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| **Title of Research Presentation** Collecting and interpreting programmatic data in communities. |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**In terms of public health and health promotion we largely invest time and resources in programs at both local, state and national levels. We know something about the effectiveness of individual programs but little about the landscape of programmatic activity taking place in communities that may be conducive to health and wellbeing. We don’t know how these programs and activities exist in relation to each other or the contexts of their implementation. All of this work is taking place amidst rising rates of chronic disease.**Methods**The study involved an inventory of chronic disease prevention programs and activities taking place in four local communities in Australia. We also collected qualitative data on prevention programs and activities from key informant interviews to complement and compare with the inventory. This study was nested within a large initiative called “Prevention Tracker” which was designed to work in partnership with local communities to describe, guide and monitor change efforts in local chronic disease prevention systems.**Results**The results highlighted the number and range of individual programs and activities that are happening in all of the communities involved in the Prevention Tracker initiative. It is difficult to discern the value or importance of programmatic activity when considered in isolation. The qualitative data presented a more complex landscape of interconnected relationships, practices and outcomes.**Discussion**This study has highlighted the importance of shifting our gaze away from individual programs towards the connections between programs and their contexts. There is a lot of programmatic activity happening in communities but we are yet to fully understand the nature of these connections and how to harness them to strengthen local chronic disease prevention systems.**Keywords**Community-based chronic disease prevention; health promotion; prevention systems. |