

# Action on the Social Determinants of Health

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# Ontario Public Health Standards 2008

- **Addressing determinants of health** and **reducing health inequities** are fundamental to the work of public health in Ontario.
- Effective public health programs and services consider the impact of the determinants of health on the achievement of intended health outcomes.

# Ontario Public Health Standards 2008

- The ability to influence broader societal changes is the responsibility of many parties.
- As a sector, **public health** not only acknowledges the impact of the determinants of health but also **strives to influence broader societal changes** that reduce health disparities and inequities by coordinating and aligning its programs and services with those of other partners.
- Public health has a leading role in fostering relationships to support broader health goals to achieve the best possible outcomes for all Ontarians.

# Ontario Public Health Standards 2008

- The board of health shall provide population health information, including **determinants of health** and **health inequities** to the public, community partners, and health care providers, in accordance with the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2008 (or as current).

## *Discourse 1: SDH as Identifying those in Need of Health and Social Services*

- ***Key Concept:*** Health and social services should be responsive to peoples' material living circumstances
- ***Dominant Research and Practice Paradigms:*** Develop and evaluate services for those experiencing adverse living conditions
- ***Practical Implications:*** Focus limited to service provision with assumption that this will improve health

## *Discourse 2: SDH as Identifying those with Modifiable Medical and Behavioural Risk Factors*

- ***Key Concept:*** SDH as identifying those with modifiable medical and behavioural risk factors
- ***Dominant Research and Practice Paradigms:*** Develop and evaluate lifestyle programming that targets individuals experiencing adverse living conditions
- ***Practical Implications of the Discourse:*** Focus limited to health behaviours with assumption that targeting for behaviour change will improve health

## *Discourse 3: SDH as Indicating the Material Living Conditions that Shape Health*

- ***Key Concept:*** Material living conditions operating through various pathways – including biological -- shape health.
- ***Dominant Research and Practice Paradigms:*** Identify the processes by which adverse living conditions come to determine health.
- ***Practical Implications of the Discourse:*** Identifying SDH pathways and processes reinforce concept and strengthen evidence base.

## *Discourse 4: SDH as Indicating Material Living Circumstances that Differ as a Function of Group Membership*

- ***Key Concept:*** Material living conditions systematically differ among those in various social locations such as class, disability status, gender, and race.
- ***Dominant Research and Practice Paradigms:*** Carry out class-, race-, and gender-based analysis of differing living conditions and their health-related effects.
- ***Practical Implications of the Discourse:*** Providing evidence of systematic differences in life experiences among citizen groups form the basis for further anti-discrimination efforts.

## *Discourse 5: SDH and their Distribution as Results of Public Policy Decisions Made by Governments and other Societal Institutions*

- ***Key Concept:*** Public policy analysis and examination of the role of politics should form the basis of SDH analysis and advocacy efforts.
- ***Dominant Research and Practice Paradigms:*** Carry out analyses of how public policy decisions are made and how these decisions impact health (i.e., health impact analysis).
- ***Practical Implications of the Discourse:*** Attention is directed towards governmental policymaking as the source of social and health inequalities and the role of politics.

# Public Health Actions I

1. *SDH as identifying those in need of health and social services.*
2. *SDH as identifying those with modifiable medical and behavioural risk factors.*

***Business as Usual***

## Public Health Actions II

3. *SDH as indicating the material living conditions that shape health.*
4. *SDH as indicating material living circumstances that differ as a function of group membership.*

***Public Education***

## Public Health Actions III

- 5. SDH and their distribution as results of public policy decisions made by governments and other societal institutions.*

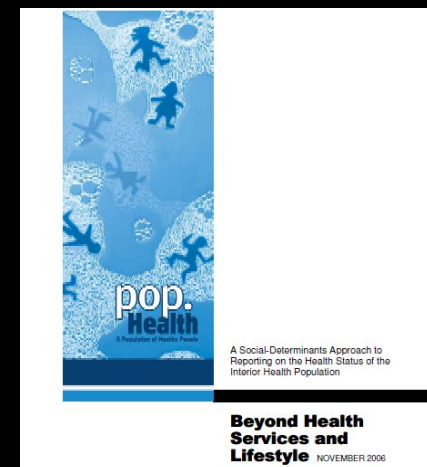
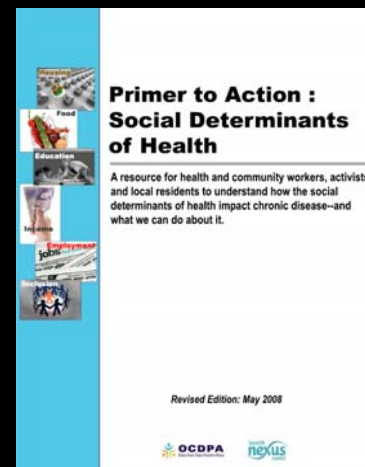
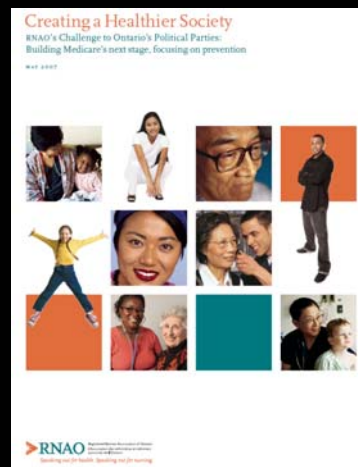
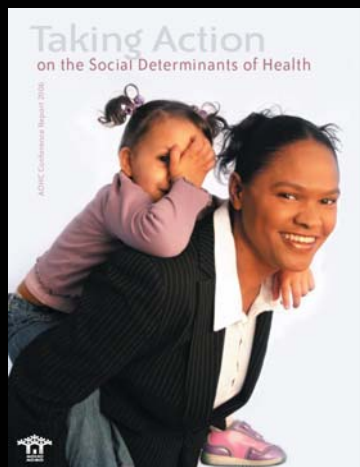
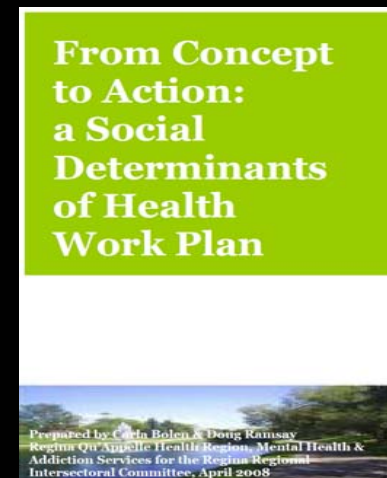
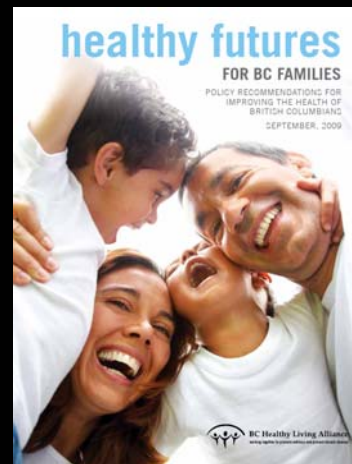
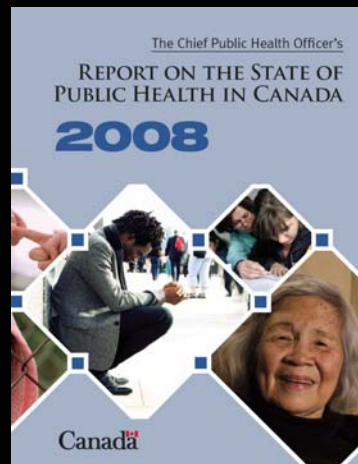
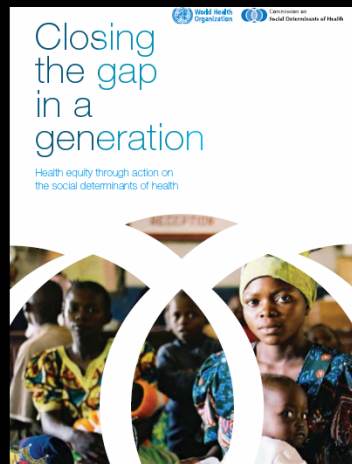
***Health Impact Assessment***

# The Way Forward

*Measure the problem, evaluate action, expand the knowledge base, develop a workforce that is trained in the social determinants of health, and raise public awareness about the social determinants of health.*

Source: Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. (2008). *Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity Through Action on the Social Determinants Of Health*. Geneva: World Health Organization.

# It Can Be Done!



# Ask Around



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Service de santé publique de Sudbury et du district



**Perth District Health Unit**

Health Line 519-271-7600 ext 267  
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1-877-271-7348 ext 267  
Weekdays - 8:30am-4:30pm



**HOME**

**Your PARTNER in HEALTH**



A photograph of a soldier in a desert environment, sitting on a military vehicle with mountains in the background. The soldier is wearing a helmet and is positioned on the turret of a tank or armored vehicle. The background shows a clear blue sky and a range of mountains. The overall scene is set in a dry, arid landscape.

# SHOW NO FEAR

Daring Actions in Canadian  
Military History

Edited by Colonel Bernd Horn

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*This presentation and other presentations  
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