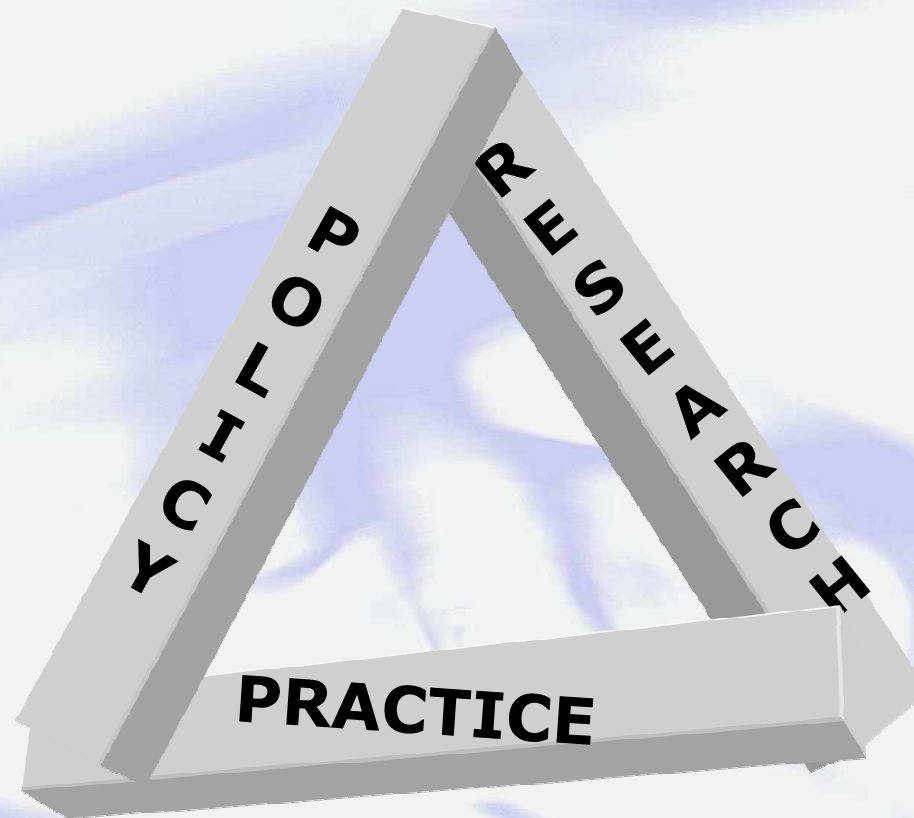


# Measuring research utilization

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Knowledge in Process: Usable epidemiological research for local health policy

IUPHE 2010



To what extent is epidemiological research used during the development of Dutch local health memoranda and which factors determine this use?

Case studies: useful for specific situations and to answer How and Why questions, however .....



# Quantitative approach: National Survey

Research population

Internet questionnaire

Response



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# What is research use? (dependent variable)

1. Individual use: instrumental, conceptual en symbolic use

Based on Amara et al 2004

Example for conceptual use:

I have a better understanding of the health problems and its causes within the RPHS region

I have a better understanding of the health problems and its causes within my municipality

I have developed new ideas for the long term for project or policies within my municipality or is collaboration with other organizations

5 point likert scale: not applicable to very much applicable.

Creation of a scale variable



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## 2. Process use: ladder of research utilization

Based on Knott and Widavsky 1979 and Landry et al 2001

Six questions with 5 point Likert scale  
and a “I do not know” category

Problem: to many “I do not know”s, how to handle them?

## 3. Support for getting national health priorities on the local policy agenda: based on earlier case studies

Problem: specific kind of use for a specific Dutch situation.

# Independent variables

Policy context:

Example Which stakeholders were involved in the policy process?

Problem: many contextual factors which interact! How to handle?

Barriers: Based on literature

Example: The research report was presented to me on time.

Problem: all barriers are related to one another! How to handle?

Interaction

Example : involvement of the local official during the research process



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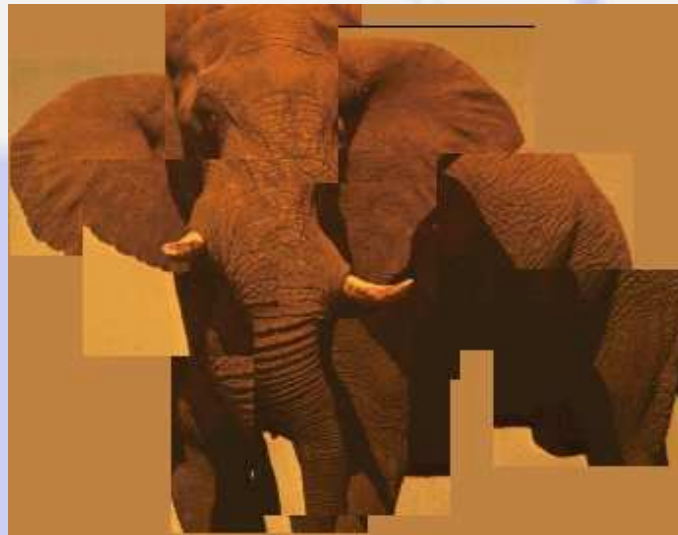
# Disadvantages of a quantitative approach

Research population

We do not know enough about the validity of the questions and how to prepare them for analyses

Getting hold of the “independent variables”: statistical assumptions

By making choices you “narrow” the complexity, so.....



# Future work

International agreement on definitions and operationalization

Standardization of questionnaires

International comparisons: find comparable research groups:  
who are policymakers?

Someone interested?



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