

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Interview



Ontario
Health

Seeking Perspectives on Addressing SDoH to Improve Population Health in Ontario

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Ontario Health social determinants of health interview.

We are so excited to learn your perspectives.

This document will help you understand why we're conducting these interviews.

The interviews will not seek to gather any information that is personal in nature and no personal information/personal health information should be shared.



As a determinant of health, medical care alone is insufficient in ensuring better health outcomes.

<https://nam.edu/social-determinants-of-health-101-for-health-care-five-plus-five/>

Introduction


What is Ontario Health?

We are an agency created by the Government of Ontario to connect, coordinate and modernize our province's health care system. We work with partners, providers and patients to make the health system more efficient so everyone in Ontario has an opportunity for better health and wellbeing.

Ontario Health's five multi-year strategic priorities are:

1. Reduce health inequities
2. Transform care with the person at the centre
3. Enhance clinical care and service excellence
4. Maximize system value by applying evidence
5. Strengthen Ontario Health's ability to lead.

This interview is focused on the following two priority areas in particular:

 Reduce health inequities	 Transform care with the person at the centre
<p>Improving care with and for those who need it most;</p> <hr/> <p>Engaging those we serve to understand health and wellness from their perspectives and partnering to take action to make improvements;</p> <hr/> <p>Working to address the distinct needs of individuals and communities across the province; and,</p> <hr/> <p>Focusing on the full care continuum, including our role and the health system's role in contributing to upstream social determinants of health and preventative care.</p> <hr/>	<p>Supporting people in Ontario to take an active role in their care, including preventative care;</p> <hr/> <p>Collaborating with patients in order to continuously improve planning and delivery of quality care;</p> <hr/> <p>Asking how care can be better delivered using both existing and new approaches and tools; and,</p> <hr/> <p>Working with Ontario ministries, funded and non-funded partners including municipalities and social services to support and enable more connected and coordinated care.</p> <hr/>

Background

The [WHO defines health](#) as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Our work at Ontario Health is grounded by our framework for equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism (EIDA-R). One of the key components included in the framework is *contributing to population health*.

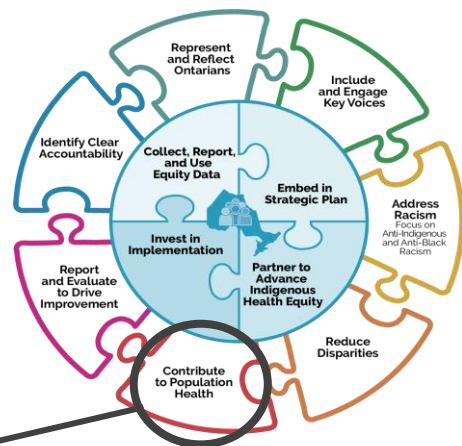
The operating model at Ontario Health includes a new Population Health and Value-Based Health Systems Portfolio which is divided into four streams:

- ❖ Ontario Health Team (OHT) Strategy and Policy
- ❖ Value-based Care
- ❖ Patient Access and Clinical Transformation
- ❖ Primary Care and Social Determinants of Health

This description below of population health outlined from the [Ontario Health EIDA-R Final Report](#) provides context for our work. Social determinants play an important role in our ability to shift the population curve from unhealthy to healthy while meeting individual unique needs.

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To improve the health of the population, we all need to work together. To achieve this end, we must have different strategies for how health and other social service leaders, providers, partners and impacted community members come together with a collective focus on the determinants of health.



Population-wide approach to **shift the curve**



Objectives for Our Interview

We are currently conducting an environmental scan to understand the current state of social determinants work underway related to improving health outcomes. This includes existing work within Ontario Health, a literature review, jurisdictional scan and key informant interviews. The purpose of the environmental scan is to help us identify the critical components and key priorities required to operationalize a social determinants approach to care delivery.

The goal of this interview is to build on our literature review, gathering context on work from leading organizations like yours, to help us understand processes and the principles required more deeply. These perspectives will be synthesized with the rest of our environmental scan to create a guidance document/framework for the health care system. Below outlines our specific objectives:

- 1)** Validate and expand our learnings of the current landscape of work that is advancing a commitment to address the determinants of health impacting population health outcomes.
 - What best practices/use cases exist
 - What are the key barriers and facilitators impacting operationalization
 - What data is collected, when, by whom and how is it being used

- 2)** Gain a deeper understanding of the principles required to enable a health system approach to addressing social determinants
 - What are the critical components and key priorities to action
 - How do these elements impact health outcomes (quadruple aim)
 - Who are the key actors/stakeholders required, what partnerships currently exist

- 3)** Use this information to develop a guidance document/framework to ensure frontline providers and other health professionals have the tools and information they need to address the distinct needs of individuals and communities.
 - What frameworks/guidance documents and tools already exist
 - What metrics are being used/what evidence is available



Appendix – Definition of Social Determinants of Health

World Health Organization

“The social determinants of health (SDH) are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems.

The following list provides examples of the social determinants of health, which can influence health equity in positive and negative ways:

- Income and social protection
- Education
- Unemployment and job insecurity
- Working life conditions
- Food insecurity
- Housing, basic amenities and the environment
- Early childhood development
- Social inclusion and non-discrimination
- Structural conflict
- Access to affordable health services of decent quality.

Research shows that the social determinants can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health. For example, numerous studies suggest that SDH account for between 30-55% of health outcomes. In addition, estimates show that the contribution of sectors outside health to population health outcomes exceeds the contribution from the health sector.

Addressing SDH appropriately is fundamental for improving health and reducing longstanding inequities in health, which requires action by all sectors and civil society.”

https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1