

# Population Health

PUBH 2000 - Dr. Witcher

# Lecture #1

# Population Health

Population health = distribution of health determinants, policies & intervention outcomes  
in a population

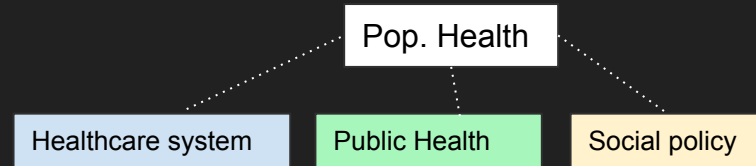
Health outcome = time specific (morbidity, mortality, chronic illness, mental health)

SDOH = education, SES, poverty, physical enviro

Health policy = seatbelts, anti smoking

Public Health focuses on determinants of health in communities, preventive care, interventions & education

Health = “State of complete physical, mental & social well-being” (WHO,1948)



# Tenets of Population Health

**Determinants of health status are not just medical care inputs + utilization but culture/ socio-economic factors (population & individual)**

(population) societies with high level distribution of wealth enjoy a higher level of health status

(individual) **Socio-Economic Enviro & Psychological resources = determinants of health status**

Causal pathways: early childhood environment linked to major illness & deaths

**Health policies** take broad view

Understanding determinants of health stem from **multidisciplinary approach** (indiv. & society)

# Population health

Population health requires

analysis of outcome,  
understand the distribution of health  
outcomes in communities. Elements that  
influence health

“Texturing” = SES factors, root causes

## ECOLOGICAL MODEL

**Micro** = individual (+ biomedical view)

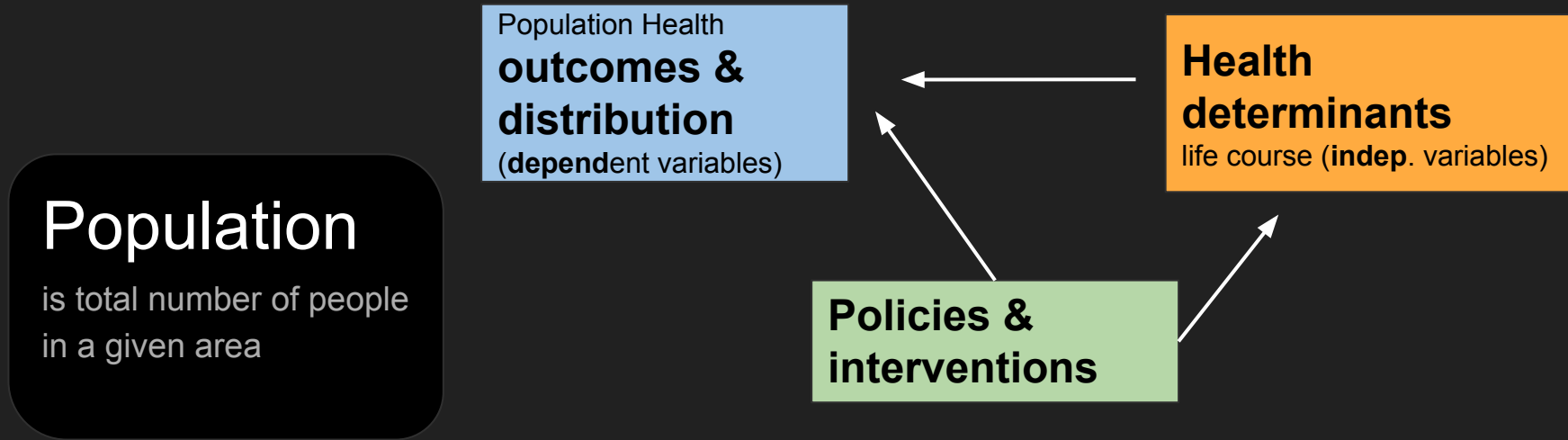
**Macro** = beyond an individual

# Population Health

field of study and approach

Does **Population** health = **Public** Health? *What extent do our lifestyles do we blame for poor population health outcomes?*

Kindig & Stoddart model



# Lecture #2

# Determinants of Population Health

Determinants contribute or reduce quality of life, loss of productivity & increased hospitalization & health and premature death

4/5 of Canadians 20+ have chronic disease

(heart disease, diabetes, etc)



# Social & environmental determinants

## Macro level

SES {education, income, employment, social support}

*Prenatal* / early life

Enviro {built / exposures}

## Micro level

Behavioural risk factors

Risk conditions (pre-clinical disease)

Disease (single to multi-morbidity)

Burden of illness (disability)

# 6 Domains of Health influence

Social & Enviro determinants

SES  $\mu$  & macro

Early childhood risks (life course + primary prevention)

RISK (childhood, factors, behaviour)

Behavioural risk & protective factors (primary)

Disease Prevention 1,2,3

Risk **conditions** (intermediate risk, 2nd prevention)

Hstats - QALY

Disease *prevention* (2nd + 3rd prevention)

Health outcomes/ status (severity & impact on quality of life)

# Social & Enviro determinants

**Education:** 15+ without HS diploma decreased to 19.1% 2012 << knowledge & skills, job/ \$

**Income:** 8.8% of all Canadians low income 2011 << education/ food “choice”/ stress

**Employment:** unemployment 7.2% 2012, 15-24 age = 11.6-15.2% << poverty/ stress

## Early life/ childhood factors

**2nd hand smoking:** chronic exposure = higher risk of respiratory conditions/ heart disease/ cancers  
3.3% children <12 yrs regularly exposed to enviro tobacco smoke

**Breastfeeding:** 26.2% of women (15+) breastfeed their child for first 6 months

# Trends among men vs. women

## Behaviour risks & factors

**Physical activity:** 15% of (18+) adults get 150 min of PA per week, 18-79 age = 10 hrs sedentary per day

**Smoking** linked to 24 chronic diseases, 2013: 19.3% CAN 12+ smoke daily/occasionally [m:22.1% vs. w:16.5%]

**Disease prevention** regular doctor for screenings etc. 72% CAN 12+ see Dr. 1x in yr 2012: 15% CAN 12+ don't see Dr. regularly

**Healthy eating** 2013: 40.8% CAN 12+ consume fruit & vegetables 5+ times per day, females>veggies

**Heavy drinking** 2013: 19% CAN 12+ heavy drinkers, m: 5+ drinks per occasion| w: 4+

**Stress** bad for nervous & immune system, 2013: 23% CAN 15+ stressed, females > stress

**Obesity** 2013: 18.8% CAN 18+, overweight m: 42% and w: 28%

## Health outcomes/ status

life expectancy average 82, w:84|m:80

# Leading cause of death (2011)

Cancer

Heart disease

CVD (stroke)

Physical Activity

= men

Smoking

= men

Healthy eating

= women

Heavy drinking

= men

# Lecture #3 theory & models

## Objectives

Provide a general overview of the evolution of population health theories/ models

Identify and explain the main features of holistic/multi level models of population health

Understand and explain population health outcomes through the use of these models; develop strategies to “intervene”

## Why do theories & models matter

predict models/ patterns of Behaviour on policies

To test knowledge/ change theories in population health

# Early models of human health

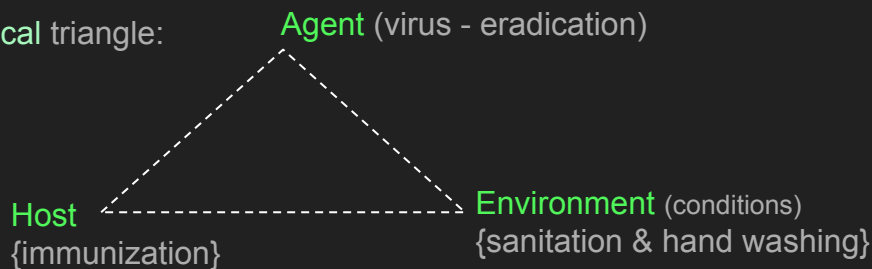
Medical thinking = sick individuals (Rose, 1992)

Causal of diseases discovered

“Germ theory” + eradication of agent

## Disease Causation

Epidemiological triangle:



## Disease causation

[Genetics | experiences] << host factors << >> [agent] personal behaviour >> enviro factors >> [ physical | social ]

## Socio-ecological model (Morris, 1975)

**Agent** = personal behaviour  
factors/ influences

**Host** = genetics/ experiences

**environmental** = natural  
world/ society factors

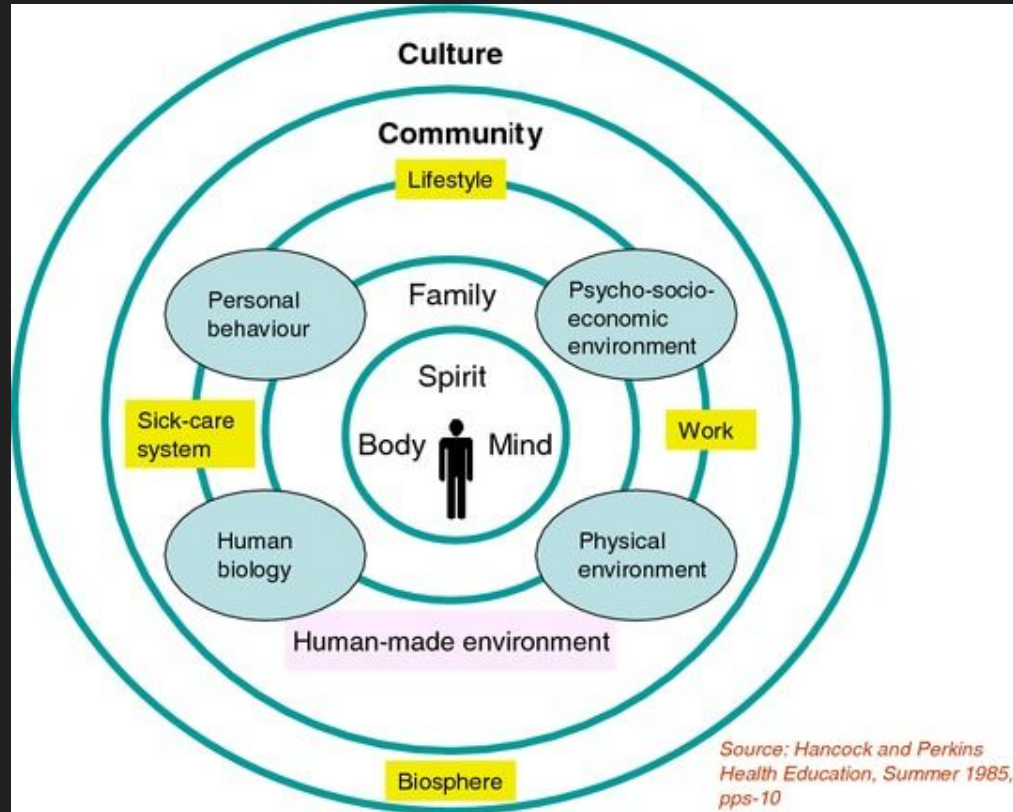


# Health as holistic (multi level)

(individual) **Socio Econ Enviro & psych determinants** factor into health status

**Mandala of Health** (Hancock, 1985) =  
body + mind + spirit (human health ecosystem)

**Determinants of health status are more than biomedical but socio-economic factors** (population & individual)



# Health determinants framework (Evans & Stoddart, 1990)

Traditional model : sick people >> health care services >> health need gets defined

*Lifestyle* -----> diseases <-----> **health care**

Health & function = **subjective** experiences of illness vs. **disease** (direct relationship)

Response = behavioural, biological [predisposition/ susceptibility]

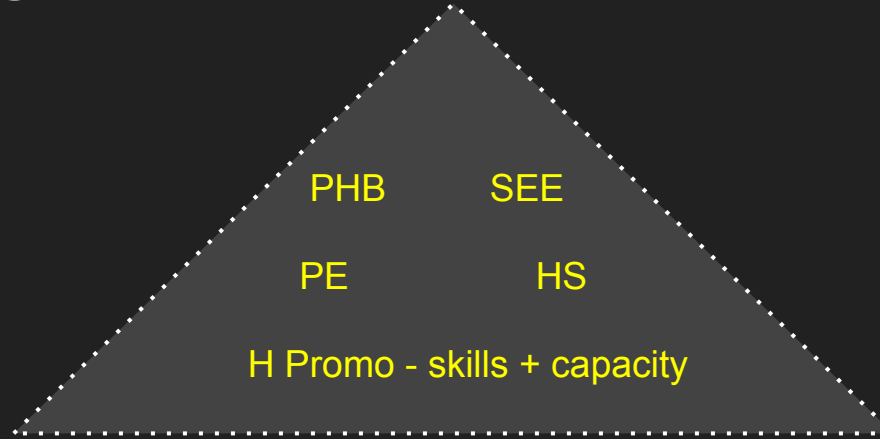
**SDOH Factors**--> disease <-- (need, access, cure, care) -->> **health care**

**Prosperity** = expansion of health care can draw resources away from other health supportive initiatives, social programming infrastructure *\*\* paradox: spending more on health care may actually adversely affect population health outcomes ignores prevention and other influences on health*

Longer lives = more chronic illness

society awareness of health issues ==>> self diagnosed symptoms of illness >> health issues in media ( > panic) progress of medicine makes untreatable illness seem worse

## 5 categories of health determinants (Health Can., 1994)



**5 categories of health determinants** = (personal health behavior) (socio-econ enviro)  
(physical enviro) (health services)

[Health Promo] individual capacity & coping skills

# Population Health Promo Model (Hamilton & Bhatti, 1996)

Integrate population health research with healthy promotion activities

Enable people to **Ctrl** and **> health**

WHAT - (what are you targeting) **Health Determinants**

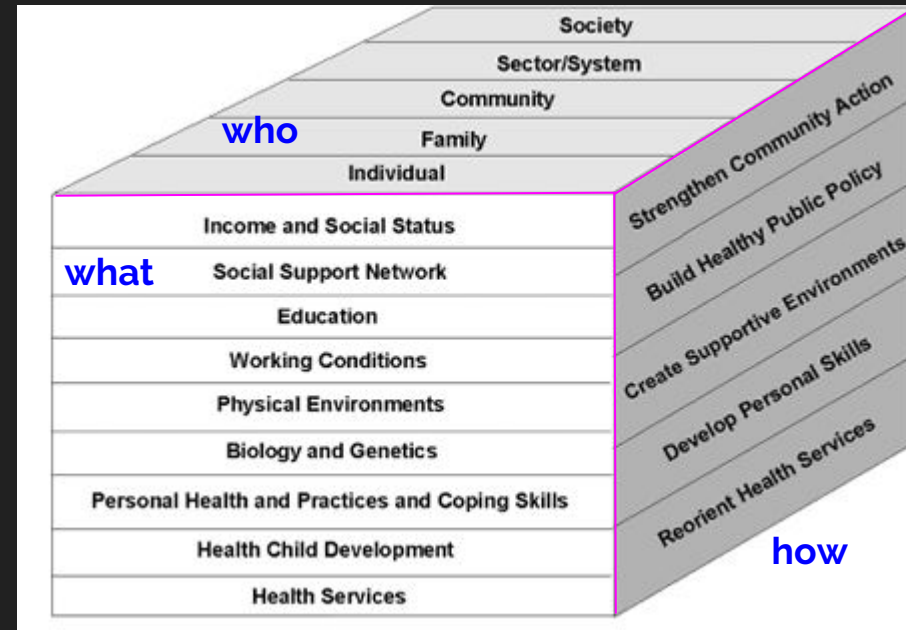
WHO - (who are you targeting) **Levels of Action**

HOW - (how to bring about changes) **Action Strategies**

Determinants of Health focus: example

Physical enviro + community level

+ create supportive environments == green spaces



Lecture #4

Behavioural determinants

PA & sedentary

# definitions

**Physical Activity** = any movement produced by the musculoskeletal system resulting in energy loss

**Exercise** = PA that is planned, structured & repetitive

**Sedentary** = any activity awake that uses < 1.5 METs [sitting/reclining positions]

**Exercise levels** = sedentary >> light >> moderate >> vigorous

**Canadian PA Guideline Adults:** 150+ MVPA per week      0-4: 180 min/ day

# Physical Activity

**Benefits** = reduce CVD, mental health, strength & flexibility

Bill C-12 (2003) replaced Fitness+sport act 1961

**Sedentary behavior** (child & youth, 2011): 0-4 [no screens], 5-11 [<2hrs/day], 12-17 [limit screen < 2 hrs/day]

Lecture #5

Behavioural determinants

Healthy eating



# Social influence on eating

You eat more in social groups, the more people the more food

Perceived eating norms = individual' beliefs of others around them behave

Behavioural guides = act like everyone else

Social group membership = behaviour is in line with group

Placement & promotion in stores

Increase sales of healthier products in low-income areas by healthy products promoted - placement, signs & weekly sales

Menu labels: 3 groups (menu- no labels), (menu - labels), (menu - labels + *calories info --- ate less*)

# Lecture #6

## Obesity

# Obesity

Prevalence = 18%      Overweight = 41% m 27% f

## Can. Obesity Network

Obesity > food + PA, chronic disease, “best weight” = overall health + enjoy life

**factors** = enviro/ genes/ mental health/ sleep, Rx

Mayne et al. = new policies, change built enviro. Best results = active transportation, park use, diet alone fails

## Explanations

Behavioural exercise, binge eating + nutrition habits

Pop. Health: impact of policies, **cultural** ideas, not personal behaviour, **income**, **education**, community

# Lecture #7

## Social determinants of health

# SDOH

Significance = micro & macro level predictor of health outcomes

Econ & social conditions that affect health of individuals/ communities

SDOH determines person's physical & social resources within their environment.

Quantity & Quality of resources made available

Focus = (horizontal structure) social distribution of economic and social resources  
(vertical structure) Economic & Social policies

Health inequalities = unequal access to key factors that influence health [\$, job, housing]  
difference in health status (outcome) of individuals/ groups due to  
Choice is influenced by enviro, culture & experience

# SDOH

Aboriginal status	early childhood dev	healthcare services	housing income	education
Social safety net	social support	gender	food security	environment

**Income:** significant disease prevalence in YLL based on income level

Measured by Low Income Cut-Off = difficult to meet basic needs

Social poverty is also a factor

Poverty: Single parents (26%) limited work (21%) immigrants (19%) Aboriginal (17%)

**Employment:** work stress, shift work

**Built enviro:** community design (urban vs rural), housing, **access to services** (school, medical)

Motor vehicle reliability: 58% population drives < 5 km to/ from work, 80% > 20 km away from work

**Housing:** affordable = <30% of b4 tax + **no repairs or overcrowding**

13% Can. have no access to proper housing

**Child dev. :** **parent's SES** + gov't policies

**Education:** > education = > \$ + healthy behaviour

Lack of Ed = welfare, jail, illness & injury

# key problems of SDOH:

Theme1 - *\$ has influence* health

Social factors & forces that shape health: vaccines, medical treatment = lower mortality & improved life quality

Theme2 - (materialist, neo-materialist, psycho-social comparison)

Pathways:

Social factors:

Materialist (exposures + behav), psychosocial stress, neo-materialist (causes + socio-econ resources),

Theme3 - Lifecourse:

Accumulated effects of experience across lifespan

Theme4 - Public Policy: SDOH are not independent factors & quality matters

Theme 5 - Political ideology

# Lecture #8

## SDOH perspectives & action



# Materialist explanations

Material living conditions - **exposures** to negative living conditions determines health quality

**Psycho-social factor** Individual experience of inequality = **stress** & poor health

Adopting **health coping behaviours**: responses for low income/ employment/ housing/ food security

# Neo-materialist explanations

**socio-econ resources** in population

**Variations in SDOH** (materialist) and ID social forces that determine quality & distribution of conditions

# Life course Perspective

Latent effects = **bio/** development experiences that influence **health** later in life

Life-Pathway affects = individual **experiences** influence **health** over lifespan

Cumulative effects = build up of + or - **health** over time

# Professional & social discourse

health/ illness beliefs by professionals, public & politicians

**Traditional approaches** = (Health Sci) uses Quant & stats approach objective/ **no context, focus on individuals**

## Policy change

Pluralist perspective: public ideas -----> policy dev

Materialist perspective: powerful interests (lobbyists) ---> policy dev

Public choice model: focus on *policy maker* & their implementation, mix of social + political dynamics

## 4 recommendations

**Social investment** = social net

Pension plan, medicare, EI, free post-secondary Ed, supportive housing, nat'l Pharmacare

**Social capacity** (community driven decision making)

What works best, what the community wants, Ed. + training programs

**Intersectoral action**

Partnerships + collaboration between health, econ, employment, education etc

**Leadership** of good ideas