

# Project ADDING HEAT

Advancing Health Equity

▶▶▶ ANYONE LIVING IN NOVA SCOTIA WHO'S 16+ YEARS OLD CAN PARTICIPATE

## OVERVIEW

Project ADDING HEAT aims to advance health equity in Nova Scotia (NS) by identifying and exploring gaps in healthcare delivery. The project uses different ways to explore existing gaps in healthcare delivery, integrating community engagement at every stage.

## PROJECT FOCUS

Identify and explore gaps in healthcare delivery to learn how to make the health system better

## GOALS

- Gather NS-relevant health equity-related knowledge through community networking and reviewing existing resources that are available to healthcare professionals
- Assess quality of life of people living in NS in relation to the healthcare delivery process using a survey and by doing interviews
- Share findings so they can be used to deliver better healthcare to people living in NS

## APPROACH

- Everyone 16+ years old and living in NS is eligible to participate, but it's important that communities experiencing health disparities are well represented among participants. This will ensure project results will reflect the wisdom these communities hold; they know the most about what needs to change in health care because they experience more barriers when they access health services. These barriers impact people's access to health care and contribute to health disparities because they are the root causes of various forms of discrimination that are often tied to identity, geographic location, and other social factors.
- **Ways that data are being collected:**
  - **Demographic questions** on age, appearance, citizenship, belonging, beliefs, disability, gender, place, race, sex, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic class will allow for the impacts of different forms of discrimination on survey responses to be explored.
  - **Survey:** 2 parts
    1. Quality of life
    2. Care integration
  - **Interviews:** individual (about 30 mins) and group (up to 90 mins) will explore indicators on "healthy care systems" that the federal government uses in budgeting and decision-making so results align with national initiatives, ideally effecting large-scale change.
- **Data Management:** Create a formal plan that will be used to ensure data are used ethically (ongoing).
- **Data Analysis:** Engage with communities to get help interpreting findings and to discuss how they should be used
  1. Determine if different forms of discrimination impact survey responses
  2. Examine access to and quality of health care
  3. Identify gaps in health care delivery and explore them to better understand how people living in NS need health care delivered.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Organize events where findings are discussed with interest holders, including knowledge users in various roles within the health system, postsecondary education, government, and non-profit organizations.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Ongoing consultation with people who belong to populations experiencing health disparities (team members, events, participants, partners)
- Initiated by team members who belong to the community being engaged
- Informs all aspects of the project

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Gather evidence that exposes systemic issues affecting healthcare access and quality
- Promote an increased awareness of how healthcare needs to be delivered in NS
- Develop formal agreements with communities and organizations who want to use subgroup data that belongs to them for their own purposes
- Influence policy using evidence that is gathered from a diverse participant pool and more reflective of people living in NS, particularly in terms of race, geographic location, age, gender, and other social factors that impact access and quality of health care.
- Work with interest holders to ensure results are used to promote change that will benefit everyone living in NS.

## TO PARTICIPATE



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### What's a diverse participant pool?

A diverse participant pool represents differences within and across groups and geographic locations. We are intentionally engaging a diverse participant pool. This will allow us to use the detailed demographic information we're asking people to share with us to identify and explore different kinds of discrimination that affect healthcare access and quality.

### Why's this important?

The NS population is becoming more and more diverse. Our healthcare system needs to be able to respond to the needs of the population, especially those who have been (and continue to be) underserved. Access to quality health care is a primary concern that impacts everyone because it influences the health system's overall effectiveness and efficiency, which affect the health and wellbeing of all people living in NS.