

# Population and Public Health

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An occasional newsletter to help inform WRHA PPH Staff

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## Health for All: Building Population and Public Health's Health Equity Action Plan

Staff Development Days for Population and Public Health were held on September 9 and 18 2014. The half-day sessions were dedicated conversations about health equity and the work of our program in the WRHA.

Over 275 staff members attended the events and participated with energy and enthusiasm. The collective wisdom shared in the active engagement process is being invested into our future PPH directions.

### Event objectives

- Provide background and facilitate common understandings of health equity
- Consider "What are the most important things we could do to promote health equity in Winnipeg?"
- Explore roles and contributions to health equity promotion

The WRHA 'conversation-starter' document [Health for All: Building Winnipeg's Health Equity Action Plan](#) was distributed to staff prior to the event. The sessions had 4 major components.



**1. Opening remarks and presentation.** Lynda Tjaden and Louis Sorin opened the day recognizing the long history of public health caring about those most in need and the importance of building on our success to move forward. The presentation from Hannah Moffatt and Sande Harlos focused on health equity concepts, data illustrating health gaps in our region, and the ongoing work within the WRHA. The presentation will be posted to watch again or share with your colleagues.

**2. Gallery walk.** The aim of the workshop was to stimulate dialogue by considering the following question: "What are the most important things Population and Public Health could do to promote health equity in Winnipeg?" The question was framed around the three approaches of governance, partnership, and knowledge as well as our own 'core business' of Population and Public Health. We heard numerous examples of what is already working and suggestions for new approaches that can be even more effective. The information collected is now being synthesized and will support the development of Population and Public Health Program and Community Area strategic priorities for action.

**3. Crowd sourcing our best ideas.** Participants also took part in our 'equity shuffle' to hear and prioritize the action ideas that we can implement to promote health equity in Winnipeg. This information is also being synthesized to support the prioritization of actions.

**4. Team specific conversations.** People divided into separate groups to have conversations about their existing and prospective roles in promoting health equity. Each group (Public Health Nurses; Families First Home Visitors; Regional Health Promotion Teams; and Administrative Support) generated ideas which are now being compiled and will form the basis of next steps in each of these areas.



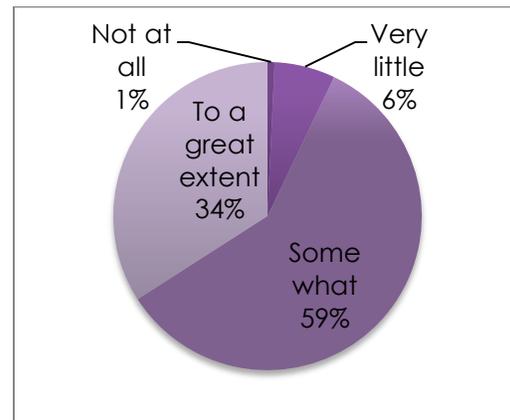
### What did you think?

We received feedback in the evaluation survey following the event. We heard things like...

- “Useful discussion took place, [it] created dialogue among all public health practitioners”
- “I found it to be a very broad discussion with many directions being mentioned but none really being explored”
- “It was very interactive and it allowed for everyone to have a chance to contribute”
- “Well organized, informative and interesting.”
- “Wonderful theory but what will the practice look like? Is some of it already being done?”
- “I would like to get ‘progress updates’ on how our collective brainstorming is inspiring actions.”

### Did we meet our objectives?

The majority of participants who completed the evaluation survey felt that we had “somewhat” or “to a great extent” met our event objectives.



### Next steps and moving forward

This staff development day was one of many ongoing conversations about promoting health equity within public health and the region. The Population and Public Health/Community Area Promoting Health Equity Working Group are synthesizing all the information gathered and using it to guide our work to promote health equity within Population and Public Health. Please support the process by continuing the conversation with your colleagues and working with us as part of a team that has the courage to address complex issues that have often discouraged others. Closing the gap will take time and we are committed to a vision of an equity-seeking organization.

**Thank you to all the participants and planning team!**

