Whose burden?  
A comprehensive approach to describing burden of disease by synthesizing evidence from diverse perspectives

Amy Colquhoun  
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Epidemiology
The study of what is upon the people

disease, injury, disability, death & risk factors

+ concepts of health (and how to improve it...)

disease, injury, disability, death & risk factors
Disease Burden
Disease burden: definition/measures

- Often defined by the measures used (examples):
  - Prevalence
  - Mortality
  - Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)
  - Costs

- ‘Amount’ of disease, disability, death risk factors \(\rightarrow\) impact or contributions to ill health
Disease burden: utility

- Understand the health of a population
- Impact of a specific disease relative to other health issues
- Compare between populations and across time
Limitations

Inherent subjectivity—values and assumptions in quantitative measures

Capture contextual factors?—limited utility for promoting effective action

Disease burden is a social construct—limited effectiveness of measures removed from those impacted
Canadian North *Helicobacter pylori* Working Group

- Communities concerned about stomach cancer and *Helicobacter pylori*
- Large interdisciplinary and intersectoral team
- Aim to address concerns and reduce health risks
Proposed approach

Characterize the self-described burden of disease

Quantify the burden of disease

Comprehensive characterization of disease burden: synthesize evidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW</th>
<th>WHY</th>
<th>HOW</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photovoice &amp; Semi-structured interviews</td>
<td>E.g. Inform risk communication &amp; knowledge translation</td>
<td>Critical Interpretive Synthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimate relevant disease frequencies</td>
<td>E.g. compare between populations &amp; across time</td>
<td>E.g. Identify similarities and differences</td>
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Whose burden?
Karen J. Goodman

Thank you