

"Prioritisation in Public Health research"

Questionnaire Design – Delphi Round 1 & Invitation letter

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In collaboration with Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe

Bremen

Germany

April 14th, 2017

Revised Version - Questionnaire design – Delphi Round 1

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Section A: Introduction

Welcome to the first questionnaire on: “Prioritisation in Public Health Research.”

Please read the following information before you agree on participating in this questionnaire.

Thank you for your participation in our first survey on prioritising research topics in the field of public health. The University of Zurich, the University of Bremen and the Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology (BIPS) hereby cordially invite you to share your expertise as an important public health stakeholder with regard to the research needs in public health. We would like you to indicate which research topics should be prioritised and mention why they should be prioritised.

Therefore we would highly appreciate it if you could fill out the following questionnaire, which should take about ten minutes.

This survey is conducted in cooperation with Cochrane Switzerland and Cochrane Public Health Europe (CPHE). CPHE was founded in 2015 to support and disseminate the work of Cochrane Public Health in Europe. The common goal of Cochrane Public Health is to promote the development and the use of evidence-based methods in public health.

All data will be evaluated anonymously and no personal data is collected. Your data is stored on a secure university server and will only be used according to the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG). The answers will not be attributed to the individual. All answers are summarised and analysed as a group.

Your participation is completely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Since all data is collected anonymously, it is no longer possible to access, change or delete data after the survey. If you are willing to participate, you will be asked to click on the approval box below.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dyon Hoekstra by email (hoekstra@uni-bremen.de) or phone (+49-421-218-56922).

Thank you for your participation!

☐

Please tick the box to express your agreement participate in this study.

Section B: General Information

Question 1 - Which position do you hold within your organisation?

Please choose the answer that best describes your situation.

- Employee
- Project leader
- Working group or department head
- Head of the organisation
- Other:
- Not applicable

Non substantive options popping up for “not applicable”:

Not applicable

No opinion

Don't know

Prefer not to answer

Question 2 – Which of the following options would you consider most appropriate for describing your profession?

Multiple answers possible

- Position at a university or college of higher education
- Representative of a public health research association or research institute
- Policy maker
- Politician in a governmental department
- Politician in a health related political committee
- Position in a health related NGO (non-governmental organisation)
- Representative of an association of professionals in health care (e.g. representatives of physicians)
- Representative of a health care provider (e.g. representatives of hospitals)
- Representative of a patient association
- Representative of a health insurer
- Other:
- Not applicable

Question 3 – At what level do you fulfil the majority of your activities?

Please select one of the following options

- Local / Regional level
- National level
- International level
- Not applicable

Question 4 – In which (health) area do you consider yourself specialized through education, study or profession?

Multiple answers possible

How many years have you been working in this area?

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- Not applicable

Section C1: Collection of Topics to be prioritised (per Domain)

In the following section, we will ask you which research topics you believe should be considered as potential priority topics in public health research.

Potential topics for this survey are divided into different domains. This division is based on a previously conducted literature study and on the expert opinion of a scientific advisory board. The three domains are listed below:

1. Health prevention
2. Health promotion
3. Health services

Firstly, we will provide you with a few examples for each domain and a brief explanation of what the domain includes and secondly we will ask you to suggest topics that you think should be prioritised.

Please also consider for every domain the global context (for example with regards to climate change, health equity, vulnerable population groups, global epidemics/pandemics, and global health surveillance).

Question 5 - Domain 1: Prevention

Our definition of this domain:

This domain includes strategies to avoid or reduce health impairment through hazardous exposures and personal risks. It aims primarily at risk groups with clearly anticipated, recognizable or already existing signs of health disorders and diseases.

Key terms in this domain:

- Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
- Monitoring of diseases and other health conditions
- Prevention of illnesses and their consequences
- Prevention of risky behaviour
- Screening

Which potential topics within the domain “Prevention” should be considered as a high priority? Please do not hesitate to propose as many potential topics as you want.

Multiple answers possible

Topic 1:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

- I believe that the topic in general is important.
- I do not know the existing evidence and research regarding this topic, but I believe there is a need for more evidence on the topic.
- I do know the existing evidence and research regarding this topic and I believe more evidence on this topic is needed.
- I believe there is a lack of good-quality existing evidence.
- ...

Topic 2:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic 3:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic ...:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Question 6 - Domain 2: Health Promotion

Our definition of this domain:

This domain includes strategies that influence health-relevant living conditions and lifestyles of all population groups, with the aim of strengthening personal and social health competences. Health promotion takes into account medical, hygienic, psychological, cultural, family, social, legal, educational, economic, architectural, environmental and ecological aspects.

Key terms in this domain:

- Health information
- Health literacy
- Promoting healthy behaviours and relationships

Which potential topics within the domain “Health Promotion” should be considered as a high priority? Please do not hesitate to propose as many potential topics as you want.

Multiple answers possible

Topic 1:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic 2:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

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Topic 3:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic ...:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Question 7 - Domain 3: Health Services

Our definition of this domain

Health services research is the scientific investigation of the care of individuals, patient groups and the population with health-relevant products and services under everyday conditions.

Key points in this domain:

- Health care, health care systems, health services
- Medical care in hospitals, medical practices and other health care facilities
- Care, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients.
- Health communication within the health system

Which potential topics within the domain “Health Services” should be considered as a high priority? Please do not hesitate to propose as many potential topics as you want.

Multiple answers possible

Topic 1:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic 2:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic 3:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic ...:

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Section C2: Adapting Domain

We have asked you to propose topics according to three pre-set domains that are again mentioned below. When you move the cursor over the different domains, you can see the definitions again.

Question 8 – Do you think that certain domains should be adjusted or did you lack certain domains in the public health context?

If so, you can suggest to customise them in the following text fields, or you can suggest your own domain(s) in the "Other domain" field.

1. Prevention

2. Health Promotion

3. Health Services

4. Other domain:

5. Other domain:

6. Other domain:

Question 9 – Is there a topic that should be considered as a potential priority, but which you could not classify into a given domain earlier? You can also suggest overlapping topics that fit into more than one domain.

Topic 1:

In which domain (that you proposed or adjusted yourself in the last question) would you like to classify this topic? You can also leave this open or select that it is a domain-overlapping topic

Dropdown Menu with own proposed domains.

What is your particular interest in this topic?

What type of intervention/measure?

For whom? Who is the target group?

How should the success of the intervention/measure be measured? *(Please enter up to a maximum of three possible outcomes or result parameters)*

Why did you suggest this topic for prioritisation?

Dropdown-Menu

Topic 2:

Etc.

Section D: Quick Prioritisation of a top 3 (per Domain)

Question 10 – Domain 1: Prevention

Please select your top three of top priority topics from the ones you have previously selected and suggested within the “Prevention” domain.

Selected Topic 1	√
Selected Topic 2	
Selected Topic 3	
Selected Topic 4	√
Selected Topic ...	√
	3

Question 11 – Domain 2: Health Promotion

Please select your top three of top priority topics from the ones you have previously selected and suggested within the “Health Promotion” domain.

Selected Topic 1	√
Selected Topic 2	
Selected Topic 3	√
Selected Topic 4	√
Selected Topic ...	
	3

Question 12 – Domain 3: Health Services

Please select your top three of top priority topics from the ones you have previously selected and suggested within the “Health Services” domain.

Selected Topic 1	√
Selected Topic 2	√
Selected Topic 3	√
Selected Topic 4	
Selected Topic ...	
	3

Question 13 – Domain ...: Suggested topics/domains from section C2

Please select your top three of top priority topics from the ones you have previously selected and suggested but that **did not** fit into the pre-set domains.

Selected Topic 1	
Selected Topic 2	√
Selected Topic 3	√
Selected Topic ...	√
	3

Section E: Selection of Assessment Criteria

Please select the assessment criteria that you believe are most important for the prioritisation of research topics in the field of public health.

Question 14 – How would you justify your top priorities that you have just selected in your top three lists? Please indicate which criteria were most important to you for prioritising the top three topics.

Hold the mouse over a criteria to see its definition.

Please select a minimum of two and a maximum of five answers

- ☐ Reduction of disease
- ☐ Effectiveness
- ☐ Equity
- ☐ Feasibility
- ☐ Lack of (good quality) evidence
- ☐ Novelty of the concept
- ☐ other:
- ☐ other:
- ☐ other:
- ☐ other:

Definitions:

1. Effectiveness - The research topic will be likely to generate/improve effective health interventions.
2. Reduction of disease - The research topic will have a theoretical potential to reduce large portions of the existing disease burden.
3. Equity - The research topic will likely reduce inequity in the accessibility of health interventions of health interventions
4. Feasibility - The research topic is viable and doable for a scientific research project and no problems are to be expected with regard to its implementation.
5. Novelty of the concept - The research topic represents a new or emerging area.
6. Lack of (good quality) evidence – Synthesized evidence for the research topic is either not existing, lacking in quality, not up to date, or only applicable to a different context.

Section F: Experience with Systematic Reviews

You are almost finished.

In the following section we will ask you about your experience with systematic reviews. You do not need any knowledge or experience with systematic reviews in order to finish this questionnaire.

The purpose of Systematic Reviews is to search, select and evaluate the best available research results for a particular research topic – most often this is research about the effects of interventions or measures on the population or specific groups. In order to do so the results of several studies are synthesized together.

Question 15 – Have you ever been involved in Systematic Reviews?

Multiple answers possible

- Yes, I have worked as an author on a Systematic Review.
- Yes, I have worked as an advisor for a Systematic Review.
- Yes, I was a principal/contractor of a Systematic Review
- No
- Not applicable

Question 16 – To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

16a. I know what a Systematic Reviews is.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

16b. I read the results of Systematic Reviews for my work.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

16c. I read the results of Systematic Reviews from Cochrane for my work.

Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

Question 17 - To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Question 17 will only show up if the respondent provided a positive answer for 16a.

	Strongly agree	Somehow agree	Somehow disagree	Strongly disagree
17a. I believe that Systematic Reviews are important for Public Health research.				
17b. I believe that Systematic Review are important for Public Health practice.				
17c. I believe that Systematic Reviews are important for my work.				
17d. I can use the results of System Reviews in my work.				
17e. I know how to find relevant Systematic Reviews.				
17f. I use Systematic Reviews for my work.				
17g. I can interpret the results of Systematic Reviews.				
17h. I can assess the quality of Systematic Reviews				
17i. I need too much time to stay up-to-date on a certain topic with the help of Systematic Reviews.				
17j. I find it difficult to understand the key message of Systematic Reviews.				
17k. I have doubts about the results of Systematic Reviews.				
17l. I trust the authors of Systematic Reviews				
17m. Systematic reviews question the independence in decision-making.				

Section G: Concluding Questions

Question 18 – Approximately, how long did you need to finalize this questionnaire?

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Question 19 – Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

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- Thank you
- Announcement second Delphi round