Equity Lens in Public Health (ELPH)

Promoting Health Equity: The Contribution of Public Health Services in BC

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Partners

BC Health Authorities

- Fraser Health
- Interior Health
- Northern Health
- Provincial Health Services Authority
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver Island Health Authority

BC Provincial Government

- BC Ministry of Health

Universities

- University of British Columbia
- University of Northern BC
- University of Victoria

Provincial Organizations

- Public Health Association of BC

National Organizations

- National Collaborating Centre on the Determinants of Health
- Public Health Agency of Canada

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Promoting Health Equity

- Political endeavor engaging with values about the focus, worth and importance of SDOH
- Health systems reflect dominant values (e.g. individualism, efficiency)
- Reorientation of the health system through the social determinants of health (Baum,
- Intersectorial Collaboration as a strategy

Purpose of ELPH

The purpose of this program of research is to guide and inform learning about the integration of an equity lens in public health and to contribute knowledge of health inequities reduction.

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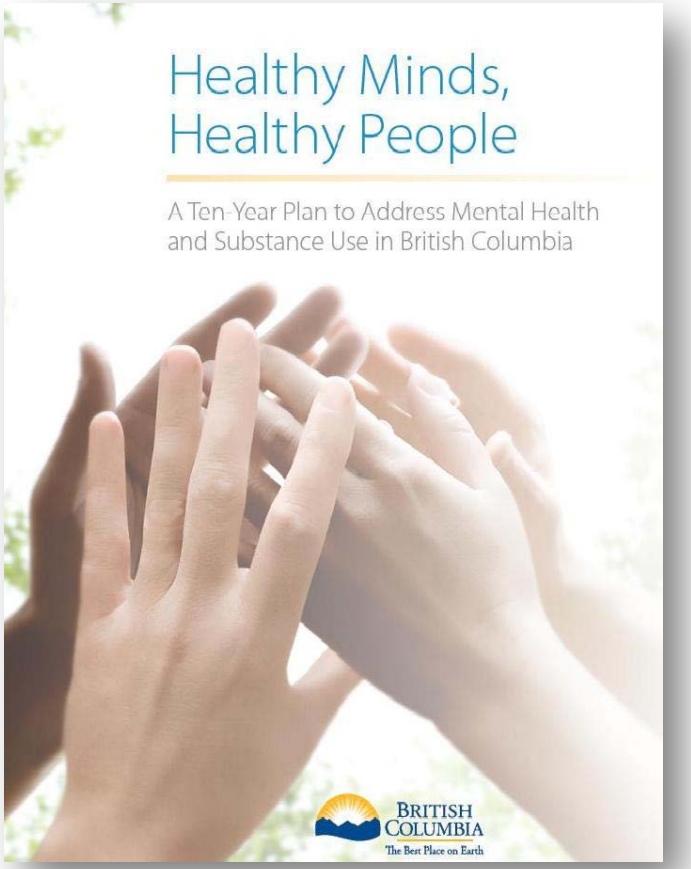
Population Health Intervention

Population health interventions are policies or programs within the health sector or between sectors that have the potential to impact health at the population level.

- Public Health Renewal Processes in BC (e.g Core Functions, KRA's)



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Complex Adaptive Systems (CPHRI Program of Research)

- Need to understand complexity of interventions within adaptive systems (IPPH)
- Multiple interacting actors create emergent priorities at the systems level
- Complex interventions in a complex systems and through non-linear interactions will produce outcomes and changes in the environments

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ELPH Grant Goals

- Identify and understand the **contextual influences** that promote uptake of health equity as a priority in the health system;
- Explore the **engagement** of public health with other sectors in health inequities reduction in mental health promotion and prevention of harms of substance use;
- Critically analyze the theoretical and practical utility of existing **equity tools**;
- Develop a theoretical understanding of the **ethical issues** encountered by public health practitioners in their efforts to reduce health inequities for those impacted by social disadvantages.

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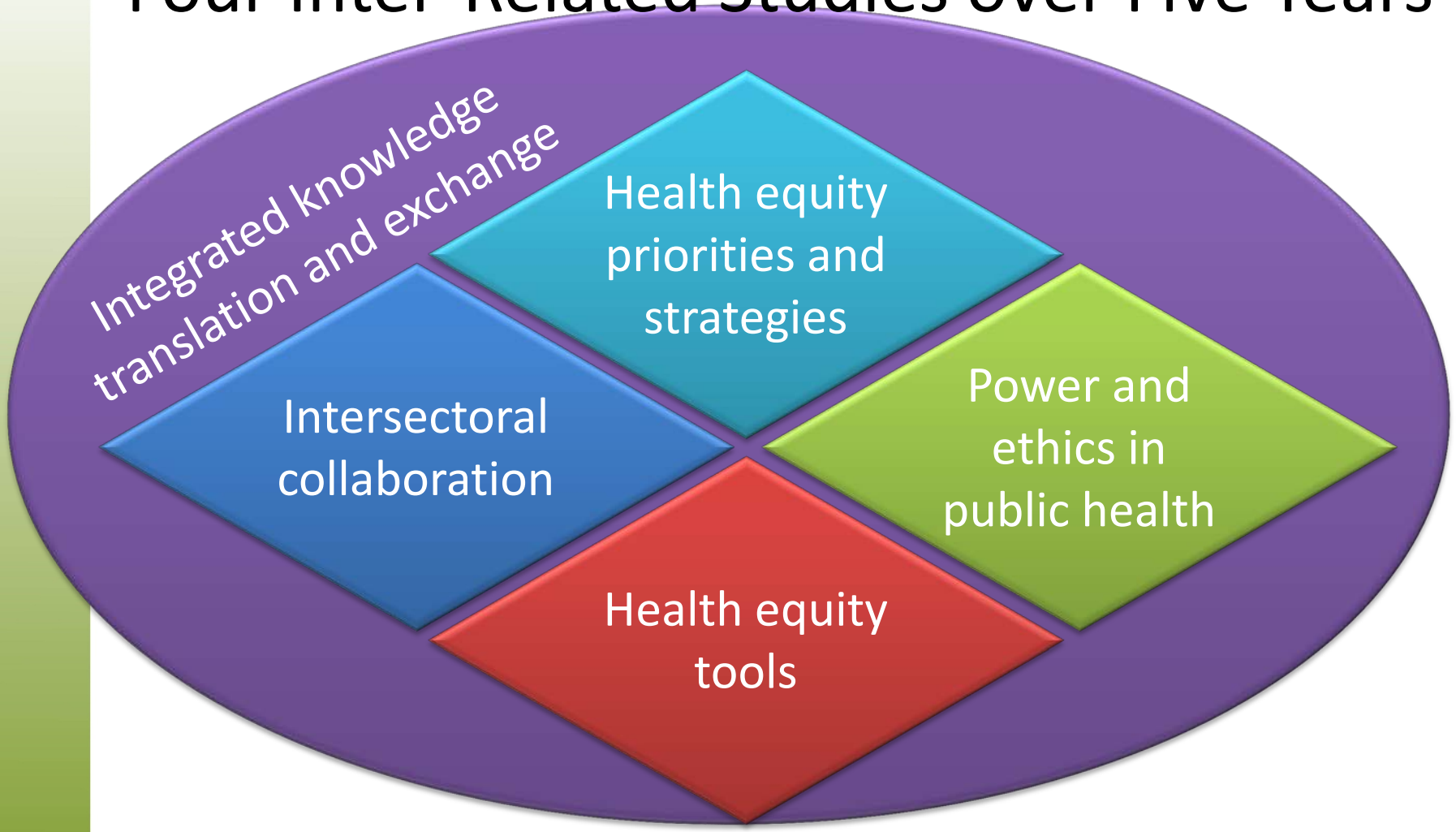
Four Inter-Related Studies over Five Years



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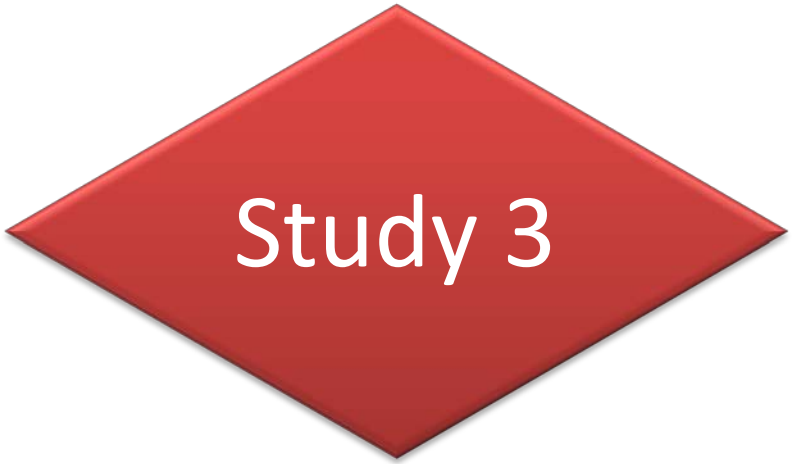

Assessing the Theoretical and Practical Utility of Health Equity Tools

1. What health equity tools are available?
2. What is the theoretical relevance of available tools?
3. What is the practical utility of available tools?

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What is a health equity tool?

By “tool” we mean a document that either **assesses** the degree to which health equity is included in policies or programs, **measures** health equity, or **promotes** the inclusion of health equity in policies or programs.

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Inclusion Criteria

- peer-reviewed or grey literature
- published in English
- 2011 or before
- all geographic areas
- document types: reports, peer-reviewed articles and any document that self-identified as a tool, guide, resource, audit or framework for health equity

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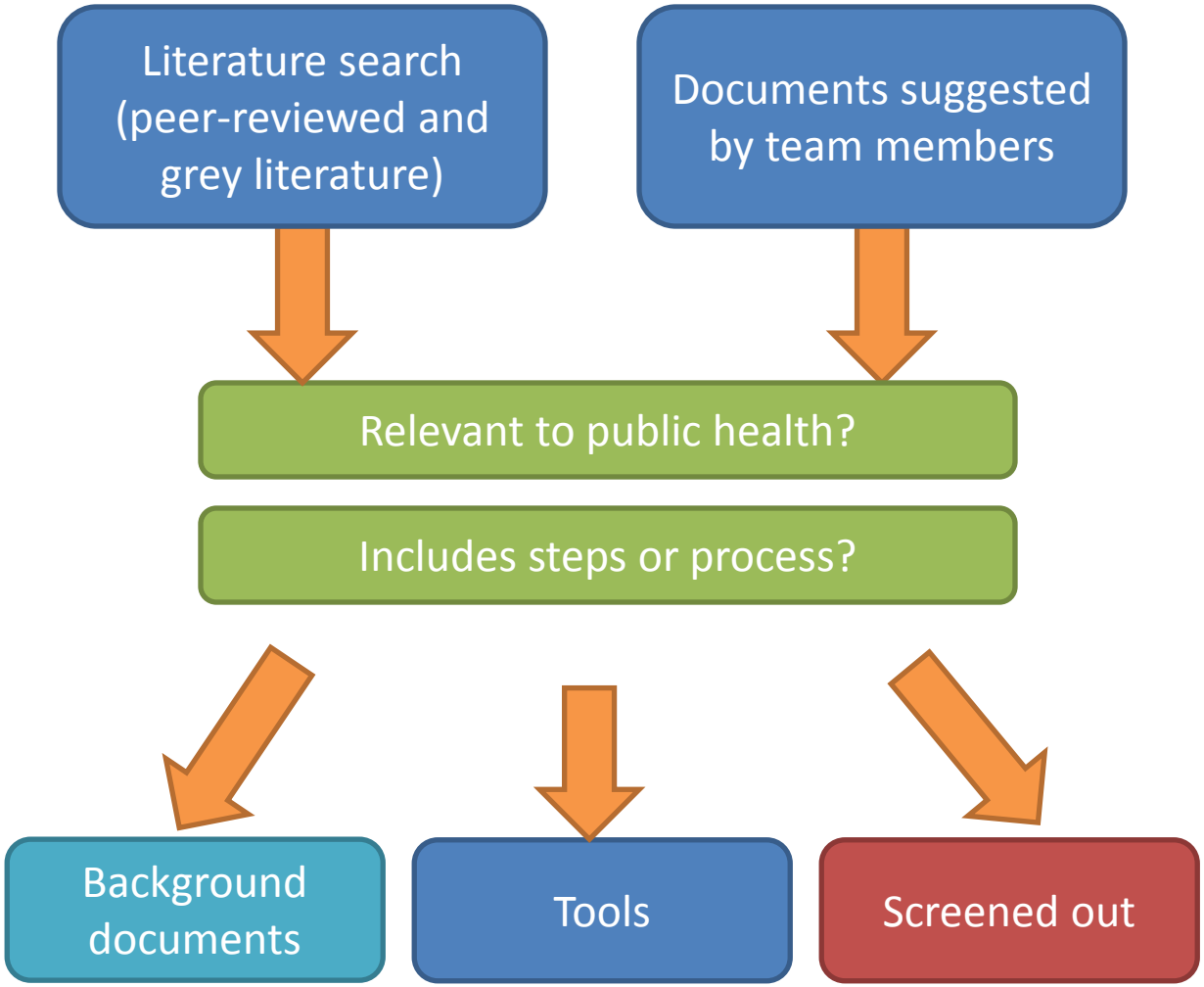

Assessing Practical Utility: Concept Mapping

A health equity tool should….

Rating questions

- How important is this statement for assessing the **practical utility** of an equity tool?
- How important is this statement for assessing the **effectiveness** of an equity tool?
- How **feasible** is it to apply this statement to an equity tool?
- How much would this statement help to determine if and equity tool has **impact in your area work**?
- How much does this statement accurately outline **what you are looking for** in a health equity tool?

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Integrated Knowledge Translation and Exchange

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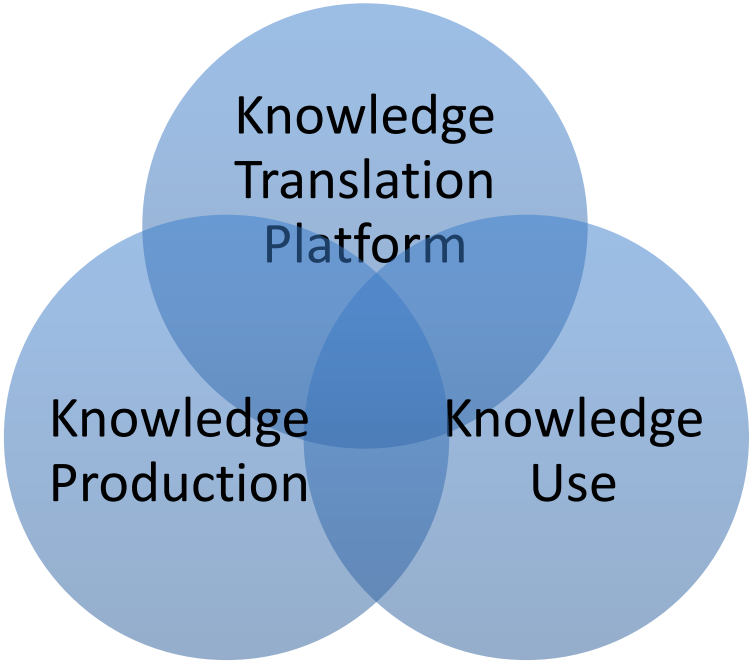
Integrated KTE



Adapted from Lavis et al., 2006

"The objective of the KTE Plan is to engage in an innovative knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) process to strengthen and improve health sector innovation for reducing health inequities"

All team members are Knowledge Users and Knowledge Producers at different points in time

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Systems Transformation:

- Making HE a Priority: Role and activities in public health to promote health equity within the health care system
- Identifying prominent social actors and strengthening social networks to promote health equity.
- Systematic evaluation and dissemination of health equity tools
- Enhancing and supporting ethical practice to promote health equity.
- Mechanism: Integrated KTE and Feedback Overtime

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Funders

Public Health Agency of Canada

Agence de santé publique du Canada