

# Population & Public Health

Annual Highlights 2017-18

**Our team uses a population health approach that focuses on social determinants to promote wellness, reduce chronic disease and prevent injury in British Columbia. We do so by collaborating with government, health authorities and community partners.**

## Vision

**Everyone has opportunities for health & well-being where we live, learn, work & play**

## Mission

- Influence policy & practice
- Promote population health & health equity

## Strategic Goals



Be a trusted source of population health information & expertise

Produce actionable analysis & support its adoption

Catalyze & lead collaborative action

## Expertise

- Project and program management
- Epidemiology & biostatistics
- Knowledge translation



## Food Security

We work to increase physical, social and economic access to nutritious, safe and personally acceptable food.



- Data from food costing in BC has been used by non-government sectors to calculate living wages and affordability in BC. Our resources have been used to provide evidence-informed responses to the consultations on the Agriculture Land Reserve and the BC Poverty Reduction Strategy.

## Healthy Eating

We promote healthy eating by managing provincial healthy eating programs and the development of provincial healthy eating resources.



- Evaluated the Informed Dining program in health care settings.
- Adapted two online nutrition and physical activity self-assessment tools: Nutri-eSTEP for toddlers and preschoolers and Nutri-eSCREEN® for older adults.
- Updated the Healthy Eating for Seniors Handbook.

## Population Health Surveillance

We collect, analyze and share data on the socio-economic determinants of health and chronic diseases in BC.



- Linked patient information across various databases to streamline access in order to improve chronic disease surveillance.
- Analyzed indicators to provide data on geographic, demographic and socio-economic health inequalities.
- Provided estimates of the economic burden associated with five chronic disease risk factors.

## Our Work

## Healthy Built Environment

We provide resources and build partnerships to support local planning and design that is health promoting, sustainable and equitable.



- Updated the Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit. Since its original release in 2014, the Toolkit has been adopted by those who collaborate with local governments for credible health research.

## Injury Prevention

We provide leadership and participate in coalitions, including chairing the BC Injury Prevention Alliance and BC Falls and Injury Prevention Coalition.



- We partner with the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit, health authorities and the Ministry of Health to set provincial priorities including: seniors falls, road safety and youth suicide and self-harm.
- Led the development of provincial recommendations for action and three-year work plan to address road safety priorities.

## Healthy Schools & Communities

We lead and support two provincial healthy living initiatives that work to strengthen partnerships and foster more coordinated action toward health promotion goals.



- Led the evaluation of a school-based sexual orientation and gender identity education initiative. Nine school districts participated in the pilot and the initiative has since expanded to over 50 school districts.