



A Snapshot of Ottawa Public Health Action to Improve Health Equity

Table 1 – Examples of Ottawa Public Health's actions to address the social determinants of health and to improve health equity

Role	Action
Assess and Report	<p>Examples of Ottawa Public Health (OPH) efforts to raise awareness about health inequities and/or their impact include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and dissemination of OPH reports that consider the social determinants of health. Specific examples include: State of Ottawa's Health 2014; Nutritious Food Basket Survey Reports) and contributions towards community partner reports such as Ottawa Neighbourhood Study); • Enhanced monitoring/reporting on Indigenous health initiatives through quarterly reports and tracking tools; • Collection of social determinants of health data as part of Healthy Sexuality and Risk Reduction Unit program planning and evaluation (for example, use of a client satisfaction survey to gather data).
Modify and Orient	<p>Gradually increasing the application of the Health Equity Impact Assessment tool during program planning.</p> <p>Examples of targeted OPH programs and services for diverse groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Parenting and Pregnancy Circles with Indigenous partners; Wabano Dental Clinic; satellite sexual health services; smoking cessation support at construction sites; healthy eating initiatives at food banks; flexible food safety training and food handler's certification; integration of social worker into Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program; and Harm Reduction Action Plan that focuses on services for identified priority populations.

Role	Action
Partner With Other Sectors	<p>Examples of OPH partnerships to improve health equity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation on various intersectoral committees and working groups, including: Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership; Aboriginal Working Committee; Ottawa Community Housing; Ottawa Poverty & Hunger Working Group; Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health Food Security Work Group; Basic Income Guarantee Ottawa Group; City Planning Groups (e.g. built environment). • Collaborative initiatives include: Urban Indigenous Health Strategy for Ottawa; ESL lesson plans; Health Skills, Health Smart Program; enhanced response to support Syrian refugees; MarketMobile; Good Food in Corner Stores; Operation Hairspray; Better Strength, Better Balance program; helmet discounts; and participation in the planning of various community events targeting diverse communities.
Policy Development	<p>OPH efforts to advance health public policies that address health inequities. Specific examples of policy development initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy work with: Poverty and Hunger Working Group, Infant and Early Child Mental Health Initiative working groups; Community and Social Services Department re: social assistance review; Ottawa Suicide Prevention Coalition; Supervised Injection Sites; Child Care Healthy Eating and Active Living Guidelines; After-School Program Healthy Eating and Active Living Guidelines; and Smoke-Free Housing Policy.
Organization and System Development	<p>Activities to enhance OPH's ability to reach and serve diverse communities experiencing health inequities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health equity explicitly identified in the organization's foundational principles and strategic priorities, and embedded in human resource policies that promote diversity and inclusion; establishment of a Health Equity Leadership Committee (HELC); integration of a health equity lens into OPH operational planning and evaluation guides; and development of a health equity webpage on Ozone. • Ongoing education opportunities related to health equity (for example: Health Equity Impact Assessment and Equity & Inclusion Lens training; management workshop; staff orientation) and cultural safety (for example: OPH Grand Rounds; Indigenous Agency Tour; Aboriginal Awareness Day; online cultural safety training; OPH First Nations, Inuit and Métis Outreach Network; and knowledge exchanges with service providers working with diverse groups).