CIHR | Institute of Population
IRSC | and Public Health
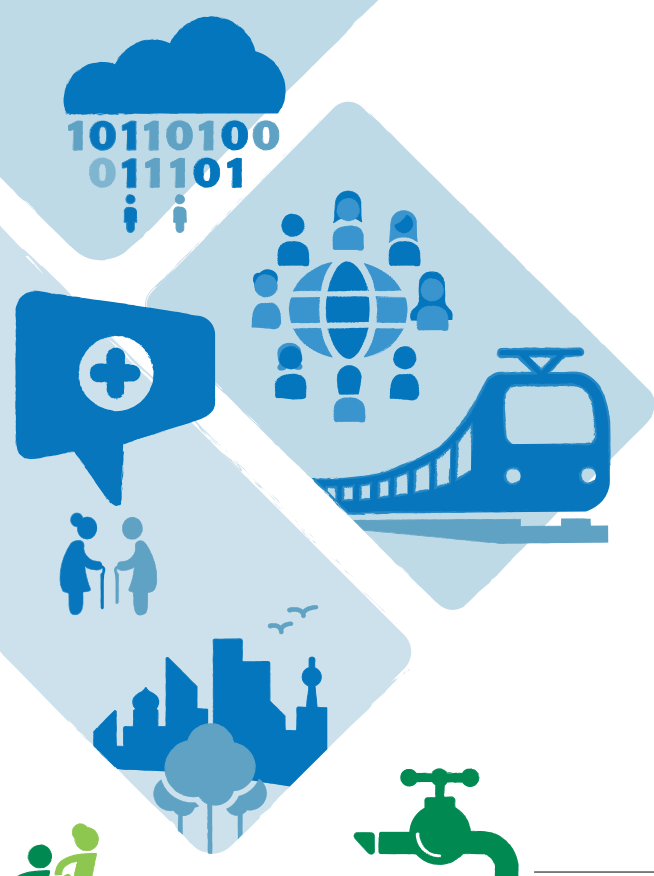Institut de la santé publique
et des populations

The Future is Public +Health

Some of the greatest opportunities to transform our society and achieve a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable future lie in public health. With three focused priority initiatives, over the next five years IPPH will work with Canada's population and public health research community and stakeholders to tackle some of the biggest health challenges and inequities of our time.

AMPLIFYING IMPACT

+Healthy Cities

Canadian researchers have already been instrumental in identifying what makes a city healthy, yet challenges remain in scaling this research into real-world applications that benefit everyone. With 82% of Canadians now living in cities, and urbanization a growing global trend, research on implementing tested interventions is essential for maximizing the health-promoting potential of urban environments.

Artificial intelligence approaches like machine learning provide new opportunities for public health to both advance health equity through the analysis of complex, multi-layered, multi-modal data, as well as design impactful solutions that draw on a far wider range of insights. Public health must also champion the ethical use of AI to minimize the potentially harmful effects of bias in AI-generated evidence and to ensure algorithms are designed equitably.

ACTIVATING OPPORTUNITIES

Equitable AI

APPLYING EVIDENCE

Global +Health Policy

Canadians are frequently invited to work with international partners to tackle complex global health challenges and improve health for all. With new responsive funding mechanisms and strategic networks, public health can make even greater contributions in addressing global health emergencies and developing evidence-informed health policies that achieve global impact.

Our Approach — IPPH will use the full range of mechanisms and tools available to advance shared priorities and catalyze broader systemic impact

- $ Funding
- Leading
- Convening
- Engaging
- Communicating
- Advising
- Governing
- Evaluating

Healthy Cities

$ · Leading · Convening · Engaging · Governing · Advising   LEARN MORE >

GOALS

a) Strengthen Canada's global leadership in healthy cities research

b) Train future researchers in implementation science for healthy cities

c) Support evidence use in urban planning and policymaking

ACTIONS

- Supporting opportunities for large-scale, interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral, pan-Canadian intervention and implementation science initiatives in urban environments

- Developing a national strategic training initiative for doctoral and post-doctoral students on the science of implementing tested solutions in cities

- Facilitating opportunities for healthy cities research to be co-owned by researchers, policymakers, implementers, and the communities they serve

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Equitable AI

Leading · Convening · Communicating · Engaging   LEARN MORE >

GOALS

a) Catalyze new research areas at the intersection of AI and public health

b) Build capacity to use AI approaches in public health research

c) Nurture dialogue about the use of AI in public health decision-making

ACTIONS

- Seeding interdisciplinary collaborations among AI and public health researchers, especially on the ethical, legal and social challenges of AI

- Launching a national summer school for graduate students and early career researchers to learn AI skills and apply them to public health challenges

- Starting discussions on the benefits, challenges and opportunities of applying AI generated evidence to policies, practices and programs

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Global Health Policy

Advising · Governing · Evaluating   LEARN MORE >

GOALS

a) Position Canada to be a leader in global health emergency research

b) Bolster policy-relevant research on challenges with global implications

c) Pursue opportunities to institutionalize the use of evidence in global health policymaking

ACTIONS

- Identifying mechanisms to rapidly fund public health research during global health emergencies

- Investing in key global health research areas such as antimicrobial resistance and chronic disease prevention

- Mobilizing networks of researchers, research funders and policymakers, especially around social science research on infectious diseases

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