|  |
| --- |
| **Localising the global: indices that promote and measure co-benefit actions for climate and health**  |
| **Background/Objectives**In the Anthropocene, there is a need for new indicators of progress that account for the inextricable link between human health and the health of the environment. At a local level in Australia, governments are increasing expected to make these links, with requirements such as Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans and obligations under the Climate Change Act. The Happy Planet Index (HPI = life expectancy x life satisfaction x equity adjustment/ecological footprint) is one composite index that could inspire the development of a climate and health indices at a local level. Alongside an international contingent of researchers, the Health Nature Sustainability Research Group studied the feasibility of rescaling/modifying the HPI to support action on and measurement of climate and health a local level in Victoria, Australia.**Methods**The study adopted a qualitative phenomenological research design that involved key informant interviews (n = 12) and focus groups (n = 27). Participants included local and state government representatives, health professionals and senior managers, academics and data experts. Augmented with document analysis, the data was triangulated to identified key themes including data availability and scalability. **Results**Participants saw immense value in the use of such an index at a local level for the purposes of community engagement, instigating policy change on climate and health, promoting co-benefit action and as a comparative tool. For Australia, life expectancy and life satisfaction data would be readily accessible for the human health part of an equation, whereas ecological footprint data was problematic. The solution lies in using carbon emissions as a proxy, with either household expenditure data, or data derived from local councils participating in the *Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*. **Discussion**There is scope for rescale/modify a global index such as the HPI to local levels in Australia. A nationally consistent and comparable approach to measuring carbon emissions based on a global protocol is required to scale up efforts. Robust health promotion and carbon indicators in state government policy frameworks are needed to enable co-benefit actions at a local government level. **Keywords**Climate change, indicators, health promotion, co-benefits  |