



CHAIRE DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA

**APPROCHES COMMUNAUTAIRES  
ET INÉGALITÉS DE SANTÉ**



*Connecting knowledge, taking on children's health*

## **Handbook of health promotion research**

### **Knowledge production and sharing**

#### **A call for contributions**

#### *The need for a Handbook of Health Promotion Research*

Health promotion, as a strategy (a set of coordinated intersectoral actions) that aims to orient and support social change in order to improve health for all and reduce health inequalities, has been adopted in many countries. Orienting this strategy, there is an ethical framework (values, principles...), a set of values, rooted in an emancipatory vision. The knowledge base for this strategy relies on the broad determinants of health and programs and policies—their planning, implementation and impact—aimed at changing the distribution of these determinants. While research teams, some of them high level, are producing relevant and valid data to enhance this knowledge base, there is not yet a structured field of research, based on a set of paradigms, approaches and methods, which is recognised as health promotion research. Our aim is to contribute to structuring such a field of research.

#### *The Field of Health Promotion and Health Promotion Research*

Health promotion is a field of practices. We identify four types of practices (what people actually do) as fundamental to, and distinctive of, health promotion:

- **The practices of individuals and populations:** individual and group practices are anchored in different cultures, knowledge and social contexts.
- **The practices of stakeholders:** professionals from different sectors intervene in health promotion/health education/prevention to improve population health. This group also includes activists, associations, forums, and communities engaged in social change.
- **The practices of policy makers and institutions:** the people who implement and advocate for policies at the national, regional and local levels, not only in the health sector, but also in all sectors that influence the determinants of health.
- **The practices of researchers and innovators:** the network of academic scholars and global agencies through which a continued investment in research and the production of evidence-based guidelines are made.

Research on these practices constitutes health promotion research. Research itself is a practice, a "doing" closely linked to the other "doing" of health promotion (those of individuals and populations, professionals, institutions). The research practice could be defined as an intellectual activity of production of new and cumulative knowledge within a social and political context. It allows us to introduce intelligibility and rationality into complex practical-ethical discussions.

#### *A Handbook for Research to Create Global Community*

It is timely to publish a state of the art and a manual for health promotion research, to map and organize the research practice of those involved in producing and sharing the knowledge base for health promotion practices. The handbook will present original contributions from researchers in the field. It will explore the major theoretical,

methodological, empirical and political challenges and pressing social questions facing health promotion research. The goal is to bring together experts from different “research traditions” that coexists in the field of health promotion. This handbook will cover the existing knowledge production and sharing practices with the aim of defining the discipline and its agenda for future research. Our ultimate goal is to create a global community of health promotion researchers involved in knowledge production and sharing.

### *The Call*

The Handbook will be based on the collective experience of health promotion researchers from around the world; on how they create and share health promotion knowledge. This call is open to all individuals and groups interested in advancing health promotion research by reflecting and sharing their research practices on any of the four types of health promotion practices defined above.

As a first step, we want to receive detailed structured (2 pages) outlines of potential contributions based on how specific research projects or research programs were conducted. The outline should describe:

- 1: The specific health promotion practices investigated:** Who were the actors? What were they doing? For what purposes?
- 2: The purpose of the research project or program:** What were the objectives? In which context were they defined? Who participated in their definition? Were values other than knowledge production pursued through this research? Which ones? Who defined them?
- 3: The research framework:** Which research paradigm was framing the research and why? Which theories were used, and how?
- 4: The relationship with those whose practices were investigated:** How were research participants involved in the planning and conduct of the research? Were research results shared with non-researchers? If yes, how and for what purpose?
- 5: The methods used:** What kind of data was collected? How was it collected and analysed?
- 6: Specific challenges** of health promotion research enlightened by the project or program: How does the research contribute to advancing in health promotion research?

Two pages (1000 words, no reference) outlines should be submitted to **handbook@unescochair-ghe.org before May 15, 2020 (extended deadline)**.

Outlines will be rated using the following criteria:

- Relevance to health promotion knowledge development;
- Clarity of the research practice described in the outline;
- Originality of the contribution.

Selected contributors will be invited to submit a full chapter (6000–7000 words, up to 50 references) before September 15, 2020. Contributors will receive comments from a peer-reviewing process before January 2021. Final chapters will be expected by April 15, 2021. The Handbook will be published in the beginning of 2022 for a launch at the 24<sup>th</sup> IUHPE Global Health Promotion Conference in Montreal in May 2022.

**Handbook webpage :** <https://unescochair-ghe.org/handbook-of-health-promotion-research/>

*The Handbook of Health Promotion Research will be published under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair and WHO Collaborating Centre “Global Health & Education” and the Canada Research Chair on Community Approaches and Health Inequalities, in partnership with the International Union for Health Promotion and Education. The editors are Didier Jourdan and Louise Potvin.*