



National Collaborating Centre
for Determinants of Health

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des déterminants de la santé



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FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

CENTRE DE COLLABORATION NATIONALE
DE LA SANTÉ AUTOCHTONE

Exploring the Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting to Early Child Development as a Determinant of Health

Blazing our trails... Tools, Tactics & Taking Charge

3rd National Community Health Nurses Conference

Calgary, AB

June 18, 2009

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Presentation Outline

- Set the context
- Describe the pan-Canadian Early Child Development Forum
- Share lessons learned
- Discuss the complexities of early child home visiting



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The National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

Six National Collaborating Centres

Aboriginal Health

Environmental Health

Infectious Disease

Methods and Tools

Healthy Public Policy

Determinants of Health



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Knowledge to Action

National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

Core Business

Knowledge synthesis, translation and exchange

- *“getting evidence in the hands of decision makers” (practice, program and policy)*
- *identify gaps in research evidence*



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Knowledge to Action

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Focus: The social and economic factors that influence the health of Canadians

Mission: Engage public health practitioners, policy-makers and researchers to better include knowledge about the social determinants of health in policy and public health practice decisions that will contribute to social justice and health for all



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Knowledge to Action

What is home visiting?

- Home visiting is employed to provide personalized and/or intense support to parents and children at risk of negative outcomes over the life course
- Home visiting is distinguished from other early child development programs as an intervention carried out, one to one, in the home with the aim of improving the experience and outcome of a child's early years



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Why Focus on Public Health Early Child Home Visiting?

- Environmental scan identified early child home visiting as an established Public Health practice
- Home visiting is widely used in Canada and around the world
- Lack of knowledge about the variety of home visiting programs across Canada
- Communication and collaboration across programs is limited



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Why Focus on Public Health Early Child Home Visiting?

- Lack of clarity about the evidence to support the practice of home visiting
- Abundance of studies have evaluated the effectiveness of home visiting with mixed results
- Variation in approach and quality of home visiting programs
 - length, intensity, components, level of training of the home visitor, and target audiences



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Why Focus on Public Health Early Child Home Visiting?

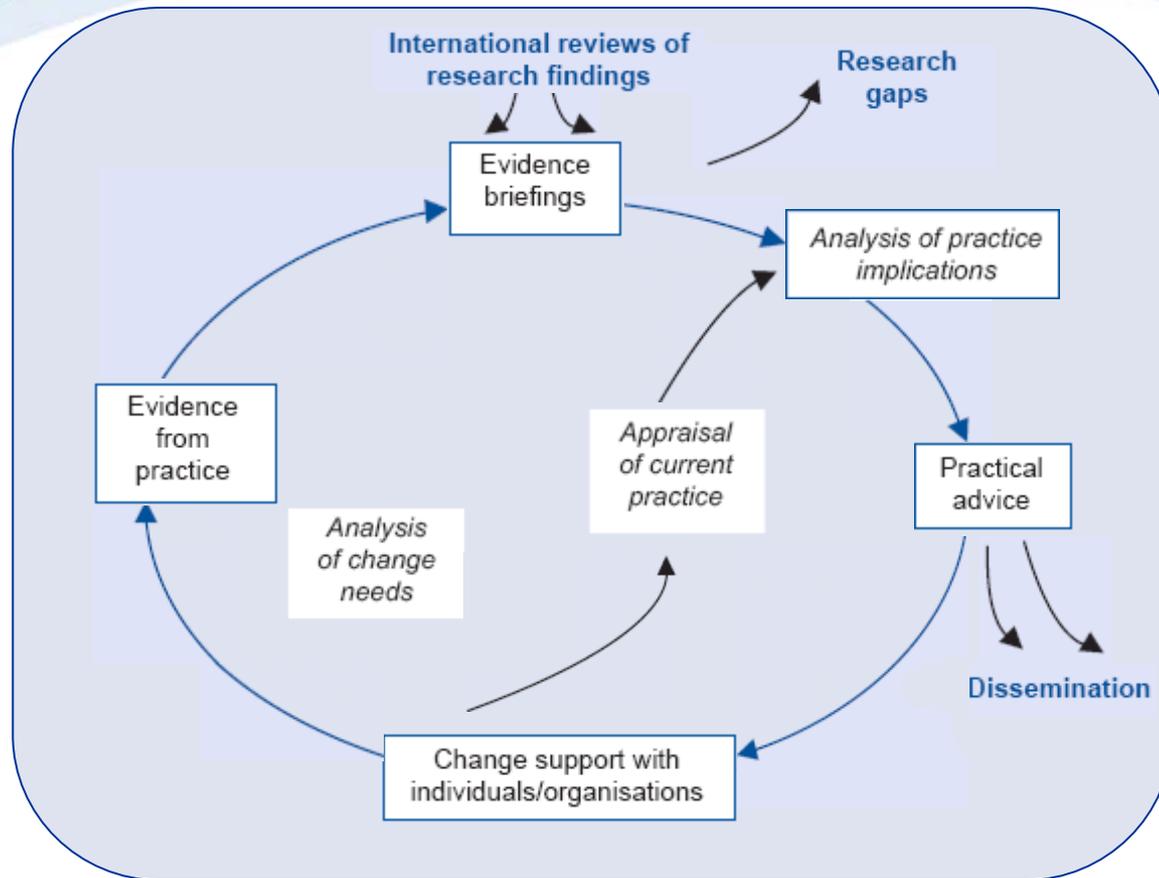
- Debate and contradiction about the:
 - benefits of home visiting
 - role of public health nurses versus paraprofessionals as home visitors



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Evidence into Practice Cycle



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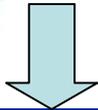
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Source: Kelly, Michael P; Viv Speller, Jane Meyrick
Getting Evidence into practice in public health. National Health
Service Health Development Agency, 2004.

Knowledge Translation Process

NCCID

Issue Identification



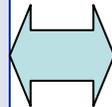
Preparatory Phase

Tool Refinement

- Consultation
- Concept development
- Agenda setting
- Identify knowledge sources

Knowledge Development

- Theoretical frameworks
- Evidence summary/review



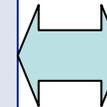
Knowledge Synthesis and Exchange

KT Forums

- Knowledge synthesis
- Knowledge exchange
- Strategic development
- Practical guidance

KT Exchange Networks

- Topics selected
- Electronic exchange forum
- Partnerships with other NGO's
- Follow up KT meetings



Capacity Building

Resource Development

- Program planning tools
- Implementation guides

“Learning sites”

- Documenting practices
- “curriculum development”
- On-site knowledge exchange



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Knowledge to Action

Preparatory Phase

- Environmental scan
- Annotated bibliography – International and Canadian
- Discussion paper on ECD home visiting
- Pan-Canadian inventory of Public Health early child development home visiting programs



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Knowledge to Action

Knowledge Synthesis Phase

- Review of evidence summaries
Synthesis of the WHO Knowledge Network papers
- TEAM ECD and scenario
- Synthesis of the syntheses (Review of the reviews)

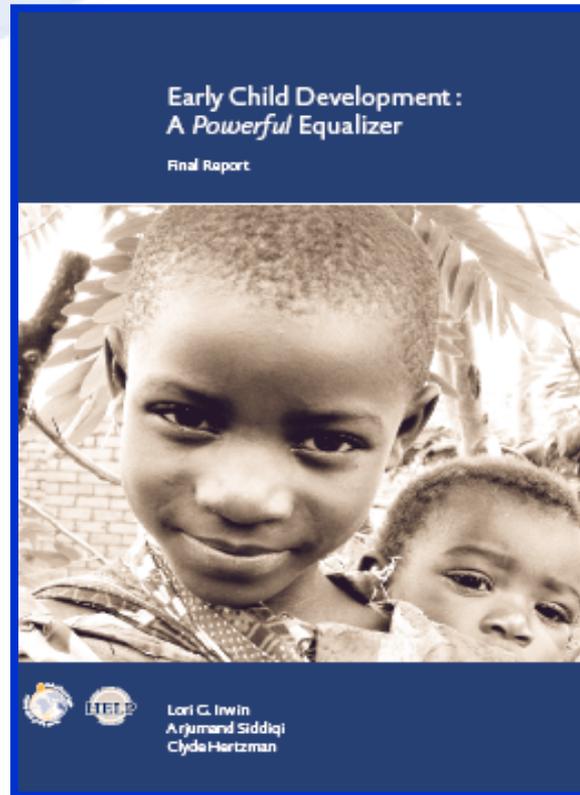


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Knowledge to Action

WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health: Knowledge Network



- Developed Synthesis Document (1:3:25) – **in progress**
- Total Environmental Assessment Model for Early Child Development (TEAM ECD)



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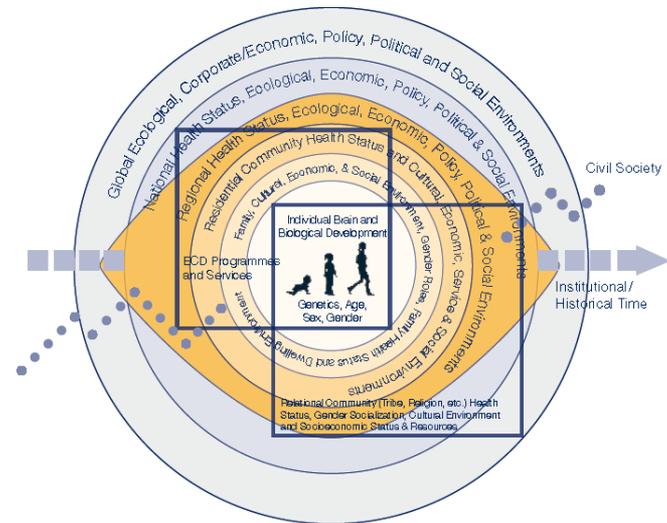
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Knowledge to Action

Nurturant Environments: TEAM-ECD

Foundational Principles:

- equity-based
- interaction between child and their environments is integral
- successful Early Child Development occurs in nurturant environments



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Source: WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health. (2007). Early Child Development: A Powerful Equalizer. WHO: Switzerland.

Early Child Development Forum: Exploring the Contribution of Public Health Home Visiting

- Co-hosts: National Collaborating Centres for Aboriginal Health and Determinants of Health
- Saskatoon, SK
- October 2008



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Early Child Development Forum

Purpose:

Facilitate Knowledge Synthesis, Translation and Exchange (KSTE) around effective strategies for home visiting and the contribution to early child development as a determinant of health



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Early Child Development Forum

Objectives:

- profile selected home visiting programs
- explore the relationship between home visiting and health equity
- explore knowledge from stories and scenarios to help apply “what works” to improve policy and practice
- identify and prioritize policy and practice issues that could be addressed by the Collaborating Centres



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Early Child Development Forum

- **Attendees:** ~125 Public Health Nurses, Home Visitors, Community Health Representatives, Medical Officers of Health, Decision Makers and Researchers
- **Speakers:** from across Canada
- **Showcase:** Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia (aboriginal) Home Visiting Programs
- **Application:** TEAM ECD descriptor and scenario



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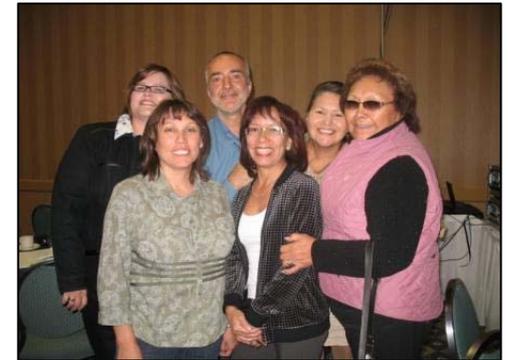
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Building Capacity

Forum

- Memory Sticks
- Knowledge Exchange Fair
- Cultural Evening
- Raffi – Child Honouring



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Forum Participant Priorities

Policy and practice issues that could be addressed by the Collaborating Centres

- Tools
- Training
- Business Case
- Workforce Development and Human Resources
- Models
- Network (Communication, Advocacy, Community of Practice)
- Evaluation
- Striving for Excellence
- Cultural Implications



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Participant Feedback

- “Best conference I have attended for public health nursing.”
- “We were able to learn from the experiences, challenges and evaluations of programs to assist us ...regionally and provincially to move our ECD programs to another level in order to strive for excellence. It was an excellent opportunity for learning and sharing.”
- “...an example of knowledge translation in action.”



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Setting our Direction (2009-2010)

The NCCAH and the NCCDH are committed to supporting the public health community to create the conditions for children to thrive equally in their physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive development.



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Complex & Important

Why Home Visiting?	Activity
Early child home visiting is an established Public Health practice in Canada	Worthy of our attention
<p>Abundance of studies have evaluated the effectiveness of home visiting with mixed results – synthesis required</p> <p>Lack of clarity (and knowledge of) about the evidence to support (and inform) the practice of home visiting</p>	<p>Synthesis of the evidence</p> <p>Knowledge tools</p> <p>Identify research gaps</p>
<p>Debate and contradiction about the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –benefits of home visiting –role of public health nurses versus paraprofessionals as home visitors 	<p>Business Case</p> <p>Frameworks and models</p>
<p>Lack of knowledge about the variety of home visiting programs across Canada</p> <p>There is much variation in approach and quality of home visiting programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –length, intensity, components, level of training of the home visitor, and target audiences 	<p>Pan-Canadian and International Inventory</p> <p>Future forums</p> <p>Networks</p>
Communication and collaboration across programs is limited	<p>Networks</p> <p>Website</p>



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