Research Evidence to Practice: Early Child Development as a Determinant of Health

Society for Behavioral Medicine
Montreal, QC
April 24, 2009

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The NCCDH is located at St.FX University, Nova Scotia & receives funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada
Outline

Who we are?
Where we have been?
Future directions
Work we can do together?
The National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

- National Collaborating Centres
  - Aboriginal Health
  - Environmental Health
  - Infectious Disease
  - Methods and Tools
  - Healthy Public Policy
  - Determinants of Health

Knowledge to Action
National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

Core Business: Knowledge synthesis, translation and exchange
- “getting evidence in the hands of decision makers” (practice, program and policy)
National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health

**Focus:** The social and economic factors that influence the health of Canadians

**Mission:** Engage public health practitioners, policy-makers and researchers to better include knowledge about the social determinants of health in policy and public health practice decisions that will contribute to social justice and health for all
Global Concern: World Health Organization
Commission Social Determinants of Health

Closing the gap in a generation

Knowledge to Action
WHO Commission: Knowledge Networks

- Early child development
- Women and gender equity
- Employment conditions and health inequalities
Evidence into Practice Cycle

International reviews of research findings

Evidence briefings

Research gaps

Analysis of practice implications

Practical advice

Dissemination

Evidence from practice

Analysis of change needs

Appraisal of current practice

Change support with individuals/organisations


Knowledge to Action
Knowledge Translation Process

Issue Identification

Preparatory Phase

Tool Refinement
- Consultation
- Concept development
- Agenda setting
- Identify knowledge sources

Knowledge Development
- Theoretical frameworks
- Evidence summary/review

Knowledge Synthesis and Exchange

KT Forums
- Knowledge synthesis
- Knowledge exchange
- Strategic development
- Practical guidance

KT Exchange Networks
- Topics selected
- Electronic exchange forum
- Partnerships with other NGO’s
- Follow up KT meetings

Capacity Building

Resource Development
- Program planning tools
- Implementation guides

“Learning sites”
- Documenting practices
- “curriculum development”
- On-site knowledge exchange

Knowledge to Action
Preparatory Phase

- Environmental scan
- Pan-Canadian inventory of Public Health early child development home visiting programs
- Annotated bibliography – International and Canadian
- Discussion paper on ECD home visiting
- Review of evidence summaries
  - Existing literature reviews
  - Systematic reviews
  - Synthesis of the syntheses

Knowledge to Action
Why Focus on Public Health Early Child Home Visiting?

- Environmental scan identified early child home visiting as an established Public Health practice
- Home visiting is widely used in Canada and around the world
- Lack of clarity regarding the evidence to support the practice of home visiting
- Lack of knowledge of the variety of home visiting programs across Canada
Why Focus on Public Health Early Child Home Visiting?

• Abundance of studies have evaluated the effectiveness of home visiting with mixed results
• Debate and contradiction about the:
  – benefits of home visiting
  – role of public health nurses versus paraprofessionals as home visitors
• Variation in approach and quality of home visiting programs
  – length, intensity, components, level of training of the home visitor, and target audiences
WHO Commission: Knowledge Network

- Developed Synthesis Document (1:3:25) – in progress
- TEAM ECD & scenario

Knowledge to Action
Nurturant Environments: TEAM-ECD Model

Foundational Principles:
• equity-based
• interaction between child and their environments is integral
• successful ECD occurs in nurturing environments


Knowledge to Action
Early Child Development Forum: Exploring the Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting

Purpose:

Facilitate Knowledge Synthesis, Translation and Exchange (KSTE) around effective strategies for home visiting and the contribution to early child development as a determinant of health.
Early Child Development Forum: Exploring the Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting

Objectives:
• profile selected home visiting programs
• explore the relationship between home visiting and health equity
• explore knowledge from stories and scenarios to help apply “what works” to improve policy and practice
• identify and prioritize policy and practice issues that could be addressed by the Collaborating Centres
Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting
Early Child Development Forum: Exploring the

• Co-hosts: National Collaborating Centres for Aboriginal and Determinants of Health
• Saskatoon, SK
• October 2008
Early Child Development Forum: Exploring the Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting

Innovation:

• Memory Sticks
• Knowledge Exchange Fair
• Cultural Evening
• Raffi – Child Honouring
Early Child Development Forum: Exploring the Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting

- **Attendees:** ~125 Public Health Nurses, Home Visitors, Community Health Representatives, Medical Officers of Health, Decision Makers and Researchers

- **Speakers:** from across Canada

- **Showcase:** Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia (aboriginal) Home Visiting Programs

- **Application:** TEAM ECD descriptor and scenario
Participant Feedback

• “Best conference I have attended for public health nursing.”

• “We were able to learn from the experiences, challenges and evaluations of programs to assist us ...regionally and provincially to move our ECD programs to another level in order to strive for excellence. It was an excellent opportunity for learning and sharing.”

• “…an example of knowledge translation in action.”
Participant Priorities

1. Tools
2. Training
3. Business Case
4. Workforce Development and Human Resources
5. Models
6. Communication/Advocacy/Community of Practice
7. Evaluation
8. Striving for Excellence
9. Cultural Implications
Setting our Direction

The NCCAH and the NCCDH are committed to supporting the public health community to create the conditions for children to thrive equally in their physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive development.
Opportunities and Challenges

“Man did not weave the web of life – he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself.”

- Chief Seattle 1854
Thank You
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