



## LEARNING TOGETHER:

### COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE POPULATION HEALTH STATUS REPORTING



This document summarizes the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH) Population Health Status Reporting Initiative.

#### ABOUT THE POPULATION HEALTH STATUS REPORTING INITIATIVE

The National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH) is working with Canadian public health organizations and practitioners to improve the methods used to produce population health status reports. Through the Population Health Status Reporting Initiative, the NCCDH aims to better illuminate health inequities and support the development of effective and equitable policies.

#### OBJECTIVES

1. Learn about how to effectively integrate an equity lens into public health surveillance and reporting
2. Model innovative and collaborative practice in learning and evaluation related to the integration of health equity into population health status reporting
3. Support Capital Health (Halifax, Nova Scotia) in the development of a high quality and effective population health status report that effectively integrates and communicates equity issues
4. Share learnings from the project in accessible and innovative ways

Population health status reporting is a vital tool for addressing the social determinants of health and advancing health equity. The way that health data is collected and shared shapes our perception of population health. Public health practitioners and organizations from across Canada have identified the need for resources, tools, and collaborative learning on this topic.<sup>1</sup>

## THE LEARNING CIRCLE

At the centre of this initiative is an innovative Learning Circle. The Learning Circle uses Public Health Services, Capital Health (Halifax, Nova Scotia) as a practice hub. Capital Health is developing its first health status report, and this provides a forum to discuss the issues and challenges public health organizations face when developing meaningful health status reports.

Between Learning Circle meetings, Capital Health tests and modifies their approaches related to the development of a population health status report, and brings back their learnings/challenges to the next Learning Circle meeting in iterative loops.

### *Research Support*

In collaboration with the NCCDH, Public Health Ontario gathers and synthesizes scholarly and practice-based knowledge to address considerations of the learning circle group. The types of questions the learning circle asks may include data selection, access and sharing partnerships (and building trust); data limitations in varying setting contexts; selecting data to illuminate community conditions; mixing qualitative and quantitative data, and the role of story in population health reports.

### *Observers*

In addition to full members, the Learning Circle has observers who “listen-in” to Learning Circle discussions. This is intended to model a collaborative and transparent process and further support the objectives of developing new relationships, exchanging ideas and sharing best practices with those interested in utilizing health status reports as a tool to address health equity.

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### *Meetings*

The Population Health Status Reporting Initiative has set up the Learning Circle to meet five times between 2012 and 2013, following a cycle of 2-hour teleconference conversations every 2-3 months.

### *Developmental Evaluation*

An evaluation process is built in to the Learning Circle process so that both individual and project learning objectives can be monitored and supported along the way. Developmental evaluation is an approach to support the development of innovative approaches to address complex issues.<sup>2,3</sup> An evaluation consultant from One World participates in Learning Circle meetings, and over time will conduct key informant interviews and facilitate discussions to learn from the process.

## **EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE TO OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**

Throughout the Population Health Status Reporting Initiative, the NCCDH will produce several resources, including videos, project updates, reports, and presentations.

For more information, visit [www.nccdh.ca](http://www.nccdh.ca). Public health practitioners can also share ideas, experiences, and resources on this topic through online discussions in Health Equity Clicks: Community. To sign up, visit [www.nccdh.ca/community](http://www.nccdh.ca/community)

## **REFERENCES**

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