

GOT YOUR HEALTH EQUITY GLASSES?: GETTING CLARITY ON HEALTH EQUITY TOOLS

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What is a HE Tool?

- HE Tools have an explicit goal of improving HE
- Action (e.g. steps, framework, strategies to achieve that goal)
- May assess, promote or measure HE

Two Environmental Scans

- HE Tools Inventory 1.0 (2013) = 35
- HE Tools Inventory 2.0 (2016) = 114

What Tool for What Purpose?

A. Impact Assessment and Evaluation: 12

- Conducting equity-focused health impact assessments on public policies (6)
- Using equity-focused organizational planning, management and evaluation tools (4)
- Planning and delivering programs and services specifically for equity-seeking populations (1)
- Evaluating the outcomes of health equity actions (1)

B. Indicators and Measurement: 12

C. Frameworks for Integrating Health Equity into Organizations and Systems: 28

- Programmatic or topic-area-specific policy development (6)
- Discipline-specific policy development (6)
- Systems-level policy development (13)
- Policy, HiAP (3)

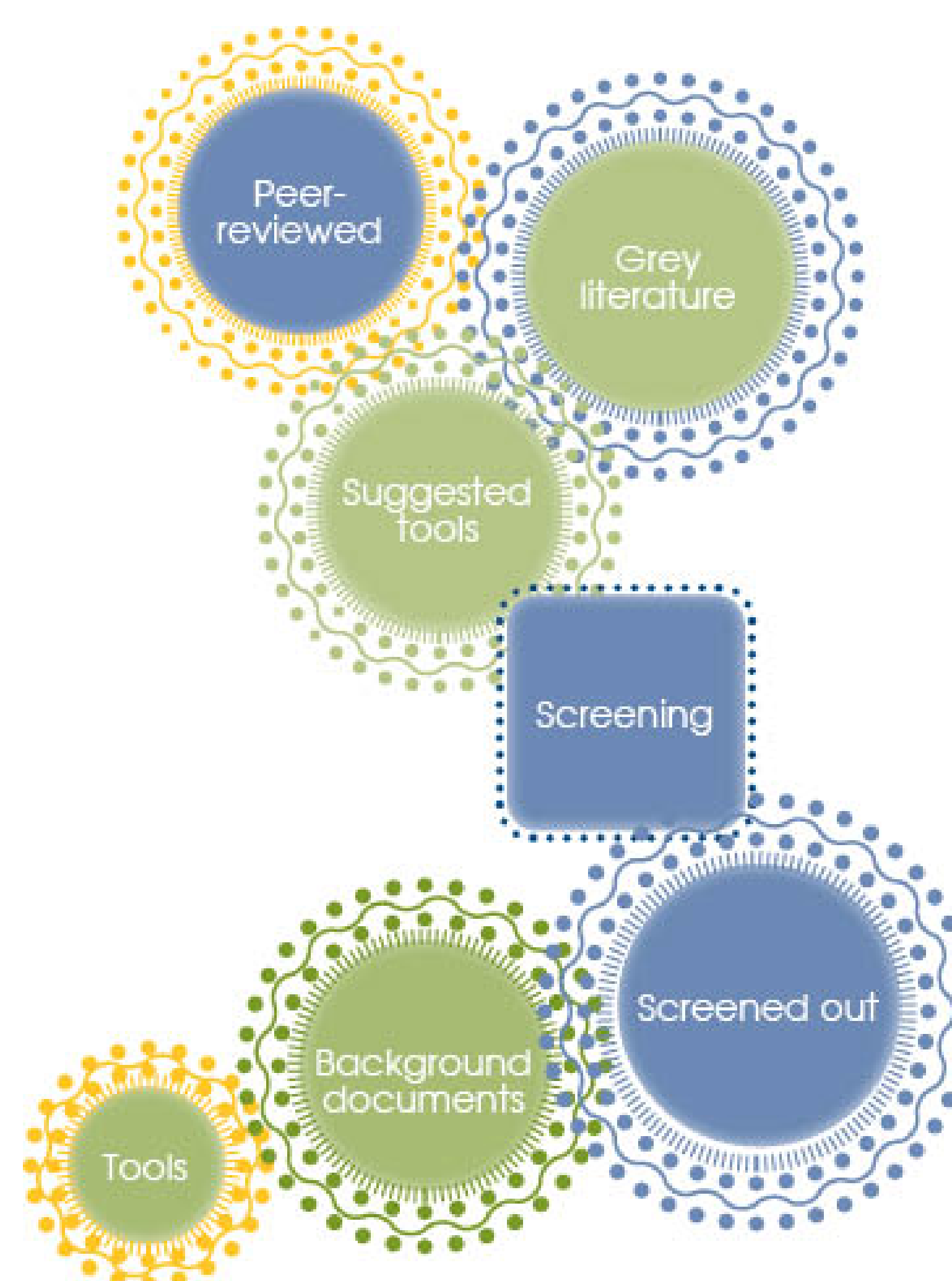
D. Frameworks for Integrating Health Equity into Program and Service Delivery: 12

- Integrating health equity into chronic or acute care (5)
- Competencies, practices, training, capacity building, education (7)

E. Population Health Specific Approaches: 9

- Cultural diversity (4)
- Indigenous Peoples (4)
- Gender (1)

F. Health Equity Frameworks for Research: 6



Equity Lens in Public Health
Health Equity Tools

Assessing Equity in Clinical Practice Guidelines

Purpose

To assess how well Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) address health equity.

Who would use it?

Anyone assessing or developing clinical practice guidelines.

Description

The authors provide a list of five questions, or an "equity lens," for assessing clinical practice guidelines (CPGs). The Knowledge Plus Project of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network developed this equity lens for CPGs. The Network's goal is to improve CPG development by encouraging consideration of sociopolitical dimensions like equity and local appropriateness. The five questions that comprise the "equity lens" are:

1. Do the public health recommendations in the guidelines address a priority problem for disadvantaged populations?
2. Is there a reason to anticipate different effects of intervention in disadvantaged and privileged populations?
3. Are the effects of the intervention valued differently by disadvantaged compared with privileged populations?
4. Is specific attention given to minimizing barriers to implementation in disadvantaged populations?
5. Do plans for assessing the impact of the recommendations include disadvantaged populations?

Key words: clinical practice guidelines, program planning

Applications

As an example, the authors apply the equity lens to the Philippine Heart Association's planned guidelines for the diagnosis and management of dyslipidemia.

Reference

Dans, A. M., Dans, L., Oxman, A. D., Robinson, V., Acuin, J., Tugwell, P., . . . Kang, D. (2007). Assessing equity in clinical practice guidelines. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 60(6), 540-546.

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Appendix



While many tools have been applied, few tools have been evaluated...

Is the Tool Practical?

- Will the tool contribute to improvements in programs and/or policies?
- Will the tool contribute to the identification of specific actions to improve health equity?
- Is there a step in the tool that engages or calls for participation of the community or people affected by health inequities?
- Is the tool easy to use and understand?
- Is the tool quick to use and short?
- Is there a clear set of steps that guide the use of the tool?

Is the Tool Theoretically Sound?

- Is there a definition of health equity?
- What is the 'theoretical orientation' of the tool?
- Is there a theoretical explanation of how health equity can be promoted?
- Is there a theoretical explanation of how health inequities can be reduced?
- Are references provided with the tool that explain the theoretical orientation or the empirical basis for the tool?

