

Assembling Public Health Evidence to Implement Local Policy:

Creating an Evidence Base for the Ontario Public Health Standards

Presented by Beata Pach & Allison McArthur
on behalf of the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association



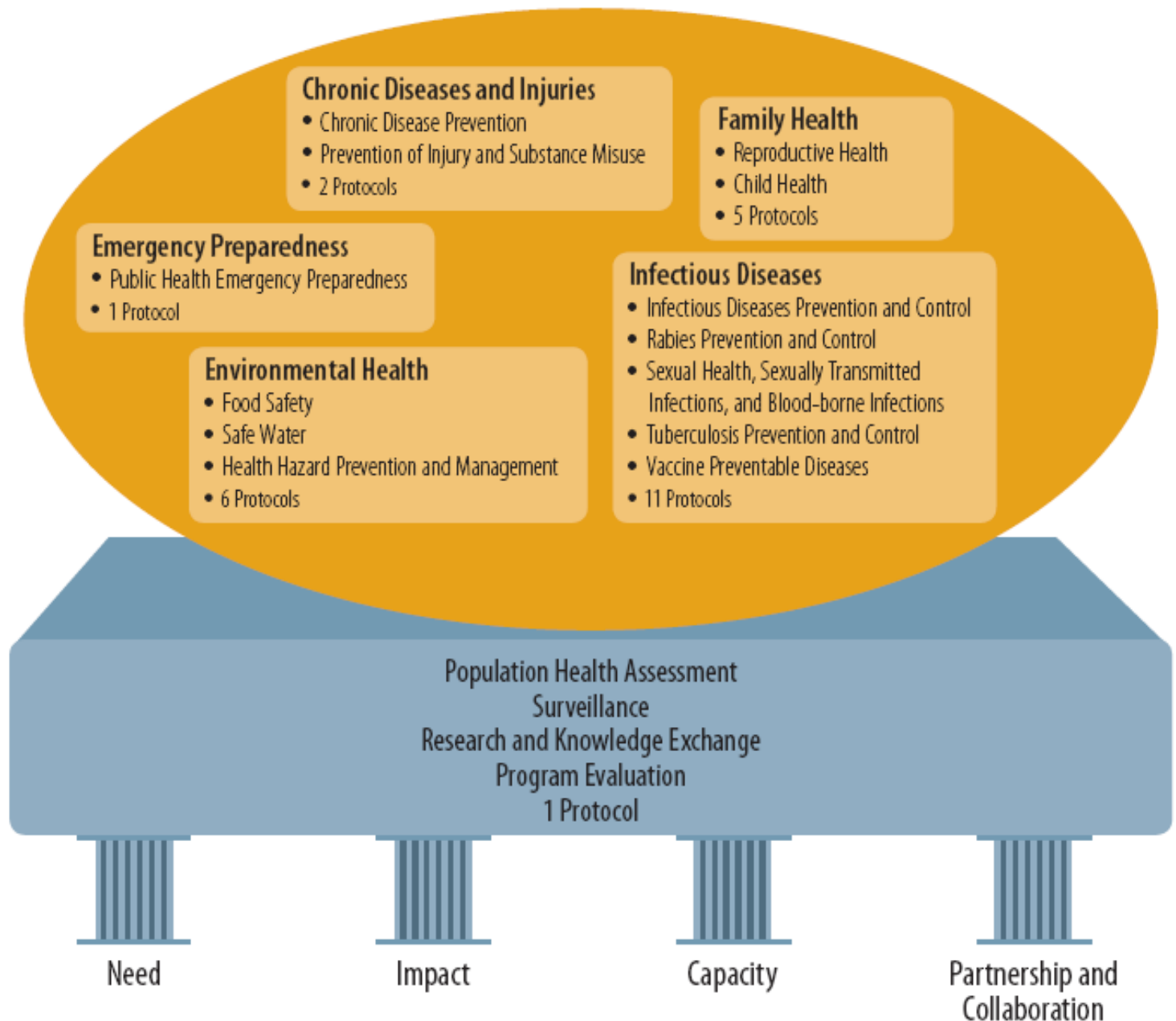
Evidence in Uncertain Times: Meeting the Challenge
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Ontario Public Health Standards

Ontario Public Health Standards 2008

The Ontario Public Health Standards are published as the guidelines for the provision of mandatory health programs and services by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, pursuant to Section 7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7.

Program Standards and Protocols



Ontario Public Health Standards

General Resources

The following resources have been compiled to provide public health practitioners with practical tools that support understanding of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and facilitate program planning and delivery.

[Legislative Authority for the OPHS and Protocols:](#)

Describes the authority for the Ontario Public Health Standards and the incorporated protocols and their respective relationships with the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

[Glossary for the OPHS:](#)

Includes key terms used throughout the OPHS (the OPHS Glossary is distinct from glossaries included in specific protocols).

[Logic Models:](#)

For each standard, provides the relationships between the requirements, board of health outcomes, societal outcomes, and goals.

[Literature Searches:](#)

A tool for conducting predetermined literature searches (through PubMed) on topic areas relevant to the requirements.

[Referencing the OPHS and Protocols:](#)

How to cite the OPHS, associated Protocols and other resources.

[Critical Appraisal of Evidence and Research:](#)

A guide from the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association on the basics for critically appraising research.

[OPHS and Protocols: PDFs](#)

[Interactive version of OPHS](#)

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- [French Language Services](#)
- [A Look at the OPHS and Protocols Across Various Dimensions](#)
- [Comparison of the 2008 OPHS and 1997 MHPSG](#)
- [Public Health Links](#)

[Roll Out Activities](#)

[Guidance Documents](#)

Ontario Public Health Standards

Literature Search Statements

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Foundational Standard

[Building partnerships to promote collaborative research](#) (Requirement 9)

[Evidence based public health](#) (Requirement 10)

[Public health knowledge exchange](#) (Requirement 8)

[Public health program evaluation](#) (Requirement 12)

[Surveillance and assessment of health status, health needs, inequities, and health care utilization in local populations](#) (Requirement 1)

[Surveillance of emerging public health issues](#) (Requirement 6)

[TOP](#)

Chronic Disease Prevention

General

[Building chronic disease capacity among community partners](#) (Requirement 7)

[Chronic disease screening](#) (Requirement 10)

[Increase public awareness of health inequities that contribute to chronic disease](#) (Requirement 11)

[Increase public awareness of the benefits of chronic disease screening](#) (Requirement 11)

[Inform policy makers, community partners, and the public about resources and services related to chronic disease risk factors](#) (Requirements 3 and 4)

[Public health interventions to prevent chronic disease](#) (Requirement 2)

[Workplace interventions to promote stress reduction](#) (Requirement 4)

Evidence-informed Public Health Practice & Decision Making



Evidence-informed Public Health

The process of finding, appraising, distilling and disseminating the best available evidence, whether from research or actual practice, and using that evidence to inform and improve public health policy and practice.



Public Health vs. Medicine

- Focus on populations
 - Prevention & health promotion
 - Environment & human behavior interventions
 - Diverse workforce, variable education & certifications
 - Social sciences integral; clinical sciences peripheral to education
- Focus on individuals
 - Diagnosis & treatment
 - Clinical interventions
 - Well-established profession, standardized education & certification
 - Clinical sciences integral; social sciences less emphasized

Adapted from: Medical Library Association, 2004

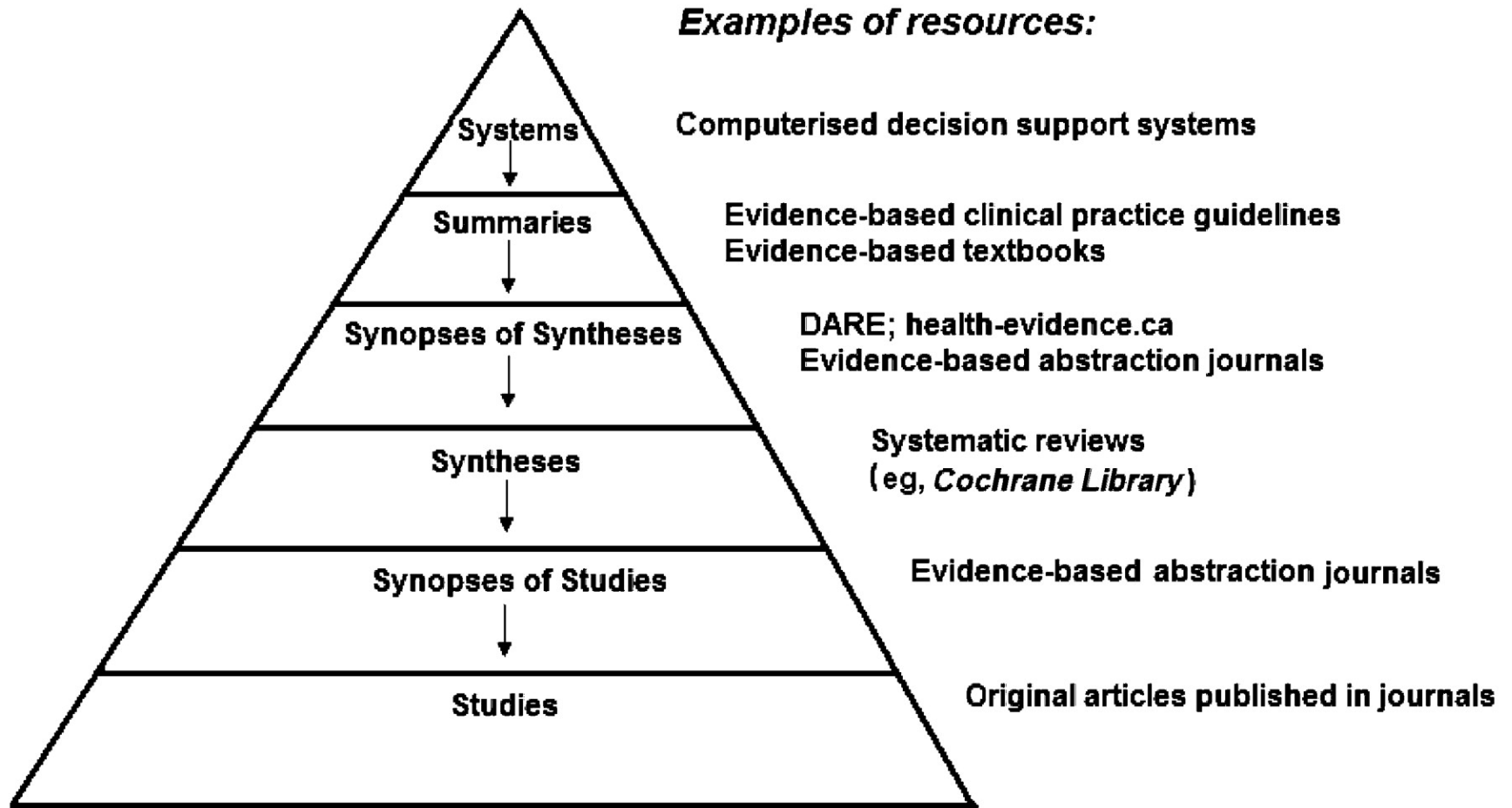


Research in Public Health and Clinical Medicine

Research Characteristics	Evidence-based Medicine	Evidence-informed Public Health
Study Designs	Experimental studies with control groups (RCTs)	Observational studies
Volume of Evidence	More	Less
Time from Intervention to Outcome	Shorter	Longer

Adapted from: New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice, 2006

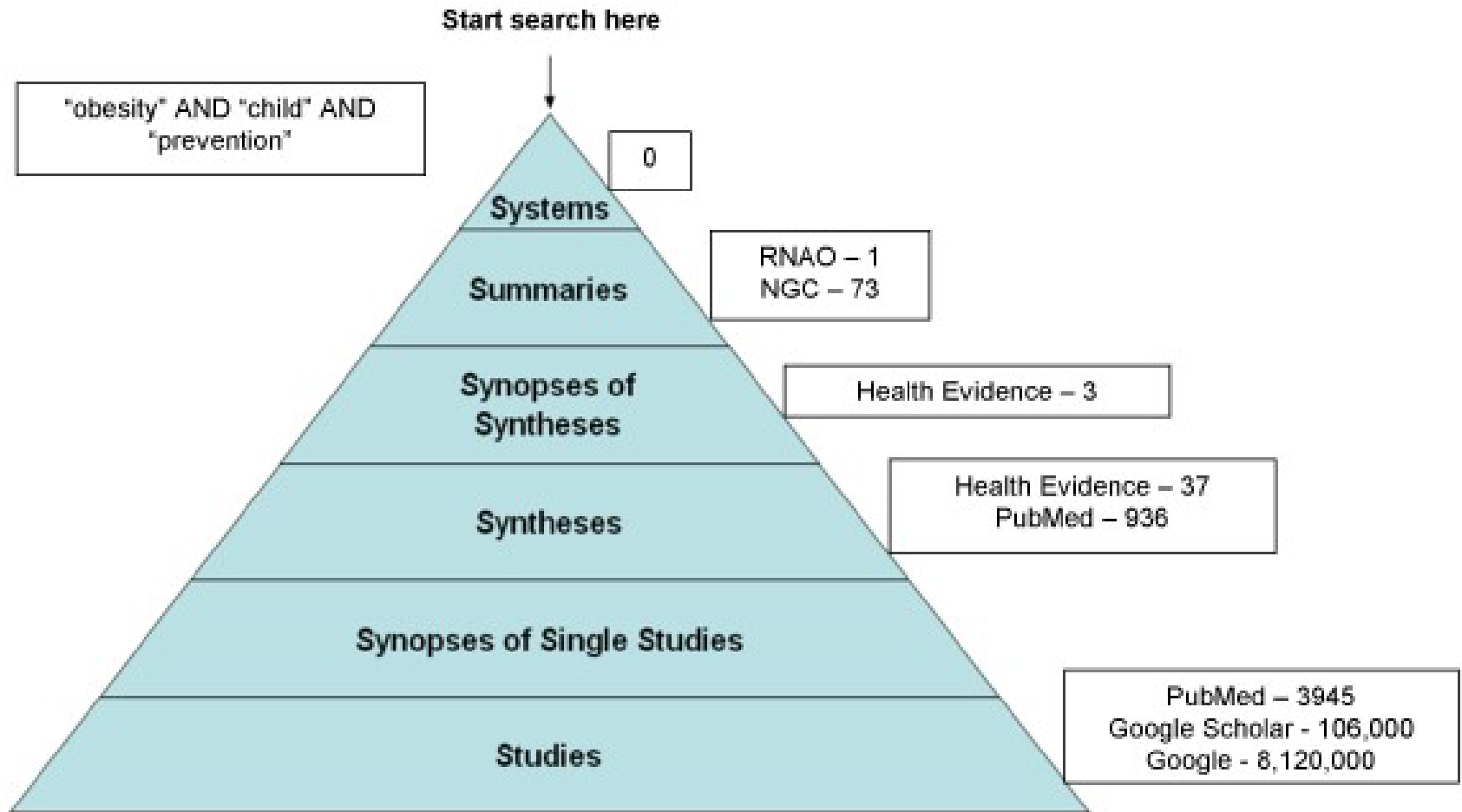
Evidence Pyramid



Source: DiCenso, Bayley, & Haynes, 2009



Evidence Pyramid in Public Health Practice

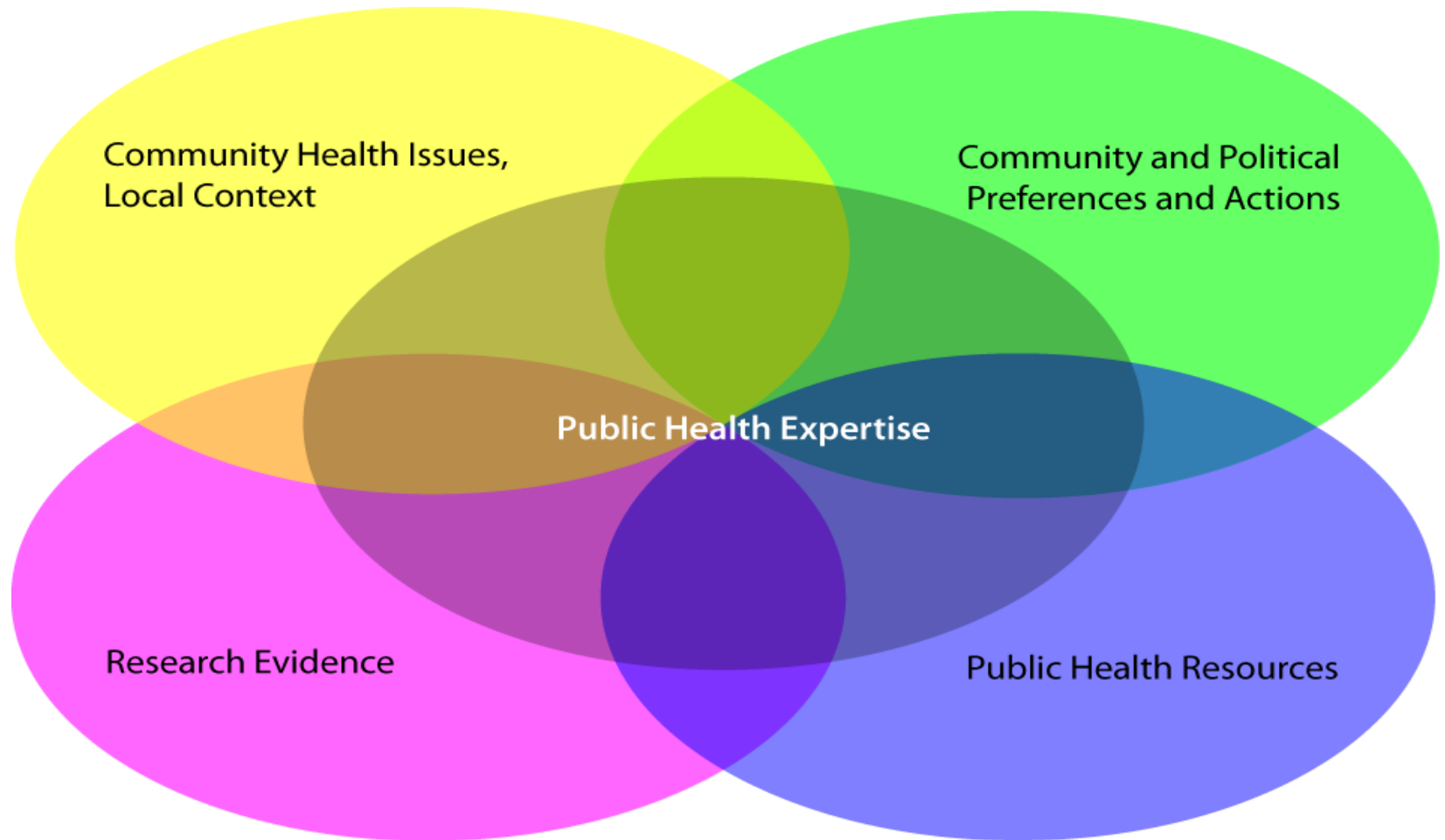


Source: Robeson et al, 2010

Complicating Factors in EIPH

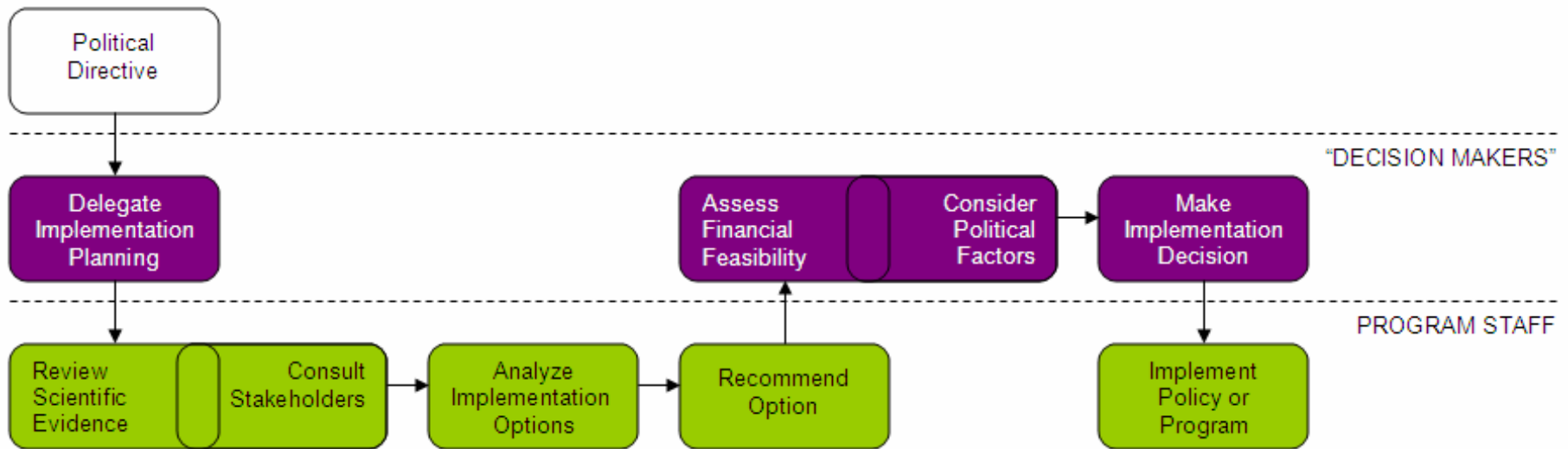
- Systematic reviews
 - Scarcity
 - Quality
- Abundance of “grey” literature
 - Unpublished practice-based research
- Context is crucial

Public Health Decision Making in Context



Source: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools, 2008

Policy Implementation Decision Process ("Top Down" Approach)



Developing a Custom Evidence Tool

Planning Phase

- Objectives
 - Inform program implementation
 - Provide the most up-to-date evidence
 - Promote use of quality research tools
 - Cost effective
 - Minimize barriers to access (registration/login requirements)
 - Integration with existing information tools
 - Accessible to public health community outside of Ontario
- PubMed best match for our needs

Development Phase

- Integration with program standards
 - Analysis of Ontario Public Health Standards
 - Approximately 1 search per requirement
 - 138 search strategies in total
- Scope & breadth of searches
 - Variety of setting, populations, interventions
- Addressing user behaviour
 - Getting the best results on p. 1
 - Minimizing false hits

Release of the Searches

- Go-live date: December 2008
- Supports
 - Instructional guide
 - PubMed tips
 - Customization for advanced users
 - Full text retrieval options
 - Critical appraisal guide
- Raising awareness / promotion
 - Part of OPHS communications plan
 - OPHS & OPHLA websites
 - Training at health unit level
 - Conference presentations: OPHA

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Database of PH programs and interventions from health units
- Initiate an evaluation of our searches
- Expansion of searches on additional topics

Questions?

