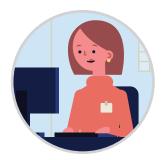


ASSIGNMENT

Environmental Scanning for Healthy Public Policies



BACKGROUND

Environmental scanning is a process that is used by organizations to assess internal strengths and challenges and external opportunities and threats¹. Environmental scans are used to understand the context of a topic or issue; to collect, organize, and analyze data on to identify links and gaps and guide planning and decision making¹. They often incorporate multiple strategies to do so, including document reviews and stakeholder consultation.



Environmental scanning in the policy-making process assists in the identification of what policies exist on a particular topic and where they are located. Environmental scans for healthy public policies can help guide their development and implementation by feeding into the process of policy diffusion.

¹ Wilburn, A., Vanderpool, R. C. & Knight, J. R. (2016). Environmental scanning as a public health tool: Kentucky's Human Papillomavirus vacciantion project. Preventing Chronic Disease, 13. doi: <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd13.160165</u>.







SCENARIO:

Your jurisdiction is considering developing a policy (or amending an existing policy) to address one of the following issues:

- > Radon
- > Complete Streets
- > Electronic Cigarettes
- > Waterpipes
- Sunless Tanning

As a Policy Analyst, you are required to complete an environmental scan to identify policies that address the issue to help inform the development of your own jurisdiction's policy approach.

ASSIGNMENT:

Complete an environmental scan on your selected public health policy issue. For this assignment, please include the following:

- Pick a jurisdiction to start from (province, territory or municipality)
- 2. Choose a policy issue from the list
- 3. Describe the importance of the issue in relation to public and/or population health, and briefly describe the available evidence on policy interventions addressing this issue.
- 4. What jurisdictions have policies addressing the issue?
 - Use the <u>Prevention Policies Directory</u> as a starting point to develop a table of policies, capturing important information (e.g., jurisdiction, policy name, policy type, year, description of the policy).
 - Use the Directory's refinement tools to manipulate your search results.
 - Refer to the listing of other policy databases on the <u>Directory's website</u> if you require international policy information.
- 5. What themes have arisen from your scan of policies? Is there a myriad of policy options, or is there a more definitive policy intervention on this issue?
- 6. What policy option(s) would you recommend your jurisdiction consider adopting/amending? Why?
- 7. How will you present this information and to whom?

