

Health Equity Methods

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Defining Inequity

Health inequities "*are unfair and remediable inequalities*" (Int Society for Equity in Health, 2005)

Equity, therefore, is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people (WHO 2014)



CLOSE X



Syrian Refugees UNHCR 2013

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Why research inequities?

- Identified by **WHO's Commission on Social Determinants** as a key step to promote health equity
- Strategic priority for **WHO** (Koller), **NICE**, Public Health Agency of Canada, **GRADE**
- Addressing health inequities may require additional methods and steps, and these need to be clearly reported (e.g. PRISMA-Equity Reporting Guideline, Welch 2012)

Strategies to improve health equity

- Finding entrypoint for equity oriented political will
- Strengthening capacity of state policy making capacity and service delivery
- Using non-state mechanisms for policy coordination
- Building provider capacity to ensure equitable service provision
- Harnessing NGO as non-state providers
 - » Bornemisza, Ranson et al. SSM 2010



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*Amnesty International is a global
movement of over 3 million people
committed to defending those who
are denied justice or freedom*

Cochrane Equity Methods Group's Objectives

To include descriptions of intervention effects:

- ✓ on the whole population
- ✓ describe effects on disadvantaged groups
- ✓ describe effects on socioeconomic health inequalities

To promote community-wide intervention use



Equity in Research Activities

Equity Methods Group **promotes equity** in evidence-based research and up-take of research by

- ✓ Providing policy and methods advice
- ✓ Providing training, KT and systematic reviews
- ✓ Monitoring quality of published reviews
- ✓ Serving as a discussion forum for equity methods and equity-focussed reviews



“Accurate and transparent reporting is like turning on the light before you clean up the room: it doesn’t clean it for you but does tell you where the problems are”

(Frank Davidoff, Annals of Internal Medicine)



Strategies for Assessing/Including Equity in Systematic Reviews:

PROGRESS (Evans)

- ✓ Place of residence
- ✓ Race
- ✓ Occupation
- ✓ Gender
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Education
- ✓ SES
- ✓ Social Capital

O'Neill et al, JClinEpi 2013



PRISMA- Equity Welch 2012

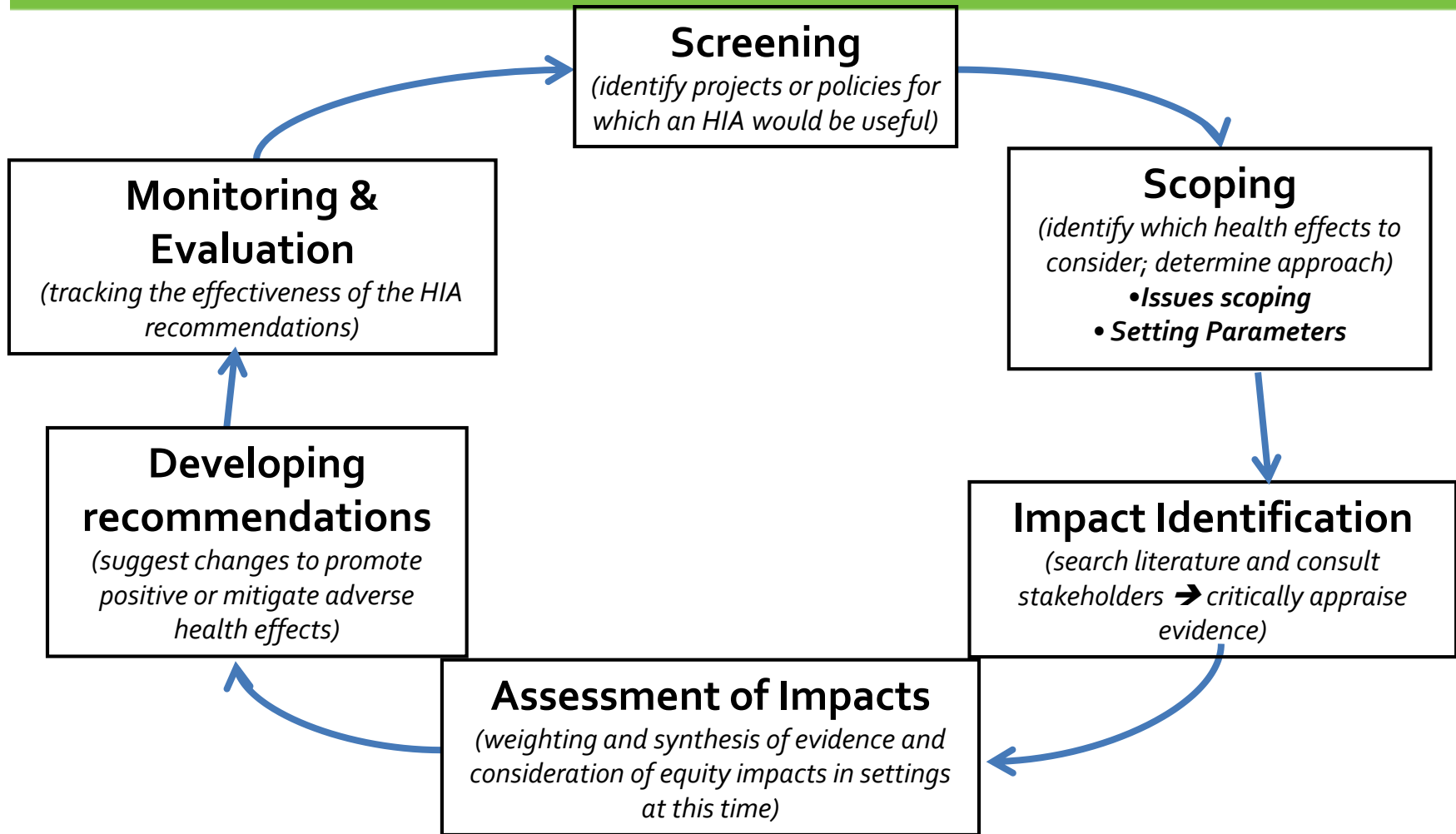
- A reporting guideline for equity-focused systematic reviews; e.g. “Rapid VCT”
- Provides structured guidance on transparently reporting methods/results
- Improves reporting of health outcome & health care use inequities
- Brings equity into the process from the beginning- e.g. Rapid VCT review

CONSORT- Equity for RCT

- A reporting guideline for health equity concerns in randomized controlled trials (RCTs)
- Under development... (Welch et al)



Health Impact Assessment: Equity Reporting Guideline



Knowledge Translation

To maximize effects of health equity in systematic reviews, a **knowledge translation strategy** is recommended that...

- ✓ Focuses on appropriate end-users-
- ✓ Recognizes messages are likely context-dependent

e.g. Migrant-Equity Subgroup- podcasts, open access checklist to guide practitioners, e-learning.

Pottie CMAJ 2011

Thank you!



1930 Beaver Chainsaw

- Thank You!

- Questions?

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