



Engaging Academia and Practice in an evaluation of local public health performance: MN Experiences

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Local Public Health & County Commissioners

- Local Public Health Association (LPHA)
- Statewide Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SHCSAC)

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- Staff the Research to Action Network
- Research and practice expertise

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

- Academic perspective
- Advice on study design, analysis and interpretation



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Does integrating QI and having a “culture of quality” lead to a more effective and stronger health department?

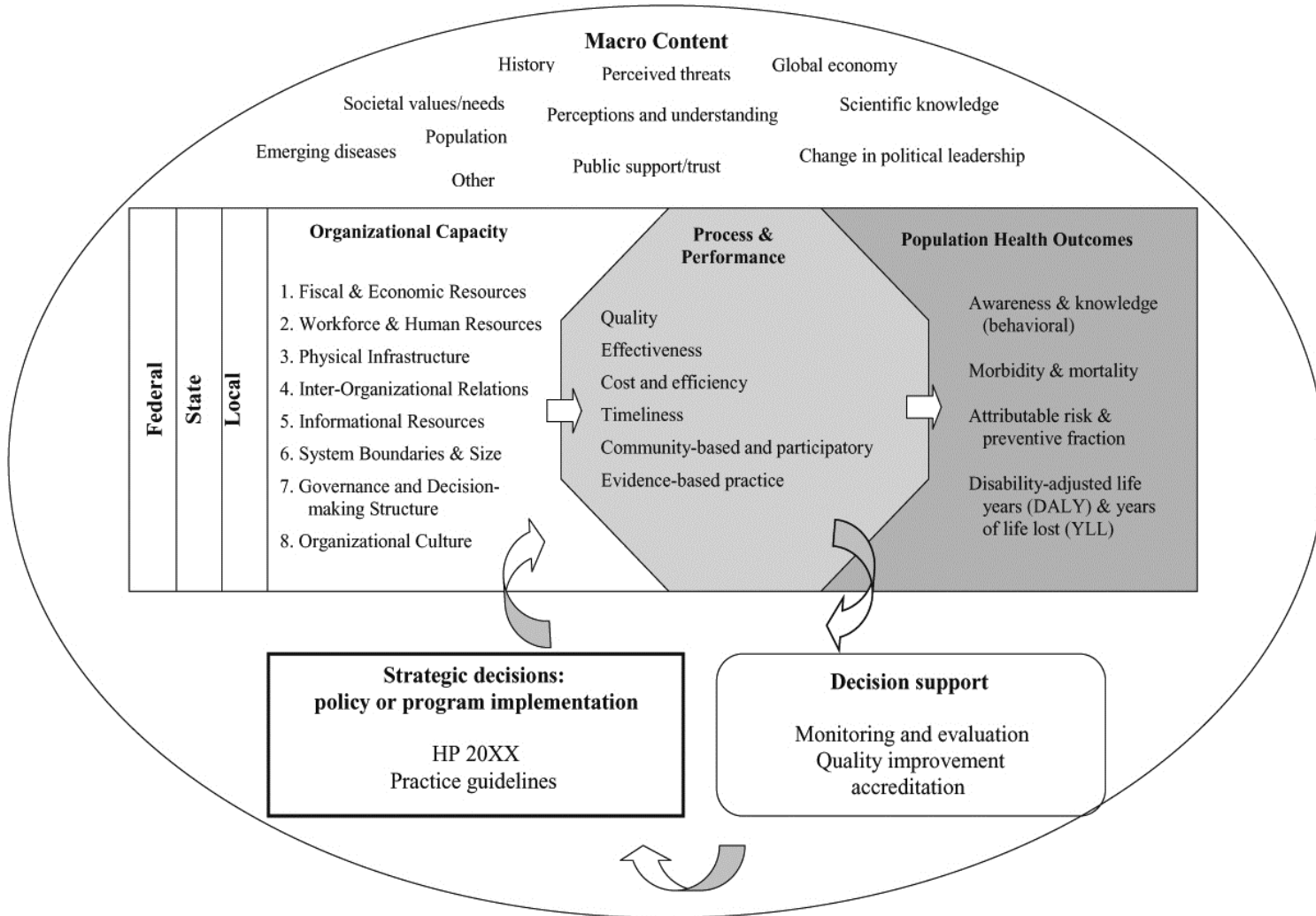
How can we better structure, finance and staff our LHDs/CHBs to do more population-based public health? To achieve better outcomes?

health reform

MINNESOTA

- The Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) covered all 87 counties, plus 9 of 11 Tribal governments.
- SHIP represents unprecedented statewide investment of \$47 million (\$3.89 per person) for the years 2009-2011.
- SHIP initiative driven by a menu of evidence-based, policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change strategies to promote nutrition, increase activity, and reduce tobacco use and exposure.





Meyer, A. M., Davis, M., et al. (2012). "Defining organizational capacity for public health services and systems research." *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* 18(6): 535-44. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23023278>

Study Design

- Mixed methods, retrospective design
- Quantitative analysis using SHIP grantee performance status as the outcome variable. Examined variables of interest, including organizational QI maturity, organizational structure, per capita expenditures, authority of top health official.
- Qualitative key informant interviews with grantees from all three levels of grantee performance: exceeds expectations, meets expectations and approaching expectations

What have we learned?

QI Maturity is related to

- Total per capita LPH expenditures
- Top official authority

SHIP Performance related to

- Per capita expenditures for Healthy Communities & Healthy Behaviors
- QI maturity

Grantees with higher QI maturity were 4x as likely to exceed grantee expectations

What have we learned?

Compared to grantees who met or exceeded SHIP expectations, grantees who approached expectations differed consistently in four key areas of capacity:

- Organizational culture
- Workforce and human resources
- Governance and decision-making
- System boundaries and size

Translation & Dissemination

- Results of the study were incorporated into the state SHIP Legislative Report and are being used to inform the next iteration of SHIP in Minnesota
- Results were shared with county commissioners at the March 2013 SCHSAC meeting
- Very important to frame these results with the assistance of our local partners
- Housing the PBRN at the state health department greatly facilitated this work—MDH could provide a bridge between LPH practitioners and the academic expertise at the University of Minnesota
- Nurturing the relationships within the PBRN and MDH has increased effective translation and dissemination

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- Bryan Dowd, PhD, University of Minnesota
- MN Research to Action Network Additional Steering Committee Members: Kim Gearin, Deb Burns, Gail Gentling, Renee Frauendienst, Deb Jacobs, Julie Myhre, Janelle Schroder, Rosemary Schulz



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