

Policy Development, Measurement and Public Health Decision-Making

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Policy Development

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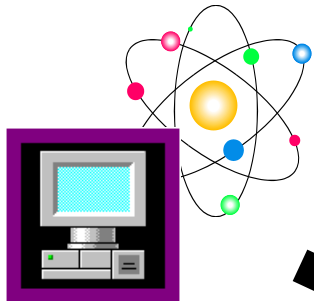
Policy development means using data, other information, and community values to address community health problems or build community capacity, weighing the costs and benefits of policy options, choosing a desired option, and recommending programs and services to carry out that policy.

What is public policy?

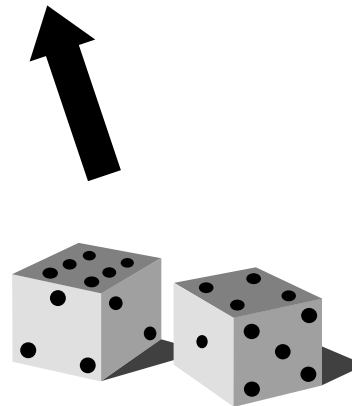
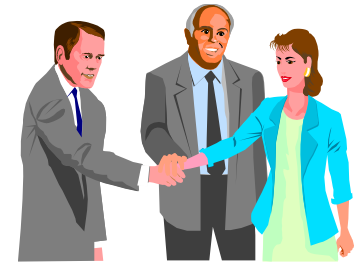
“What governments do or don’t do.”

- Thomas Dye

Ingredients of Public Policy



It is the intent of
the legislature
that health services be
accessible to all communities in the ...



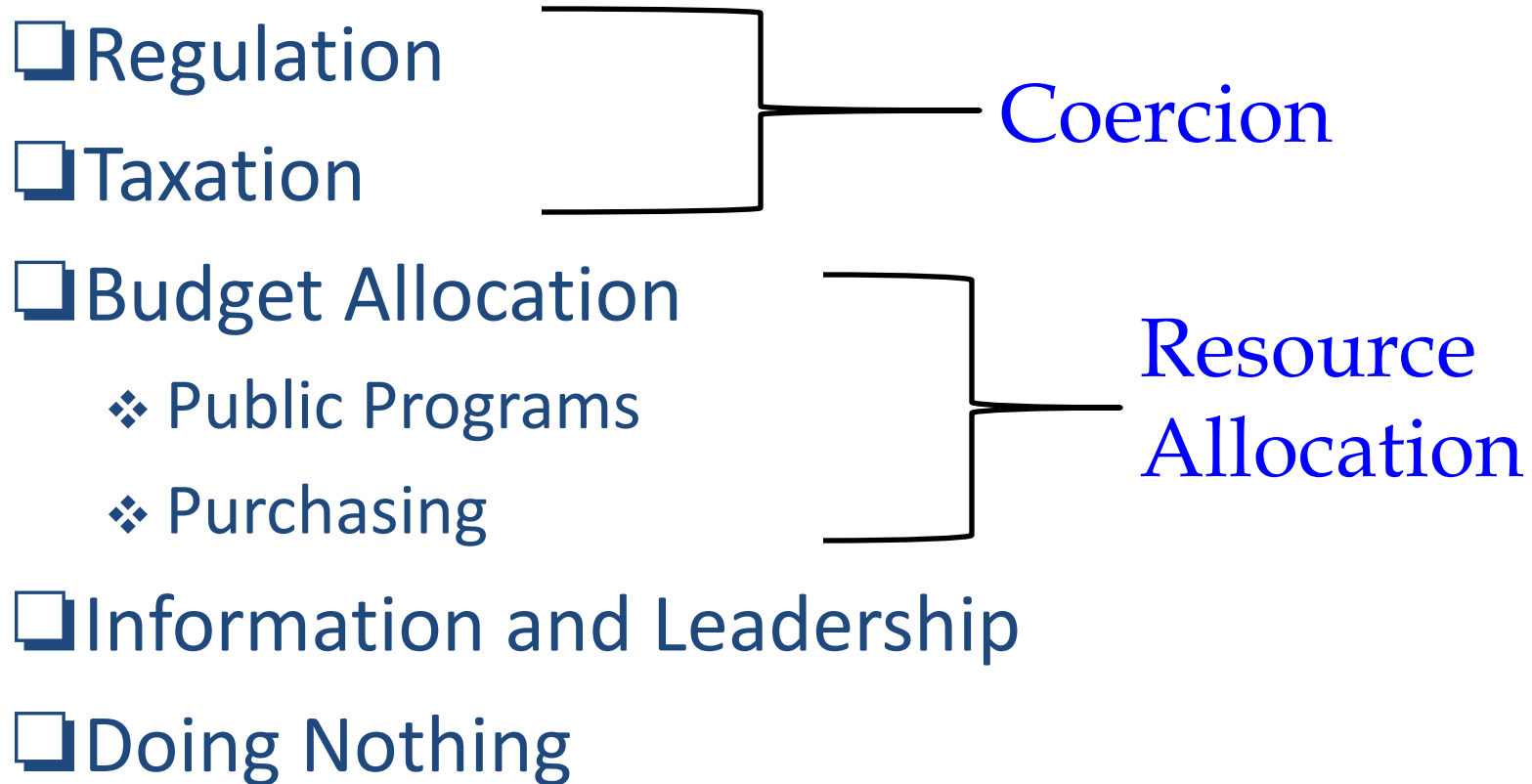
Defining a Public Policy Issue

What is the problem?

For whom?

With what consequence?

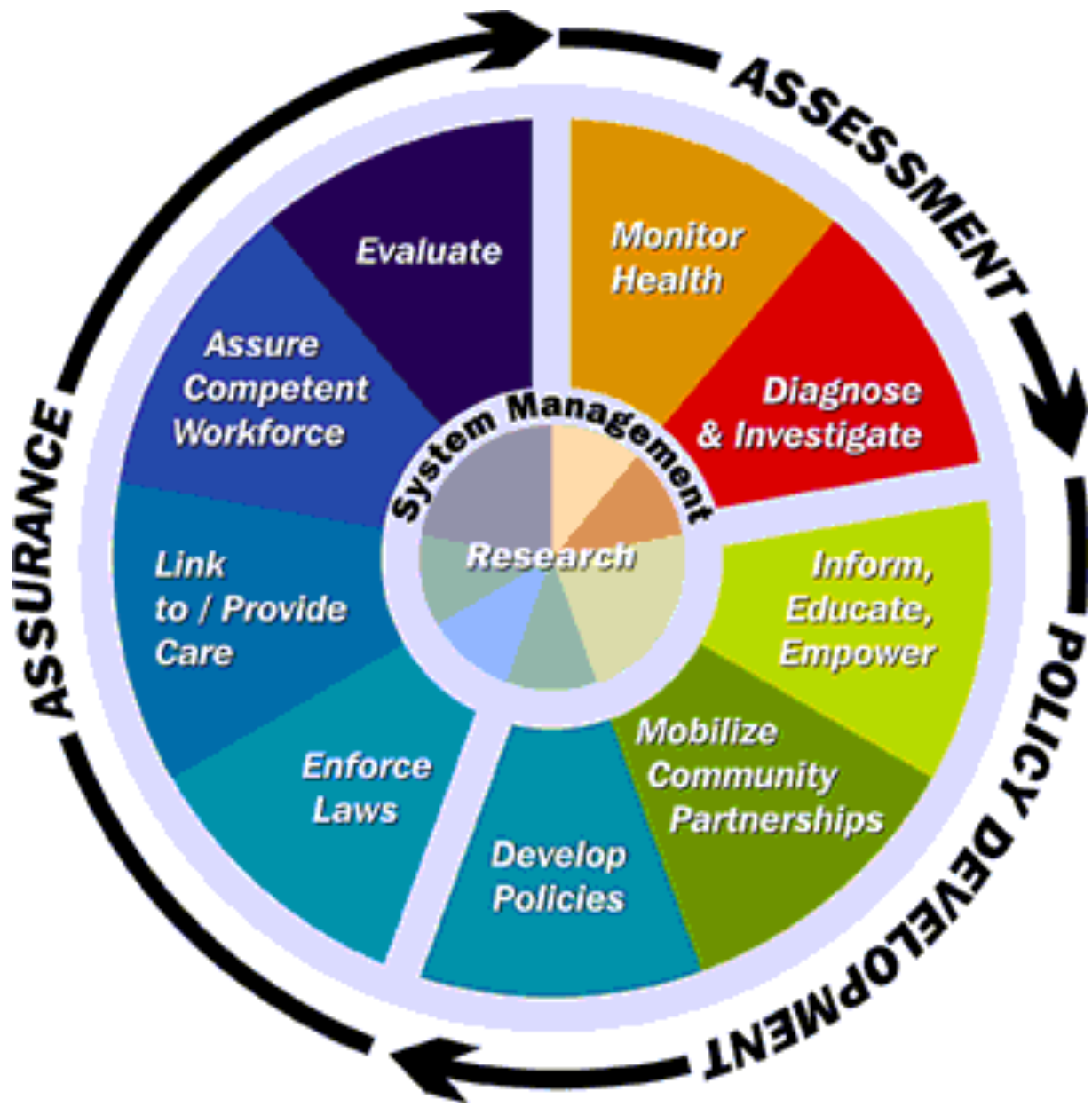
The Tools of Public Policy



Policy Development as a Public Health Core Function

“Used judiciously, the knowledge base of public health tempers the excesses of partisan politics and encourages just decisions. Technical knowledge will have the best effect, however, when used in the context of a positive appreciation for the democratic political process, by professionals who are politically, as well as technically, astute.”

The Future of Public Health, Institute of Medicine, 1988



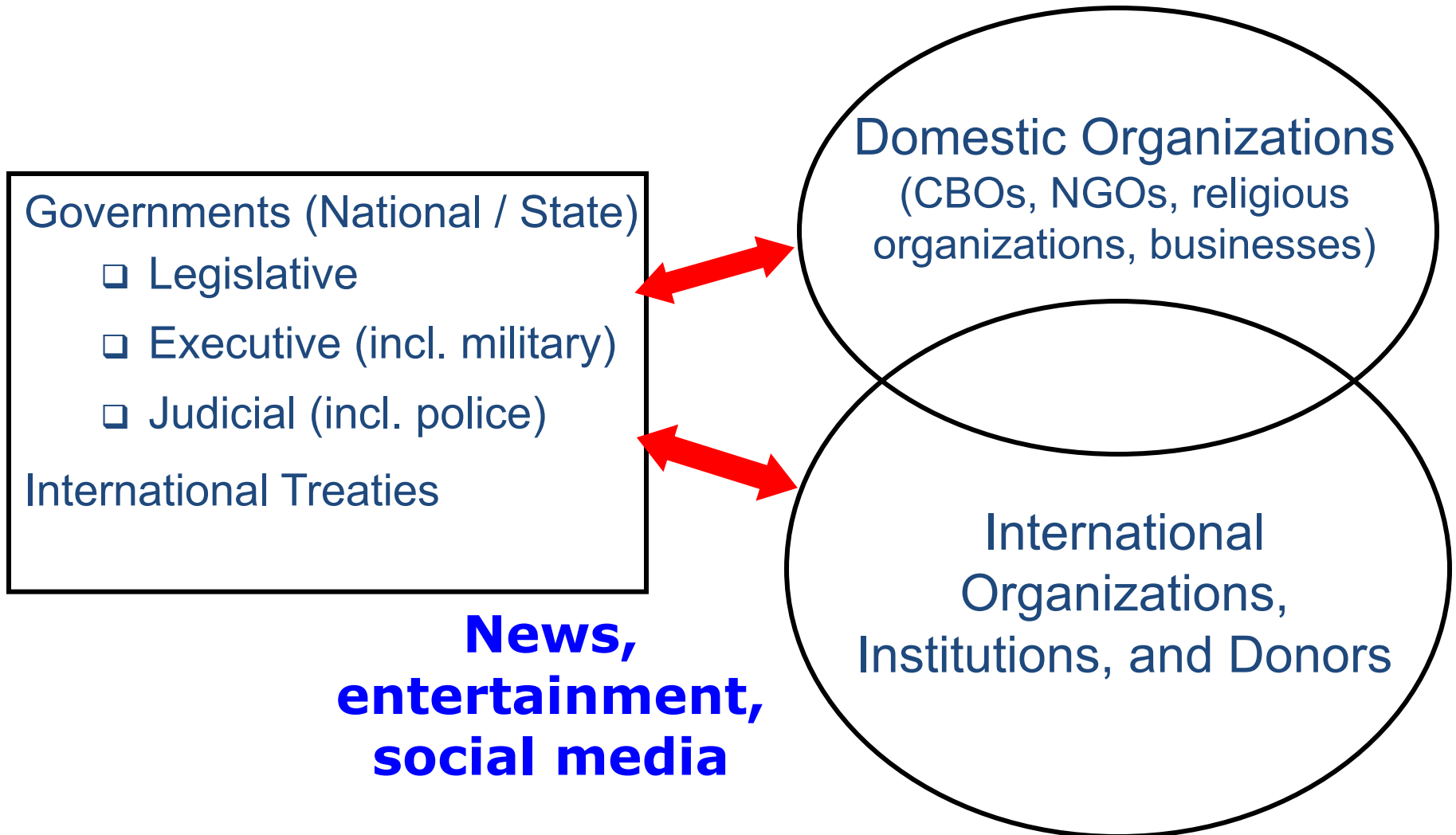
The Policy Framework

- ❑ Identify and define the public policy issue
- ❑ Understand the economic market, social, historical, and political context
- ❑ Determine potential options for public policy action
- ❑ Identify and analyze stakeholders' interests (values), positions, and power
- ❑ Analyze strengths and weaknesses of options, including both science and values

Key Steps in Policy Development

- What is the issue?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- What are their interests?
- What are the policy options?
- What are the pros and cons?
- What are the unintended effects?

Who Influences Public Policy?



Some Considerations

The Triple Aim

1. Improve patient care according to the six aims enunciated by the IOM (care is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable)
2. Lower the per capita costs of healthcare
3. Improve the health of patient populations and communities

Berwick, Nolan and Whittingham. *The Triple aim: Care, Health, and Cost.*
Health Affairs; May 2008 759-769

One Hundred Eleventh Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the fifth day of January, two thousand and ten*

An Act

Entitled The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

Subtitle A—Immediate Improvements in Health Care Coverage for All Americans

Sec. 1001. Amendments to the Public Health Service Act.

“PART A—INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MARKET REFORMS

“SUBPART II—IMPROVING COVERAGE

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Health in All Policies (HIAP)

The committee encourages government and private sector stakeholders to explore and implement *health in all policies* (HIAP) approaches that can prevent unintended negative consequences for health... The consideration of health in a wide range of public and private sector policymaking may lead both to improvements in population health, and to achieving priority objectives in other sectors such as job creation and educational reform.

IOM (Institute of Medicine). 2011a. *For the Public's Health: Revitalizing Law and Policy to Meet New Challenges*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.



Public Health as Community Health Strategist: Leadership Skills for 2020 and Beyond

Measurement

Why Measure?

- Description
- Accountability
- Resource Acquisition and Management
- Quality/Improvement in Outcomes

Types of Measures

- ***Capacity/Input***
Ability to provide specific services made possible by the maintenance of the basic infrastructure of the system
- ***Process/Activities***
What is done to, for, with, or by defined individuals or groups as part of the delivery of services
- ***Output***
Product associated with an activity (like service delivery)
- ***Outcome***
Change (or lack of change) in the health of a defined population related to an intervention (health status outcome, social functioning, consumer satisfaction)

Audience

- Who is the audience?
- What data should be reported to them?
- How should information be formatted?
- How will the audience receive the information?
- Does the information address audience expectations?

Definition of “Evidence-Based Public Health”

The process of integrating science-based interventions with community preferences to improve the health of populations.

Source: Kohatsu, Robinson, & Torner. AJPM; 27: 417-21;2004.

Who Will Use the Evidence?

- *Public health practitioners with executive, managerial, and/or program responsibilities*
- *Policy makers, including boards of health*
- *Key stakeholders*
- *Researchers on population health issues*

Source: Jonathan Fielding, Evidence-Based Public Health (Brownson et al), *Forward*, pp. v-vi

Key Characteristics of Evidence-Based Decision Making

- Intervention approaches are based on the best possible science
- Problem solving is multidisciplinary
- Theory and systematic program planning approaches are used
- Sound evaluation principles are followed
- Results are disseminated to others who need to know

Source: Brownson, et al, Editors. *Evidence-Based Public Health*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Evidence-Based Public Health

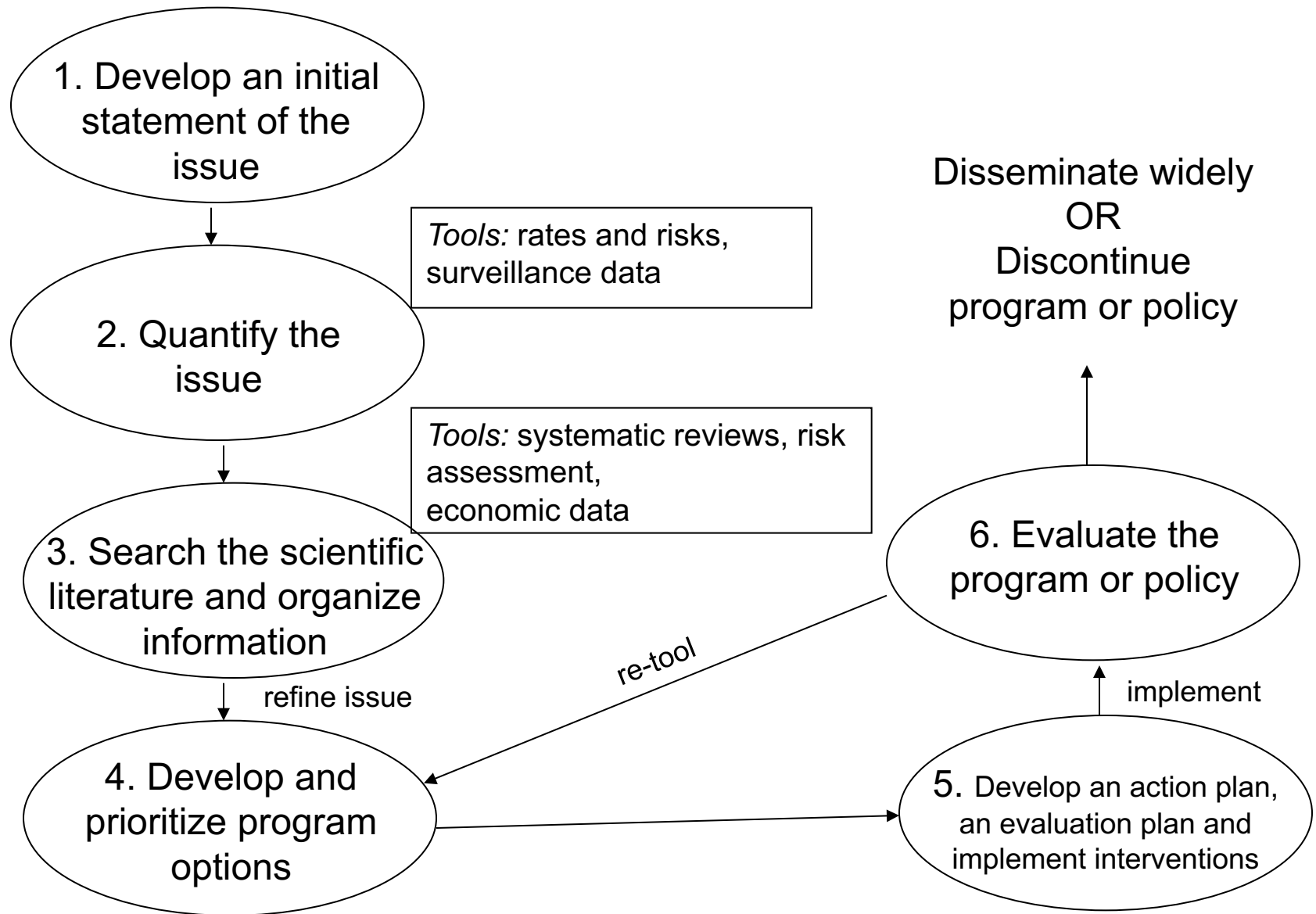


Figure 1-2. A sequential framework for enhancing evidence-based public health (adapted from Brownson et al.)

Issues with Performance Measurement

- Small sample sizes for critical populations
- Importance of qualitative data
- Need to develop metrics for key SDOH measures of community wellness

Questions and Discussion