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)
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 equities 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
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 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-focused 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
• A reporting guideline for health equity concerns in randomized controlled trials (RCTs)

• Under development… (Welch et al)
Health Impact Assessment: Equity Reporting Guidelines

**Assessment of Impacts**
(weighting and synthesis of evidence and consideration of equity impacts in settings at this time)

**Scoping**
(identify which health effects to consider; determine approach)
- Issues scoping
- Setting Parameters

**Impact Identification**
(search literature and consult stakeholders ➔ critically appraise evidence)

**Developing recommendations**
(suggest changes to promote positive or mitigate adverse health effects)

**Monitoring & Evaluation**
(tracking the effectiveness of the HIA recommendations)

**Screening**
(identify projects or policies for which an HIA would be useful)

**Scoping**
(identify which health effects to consider; determine approach)
- Issues scoping
- Setting Parameters
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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