

The View of Evidence-Informed Policy

Making Co-hosts:

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**Center for
Health Policy**
at the University of New Mexico

New Mexico Center for
Advancement of Research,
Engagement and Science
on Health Disparities.



“A Pair of Shoes” for the Journey



Bridging the Great D



What policy makers say about researchers?

- Lack of timeliness
- Politically irrelevant research
- Research for the sake of research
- Too much focus on the describing and managing the problem
- Lack of applicability to “real-life” solutions

What researchers say about policy makers?

- Decisions based on political preferences and money
- Lack of scientific evidence
- Too much partisanship
- Use of *sta-twistics*
- Lack of political will or action

What communities say about researchers and policy makers?

- Lack of personal contact between researchers, policy-makers and those most impacted by the “problem”
- Not enough action
- Lack of community voice & “real civic engagement in research & policy making

Bell, J. & Standish, M. (2005). Communities and health policy: a pathway for change. *Health Affairs*, Volume 24, Number 2.

Morone, J.A. & Kilbreth, E.H. (2003). Power to the people? Restoring citizen participation. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 28 (2-3): 271-288.

“The influence of research in eliminating health disparities is inextricably linked to political climate, political dynamics, and the moral commitments of scientist as well as political leaders”

Northington Gamble, V. & Stone, D. (2006). U.S. policy on health inequities: the interplay of politics and research. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Volume 31, Number 1.

Improving the use of research for policy decisions

Facilitators

- Personal contact between researchers and policy makers
- Timeliness & relevance of the research
- Inclusion of summaries with policy recommendations

Barriers

- Absence of personal contact
- Lack of timeliness or relevance of research
- Mutual mistrust
- Power and Budget struggles

Campbell, S., Benita, S., Coates, E., Davies, P., & Penn, G. (2007). Analysis for policy: evidence-based policy in practice. Government Social Research Unit, HM Treasury, UK.

Lavis, J.N., Lomas, J. Hamid, M., & N.K. Sweankambo (2006). Assessing country-level efforts to link research to action. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, August, 84 (8).

Xyed, XQ, Gaidhane, A, & Zodpey, S. (2010). Linking research to evidence to health policy and practice. Journal of Public Administration & Policy Research, 2(5); pp. 68-73.

Panelists

- Silvia Sierra, MSW, Director, Doña Ana County Health & Human Services
- Raúl E. Burciaga, J.D., Director, New Mexico Legislative Council Service
- Dolores E. Roybal, MSW, Executive Director, Con Alma Health Foundation
- Ken Lucero, Director, RWJF Center for Native American Health Policy at UNM

Micro/Local → State/National/ Tribal

- How can we improve the use of research for policy decisions to reduce health disparities and to promote health equity?
- If politics is the bridge between research and policy, what role does political contexts (i.e. political ideologies or agendas) play in either facilitating or inhibiting the use of research?
- How can we make linkages or employ the use of tools between researchers and policymakers to facilitate better relationships & trust?
- Given the national and state political context of health reform, what are the challenges in translating research into policy?