

Social Determinants of Inuit Health

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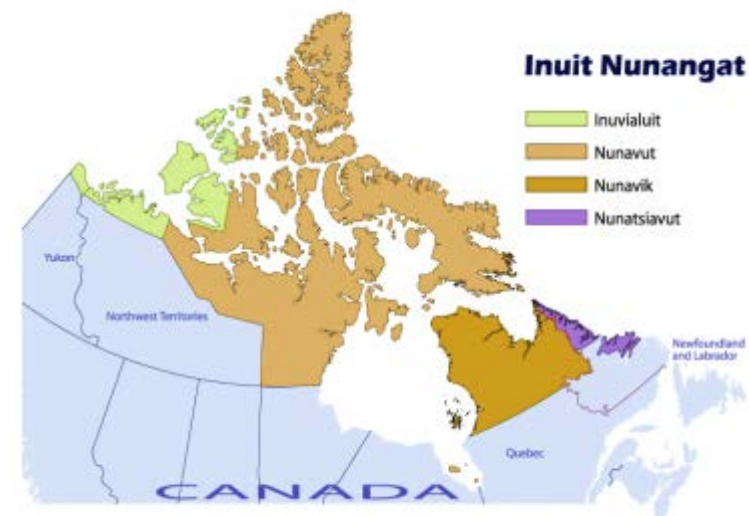
Department of Health and Social Development

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)



Inuit Homeland

- In Canada, the majority of Inuit live in Inuit Nunangat
- **53** Inuit communities in Canada
- **Four** Inuit Land Claim Regions
 - Inuvialuit
 - Nunavut
 - Nunavik
 - Nunatsiavut



Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)

- Established in 1971
- National representational organization for Inuit in Canada
- Directed by all Canadian Inuit
- Represent and promote the interests of Inuit on a wide variety of environmental, social, cultural, and political challenges



Inuit Health Status

- Faced with many poor health outcomes
- Lower life expectancies
- High rates of infant mortality
- Increased rates of chronic and infectious diseases
- Highest suicide rates of any group in Canada



Social Determinants of Inuit Health

- Underlying social determinants of health
- The determinants of health are highly interconnected
- An Inuit-specific resource designed to:
 - Support public health activities across Inuit regions
 - Function as a reference for organizations and stakeholders and
 - Provide a national position on the determinants affecting the health of Inuit



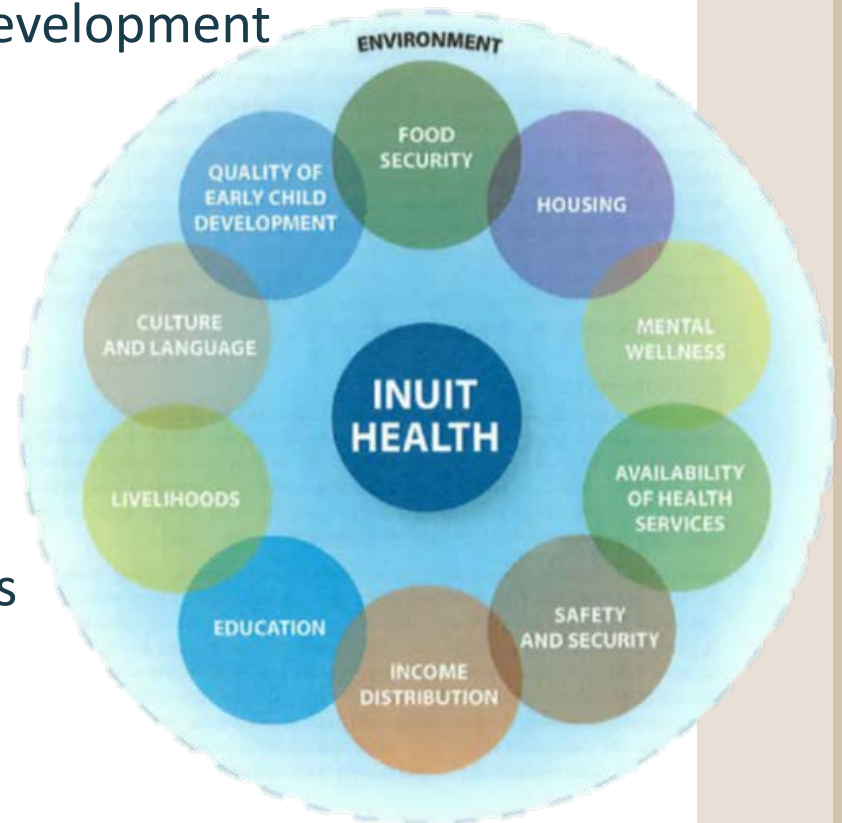
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF INUIT HEALTH IN CANADA

September 2014



Social Determinants of Inuit Health

- Inuit social determinants of health are:
 - Quality of early childhood development
 - Culture and language
 - Livelihoods
 - Income distribution
 - Housing
 - Personal safety and security
 - Education
 - Food security
 - Availability of health services
 - Mental wellness
 - Environment



Availability of Health Services

- Access to culturally appropriate, high quality health services
 - Need to leave communities for medical care
 - Inuit values, approaches, and perspectives
 - High turnover/shortages of health care professionals
- Inuulitsivik Health Centre in Nunavik began a maternity program which trains Inuit midwives

56%

Of Inuit Adults had contact with a medical doctor in the previous year compared to **79%** of the total adult Canadian population

Inuit Health Services

A Patient's Journey



Food Security

- When all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life
- High levels of food insecurity throughout the regions
 - Barriers to harvesting and consuming country foods
 - High cost, quality and availability of store-bought food
- Harvester Support Programs to improve access to country foods by offering financial assistance and support

70%

Of Inuit preschoolers in Nunavut reside in food insecure households

Food Security

The Cost of Eating

Southern City (Ottawa)

\$3.66

\$2.49

\$4.99

\$12.99

\$16.49

\$4.99



\$28.54

\$16.19

\$23.49

\$41.29

\$24.20

\$104.99

Northern Remote Inuit Community

Mental Wellness

- Physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellness as well as strong cultural identity
 - Legacy of relocation and residential schools
 - Socio-economic conditions and lack of employment opportunities
 - Lack of access to continuum of culturally relevant mental wellness, medical and social services
- National Inuit Suicide Prevention Strategy to be released in July 2016

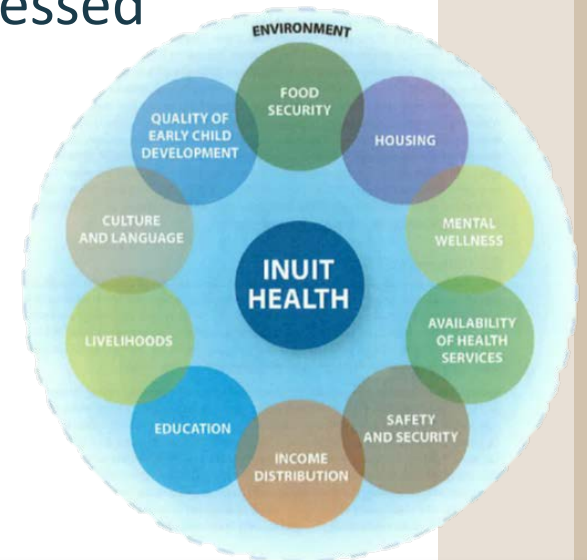
Rates of Inuit youth suicide are

11X

The Canadian national average

Key Messages

- Inuit face significant health challenges
- To improve disparities the unique Inuit social determinants of health need to be addressed
- Solutions require Inuit-specific approaches be adopted, including a holistic view of health
- Efforts will require collaboration



Thank you Nakurmiik

For a copy of the SDOIH Paper and Fact
Sheets go to:

www.itk.ca/Publications

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