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| **An evolution in health professional education: The need to include ecological determinants of health in health studies education and workforce development** |
| **Background/Objectives**In this article, we introduce a set of seven competencies that can be used to operationalize the Ecological Determinants of Health paradigm in public health education and practice, along with recommendations for how these competencies could be incorporated in educational and workplace settings. These competencies were collaboratively developed by the EDGE Core Competencies and Curriculum Sub-Committee, a group of ecological health academics from universities across Canada.**Methods**We describe each seven competencies and summarize the rationale for imbuing each competency in health studies education and workforce. We propose recommendations to further advance Ecological Determinants of Health competencies for students and working health professionals using Miller’s Pyramid as an outline. **Results**To fulfil knowledge, competence, performance and action, we recommend beginning in the classroom. To demonstrate knowledge and competence in Ecological Determinants of Health, instructors should make use of advanced real-world problems addressing current issues using high-impact educational practices. Moving beyond the classroom, students can demonstrate performance of core competencies in controlled settings and experiential learning opportunities. Action describes the transition of student to practitioner who demonstrates competence in real and independent settings with complex and unpredictable situations working with transdisciplinary partners.**Discussion**These competencies are not an end, in and of themselves, but should be viewed as a starting point for iterative and ongoing development of proficiency as our understanding of Ecological Determinants of Health increases in breadth and complexity. Incorporating the Ecological Determinants of Health in daily practice and evolving this practice as we become better informed is critical in solving many health problems of the future. |