**PAPER NUMBER #305**

**Evidence Synthesis Methods for Mediators that Matter: Problem Definition, Intervention Design and Implementation**

**Presenting Author**

Ruth Aston

**Affiliation**

Centre for Program Evaluation University of Melbourne, Australia

**Country of residence**

Australia

**Objectives/aims**

Judging the effectiveness of interventions that act on the social determinants of health (education level, income, living conditions) is indisputably complicated.

**Methods**

A meta-analysis of community-based interventions aiming to reduce the rates of cardiovascular disease was conducted. Selected interventions were complex (multi-site, multi-disciplinary, multi-input, multi-output) and involved multiple areas of action such as policy change and community development. Based on review of social change literature in Implementation Science, Behavioural Insights, Community Development, Health Promotion and Process Evaluation a rubric with indicators of implementation and interventions design that relate to sustained health outcomes were developed.

**Main findings**

The rubric of indicators was used to extract data from studies along with effect size information. The relationship between problem definition, intervention design and implementation and the effectiveness of complex interventions was tested using extracted data. The methods to develop the rubric and use within rigorous meta-analysis procedures will be presented (Borenstein et al., 2009). The effectiveness of reviewed interventions for populations with different cardiac risk profiles and key learnings for using the indicators as part of a systematic approach to designing and evaluating the impact of complex social interventions will also be shared**.**