

Infoway Social Determinants of Health Working Group

January 5, 2022

Overview:

Focus of the meeting was to look at the second set of questions in the Perceived Discrimination Scale (PDS). The questions were developed to examine how health is impacted by experiences of racism and discrimination. The first set of questions is focused on experiences of racism and discrimination across the lifetime and the second set is focused on day-to-day experiences. The group examined the second set of questions to our three areas of focus: racism and discrimination, material hardship, healthcare access.

Working Document:

<https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/resources/docs/sdoh/2022-sessions/3862-sdoh-meeting-seven-categorization-of-second-half-pds-measure-05jan2022>

Some key takeaways:

- We are looking to bring in a Canadian perspective to the GRAVITY Project. The PDS was developed within a US context, and the scale has been applied within Canada. We need to consider how the distinct Canadian context may apply to this scale. We may see how to bring this perspective in when we start to look at Canadian examples on how the PDS has been applied.
- How do we evaluate perceptions on experiences? An example was shared of not receiving “courteous service” that question 12 asked about. It was difficult to know if this lack of courteous service was based on the patient’s identity or some other reason.
- Discussion on the scales and whether they fit within a healthcare context. For example, a person may access healthcare only once a year, but experience discrimination during that visit. In this example, the scale of almost everyday, at least once a week, ... will not match.
- From a standards perspective to understand what kind of scale it would be and the concepts. These scales are administered outside of the system, and then come to a quantitative answer to the concept. Each concept is the whole assessment.
- For each of the questions and need to define them more robustly and then can exist as more robust concepts. This is something we will not be focusing on at this stage. Our aim for the next few months is to take the tools and concepts we find and examples of how this has been applied in a Canadian context and present them to the Gravity Project. We want to use the resources of Gravity to then take these to reach consensus on the definitions.
- Currently it is more common to have the scale score inputted into the EHR, rather than the individual questions of the tool. e.g. could have “lifetime experience of discrimination” as long as they are separate concepts.
- Has to be discrete data and not open text.

Next meeting on February 2, 2022:

- We will be looking across the different scales to see how these questions compare to other existing tools. What we have found so far is that many tools have evolved from the PDS.
- Two resources that we have found that we will be looking at for our next meeting: Intersectional Discrimination Index and a Systematic Review on Measures of Racism:
 - Scheim, A. I., & Bauer, G. R. (2019). The Intersectional Discrimination Index: Development and validation of measures of self-reported enacted and anticipated discrimination for intercategory analysis. *Social Science & Medicine*, 226, 225-235.
 - Bastos, J. L., Celeste, R. K., Faerstein, E., & Barros, A. J. (2010). Racial discrimination and health: a systematic review of scales with a focus on their psychometric properties. *Social science & medicine*, 70(7), 1091-1099.