Equity in the Ontario Cancer Plan

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Social determinants have contributed to a difference in life expectancy of 28 years in Glasgow

- A difference of 16 km in Scotland can result in a 28 year drop in life expectancy

- A boy from the poor Glasgow suburb of Calton could expect to live to 54, while a boy born in nearby affluent Lenzie is likely to reach 82. 

Social Factors Key to Ill Health

BBC Video

Wellesley Institute
advancing urban health
How it connects locally: Average Household Income, Toronto

How it connects locally: Concentration of Visible Minority Populations, Toronto

How it connects locally: Age-Sex-Adjusted Diabetes Rates, Toronto

Health inequities or disparities are differences in the health outcomes of specific populations that are “systemic, patterned, unfair, unjust, and actionable, as opposed to random or caused by those who become ill.”* - Margaret Whitehead

Health Equity Plans helps to align services with need—enabling better health outcomes

Source: Health Equity Audit: A Guide for the NHS, UK Department of Health
In this simplified example, there is a good alignment between high need and high service provision: a desirable situation.

Source: Health Equity Audit: A Guide for the NHS, UK Department of Health
In this simplified example, those with the most need get the lowest level of service: the undesirable “inverse care law”

Source: Health Equity Audit: A Guide for the NHS, UK Department of Health
Barriers to care often pre-occupation of services

Numerous barriers eg:

- Awareness and stigma
- Pathways unclear
- Models of care and personnel not acceptable
- Lack of cultural competence and sensitivity
- Financial barriers
- Language
Facilitators of care found in Canadian literature

Length of stay in Canada / acculturation
Knowledge and education
Ethno-specific health promotion
Trust in the system
Cultural competency
Co-operation between service providers
Diversity of services
But there are more strategies

Aims

• Decrease impact of social determinants
• Equitable access to services
• Equitable clinical care
• Equitable outcomes

Some tools

• Health equity audit
• Health equity impact assessment
• Research and monitoring
• Training
Decide who is responsible for what and what your place is.

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<th>Differential rates</th>
<th>Inequitable service response</th>
<th>Context in which need &amp; service response occur</th>
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A multi-level approach better eg...

Policy framework

- require equity – clear portfolio with responsibility

Service system

- equity = quality – clear accountability (location, accessibility, language, data collection, governance),

Organization

- accountability, institutional cultural competence, equity hard wired, evidence based equity strategies, collect data,

Clinical teams

- equity = quality, cultural competence, 360 appraisal, etc