

Advancing Health Equity in Health Care

Measuring Equity in Region Plans and Strategies

Why is this important?

Health equity is the principle of and commitment to incorporating fairness into health by reducing health inequalities.¹ It implies that all people can reach their full health potential and should not be disadvantaged from attaining it because of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, social class, where they live, socioeconomic status or other socially determined circumstances.²

Although health equity is influenced by much more than the health care system, the health care system does make a difference and does have a role to play in addressing inequities. By doing so, the health system can become more patient/client-centred, more efficient and effective.

Examples of Action Being Taken:

[Tackling the Barriers to Better Health For All](#)

What More Can Be Done?

See the Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#) for further recommendations.

Methods and Tools:

- [Health Care Equity Audit Guide](#)
- [Technical Appendix](#)

Highlights

Saskatoon Health Region plans and strategies reflect some aspects of health equity and there is room to improve.

- In 2013, the Region piloted a tool to assist in measuring to what degree health equity was present in Regional plans and strategies.
- Of the 36 plans and strategies reviewed, 64% were found to reflect “some aspect” of health equity and health promotion principles.
- Close to a third of the documents reviewed demonstrated implementation of health equity and health promotion principles and 3% incorporated health equity as an underlying principle.
- As the Health Region works to incorporate health equity principles to help achieve “Better Health”, monitoring of plans and strategies will continue.
- Findings will assist departments to assess their own progress toward incorporating health equity/health promotion principles in their departmental or programmatic plans/strategies/reports.
- Plans to further test the tool are in place and it is likely that it will be implemented every 2 years to monitor improvements over time.

Figure 1: Percent of Saskatoon Health Region Department/Programs by Four Degrees of Health Equity/Health Promotion Consideration/Implementation

