Interventions

1. The future of (public)(health)(policy) interventions
2. Policy types, politics
3. ...and instruments in
4. ...horizontal & vertical synergy
Five waves of public health

Structural
Biomedical
Clinical
Cultural Social

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What is health policy?

Determinomics + Interventionology + Implementology + Evaluation
The future of health policy (I)

1. A better balance is needed between the dominant public health approach (clinical) to disease and efforts that address generic social and behavioural determinants

2. Interventions should not be singular but focus on linking multiple levels of influence (individual, interpersonal, institutional, community, and policy)

3. Intervention strategies should aim at modification of social capital

4. Policies for equity in health need to be designed and implemented

5. Address pre-conception, perinatal and postnatal determinants of reproductive outcomes

6. Early-life interventions should focus on home environment, school and neighborhood, and physical health and growth

7. Multi-level interventions should address adolescents’ social environments (peer norms, role models, performance expectations, social and neighborhood support, community ties)

8. Community and worksite interventions and evaluations should include multiple points of leverage (individual-level attributes, social support and norms, environmental and social policy)

9. Interventions to promote the health of older adults should include social, environmental and behavioral conditions that minimize disability and promote continuing independence and productive activity

10. Understanding psychosocial and biobehavioral mechanisms that influence health is critical to understand and tailor interventions

11. Substantial new research is needed to understand behavioral and social factors affecting pregnancy outcomes and women’s health across life and between generations

12. Research on early childhood interventions needs to be extended to include a full array of child outcomes (physical, social, cognitive, emotional)

13. Research should identify sources of health strengths and resilience (‘positive health’)

14. Research is needed to identify pathways through which social contexts directly and indirectly affect disease pathogenesis and outcomes

15. Legal and regulatory interventions are powerful tools for promoting public health. Evaluations are needed into intended and unintended effects

16. Expansions of research methodologies are needed, and an integration between qualitative and quantitative research is required

17. Cost-effectiveness analyses are necessary. Assessments are needed of the incremental effect of each component of multilevel, comprehensive interventions, and of incremental effects of interventions over time

18. The next generation of interventions must focus on building relations with communities in design, implementation, and evaluation of programs

☞ plus three uniquely US recommendations on finance...

The need for policy typology

- Material and Symbolic Policies
- Public versus Private Goods
- Liberal and Conservative Policies
- Substantive and Procedural Policies
  - Education
  - Environment
  - Health
The need for policy typology

A good typology would:

- Generalizable
- Mutually exclusive
- Collectively exhaustive
- Explanation and prediction:
  - “Knowing what kind of policy we are dealing with would allow the policy designer to predict the sorts of policy conflict that would precede the policy’s enactment, and what sort of conflict might arise after the policy is adopted and implemented.”

To predict policy process outcome
Lowi’s typology:

**Distributive** policies bestow gifts on citizens; these gifts may be goods, services, or special privileges.

**Regulatory** policies are formalized rules expressed in general terms and applied to large groups of people. They either reduce or expand the alternatives available to those regulated.

A **redistributive policy** is one that shifts resources or power from one social group to another. By doing so, the government "seek[s] to control conduct... indirectly by altering the conditions of conduct or manipulating the environment."
### Lowi’s typology:

**Distributive policies:**
- **Subsidy** (cash, goods, services, or land)
- **Contracts**: agents agree to provide a product or service to the government in exchange for a specific amount of money.
- **(Nonregulatory) License**: "A license is a privilege granted by government agencies to something that it otherwise considers to be illegal."

**Regulatory policies:**
- **Laws**
- **Rules**
- **Regulations,** and **Guidelines**

**A redistributive policy:**
- shift economic resources
- shift power

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The ‘trade of statecraft’:


1. Market mechanisms (‘free individual choice’)
2. Structured options (‘government programmes that individuals might choose’)
3. Biased options (‘government programmes with incentives and deterrents’)
4. Regulation (‘control, constraints and imperatives; coercive government’)

"Economic policy in our time":

Carrots, sticks & sermons:

Carrots, sticks & sermons:

- **Affirmative**
  - subsidies, grants, in-kind
  - prescriptions
  - encouragements

- **Negative**
  - taxes, fees, physical obstacles
  - proscriptions
  - warnings
Carrots, sticks & sermons:

Affirmative
subsidies, grants, in-kind

Negative
taxes, fees, physical obstacles

Affirmative
prescriptions

Negative
proscriptions

Affirmative
encouragements

Negative
warnings

Horizontal packaging for synergy
Carrots, sticks & sermons:

Vertical packaging for logic and management
But: ‘least coercion rule’:

- **Affirmative** subsidies, grants, in-kind
- **Affirmative** prescriptions
- **Affirmative** encouragements
- **Negative** taxes, fees, physical obstacles
- **Negative** proscriptions
- **Negative** warnings
Intervention synergy:
Stop AIDS

Condoms

Safe sex
A Step Back for Human Rights, A Setback in the Fight to End AIDS in India

Human rights activists and a broad spectrum of Indians were unpleasantly surprised on December 11 when the Supreme Court overturned a high court verdict that had decriminalised consensual sex among homosexuals. Justice G. S. Singhvi’s ruling resulted in lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT) people waking up to find themselves declared criminals in a day.

In addition to the negative human rights and discrimination aspects of the ruling, it ushers in new challenges in its efforts to end AIDS in India. According to Pallav Patankar, Director, HIV Programs at Humsafar Trust, “The Section 377 verdict has only complicated the lives of health workers who work within the MSM (men who have sex with men), Transgender, Hijra community. Reaching out to these populations and increasing access to health services is already a challenge. The Section 377 verdict will create both legal and law-order problems for these communities. On the whole HIV prevalence will only increase due to stigma and discrimination.”

Shaleen Rakesh, Director, Technical Support at India HIV/AIDS Alliance agrees. “Gay men are fifteen times more likely to contract HIV than the average Indian,” he says. “Many groups lobbied for
In summary:

- Don’t confuse policy instruments with policies!
- Policy types ((re)distributive; regulatory) – politics – policy types
- Different policy types align with different instruments
- Various options for sequencing instruments (horizontal; vertical)
- Instrument effectiveness analysis is not necessarily the same as policy analysis