

World Café: Food Safety Interventions

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National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale



BC Centre for Disease Control
An Agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Outline

- Background (Hannah)
- *Group discussion*
- Evidence review findings (Hannah)
- The story of the DineSafe program (Ron)
- Evidence-Informed Decision-Making for Food Safety in Ontario (Ray)
- *Group Discussion*

Purpose

- Present the preliminary findings from the NCCEH evidence reviews on the effectiveness of food safety interventions in food service establishments
- Share information and perspectives relevant to food safety in food service establishments

Ground Rules

- Speak up during the group discussion, we are interested in what you have to say
- We arrive with different roles, responsibilities and perspectives
- Everyone might not agree – that's ok

Evidence-Informed Public Health

- “The process of distilling and disseminating the best available evidence from research, practice and experience and using that evidence to inform and improve public health policy and practice” ([NCCMT](#) 2011)
- National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

Evidence Informed Decision-Making Process

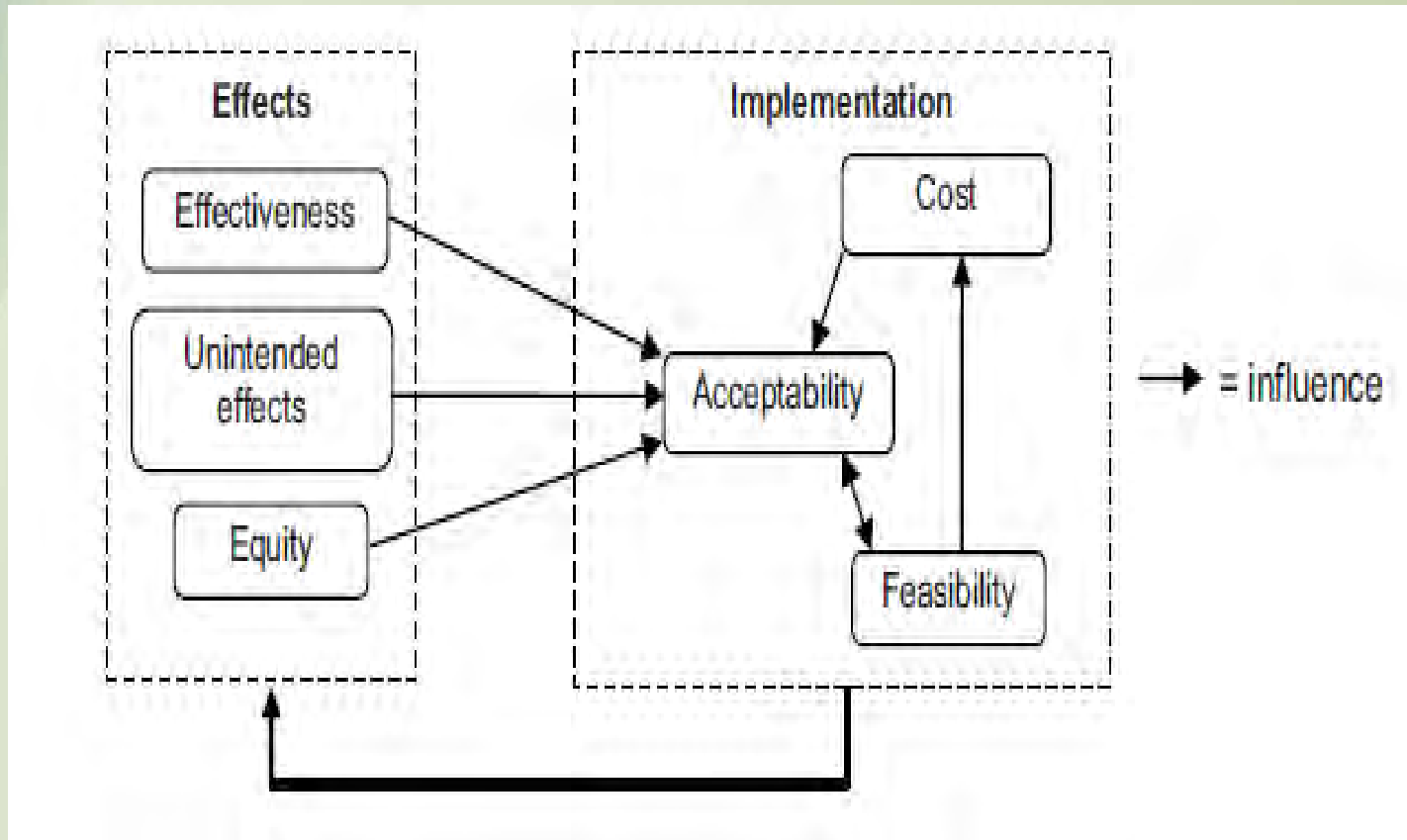
EIDM Process



NCCEH Food Safety Project

- How can health authorities most effectively allocate their resources to promote food safety in food service establishments?

Analysis of Public Policies (programs)



NCCEH Food Safety Project

- How can health authorities most effectively allocate their resources to promote food safety in food service establishments?

Type of Intervention	Examples
Inspection protocol	Frequency of inspection visits, inspection methodologies
Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP)	Mandatory creation and tracking of food safety/HACCP plan
Risk-based inspection	Inspection frequency based on risk level of premise
Field reporting technology	Electronic hand held device for inspection reporting
Food handler training	Mandatory food handler certification for staff, certified kitchen manager training
Education during inspection visits	Serving Safe Food Alberta
Engineering and equipment use	Mandatory glove use, hand sanitization facilities
Managerial intervention	Sick leave/reporting policies, designated food handling assignments to reduce cross contamination
Disclosure program	Online database of inspection results, Grade card program, Dinesafe, Scores on the Doors
Award and recognition for hygiene compliance	Elite smiley face, Elite star award
Internal quality assurance	Quality assurance program for inspection visits
Outbreak surveillance	Reportable Disease Information System [RDIS], Integrated Public Health Information System [IPHIS]
Community partnerships	Partnership with ethnic restaurant associations

Disclosure Programs

- Informing members of the public about the results of food safety inspections
- Types of programs:
 - Local Health Unit Disclosure
 - Online Disclosure
 - Media Disclosure
 - On-site Food Premise Disclosure

Discussion Questions

- What are the objectives for your/a restaurant disclosure program?
- What do you think are the benefits of a restaurant disclosure system?
- What do you think are the challenges to restaurant disclosure?
- How do you think we can measure the impacts of a disclosure system?

Food4Thought

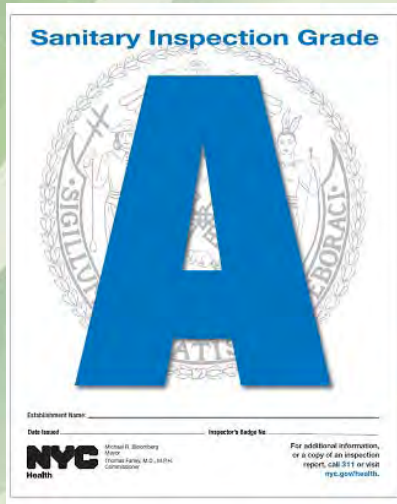
- **Role of disclosure systems:**
transparency and consumer knowledge
- **Role of public health:** to prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illness

Do these two objectives meet?

If so, how, and if not, how could they?

Examples of Different Inspection Notices (or Sign) System

Letter Grades



Numerical Scores



Colour Cards



Statement Cards



Symbol

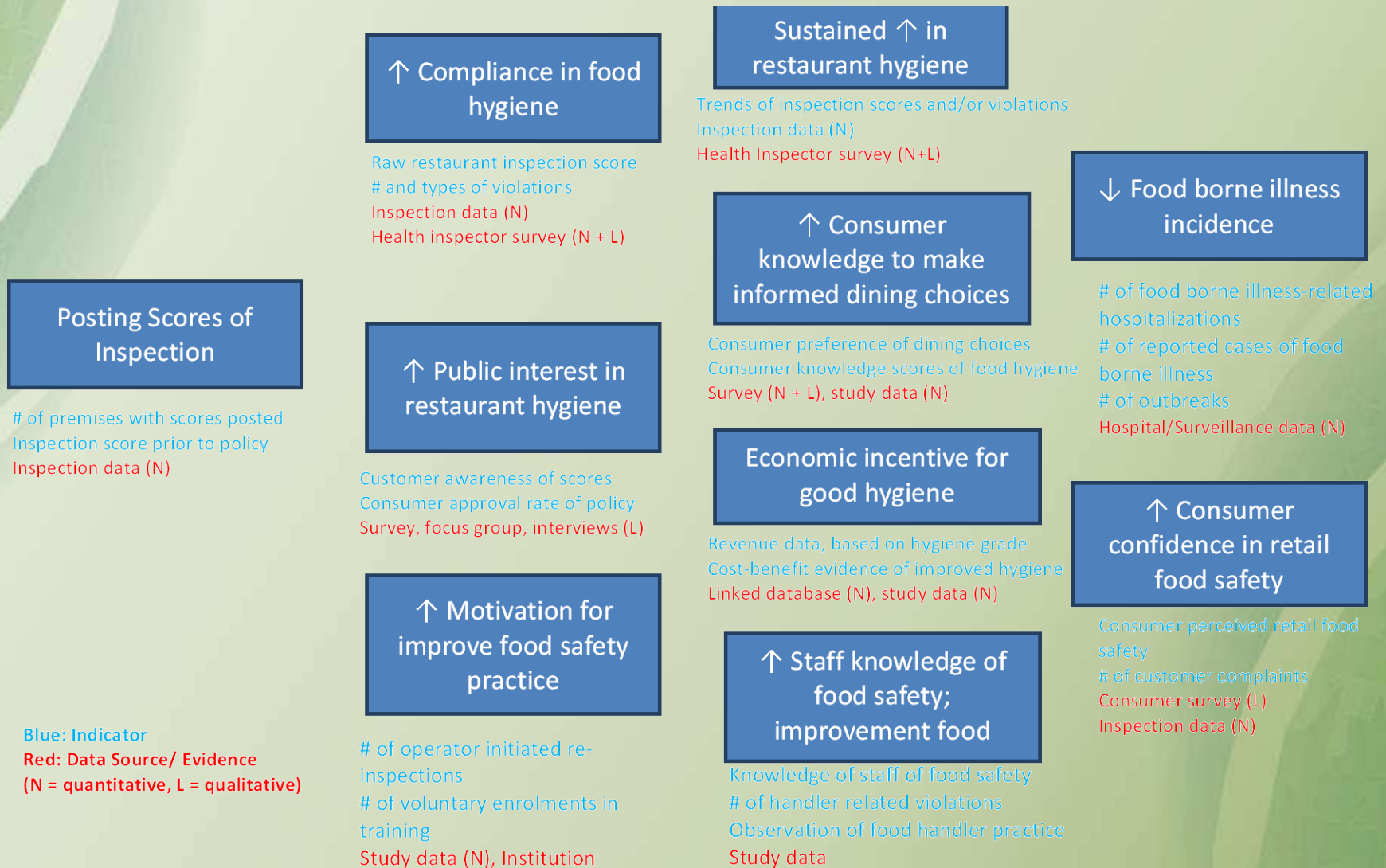


Award Schemes



Paige Schell, Practicum Student
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario

Figure 1: Logic model of disclosure systems on improving food safety



Major Stakeholders

establishments

enforcement to ensure equity among

Methods

- Literature search (peer reviewed and grey literature)
- Review of document abstracts for inclusion
- Categorized type of indicators and analyzed results (Table 2)
- Limitations: Quality of evidence

Types of Indicators

- Hygiene performance
 - Raw inspector scores
 - # of critical violations
- Intervention (public health) outcomes
 - Measures of attitude, knowledge & behaviour
 - Intervention implementation
 - Reported illness (cases or outbreaks)
- Other: Stakeholders' perceived effectiveness, program acceptability

Findings

- 12 documents: 8 peer reviewed; 4 grey lit
- No articles about online disclosure programs
- 1 peer reviewed article about disclosure through the media
- All others on on-site disclosure programs

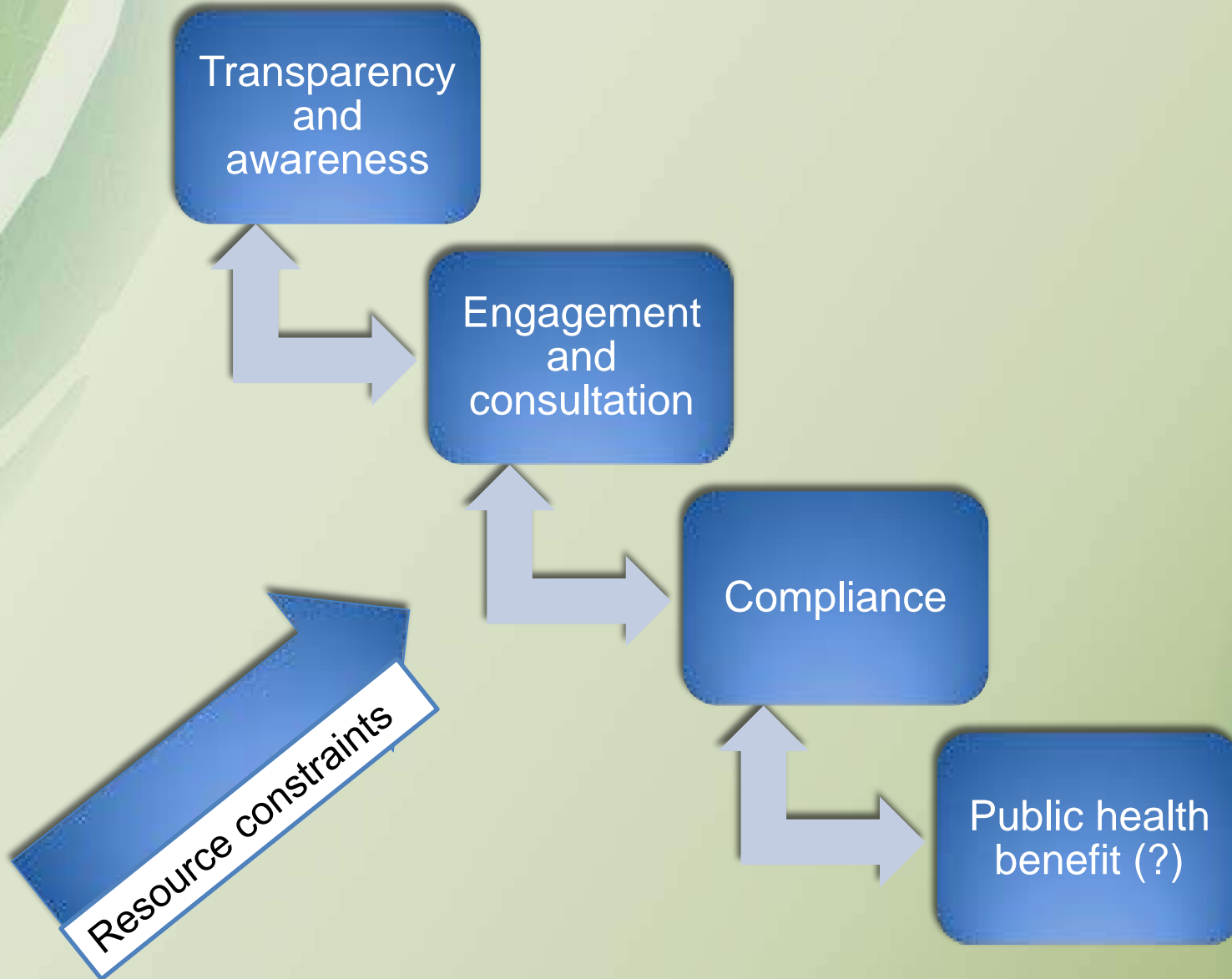
The “evidence”

- Improvements of hygiene scores/grades
- Public health outcomes (LA & Toronto)
- Consumer confidence
- Cost and capacity

The “evidence” (2)

- Acceptability
- Equity
- Unintended effects

Discussion – Disclosure Programs



Ron

Ray

Discussion Questions (1)

- What are your criteria for food safety programming “success”?
- What type of indicators/data are health authorities currently collecting? What information does the industry collect?

Discussion Questions (2)

- What format (e.g. paper; excel databases) is the data currently available? (Is the historical data available? In what format?)
- How are indicator data currently being used? How could we improve use of monitoring and evaluation indicators?
- How could we facilitate data sharing, analysis, research and evaluation?

Other Questions

- How do authorities with disclosure programs evaluate the display of grade cards on food premises? Do they require the food premise to correct any display violations or let it go?

Other Questions

- Are we currently considering industry perspectives in the decision making process? How can we improve the process?
- How well do you think hygiene scores communicate risk to members of the public?

Connections for Research and Practice

- [PHIRNET](#) – Population Health Intervention Research Network
- Student Practicums and Research

Thank You

Questions?
Comments?

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