

Nurturing the Next Generation The Data Story



Context

- The Biodevelopmental Framework from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University was selected as a frame of reference for the Nurturing the Next Generation (NTNG) project.
- This framework was adapted to create the NTNG Conceptual Model which adds more detail about the influencing factors most important to child health and development, and their associated outcomes.
- This adaptation was based on a review of the synthesized literature that underpins the Biodevelopmental Framework.

Methods

1. The NTNG Conceptual Model was used to guide an examination of existing and accessible health status data.
2. Health status data were organized according to the influencing factors and outcomes described in the NTNG Conceptual Model.
3. Criteria were used to identify significant health issues as well as data gaps.

Key Findings

- Existing health status reports, such as *Born in Peel* and *Growing up in Peel*, summarize what is currently known about the health of children and families in Peel.
- When existing data are organized using the NTNG Conceptual Model as a guide, data gaps related to key factors influencing early child development become apparent.
For example:
 - Little is known about the quality of early child relationships experienced by young children in Peel.
 - Few data sources are specific to children 0 to 6 years of age and their families.
- Existing data on the environment of early child relationships could be enhanced with potential sources of new information such as the Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS).

Opportunities for Public Health

- In order to maintain a comprehensive view of child development, the NTNG Conceptual Model should be used to guide surveillance as well as to inform program planning and evaluation.
- Existing data sources should be improved by:
 - Planning and advocating for changes to current surveillance systems to gather data that reflect a holistic view of early child development.
 - Expanding current data collection at Peel Public Health to address some of the data gaps identified.
 - Collaborating with community partners to share information.