

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Defining the Population Health Impact of Global Health Work:
Program Leaders Perspectives
Katherine P. O'Hanlon**

Objective

This study raises the qualitative question, "How do program leaders define the population health impact of their global health efforts?" Specifically, the study will focus on of global health programs aimed at development, with a specific interest in the delivery of health services. A variety of international sites will be included, searching for common factors felt to be key to impact. More broadly, true impact will be compared to program goals and outcomes.

Background

In spite of the growing number of dollars and individuals interested in global health, there is a gap in our knowledge of the effectiveness of interventions and the means of measuring this effectiveness. The literature defends the importance of intervention, the necessity of training providers in global health, the importance of strengthening health systems, and the involvement of local stakeholders. Methods of needs assessment, community participation, best practices, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability continue to develop and be explored in the literature. But how do we define the impact of our work, and is it equivalent to program success?

Methods

This is a qualitative study using semi-structured interviews based on the research question of "How do program leaders define the population health impact of their global health efforts?" Purposive sampling will be used to choose approximately 15 expert subjects for interviews. Qualitative data will be analyzed for factors key to impact; these factors will be compared with a summary set of factors based on models from the literature. The concept of Positive Deviance will be explored in relation to the definitions of success and impact.

Significance

Of special concern to Global Health policy makers is the lack of focus on the strengthening of intrinsic health systems, and the potentially negative impact of parallel programs with large budgets that target specific diseases or specific crises and neglect systems. Well funded and notable Global Health Interventions such as the Global Fund, PEPFAR, and GAVI have heightened these concerns. The current crisis in Haiti has highlighted the contrast between relief and development. This study will attempt to focus on factors that determine success and population health impact in our global health development efforts. Such factors may be applicable to relief work and disease specific interventions if appropriately integrated.

**Committee Chair:
Ann Dozier, RN, PhD**

**Committee Members:
Diana Fernandez, MD, MPH, PhD
Terry Fairbanks, MD, MS**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2010
12:00PM – 12:30 PM
Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME