

How to improve the use of evidence-based health(care) information in practice and policy? The role of rapid reviews and policy briefs, and their synergistic effects

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- A synthesis of group discussions-

Questions considered during the group discussions:

- What experience have you had with policy briefs
- How are policy briefs useful for providing access to evidence based information in politics and in practice?
- How can policy briefs be made more attractive?
- What barriers and facilitators do you see in the use of policy briefs in practice?
- Where should policy briefs come from/be issued from and why?

A synthesis of the group discussions

How can policy briefs be made more attractive?

- Have a good question
- Clearly define the scope of the question
- Know your audience and their level of health literacy, build trust, use validated terminology
- Simpler is better
- Have clear key messages
- Use anecdotes and examples or a storyline
- The policy brief format is essential, no one format will fit all

Barriers and challenges:

- Writing policy briefs is a profession it requires experience and expertise.
- Researchers may have trouble communicating their results to a lay audience as well as making recommendations.
- Conflict of interests may be present, ensuring academic liberty and legitimacy is a challenge.
- Integrating public opinion in a meaningful way is no easy task.

To facilitate the use and usefulness of policy briefs:

- Create calls for policy brief proposals.
- Value the creation of policy briefs in academic career progression.
- Researchers and policy makers need to learn to know each other and their respective work to better co-construct.
- Policy briefs can be used as an initiating impulse at the very beginning of the policy process as time constrains and the "heaviness" of the decision making process may limit their usefulness later on.

Where should policy briefs come from/be issued from?

- The policymaker can ask the researcher to create a policy brief to answer a specific question.
- The researcher can create a policy brief to communicate the results of their research to a broader audience outside of the academic field.