Event Brief

Webinar: Exploring health equity – Part 2 project perspectives

June 9, 2022

A [recording](#) of this webinar is available

Purpose

This 'pilot-lite' session was a follow-up to a [webinar held in June 2021](#), which provided an introduction to PHAC health equity resources and tools, including an overview of diverse health equity frameworks. This session built on the previous by introducing a set of project-level tools specifically designed for the MHP-IF, focusing especially on the Healthy Equity Indicators Tool (HEIT). This webinar also reinforced the MHP-IF projects as important actors in advancing health equity in Canada and sought to hear project team perspectives through discussion and sharing.

Participants

There were 24 attendees from MHP-IF project teams, the Hub Secretariat, and the PHAC MHP-IF team.

Meeting structure

This 90-minute webinar was led by Andrea Simpson, Senior Program and Policy Analyst, Public Health Agency of Canada.

- After a brief introduction to the session from Alice Schmidt Hanbidge, Scientific Co-Director for the KDE Hub, Andrea provided a recap on health equity as it relates to the approach of the MHP-IF.
- Andrea then introduced several tools available to MHP-IF projects, that aim to encourage and facilitate meaningful health equity measures:
  - Health Equity Indicators Tool (HEIT)
- MHP-IF project teams were invited to consider the following questions about health equity and their work prior to the webinar:
  - How do we challenge ourselves to do work at the intersections of multiple overlapping inequities?
  - How would you see your project applying the tool to engage with difficult to reach/resistant populations to remove barriers to marginalization?
  - How would you see your project applying the tool to meaningfully assess the equity impacts of your project?

- To kickstart the conversation, the Families in TRANSition project shared their perspectives on health equity in their work through a pre-recorded response. Webinar attendees were then invited to share in a discussion.
  - [Link to brief recorded video from Families in TRANSition](#) (6:17)
  - [Link to full length recorded video from Families in TRANSition](#) (13:25)
- Three poll questions were posed to webinar participants throughout the presentation.
- Colleen McMillan, KDE Hub Scientific Co-Director, provided closing remarks and a brief update from the Hub.

What did we learn?

- The Health Equity Indicators Tool (HEIT) serves to reinforce integrating, tracking, and evaluating impacts on health equity both at the project level and the MHP-IF program level.
- A health equity lens needs to be centered from the start to be able to look at things from an intersectional, anti-oppressive, and decolonizing perspective.
- Critical self-awareness of one's self, project team, and organization is key to addressing health inequities in the work of the MHP-IF projects.
- The language of 'marginalization' is contentious in some contexts. Some, youth included, prefer language like 'restricted to the edge' or 'those furthest from opportunity'.
- The first poll asked participants about the likelihood of the new tools being used in their project work in the next three months. All respondents (13) indicated it was very likely or somewhat likely.
- The second poll asked about the extent to which the six conditions of system change are relevant to the participants' work. All respondents (12) indicated that they were either very relatable or somewhat relatable.
- All respondents (13) to the third poll agreed that a follow-up session to further explore equity measures and methods would be useful.

How will learnings from this event be used?

- ➢ Project experiences with health equity and the Health Equity Indicators Tool inform the PHAC team's understanding of its usage, effectiveness, and adaptability.

- ➢ A follow-up session will dive deeper into health equity measures and methods.