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Developing Service Delivery Measures for Studies of Practice Variation: The MPROVE Study

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Developing Service Delivery Measures for Studies of Practice Variation: The MPROVE Study

Glen Mays, PhD, MPH
University of Kentucky

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Multi-Network Practice and Outcome Variation Examination Study (MPROVE)

- Identify service delivery measures for selected, high-value public health services
- Create a registry of measures collected consistently across local communities
- Profile geographic variation in the delivery of selected public health services across local communities
- Decompose variation into attributable components:
  - need-sensitive or preference-sensitive factors
  - supply-sensitive factors
- Examine associations between service delivery & outcomes
## Participating MPROVE networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>State Agencies</th>
<th>Local Agencies*</th>
<th>Academic Units</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Lead Institution</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>TN</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
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</table>
Overview of Activities and Timeline

Phase I
- Selection and specification of “core” measures to collect across networks
- Selection and specification of additional “local” measures to collect within networks
- Development of analysis plans

Phase II
- Data collection
- Pooling data across networks

Phase III
- Data analysis
  - Within network
  - Across networks
- Interpretation and translation
- Development of initial dissemination products
- Planning for future & follow-up studies

May 2012 - October 2012 - April 2013 - September 2013
MPROVE Measure Domains

• Communicable disease control
• Chronic disease prevention
• Environmental health protection
M PROVE Measure Selection & Specification

- Call for measures to identify inventory of candidate measures
- Literature review to identify candidate measures
- Delphi expert rating of measures based on selection criteria
- Discussion and modification of ratings
- Final selection of “core” measures
- Development of measure specifications
- Final approval of measure specifications
MPROVE Measurement Dimensions

• **Availability/scope**: are selected services/activities produced or performed by the public health agency or delivery system

• **Volume/intensity**: absolute or relative frequency of service delivery over a given unit of time

• **Capacity**: ratio of inputs to size of the relevant target population or risk (e.g. sanitarians per 1000 septic tanks, food safety inspectors per 1000 licensed food vendors)

• **Reach**: percent of the target population reached by the activity
MPROVE Measurement Dimensions

• **Quality-Appropriateness**: Does the public health agency and/or system act based on objectively measured health needs and risk profiles of the population served? What is the degree of concordance between a community’s documented health needs/risks and the scope of public health activities performed by the public health agency or the system as a whole?
MPROVE Measurement Dimensions

• **Quality-Effectiveness/Fidelity**: Does the public health agency and/or system implement its activities based on available scientific knowledge and fidelity to evidence-based guidelines? To what extent are programs and services concordant with evidence-based guidelines and professional consensus standards?

• **Quality-Timeliness**: Are public health activities implemented at the appropriate points in time to maximize health protection and minimize the risk of disease transmission or injury?

• **Quality-Community Centeredness/Engagement**: To what extent are relevant stakeholders engaged in planning, priority-setting, selection, and implementation of public health activities undertaken by the public health agency and/or system? To what extent are public health activities tailored appropriately to at-risk population groups based on the groups’ values, preferences, needs, knowledge, skills, and resources?
MPROVE Measurement Dimensions

- **Quality-Efficiency**: To what extent are public health activities implemented in ways that optimize the use of financial and human resources? To what extent do implementation processes avoid waste and delays in service? To what extent do the benefits of public health activities justify their costs?

- **Quality-Equity**: Are there disparities in the reach of public health activities to different population sub-groups defined by personal characteristics such as race, ethnicity, geography, or socio-economic status? Are there disparities in effectiveness, timeliness, community-centeredness, and/or efficiency?
Levels of Measurement

- **Community Level**: Includes services/activities regardless of who performs/contributes
- **Agency Level**: Focuses on activities directly contributed by governmental public health agency
### MPROVE Measurement Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HHS Quality Aims*</th>
<th>Measurement Dimensions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population-centered</td>
<td>Community-centered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equitable</td>
<td>Equity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proactive</td>
<td>Timeliness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health-promoting</td>
<td>Effectiveness/fidelity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk-reducing</td>
<td>Effectiveness/fidelity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vigilant</td>
<td>Appropriateness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective</td>
<td>Effectiveness/fidelity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficient</td>
<td>Efficiency</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
*Priority Areas for the Improvement of Quality in Public Health.* The Public Health Quality Forum.  
Selection Criteria

• **Domain:** Degree to which the measure falls within one of the three core domains of activity for this study: communicable disease control; chronic disease prevention; environmental health protection

• **Dimension:** Degree to which the measure addresses one or more of the key dimensions of service delivery for this study: availability, volume/intensity, capacity, reach, and/or quality.

• **Relevance/Control:** Degree to which the measure reflects an activity that local public health agencies and/or their partners have the authority (law) and organizational responsibility (mission) to implement
Selection Criteria

- **Expected Health Impact**: Degree to which improvements in the measured activity are expected to result in improvements in population health.

- **Expected Economic Impact**: Degree to which changes in the measured activity are expected to result in changes in the cost of delivering public health services, changes in the cost of delivering other health care or social services (spill over), and/or other changes in the direct and indirect costs of preventable illness/injury/disability.
Selection Criteria

• **Expected Variation**: Degree to which the measured activity is expected to vary across local public health settings, vary across states/PBRN networks, and vary over time.

• **Feasibility**: Degree to which it is economically and logistically feasible to obtain the data needed to construct the measure at the level of the local public health practice setting for all/most/many practice settings in each participating PBRN.

• **Expected Validity**: Degree to which the measure characterizes the public health activity of interest.

• **Expected Reliability**: Degree to which the measure characterizes the activity consistently across different local public health settings and over time.
Example: Delphi Rating of Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Domonoty</th>
<th>Dimensionality</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
<th>Health Impact</th>
<th>Economic Impact</th>
<th>Variation</th>
<th>Feasibility</th>
<th>Validity</th>
<th>Composite Rating</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>CHR 1 - Community-wide physical activity campaign volume (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 2 - Community-wide physical activity campaign exposure (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 3 - Physical activity social support intervention proximity (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 4 - Physical activity social support intervention participation volume (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 5 - Community-scale urban design land use project volume (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 6 - Community-scale urban design land use project proximity (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 7 - Community-scale urban design land use policy exposure (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 11 - Combined physical activity intervention availability (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 12 - Combined physical activity intervention participation (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 14 - Tobacco use mass media campaign volume (community)</td>
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<td>CHR 16 - Smoking restriction policy enforcement (UHD)</td>
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<td>CHR 17 - Hypertension education session volume (UHD)</td>
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<td>CHR 18 - Asthma prevention activity availability (UHD)</td>
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Example: Delphi Rating of Measures
Final MPROVE Measures

• Communicable disease control (14 measures)
  – Immunization
  – Enteric disease control
  – STI control
  – Tuberculosis control

• Chronic disease prevention (8 measures)
  – Tobacco prevention
  – Obesity prevention

• Environmental health protection (5 measures)
  – Lead exposure protection
  – Food safety protection
Example: Implementation of community-wide health education campaigns to promote physical activity
Example: Implementation of educational interventions to reduce tobacco use and/or exposure
Example: Implementation of programs to support and promote breastfeeding
Summary & Next Steps

• Test the utility of the PBRN model for standardized measurement, data collection, and analysis
• Select “high value” measures to improve rigor and relevance of research
• Use geographic variation studies for hypothesis generation, QI targeting, cost studies, natural experiments, theory-driven sampling frames