

EMS-Based Health Services Research: Current Practice and Future Goals

Richard A. Narad, DPA, JD
California State University, Chico
July 23, 2009



Goals

- Define the role of public policy research in EMS
- Identify some public policy questions in EMS
- Discuss my own past/present/future EMS research
- Identify limits on public policy research



Social sciences

A branch of science that deals with the institutions and functioning of human society and with the interpersonal relationships of individuals as members of society

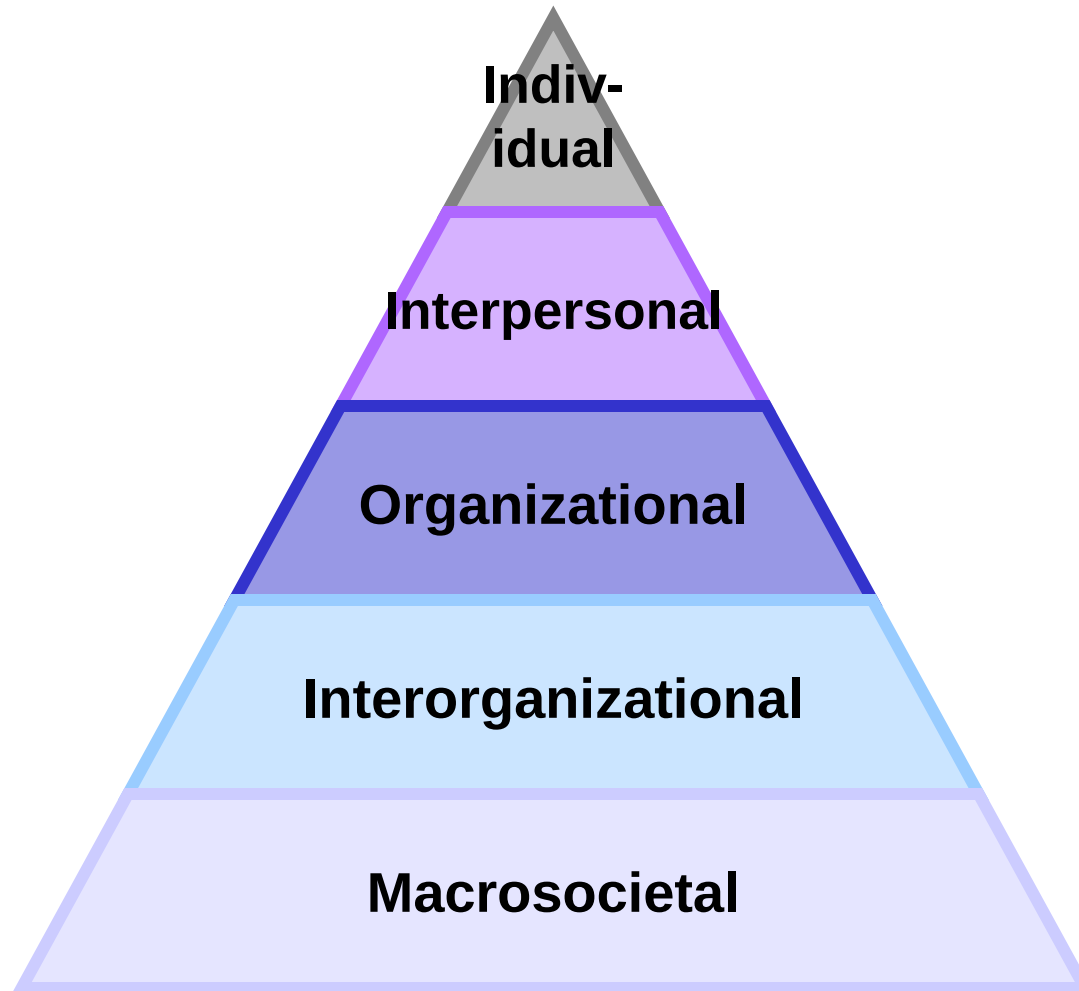


Social science disciplines

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Geography
- Political science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Etc.



Levels of social science theories



Public policy

- Public policy is an attempt by the government to address a public issue
- Course of action or inaction chosen by public authorities to address a given problem or interrelated set of problems



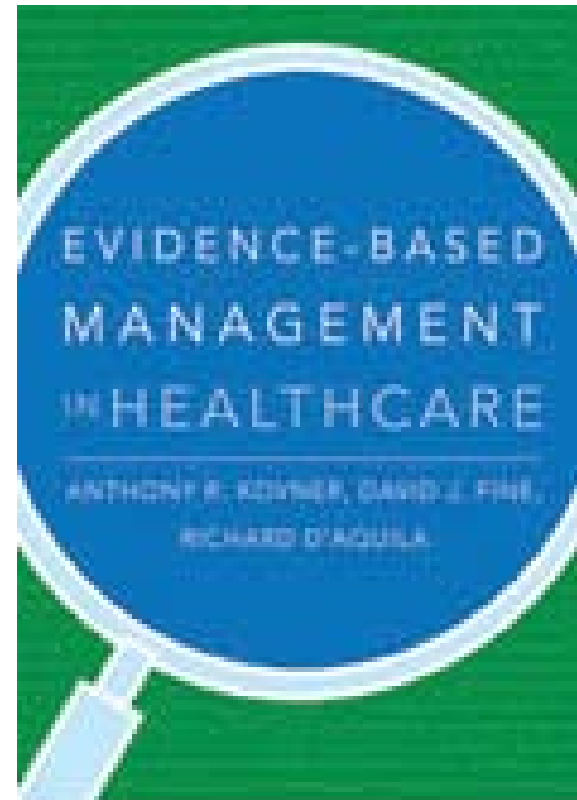
Public policy research

“Speaking truth to power”

Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine



Click to start



Public policy questions in EMS

- Who should provide services?
- How should services be funded?
- How do we promote efficiency and accountability
- How do we measure efficiency of services?



Public policy questions in EMS

- Is air ambulance (or ALS, or trauma care) cost effective?
- Is there an advantage to either public or private ambulance?
- What is the best way to implement response time standard regulations
- What is the impact of financial penalties on provider performance?



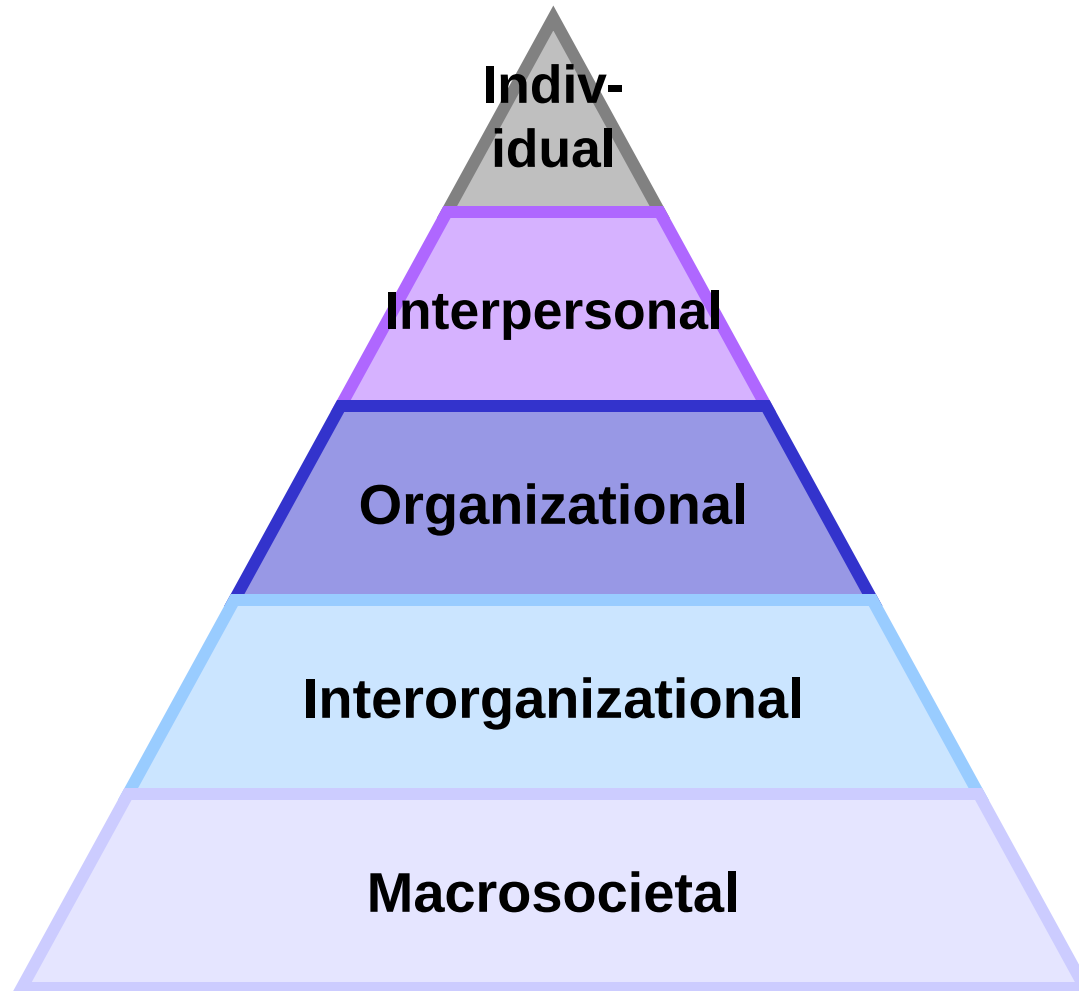
My research

“Public policy related to the planning, implementation, and management of emergency medical services systems.”

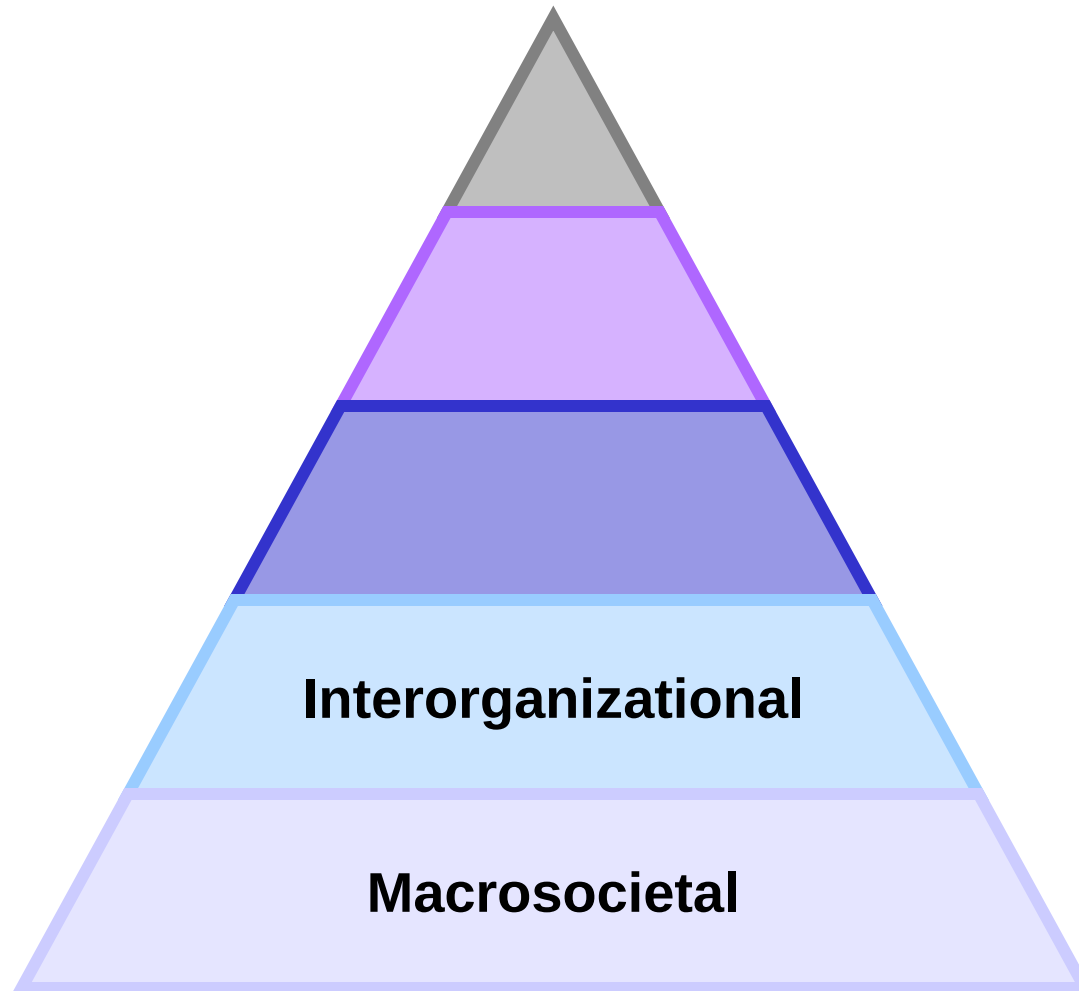
- How does a community determine what EMS system it wants?
- How does the community implement that system?
- How does a community ensure that EMS providers are accountable to the public?



My research



My research



My research (past)

- EMS system coordination
 - “Multicratic organization”
- EMS regulatory programs in California
- California’s trauma care system
- Emerging organizational structures in the ambulance industry in the United States
- Public vs. private: Separating facts from values



My research agenda for the future

- CPR and persistent vegetative state
- Ambulance system design
- More on public/private
- Revised Model EMS Act



Limits of public policy research in EMS

Research process

- Identify the problem / state the research questions
- Formulate hypotheses
- Review the literature
- Construct design
- Collect data
- Analyze data
- Interpret results

Public policy process

- Identify the problem
- Formulation of alternatives
- Evaluation of alternatives
- Selection and adoption
- Implementation
- Evaluation



Limits of public policy research in EMS

Political process

- Identify the problem
- Identify the interested parties
- Count votes



Limits of public policy research in EMS

- Politics



- Limits of public policy research in EMS

- Economic interests



•Limits of public policy research in EMS

•Values



Frances Treanor opposes a city decision to turn ambulance service over to a company affiliated with a hospital.



Richard A. Narad, DPA, JD
California State Univ., Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0505 USA
(530)898-5309
RNARAD@CSUCHICO.EDU

