Measuring Health Inequalities: A Toolkit — Supplementary Resources

This document contains a list of organizations that have produced helpful resources to support planning for, analyzing and reporting on health inequalities. The resources listed below complement CIHI's Measuring Health Inequalities: A Toolkit. If you have suggestions for this list, please email populationhealth@cihi.ca.

Table 1   Analysis planning

Organization	Examples of resources
Alliance for Healthier Communities, Ontario	Health equity resources: Resources to support health care organizations' capacity for equity-informed planning, data collection, data analysis and evaluation. Includes tools such as an organizational assessment survey, frameworks, templates and sample plans.
Canadian Institute for Health Information	*A Performance Measurement Framework for the Canadian Health System* (2013)
Fraser Health, British Columbia	*Community Planning Tool: Applying a Health Equity Lens to Program Planning* (2018)
Government Alliance on Race and Equity, U.S.	Racial Equity Toolkit: An Opportunity to Operationalize Equity
Health Equity Office, Sinai Health System, Toronto, Ontario	Measuring Health Equity: Demographic Data Collection in Health Care: Resources that include training materials for data collectors, patient education materials and an implementation guide.
Institute for Healthcare Improvement, U.S.	*Achieving Health Equity: A Guide for Health Care Organizations* (2016)
Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington Public Health, Ontario	Health Inequities Series fact sheets (2019): Fact sheets to support understanding of concepts related to social determinants of health and health inequities, and how they relate to public health program standards in Ontario.
National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health	Introduction to Health Equity online course: A 5-module course to help public health professionals develop skills for health equity work. Assessing and Reporting on Health Inequities webinar (2019)
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, U.S.	*A Roadmap to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care* (2014)
World Health Organization	Health Equity Assessment Toolkit: A software application and user manual. *National Health Inequality Monitoring: A Step-by-Step Manual* (2017)

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Table 2   Evidence search and appraisal

Organization	Examples of resources
Campbell and Cochrane Equity Methods Group	Resources for review authors Health equity in systematic reviews online module (2020)
Individual authors	Applying Systematic Review Search Methods to the Grey Literature: A Case Study Examining Guidelines for School-Based Breakfast Programs in Canada (2015) How do Cochrane Authors Conduct Web Searching to Identify Studies? Findings From a Cross-Sectional Sample of Cochrane Reviews (2020) Systematic Reviews: Constructing a Search Strategy and Searching for Evidence (2014)
National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools	Evidence-Informed Decision Making in Public Health: Resources, such as online modules and recommended tools, that relate to the evidence-informed decision making process. Online modules of interest (requires registration for a free National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools account): Critical Appraisal of Systematic Reviews and Critical Appraisal of Intervention Studies.

Table 3   Community engagement

Organization	Examples of resources
Black Health Equity Working Group, Ontario	Engagement, Governance, Access and Protection: A Data Governance Framework for Health Care Data from Black Communities (2021): A framework developed by Black health sector leaders and equity experts in Ontario to support the collection, management, analysis and use of race-based data from Black communities in ways that advance health equity.
National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health	A Guide to Community Engagement Frameworks for Action on the Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity (2013) Let's Talk: Community Engagement for Health Equity (2021)
Tamarack Institute	Index of Community Engagement Techniques: A comprehensive list of community engagement techniques that can be selected based on the planned level of engagement and a tool for working through some of the main considerations when planning to engage. Community Engagement Planning Canvas

Table 4 Access data sets and indicator results

Organization	Examples of resources
Canadian Institute for Health Information	*Asthma Hospitalizations Among Children and Youth in Canada: Trends and Inequalities* (2018) Data Availability for CIHI Data Holdings Make a Data Request Health Indicators Interactive Tool Health Inequalities Health System Performance Indicators and Indicator Resources
Canadian Research Data Centre Network	Information on how to access Research Data Centres for Statistics Canada survey, Census and administrative data sets Data set descriptions and resources (e.g., search data sets such as PCCF [Postal code conversion file])
Health Research Data Network Canada	Data Access Support Hub: A one-stop service portal, providing coordinated data access support for researchers requiring multi-jurisdictional data in Canada.
Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, University of Manitoba	Manitoba Population Research Data Repository: A comprehensive collection of administrative, registry, survey and other data relating primarily to residents of Manitoba. Concept dictionary and glossary: A series of tools to support the application of a variety of theoretical frameworks, analytical techniques, statistical approaches and mapping resources appropriate for use with administrative databases.
Public Health Agency of Canada	Health Inequalities Data Tool Social Inequalities in COVID-19 Mortality in Canada by Individual- and Area-Level Characteristics, January to July/August 2020 Key Health Inequalities in Canada: A National Portrait (2018)
Statistics Canada	Access to Microdata: Statistics Canada offers a range of data access options for research. Data sets include the Canadian Community Health Survey, Canadian Health Measures Survey, Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, and General Social Survey. Data: Web page featuring publicly available data tables, visualizations and community/region profiles. Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics Hub: A collection of Statistics Canada products related to gender, diversity and inclusion in Canada, as well as information on gender statistics in the international context. It includes and connects to the Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation Hub. It also serves as the primary platform for disseminating products and information related to Statistics Canada's Disaggregated Data Action Plan. Postal code conversion files, including PCCF+: Statistics Canada disseminates the PCCF and PCCF+ files to their share partners and to institutions participating in the Data Liberation Initiative. Other organizations should contact the Canada Post Corporation with a Request for Licensed Data Products for licensing and cost information.

Table 5 Indices used in Canada for health inequality measurement and reporting

Organization	Index	What it measures	Jurisdictional coverage*
Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital	Canadian Marginalization Index (CAN-Marg)	Marginalization: Longitudinal, based on dimensions of residential instability, material deprivation, ethnic concentration and dependency	Canada Data available at dissemination area (DA) and census tract levels, as well as larger areas such as census metropolitan areas
Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital & Public Health Ontario	Ontario Marginalization Index (ON-Marg)	Marginalization: Based on dimensions of residential instability, material deprivation, ethnic concentration and dependency	Ontario Data available for small (e.g., DA) and larger areas (e.g., local health integration network)
Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ)	Material and Social Deprivation Index	Material and social deprivation: Based on education, unemployment, income, living situation (e.g., living alone or with others), marital status and family structure (e.g., single-parent families)	Canada Data is available at the DA level and has been applied at small-area levels provincially and nationally
Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, University of Manitoba	Socioeconomic Factor Index, Version 2 (SEFI-2)	Socio-economic status: Based on unemployment, household income, family structure and education	Canada (originally Manitoba) Data available at the DA and census subdivision levels
Statistics Canada	Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation	Material and social deprivation: A cross-sectional index based on dimensions of residential instability, economic dependency, ethno-cultural composition and situational vulnerability	Canada, provincial (Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia) and regional (Atlantic, Prairies) Data available at the DA level
University of Waterloo	Canadian Index of Wellbeing	Quality of life: Based on 8 domains of wellness: community vitality, democratic engagement, education, environment, healthy populations, leisure and culture, living standards, and time use	Canada Data available at provincial and regional levels with some limitations

Note

* For definitions of census geographies such as DAs, please see _Measuring Health Inequalities: A Toolkit — Area-Level Equity Stratifiers Using PCCF and PCCF+._

Table 6   Analysis

Organization	Examples of resources
Canadian Institute for Health Information	Measuring Health Inequalities Toolkit: Calculating Stratified Rates and Inequality Measures: Methodology and Code in SAS and R
Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence, U.S.	*A Framework for Stratifying Race, Ethnicity and Language Data* (2014)
Individual authors	Measuring Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Care: Methods and Practical Issues
National Cancer Institute, U.S.	Health Disparities Calculator (HD*Calc)
Policy Link, U.S.	*Counting a Diverse Nation: Disaggregating Data on Race and Ethnicity to Advance a Culture of Health* (2018)
Public Health Ontario	*Small Area Analysis: A Primer for Public Health Units* (2018) *Summary Measures of Socioeconomic Inequalities in Health* (2013)

Table 7   Reporting and communication

Organization	Examples of resources
American Medical Association, U.S.	*Advancing Health Equity: A Guide to Language, Narrative and Concepts*
Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), U.S.	*GARE Communications Guide* (2018)
National Cancer Institute, U.S.	*Making Data Talk: A Workbook* (2011)
National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health and Canadian Public Health Association	*Communicating the Social Determinants of Health: Income Inequality and Health* (2014)
University of Michigan in partnership with theRobert Wood Johnson Foundation, U.S.	Visualizing Health: A Scientifically Vetted Style Guide for Communicating Health Data

For more information:

populationhealth@cihi.ca

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