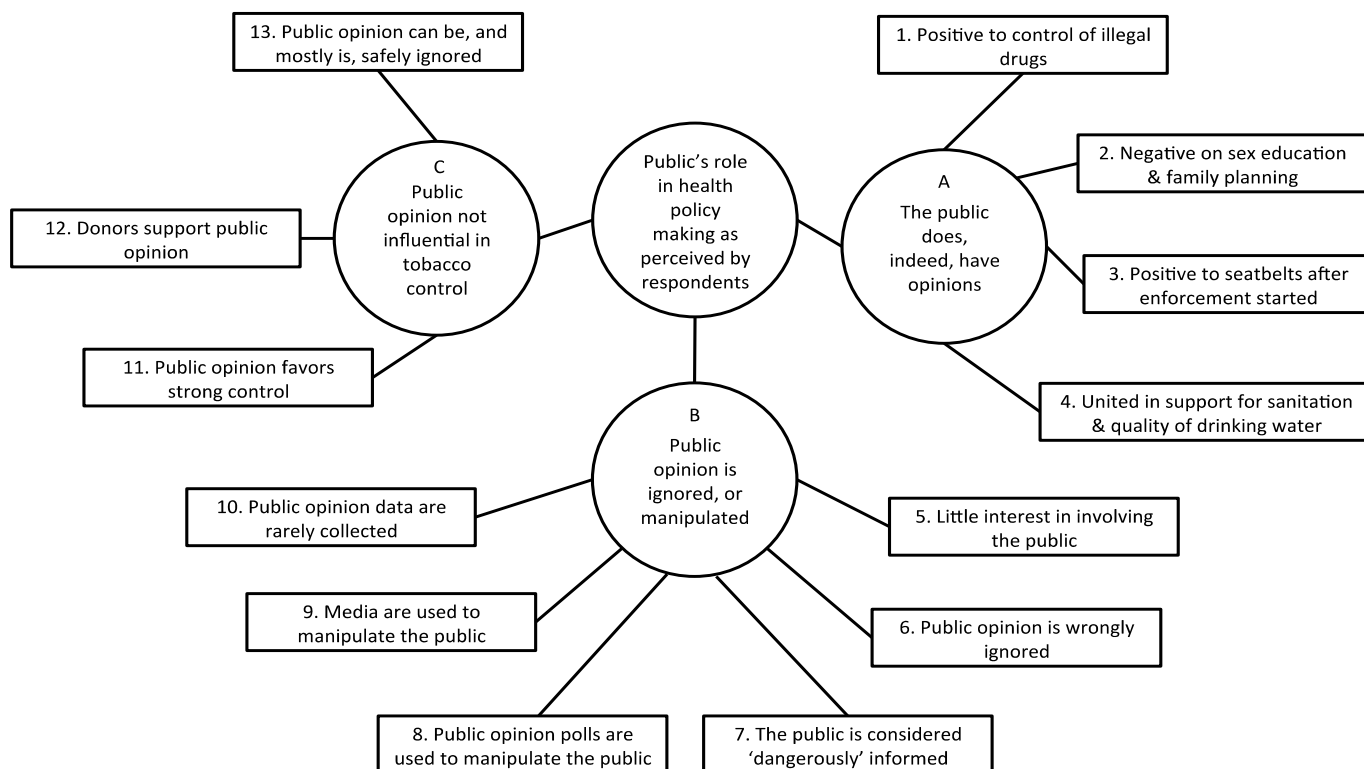


Supplementary material



Interview guide

"As an expert on health policy, can you please tell me what are the main forces that shape public health policy in Georgia?" Then go on:

Please think about how your *professional staff members* assist you in public health policy making. Are there certain health policy issues wherein staff contributions to policy making are particularly helpful to you, or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential? What are the particular health concerns where staff input really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some more about that?

Please think about how *lobbyists* assist you in public health policy making. Are there certain health policy issues wherein lobbyists are particularly helpful or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential?

What are the particular health concerns where lobbyists' input really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some more about that?

Please think about how doctors *and other health professionals* assist you in policy making. Are there certain health policy issues wherein they are particularly helpful or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential? What are the particular health concerns where their input really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some about that?

Please think about how *patients' special interest groups* assist in policy making. Are there certain health policy issues wherein they are particularly helpful or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential? What are the particular health concerns where their input really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some about that?

Please think about how *medical equipment manufacturers and drug companies* assist in policy making. Are there certain health policy issues wherein they are particularly helpful or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential? What are the particular health concerns where their input really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some about that?

Please think about how *public opinion*, for example as measured in opinion polls, assists you in policy making. Are there certain health policy issues wherein public opinion is particularly helpful or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential? What are the particular health concerns where their public opinion really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some about that?

Please think about how newspapers, radio and TV inform you about public health policy issues. Are there certain health policy issues wherein mass media news is particularly helpful to you, or less helpful? Influential or not particularly influential? What are the particular health concerns where information in the mass media really helps you to decide your position? Thank you! Can you please say some more about that?

Thank you, I am very near the end, I realise you are quite busy! Just these last few questions... In your expert view, how much do the ideas, beliefs, opinions and political influence of these groups influence health policy making in Georgia?

Family planning? [staff, lobbyists, health professionals, patient interest groups, manufacturers and drug companies, public opinion, media]

Restricting harm due to tobacco? [staff, lobbyists, health professionals, patient interest groups, manufacturers and drug companies, public opinion, media]

Traffic safety? [staff, lobbyists, health professionals, patient interest groups, manufacturers and drug companies, public opinion, media]

Safe water supply and public sanitation? [staff, lobbyists, health professionals, patient interest groups, manufacturers and drug companies, public opinion, media]

Control of illegal drugs? [staff, lobbyists, health professionals, patient interest groups, manufacturers and drug companies, public opinion, media]

Now, I have just about come to the end, but I must ask you... are there any important questions I should have asked you, to gain a better understanding of how public health policy making happens in Georgia? And if so, what answers are you able to provide?