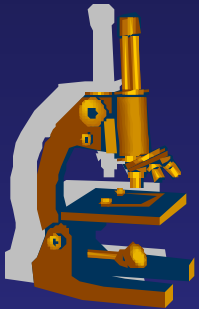


Using Policy Evaluation to Reduce Cancer Burden and Disparities: The Arkansas Cancer Community Network

Role of Policy in Addressing Cancer Disparities



Discovery



Delivery



- Exposure to risk
- Awareness of need
- Geographic access to services
- Financial access/insurance
- Provider and patient decision-making
- Quality and safety of care

Policy Instruments: Active Ingredients

- Taxing authority
- Spending authority
 - Eligibility
 - Benefits
 - Payment policies
- Regulation
- Information and research
- Convening power & persuasion



Cancer Policy Foundations in Arkansas

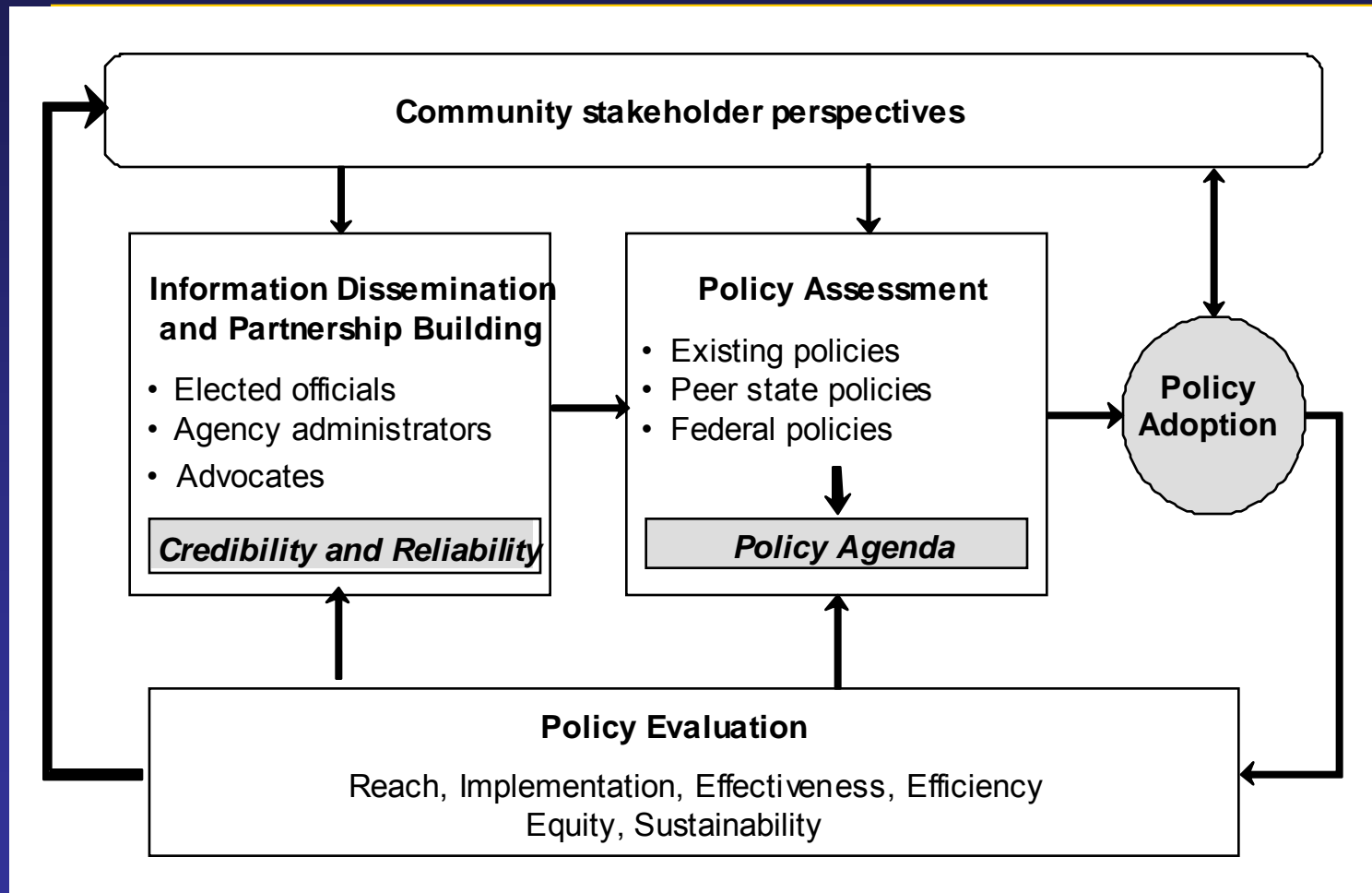


Challenges in Using Policy

- Design and adoption are political processes
- Implementation and enforcement are not automatic
- Instruments are blunt → unintended consequences



Promoting a model for informed cancer policy development



Dimensions of Policy Evaluation

- Policy awareness and engagement
 - Policymakers
 - Community members
- Policy development and adoption
- Implementation & maintenance
- Policy outcomes and impact

Polycymaker Engagement in Cancer

- Range of policy stakeholders involved
- Frequency of engagement
- Types/settings of engagement
- Scope and intensity of participation (who attends, who leads, who follows up)

Policy development & adoption

- **Agenda-setting**: placement on legislative/policy agendas
- **Development** of policy proposals (bills filed, regulations proposed)
- **Adoption** of policy proposals (what passes, what does not, why)

Policy Implementation & Maintenance

- **Resources and infrastructure:** funding levels, staffing, organizational structure, facilities
- **Reach:** who is served
- **Fidelity** to evidence-based guidelines
- Maintenance: retention, rescreening rates, sustainability

Policy Outcomes & Impact

- Quasi-experimental research designs
- Variation in policy exposure—cross-sectional and/or longitudinal
 - State CRC Demonstration
 - Clean indoor air policy impact evaluation
- Secondary data analysis: surveys, registries, administrative data

Policy Opportunities and Concerns: Insurance Mandates for Screening

Opportunities

- Minority and low-income populations → likely to have less-generous coverage

Concerns

- Does not reach the uninsured
- Does not address cost-sharing as a barrier
- Congruence with Medicaid



Policy Opportunities and Concerns: Workplace Smoking Restrictions

Opportunities

- Minority and low SES populations→ more likely to have occupational exposure

Concerns

- Uneven resources for enforcement/compliance?
- Uneven distribution of exemptions?



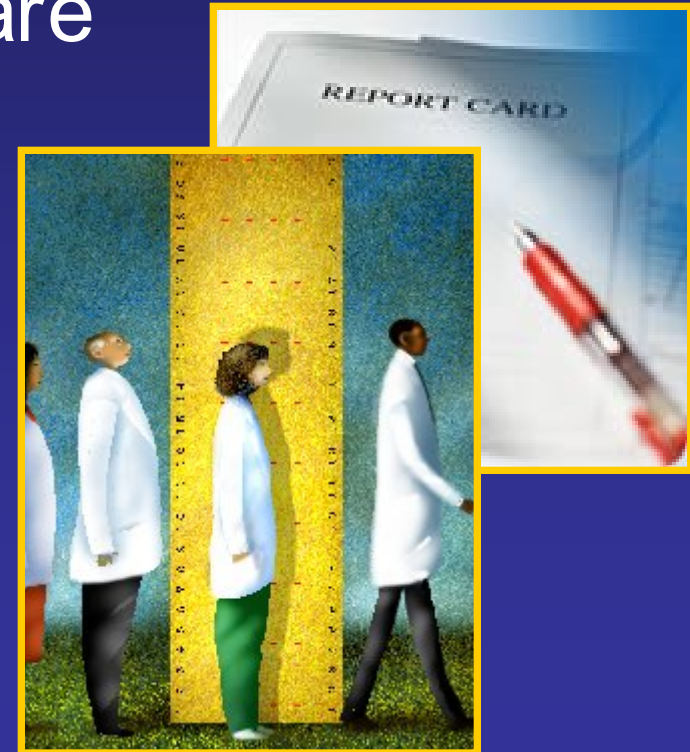
Policy Opportunities and Concerns: Quality Reporting and P4P

Opportunities

- Minority and underserved populations → less likely to receive recommended care

Concerns

- Penalizing providers that serve harder-to-reach populations?
- Unintended incentives to select patients?



Conclusions: Evaluation as an Engine for Policy Change

- Heightened focus on solutions to cancer disparities
- Enhanced responsiveness to community needs and priorities
- Faster cycle time between learning and implementing what works
- Larger and faster reductions in cancer burden and disparities