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From the Selected Works of Glen Mays

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Public Health Services & Systems Research: Current State of the Field

Glen P. Mays, *University of Kentucky*



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/glen_mays/150/

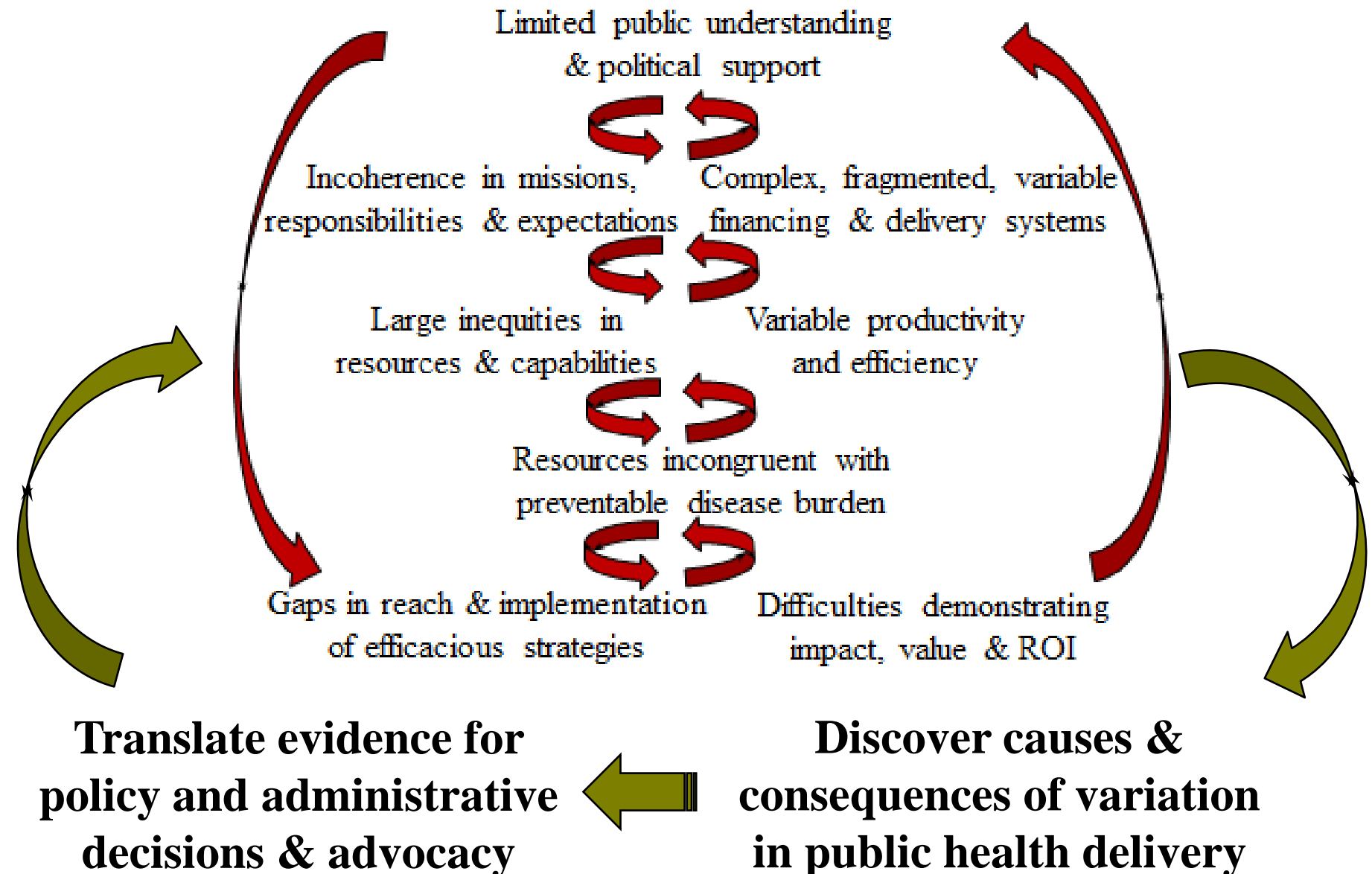
Public Health Services & Systems Research: Taking the Pulse of the Field

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Keeneland Conference on PHSSR • Lexington KY • 8 April 2014

Vicious cycles to learning systems



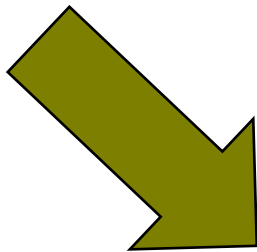
Standardization vs. Customization in Public Health Delivery Systems

Standardization

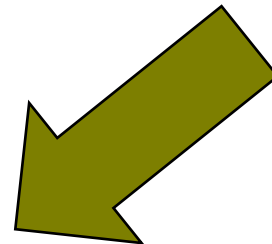
- ▼ Harmful variation
- ▼ Wasteful variation
- ▼ Inequitable variation
- ▼ Race to the bottom
- ▲ Network externalities: interoperability/coordination

Customization

- ▲ Target resources to greatest needs/risks
- ▲ Tailor approaches to values & preferences of stakeholders
- ▲ Deploy unique resources & skills to their best purposes



Effectiveness
Efficiency
Equity



Taking stock

RWJF-funded PHSSR Studies: 2009-13

Public Health Workforce Studies	8
Enumeration	1
Diversity and Disparities	2
Recruitment and Retention	2
Workforce Competencies	3
Public Health System Structure and Performance Studies	56
System Boundaries and Size	1
Public Health Organization and Governance	8
Interorganizational Relationships and Partnerships	12
Performance Measurement, QI and Accreditation	27
Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities	8
Financing and Economics	34
Funding levels and effects	4
Financing Mechanisms	10
Costs, Efficiency, and Performance,	20
Information and Technology	18
Assessing & Monitoring Health Outcomes	3
Translation & Dissemination of Evidence-based Strategies	1
Information and Communications Technologies	14

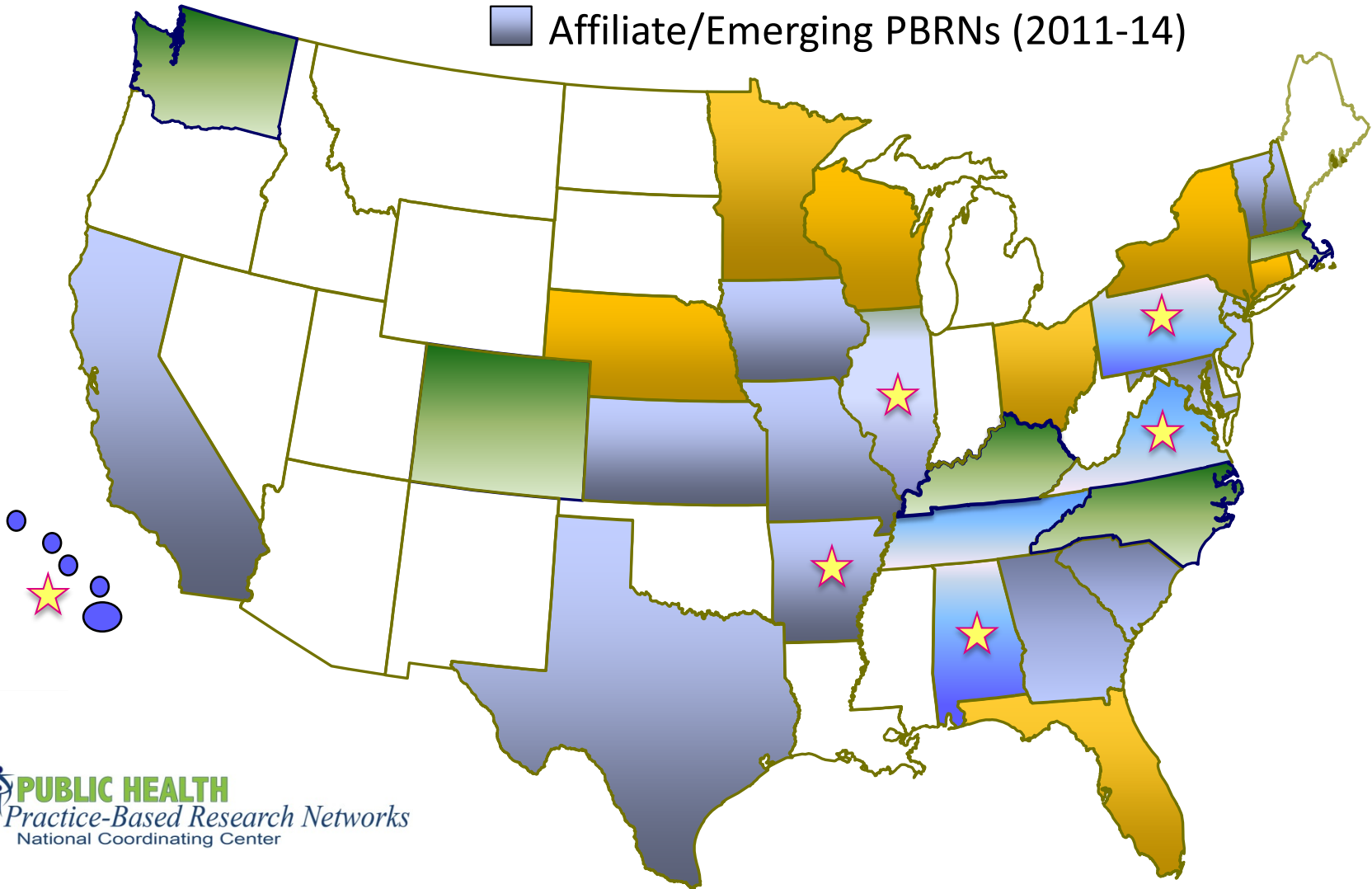
Research Currently Underway

- 29 studies (3 rounds) PHSSR annual solicitation
- 7 natural experiment studies
- 8 mentored research awards
- 9 predoctoral/postdoctoral research awards
- 11 PBRN Delivery and Cost studies
- 4 Quick Strike PBRN studies

See the PHSSR Research Inventory at: http://works.bepress.com/glen_mays/145/

Diffusion of Public Health PBRNs

- First cohort (December 2008 start-up)
- Second cohort (January 2010 start-up)
- Affiliate/Emerging PBRNs (2011-14)



PBRNs as Research Engines

- 31 networks
- 1593 local public health agencies
- 35 state agencies
- 52 academic research units
- 58 professional & community organizations
- 60 competitively awarded research projects
- 68 articles in peer-reviewed journals
- 221 presentations and conferences & meetings
- 51 reports & tools in the grey literature

Upcoming research opportunities

- PBRN Dissemination and Implementation Research to Improve Value (DIRECTIVE) awards
- Predoctoral/postdoctoral research awards
- Quick Strike research studies
- 2014 PHSSR Annual Solicitation
- AJPH Call for Papers for Supplement Issue

Advancing Methods and Measures

- Measuring volume, intensity & quality
- Measuring costs
- Measuring complexity in delivery systems and strategies
- Estimating value: health & economic effects
- Accounting for heterogeneity in effects

- **Data & Measurement Development**
 - Periodic census surveys of local and state agencies
 - National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems
 - Tracking PH expenditures: US Census of Governments, Uniform Public Health Chart of Accounts
 - Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST): compiling existing administrative data across states
 - Monitoring health reform implementation & effects
- **Dissemination & Translation**
 - Weekly Work in Progress Webinars
 - Open-access journal: ***Frontiers in PHSSR***
 - Newsletters, Podcasts, Blogs
 - Briefings with policy stakeholders

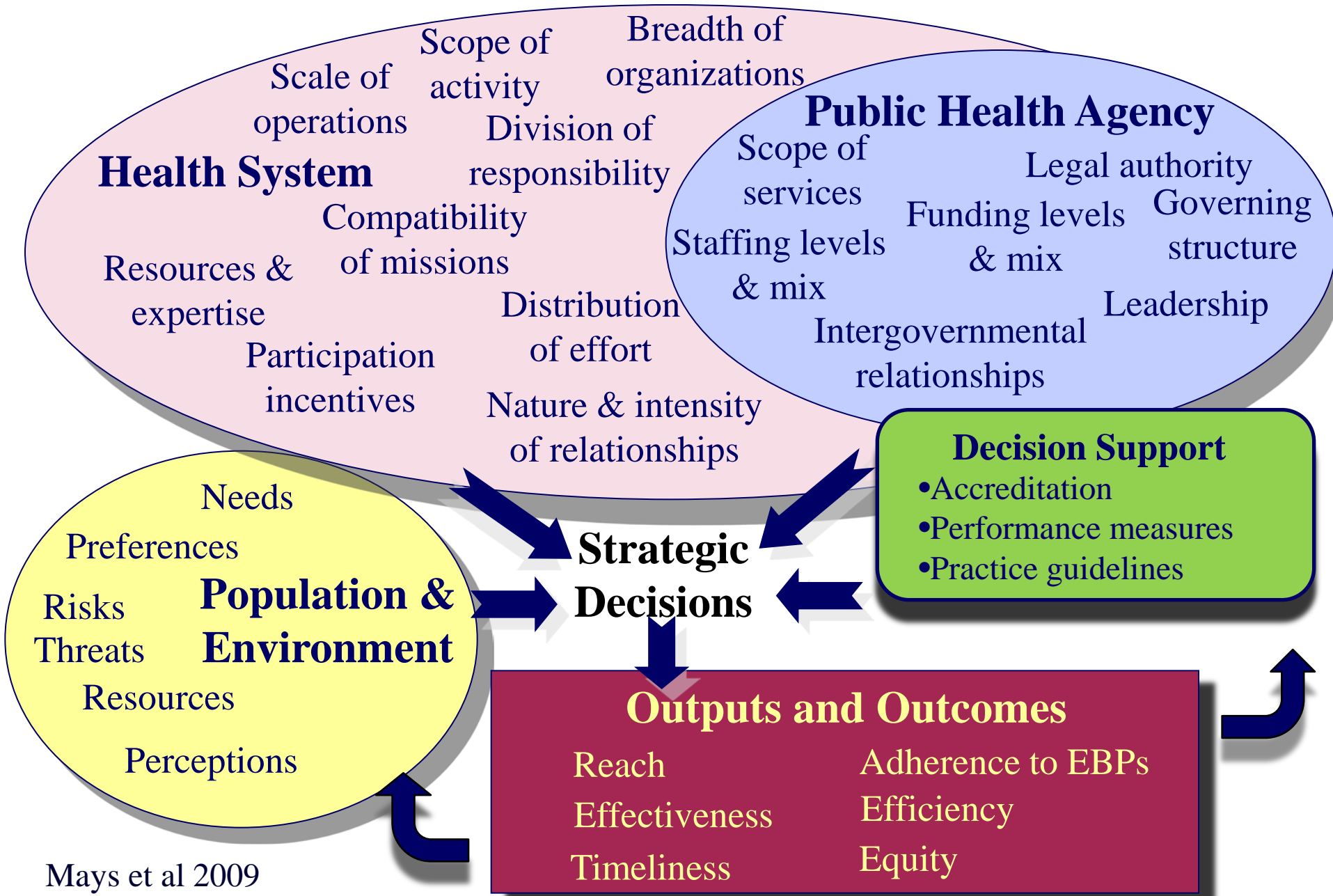
Where to from here?

Advancing a Culture of Health

How best to use public health delivery systems to improve population health?

- Engaging communities
- Mobilizing and steering multi-sector action
- Aligning public health and medical care
- Facilitating policy adoption & implementation
- Targeting & tailoring for equity
- Addressing social determinants

Public health's role in population health





Medical Care Delivery

- Fragmentation
- Duplication
- Variability in practice
- Limited accessibility
- Episodic and reactive care
- Insensitivity to consumer values & preferences
- Limited targeting of resources to community needs

Public Health Delivery

- Fragmentation
- Variability in practice
- Resource constrained
- Limited reach
- Insufficient scale
- Limited public visibility
- Limited evidence base
- Adaptation constraints



Toward a “rapid-learning system” in public health



Always Open



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