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PREVENTIVE HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

MAPPING NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES POLICY DISCOURSES NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY

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Background

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) prevention and control demand both leadership to prioritise NCDs on the policy agenda, and commitment to implement the health-promoting strategies effectively. The complex nature of NCDs necessitates the cross-collaboration among stakeholders from health and non-health sectors within and beyond government. Further, the shift beyond medicalisation of NCDs remains under-addressed. This scoping review maps the frames of NCDs that can be applied to the agenda-setting processes to clarify how NCDs can be prioritized.

Methods

We searched nine electronic databases, including Medline, Global Health, and websites of NCDs-related international organisations. We extracted and screened 9,064 studies published up to May 2019. Two reviewers independently screened 10% of the extracted articles with a good level of agreement (Kappa=0.8). One reviewer screened the remaining articles. We included 40 studies that met the eligibility criteria.

Results

We conceptualised the findings considering both the national and global contexts. We identified six frames applicable nationally and globally: “Origins and Development of NCDs”, “Causes and Consequences”, “Health Security”, “Health Systems Sustainability”, “NCDs in One Health”, and “Individual Choices or Collective Responsibility”. These frames call upon national and global organisations to integrate the individual frames and their underlying principles to deliver a whole-of-society movement.

Conclusion

Strong partnerships among national and global stakeholders are instrumental in influencing the social determinants of health in a globalising world, building upon principles such as accountability and leadership. Implementing policies that contextualise NCDs bearing these frames would allow different stakeholders to establish adequate NCDs strategies to achieve improved health outcomes.