

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing, Ontario Report: A Public Health Perspective

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Ontario Public Health Standards

- **Need:** “The determinants of health will often inform what interventions are needed most.”
- **Impact:** “Public Health strives to influence broader societal changes that reduce health disparities and inequities.”
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** “Public health shall involve extensive partnerships within the health care sector, as well as other sectors (e.g., education, social services, housing etc...).”

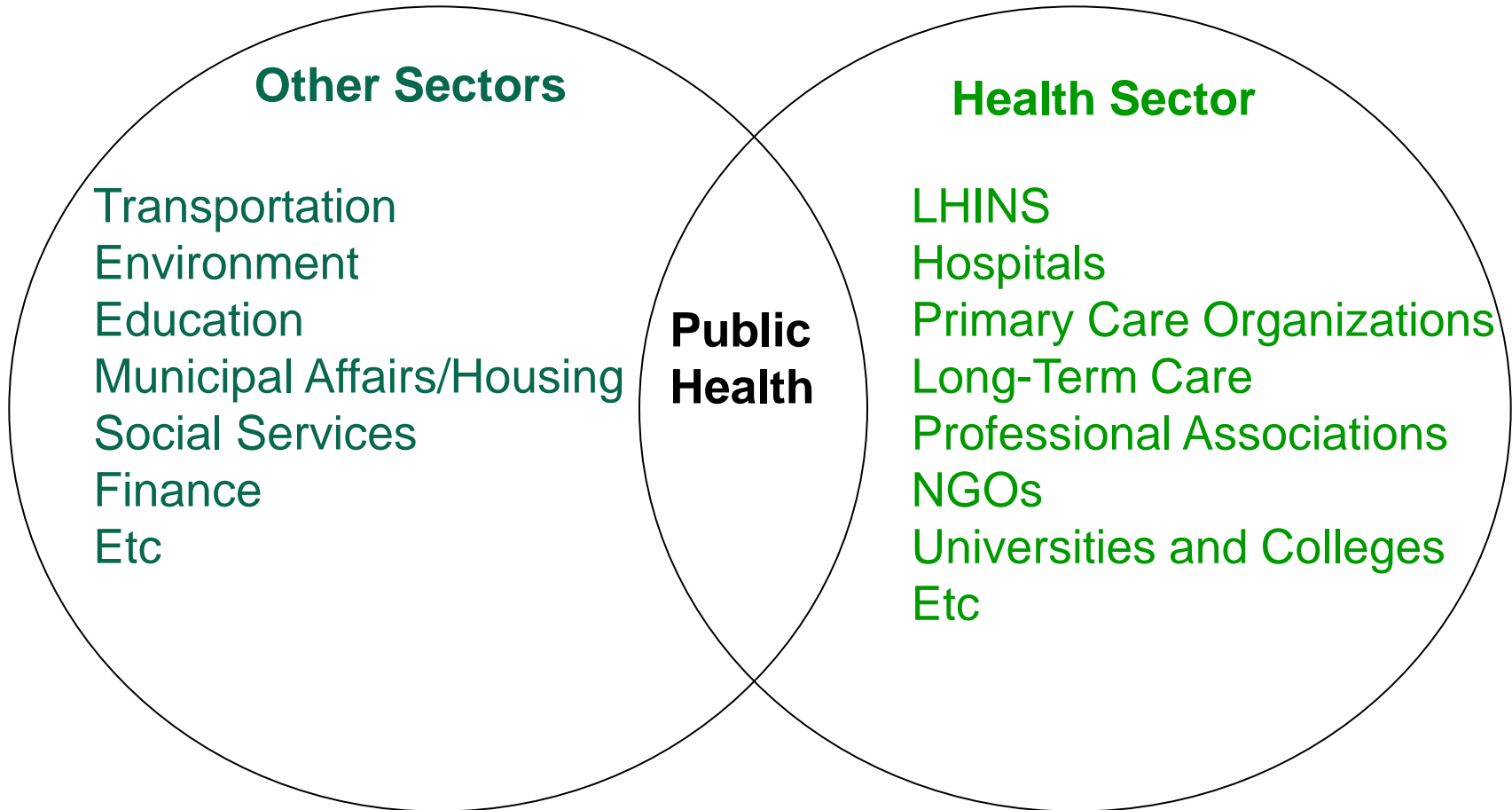
Ontario Public Health Standards

- *Foundational Standard:*
 - Health assessment includes measuring, monitoring and reporting on determinants of health and health inequities
 - Identification of priority populations
 - Tailoring programs and services to meet the needs of priority populations

Ontario's Public Health Sector Strategic Plan

- Mission Statement of the plan calls for effective partnerships and a focus on health equity.
- “Health is bigger than health care, so the public health sector’s efforts to promote health must be bigger than the health sector”. Particularly recognized that “factors that contribute to poor health are outside the control of the health sector”.
- “Public Health is uniquely positioned to create the bridge between the health sector and all other sectors that influence health”.

Public Health Paradigm



Local Public Health Action on Social Determinants of Health

- Data collection, analysis and reporting
- Public education and engagement
- Modifying programs and services
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Advocating for healthy public policies

Opportunities for CIW

- Expands our thinking about what to measure as social determinants, using common language
- Provides a clear tool for public engagement
- Presents opportunities for new partnerships with broad ownership, and funding
- Helps identify priorities for public policy action

Challenges

- Adequate capacity to access local data related to the domains and indicators of the CIW
- Limited financial resources to carry out a local survey (Value added?)
- Challenges of data sharing among partners
- Complementing or competing with local initiatives

Experiences from the Field

- Oxford and Simcoe-Muskoka
- Kingston
- Guelph

A Call to Action

- Can we find connections between the 8 policy domains to inspire positive policy change?
- Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy is a good example of successful advocacy by a broad coalition for measurable targets to reduce income inequality
- Early Years needs to be a focus for investment and effective protection/prevention re: child and lifelong well-being
- Built and natural environments
- Quality of Life and community building

THANK
YOU