

Scoping and setting evidence priorities for public health decision making: ways forward for the Cochrane Collaboration

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Outcomes of public health investments

- Population health improvements
- Reduction in inequalities
 - Population shift
 - Working with disadvantaged communities
 - Strengthened and supportive environments
- Ecological development, support and advancement
- Supported communities and people
- Effective and equitable health care care systems
- Healthy public policies
- Effective surveillance and monitoring programs

- Context: fixed, if not reducing budgets

Current public health context

- Non communicable diseases with common societal and development related determinants eg. obesity, mental health, dental caries, child injury.
- Climate change and non sustainable developments
- Unequal burden of disease
- Use of health technologies
- Configuration of health resources change as people live longer
- Pandemic control ...zoonotic public health
- Health systems and sociopolitical systems
- Globalization, westernization and homogenization

Who are the decision makers

- Government:
 - Health
 - Transport
 - Planning and infrastructure
 - Education
 - Social-welfare
 - Housing

- Non government....

Evidence for intersectoral decision makers – what evidence is relevant?

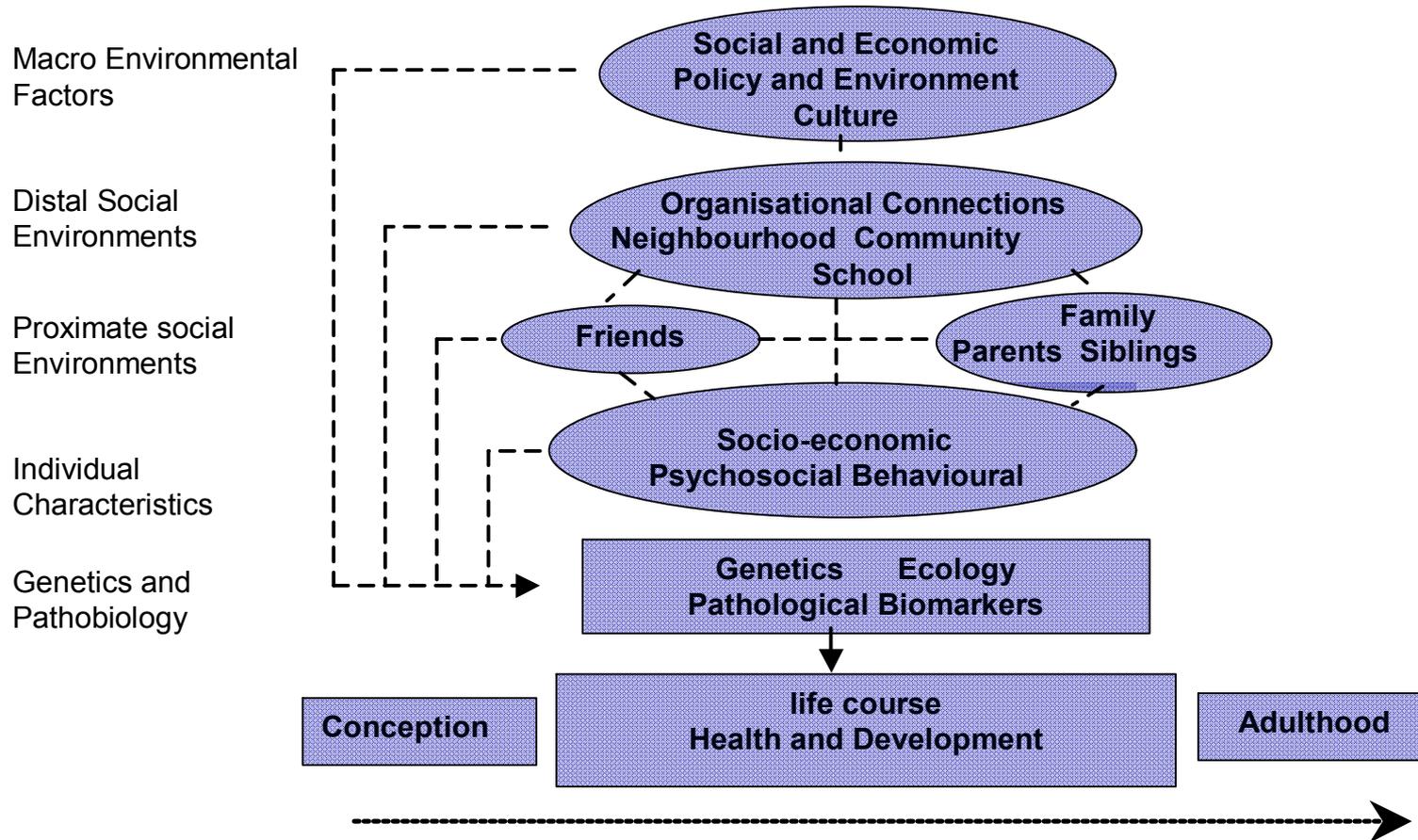
- Health → systematic reviews, history, experience
- Transport → private sector and political influence
- Education → systematic reviews, history, experience
- Industry → financial
- Housing → professional expertise, history
- Agriculture → primary research, private sector influence

The Place of Evidence



Choice of model of health

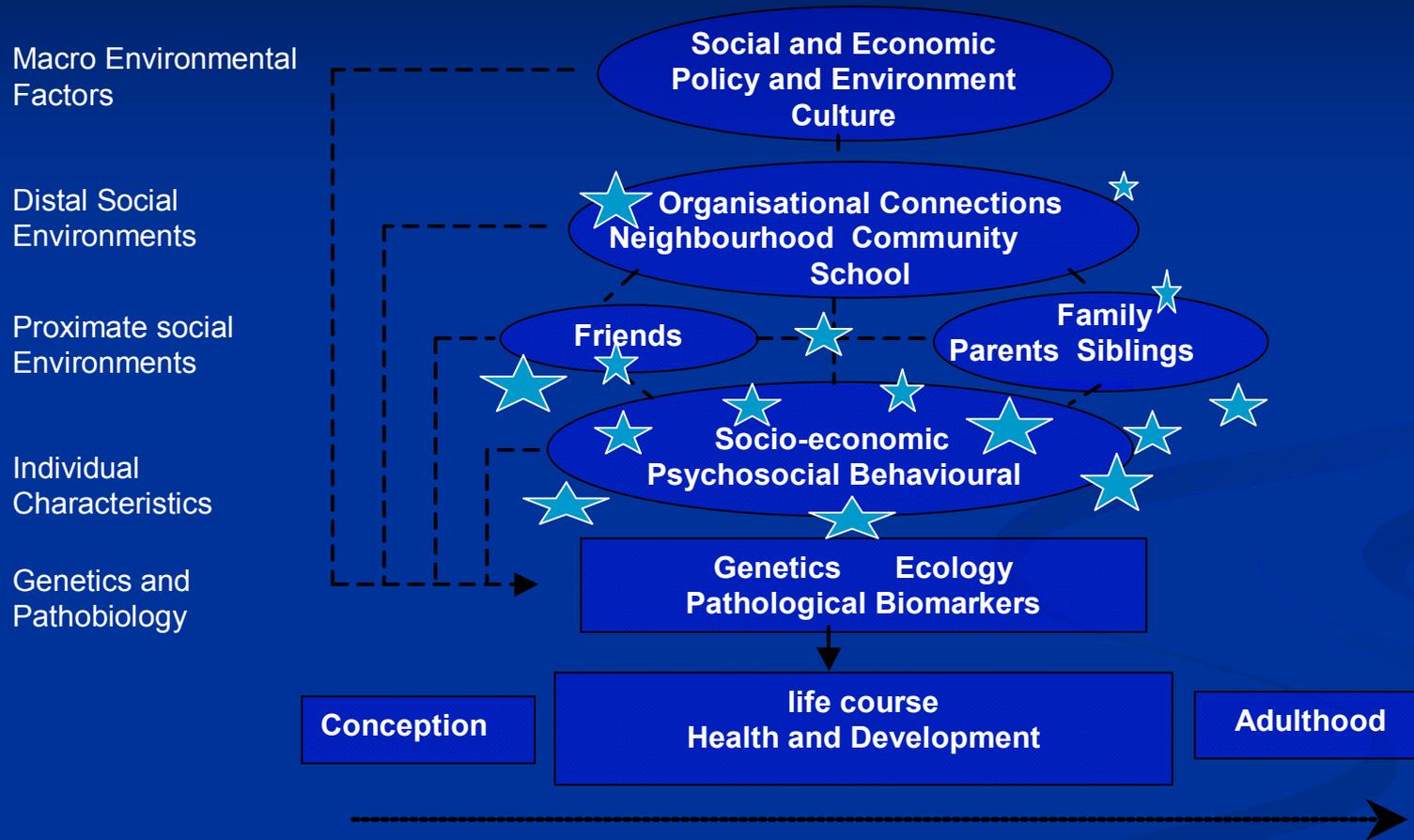
Ecological model of health across the life course



Lynch, J. 2000. Australasian Epidemiologist; 7: 7-15

Prevention of childhood obesity trials

Summerbell C., Waters E., et al. Interventions for preventing obesity in children. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2005 Jul 20;(3):CD001871. PMID: 16034868



Lynch, J. 2000. Australasian Epidemiologist; 7: 7-15

Can Cochrane Collaboration afford not to meet these needs?

- Strategic value of Cochrane Collaboration in public health decision making
- Identifies needs on content as well as form
- Resource investment in public health evidence and knowledge substantive – but product and approach needs to meet needs of the audience

Alternatives to Cochrane

- Health Technology Assessment
- Community Guide – CDC
- International Union of Health Promotion and Education Effectiveness Project
- Separately funded reviews – common topics across the world

Stakeholder engagement and topic prioritization process

Example:

- International stakeholders: WHO, PAHO, CDC, Global Forum for Health Research
- Mapping of CDSR against WHO Health report
- Identification of gaps of evidence for decision making
- 26 nominated 'priority' – important topics that aren't on the Cochrane Library

Important PH topics

- Effectiveness of community-building interventions to improve physical, social and mental health
- Effectiveness of healthy cities, municipalities or spaces projects in reducing cardiovascular disease risk factors
- Effectiveness of physical exercise to improve mental health
- Effectiveness of marketing strategies to promote healthy eating in young people.
- Effectiveness of interventions using the WHO Health Promoting School framework to improve health and academic achievements among school students
- Interventions to improve breastfeeding options for women in employment
- Interventions that employ a combination of environmental, social and educational strategies to prevent infectious diseases such as malaria, dengue and diarrhoea
- Interventions addressing gender disparities in family food distribution to improve child nutrition

Benefits

- Increased awareness and value by stakeholders
- Close strategic alignment with where decisions need to be made to improve population health outcomes
- Articulation of complexity of evidence sought to answer public health challenges
- Evidence base by which to examine capacity of Cochrane to respond to public health policy and program decision making

Mobilizing efforts to complete priority reviews

- Identification of 'priority' / absent / important reviews
 - Aligning topics with CRG's: existing CRG's usually have single intervention – single outcome scope
 - Strong positive communication required to facilitate reviews
 - Complex reviews – large resources and reviewers with content and methods required

Strategic vision for CC and priorities

- Re-frame priorities as contemporary, important, relevant and useful reviews
- Regularly going through prioritisation process is useful in ensuring relevance
- Cross entity engagement through the collaboration extremely useful – contribution of those engaged with decision makers and organisational processes essential to high quality content and product
 - Eg. policy ‘cameos’ for WHO Global Commission on Social Determinants of Health, linking context, evidence and policy

Obrigado

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- Health Promotion and Public Health Field
- International Centres, CRG's, and colleagues