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| **Collaborating for health equity: using a conceptual framework and case studies to enhance effectiveness** |
| **Setting/problem**Collaboration between sectors and organisations has is now recognised as being essential to address complex, socially-created problems (such as climate change and health inequity). The need to act has become more pressing. Achieving health equity will require collaboration of all social sectors, the organisations and people who work within them, and communities that are marginalised as a consequence of public policy decisions. However, collaborating to create social, economic, and environmental conditions for health equity is a complex undertaking. Empirical evidence of the effectiveness of collaborations is limited. Despite growing evidence of factors influencing the likelihood of success of collaboration, the potential for the health sector to influence the policies and practices of other sectors (and vice versa) is not, yet, being reached fully. **Intervention**The NOCRAPS framework to guide intersectoral/inter-organisational action for health has been revised to reflect contemporary theoretical and empirical evidence of factors that contribute to effective, sustainable collaboration for health and health equity. The framework is distinctive in giving weight to an initial step that tests the assumption that collaboration is inherently necessary and desirable to resolve a given problem. The revised framework clarifies the relationship between necessity and capacity. Together with new case studies, the revised framework adds insights based on theories of new institutionalism and cognitive bias to the core components of the framework, providing new understanding of the influence of the structure and governance of collaborations, and of the roles of cognitive biases on the likelihood of successful collaboration for health and health equity. **Outcomes**The framework has two purposes: to guide the establishment of new collaborative initiatives to promote health; and to critically analyse existing collaborations to identify the causes of problems and potential solutions.**Implications**There is a strong rationale for the health sector to collaborate with other sectors (and within the sector) to resolve complex, multi-causal health (and other social problems) including inequities in health. The updated NOCRAPS framework assists in understanding the essential elements of effective collaboration and in increasing the likelihood of success. |