# **Health Equity**

Vital Signs 2018

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### **Topics to Cover:**

- 1. Vision/Definition of Health Equity
- 2. How a Health Equity lens can improve health
- 3. How KCHC (and others) use this lens in program and service delivery

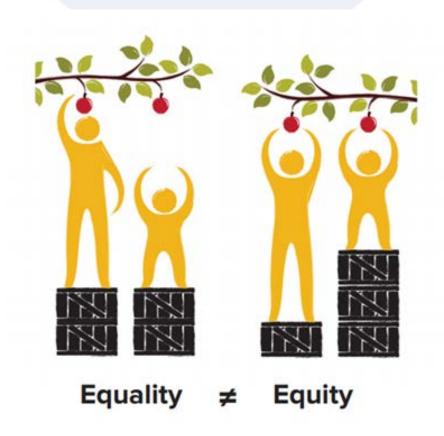
## Thank you!

- Thanks to all partners who are involved
- All KCHC programs mentioned are collaborative in nature



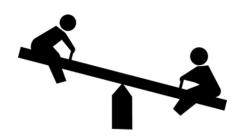


## **Equality vs Equity**



## **Health INEQUITIES**

Refer to socially constructed, unjust and avoidable differences in health and healthcare between and within groups of people





# WHAT MAKES CANADIANS SICK?

50%

YOUR LIFE

INCOME

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
DISABILITY
EDUCATION
SOCIAL EXCLUSION
SOCIAL SAFETY NET
GENDER
EMPLOYMENT/WORKING CONDITIONS
RACE
ABORIGINAL STATUS
SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD
HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS
COMMUNITY BELONGING

25%

YOUR HEALTH CARE

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WAIT TIMES

15%

YOUR BIOLOGY

BIOLOGY GENETICS

10%

YOUR ENVIRONMENT

AIR QUALITY CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

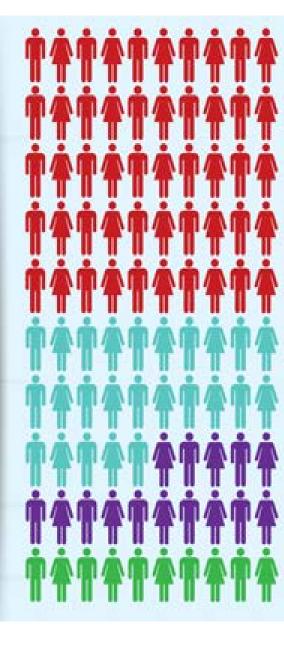
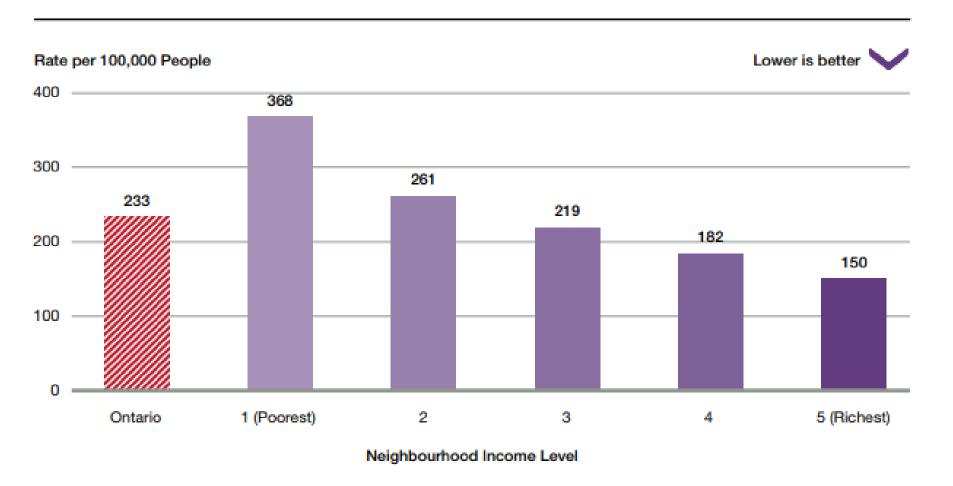




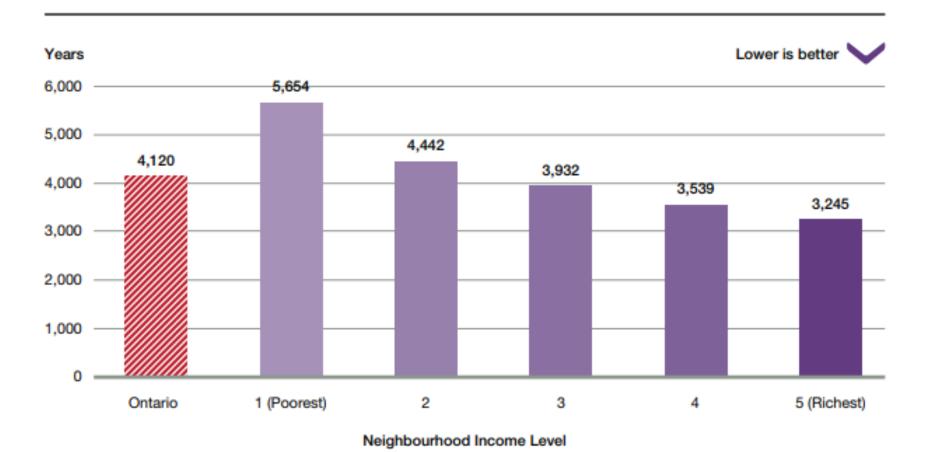


FIGURE 3.3

Hospitalization rate for ambulatory care sensitive condition, in Ontario, by neighbourhood income level, 2013/14



Potential years of life lost per 100,000 population<sup>†</sup>, in Ontario, by income level, 2009–2011



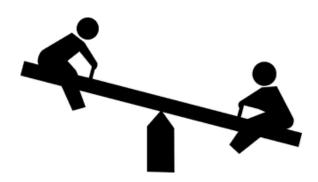
## "Your Life"

Factors that make the biggest difference

Impact of Stress

Impact of Childhood trauma





## Stress

- Living in poverty is often constant stress
- Cope with chaos
- Continued "fight or flight" response
- No opportunity to recover in a non-stressful environment (hope for future is bleak)
- Lack of supportive relationships, social isolation, mistrust
- Leads to physiological + psychological stress
- Continuous stress weakens your body
- Leads to coping behaviours smoking, drinking, drugs, bad relationships

### Examples of programs aimed to reduce stress



← Practical Assistance

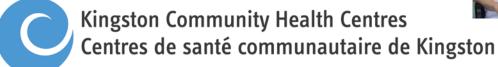
Circles program →



Circles® Kingston: Building Community Around the Table

Friendship Blooms →







← Low Income Dental Program

#### Newcomer Men's group →



# Impact of Childhood Trauma

- 1990s study looking at how ACEs impacted health outcomes in adulthood
- ACEs include abuse, neglect, growing up with a parent who struggles with mental illness or substance abuse
- Astonishing Results "ACEs are the main determinant of health and social well-being of all peoples"
- The higher your ACE score, the more at risk you are

## Adverse Childhood Experiences

#### **ABUSE**



#### HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



**Physical** 



Physical



Mental Illness



**Incarcerated Relative** 



**Emotional** 



**Emotional** 



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Sexual



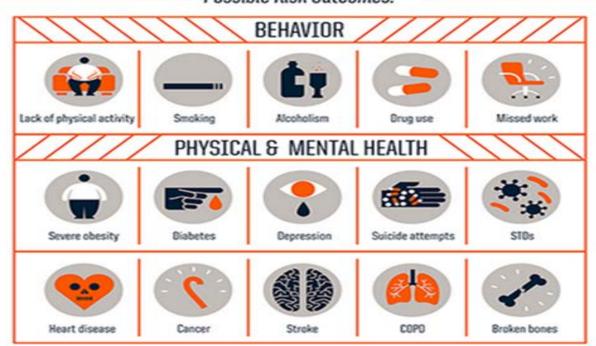
Divorce

## WHAT IMPACT DO ACEs HAVE?

As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for negative health outcomes



#### Possible Risk Outcomes:





# ACE SCORE OF 4+ INCREASES RISK OF...

- OBESITY 160%
- DIABETES 160%
- Any CANCER **190%**
- HEART DISEASE 220%
- SMOKING 220%
- HEPATITIS 240%
- STROKE 240%
- STI'S 250%
- COPD 390%

- DEPRESSION 460%
- ILLICIT DRUG 470%
- ALCOHOLIC 740%
- INJECTED SUBSTANCES
   1,000%
- SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
   1,200%
- ACE of 6+:
  - PWID 4,600%
  - Die 20 years earlier
  - homelessness



# Spokane, Washington school study 2012;

#### ACEs 3+ have:

- 3x rate of Academic failure
- 4x Frequently reported poor health
- 5x Severe attendance problems
- 6x Severe school behaviour concerns

Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, WA, tries new approach to school discipline — suspensions drop 85%



Jim Sporleder, principal of Lincoln High School

THE FIRST TIME THAT principal Jim Sporleder tried the New Approach to Student Discipline at Lincoln High School in Walla Walla, WA, he was blown away. Because it



← Pathways to Education



← EarlyON





#### ← Overdose Prevention Site (OPS)

#### Now Open!

Street Health Centre: 115 Barrack St, Kingston

Access the OPS 7 days a week, from

4:00pm-10:00pm

#### Indigenous Health Program →

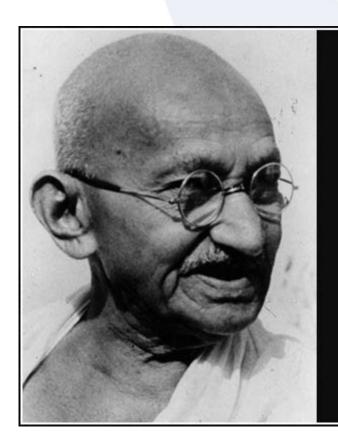




## Summary

- Health equity refers to the study and causes of differences in the quality of health and healthcare across different populations.
- "Causes of differences..." are now very clear –
   Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- To improve the health of a community, we need Change the question from
  - What's wrong with you? ... TO
  - What happened to you? How can we help?





The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members

— Mahatma Gandhi —

AZ QUOTES

Caring. Responding. Building Community. • Prendre soins. Intervenir. Bâtir une communauté.



# ACE: Adverse Community Environments: Rat Park



