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Healthy Development

of

Children and Youth

*The Role of the Determinants
of Health*

Canada



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*The Role of the Determinants
of Health*

December 1999

Our mission is to help the people of Canada
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Health Canada

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title: Healthy development of children and youth:
the role of the determinants of health

Également disponible en français sous le titre : Le développement
sain des enfants et des jeunes : Le rôle des déterminants de la santé

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Children — Health and hygiene — Canada.
 2. Youth — Health and hygiene — Canada.
 3. Child development — Canada.
 4. Health status indicators — Canada.
- I. Canada. Health Canada.

RJ103.C3H42 1999 305.231'0971 C99-980286-0

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This publication is also available on the Internet at the following
address: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/childhood-youth/spsc.html>

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon
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ISBN 0-662-28062-8
Catalogue No. H39-501/1999E



Foreword

Strategies to influence population health status must address the broad range of health determinants in ways that are both comprehensive and integrated. While, in its own right, healthy child development is a crucial determinant of future health and well-being of the population, it is also influenced by each one of the other major determinants. Collaboration and active support across many sectors is necessary to raise healthy, engaged, socially responsible citizens.


This report comes at a time when there is high interest in the health and well-being of Canadian children and youth. Governments across Canada believe that a National Children's Agenda, developed as a shared vision, will help to enhance collective efforts to improve children's lives.

The purpose of *Healthy Development of Children and Youth* is to contribute to the knowledge base and stimulate discussion about the application of the determinants of health concept to the healthy development of Canada's children and youth. The report offers a framework for the discussion of child and youth development issues among all interested sectors — a vital step in the process of applying population health.

Through this document and in collaboration with major national initiatives, such as the *Report on the Health of Canadians*, the *National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth* and the *Health Behaviours in School-Aged Children Study*, it is hoped that a common evidence base will be developed to set priorities, develop strategies, plan and implement action and measure progress related to the health and well-being of our children. This process will increase the understanding of the issues and their interrelationships by all sectors about the ways in which their policies, decisions and actions have an impact on the health and well-being of the child and youth population as a whole.



Ian Potter
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Promotion and Programs Branch



A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

Many groups and individuals within Health Canada and other federal departments were involved in the development of the research framework, which forms the basis of this report, identifying and selecting the research and data to be included, as well as providing input and feedback at various stages of the report's development. Because of the complexity of the task and the length of time required to develop the report, many of the individuals involved in both the working and advisory groups have changed since the beginning of the initiative.

Health Canada's Childhood and Youth Division would like to thank the following federal departments for their collaboration: Human Resources Development Canada; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Justice Canada; Environment Canada; and Status of Women Canada.

Childhood and Youth Division would also like to thank their colleagues in other divisions and directorates of Health Promotion and Programs Branch, Health Protection Branch, Medical Services Branch, and in Policy and Consultation Branch. Their attention to detail and thoughtful input and feedback have contributed immensely to this comprehensive report.

Additionally, several external experts were consulted and produced the first drafts of either whole chapters or sections of chapters. Childhood and Youth Division thanks: Dr. Denise Avard and Dr. Eef Harmsen of Avard & Harmsen, Consultants; Craig Shields of Human Services Consultants; and Dr. Peter Szatmari of the Canadian Centre for Studies of Children At Risk at McMaster University.

Within Childhood and Youth Division, the leadership of Brian Ward in conceptualizing the project, and Esther Kwavnick and Helen McElroy in supporting the project and providing guidance and advice were invaluable. The team which provided the continuing day-to-day work to bring the project to reality consisted of Mary Johnston, Andrea Brand, Catherine Mills and Daniel Riendeau.



Allium Consulting Group Inc. (Ottawa) was responsible for the writing, editing, design and production. Catherine Robinson provided project management and, together with Jane Chapman, carried out the writing and editing of the report. Simon Alves designed the report, Jane Coghlan provided production coordination, and Gina Marin was responsible for desktop publishing.

The staff at Traductions Houle were responsible for the French language translation. The revisions of the French text was done by Sylvain Topping.



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