

The application of Logic Models and Theories of Change to inform healthcare policy: a scoping review

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Background

Theories of Change and Logic Models provide explanations of the steps that are required for interventions and policies to achieve their intended outcomes. Exploring their current use in healthcare policy is important in understanding whether they are effective at developing and implementing healthcare policies globally.

The objectives of this study were to: (i) examine how Theories of Change and Logic Models are currently used in healthcare policy, and (ii) to explore trends in use across time, countries, and research fields.

Materials and Methods

A scoping review was conducted, using PubMed. Abstracts and titles were screened according to inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria:

- mentioning Theories of Change or Logic Models in the context of informing policy
- primary research published within the last 10 years

Exclusion criteria:

- absence of explanation of 'policy', non-healthcare focus
- absence of a methods section

Using a data extraction form, we extracted data on primary research type, Theory of Change or Logic Model approach, extent of integral use of Theory of Change or Logic Model, revision of the Theory of Change or Logic Model, date of publication, country or continent of publication and topic of study.

Conclusions

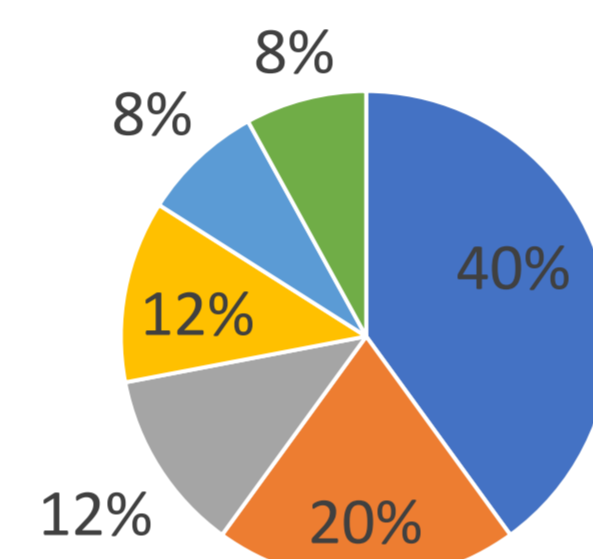
- Key findings revealed Theory of Change and Logic Model publication is generally increasing over time, often focussing on Public health and nutrition, most commonly employed in Africa.
- The main strength of this review is the broad approach to reviewing each study across seven outcomes in a data extraction form. This has allowed each study to be compared to other studies across several parameters, gauging the intricate ways in which the models were used. Therefore, this supplements the current literature by beginning to discuss how Theories of Change and Logic Models are currently being used and thus facilitating analysis of their effectiveness. Although current research has focussed on applying these models and explaining them, there has not appeared to have been any research focussing on how these models are used.
- This study has focussed on identifying how these models have been employed in the past, but future research is recommended to analyse whether model employment has had a direct benefit on the healthcare policy outcome or effectiveness. The implications of this being that it could better inform how healthcare policy is developed.

Results

346 initial studies were identified, with 25 being included.

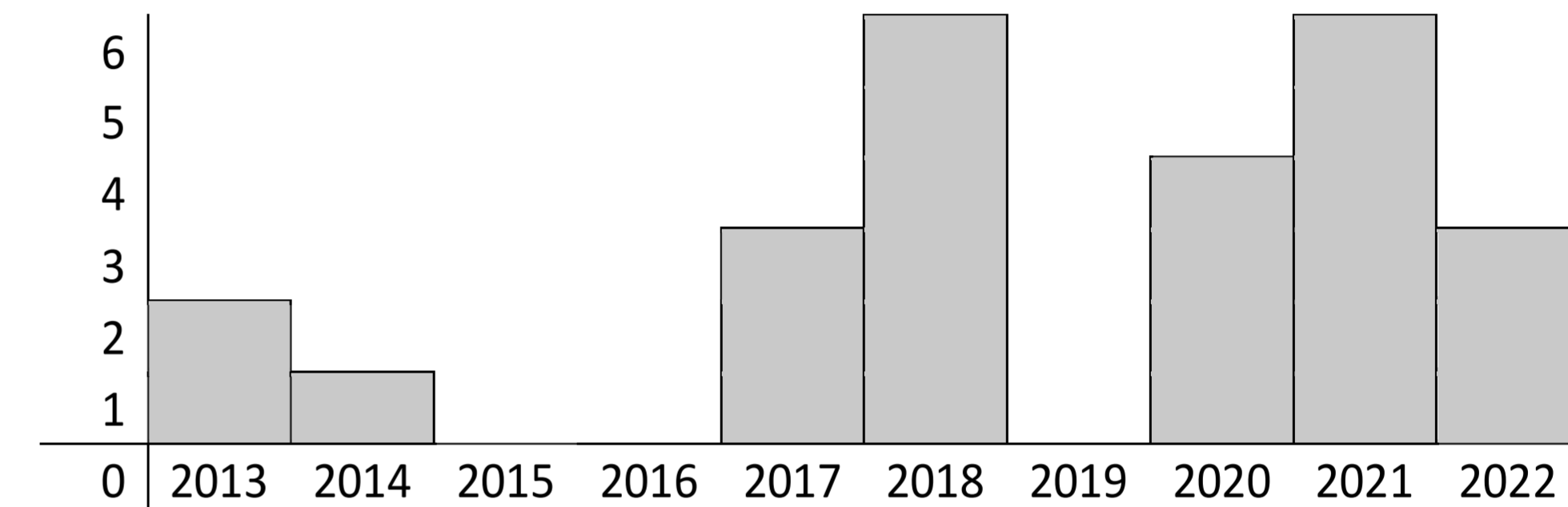
- Results demonstrated 64% of studies implemented a model prior to their research, with 40% of studies revising this initial model after their findings.
- The most frequent countries/ continent that Theories of Change or Logic Models were used to inform healthcare policy were Africa (n=7), America (n=5), Australia (n=3), with singular examples seen in Canada, Caribbean, England, Europe, Italy, Japan, Netherlands and South Korea. 2 studies showed interventions not limited to single countries.

Primary Research Type

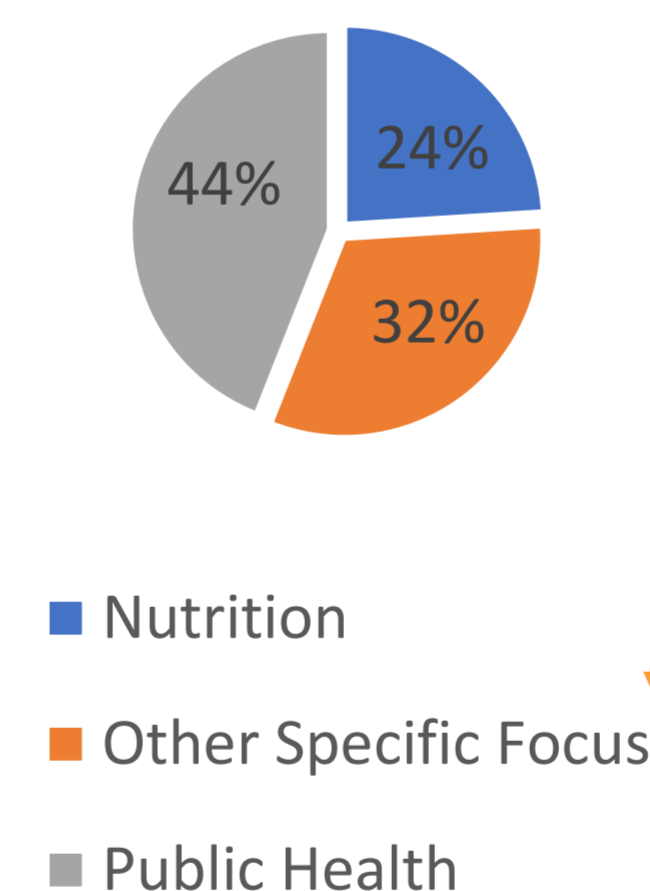


- Interviews
- Surveys & Questionnaires
- Expert panel discussion
- Randomised Controlled Trials
- Conferences
- Workshops

Year of Publication



Topic of Study



Examples of other specific focus include:

- Antineoplastic drugs
- EVIPNet Europe
- Hereditary angioedema
- EviDeNce
- Evidence uptake in decision making
- VAPAR learning platform
- Integration of oncology and palliative care
- Cancer adolescents and young adults

