

University of Washington NOPREN Pilot Project

Donna B. Johnson, RD, PhD



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

This presentation was supported by
Cooperative Agreement Number
5U4BDP001011-02 from the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention.

The findings and conclusions in this
presentation are those of the author and do
not necessarily represent the official
position of the Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention.



WA State NOPREN

Members

UW: Public Health, Urban Form, Food Systems, Medicine, Policy

Policy NGOs: Anti-Hunger, MCH Advocates, Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition

Government: State Health & Agriculture, County Health

Research Teams

- Restaurant Policy
- Rural Food Access
- CPPW
- State Policy Feasibility & Effectiveness



Purpose of Pilot Study

- Advance understanding of the public health function of *policy development* in order to improve public health practice
 - Describe the process
 - Identify facilitators, barriers, lessons learned
 - Disseminate results



County Public Health Departments Work to Improve Restaurant Food



Design & Methods

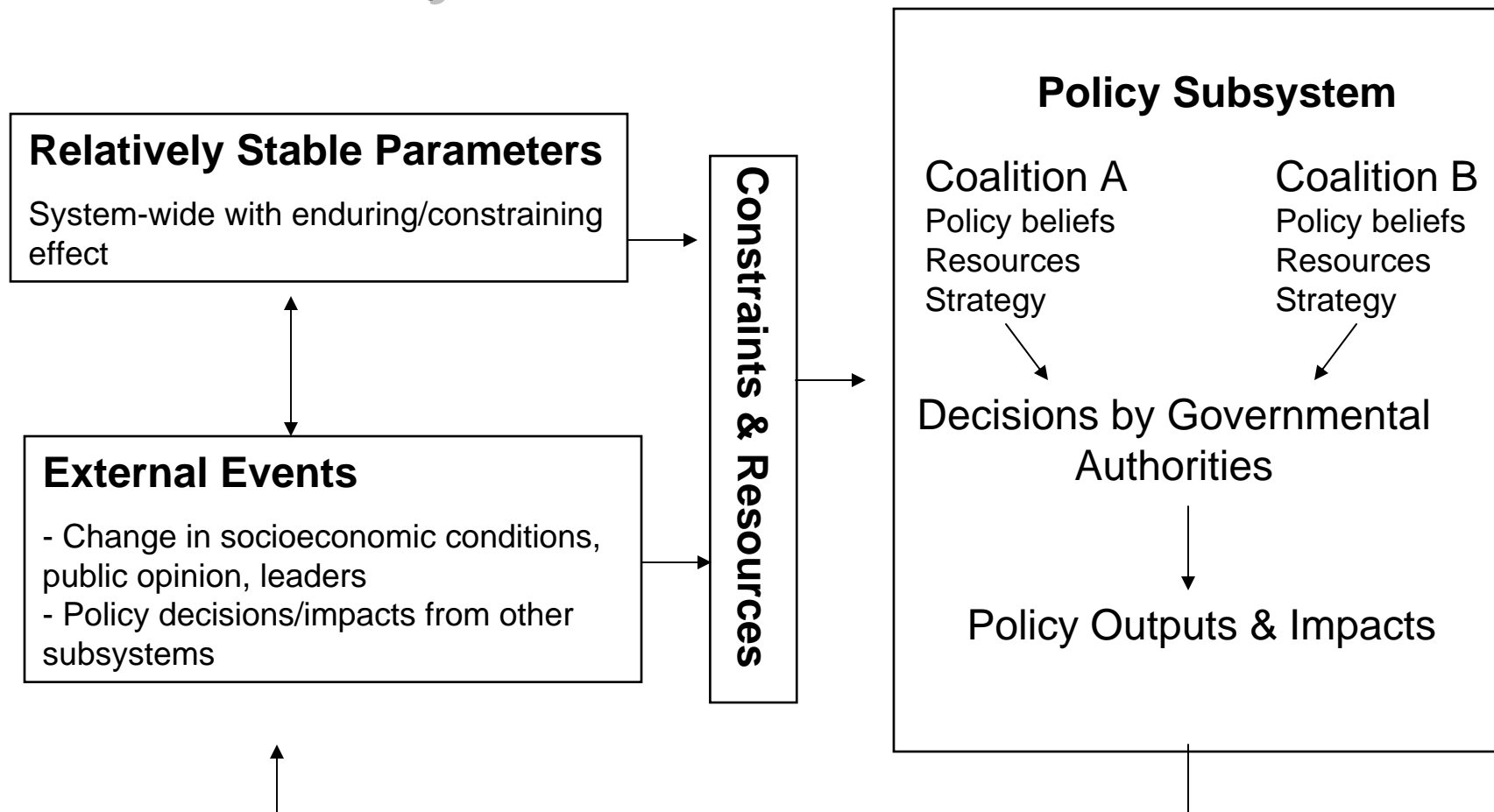
Multiple-case, replication design

Data: documents and key informant interviews

- Interviews: public health officials, board of health members, restaurant owners and Restaurant Association representatives
- Interview questions: explore themes related to policy process and change as described by the Advocacy Coalition Framework



Advocacy Coalition Framework¹



1) Adapted from: Breton E, Richard L, Gagnon F, Jacques M, Bergeron P. Health promotion research and practice require sound policy analysis models: The case of Quebec's Tobacco Act. *Social Science & Medicine* 2008; 67:1679-1689.

Interview Guide - ACF Constructs

Constructs from the ACF	Interview Questions
Policy subsystem	
Who makes up the coalition?	<p>How did you participate in the development of the menu labeling policy (in Seattle-King Co) [or pilot project in Tacoma Co, healthy food labeling project in Thurston Co]?</p> <p>Probe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was your role in the development of the menu labeling policy (in Seattle-King Co) [or pilot project in Tacoma-Pierce Co, healthy food labeling project in Thurston Co]? • Who else participated in the process? What were their roles in the process? What were their positions on the issues?
<i>Characteristics of the coalition:</i>	
Role: dominating the subsystem? Trying to dominate? (power)	<p>Please describe the relationships between the individuals and groups that were involved in this initiative, both inside and outside the health department.</p> <p>Probes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was supportive of improving restaurant foods? • Who was not supportive? • How did these relationships play out as decisions were made?



Interview Sample (n)

	<u>Public Health Staff</u>	<u>BOH Members</u>	<u>Restaurant Owners</u>
Seattle-King	3	4	4
Tacoma-Pierce	5	5	5
Thurston	3	0	1

One interview with Representative of Washington
Restaurant Association



Coding Example: Beliefs

ACF construct	Characteristics	Sample codes
Deep Core Beliefs	Fundamental, unlikely to change	freedom, justice, health (priority of)
Policy Core Beliefs	Basic strategies for achieving core values	education, regulation (priority of)
Secondary Aspects	Causal linkages, performance of institutions & programs	environment, behavior (change strategies)

Preliminary Findings

- External Events
- Policy Beliefs
- Leadership Resources
- Policy Learning



Policy Subsystem Actors

King	Leaders: BOH, HD director Staff: HEAL*, environmental health, law Restaurants: owners, restaurant association Community: health organizations & advocates Center for Science in the Public Interest
Pierce	Leaders: BOH, HD director Staff: HEAL Restaurants: owners
Thurston	Staff: HEAL Restaurants: owners, restaurant association



Examples of External Events

- CSPI & NYC mandate: helped set agenda
- Legal Action in NYC
 - King: carefully worded requirement
 - Thurston: Avoided any regulation
 - Pierce: restaurants & their association very interested in partnering
- National legislation: Pierce stopped considering further initiatives



Examples of Beliefs

- Deep core beliefs
 - Freedom for businesses
 - Importance of nutrition & health
- Policy Beliefs on Appropriate Instruments & Role of Health Department
 - Education
 - Regulation
 - Both



Examples of Constraints & Resources: Leadership

- New Health Department Director in King Co had strong focus on policy as a public health tool & the board of health initiated and championed the menu labeling policy despite industry pushback.
- In Pierce Co, budget cuts led to personnel changes at the health department including the loss of several champions for menu labeling. Menu labeling policy development was put on hold during the transition.



Policy Oriented Learning

- King County had most extensive policy oriented learning.
 - Initial regulations: labeling applied if had 10 franchises, information display requirements seen as burdensome by restaurants
 - Restaurant Association went to state legislature in an attempt to get preemptive and less restrictive regulations.
 - County and restaurant association worked collaboratively to modify regulation.
 - Final regulations: 15 outlets & changes to display rules



Next Steps

- Complete preliminary analysis
- Present to restaurant research team
 - “Member checking”
- Work with NOPREN members
 - Use of model & compare findings



Questions?

