



Beyond Translation: Evidence Based Decision Making - The Role of Policy in Reducing Cancer Disparities

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Mission of the Health Policy Branch

The Health Policy Branch promotes and supports research to:

- Develop effective and sustainable intervention strategies
- Identify and evaluate the effects of changes in key Federal, state, and local policies
- Inform policy/decision makers

The CRCHD Policy Branch Objectives

- Identify, analyze, and summarize existing policies affecting cancer health disparities
- Increase the awareness of the effects of policy on cancer disparities
 - Existing policies can either help in that reduction, or help drive the disparities
- Sustain evidence-based research in the community
- Translate efficacious programs to other, similar communities

Using Policy to Reduce Disparities

Examples

- The Patient Navigator Model
 - Identification of a problem – lack of timely access to cancer treatment
 - Project on patient navigation in Harlem, NY
 - Other patient navigator programs around the country (State of Delaware, CRCHD Pilots)
 - Data presented to legislators
 - Patient Navigator Bill 2005

Other Examples

- University of Maryland
 - State Office on Minority Health
 - Contribution to the Maryland Cancer Fund on 2004 tax form
- Harvard University
 - Mayor's Task Force Blueprint – a plan to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health
- State cancer plans
- Tobacco policies

NCI/CRCHD

Community Networks Program

Purpose:

- **Reduce cancer disparities**
- **Community-based participatory research**
- **Education and training**
- **Improve access to and utilization of beneficial cancer interventions**

Health Policy

can be a component of:

- Research...
- Dissemination...
- Sustainability...
- Replication by others...

Policy Components of the CNP

CNP

Evidence-based information

Deliver to policy/decision makers

No lobbying

Policy Assessment, intervention research

How are policies aiding or hindering cancer care

Leverage CNP Activities

Plan for sustaining programs



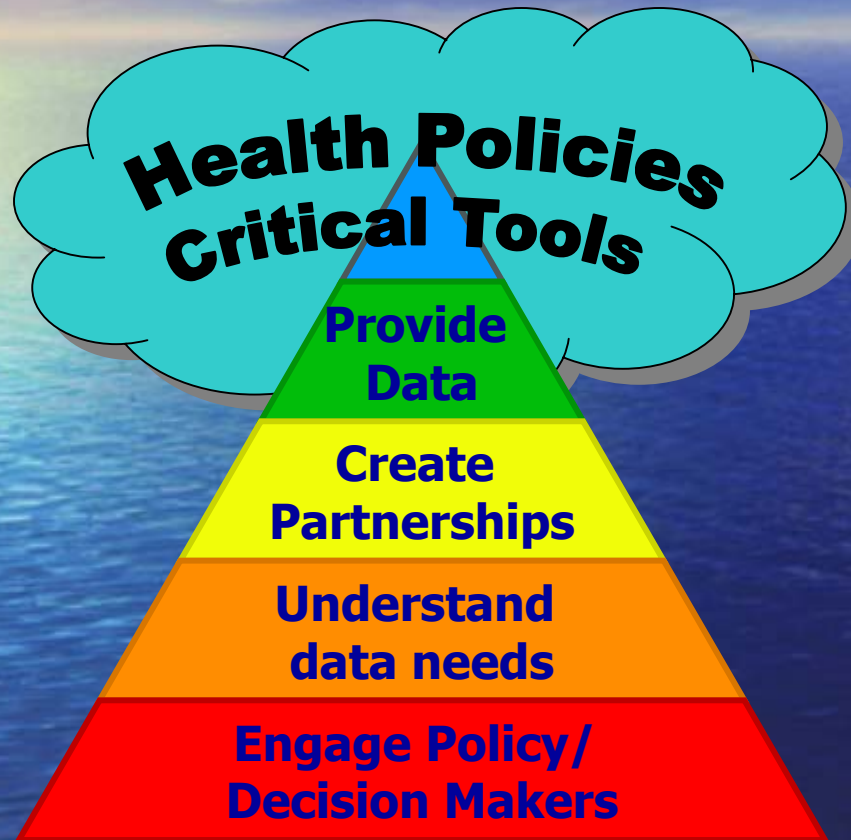
No Disparities

Phase III

Phase II

Phase I

Policies are Critical Tools in the Challenge to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities



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The policy component of the CNP

- Phase I

- Leverage CNP activities by obtaining non-CRCHD funding for community-based participatory activities directed at reducing cancer health disparities.
- Development of non-CRCHD funding sources is important in creating sustainable, community-based participatory education and training activities that can reduce cancer health disparities.

Phase II

- The CNP will develop and perform community-based participatory research — from needs assessments to intervention research to policy assessments — with an emphasis on developing efficacious community-based participatory interventions to reduce cancer health disparities.
- These interventions may involve assessing the impact of health care policies on reducing cancer health disparities.

Phase III

- Provide evidence-based information for reducing disparities to decision and policy makers at the local, state, and Federal levels.
- Analyses of policy issues in health disparities should lead to information about implementing interventions to reduce cancer health disparities. These activities must not include lobbying. Rather, policy activities should offer evidence-based information based on qualitative and quantitative research findings that demonstrate reduced cancer health disparities.

How can Policy Research Help

- **Evaluate and develop more effective tools to measure how the community actually receives services.**
- **Reduce the time lag in translating research into policy and practice.**
- **Facilitate interactions among providers, practitioners, patients and health policy experts to reduce disparities.**
- **Address the lack of trust felt by many minority communities.**
- **Broaden prevention paradigm beyond “early detection.”**

Other Health Policy Activities

- **Understand the effects of insurance coverage**
- **Address Medicare/Medicaid reform and have policy makers understand potential implications on health disparities**
- **Increase patient/provider education**
- **Address the importance of social environment**
- **Understand the implications of policies on incidence and mortality rates**

Some Tools

- **Watch for 'windows of opportunity'**
- **Know who are the influentials – and keep them informed throughout the research**
- **Value face-to-face exchanges with those who can use the research**
- **Use peer-reviewed publication to give credibility; use anecdote to communicate**
- **Use hard-copy (summaries, full-reports, etc.) as leave-behind 'accessories'**