

## Session 2: Equity in evidence synthesis

### The role of methodological research in promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations



**Vivian Welch**  
Campbell Collaboration, Canada

# The role of methodological research in promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations

[Vivian Welch](#)

[Editor in chief, Campbell Collaboration](#)

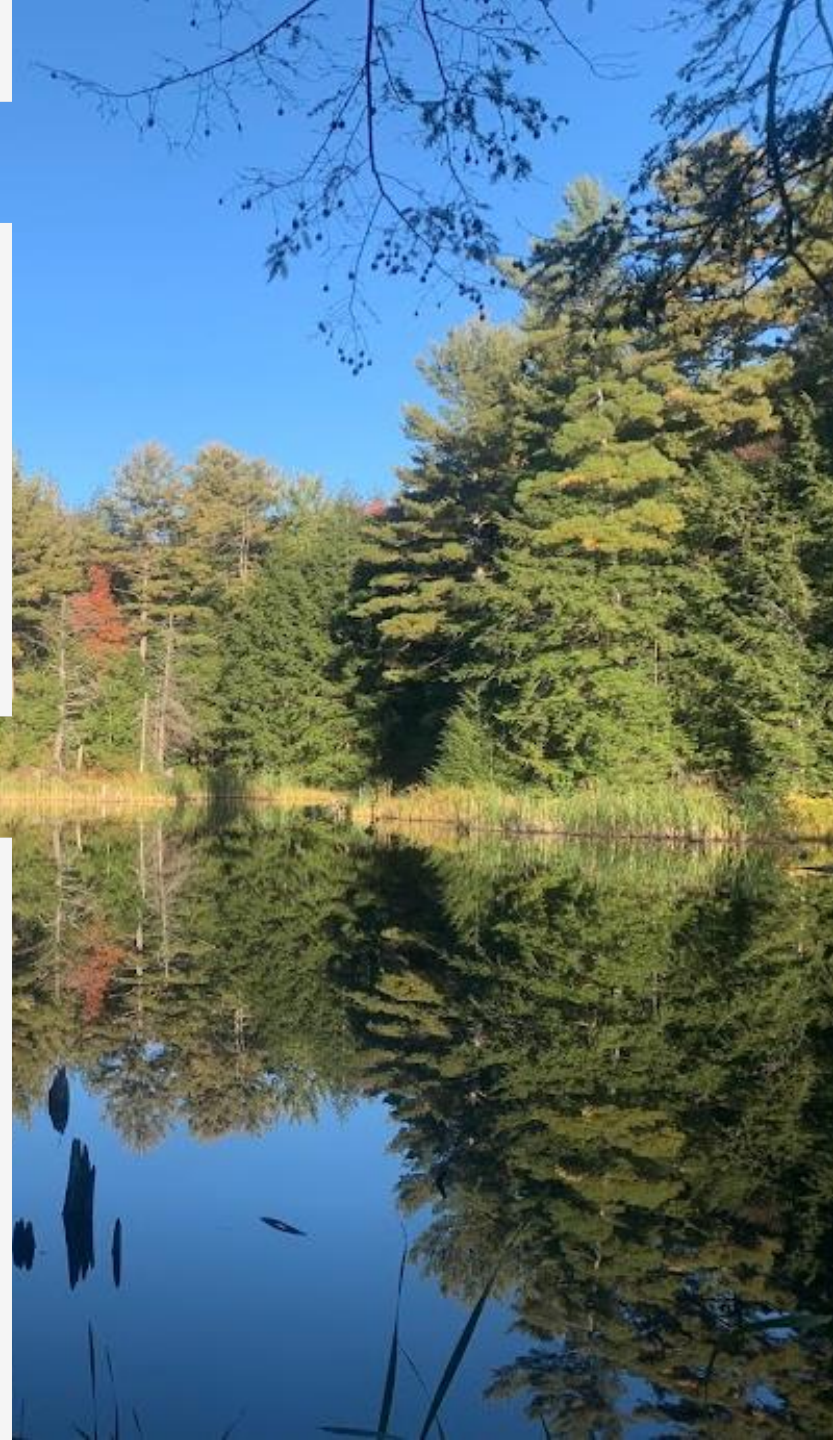
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**Trusted evidence.**

**Informed decisions.**

**Better health.**



# Declaration of interests

Funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, World Health Organization, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, AGEWELL, Public Health Agency of Canada

Co-convenor of Cochrane and Campbell Equity Thematic Group

Editor in chief of the Campbell Collaboration

No other conflicts to declare

# Overview

1. Cochrane and Campbell equity thematic group
2. Defining EDI in research
3. What to analyse
4. How to incorporate EDI
5. Next steps

# Campbell and Cochrane Equity Methods Group

- Established 2001 jointly with the Campbell Collaboration
- Rationale: Health equity is a moral and ethical imperative for clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and all who use health research.
- 837 members on mailing list
- **Methods research:**
  - Sex, gender and equity analysis in trials, reviews, guidelines and observational studies
- **Tools**
  - Handbook Chapter - [Chapter 16: Equity and specific populations](#)
  - Online Cochrane Training: [Module 11: Health equity in systematic reviews](#)
  - Reporting guidelines: PRISMA Equity 2012, PROGRESS-Plus 2014, GRADE Equity 2017, CONSORT Equity 2017

# Transition to Equity Thematic Group Approved in November 2022

The new Equity Thematic Group will continue and expand this work by designing a program of projects around the following 5 goals:

1. Promote equity in the health evidence base.
2. Ensure equitable processes for stakeholder engagement.
3. Produce high-priority, equity-focused evidence syntheses.
4. Build capacity for equity design, analysis, and reporting.
5. Promote equity in implementation tools.



# Cochrane Thematic Group – Health Equity

- Leadership Team



Elizabeth Kristjansson



Tamara Lotfi



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Gabriel Rada,



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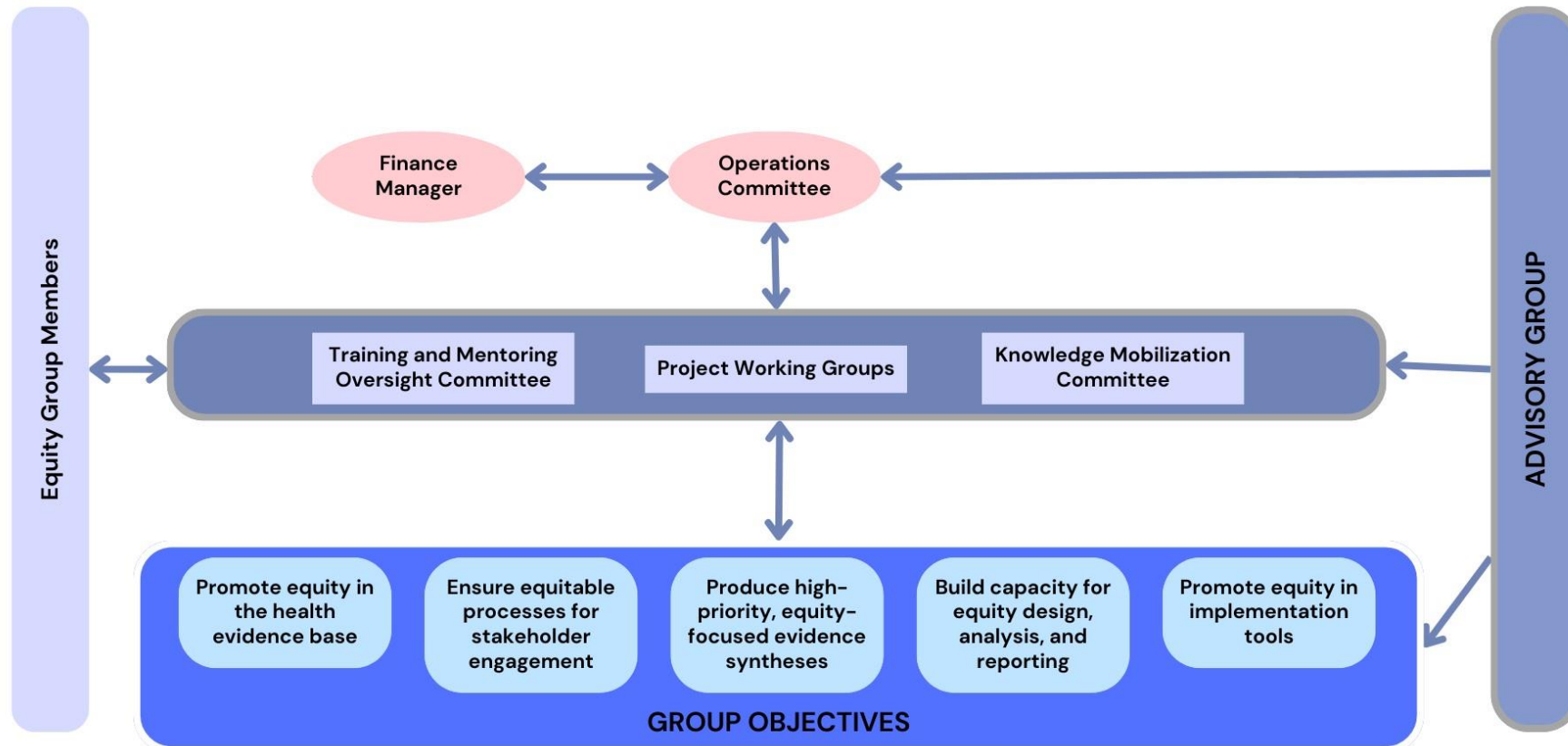
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Vivian Welch

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Omar Dewidar (Canada)  
Rebecca Glover (UK)  
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Miranda Lesperance (Canada)  
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Jennifer Petkovic (Canada)  
Ekta Priya (UK)  
Alison Riddle (Canada)  
Ammar Saad (Canada)  
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# Inclusive Governance plan





# Contents

1. Cochrane and Campbell equity thematic group
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# Definitions

- 1. Equity: means that everyone has opportunity**
- 2. Diversity: is everyone invited to participate**
- 3. Inclusion: means that everyone gets to contribute meaningfully**



Hyderabad 2014



**Cochrane**  
Health Equity

# Not just income: PROGRESS



- *Place of residence*



- *Race/ethnicity/culture/language*



- *Occupation*



- *Gender and sex*



- *Religion*



- *Education*



- *Socioeconomic status*



- *Social capital*

Evans and Brown 2003; O'Neill (Petkovic) et al, 2014,  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24189091>



**Cochrane**  
Health Equity

# PROGRESS-Plus

- 1. Personal characteristics** associated with discrimination and/or exclusion (e.g. age, disability, sexual orientation);
- 2. Features of relationships** (e.g. smoking parents, excluded from school);
- 3. Time-dependant relationships** (e.g. leaving the hospital, respite care, other instances where a person may be temporarily at a disadvantage).

Oliver S, Dickson K, Newman M. 2012.

# What is health equity?

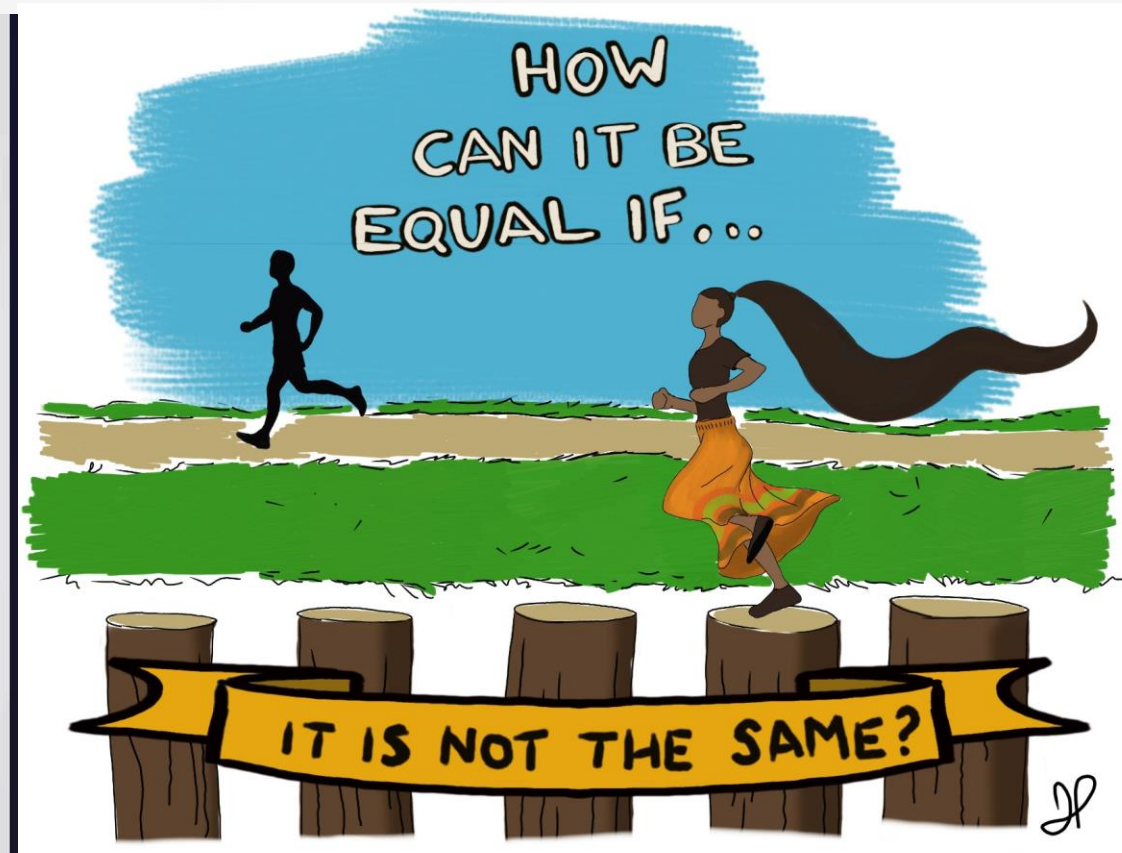
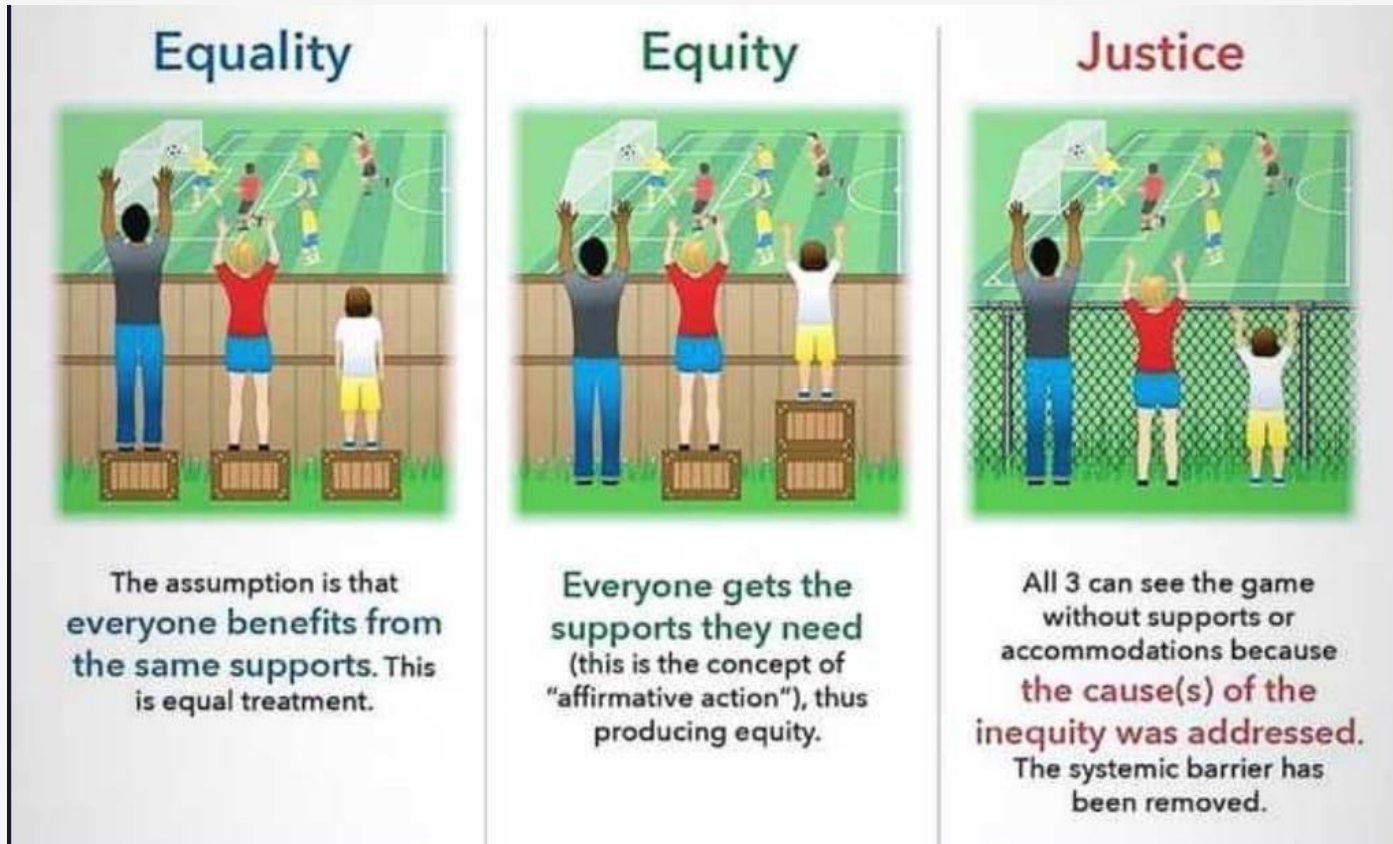


Figure: Graphic artist: Jessica Leigh Plummer, STROBE-Equity Indigenous stream meeting

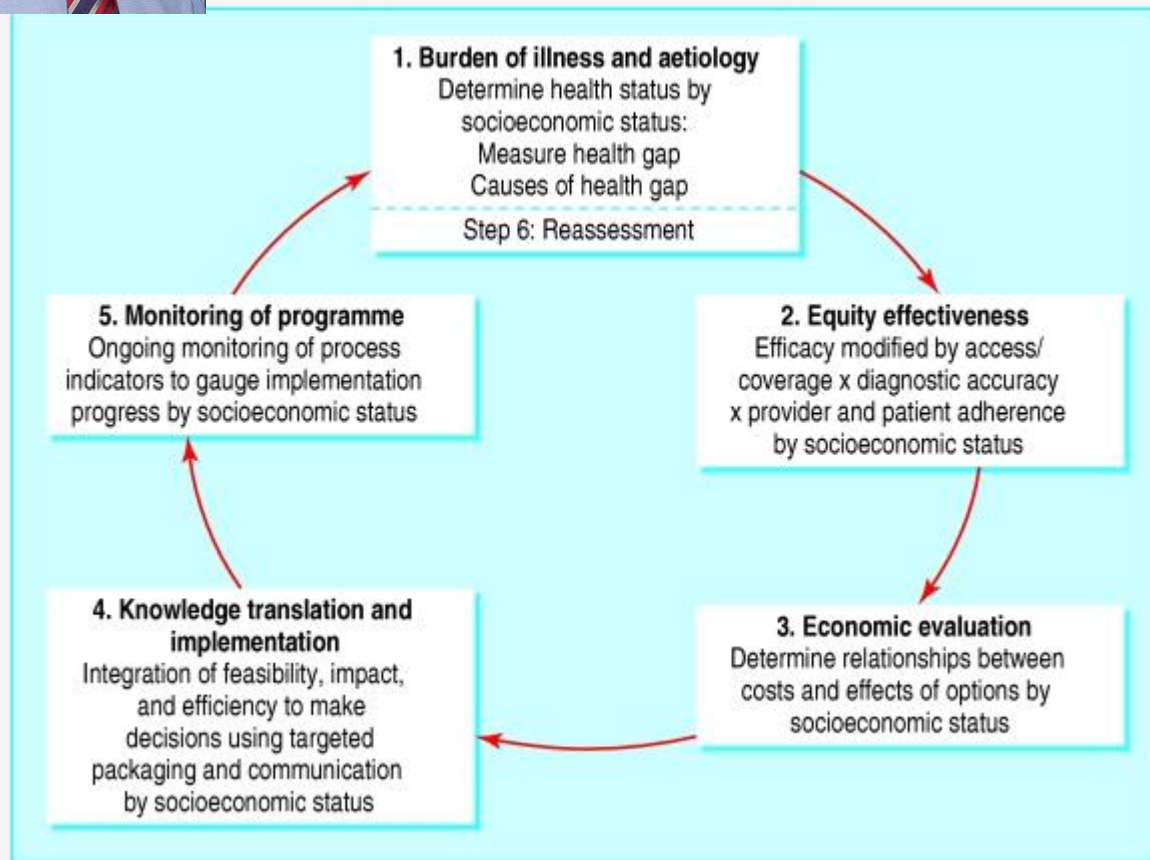
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# Equity effectiveness loop, Tugwell 2006



Tugwell P, de Savigny D, Hawker G, Robinson V, 2006 BMJ

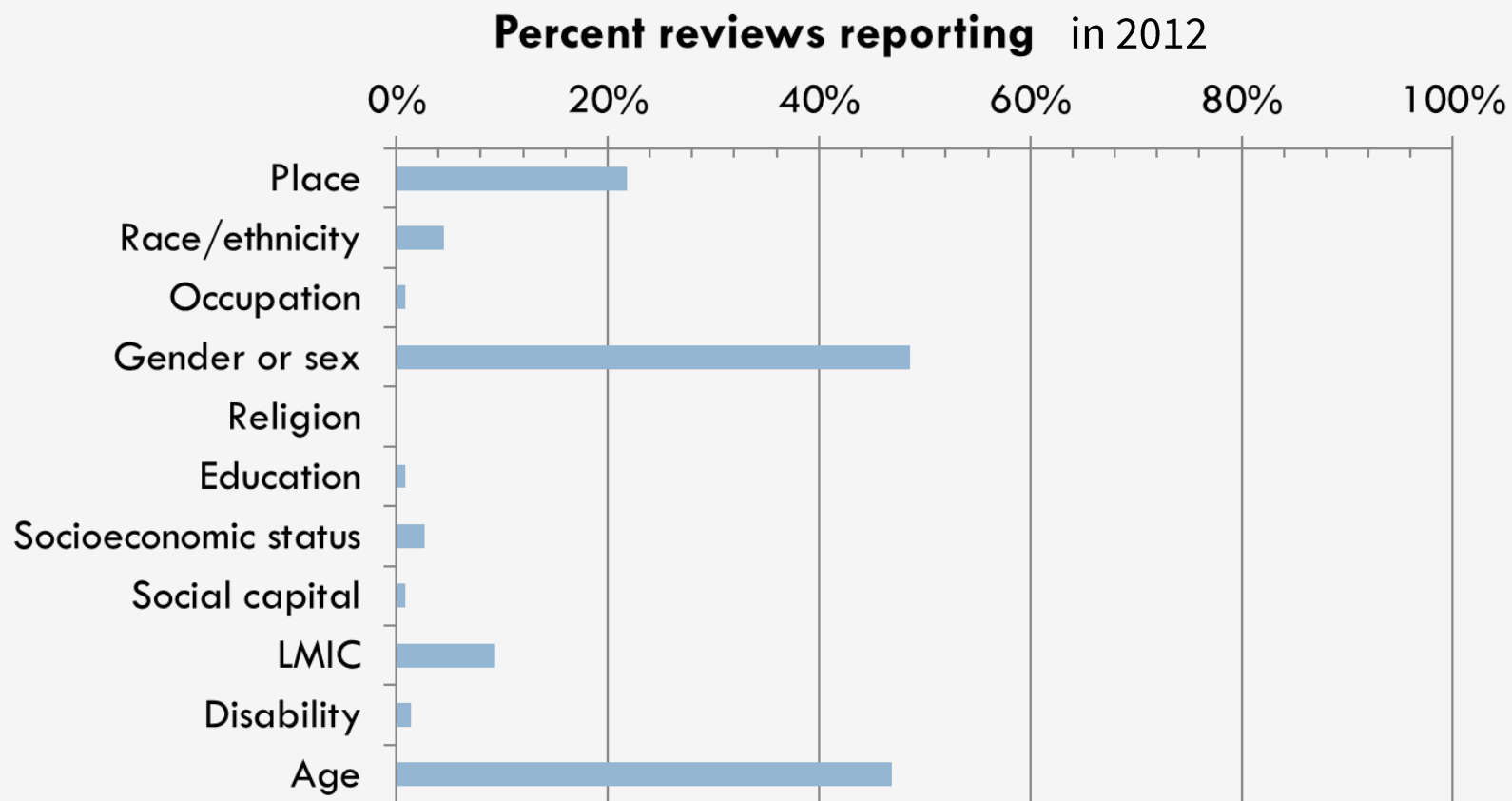


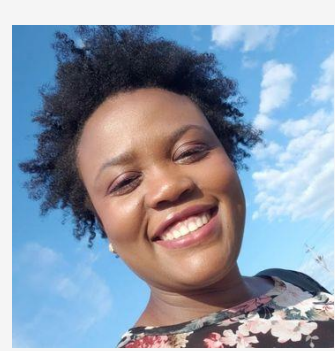




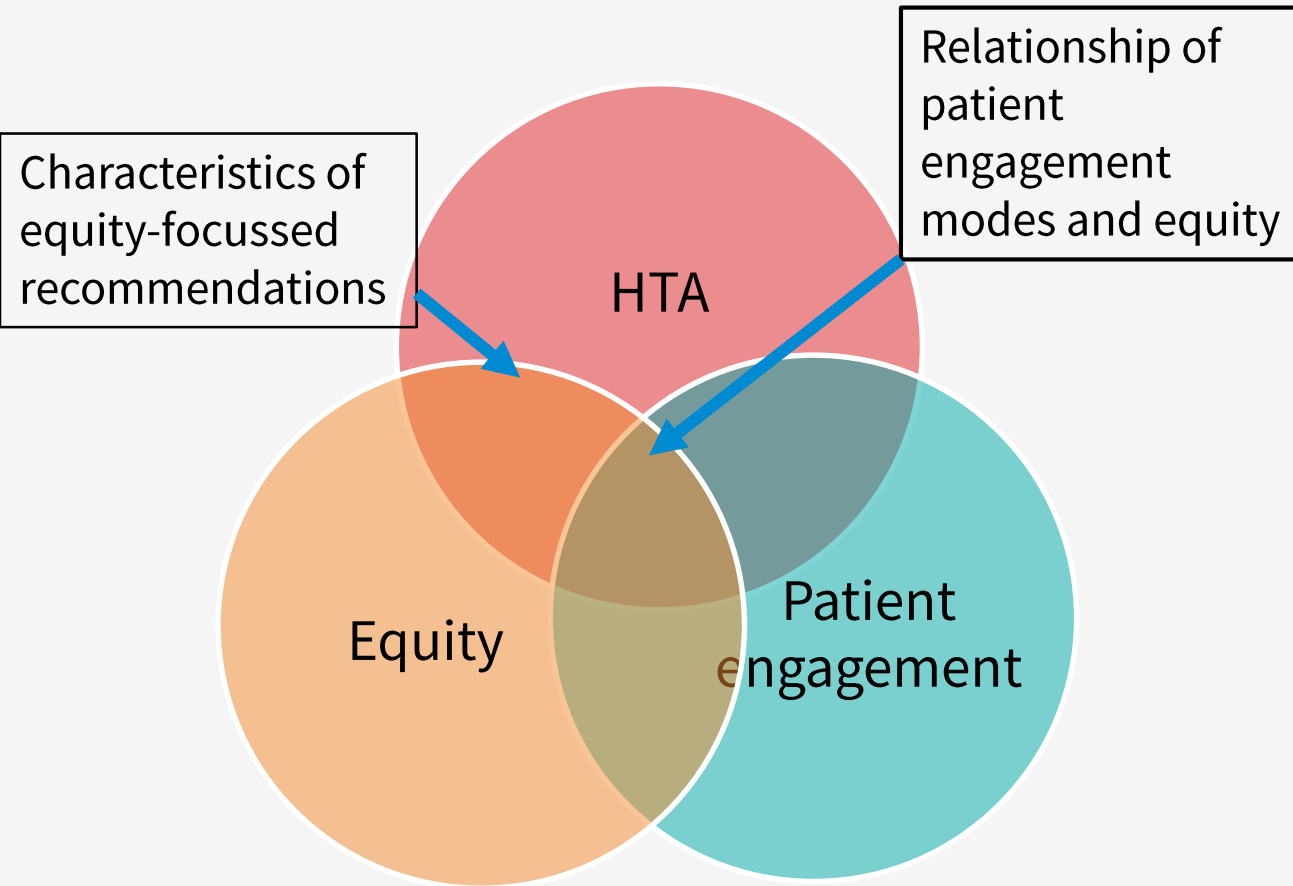
# Equity reporting guidelines, Welch 2012

PRISMA-Equity 2012, CONSORT Equity 2017, STROBE Equity 2024





# Equity and patient engagement in HTA, Simeon et al



Simeon R, University of Ottawa thesis, 2023





# Equity in guidelines, Dewidar 2023





# PRO-EDI: Establishing standards for describing equity in reviews, Treweek, Brune et al



Status	Item
[Mandatory]	Age
[Mandatory]	Sex
[Mandatory]	Gender
[Mandatory]	Race, ethnicity and ancestry
[Mandatory]	Socioeconomic status
[Highly desirable]	Level of education
[Mandatory (country/ countries of data collection and sites)]	Location
[Highly desirable]	Other factors relevant to the review

DRAFT



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# Inclusive trial design, Mbuagbaw 2017

<b>P</b>		<b>Place of Residence</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Health inequalities exist between high-income countries and low-income countries. Health inequalities exist between high-income countries and low-income countries. Health inequalities exist between high-income countries and low-income countries.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A trial of protease inhibitor monotherapy compared to triple therapy for the reduction of viral load rebound in patients with HIV, ethnicity was found to affect virological rebound.</p>
<b>R</b>		<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Ethnicity may require further breakdown (i.e. Black could be African immigrant vs. African American, two groups of people who might not be experiencing the same inequities).</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A trial of protease inhibitor monotherapy compared to triple therapy for the reduction of viral load rebound in patients with HIV, ethnicity was found to affect virological rebound.</p>
<b>O</b>		<b>Occupation</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> A person's role in society or as a description of a person's job is relevant in health research. It can reflect level of education, access to resources, income, time available to participate in research and level of risk for certain diseases or chances of exposure to factors that affect health.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A trial of insecticide interventions to promote the use of hearing protector devices in farm operators in the USA.</p>
<b>G</b>		<b>Gender</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Gender roles, expectations and experiences of men and women are relevant in health research. Gender roles, expectations and experiences of men and women are relevant in health research. Gender roles, expectations and experiences of men and women are relevant in health research.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A trial of cognitive behavioral therapy for the reduction of stress and depressive symptoms in Dutch women with low income.</p>
<b>R</b>		<b>Religion</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Religion can have various interpretations which should be clearly defined (religion-system of belief with which an individual identifies vs. religiosity-the practices that go along with that religion).</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A trial on the effect of motivational interviewing on alcohol and drug use was found to differ by religion among young adults in South Africa.</p>
<b>E</b>		<b>Education</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Education is usually a relevant factor that affects critical aspects of research studies such as enrollment, follow-up and adherence to study procedures or use of investigational drugs.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> In a trial of text messaging vs. usual care to improve adherence to antiretroviral therapy, adherence was found to be better in people with a higher level of education.</p>
<b>S</b>		<b>Income</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Income is usually a relevant factor that affects critical aspects of research studies such as enrollment, follow-up and adherence to study procedures or use of investigational drugs.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> A trial of cognitive behavioral therapy for the reduction of stress and depressive symptoms in Dutch women with low income.</p>
<b>S</b>		<b>Social Capital</b>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Social capital is known to affect certain health outcomes and it may be a health outcome itself.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Investigators explored the effects of cognitive therapy on social capital in survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.</p>





# Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health: Power of Sharing Newcomer Stories Program, Pottier 2023



Discover research from the [Nature Awards for Inclusive Health Research](#)





# Capacity building in equity, Lotfi and Akl



45 centers from 26 low and middle-income countries (LMICs), and they were coordinated by the GESI Secretariat.

*(Online and face to face capacity strengthening, meetings at conferences, joint grant applications, enhancement of regional and national coordination)*







# Equity in stakeholder engagement, Viswanathan 2023, Magwood ...2024



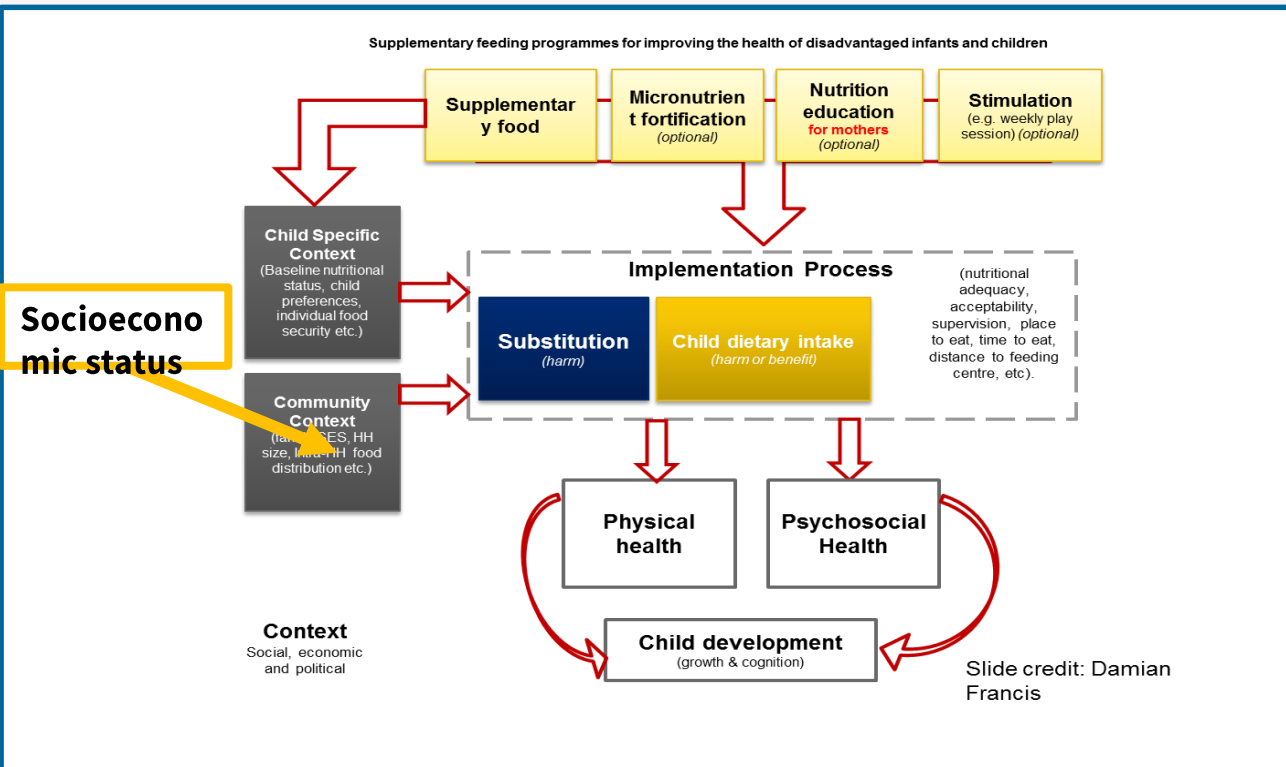
**MUSE**  
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT CONSORTIUM

Sathe et al 2022: <https://osf.io/79qvh>





# Inclusive logic models, Francis et al



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**Please join us!**



**Cochrane**  
Health Equity

**Thank you!**

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**Cochrane**  
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