

## TITLE

Is there a place for history in public health policy analysis?

## AUTHOR

Andrey Zheluk \*

## ABSTRACT

Policy analysis aims to increase the effectiveness of public health interventions. Underpinning policy analysis is the accurate appraisal of context. Context refers to the political, cultural, social and physical environment in which a public health intervention is to be implemented. Within public health literature, history is commonly used to organize these elements of context into a coherent narrative that supports quantitative observations. However, technical approaches to policy analysis, and an activist orientation in public health may also reduce complex sequences of events to exchanges between "heroes and villains". Can a greater engagement with historical methods lead to more accurate appraisals of context? Drawing on recent explanations for dramatically increased mortality in the Russian Federation during the 1990s, this paper will outline the implications of engaging with history for public health policy analysis.

## INSTITUTION/AFFILIATION

PhD Student, School of Public Health, University of Sydney

## CONTACT DETAILS

Andrey Zheluk  
23/384 Illawarra Rd  
Marrickville NSW 2204  
Tel: 0425278398  
Email: [andreyzheluk@gmail.com](mailto:andreyzheluk@gmail.com)

## KEYWORDS

Policy analysis, history, Russia, LMIC

## BIOGRAPHY

Andrey Zheluk is a PhD candidate with recent work experience in HIV and harm reduction programs in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia. His doctoral thesis is focused on the influence of donor program data on HIV policy in the Russian Federation.