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Population health planning: who does what, where and how?

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Population health in Australia

- **How defined?**
- **Depends on the context....**

Population health

- **Population health/planning**
- **Health planning**
- **Planning for a defined population**

Also around identified strategies:

- **Healthy communities/cities**
- **Communities for children**
- **Family friendly outer suburban areas**

Planning for defined issues

The prevention of illness, injury and disability, reduction in the burden of illness and rehabilitation of those with a chronic disease. This includes both opportunistic and planned interventions in the general practice setting.

Management of individual problems at population levels

Screening for high-risk populations

Planning for priority populations

- **Rural and remote populations**
 - **Children, youth, older people**
 - **Indigenous people**
 - **Refugees**
- Or issues:**
- **Mental health, cancer prevention, diabetes, environmental health, Hep C**
etc

How governments see their role

WA: Collection and maintenance of health data from a variety of sources, including population surveys, registry data and administrative data. These data assist in setting priorities, appropriate targeting of programs, and evaluating their effectiveness.

SA: core business (of PROS) is the monitoring and surveillance of population health and chronic disease epidemiology. Epidemiology, the primary science of public health, is concerned with the monitoring and surveillance of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in human populations. Information obtained from population health surveys is used to inform policy, programs and health services that will promote the health and well being of the South Australian population.

AIHW definition – health system focused

The study of population health is focused on understanding health and disease in community, and on improving health and well-being through priority health approaches addressing the disparities in health status between social groups.

There are a number of population subgroups who do not enjoy the same level of health as the general population and identified as priority population groups.

The population health role of the Institute is to provide timely and accurate information required to identify priority population groups and diseases where health promotion efforts should be directed.

- **There are three priority areas for health interventions:**
- **Priority population groups;**
- **Priority age groups; and**
- **Disease priorities.**

WA

Population health is characterised by planning and intervention for better health in populations (or subpopulations) rather than focussing on the health of individuals. The core business of population health is disease minimisation through health protection activities such as immunization, health promotion and the provision of preventative health services, such as screening programs and community based services.

SA: Health in all Policies (HiAP)

Health in all Policies (HiAP) is an innovative **policy strategy** that responds to the critical role that health plays in the economies and social life of 21st century societies. It introduces **better health** (improved population health outcomes) and **closing the health gap** as a **shared goal** across all parts of Government and addresses complex health challenges through an **integrated policy response** across portfolio boundaries. By incorporating a concern with **health impacts** into the policy development process of all sectors and agencies it allows Government to address the key **determinants of health** in a more systematic manner as well as taking into account the benefit of improved population health for the goals of other sectors. Health in all Policies is committed to the achievement of **sustainability** and the health and wellbeing of both present and future generations.

SA Strategic Plan to which HiAP applied

The Plan contains 98 targets, the majority of which have a 2014 timeframe, arranged across the following six interrelated objectives:

Growing Prosperity

Improving Wellbeing (which contains a number of health specific targets)

Attaining Sustainability

Fostering Creativity and Innovation

Building Communities

Expanding Opportunity

Dept of Health and Ageing

Population Health Division is committed to improving the health and well being of Australians and to reducing preventable mortality and morbidity caused by chronic disease.

We do this through evidence based promotion of healthy lifestyles, good nutrition and participation in sport and other physical activity and through the early detection of cancer and other lifestyle limiting conditions. This will increase Australians' healthy life expectancy and improve their capacity to participate in society.

Queensland Dept of Health

Population health is the prevention of illness and injury; and the protection and promotion of health and wellbeing through organised efforts and informed choices of society, organisations (public and private), communities and individuals.

A population health approach is characterised by:

- addressing the entire range of risk and protective factors that determine the health of the community, including environmental and socio-economic factors, community capacity, health behaviours and person-related factors
- action targeting the entire population and/or sub-populations.

Queensland Dept of Health

Population health services of the Division target the entire population (or sub-populations), rather than providing personalised treatment and care services for individuals and small groups.

Population health practitioners work with a range of partners including local governments and other state and national government departments, non government organisations and Health Service Districts. Population health practitioners come from a range of professions, including, environmental health, epidemiology, health promotion, public health medicine, public health nursing, public health nutrition and public health officers working across various program areas.

Western Australia

Population health is characterised by planning and intervention for better health in populations (or subpopulations) rather than focussing on the health of individuals. The core business of population health is disease minimisation through health protection activities such as immunization, health promotion and the provision of preventative health services, such as screening programs and community based services.

Victoria

Health status of Victorians *Your Health* reports 2003, 2007

Victorian Health Information Surveillance System (VHISS)

Burden of disease, Life Expectancy report

Victorian Population Health Survey

Environments for Health

Ambulatory care sensitive conditions

Avoidable mortality

Fair Health Facts 2009

Victoria: Fair Health Facts 2009: report on inequalities in health

15 summary indicators for picture of fair health in Victoria. Where reliable data are available, the Victorian average is compared to the experiences of four population groups identified by A Fairer Victoria.

Those groups are:

- socio-economically disadvantaged
- Indigenous
- residents of rural and regional areas
- people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Indicators organised into four sections that reflect a model of cause, potential change and current action.

The aim of reducing inequalities in health is integral to Victorian health and human services programs. This is evident from investments in Victoria's acute health system, prevention programs such as tobacco control and broader action to address social disadvantage.

Public Health Agency of Canada

Population health is an approach to health that aims to improve the health of the entire population and to reduce health disparities among population groups.

In order to reach these objectives, the Agency is looking at and acting upon the broad range of factors and conditions (determinants of health) that have a strong influence on our health.

Dual aims of population health

- to improve the health and well-being of whole populations **and**
- to reduce inequalities and inequities among and between specific population groups (ie, health equity)

A shift in thinking about 'health'

- **The population health approach recognizes that health is a capacity or resource rather than a state of not being ill**
- **This definition corresponds more to the notion of health being about having capacities and opportunities to pursue one's goals, to acquire skills and education, and to grow.**

Population health/health planning can only be about the health of populations if it:

- **Embeds the social and societal determinants of health**
- **Is inter-sectoral and driven by government and its agencies**
- **NO ONE SECTOR HAS OWNERSHIP OF THESE PROCESSES**
- **Embeds prevention and promotion of health and well-being**
- **Is grounded in effective and meaningful community engagement**
- **Tackles health and social disadvantage with intentions to narrow social inequalities**

Social determinants of health

Social determinants of health are those factors that influence the health of people and communities and include:

- Early childhood growth and development;
- Education and lifelong learning;
- Employment/unemployment;
- Working and living conditions
- Access to affordable food;
- Transport;
- Race and ethnicity;
- Gender, gender norms and gender diversity;
- Sexuality;
- Cultural norms and mores;
- Ageing;
- Social support and community networks; and,
- Access to affordable health and social care services.

Societal determinants of health

Societal determinants of health refer to the economic, political, historical, and structural influences that impact on the health and well-being of people and communities.

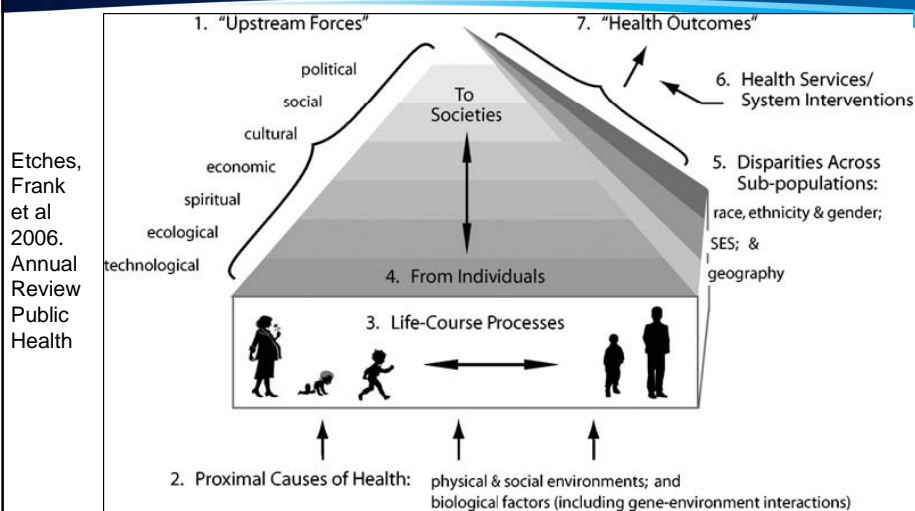
The societal determinants of health manifest at global, national, community and household levels.

In Australia, these include:

- the impact of colonialism on Indigenous peoples;**
- the welfare system;**
- the health system and health insurance policy;**
- taxation policy;**
- regulation of the food manufacturing and retailing industry;**
- trade agreements that affect food security for example; and,**
- the privatisation of public goods such as water, transport systems and education.**

Sweden's domains for population health

1. Participation & influence in society
2. Economic & social security
3. Secure and favourable conditions during childhood and adolescence
4. Healthier working life
5. Healthy and safe environments and products
6. Health and medical care that actively promotes good health
7. Effective prevention of communicable diseases
8. Safe sexuality and good reproductive health
9. Increased physical activity
10. Good eating habits and safe food
11. Reduced use of addictive substances, a society free of illicit drugs and doping, and reduction in the harmful effects of gambling



Etches, Frank et al 2006. Annual Review Public Health

Canadian conceptual framework for population health

Data related to contemporary population health

- **Linked databases from multiple sources and sectors**
- **Longitudinal surveys used to understand trends rather than incidence from snapshots**
- **Analysis of interactions between multiple determinants of health**

From data to interventions

- **Maps of indicators**
- **Intervention mapping to achieve outcomes**
 - Interventions need to be multi sector and multi-level
- **Outcomes at various levels (short, medium, long term) measured by the indicators**

Four core elements of population health planning

- 1. A values statement about the type of equity approach being taken**
- 2. Identify government and non-government responsibility for intersectoral collaboration**
- 3. Articulation of the approaches/ frameworks being used**
- 4. Description of the evaluation strategies used to measure outcomes**

Risks for population health strategies

- A focus on a high-risk groups can potentially widen health inequalities**
- Worsening of health inequalities if insufficient attention paid to fundamental causes of poor health, or**
- If interventions are blind to structural (ie social and economic) barriers to change**

Capacity Building for Population Health

Framework of:

- **Organisational development esp partnerships and collaborative approaches to interventions**
- **Workforce development**
- **Resource allocation**
- **Partnerships**
- **Leadership**
- **Infrastructure, program sustainability and problem solving**