

RAPID-CYCLE RESEARCH

Findings from the Population Health Innovation Lab

CONTEXT

It can be challenging for multisector collaboratives to know what to measure to assess how they are aligning and the success of their efforts. The Population Health Innovation Lab at the Public Health Institute undertook validating measures for aligning that health-oriented multisector collaboratives can use to assess their progress across the elements of the Framework for Aligning Sectors.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The Population Health Innovation Lab used data collected through its ongoing research with Accountable Communities of/for Health (ACHs) and drew from existing conceptual foundations (e.g., theories, frameworks, and approaches) to assess reliability, validity, feasibility, and utility of aligning measures.

KEY FINDINGS

Most aligning concepts can be measured with a high degree of reliability and validity:

New variables related to local context emerged as important.



Five important variables emerged related to measuring local context, including (1) local characteristics (e.g., partnership size and attributes of the population served); (2) capacity, which includes things like funding levels and the number of staff dedicated to the aligning effort; (3) anti-racism, which includes things like whether aligning participants believe systemic racism exists; (4) length of individual and organizational participation; and (5) levels of individual and organizational engagement.

Measures around the core components are valid.



Findings validated survey measures for three of the four core components, including shared purpose (understanding of and commitment to the vision for aligning), shared financing (the value of aligning and whether there are financial resources to support the effort), and shared data (tracking progress toward outcomes and whether data are regularly shared with aligning participants).

Trust, community voice, and equity are valid measures, but difficult to separate from power dynamics.



Adaptive factors are hard to separate. While the concepts of trust, community voices, and equity were validated through quantitative and qualitative analyses of observed measures, it was found that power dynamics and the other adaptive factors are deeply connected. Thus, findings suggest the adaptive factors should be considered together, since they are mutually reinforcing.

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