

Catalogues of monitoring and surveillance datasets for key policy indicators

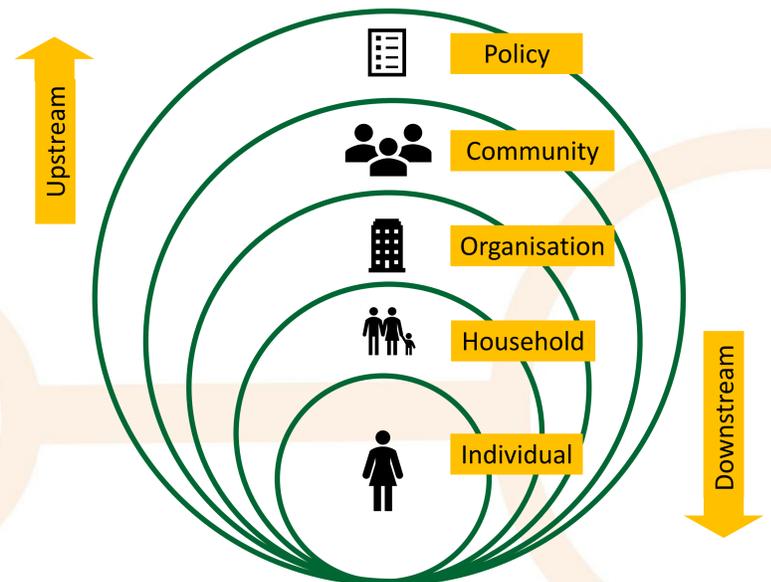
I. Stanley¹, A. Neumann-Podczska, K. Wieczorowska-Tobis, G. B. M. Mensink, L. Garnica-Rosas, S. Do, K. Abu Omar, W. Ahrens, A. Hebestreit, C. Murrin

¹School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin, Ireland

What is already known on the topic

Priority of the problem

- Policy evaluation requires indicators that can identify ‘*specific and measurable characteristics of changes that demonstrate progress towards outcome or impact*’.
- These indicators should capture whether a policy has made changes to one or more levels of influence (policy, environment, organisation, community, household, individual)¹.
- It is important to understand how surveillance and monitoring systems measure upstream indicators for dietary behavior and physical activity.
- Key indicators previously identified by PEN² were mapped against variables from 17 ongoing European monitoring and surveillance systems³.



What this study adds

Table 1: Summary of indicators that were mapped to indicator variables in current EU surveillance systems.

Indicator level	Diet indicators	Physical activity indicators
Policy	37	32
Environmental	11	14
Interpersonal	3	8
Individual	10	0
Behaviour outcomes	11	13
Total	72	67

Overview of datasets measuring key policy indicators in Europe

- The policy indicator catalogue collate information on 72 indicators on multiple levels for dietary behavior and 67 for physical activity (Table 1) from 17 ongoing European monitoring and surveillance systems³.
- These systems are run by 12 different organizations, such as Eurostat, the European Commission, or the WHO Regional Office for Europe³.

Data gaps in current European Monitoring and Surveillance Systems

- Only few systems measure upstream indicators.
- Missing upstream indicators included those related to inequality, retail environment, and funding and resources for dietary behavior as well as those linked to active environment and social support for physical activity.

Example

In planning an evaluation of a policy on a sugar sweetened beverage tax, the catalogues can be used to find a relevant indicator to measure the impact of the tax on the price of food basket (Eurostat); and the impact on, for instance, sugar sweetened beverage consumption in children (COSI).

Recommendations

- 1. Stakeholders:** Use the policy indicator catalogue in their research to identify indicators that can inform policy development and improve evaluation.
- 2. Surveillance and monitoring system:** Address gaps identified in upstream level indicators of the determinants of dietary behaviours and physical activity. Filling these gaps will allow for further development of a systems-based approach to policy development and evaluation.
- 3. Policy makers:** Create greater co-operation between surveillance and monitoring systems to harmonise the indicators used to measure these behaviours and their determinants.

PEN researchers used information from the policy indicator catalogue to initiate the harmonization process by further developing unified questionnaire modules (**S**electe**I**nstruments for **M**ultilevel **P**oLicy and impact **E**valuation (**S**IMPLE) modules)⁴.

To access the catalogue, please scan the QR code:



Literature references

- ¹Hebestreit, A. et al. (2019). <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30888434> ²Garnica Rosas, L., et al. (2021). <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33794923/>, ³Stanley, I. et al. (2021). European Journal of Public Health. (in press); ⁴Retrievable from: <https://www.jpi-pen.eu/pen-physical-activity-and-diet-screener-overview.html>.