

Infoway Social Determinants of Health Working Group

August 4th, 2021

Summary: Focus of the meeting was to continue discussion on identifying priority areas for the working group for the upcoming year. We looked at the different domains to see if there was a specific area that would be of interest. It may not be possible to reach consensus on one domain, as each organization has different priority areas. However, an intersectional approach that brings together demographics/identify; material circumstances and healthcare access would be a possible way forward to connect different organizational priorities. Below is a summary of the discussion within the breakout rooms and in the main room.

Current areas of focus across different organizations:

- Information Standards; focus is on demographics. Layered approach starting with whatever SDOH WG decides is foundational.
- Gender, Sex and sexual orientation (GSSO) data standards.
- Terminological assets and standardizing value sets. Working on GSSO standards. Best practice in standardization; terminology standards to support data collection. Important outcome: standard value sets / solutions.
- Currently looking at Mental Health and Addictions FHIR iGuide project. “Ethnic or cultural origin” are a single data element. “Race category” is separate.
- Focus is on lung cancer and looking at incidence by immigration, race, ethnicity. Still up in the air. Can look at cancer/mortality (or any disease) incidence/prevalence by equity stratifiers such as income, geography, immigration status, race ethnicity. Based primarily on availability of data.
- Census - two ways of looking at race: culture/ethnicity and visible minority status.
- CIHI working on Race and Indigenous identity standards
- Starting more work around diversity and inclusion.

Additional considerations:

- Many data elements are SDOH. There are many determinants but which ones to focus on?
- Use data to guide decision making for certain catchment areas (e.g. homeless, precariously housed).
- Intersections between social determinants of health
- Gap in the literature related to studies that don't use standardized questions for their research
- Suggestion for race/ethnicity to focus on principles around collection of information. Look at what Gravity has done with respect to guidelines that are not clinical, but identities.

Domains of interest:

1. Food insecurity
2. Financial circumstances (income, employment)
3. Age/aging
4. Racial and ethnic identity; Indigenous identity; cultural identity; ancestral background
5. Demographics
6. Pre-existing conditions (cancer / mental health / addictions)
7. Health care access, including digital access
8. Income status
9. Rural /urban
10. Immigration status
11. Housing

An intersectional approach

- Will be difficult to determine a domain of focus, and value set as different organizations have different priorities.
- Intersectionality has been a reoccurring reference within the meetings, and may provide a good starting point for the focus of the group. Rather than focus on a specific domain, to look at the intersection demographics/identities; material circumstances; and healthcare access.
- Question asked on intersectionality and analysis. Are there any published work? How can we conceptualize intersectionality visually?

