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TITLE: Implications of the Swedish Public Health Policy on regional and local public health practice and priorities.

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Objectives: To evaluate the implications of the Swedish National Public Health Policy on public health priorities and practice at both regional and local level between 2004 and 2013.

Methods: Questionnaire survey in 2013 among Swedish county councils/regions (n=19/21), and municipalities (n=219/290).

Results: The National Public Health Policy facilitates systematic public health practice between 2004 and 2013. The objective oriented public health policy was used more often in the process of planning than in following-up. The most prioritised areas within the eleven public domains were Conditions during Childhood and Adolescence, Physical Activity, and Tobacco Prevention. There was a need for developing a monitoring system with comparable indicators and explicit measurable objectives.

Conclusion: The National Public Health Policy is used as a tool at both regional and local levels to plan and prioritize efforts. However, local and regional comparability of indicators and measurability of outcomes related to public health activities needs improving to ensure effective monitoring.