



A Healthy Partnership: Municipal Government and Health Authority

Vancouver's Urban Health Response: Phase 1

A satellite night view of Earth showing city lights and urban sprawl. The image is a dark blue/black background with numerous bright yellow and white spots representing city lights. The lights are concentrated in large, irregular shapes that represent urban areas, with some smaller, more isolated spots representing rural or less developed areas. The overall pattern shows a high density of lights in certain regions, particularly in the eastern United States and parts of Europe and Asia.

For the first time in history, more people live in cities than rural areas – by 2030 over 60% of the world's population will live in an urban setting, rising to 70% by 2050.

In Canada, 90% of our population live in cities.

Urban Health



“ Cities begin the process of being healthy when leaders, local communities and citizens commit themselves to improving the health and quality of life for everyone. ”

- World Health Organization

Health Determinants Influencing Urban Health*



- Housing and income security
- Water and sanitation
- Air quality/pollution
- Transportation and infrastructure
- Access to healthy food
- Access to education and literacy
- Health and social services
- Accidents and injury
- Infectious and non-communicable diseases

*"Urban Health Matters" World Health Organization 2010

Vancouver Urban Health Framework: Phase 1



Key elements of Framework:

1. Align with priorities of Council
2. City wide approach beginning with most vulnerable populations
 - Citizens with mental health and addiction issues
 - DTES neighbourhood
 - Across age continuum, e.g. children and youth, seniors

Urban Health Across Age Continuum

0-14 (11%)

15-24 (12%)

25-44 (38%)

45-64 (24%)

65 & over (15%)



Pre-natal

Early Childhood

Adolescence

Adulthood

Aging

Seniors

— Episodic Interactions with Traditional Health Care System

Pictures Day to day health promoting living in Vancouver over the lifespan

Vancouver Urban Health Framework: Phase 1



Key elements continued:

3. Focus on key partnership with VCH and non profits:
 - Formal and informal relationships
 - Agreed upon goals and metrics
4. Focus on areas for immediate impact with key partners and build on 4 Pillars approach: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Regulation (Enforcement)

Key Priorities of Council

1. Homelessness and Affordable Housing
2. Greenest City
3. Safe and Inclusive Communities
4. Economic Development



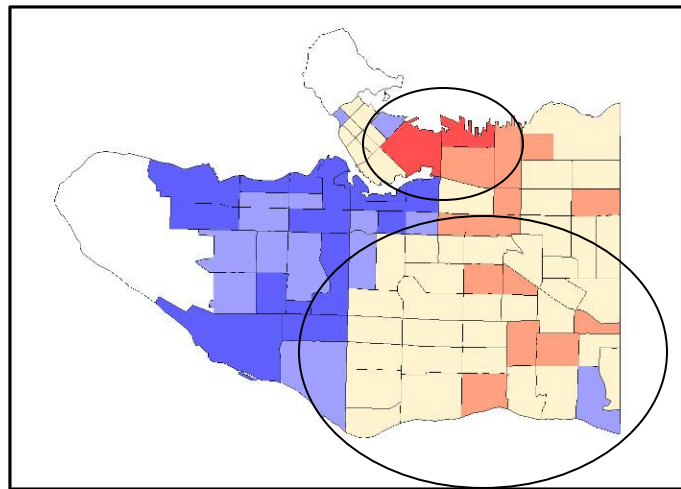
Vancouver Urban Health Framework Phase 1: Key Themes



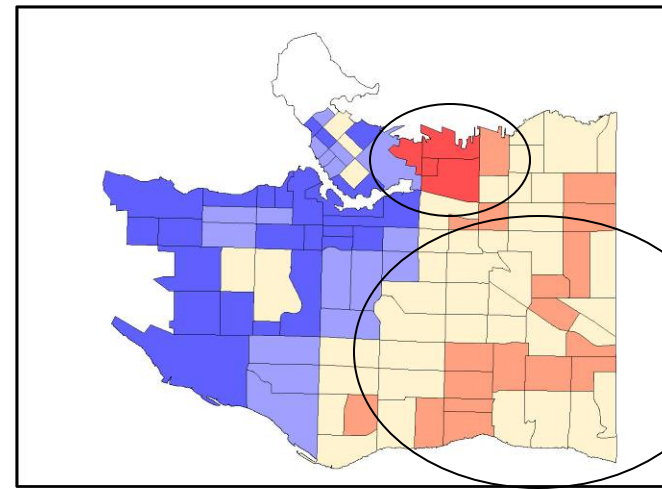
1. Health and Social Services
2. Food, Nutrition & Active Living
3. Safety and Security (Social Environment)
4. Urban Infrastructure
5. Culture & Education
6. Economic Prosperity

Vancouver: Income Disparity 1996 – 2006

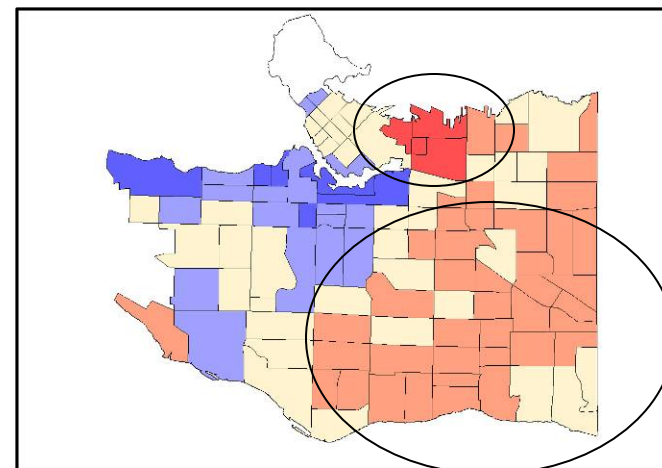
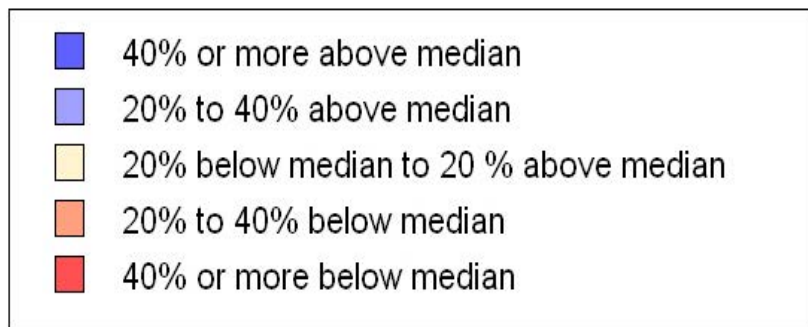
DTES Remains Challenged, City-wide Income Disparity Grows



1996



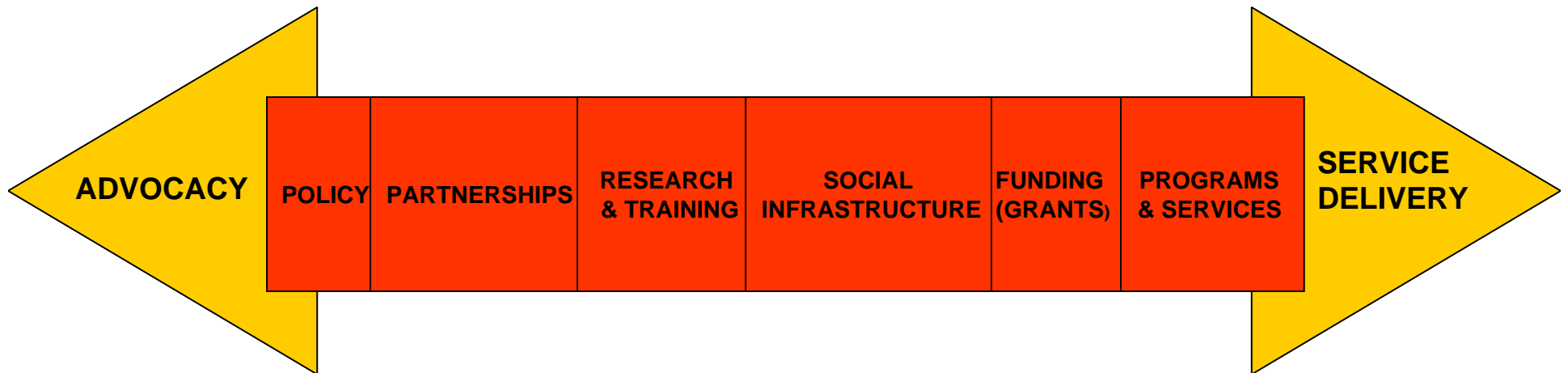
2001



2006

Source: Social Indicators Report, 2008

COV Tools to Advance Framework



Actions to Date



- COV & VCH Relationship Enhanced
- Actions Underway:
 - Partnered learning through shared workshops: inter-departmental collaboration
 - Strategic alignment of work across City and VCH
 - 14 Phase 1 Projects under Key Themes

Actions Underway – HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES THEME

1. Connected health services in shelters
2. Mental Health
 - Standards of Maintenance: Developing a program to support SROs in preventing and addressing problem hoarders
3. DTES Washroom Accessibility

“One number may determine how long you live or how good you feel. It’s not your weight or cholesterol. In fact, it might help determine that as well. It is your address.”
([www. policylink.org](http://www.policylink.org))



Actions Underway – FOOD & NUTRITION THEME

4. Aligning Greenest Neighbourhood Grants (Food Security & Food Systems)
5. Access to food in SROs
6. Nutritional guidelines - street food vending
7. Local food procurement initiative

“Another health determinant in cities is access to safe and quality food, and in sufficient quantity.” (WHO)



Actions Underway – SAFETY & SECURITY THEME

8. Mental Health Training 101: Responding to people exhibiting signs of mental health concerns (Fire & Rescue, Building Inspectors, NGOs)
9. Extreme Hot Weather Response
10. DTES Pedestrian Safety

**“People living in areas with the most green space being one-third less likely to have anxiety disorders and one-fifth less to be clinically depressed”
(J. Epidemiology Community Health, 2009)**



Actions Underway – CULTURE & EDUCATION THEME

11. Research Agenda – Working with universities e.g., Bosman, New York International Urban Health Conference
12. City led forum(s) on mental health and addiction issues

“Cities concentrate people, opportunities and services including those for health, education and more. When cities are well planned, managed and governed, life and health flourish.” (WHO)



Actions Underway – ECONOMIC PROSPERITY THEME

13. Mental Health

- Supported Employment: Expanding CoV supported employment program to hire individuals in recovery from MH and Addiction

14. DTES Street Market Trial

**“People living in areas with the most green space being one-third less likely to have anxiety disorders and one-fifth less to be clinically depressed”
(J. Epidemiology Community Health, 2009)**



Next Steps: Phase II

1. Build on City's work to align Urban Health activities within COV and VCH
2. Development of Metrics and Evaluation
3. Engagement of key stakeholders/community
4. Continue strategic partnerships e.g., Vancouver Board of Education, Universities, Non Profits

