Keynote Speech (2)

EPIDEMIOLOGY FOR HEALTH POLICY

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SUMMARY

Although key determinants of health policies are expert opinion, preference of decision makers and politics, evidence-based health policy has been growing vastly. The purpose of health policy is to mitigate health problems and to prevent future health problems in population. To develop health policy, many issues need to be identified such as prioritized health problem, proper measures, effectiveness of measures and target population. These issues can be identified by Epidemiology which is of renown in public health sciences and practice. Epidemiology aims to understand health situation, to identify determinant and to recommend proper measure. However using epidemiological evidences for health policy have limitations, for instance: most of epidemiological evidences rely on numbers and indicators and commonly focus on biomedicine that politicians and decision makers hardly understand. Also, lacking of evidences on social context and culture led to a failure of health policy. Epidemiologist may concern these limitations and may fill all gaps to ease decision maker by transferring epidemiological evidences to simple information.