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Public Health Challenges from Socio Economic and Demographic Changes





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Introduction

- Demographic trends for seniors, immigrants, families
- Socio economic impact
- Recommendations



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Demographic Trends in Peel





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Peel is one of the fastest growing regions
in Canada.

Its population increases by 30,000 residents
annually or 80 people per day.



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“I look at the aging of the population as one of the great successes of the health and social services systems.”

Dr. Michael Gordon, National Advisory Council on Aging

- There was a 28.2% increase in seniors, 65+ between 1996 and 2001. This is the fastest growing segment of our population.
- There are over 80,000 seniors living in Peel. This will continue to increase as the baby boomers age until 2051. It is predicted that seniors will comprise 25% of Canada’s population by 2051.
- 12,610 of seniors in Peel live alone.



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- Newcomers comprise approximately 43% of our population.
- There are over 93 distinct ethnic groups and over 60 different languages spoken.





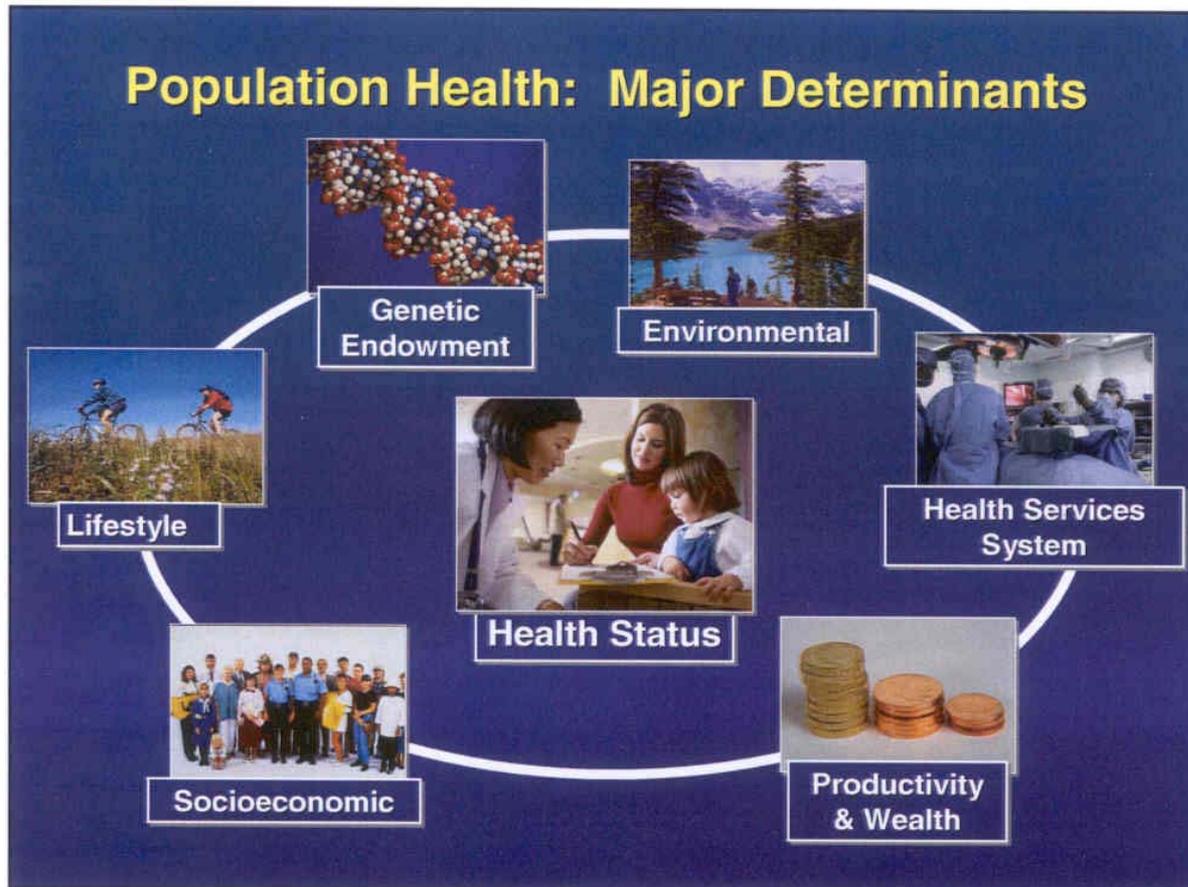
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- Peel has a large and growing number of poor people.
- In 2001, 114,510 people in Peel lived in poverty. Seniors living alone, newcomers, visible minorities, lone parent families and person with disabilities are the most vulnerable.
- 14.5% of families (39,945) are lone parent families. More than 60,000 children live in lone parent families.
- In 2000 there were over 27,000 low income families in Peel.



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Population Health: Major Determinants





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Healthy Living Requires Healthy Communities in a Healthful Society.....

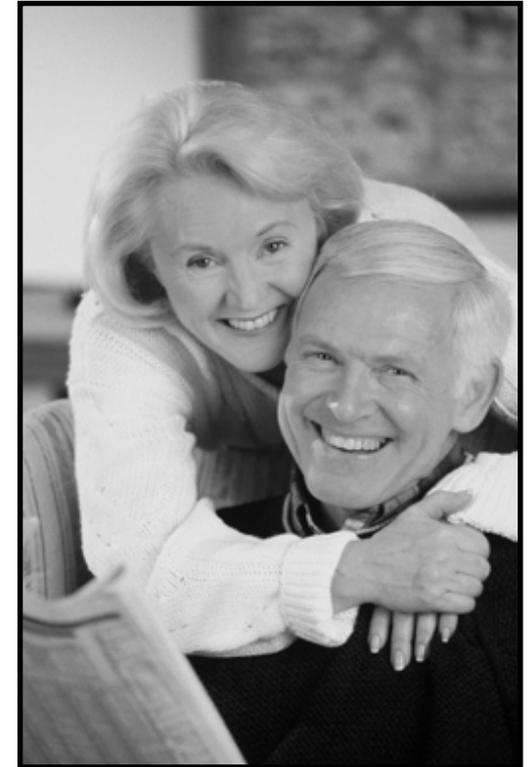
The conditions – social, cultural and economic/material – under which we “make choices” related to good health and risk, must be conducive to “good choices” and equitably distributed across society.



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Issues to consider for the Health of Seniors

- Huge numbers
- Life Expectancy has increased
- Declining health
- Isolation





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Issues for Seniors

- Limited income and benefits
- More complex healthcare issues
- Access
- Significant demand on seniors programs and services such as home care, long term care, and counselling services.



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Issues to consider for the Health of Newcomers and Visible Minorities

- Significant numbers
- Language requirements
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Lifestyle change
- Impact of low income and unemployment on physical and mental health
- Genetic predisposition to some diseases.



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Issues to consider for the Health of Lone Parent Families

- Greater need for mental health services
- Impact of parenting demands on healthy lifestyle
- Easy access to health services
- Support for working parent with an ill child or support for a child with an ill parent
- Limited income and benefits.



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Recommendations

1. Address the root causes of poverty in Peel to reduce the number of people who are poor.
2. Create an integrated holistic health plan for Peel that includes wellness promotion, illness and injury prevention, telecare, acute hospital care, medical care, home care, long term care and palliative care. Increase the availability and affordability of home care and telecare services.



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Recommendations

3. Create integrated health/recreation/social service neighbourhood hubs that provide individuals and families with easy access to a range of services in one location.
4. Advocate for changes to the primary care reform to allow physicians to spend more time with seniors who have more complex health care needs and expand public coverage to include home care and prescription drugs for seniors.



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Recommendations

5. Engage the corporate sector in health and wellness promotion and healthy workplace activities. Make the information easily accessible.
6. Increase human resources in health care.



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“It is important to recognize that the social determinants of health are tied and people who suffer the most from the diseases are people who fall into lower socio-economic categories. It is also important to link our economic and social policies to health if we want to make a dent in these issues.”

Dr. David MacLean, Dalhousie University, The Health of Canadians Report, Vol 2 Jan 2002