

Scaling up alcohol prevention in primary health care

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Propositions

belonging to PhD dissertation

Scaling up alcohol prevention in primary health care: exploring factors influencing alcohol screening in Colombia, Mexico and Peru

Daša Kokole

- i. Alcohol screening and brief intervention in primary care is appropriate to be implemented in Colombia, Mexico and Peru, and the approach's implementation can be facilitated through multitude of professional roles. (this thesis)
- ii. Equipping primary health care providers with skills to discuss alcohol in their practice through experiential training is a first necessary step towards increased alcohol screening, but structural support is needed to achieve a more widespread use of their new skills. (this thesis)
- iii. The role of providers' motivation in scaling up is limited if the organizational context and the wider environment are unsupportive. Future implementation initiatives should consider the interplay of factors on different levels, rather than focus only on the individual. (this thesis)
- iv. While it is often not possible to change the country and policy context in which the intervention is embedded, its characteristics should at least be described and monitored to help with understanding the intervention outcomes. (this thesis)
- v. Primary health care providers addressing the topic of alcohol in their practice can encourage people to rethink their relationship with alcohol and consider that hazardous and harmful drinking patterns can exist even in the absence of alcohol use disorder.
- vi. When trying to understand the outcome of study, intervention or policy, it is helpful to consider how exactly it was implemented, what was the surrounding context, and which were the mechanisms of change through which it was supposed to work.
- vii. The field of implementation science should increase attention to policy implementation and recognize that understanding the policy processes is messy, but worthwhile endeavour.
- viii. Application of concepts from complexity science and systems thinking fields to health promotion interventions can help with better understanding how implementation unfolds in real-world conditions.
- ix. "The love of complexity without reductionism makes art; the love of complexity with reductionism makes science." - Edward O. Wilson
- x. "... So much of what we perceive cannot be expressed. It's unspeakable. And yet you know, when we communicate with one another and we feel that we have connected and we think that we're understood I think we have a feeling of almost spiritual communion. And that feeling might be transient, but I think it's what we live for." - Kim Krizan