Engaged Research as a Catalyst for Population Health Change: SPHERU’s transformative work in Saskatchewan 1999-2015

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This work led to research with rural and northern seniors who have engaged with us on the opportunities and challenges that allow them to remain in their communities. One outcome is a framework (Jeffery et al., 2015) and measures for monitoring and evaluating the impact of kin, community, and policy-level interventions on healthy aging in place (Example 2).

Beyond Health Sector Solutions

SPHERU projects have a distinct focus on identifying non-health sector interventions that impact population health and may be aligned with health sector initiatives. Our research methods actively engage collaborators in the design and implementation of projects and include partners such as community-based organizations, government departments, e.g. Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation, and municipal governments who desire to come together to address health challenges.

Example 2
The Rural Healthy Aging Assessment Framework has provided the foundation for three population health intervention projects currently being conducted in collaboration with several Saskatchewan communities.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Learning from the past

History provides a powerful tool for studying the present through a better understanding of the origins of health equity. SPHERU has produced an extensive Saskatchewan-oriented historical database that is used as a conceptual frame for understanding current health inequities experienced by rural and northern communities. The Saskatchewan Historical Health Timeline is both a teaching tool and a community resource for tracking historical patterns that underlie current health disparities.

REFERENCES:
