

Developing a Research Agenda for Public Health Services and Systems in BC

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Background

- A series of PH Emergencies in Canada (SARS, tainted blood scandal, Walkerton water contamination)
- Weakened public health infrastructure
- Need identified to define Core Functions of PH
- Need to renew and reform PH Systems
- Renewal process initiated across the country

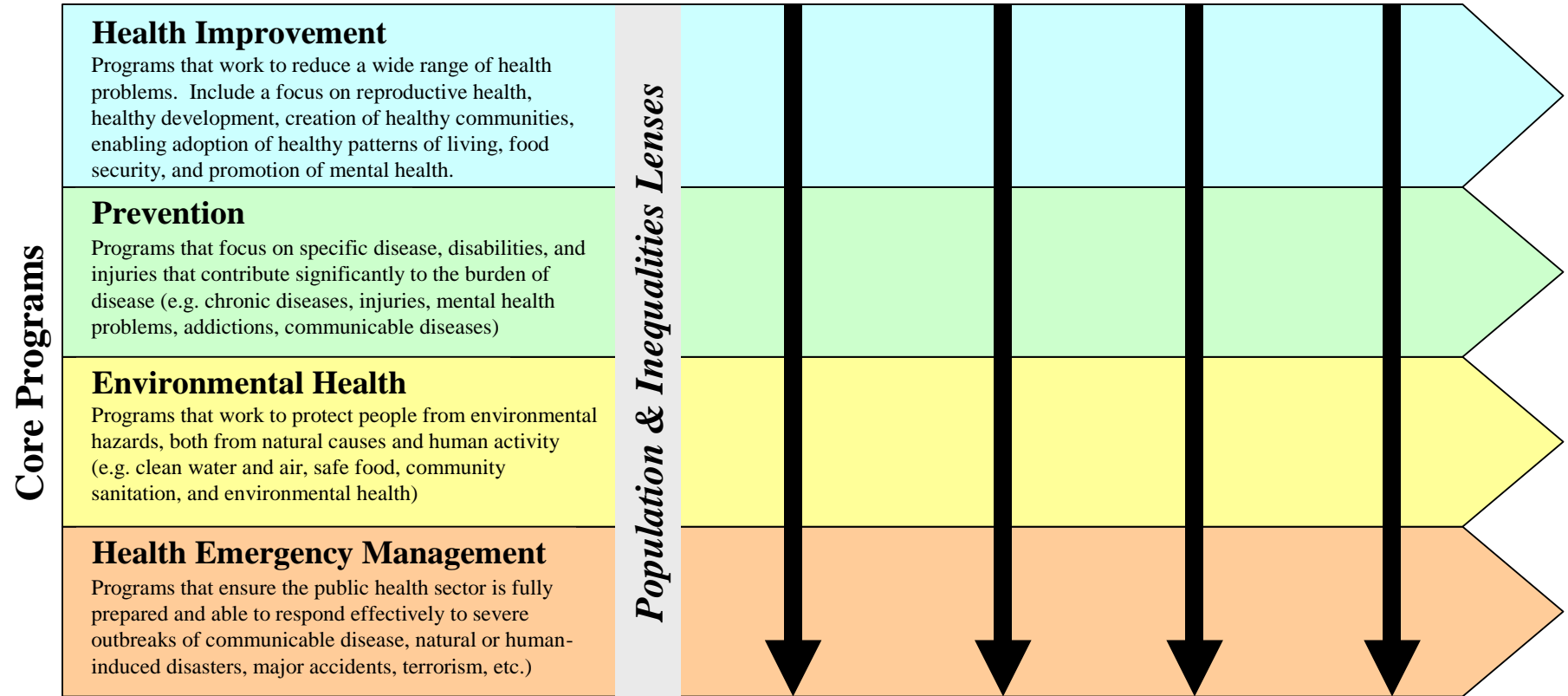
Background

- A Framework for Core PH Functions was developed in BC
- Interdisciplinary team of researchers and decision makers created with infrastructure funding from MSFHR
- Think Tank held in BC in 2007 to develop PHSSR priorities to guide research
- Leveraged \$6M for research 2006-2011

CORE FUNCTIONS FRAMEWORK

Public Health Strategies

Health Promotion	Health Protection	Preventive Interventions	Health Assessment & Disease Surveillance
Develop healthy public policy; advocate/create supportive environments; strengthen communities; develop personal skills; build partnerships	Legislate, Regulate, Tax, Inspect, Enforce, Punish	Immunize, Screen, Counsel, Support behaviour change, Treat	Public health epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, health lab networks, analysis and dissemination



System Capacity/Infrastructure

Legislation, funding, education and training, information systems, research, planning, performance management etc

PHSSR Priorities From BC Think Tank

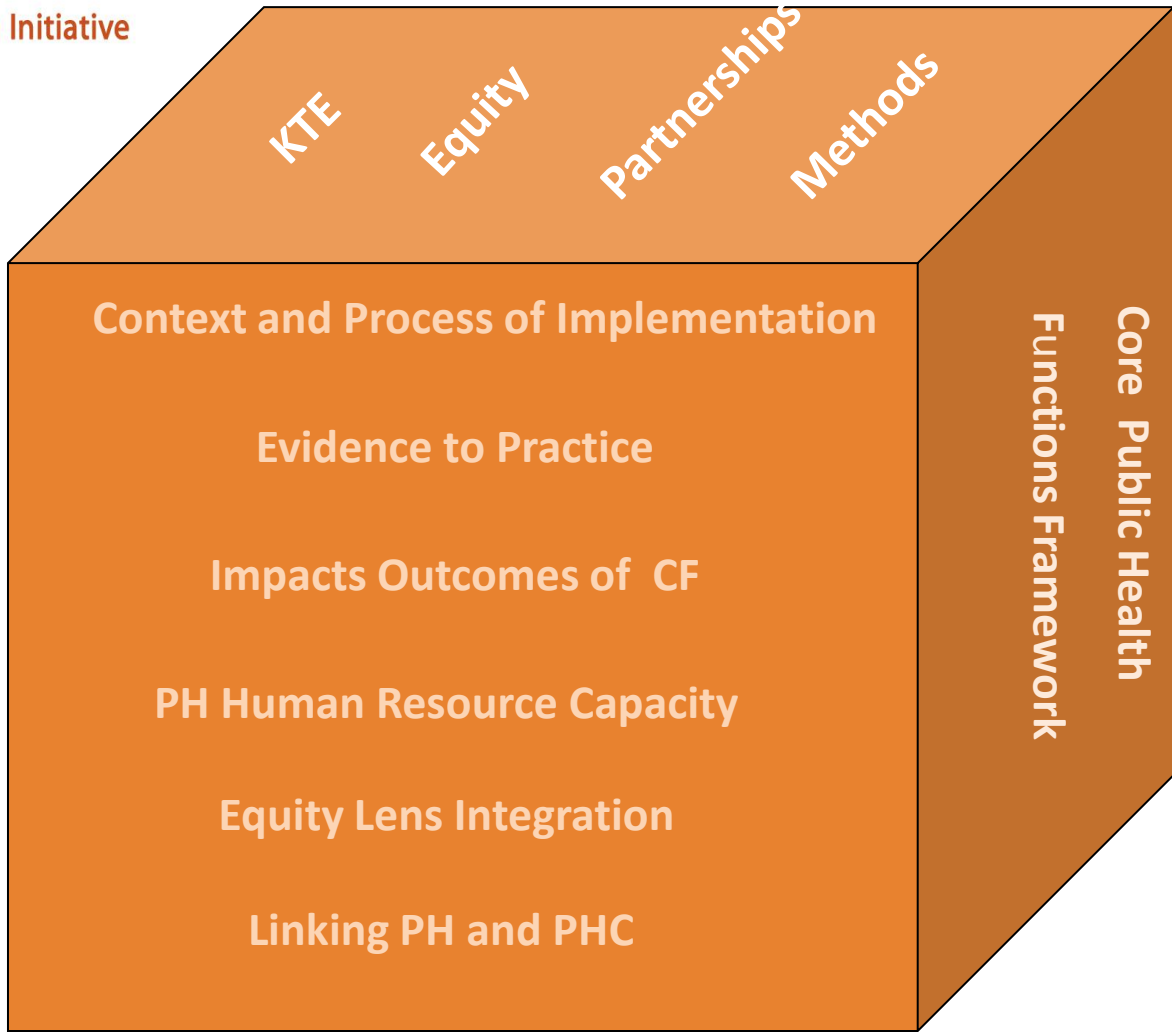
- Data systems
- Core Functions Implementation Process
- Impact and Outcome of CF Implementation
- Evidence
- PH Human Resources Capacity

Priorities (cont.)

- Health Equity/Inequity
- Public Health Ethics
- Influence and study of context
- PH Infrastructure
- Indicators development
(implementation, impacts, outcomes)

Overarching goals of CPHFRI

- Public health systems renewal in BC and Canada
- Advancing public health services research in BC and Canada
- Methodological development for studying complex public and population health interventions within complex systems
- Training public/population health researchers
- Contributing to evidence-informed practice and public health practice improvement
- Improving the health of the population



Current CPHFRI Projects

- **Emerging Team Grant** *Renewal of Public Health Services (RePHS)* (2009-2014). PIs: MacDonald, Hancock & Pauly (BC) Valaitis & Manson (ON)
- **Knowledge Synthesis Grant** *Relevance of complexity concepts and systems thinking to public and population health intervention research: A metanarrative synthesis.* (2011-2012). PIs: MacDonald & Jackson
- **CIHR MPD: Knowledge Translation Supplement Grant** *Evidence and Action in Public Health: Learning from Research and Practice.* (2011-2012). PIs: MacDonald & Hancock
- **Public Health Services Research** *Advancing public health services research in Canada: Developing a pan-Canadian agenda* (2010-2011). PIs: MacDonald, Hancock & Paradis
- **Programmatic Grant in Health Equity** *The Equity Lens in Public Health (ELPH).* (2011-2016). PIs: Pauly, MacDonald, Hancock, O'Braian

Renew of PH Systems (REPHS)

- Case study design to compare BC & ON on:
 - implementation process and impact of CDP/HL and STIP core programs within BC Core Functions Framework and Ontario PH Standards
 - Identify critical contextual influences on this
- Explore PH human resource issues
- Explore integration of an equity lens
- Explore PH – PC collaboration

- 6 health authorities in BC
- 6 health units in Ontario
- Considerable variation across cases
 - Different governance and accountability structures
 - Large and small urban, rural, mixed
 - diverse populations & public health issues
 - Range of socio-economic circumstances

Innovative Methods

- Concept mapping to identify appropriate strategies for: a) integrating evidence into practice; b) applying an equity lens
- Social Network analysis to examine structure of collaboration between public health and primary care
- Situational Analysis – a qualitative approach for mapping contextual influences on the implementation and impact of core programs

Early RePHS Data

A Teaser

- In light of recent proposals in Ontario to align public health with the broader health care system, the RePHS study can provide some insights into public health system renewal processes under different health care system governance structures

- Under regionalization, as in BC, public health experiences challenges that do not occur with the type of PH governance in Ontario
 - lack of PH leadership at decision making tables
 - Loss of collaboration and partnership with local municipalities
 - PH Workforce capacity and morale issues
 - Marginalization of PH goals
 - Raiding of PH budgets by acute care sector