

Is public health policy informed by scientific evidence?

The example of obesity prevention in children and adolescents

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Evidence-based public health policy

- Use of scientific evidence not new
- Increased volume and complexity of scientific information
- Need for appropriate synthesis methods
 - Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care and US Preventive Services Task Force
 - Cochrane Collaboration
 - GRADE (Grades of Recommendation, Assessment, Development, and Evaluation)

Evidence-based healthcare

Producing evidence



Making evidence available



Appraising evidence



Applying evidence



Individual patient
care:
EBM, EBN, ...



Evidence-based:

- **public health**
- **public health policy and practice**
- **health services management**

Evidence-based public health policy

Barriers and difficulties

- Gaps in evidence
- Broad array of health determinants (individual, community, society, economics, politics, ...)
- Limits in methods
- Barriers to knowledge transfer and uptake

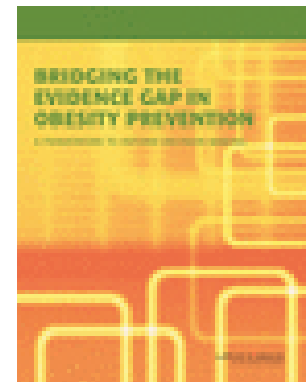
« ... striking contrast between high prevalence and consequent importance of addressing obesity and the paucity of knowledge base with which to inform prevention efforts. »

« Specifically, for evidence-based obesity prevention efforts, a body of intervention research on policy and environmental approaches is largely absent from the literature. »

BRIDGING THE EVIDENCE GAP IN OBESITY PREVENTION

A FRAMEWORK TO INFORM DECISION MAKING

Shiriki K. Kumanyika, Lynn Parker, and Leslie J. Sim, *Eds*
Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, 2010



Evidence-based public health policy

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