

General Framework for Economic Evaluation of Prevention

Stephen Jan

Investigators

- Stephen Jan
- Alan Shiell
- Rob Carter
- Penny Hawe
- Billie Giles-Corti
- Louise Sylvan
- Wayne Adams
- Beth Stickney
- Andrew Milat
- Jaithri Ananthapavan
- Alison Hayes
- Lucy Gunn
- Tom Lung
- Tracey Laba

Background

- The role of economic analysis in health is to help policy makers determine where best to invest resources.
- Determining value for money is problematic when health programs have multiple, and sometimes competing, objectives.
- Perhaps most acute in prevention where outcomes are often
 - multi-dimensional
 - spill-over into other sectors.
- Economists, in presenting evidence, make assumptions about *framing* of the investment decision i.e.
 - program A vs B, cost-effectiveness

Aim

- Examine approaches to the economic analysis of prevention programs
 - Identify what has been done
 - What criteria practitioners/policy makers use to inform investment decisions in prevention (ideal and in practice)?
 - Identify context in which economic evidence is used
 - Establish guidelines for evaluation that are consistent with objectives of decision making

Approach

Four phases over one year

1. Evidence gathering and synthesis
2. Stakeholder workshop
3. Development lessons for evaluation
4. Proof of concept

Evidence gathering and synthesis

- Two reviews:
 - Review of economic evaluation guidelines in prevention
 - Generic or prevention specific issues?
 - Technique recommended? E.g. cost effectiveness or cost benefit
 - Scope – production gains
 - Discount rate
 - Guidelines on modelling?
 - Review of economic evaluations in prevention

Stakeholder consultations

- An initial stakeholder workshop
 - Augmented by individual interviews
 - Researchers, practitioners and policy makers
 - Representatives from outside the health sector (e.g. town planners, representatives from the education sector and economists who work outside the health sector).
- The criteria for investment in prevention
 - What are the objectives of prevention activities?
 - In practice? Ideal world?
 - How are they to be assessed? What evidence needed?

Progress

- Capacity building:
 - 2 PhDs (Jaithri Ananthapavan, Jan Muhunthan)
 - 1 postdoc (Lucy Gunn)
- Evidence synthesis
 - 3 systematic reviews
- Linked studies
 - Get Healthy Evaluation
 - NSW Health Commissioning Tool
- Working toward broader linkage research and policy
 - CRE built environment and CRE Obesity
 - Ongoing policy support promote use of best available evidence that aligns with the defined objectives of such organisations