Finding Effective Programs and Policies

There are lots of well-intentioned programs and policies that try to address one or more of health factors, but not every program or policy is effective. We have compiled some general sources of evidence that you can search for programs and policies to address the priority areas you are interested in focusing on in your community.

General sources of evidence:

- The Guide to Community Preventive Services
- Cochrane Public Health Group - Finding Public Health Reviews
- The Cochrane Library
- The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews
- Health-Evidence.ca -- Promoting Evidence-Informed Decision Making
- Canadian Best Practices Portal (from the Public Health Agency of Canada) -- Community and population health interventions related to chronic disease prevention and health promotion.

Specific sources of evidence by focus area:

In addition to these general sources of evidence, there are several other databases of evidence that address some of the 2020 focus areas:

Health Focus Areas

- Alcohol and Drug [www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu, National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)]
- Chronic Disease (Health Policy Guide)
- Communicable Disease (Health Policy Guide)
- Environmental and Occupational (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Growth and Development (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Mental Health [National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)]
- Nutrition (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Oral Health
- Physical Activity (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Reproductive and Sexual (Health Policy Guide)
- Tobacco (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Violence and Injury (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)

Infrastructure Focus Areas

- Access (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Capacity and Quality
- Emergency
- Funding
- Information Systems
- Literacy and Education (www.WhatWorksforHealth.wisc.edu)
- Partnerships
- Research and Evaluation
- Workforce