percentage and number of years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table containing icons indicating relevance of various products:**

- **Some relevant content**
- **Highly relevant content**

**Questions to consider:**

- What are the main causes of death and poor health in my population?
- How does my area compare against national averages, targets or with other similar areas?
- Is there evidence of inequalities within my area, geographically or for particular pop subgroups?
- What are the main factors driving inequalities within my population?
- Is there evidence of inequalities within local health & care pathways?
OHID Inequality national data tools

Inequality Tools

Introduction
This page contains data on health inequalities at England and local level.

CHIME, the Health Inequalities Dashboard and the Segment Tool are interactive web tools which can be accessed via the links below. Some additional data and resources are also provided on this page.

COVID-19 Health Inequalities Monitoring for England tool (CHIME)
The CHIME tool brings together data relating to the impacts of COVID-19, for factors such as mortality rates, hospital admissions, confirmed cases, vaccinations and life expectancy. It presents inequality breakdowns, including by age, sex, ethnic group, level of deprivation, population density and region.

Access the CHIME tool here.

Health Inequalities Dashboard

The Health Inequalities Dashboard provides information to monitor progress on reducing inequalities within England. It presents measures of inequality for 19 key indicators, the majority drawn from the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The dashboard measures trends in each indicator since a baseline period, with longer term data provided where these are available.

Access the Health Inequalities Dashboard here.

Segment Tool

The Segment Tool provides information on the causes of death and age groups that are driving inequalities in life expectancy at local area level. Targeting the causes of death and age groups which contribute most to the life expectancy gap should have the biggest impact on reducing inequalities.

Access the Segment Tool here.

https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/inequality-tools
Indicators

https://analytics.phe.gov.uk/apps/health-inequalities-dashboard/
• Breakdown of data across a range of dimensions of inequality and a summary measure calculated
• Absolute and relative gap
• Slope index of inequality (absolute difference) and relative index (relative difference) of inequality by deprivation

https://www.scotpho.org.uk/comparative-health/measuring-inequalities/

Any questions?
Do you have any examples of equity-focused evaluations you are working on or thinking of starting?

Do you have any examples of the challenges you are experiencing with these areas of work?
Upcoming Events
Webinars

We are running a series of monthly webinars on a variety of evaluation topics.

Next Evaluation Working Group Webinar:

Process and Impact Evaluations
May 24th 2022: 10 – 11am

Yannis Pappis, University of Bedfordshire
Amanda Burke, University of East Anglia

Evaluation ‘Drop-In’ Clinic

Do you have a question or challenge about an evaluation you are planning that you like to discuss with an expert?

Book a time to meet with Professor Andy Jones, Public Health Expert Advisor, Norfolk County Council for advice and guidance on the next steps for your evaluation.

This could be help in defining your research question through to advanced evaluation techniques for complex evaluations, all are welcome – no question too big or small!

Next clinic date to be announced soon.