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| **Local Public Health Unit and Regional Health Authority Collaboration Supporting Integrated Health System Planning Using a Population Health Approach** |
| **Background/Objectives:** Public health in Ontario, Canada remains outside of regional health authority governance structures that are responsible for health care (e.g., hospitals, long-term care, primary care, addictions services). The 2016 provincial Patients First Act requires public health units to work with regional health authorities [Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)] to integrate health services planning to meet local community’s health needs using a population health approach. This provides a unique opportunity to explore strategies these organizations use to work collaboratively to improve population health outcomes and address health inequities. Research Objective: To determine key elements for successful collaboration between LHINs and Public Health Units, as directed by Patients First legislation, to achieve an improved health system in Ontario informed by a population health approach.**Methods:** Design: Mixed methods. Phase 1: 68 participants engaged in interviews and focus groups involving board members, senior and middle management, and staff in LHINs, public health units, government, relevant agencies, and key informants from other Canadian provinces. Phase 2: 300 respondents completed an online survey to validate and prioritize Phase 1 results. **Results:** Local Health Integration Networks and Public Health Units recognize the importance of health system planning through a population health lens. They understand population health approaches as needing to address the social determinants of health and health inequities. Both are already are working together in partnerships through leadership councils, working groups, and local program planning to measure, monitor, report, and share data to determine priority community needs. Clarifying expectations, shared accountability, and funding supports are critical for successful LHIN-Public Health Unit collaborations. Survey results point to priority strategies and tools to overcome barriers and foster collaborations. **Discussion:** The study provided insight into intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, and systemic factors to promote successful LHIN-Public Health Unit collaboration. It prioritizes categories of population health and health system data, indicators, and information that could potentially strengthen collaborations and offer solutions to overcome LHIN-Public Health Unit collaboration barriers.**Keywords:** Public Health; Regional Government: Population Health: Collaboration: Equity |