



Approaches to Measuring
Less Poverty
in Communities





Approaches to Measuring Less Poverty in Communities

Research: **DENISE L. WHALEY**
Editor: **LIZ WEAVER**

*Tamarack exists to build vibrant and engaged communities in Canada.
Our work will result in more collaborative approaches and less poverty.*



Copyright © 2010 Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement

Designed by ASAP Design Inc.

All rights reserved. Although this paper may be downloaded free of charge, no part of the publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without permission in writing of the publisher.

Please note that this is a living document and its content will change from the original version. The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Maytree, The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Hamilton Community Foundation and the Government of Canada.

Published by:

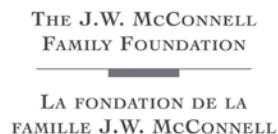
Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement

Waterloo, Ontario

Web: www.tamarackcommunity.ca

Email: tamarack@tamarackcommunity.ca

This publication was made possible through the generous support of:





About Vibrant Communities

Vibrant Communities is a unique initiative that supports and links collaborations from over a dozen urban centres across Canada who are experimenting with comprehensive and collaborative approaches to reduce poverty.

Started in 2002 by The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Caledon Institute of Social Policy and Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement, the network includes community collaboration from Abbotsford, B.C.'s Capital Region, Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Saint John, St. John's, Surrey, the Saint Michel neighbourhood in Montreal, Trois Rivières, Waterloo, and Winnipeg.

The Vibrant Communities initiative is generously supported by contributions from The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Maytree, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada as well as a number of other private and community organizations.

About this Resource

Approaches to Measuring Less Poverty in Communities is one of a series of papers that the sponsors of Vibrant Communities have developed with the financial assistance of The Ontario Trillium Foundation.

These papers review measurement tools and techniques used by a variety of organizations across Canada and internationally. This paper is a living document which Tamarack may upgrade periodically based on new learning and feedback from readers.

Please note that this paper can be downloaded free of charge from www.tamarackcommunity.ca.

About The Ontario Trillium Foundation

A leading grantmaker in Canada, The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. Learn more about The Ontario Trillium Foundation at: www.trilliumfoundation.org

La Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario (FTO), l'une des plus importantes fondations subventionnaires au Canada, renforce les capacités du secteur bénévole en investissant dans des initiatives communautaires. Relevant du gouvernement de l'Ontario, la FTO favorise l'épanouissement de communautés saines et dynamiques dans toute la province.

www.trilliumfoundation.org

**THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION**



**LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO**

About the Research Team

Research: Denise L. Whaley

Denise L. Whaley worked as a summer researcher for Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement. Denise received her Bachelor’s Degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Waterloo. She is currently a graduate student in Rural Planning and Development at the University of Guelph and student member of OPPI/CIP.

Editor: Liz Weaver

Liz Weaver of the Vibrant Communities Canada team provides coaching, leadership and support to Ontario community partners, including Opportunities Waterloo Region and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. As lead coach, she helps initiatives develop their frameworks of change, supports and guides their projects and helps connect them to Vibrant Communities and other comprehensive community collaborations.

Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement

The following individuals provided insight and guidance on the development of this paper.

- **Paul Born**, President, Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement
- **Mark Cabaj**, Vice President, Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement and Executive Director, Vibrant Communities
- **Eric Leviten-Reid**, Learning and Evaluation Coordinator and Coach, Vibrant Communities
- **Sylvia Cheuy**, External Learning Coordinator, Vibrant Communities



Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Summaries: Approaches of Measuring Less Poverty in Communities	8
Vibrant Communities Canada	8
National Performance Indicators	10
Community Scales	13
Neighbourhood Vitality Index	15
Sustainable Livelihoods Framework	17
Family Economic Success – Annie E. Casey Foundation	19
Canadian Index of Wellbeing	22
Government of Ontario – Poverty Reduction Strategy	24
United Kingdom – Poverty Reduction Strategy	26
Social Determinants of Health	28
Conclusions	31



Introduction

Poverty is a multifaceted condition which involves more than income. Poverty is often defined as a condition where people are unable to meet at least their basic needs, such as food, shelter and clothing. However, this paper employs a broader understanding of poverty which includes social exclusion; those living in poverty do not have the means to fully participate in society. This is important when considering how to measure less poverty in communities. When a number of individuals in a community are excluded from participation, the community has lost the human capital assets of these members. In fact, poverty costs communities greatly from a social or human capital perspective.

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to review and describe different approaches used by organizations and governments to measure less poverty in communities. One of the most common determinations of less poverty in communities is through measuring levels of income or percentages of low income households. Other measures of less poverty are broader and contain elements such as social inclusion, community development and well-being indicators which provide a more comprehensive community picture.

By compiling a variety of approaches, this paper offers an overview of ten measures being used to track less poverty in communities. The intended impact of this resource is twofold. First, the summaries and the accompanying annotated lists act as a starting point for exploring the different approaches. Secondly, these approaches can aid in developing further conversations around poverty reduction measures. As such, this resource serves as a set of briefing notes.

Background

This report is part of a funded project with The Ontario Trillium Foundation which seeks to research and build on current practices and knowledge about four aspects of healthy and vibrant communities and outline metrics currently being used to monitor each aspect. The four aspects are:

- Approaches to Measuring Less Poverty in Communities
- Approaches to Measuring More Vibrant Communities
- Approaches to Measuring More Engaged Communities
- Approaches to Measuring More Collaborative Communities

Ultimately, these reports are a starting point and further dialogue is required to generate a consensus about measuring, monitoring and reporting community progress and change.

As a first step to preparing this document, key informant interviews were held with individuals from Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement and Vibrant Communities Canada. The key informants identified approaches which they believed offered a compelling perspective on poverty and poverty reduction and/or a practical set of measures and research tools. Additional information was collected by sourcing foundation documents of each approach.

Details

Many current poverty reduction strategies and poverty reduction measurement tools use similar theories, approaches, tools and measures. This paper provides an overview of ten *different* approaches. It should be noted that this is not a complete list of all approaches currently in use but provides an overview of a variety of different approaches for measuring less poverty.

It is also important to clarify that this paper is focused specifically on approaches which measure less poverty in communities, rather less poverty of individuals. The examples cited in this paper describe multi faceted approaches which measure poverty reduction or elimination.

There are measures that focus solely on income and purchasing power of individuals which are not included. Poverty lines, low income cut off (LICO), low income measures (LIM), and market basket measures (MBM) are not described in the paper. Information about these income measures can be found through [Statistics Canada](#) and the [National Council of Welfare](#).

Most approaches highlighted in this paper include some form of income measure, however, none use income as the sole measure. Some of the approaches – such as Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Vitality – measure poverty reduction both from the perspective of the individual and the community level. An annotated list of web-based resources links is also included. Where possible, examples of programs utilizing the measurement approach are also included.

There are generally two types of measurements: quantitative or numeric (hard data) and qualitative or stories (soft data). Most of the approaches collect and report data using both. Qualitative data is often viewed as being less rigorous and by combining it with quantitative data you get a more comprehensive picture of what is occurring in a community.

Emerging Evaluative Practice

Many of the evaluation strategies presented are based on similar theories and approaches to poverty and poverty reduction. Two such examples stand out for further explanation – *Theory of Change*¹ and *Developmental Evaluation*².

Theory of Change is a method or technique that can assist communities to think about, plan and evaluate their work. It involves ‘backwards mapping’ from the goals or desired outcome of the program to identify what is needed in the program design to accomplish the goals. Theory of Change was more fully developed for community use by the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change and is an integral part of the design of Vibrant Communities, Sustainable Livelihoods, National Indicators and other initiatives.

Developmental Evaluation is a complete approach to evaluation which is appropriate to situations of shifting contexts, innovation and complexity. Differing from *formative evaluation* that is focused on refining existing models, programs and strategies, and *summative evaluation* that is focused on

¹ For more information on Theory of Change, its origins and ideology please see the website: <http://www.theoryofchange.org>

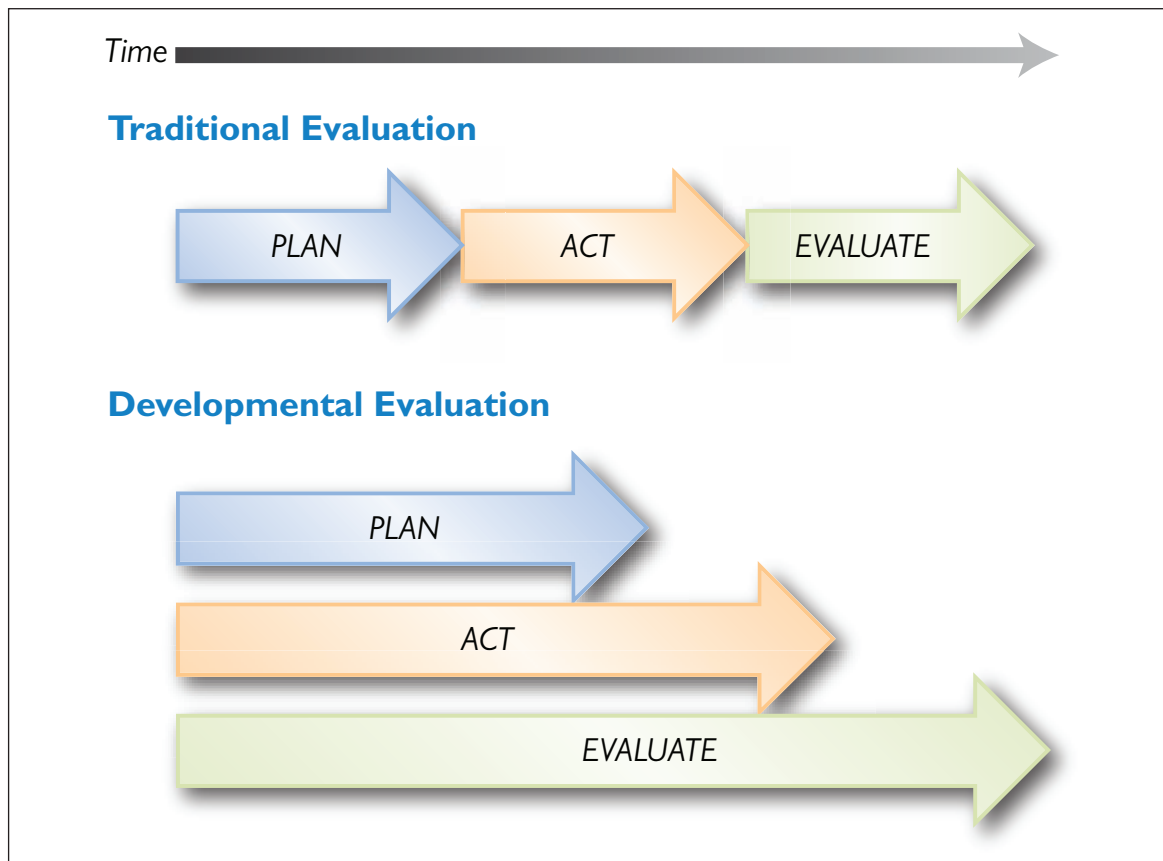
² For more information see The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation, *Sustaining Social Innovation: Developmental Evaluation*. <http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca/default.aspx?page=139>



judging the worth of those models, programs and strategies, *developmental evaluation* is intended to help people and organizations create and continually adapt interventions. Unlike traditional situations where the emphasis is on ‘think, plan, implement and monitor’, the process of thinking, planning, implementing and evaluation is continuous and simultaneous. This is vastly different from traditional evaluation as shown in the figure below.

Jamie Gamble explains the theory and approach to developmental evaluation in *A Developmental Evaluation Primer* published by The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and can be found on their website. It is worth reviewing these concepts in order to understand how evaluation and measures are developed by these approaches. Developmental Evaluation and Theory of Change are an emerging part of modern evaluative frameworks used by many of the approaches included in this paper.

Traditional versus Developmental Evaluation Approaches



(adapted from Gamble, *A Developmental Evaluation Primer*, p. 30)

The implications for measurement in Developmental Evaluation are significant. The process of identifying what measures are required, gathering and analyzing data on them, and making decisions, is highly adaptive. In Developmental Evaluation, the emphasis is often on rapid feedback, ‘good enough’ level of proof, and the refinement, addition and dropping of measures. Developmental Evaluation also puts emphasis on casting a wide net in search of outcomes; seeking unintended outcomes as well as intended ones.

Levels of Change

The ten examples describe different organizations and/or network approaches to determining change in levels of poverty through measurement. Each monitors poverty reduction at various levels which can include data such as:

Demographic

- Individuals
- Household/Family
- Population (e.g. seniors, immigrants)

Geographic

- Neighbourhood
- Community
- Region
- Province or National

The table below summarizes different poverty reduction measurements and their impact on populations. Of the ten, only two – National Performance Indicators and the UK Poverty Reduction Strategy – attempt to track changes across all populations.

Measurement Levels for Various Approaches of Poverty Reduction

Levels of Change Measured							
Approach	Individual	Household/ Family	Population	Neighbour- hood	Community	Region	Province/ State/ Nation
Vibrant Communities	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
National Performance Indicators	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Scales	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Missouri Self-Sufficiency Scales	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Neighbourhood Vitality Index	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
Sustainable Livelihoods	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Annie E. Casey Family Economic Success	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Canadian Index of Wellbeing	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
UK Poverty Strategy Opportunity for All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Determinants of Health	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
✓ = measures at the level indicated ✗ = does not measure at the level indicated							



For Further Reading

This paper provides ten different approaches for measuring less poverty in communities.

Each approach contains the following information.

- **Summary** – Provides the essence of the approach and explains why the approach is included in this document
- **Background** – Includes the history of the approach, its current application and information about the organization and partners if applicable
- **Details** – Explains further what and how the approach measures progress for poverty reduction
- **For Further Reading** – Provides a resource list of web links and print resources to find more details and examples about the approaches we have outlined

Summaries: Approaches of Measuring Less Poverty in Communities

Vibrant Communities Canada

Summary

Vibrant Communities are comprehensive, place-based community initiatives focused on poverty reduction that employ a Framework or Theory of Change approach. Each framework for change details economic, social and systems change initiatives meant to reduce poverty in the specific community or neighbourhood. The Vibrant Communities model focuses on poverty reduction, cross-sector community engagement, leveraging the assets of the community around poverty reduction, an active action and learning process and on-going evaluation.

Background

Vibrant Communities began in 2002 as a community-driven initiative for reducing poverty in Canada. Its national sponsors are The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Caledon Institute of Social Policy, and Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement. Vibrant Communities exist in twelve communities across Canada. Vibrant Communities Trail Builders are collaborative, place-based initiatives focused on implementing multi-year programs and strategies designed to reduce poverty.

Details

Each Vibrant Communities Trail Builder initiative is developed by its local community collaborative planning table. Each community is also encouraged to develop its own indicators for measuring poverty relevant to their own community context. Vibrant Communities Canada has identified a number of cross-community or ‘proxy indicators’. Since each community approach is unique, Trail Builder communities report on a variety of indicators including: changes in income, education and training, housing, financial assets, new/improved employment, the number of low income individuals/families benefitting from the Vibrant Communities initiatives and the numbers of individuals and organizations engaged in the collaborative approach.

In the Theory of Change document, each Trail Builder community commits to measurable targets expected to be achieved during the life of the project. A target is set for the number of individuals and/or households the trail builder community will impact over a set period of time as well as the number of people accessing programs, the number of community partners engaged in the process and policy and systems change impacts.

Vibrant Communities Trail Builders also use Developmental Evaluation which requires a program to determine goals but be flexible about outcomes. Developmental Evaluation includes the use of statistical data and captures community change stories as the project unfolds. This is different from traditional evaluation which identifies fixed goals to measure progress and fixed methods



for evaluation. Developmental Evaluation requires continuous evaluation, reflection and learning throughout the project.

The *Learning and Evaluation Process* involves:

- Developing a community relevant Theory of Change which also includes a definition of the specific approach for poverty and poverty reduction
- Capturing results of the strategies, understanding the challenge being addressed, the strategy to be used and the anticipated results/achieved results
- Producing regular reports summarizing the work being done and the results achieved
- Sharing information, design and results among other Vibrant Communities initiatives or other interested groups

Trail Builder communities submit bi-annual reports to Vibrant Community sponsors. The impact of Vibrant Communities is also measured by:

- Depth of Impact
- Systems Change – New community resources or structures, new or adjusted policies or improved delivery of existing government programs and new working relationships in the community
- Community Capacity – Community stories and reflections are part of the evaluation

For Further Reading:

Vibrant Communities, *Learning and Evaluation for Trail Builder Initiatives in Vibrant Communities*. February 2005 <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/TBpackage.pdf>

This resource describes the three streams Vibrant Communities are using for evaluation: Community Approach, Strategies and Projects and Reporting and Dissemination. Included is information about Theory of Change and Developmental Evaluation.

Evaluation and Learning, Vibrant Communities <http://tamarackcommunity.ca/g2s34.html>

The Vibrant Communities website has resources including Trail Builder Community Updates detailing how progress is being made toward goals.

Born, Paul (ed.), *Creating Vibrant Communities: How Individuals and Organizations from Diverse Sectors of Society are Coming Together to Reduce Poverty in Canada*. Toronto: BPS Books. 2008

This book thoroughly describes the Vibrant Communities approach to poverty reduction, the evaluation framework, as well as providing case examples from communities across Canada.

Developmental Evaluation: Sustaining Social Innovation, The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation <http://www.mcconnellfoundation.ca/default.aspx?page=139>

This webpage explains the origins of Developmental Evaluation and provides comparisons to traditional evaluation approaches in a concise format.

National Performance Indicators

Summary

National Indicators is a broadly used approach for measuring poverty and poverty reduction strategies in the United States. It focuses on six national goals for reducing poverty and provides companion indicators to measure poverty. Indicators are measured against poverty reduction targets set by the individual program.

Background

This approach is used by all Community Action Agencies in the United States. Community Action Agencies are non-profit and charitable organizations with a strategic focus on poverty reduction. The National Indicators of Community Action Performance were developed in 2005.

The service areas of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) cover 96 percent of the nation's counties. Our agencies are connected by a national network that includes the Community Action Partnership national association, regional associations, state associations, a national lobbying organization, and a national association of Community Service Block Grant administrators.

(Community Action Partnership)

Details

National Performance Indicators, as they are also known, can be used in conjunction with *Community Scales*, individual scales or agency level scales which use the same set of national goals for reducing poverty (*see Community Scales resource list*). The following are the six national goals identified to guide poverty reduction strategies:

- Goal 1:** Low-income people become more self-sufficient. (FAMILY)
- Goal 2:** The conditions in which low-income people live are improved. (COMMUNITY)
- Goal 3:** Low-income people own a stake in their community. (COMMUNITY)
- Goal 4:** Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved. (AGENCY)
- Goal 5:** Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results. (AGENCY)
- Goal 6:** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems. (FAMILY)



The goals are a starting point that all US government poverty reduction strategies are to use in the design of their programs. The approach also uses a set of sixteen outcome and performance indicators (updated for 2009). The National Performance Indicators are designed to directly measure progress toward these goals. Results measured are numbers-based, tracking only the increases in the identified indicators. Agencies will not necessarily use all indicators but must report on those relevant to their individual programs. Indicators are organized by types:

- Process Indicators – Provide evidence of whether the program unfolded according to plan
- Service Delivery Indicators – Provide straightforward information about what a program is providing. How much? How many? How often?
- Customer Satisfaction Indicators – Provide information about whether a program met its customers’ expectations
- Impact Indicators – Provide evidence of whether the program had the impact (achieved outcomes or results) which were identified

Of the indicator types, the *Impact Indicators* are the most important to national goals as they measure progress directly. These are also measured against targets set by the programs design. The other indicators are related to the specific program evaluations and do not necessarily measure progress in reducing poverty.

The table below provides an overview of the types of indicators used at the community level.

Measures of Success in Poverty Reduction

GOAL 2: COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE LIVES OF LOW INCOME PEOPLE ARE IMPROVED	
	Examples of outcome indicators:
<i>National Performance Indicator 2.1 – Community Improvement and Revitalization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs created/saved • “Living wage” jobs created/saved • Affordable housing units created, preserved or improved • Health care services/facilities for low income people created or saved • Affordable child care spaces and out of school programs • New or expanded affordable transportation resources • Educational and training placement opportunities, that are available for low income people
<i>National Performance Indicator 2.2 – Community Quality of Life and Assets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community assets – Result of a change in law, regulation or policy, which results in improvements to quality of life and assets • Services, including community facilities, services to improve public and safety, and commercial services within low income neighbourhoods • Neighbourhood quality of life resources
<i>National Performance Indicator 2.3 – Community Engagement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of community members volunteering and hours donated

GOAL 3: COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION LOW INCOME PEOPLE OWN A STAKE IN THEIR COMMUNITY	
<i>National Performance Indicator 3.2 – Community Empowerment through Maximum Feasible Participation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income people participating in community organizations that provide input to decision making and policy setting • Low income people acquiring businesses in their community as a result of Community Action assistance • Low income people purchasing homes in their community as a result of Community Action assistance • Low income people engaged in non-governance community activities or groups created or supported by Community Action

(National Indicators of Community Action Performance)

For Further Reading:

About CAAS, Community Action Partnership Website

http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=21&Itemid=50

This website aids in understanding the work and structure of the Community Action Partnerships and agencies. It includes publications and news about current activities.

National Indicators of Community Action Performance

http://tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/Indicators_Comm_Action_Perf.pdf

Vibrant Communities (Tamarack) created a summary of the National Indicators Approach which provides more detail about the goals and indicators. This resource provides a good overview of the approach to poverty reduction. It does not provide more information about metrics used to measure progress.

National Performance Indicators Instruction Manual. National Association for State Community Services Programs. May 2009

http://www.nascsp.org/documents/FY09NPIInstructionsFINAL_000.pdf

For those interested in a detailed document explaining all the indicators and recent updates, this resource is the most current example of how this approach is developed, used and reported.

Targeting Field Manual: Setting and Reviewing Targets. NASCSP. August 2008

<http://www.nascsp.org/documents/NASCSPPerformanceTargetingManual8-18-08FINAL.pdf>

This document serves as a resource for understanding how to develop targets, indicators and measurements for the National Performance Indicators approach. It explains the terminology and measures with a high level of detail.

National Performance Indicators – Agency Level Forms

<http://nascsp.org/documents/FY08NPIFormsFinal.xls>

This is an excel file template for logging performance indicators. It provides an example of a comprehensive tool used for tracking progress and is provided for an agency to use in reporting but can also serve as a guideline for how templates can be used in reporting progress.



Community Scales

Summary

Community Scales use what are called *dimensions of change* to measure the community and systems change which is expected to result in permanent reduction of poverty at the community level. Dimensions of change involve 5 components, including, public policy, equity, civic capital, service and support systems and economic opportunity.

Background

The source of Community Scales is a document entitled *Community Scales: a Ladder for the Twenty-First Century* produced in 1997. The Community Scales framework was developed through a collaborative effort involving members of the National Community Services Block Grant Monitoring and Assessment Task Force Committee on Scales and Ladders. Scales have been adapted for use at the individual or family level and are currently being used by Missouri Community Action Family Self-Sufficiency Scale and Massachusetts Family Self-Sufficiency Scales and Ladders, among others.

Details

The community scales approach provides a comprehensive approach to measuring progress of program and community-level change. Community scales are a continuum to measure change within community systems or conditions; and include dimensions for change such as public policy, equity, civic capital, service of support systems and economic opportunity. The scale thresholds are described simply as: thriving, safe, stable, vulnerable or in crisis. Using an assessment tool, indicators can be evaluated based on these scale thresholds and tracked over time. The following table provides an example of a tool developed from the source document which allows the assessment and later reassessment of the community on five dimensions of change.

After assessing a specific community-level situation, such as available affordable housing, the agency would identify targets to work towards and outcome indicators to measure this progress. After the project is initiated, the agency uses the scaling tool to track changes by comparing the results of the initial assessment with a series of periodic re-assessments. Careful development of the scaling tool is crucial because it becomes the framework to assess the community situation, plan program interventions, measure incremental progress, and reassess intervention strategies.

Community Scaling Tool

THRESHOLDS		DIMENSIONS				
		PUBLIC POLICY	EQUITY	CIVIC CAPITAL	SERVICE & SUPPORT SYSTEMS	ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
5.	Thriving	Innovative	Achieves Equity and Values Differences	Investing	Comprehensive and Integrated	Vibrant
4.	Safe	Supportive	Affirming	Contributory	Preventive	Emerging
3.	Stable	Selective or Reactive	Toleration and Awareness	Participating	Comprehensive but Reactive	Stagnant
2.	Vulnerable	None or Unenforced	Complacent and Uninformed	Awareness and Education	Responsive but not Comprehensive	Contracting
1.	In Crisis	Hostile	Conflict and Fear	Isolation	Non-responsive	Collapsed

(Adapted from *Community Scales: A Ladder to the Twenty First Century*, p. 7)

For Further Reading:

Community Scales: A Ladder to the Twenty First Century. A Proposal to the Community Services Block Grant Monitoring and Assessment Task Force for Measuring Change at the Community Level. 1997

<http://www.roma1.org/files/rtr/communityScale.pdf>

This is the main source document which explains the Community Scales approach, the methods, indicators and measures.

Missouri Community Action Family Self-Sufficiency Scale. March 1999

http://www.roma1.org/files/rtr/MO_familyscalenevest.doc

This resource serves as an example to show how scales can develop into tailored indicators and programs. The Missouri Family Self-Sufficiency Scale measures at the individual/family level only.

Massachusetts Family Self-Sufficiency Scales and Ladders Assessment Form

http://www.roma1.org/files/rtr/MA_Scale.doc

This assessment form provides an example of a simple-to-use checklist style evaluation. The practitioner can use the form to assess the family's situation and to track progress as part of a poverty reduction program.



Neighbourhood Vitality Index

Summary

The Neighbourhood Vitality Index considers the overall health and well-being of a community, including poverty. The index consists of a number assigned to each indicator identified by each initiative during project development. The index can be used to track changes over the long term.

Background

Neighbourhood Vitality Index was developed in a report by Sean Meagher called *A Neighbourhood Vitality Index: an Approach to Measuring Neighbourhood Well-Being*. It was prepared for the United Way of Greater Toronto for use in City of Toronto neighbourhoods. The Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force, a project of the City of Toronto and the United Way of Greater Toronto with support of the provincial and federal governments, also measures neighbourhood vitality.

Details

The Neighbourhood Vitality Index framework is based on approaches developed by the National Neighbourhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) and the document *Building and Operating Neighborhood Indicator Systems: A Guidebook*. One of the basic principles in the Neighbourhood Vitality Index is that those measures which describe the number of people in poverty is not considered fully illustrative of neighbourhood health but suggests that percentages of people in poverty tell more of the neighbourhood story. Comparing poverty percentages relative to the surrounding region and looking at the range of incomes in neighbourhoods is vital.

Examples of measures used in the Neighbourhood Vitality Index include:

- Income
- Mobility Access to Employment
- Neighbourhood Conditions
- Access to Community Facilities
- Family Composition
- Collective Efficacy
- Employment
- Distribution of Employment
- Access to Employment
- Connection to Community Services
- Participation in Community Structures
- Safety
- Housing
- Business Activity
- Business Connection
- Educational Attainment
- Demographic Cohesion
- Access to Capital
- Business Climate
- Access to Public Amenities
- Skills Development
- Presence of Community Facilities

For Further Reading

Sean Meagher, *A Neighbourhood Vitality Index: An Approach to Measuring Neighbourhood Well-Being, an Action for Neighbourhood Change Report for the United Way of Greater Toronto*. 2006

http://www.publicinterest.ca/sites/default/files/T&R_Vitality_Index.pdf

This foundational document explains the Neighbourhood Vitality Index approach. The full set of indicators is detailed. A sample survey for gathering data at the institutional level is included.

Geoffrey Dobilas and Fraser Battye, *Measuring Neighbourhood Vitality, Final Report*. GHK International (Canada) Ltd. January 2005

http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/pdfs/curp/SNTF_Neigh-Vitality_RP3.pdf

This report was developed for the “Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force: to develop a Neighbourhood Vitality Tool for Toronto neighbourhoods.” The document contains the framework for using Neighbourhood Vitality measures and outlines what Neighbourhood Vitality indicators have been developed for 140 Toronto Neighbourhoods. It also explores what other jurisdictions have done around neighbourhood indicators and reports on the findings of what was measured in Toronto neighbourhoods.

G. Thomas Kingsley (ed.), *Building and Operating Neighborhood Indicator Systems: A Guidebook*. National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. March 1999

<http://www2.urban.org/nnip/pdf/guidebk.pdf>

This document provides the framework and theory used for developing neighbourhood indicators used in the index.



Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

Summary

Sustainable Livelihoods uses a unique approach to assessing poverty through a technique called asset-mapping. Asset mapping involves determining the specific attributes an individual or community might have including financial, social, personal, physical and human assets. This model determines which assets must be built over the course of the program and assets are reassessed at set intervals to measure poverty reduction progress. Measuring an improvement in individual or community assets is viewed as a more durable and sustainable approach.

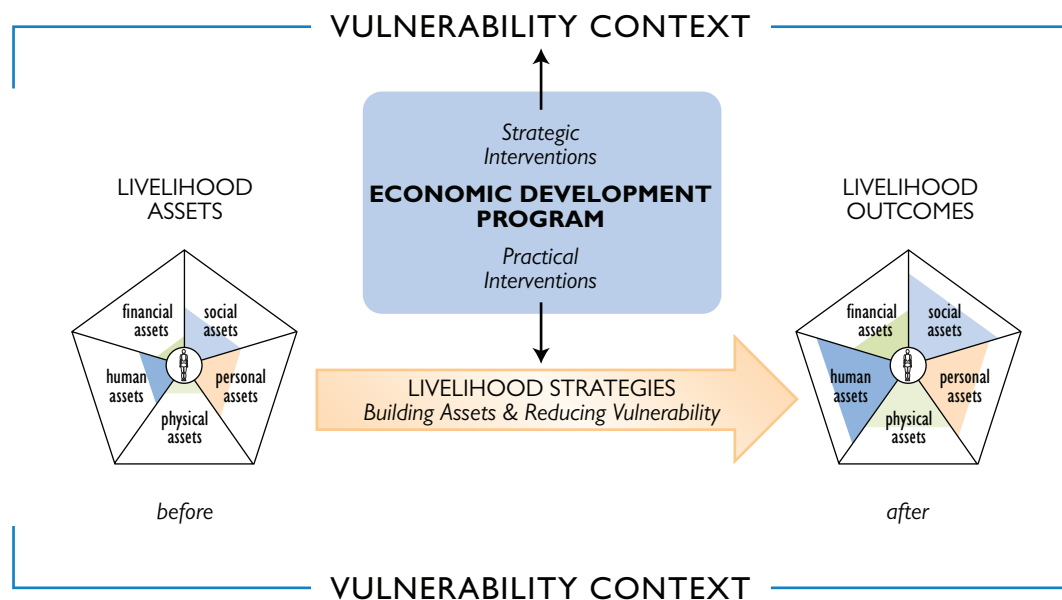
Background

This measurement tool was developed in the United Kingdom by the Department for International Development and further adapted by Eko Nomos and the Women's Economic Development Consortium. Opportunities Waterloo Region, a Vibrant Communities partner in Ontario, has used this approach to measure individual and community changes.

Details

Asset mapping and asset development are considered to provide a more permanent pathway out of poverty for families and individuals. Many of the approaches using asset mapping concentrate on individual level change, however, there are examples of strategic interventions through policy change and economic development. Below is a diagram which illustrated an asset mapping approach.

The Role of Program Interventions



(Women and Economic Development Consortium, 2002)

The individual is assessed on many asset criteria such as housing, skills and access to transportation. These fall into the asset categories of human, physical, personal, social and financial. The degree to which an individual does not have the assets required identifies their level of vulnerability. Throughout the program, assets are built upon and re-mapped as they develop. As an individual's assets are increased, it is expected that the individual is more likely to achieve an enhanced and sustainable standard of living.

In the previous diagram, the individual and community is seen to have a level of vulnerability which will be reduced as they move through the program. As assets are built, the pentagon will be filled in more completely. This also reveals those assets which have increased and those which are still lacking. Change is easy to visualize but may not be as easy to measure in traditional data collection methods.

For Further Reading

Janet Murray and Mary Ferguson, *Women in Transition out of Poverty: An asset based approach to building sustainable livelihoods*. Women and Economic Development Consortium. January 2001
<http://www.cdnwomen.org/PDFs/EN/CWF-WIT-asset.pdf>

This foundational document explains the adaption of Sustainable Livelihoods Framework for Canadian circumstances. It explains the theory and methodology of the approach to evaluation and provides case study examples of Canadian asset-building programs.

Janet Murray and Mary Ferguson, *Women in Transition out of Poverty: A guide to effective practice in promoting sustainable livelihoods*. January 2002
<http://www.cdnwomen.org/PDFs/EN/CWF-WIT-guide.pdf>

This is a companion to the above resource. It provides practical tools to develop programs using the Sustainable Livelihoods approach including an evaluative framework. It also includes blank templates for asset-mapping and outcome tracking.

Mary MacKeigan and Sanjay Govindaraj, *Putting People First: Exploring the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in Waterloo Region*. January 2004
http://tamarackcommunity.ca/downloads/vc/op2000_sla.pdf

This document provides a look into a project which used Sustainable Livelihoods in the Waterloo Region, Ontario called Opportunities 2000. It explains the principles and theory behind Sustainable Livelihoods as a case study of Opportunities 2000 and also provides comprehensive tools and outcome tracking templates for both the individual and group program participants.



Family Economic Success – Annie E. Casey Foundation

Summary

Family Economic Success focuses on a number of economic domains including workforce development, family economic supports and asset-building. The concept is used to guide program design and policy related work for many of the programs funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Background

Annie E. Casey Foundation developed the Family Economic Success framework for a variety of programs and communities to increase poorer families' assets. Vibrant Communities Edmonton, a member of the Vibrant Communities initiative, adopted and adapted the Family Economic Success approach in their work and used it to identify poverty reduction strategies. Making Connections is the flagship initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation launched in 1999.

Details

This approach focuses on building the assets and resources of families so they can meet their needs over the long term. These goals are accomplished through development of specific programs which are determined as foundational to improving assets.

The Casey Foundation believes that the children in greatest trouble in America today are those whose parents lack the earnings, assets, services or social support systems required to consistently meet their families' needs. Most of these children are growing up in impoverished communities that are disconnected from the economic mainstream. The Foundation is working to help these isolated families secure adequate incomes, stabilize their finances, accumulate savings and live in vibrant, economically viable neighborhoods through a combination of an approach known as building family economic success, or FES. The approach involves three key components:

- **Asset-building** – strategies to help families build wealth and save for the future.
- **Family economic supports** – public and private supports to help families establish credit, reduce debt, and increase their financial security; and
- **Workforce development** – the skills and education necessary to get good jobs and build careers.

(www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/FamilyEconomicSuccess.aspx)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation website contains a wide range of resources for the family economic success approach. These include resources for developing indicators, targets, benchmarks and interim milestones. The following table provides some examples of targets and indicator strategies that can be incorporated into evaluations.

Example Targets and Indicators

Target	Indicator
Community has increased level of assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the services provided by financial institutions • Increase in the number of employers who look to the neighbourhood for employee recruitment • Increase in the outlets and opportunities for reasonably priced housing, goods and services • Increase in the availability and quality of neighbourhood-based services and supports • Increase in private investments in the neighbourhood • Increase of public resources committed to the neighbourhood infrastructure
Families have increased earnings and income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More parents and young adults are employed • More parents are employed in jobs that provide family supporting wages, benefits, and career advancement possibilities • Increase in levels of family income and earnings • Increase in the stable labour force attachment of parents
Target	Indicator
Families have increased levels of assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in levels of family savings and increase in number of families that save • More families own their own homes and other assets, such as cars • More eligible families file for available tax credits • Increase in family access to reasonably prices housing, consumer goods, and financial services • Fewer families have payment disruptions in housing status and living conditions, such as utility shut-offs and foreclosures

(adapted and excerpted from Building Strong Financial Futures, p. 6-7)

Example: Making Connections

Making Connections initially identified and supported twenty-two project sites across the United States designed to address the isolation and disconnection experienced by many families in targeted neighbourhoods. Isolation was addressed by bridging social and economic connections for families. The following table provides examples of Making Connections outcomes; benchmarks and interim milestones in key areas (*see the source document for more examples*). Interim milestones are considered important to support the process to achieve longer term goals.



Example Outcomes, Benchmarks and Interim Milestones

Workforce and Income	
Outcome: Neighbourhood families have adequate incomes to meet families basic needs	
Benchmark	Interim Milestone
More parents with young children employed	More families in ESL or adult education classes
Neighbourhood Economic Development	
Outcome: Neighbourhood blight is reduced to where the neighbourhood feels whole and safe	
Benchmark	Interim Milestone
Increase in public resources committed to target neighbourhood for infrastructure	Completion of strategic plan for neighbourhood economic development

(adapted and excerpted from *A Framework for Making Connections*, p. 8)

For Further Reading

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, *Building Strong Financial Futures for Families and Communities: A Framework for Family Economic Success*. 2003. <http://www.aecf.org/upload/publicationfiles/building%20strong%20financial%20futures-framework%20for%20fes.pdf>

This resource explains the Family Economic Success approach to poverty reduction and how evaluation measures progress. It gives examples of targets and indicators at the family and the community level.

Annie E. Casey Foundation. *Family Economic Success A Framework for Making Connections*. 2002 <http://www.jff-projects.org/~jff/Documents/FESFrame.pdf>

This document provides a framework for how Making Connections projects will develop outcomes, benchmarks and milestones, working with a strategic focus for change.

Canadian Index of Wellbeing

Summary

The Institute of Wellbeing has identified several indicators for measuring wellbeing in Canada which are tracked and reported. This approach does not solely focus on measuring less poverty in communities but rather is designed as a national approach to reporting broadly on well-being. This approach was included because it's both new and offers a Canadian approach to analyzing a variety of domains of wellbeing.

Background

The Canadian Index of Wellbeing was launched in June 2009 and was developed by the Institute of Wellbeing. The Atkinson Charitable Foundation began the early work to developing an index in 1999 and continues to support the project. The Canadian Research Advisory Group was established in 2004 to assist in the development of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing.

Details

The Institute of Wellbeing intends to track wellbeing indicators nationally, document trends over time and report results to the public:

The CIW will track Canada's progress and provide a set of indicators in eight interconnected categories that will enable us to see whether we are better or worse off than we used to be, whether we will leave the world a better or worse place for the generations that follow, and what we need to change to achieve a better outcome.

(About the Institute, CIW website)

Canadian Index of Wellbeing is not a poverty reduction measurement tool. Rather, it is intended to be a source of information to Canadians about wellbeing in general. Although much data is collected from community level indicators, this data is aggregated to the national level. There are three different, but connected categories in the Index of Wellbeing: living standards; healthy populations and community vitality.

At the time of this paper, Community Vitality measures did not include poverty indicators specifically, however, there are current discussions around the addition of new indicators which may include poverty.



Economic participation and employment is measured within the domain of *Living Standards*. Living Standards identifies economic indicators such as:

- Income – Income distribution, median income, LICO, wealth distribution, persistence of low income
- Work – Long term unemployment, employment rate, job quality
- Basic Necessities – Housing suitability and affordability, food security

It is worth noting that the way CIW has defined and separated the categories it reports on. This is different from some of the other approaches which do not separate indicators into interconnecting categories but consider health, wellbeing and vitality as one in the same.

For Further Reading:

Andrew Sharpe and Jean-Francois Arsenault, *Living Standards: a Report of the Institute of Wellbeing*. June 2009

http://ciw.ca/Libraries/Documents/LivingStandards_DomainReport.sflb.ashx

This report details the current indicators used to measure poverty and improvement progress in Canada. It reports the current findings of the Institute. Most of the indicators are income based, however employment, housing and food security are also included.

Katherine Scott, *Community Vitality: a Report of the Institute of Wellbeing*. June 2009

http://ciw.ca/Libraries/Documents/CommunityVitality_DomainReport.sflb.ashx

This is a report of the Community Vitality Domain of the index. The Community Vitality domain does not currently include indicators of poverty but rather these are included in the Living Standards Domain. This report explains the framework for evaluation and how the indicators are measured.

Government of Ontario – Poverty Reduction Strategy

Summary

The Government of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy has identified eight poverty reduction indicators. The focus of these eight indicators moves beyond just income as a measure of poverty and includes other measures such as low birth weight, educational progress, high school graduation and housing. The strategy focuses on eliminating child poverty and therefore most of the indicators track the progress of children. The Government of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy was launched in December 2008 and a progress report was released in December 2009.

Background

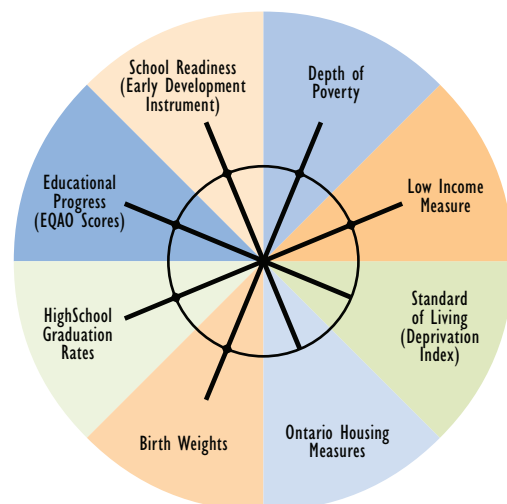
Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy was developed through a series of community consultations and released to the public in December 2008. Although provincial, communities are identified as an important part of the strategy and community-level initiatives are encouraged because municipal governments are closest to their communities and have tools to respond to the needs of communities. The provincial government has asked municipalities to look at public transportation and recreation as specific areas which can be improved at the community level.

Details

The Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy set a measurable target for less poverty: a 25% reduction in the number of children living in poverty within 5 years. There is an expectation that 90,000 children will be moved out of poverty during this time. The target was established using Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (LIM), which is calculated as 50% of median income. The *Breaking the Cycle* (2008) report identifies a short-term strategy of putting money in families' pockets, making work pay and changing the way that government works. It notes that progress on these initiatives is easy to measure.

Child and Youth Opportunity Wheel

In addition to using the Low Income Measure to gauge whether Ontario's poverty reduction strategy is meeting its target, seven child poverty indicators have also been identified. The following diagram identifies the Province's other indicators of child poverty. These indicators are measured as baseline data. Progress toward reaching the goal of moving 25% of low income children out of poverty in the next 5 years will be reported based on these indicators. While much of the indicator data is



(*Breaking the Cycle*, 2008)



already being collected by a variety of sources, the Ontario Housing Measure and Standard of Living (Deprivation Index) are currently under development. These are shown as incomplete spokes of the Child and Youth Opportunity Wheel.

For Further Reading

Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, Targets and Measures

http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/targets_measures.asp

This shorter document is part of the website for the Ontario Poverty Strategy.

It provides an overview to the targets and measures being used.

Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy (Full Report)

http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/pdf/Ontario's_Poverty_Report_EN.pdf

This is the full report which describes the details of the strategy and the indicators.

The roles of other levels of government including federal and municipal are detailed in this report.

United Kingdom – Poverty Reduction Strategy

Summary

The United Kingdom (UK) poverty reduction strategy includes a holistic set of indicators and measures. Indicators are tracked and reported to the public annually. Indicators are largely numeric including the number of residents within the population measured who have access to central heating. The UK poverty reduction strategy is far-reaching, involving many sectors and levels of government.

Background

Opportunities for All reports on the UK poverty strategy which began in 1999. The solutions however are cross-governmental, each area has its own programs and sets of measures with separation of regions, urban and rural areas. *Opportunities for All* reports are drafted by the UK Department for Work and Pensions. Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Task Force provides its own reports to measure progress. Joseph Rowntree Foundation also provides third-party reporting using the same indicators.

Details

The UK has identified a broad set of fifty indicators which reflect poverty and social exclusion. The fifty indicators are sorted into six overarching categories: income, children, young adults, working-age adults, older people, and community. Indicators of success for community are reflected by improved outcomes in long-term unemployment or worklessness, crime, health and educational attainment.

Specific community identified indicators track:

- Those who are without a bank account
- Are dissatisfied with their local area
- Are without home contents insurance
- Are victims of crime and those having fear of crime
- Their non-participation in employment, education or community organisations
- Their ability to travel

Housing as a category is broken down into several specific indicators:

- Without central heating
- Non-decent homes
- Energy inefficient homes
- Fuel poverty
- Not applied for Housing Benefit
- Overcrowding
- Unmet Housing Need
- Homelessness
- Polarisation by housing tenure
- Mortgage re-possession and significant arrears



The selected indicators are tracked, noting trends over time and are logged within a matrix. These matrices report indicators simply as improved, stable or worse. Data is collected in many cases using survey methods such as the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). These reports are made publicly available on the www.poverty.org.uk website.

The Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Task Force works with other UK government agencies to identify guidelines for measuring success and poverty reduction progress. Recommendations include using outcome-based measures which can be numerically tracked. The intent is to ensure accountability, transparency and reliability.

For Further Reading

DWP Department for Work and Pensions, Publications, Opportunity for All
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/policy-publications/opportunity-for-all/>

This document provides access to annual reports which assesses the UK poverty strategy progress. Background information, indicators and case studies are available.

The Poverty Indicators – The Poverty Site, Joseph Rowntree Foundation <http://www.poverty.org.uk>

This website is maintained by a third party reporting group, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which monitors and reports on all the poverty indicators measured by the *Opportunities for All* strategy. Data is available for UK indicators, as well as those of the European Union and includes comprehensive graphs and charts.

Guy Palmer, Tom MacInnes and Peter Kenway, *Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion*. Joseph Rowntree Foundation. December 2008
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-2008>

This lengthy report details the progress or regression over ten years of the UK poverty strategy as assessed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Think Research. Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Task Force. 2008 http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/social_exclusion_task_force/assets/think_research/think_research.pdf

Chapter four of this publication entitled, *Outcome-focused monitoring and evaluation: How do you know whether your service objectives have been achieved?*, has useful information and recommendations about how to develop measures which can be attributed to the program, and how to analyse and report on data effectively.

Reaching Out: Progress of Social Exclusion. Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Task Force. 2007
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/social_exclusion_task_force/assets/reaching_out/reaching_out_progress_report_2007.pdf

This is a short UK government report on the success of reducing poverty and social exclusion as of 2007. This report is easy to read and comprehensive with many charts and key findings highlighted. It provides a good overview of progress.

Social Determinants of Health

Summary

Social Determinants of Health measure health inequalities through social indicators, including poverty, hunger, social inclusion and access to clean water. Although the ideology is particularly relevant to developing countries, all countries can use the Social Determinants of Health approach to measure lower health outcomes for individuals living in poverty. Social Determinants of Health measure ways that poverty and social exclusion impact health through a set of indicators. This work has influenced a variety of well-being and poverty projects worldwide.

Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) developed the framework for Social Determinants of Health to Reduce Health Inequalities and subsequently designated a Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) in 2005. There are a variety of Canadian examples including the Vancouver Island Health Authority report on island resident's health in 2006. Health Canada has made a commitment to continued research of the Social Determinants of Health.

Details

Social Determinants of Health is a WHO initiative to promote understanding and improving human health inequalities as they relate to other inequalities such as poverty. Social and economic disadvantage is linked to health inequities. A population health approach establishes indicators related to mental and social well-being, quality of life, life satisfaction, income, employment and working conditions, education and other factors which are well known to affect human health.

WHO encourages countries to design and develop measures for programs which improve population health. Specific indicators are established to monitor health status and to help understand and evaluate current interventions and programs. Health Canada and Statistics Canada have formed a joint partnership with the Canadian Consortium for Health Promotion Research to develop community health indicators.

The Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network (MEKN) of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health map out measurable indicators which affect health. Evaluation metrics can be drawn from these categories:

- Poverty
- The social and economic effects of aging
- Hunger
- The experience of gender relations
- Occupational exposure to hazards
- The experience of ethnic relations including direct experience of racism



- Occupational experience of relations at work
- Home circumstances
- The degree and ability to exert self efficacy especially through disposable income
- The accumulated deficits associated with particular life courses
- Dietary intake
- Schooling
- Habitual behaviours relating to food, alcohol, tobacco and exercise
- Marital status
- Position now and in the past in the life course
- Socioeconomic status

(MEKN, 2007)

Example: Vancouver Island Health Authority

The Vancouver Island Health Authority produced a report *Understanding the Social Determinants of Health: A Discussion Paper (2006)* which identified measures for social determinants of health. In the report, initial data was collected and charted which highlights the positive health outcomes for poorer segments of the population using a social determinants of health approach. Outcomes were noted by incomes, indicators and geographic locations.

For Further Reading:

Josiane Bonnefoy, et al., *Constructing the Evidence Base on the Social Determinants of Health: A Guide*. November 2007 http://www.who.int/social_determinants/knowledge_networks/add_documents/mekn_final_guide_112007.pdf

The Measurement and Evidence Knowledge Network of the World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) produced this document to guide practitioners in developing programs around social determinants. There are recommendations on how to measure social determinants of health and develop an evidence base. This is an excellent resource for understanding Social Determinants.

Understanding the Social Determinants of Health: A Discussion Paper from the Office of the Chief Medical Health. Officer Vancouver Island Health Authority. May 2006 http://www.crd.bc.ca/reports/regionalplanning_/generalreports_/housingaffordability_/buildingthehousingaf/miscellaneous_/understandingsociald/understanding_social_determinants_of_health_05082006.pdf

Vancouver Island Health Authority provided this report on the health of Vancouver Island using Social Determinants. The document reports on indicators identified for the Island and it measures at both the island region and the community levels.

Pan American Health Organization (WHO), Global Learning Device on Social Determinants of Health and Public Policy Formulation

<http://dds-dispositivoglobal.ops.org.ar/curso/cursoeng/contexto.html>

This website contains an online course on Social Determinants of Health to reduce health inequalities. It is aimed at WHO staff to assist in influencing government policy, as well as the general public to increase the knowledge base on the topic. This is a comprehensive and user-friendly tool to learn about the Social Determinants of Health.



Conclusions

The ten approaches to measuring less poverty in communities have common indicators.

By far the most common indicators of less poverty were:

- income, poverty rate
- ability to gain employment
- access affordable housing
- access to quality education
- access to affordable childcare

Although, not as common, many approaches also considered these indicators:

- access to goods and services
- access to credit
- ability to buy a home
- access to affordable transportation

Indicators which were identified in four or more approaches were considered more relevant indicators of less poverty in communities.

A focus on assets and asset building was identified as a pathway out of poverty for at least four of the approaches. Asset building approaches can be measured at both the individual/family and community level.

Four of the approaches emphasized the importance of building links across a variety of sectors (government, business and citizens) to achieve community change.

Some other themes identified in the examples:

- nearly all measured multiple indicators across many dimensions of change
- nearly all included locally gathered data and national statistical data
- most used community-specific indicators which best represented the unique program or activity
- a number included income measures
- half measured community-level change
- only four engaged people living in poverty in the process

Final Thoughts and Questions

There are a number of questions which have emerged from this research.

1. Is it possible that data which is now aggregated to city-wide statistics (through Statistics Canada) can be made more available to communities, using a smaller boundary, such as CDA (Census Dissemination Area)? Access to neighbourhood-based information and indicators can drive significant community change efforts.
2. What are the minimum number and range of indicators which will effectively measure less poverty in communities?
3. Can a set of standard indicators be identified to effectively measure poverty reduction?
4. Will these standard indicators need to be augmented by community-specific or community-relevant indicators to truly understand local poverty reduction progress?
5. Are there additional indicator approaches for measuring less poverty that should be considered and included in future papers?

