



Public Health Summit
October 26 – 29, 2008
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Providing Public Health Programs Through a Health Equity Lens

Claire Warren
Isabelle Michel



At a glance...



What we know about the Social Determinants of Health & Health Inequities



**How do we make sense of it?
The **Rainbow** Model**



Guiding our health equity work
Storming, Forming, Norming, Performing



Next steps





**What do we know
about the SDoH and
health equities?**

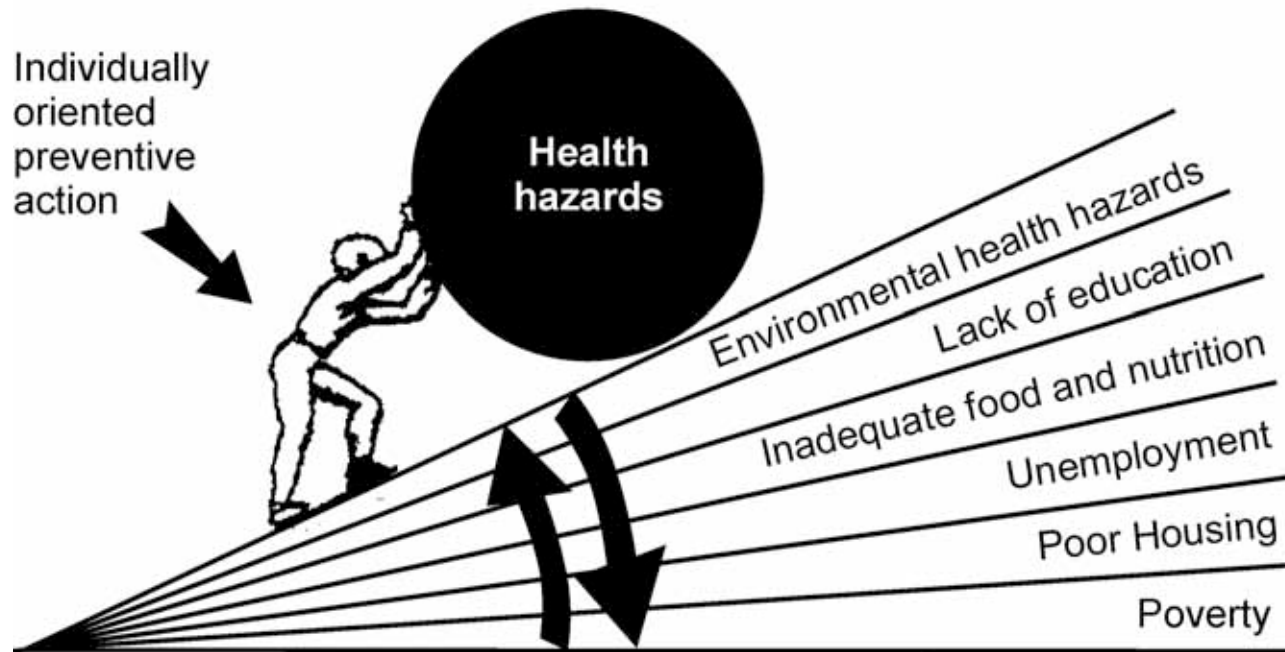


What we all know already...



What we all know already...

The Health Gradient



Source: adapted from Making Partners: intersectoral action for health.



Various terms utilized

Health
Differences



health
disparities

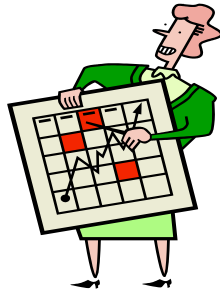
health
inequalities

The Health
Gradient

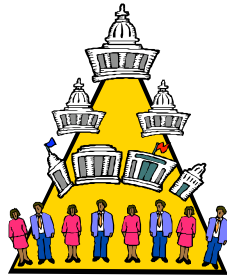
**HEALTH
INEQUITIES**



However, health inequities exists when...



Systematic



**Socially produced
(and therefore modifiable)**

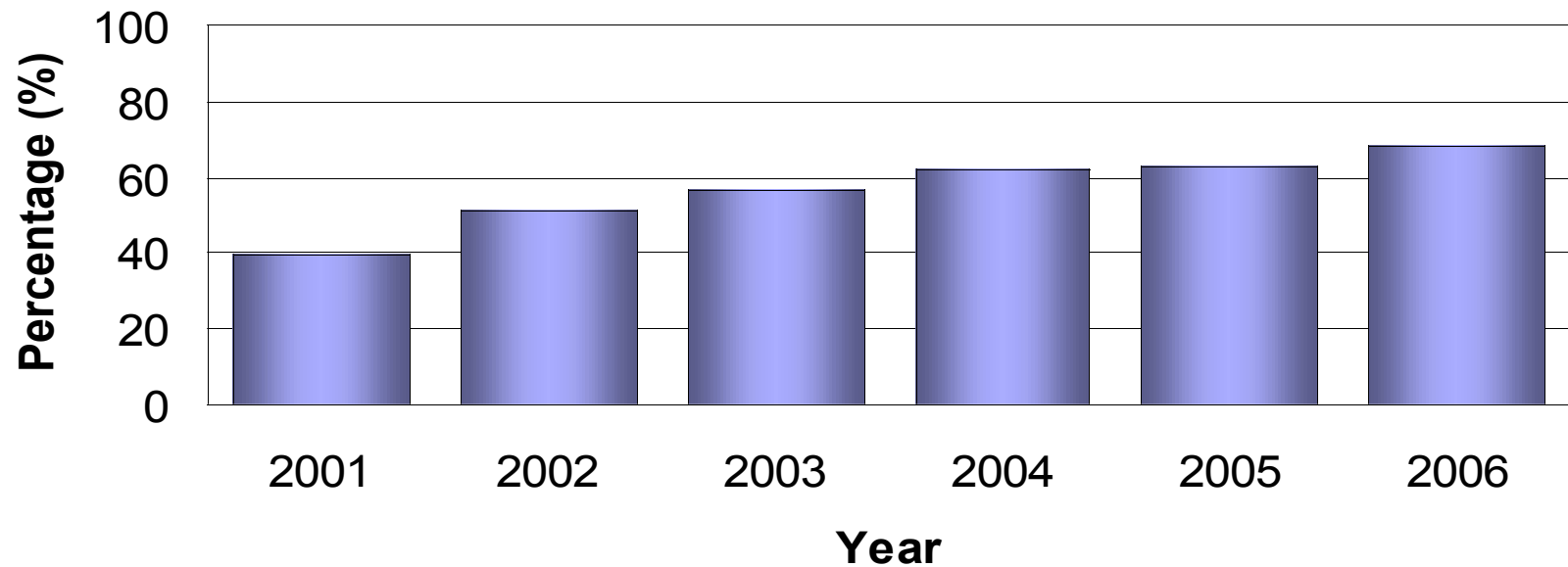


Unfair and unjust



For example...

Proportion of totally smoke-free homes within the SDHU area,
2001-2006.

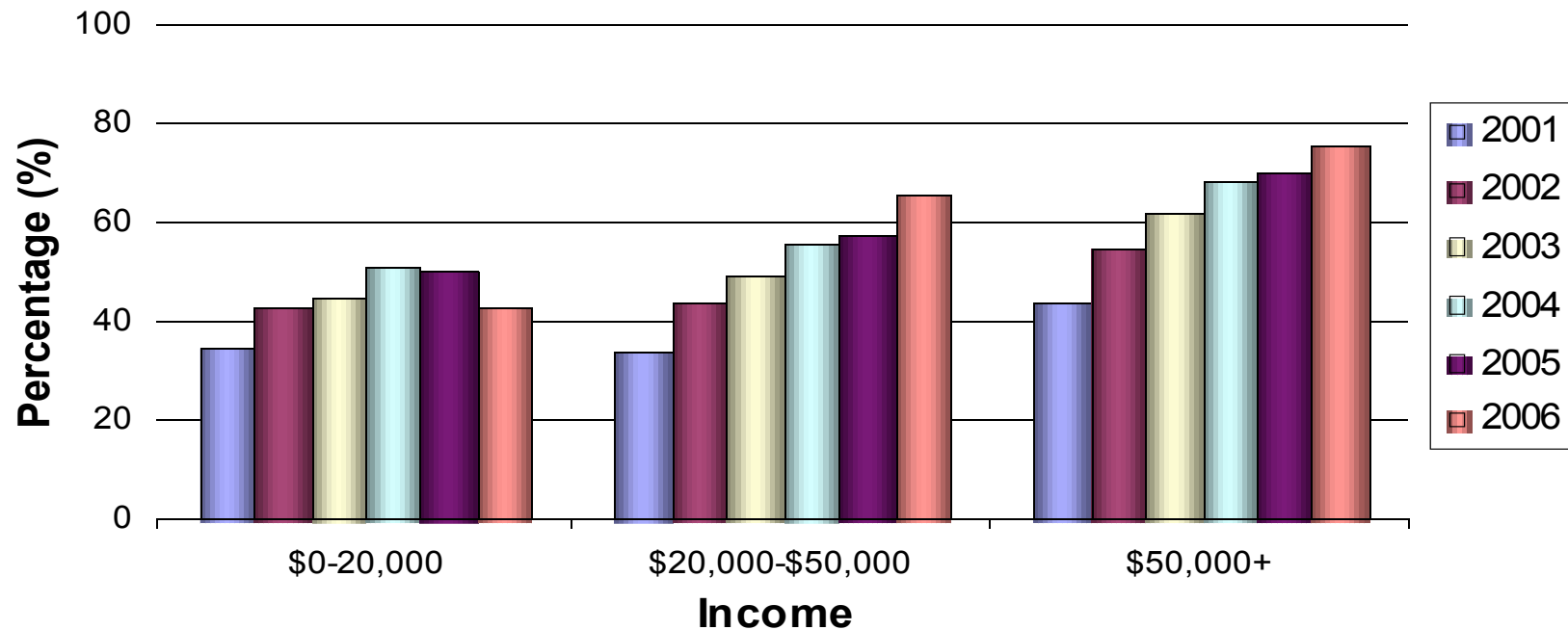


Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001-2006



... when we include income

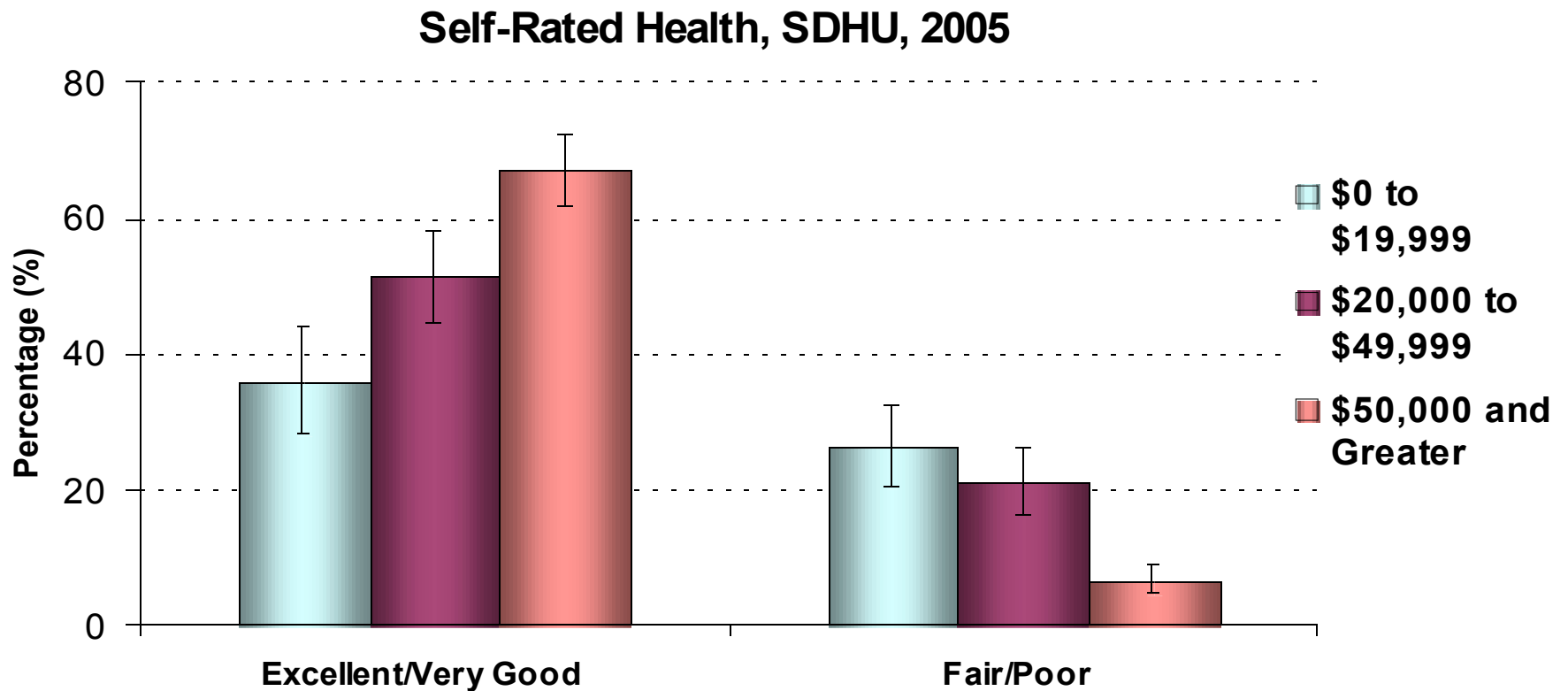
Proportion of totally smoke-free homes within the SDHU area, by household income, 2001-2006.



Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2001-2006



The health gradient...



Canadian Community Health Survey, 2005

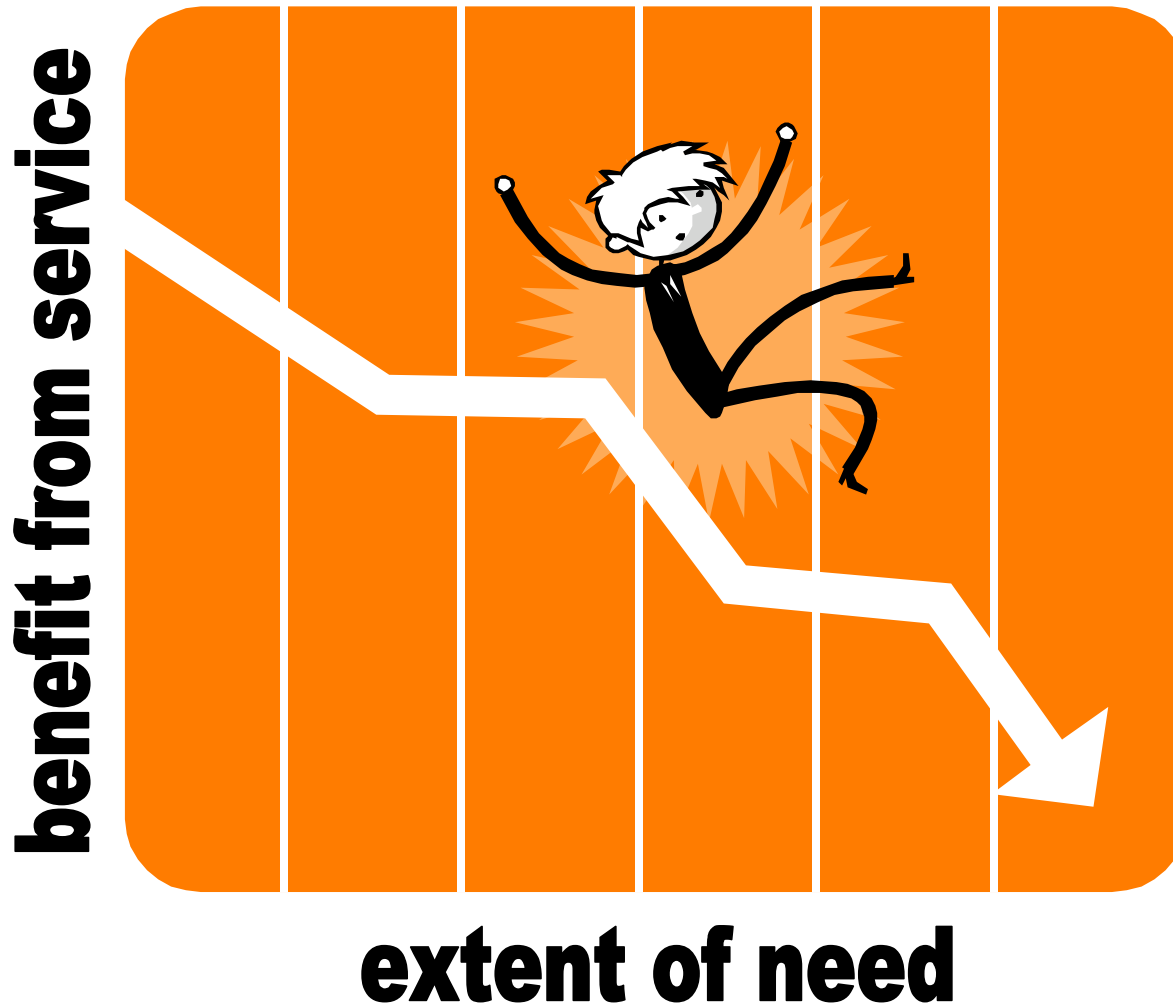




**Why a focus on
priority populations?**



The inverse law of care



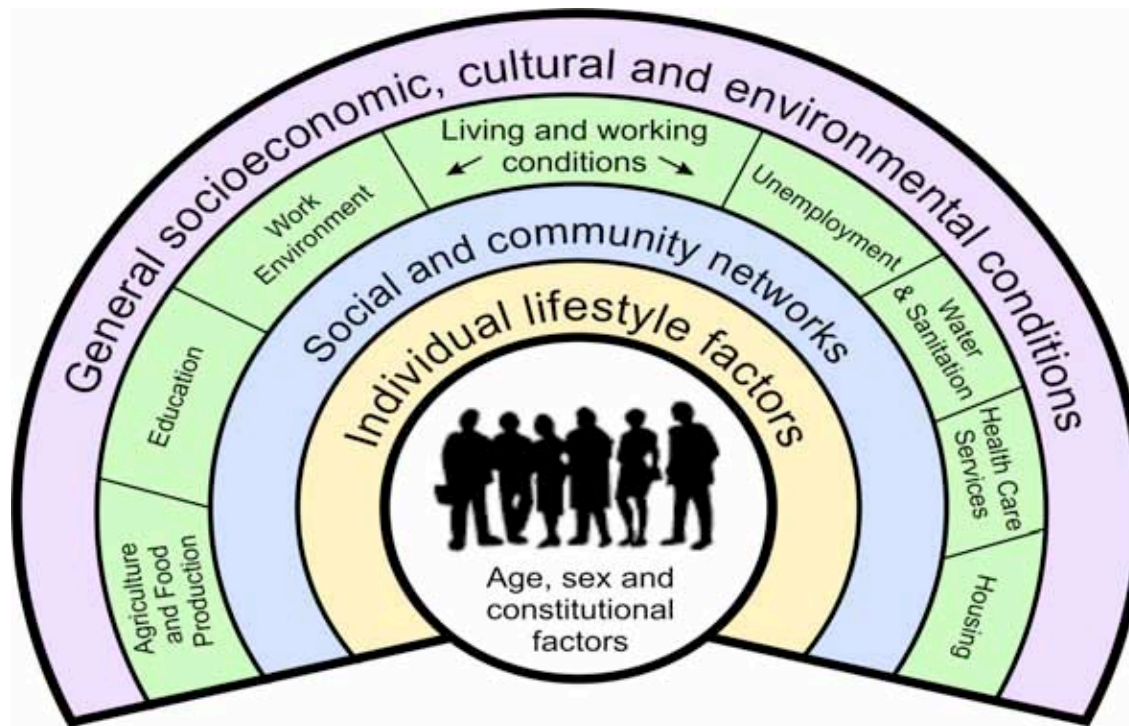


**How do we make
sense of it?**



Somewhere over the rainbow

Towards a Comprehensive Strategy to Tackle Social Inequities in Health



Dahlgren & Whitehead, 1993



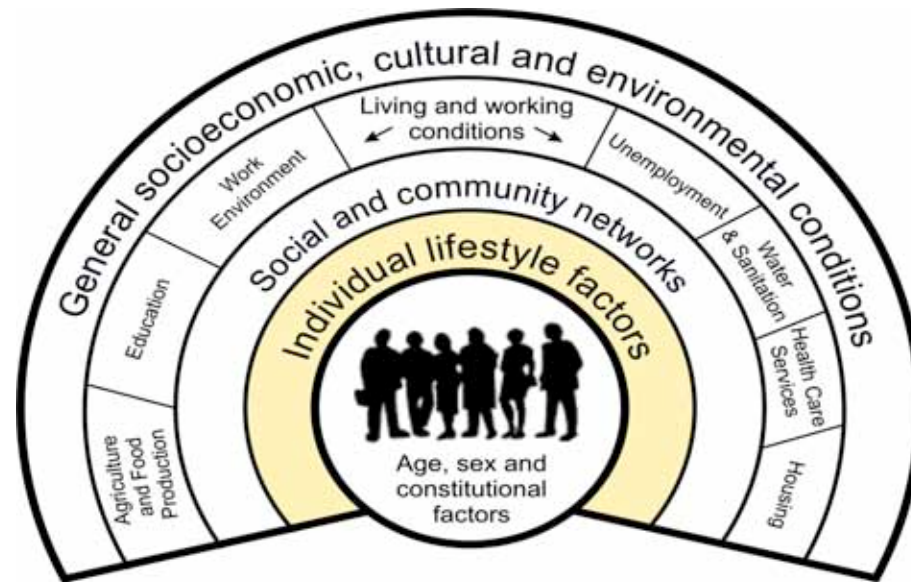
Guiding our health equity work

Storming - Forming - Norming - Performing

- ☑ Management discussions
- ☑ Tool development
- ☑ Health equity mapping task group
- ☑ Mapping analysis and results
- ☑ Implications for our program planning process vis-à-vis the new OPHS



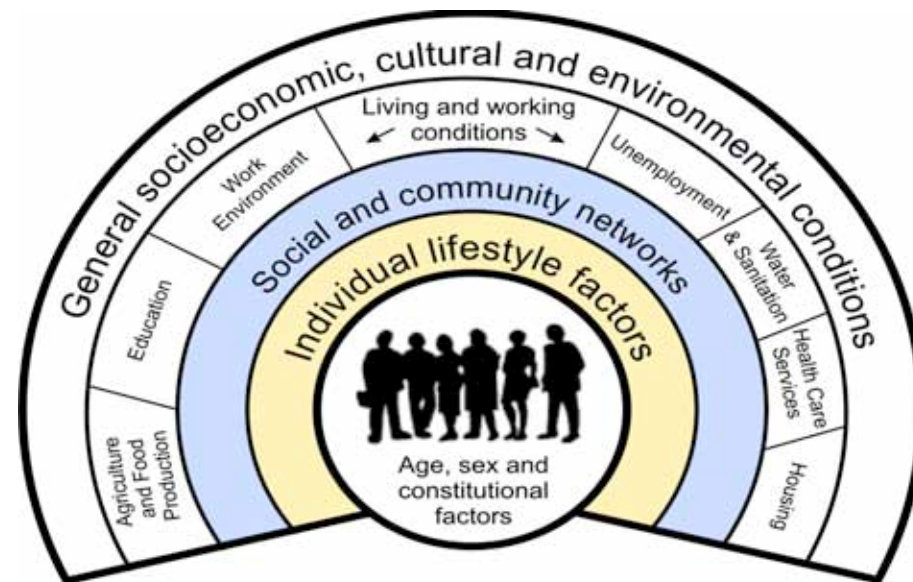
Lifestyle factors



In what ways can public health support healthy lifestyles among priority populations?



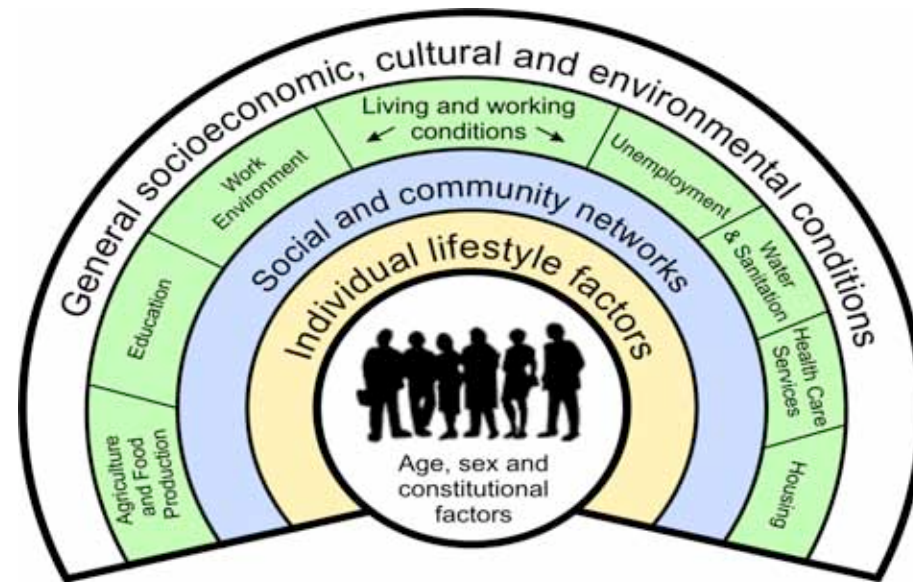
Social & Community Networks



In what ways can public health foster greater social support and community participation among priority populations?



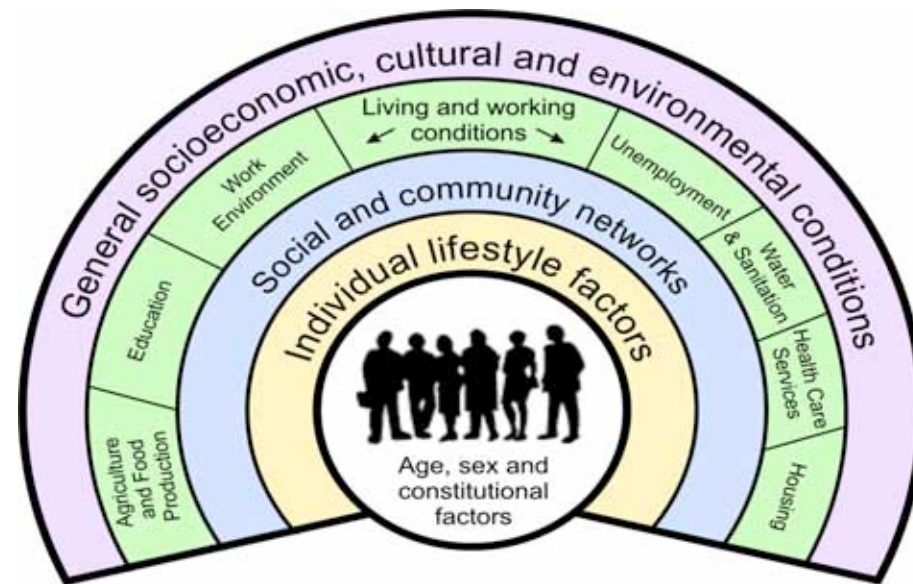
Living and working conditions



In what ways can public health improve the environments where people live, work, learn and play so that priority populations have greater access to opportunities for health?



Socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions



In what ways can public health improve the social and economic conditions (*the ROOT CAUSES*) that put individuals at greater risk of poor health?





**So, what are our
next steps?**



Norming: Mapping Analysis and Results



- ✓ The vast majority of our activities met layer 1, many others met layer 3
- ✓ Layer 2 – some issues in interpretation
- ✓ Few activities identified as having potential to address layer 4, however...
- ✓ Many programs were not deliberately incorporating approaches to meet the needs of priority populations



Norming: Lessons Learned



- ✓ Inconsistent mapping process
- ✓ Team mapping = better outcomes
- ✓ Interpretation of concepts
- ✓ Understanding public health's role in addressing layer 4
- ✓ Qualitative/descriptive information
- ✓ Health equity work often serendipitous
- ✓ Go-To person was key
- ✓ Takes time...



Performing: Implications for Practice



- ✓ Greater involvement of socioeconomic priority populations
- ✓ Foster ongoing skill development and knowledge exchange opportunities
- ✓ Allow time for trust building
- ✓ Open and transparent communication
- ✓ Clarity of public health's role
- ✓ Balance



Questions



Thank you!

Our contact information

Claire Warren

warrenc@sdhu.com

705-522-9200 ext. 239

Isabelle Michel

micheli@sdhu.com

705-522-9200 ext. 258



Public Health Programming Through a Health Equity Lens

Copyright for this document belongs to the Sudbury & District Health Unit. This document should not be reproduced, in part, or in whole, without written permission.

Written requests to reproduce this document, in part, or in whole, should be directed to the Sudbury & District Health Unit.

When permission to reproduce this document is granted, please ensure that the Sudbury & District Health Unit is credited.

© Sudbury & District Health Unit, 2008

