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A REVIEW OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ACTIVE LIVING AND DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

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INTRODUCTION

The significance of recreation, physical activity and leisure to one's well-being is exemplified in the ideal of a "sound mind in a sound body". Physical activity is a key contributor to health. Accumulating evidence indicates that sedentariness is a risk factor for cardiovascular and other major diseases (Havighurst, 1974; Folsom et al., 1985; Anonymous, 1993; Bjorntorp, 1995; Duncan et al., 1995a,b,c; Puddey and Beilin, 1995; Pate et al., 1995; Whaley and Blair, 1995; Anonymous, 1996; Francis, 1996, Fries, 1996; Mensink et al., 1996; Wenger, 1996; Folsom et al., 1997). Even moderate levels of activity confer health benefits, and for most people, additional health benefits may be derived by becoming more active. Moderating factors for prevention of major diseases which may be accessed through moderate levels of activity include weight management and stress reduction. Despite extensive media coverage of such evidence, the level of physical activity in the lives of many North Americans remains suboptimal (Pate et al., 1995; Anonymous, 1996).

Health is a resource rather than a reason for living. As such, it connotes a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources as well as physical capacities. Such capacities vary according to one's life circumstances. Active living occurs, or may fail to occur, within a social context (Yoshida et al., 1988; Yoshioka, 1988; Yeager et al., 1993; Collette et al., 1994; Heath and Smith, 1994; Caltabiano, 1995; Frederick and Shaw, 1995; Pitter and Andrews, 1997). To understand the relationships between active living and determinants of health one must consider both personal lifestyle and surrounding social, economic and environmental factors. Once understood, these relationships hold important implications for health promotion policymaking, research and professional practice (World Health Organization, 1986).

Health promotion has been defined as "the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve their health" (World Health

Organization, 1986). In turn, health promotion is not solely the responsibility of the health sector. To reach a state of well-being an individual or group must be able to identify and realize aspirations, to satisfy needs, and to cope with or change their environment. Key international documents such as the Ottawa Charter (World Health Organization, 1986) recognize that healthful environments are fundamental to human health. Creating a healthful environment means altering or adapting social, economic and physical surroundings in ways that not only preserve, but enhance health. Population health promotion programs and policies can support the creation of healthful environments. The most effective interventions are those based on an understanding of relationships among health behaviors or lifestyles within their social and environmental context (Green and Kreuter, 1991; Hyndman, 1993; Fitness Canada, 1993; Underwood et al., 1993; Quinney et al., 1994; National Cancer Institute, 1995; Frankish et al., 1996a,b).

This paper begins by identifying approaches to the conceptualization of "determinants of health", "leisure activities" and "active living". Next, relationships between determinants of health (gender, age, education, race, social support, place of residence, socioeconomic factors, occupation, health behaviors, activity choices and leisure constraints) and levels and patterns of active living are reviewed. Finally, relationships between determinants of health and active living are summarized with the context of an integrative framework: the precedeproceed model of health promotion planning and evaluation (Green and Kreuter, 1991, Fig. 1). While the precede model has its roots in clinical health education and health promotion, over the years its has been widely employed in consideration of diverse health issues. Its use in the present context serves to highlight the need to link the historically, individual-focussed literature on physical activity/ active living with the emerging recognition that sociocultural and structural determinants play a key role in influencing a wide range of activities of daily life.

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Fig. 1. Precede-proceed model of health promotion planning.

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

There exists a range of candidates for determinants of health (Evans *et al.*, 1994; Wigle *et al.*, 1995), many of which can be termed life circumstances (e.g., nutrition, shelter, social support). Such external factors are linked to individual-specific determinants (genetic endowment). Intra-individual and interpersonal/environment factors related to active living interact and manifest in many ways. These include one's life history of attempts to maintain fitness, individual responses to the demands or reinforcement(s) of others which impede, enable or promote one's attempts to be active.

Factors determining health go well beyond the illness-care system (Ontario Premier's Council on Health Strategy, 1991; Evans *et al.*, 1994; Ontario Public Health Association, 1994; Sundquist, 1995; Wigle *et al.*, 1995). When health is viewed as being more than strictly derived from individual (lifestyle) choice then clear links between health and life circumstances emerge (Milio, 1986; Hertzman *et al.*, 1990; Osipow and Fitzgerald, 1993; O'Neill, 1993; Hertzman *et al.*, 1994).

Determinants of health have been variously conceptualized as involving domains or lists of specific determinants (Ontario Premier's Council on Health Strategy, 1991; Ontario Public Health Association, 1994). These domains (Ontario Public Health Association, 1994) include: social environment, physical environment, individual responses and productivity/wealth. Typically identified determinants (Ontario Public Health Association, 1994) include: family experience, self-esteem, sense of control, employment, socioeconomic status, education, social support, access/geography, recreation, public policy and marginalization based on language, gender, race, income. Evans, Hertzman and their colleagues (Evans *et al.*, 1994; Hertzman *et al.*, 1990, 1994) provide a useful conceptual framework for determinants of health that includes three axes: stages of life cycle, subpopulation partitions and sources of homogeneity. Lifestyle and health behaviors vary with one's position in a social hierarchy (associated with income and social class) but not exclusively (Hertzman *et al.*, 1990; Osler, 1993; Dean and Concha Perez-Hoyos, 1995; Martin *et al.*, 1995). Life circumstances, in combination or individually, may influence an individual's desire, ability, and likelihood of taking part in active living, and therefore to affect their health status.

It must be noted that the conceptualization of "determinants of health" remains problematic. Many categories overlap and the quality of evidence regarding the relationships between specific determinants and specific aspects of health is quite uneven. In the present paper, the terms "determinants of health" and "conditions of living" are taken to be practically synonymous to refer to the broad range of factors influencing a person's health. Our review includes: gender, age, education, race, social support, place of residence, socioeconomic factors, work/occupation, health behaviors, and active living choices and constraints as determinants of health. We recognize that the definitions of such terms and views on their relations to active living, health and quality-of-life are not value-free. Recent authors have raised legitimate concerns and questions regarding the need to consider health inequity issues in any discussion of the role of sociocultural determinants of health (Coburn and Poland, 1996).

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES

One of the more difficult issues associated with a study of the relationships between active living and determinants of health is adequate measurement and categorization of active living and of leisure and recreational activities (Richardson *et al.*, 1994; Canon *et al.*, 1995; Richardson *et al.*, 1995; Booth *et al.*, 1996). Two major approaches to conceptualization of leisure and recreational activities exist: descriptive and psychometric. The conceptualization of active living developed by Health Canada will be discussed separately below.

The descriptive approach is typified by the taxonomy of leisure activities developed by Tinsley and Eldredge (1995). Their taxonomy includes 11 categories: agency, novelty, belongingness, service, sensual enjoyment, cognitive stimulation, selfexpression, creativity, competition, vicarious competition and relaxation. In a similar fashion. Beatty and Jeon (1994) proposed five leisure dimensions: outdoor-nature, passive-in-home, sports action, social entertainment and aesthetic-intellectual.

The psychometric approach is characterized by the use of self-report, paper-and-pencil measures (Walker *et al.*, 1987; Cardinal, 1993; Ellis and Witt, 1994; Cardinal, 1995). For example, Ellis and Witt (1994) recently developed the leisure diagnostic battery, which examined perceived freedom and satisfaction with leisure activities. Similarly, the healthpromoting lifestyle profile (Walker *et al.*, 1987) attempts to measure self-actualization, health responsibility and exercise as elements of a healthful lifestyle.

Neither the "descriptive" nor the "psychometric" approach have proved sufficient or satisfactory in the conceptualization or measurement of leisure/ physical activities. The reasons for existing measurement problems are multiple and complex. They lie in challenges in selecting relevant items, articulating a "metric" for specific measures, and in the repeatedly reported weak associations between participation in activities (behaviors) and quality-of-life.

CONCEPTUALIZATION OF ACTIVE LIVING

In 1986, the Canadian Summit on Fitness defined fitness as "a state of total well-being of the individual — physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and social". This definition of fitness led to the concept of "active living" being developed by Health Canada (Health and Welfare Canada, 1991). The notion of active living represents a shift away from the view of fitness and physical activity as simply prescriptive, expert-driven, mechanical movement (Bouchard and Shephard, in press; Stewart, 1995).

Active living acknowledges that "participation involves the whole person, body, mind and spirit; is part of a dynamic life, in which individuals and environments continuously interrelate and affect each other, and is subjective in nature, its meaning relative to each person' (Active Living Canada, 1994; Bercovitz and Skinner, 1996). It is based on three principles: active living is individual, active living is social, and active living is inclusive.

Recently, Bercovitz and Skinner (1996) identified assumptions and limitations concerning the meaning of active living. These included: operationalization, measurement, government turf battles, topdown pressure, fear of replacement/role loss, perceived lack of expertise and discomfort associated with the perception of active living as a political construct. Clarification and communication of active living as a useful concept requires the building of a research base and enhanced governmental and organizational support. Many people experience significant challenges in attempting to create cooperative, innovative approaches to active living that are conducive to their well-being and qualityof-life (Frankish and Green, 1994; Whittemore, 1994).

In summary, increasing numbers of individuals have come to appreciate the benefits of active living. This development is reflected in positive societal responses to campaigns (e.g., PARTICIPaction in Canada), growth of the fitness industry, and a rise in exercise participation rates over the past 3 decades (that may have plateaued or even started to decline). The relevance of active living has spread among fitness, recreation and health professionals, yet much remains to be done in policy, research and practice linking active living and health in the context of the determinants of health.

The following sections review the relationships between active living and specific determinants of health. Information regarding the prevalence, patterns and types of active living across different life circumstances and determinants of health are described. The use of the terms recreation, leisure, physical activity, exercise and active living reflects their use by original authors. Otherwise, they are used interchangeably. The limitations of given measures and/or bodies of literature are not the direct focus of this paper. Rather, such limitations are noted and potential opportunities for moving towards a more integrated approach to consideration of active living — determinants of health relations are identified.

GENDER DIFFERENCES AND ACTIVE LIVING

Researchers are attempting to understand gender differences in leisure and recreation, the meaning of leisure among men and women, and gender-related constraints on activity (Hawkes and Holm, 1993; Dean and Concha Perez-Hoyos, 1995; Hultsman, 1995, Mcdermott, 1996, Reeves and Szafran, 1996). For example, men are more likely to have a sense of control over being active on a regular basis. Men rate regular activity as important to their health more often than women, and they report receiving more encouragement from others (Yoshida *et al.*, 1988; Woodward *et al.*, 1989; Stephens and Craig, 1990; Del-Rey, 1991; Henderson and Dialeschki, 1991; Lenskyj, 1991; King *et al.*, 1992; Hall *et al.*, 1992; Muraki *et al.*, 1993; Statistics Canada, 1994, 1995; Felton and Parsons, 1994; Bonen and Shaw, 1995; Garcia *et al.*, 1995). Gender differences in sedentariness (Crespo *et al.*, 1996) continue to contribute to disturbingly high levels of physical inactivity.

Women's and men's leisure opportunities and activities may be bounded by similar constraints such as paid employment, parenthood, poverty and loneliness, but these factors appear to impinge in different ways and to a greater or lesser extent as a reflection of contemporary gender roles (Woodward et al., 1989; Yeager and Macera, 1994). Some researchers (Woodward et al., 1989; Henderson and Dialeschki, 1991; Muraki et al., 1993; Garcia et al., 1995) have suggested that women may believe that they have little or no right to leisure and this belief may place severe limitations on their construction of time for leisure and their attitudes towards leisure. The role of structural/contextual factors in relation to gender differences and active living have not been adequately addressed in much of the epidemiologic, quantitative literature on physical and leisure activities.

Recently, Harrington and Dawson (1995) used Canadian data to examine women's leisure meaning systems, their experiences of leisure, and constraints to their experience of leisure. Their findings showed that women do not, regardless of their labor force participation, subscribe to the view that leisure is free time. Similarly, Jackson and Henderson (1995) reported that women are more constrained in their leisure than men. Contextual factors including age, income and family structure also serve as mediating factors that alter, reinforce or alleviate gender-related leisure constraints. A meta-analysis conducted by Lirgg (1991) found gender differences in self-confidence in activity competitiveness. In a similar vein, Freysinger and colleagues (Freysinger and Flannery, 1992; Freysinger, 1995) demonstrated that men and women differ in the types (e.g., level of competitiveness, formal/informal) of leisure activities they pursue, and that such differences vary across age groups.

In summary, although the patterns of active living in North America have changed significantly over the past several decades, there is evidence that gender differences remain. While women are generally as active as men between ages 25–64 years, men in the oldest and youngest age groups are more active (Ainsworth *et al.*, 1993). There is strong evidence suggesting that women's ability to engage in active living is constrained by both social norms and structural factors. Gender differences in active living — determinants of health are a microcosmic reflection of the relative poverty, lower social mobility and powerlessness of women. Much remains to be done in describing and developing adequate models of such interrelations.

AGE DIFFERENCES AND ACTIVE LIVING

Age is a biological variable; it is also a psychological, socio-cultural and historical one that holds significance for the prevalence and patterns of active living. Research on the meaning and patterns of leisure, while taking account of gender, has not adequately situated leisure within the context of age (Greendale et al., 1996; Lissner et al., 1996; Melillo et al., 1996; Mills et al., 1996; Bungum and Vincent, 1997). Social and economic demands faced by specific age-groups (Rudman, 1989; Jonsson and Rosenbaum, 1993; Blanksby et al., 1996) vary over the lifecycle. There are changes both in potency and composition of age — active living — determinants of health relationships. Age influences one's decision to be involved in activities, and where involvement occurs. Over time, perceived benefits and restraints associated with activity change (Rudman, 1989).

The literature supports the notion that there is a general decline in physical activity participation and adherence from younger to older ages (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988; Stephens and Craig, 1990; Hall et al., 1992; King et al., 1992; Anderssen et al., 1996; Fletcher and Hirdes, 1996). This decline is especially steep between 15-24 years. Secular (cohort) trends indicating a general decline in physical activity have also recently been found. For example, the CARDIA study indicated a decrease in mean physical activity of approximately 30% in each race (black/white) by gender group across recent years (Anderssen et al., 1996; Liu et al., 1996). It must also be noted that age group differences are confounded with gender and race effects (Folsom et al., 1991). In turn, individual-specific characteristics (and choices) are nested within the larger sociocultural context and societal structures (Adams-Campbell et al., 1990; Wolf et al., 1993).

The pattern of decreased participation with aging is more pronounced among females, the less welleducated, those with lower incomes and those who live in rural areas. Participation rates reverse for those aged 65+ years. Seniors are most likely to meet age-specific criteria for regular activity and three-quarters of seniors are regular walkers (Thibault, 1980; Health and Welfare Canada, 1989; Sallis *et al.*, 1989; Health Canada, 1991; Duncan *et al.*, 1995a,b,c; Lombard *et al.*, 1995; Siegel *et al.*, 1995; Gillis and Hirdes, 1996; Strawbridge *et al.*, 1996; Verbrugge *et al.*, 1996; Yusuf *et al.*, 1996). For example, Duncan *et al.* (1995a,b,c) found that mall-walking among seniors was related to social competence, social interactions and cognitive variables. Notably, structured activities such as those which require schedules, coaches, competition and formal organization become less common with age, while the popularity of activities such as gardening and walking increases with age (Health Canada, 1991).

Freysinger (Freysinger and Flannery, 1992; Freysinger, 1995) recently explored the meaning of leisure among women and men in midlife, and if and how gender and age distinguished leisure meanings. Results indicated that leisure is both a context for age-related development and an expression of development. Mid-life leisure is multi-dimensional and reflects elements of need for novelty, disengagement, agency and affiliation. These variations reflect the reality that different individuals are variously exposed to societal structures and opportunities for active living as they develop through the life span.

Life transitions also have particular relevance and impact on health and its relationships to active living. For example, data from the Kaiser permanent study (Midanik *et al.*, 1995) show that retirees report lower levels of stress and are more likely to engage in regular exercise than the actively employed. These findings underscore the importance of assessing positive benefits associated with life transitions such as retirement. They also raise questions as to how programs and policies can be put in place to support and facilitate active living across different age groups (Cook and Settersten, 1995; Richardson and Kilty, 1995).

EDUCATION AND ACTIVE LIVING

Evidence exists of a direct relationship between education and the probability of being active (Stephens and Craig, 1990; King et al., 1992; Statistics Canada, 1994). Those with a college or university education are most likely to be active and least likely to be sedentary. Persons who did not finish high school are most likely to be sedentary (Stephens and Craig, 1990; King et al., 1992). These patterns are due to the amount of time devoted to physical activity by more educated persons, rather than to a choice of higher intensity activities (King et al., 1992; Statistics Canada, 1994). Walking, swimming, and bicycling are more popular among those who are highly educated, whereas gardening and dancing appear consistently popular across all education levels (Stephens and Craig, 1990; Strawbridge et al., 1996). Sage (1986) also reported positive relationships between interscholastic sports and academic achievement, even when social variables were controlled. The higher rates of participation among more educated persons is confounded with their greater relative wealth, mobility and often more developed social networks.

In a recent review, Ross and Wu (1995) concluded that the positive association between education and health is well established, but that explanations (e.g., the impact of other determinants of health) for the relationships are not. Explanations fall into 3 categories: (1) work/economic conditions, (2) social-psychological resources, and (3) healthful lifestyle. The well-educated are more likely to work full-time, to have subjectively fulfilling and rewarding jobs, high incomes and fewer economic hardships. Full-time work, fulfilling work, high income and absence of economic hardship in turn significantly improves health. Second, well-educated individuals report a greater sense of control over their lives and their health and higher levels of social support. Sense of control and to a lesser extent social support are associated with good health. Third, the well-educated are less likely to smoke, more likely to exercise, to get health checkups and to drink moderately. None of the three available explanations is wholly adequate. High educational attainment appears to improve health directly, as well as improving health indirectly through and economic conditions, social-psychological resources and healthful lifestyle, topic of structural barriers. It is very important to note the impact of the level of mechanization within the individual's life and culture (Pollard and Storper, 1996; Adler and Borys, 1995). Clearly, the mechanization of North American society and the emerging information revolution have had (and will have) profound impact on patterns of transportation, work activities and modes of accomplishing daily tasks. In turn, such factors are mediated and moderated by the determinants of health and play an influential in the patterns of active living displayed by specific individuals or groups. Active living is increasingly "built-out" of our work and daily lives.

RACE AND ACTIVE LIVING

The conceptualization and measurement of relations between race and specific social or behavioral phenomena is problematic. More specifically, the linking of race with health behaviors within or across racial groups remains highly challenging (Alicea and Kessel, 1997; Toth and Brown, 1997). There exists little evidence regarding race-leisure relationships.

Halpern (1993) suggests that it is experience at the local, rather than the national level, that is critical to specific racial groups. For nonminority groups, positive effects seen at the local level appear to be related to the reduced exposure to prejudice and the increased social support offered by being a member of a majority group. The effects of race and/or ethnicity on active living are also confounded with age and socioeconomic variables such as education and income (Yoshida *et al.*, 1988; Bode and Shephard, 1993; Philipp, 1994, 1995; Bode and Shephard, 1995; Broman, 1995; Clark, 1995; Kelley, 1995; Macera *et al.*, 1995; Shinew *et al.*, 1995). Clark (1995) found for example that the majority of racial variation in physical activity among older adults was accounted for by racial differences in educational attainment.

Many recent models of leisure constraints appear to overlook or disregard race despite its continuing importance to a wide variety of interpersonal behaviors. Philipp (1994, 1995) investigated relationships between race and measures of leisure constraint: appeal and comfort. Significant differences between African and European Americans were found in how identical activities were rated for appeal and comfort. Felton *et al.* (1997) recently reported that black and white college women had similar definitions of health, valued health to the same extent, and levels of exercise despite the fact that black women also reported social supports for active living.

Based on interest-group theory of class identification, it can be hypothesized that members of specific racial groups who define themselves similarly in terms of social class will exhibit similar leisure preferences. Floyd and Shinew (1994) found that middle class African Americans and whites exhibited similar leisure preferences. Patterns of leisure tended to diverge among the poor or the working class. However, Shinew et al. (1995) suggest that black-white differences in leisure preferences derive mainly from female-specific differences. Evidence exists that African American women are less active than whites (Yoshida et al., 1988; Bild et al., 1993; Yeager et al., 1993). Race-related gender differences also exist in need to excel (Bild et al., 1993). Broman (1995) demonstrated a link between leisure-time activity and efficacy cognitions related to health across racial groups. Leisuretime exercise was predicted by sense of efficacy that in turn was predicted by a general sense of mastery. Interestingly, the highly educated among both races were least likely to believe in the efficacy of exercise as a preventive health behavior. There is also some evidence that leisure-related activities in non-Whites may vary as a function of the degree of acculturation to White North American culture (Bode and Shephard, 1993, 1995).

In summary, evidence supports the existence of inter-racial differences in leisure-time activities, particularly among women. Race-leisure relationships are confounded with other determinants of health such as education, place of residence, social class and income. Any discussion of race-behavior relations must be cognizant of avoiding a "victimblaming" stances and fully recognize the profound influences of power, gender, education and income and their impact on active living.

SOCIAL SUPPORT AND ACTIVE LIVING

Social support and social relationships are key aspects of a person's life circumstances, major influences on health and well-being and important factors in the development and maintenance of active living (Sage, 1986; Weyerer and Kupfer, 1994). There is evidence that despite the connection between social support and participation in vigorous activity, few people are encouraged by others to be active. Encouragement is most likely to come from within the family (Sallis *et al.*, 1989; Stephens and Craig, 1990; Wankel, 1993; Fink and Wild, 1995; Anderssen *et al.*, 1996). Lack of encouragement from one's physician is associated with reducing an activity regimen. Having an active spouse is an important form of encouragement (Sallis *et al.*, 1989; Fink and Wild, 1995).

Sallis et al. (1989) reported that modelling and friend support influence active living habits. There is a strong tendency for people with active friends to be active themselves. People who are married to active individuals are 20% more likely to exercise regularly than people with sedentary spouses; those who describe most or all of their friends as active are 41% more likely to be regularly active themselves than people who have no active friends (Janzen and Cousins, 1995; Stephens and Craig, 1990). The relative influence of various groups (e.g., peers, family, spouse) on active living appears to vary across the life cycle (Sage, 1986; Ashford et al., 1993; Caldwell and Smith, 1995; Janzen and Cousins, 1995; Unger and Johnson, 1995; Daley and Parfitt, 1996). Social support may also be especially important for women. Wankel (1993) found that 62% of women vs only 26% reported exercising with a friend. Membership in health clubs also appears to facilitate active living (Ashford et al., 1993; Unger and Johnson, 1995; Daley and Parfitt, 1996). There are many possible reasons for the apparent connection between active living and social relationships and support. Active living may provide a vehicle for identification with and commitment to a particular group, social reinforcement and competitive stimulation (Wankel, 1993; Weyerer and Kupfer, 1994; Caldwell and Smith, 1995).

PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND ACTIVE LIVING

Few studies have described physical activity in different geographic communities and there appear to be few differences between communities of different sizes in the proportion of their populations classified as active (Stephens and Craig, 1990). There is, however, a modest increase in leisure time spent on activity as community size increases, as well as modest differences in activity choices (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988; Stephens and Craig, 1990; Hall *et al.*, 1992).

Recently, Eaton *et al.* (1994) described the frequency, types and correlates of physical activity among adults living in a rural US county. Walking was the most popular activity and increased with age. In contrast, vigorous and team-related activities generally declined with age.

Individuals living in rural or remote areas may experience unique economic and social factors impinging on their opportunities and ability to engage in active living (Active Living Canada, 1994). Such barriers or challenges to active living may also have the greatest impact on women and children (Bushy, 1993; Eaton et al., 1994; Horne, 1994; Trost et al., 1996; Johnson et al., 1997). Horne (1994) combined the testing of social psychological theory with the practical concern of gathering information for social marketing of active living. Among rural homemakers, intentions, selfefficacy and beliefs related to barriers and social support discriminated active from inactive homemakers. For active homemakers, only attitude and self-efficacy predicted future intentions. Similarly, studies of physical activity among rural children indicate gender-related differences in self-confidence for overcoming barriers to activity (Trost et al., 1996).

SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AND ACTIVE LIVING

Socioeconomic status has a major effect not only on the relative health of groups within a population, but on the health of the "same" population at different points in time. Socioeconomic status has been represented by grouping individuals according to income, occupation or education. A number of studies have found gradients in life and health expectancy across such groups. Such gradients have persisted despite policy initiatives aimed at reducing them (Hertzman *et al.*, 1990; Hertzman *et al.*, 1994; Wigle *et al.*, 1995).

Long-standing evidence suggests that persons with higher incomes, education and occupational (particularly the elderly) attainment engage in more active, diverse and intellectually demanding activities (Havighurst, 1974; Bynum *et al.*, 1978; Lawton *et al.*, 1982; Woodward *et al.*, 1989; Anderssen and Wold, 1992). The same people often have the money, knowledge, organizational resources and flexible schedules to run sports organizations and to engage in active living (Hall *et al.*, 1992; King *et al.*, 1992).

Recent studies provide data concerning physical activity and/or leisure participation among minority and/or low-income persons (Ford *et al.*, 1991; Bild *et al.*, 1993; Bode and Shephard, 1993; Yeager *et al.*, 1993; Lewis *et al.*, 1993a,b; Bode and Shephard, 1995; Chepyatorthomson, 1995; Macera *et al.*, 1995; Crespo *et al.*, 1996; Paraschak, 1997). Studies typically use community based surveys in which the majority of respondents are young adult (African-American) women. (Ford *et al.*, 1991; Lewis *et al.*, 1993a,b; Chepyatorthomson, 1995). Lewis *et al.* (1993a), Lewis *et al.* (1993b) found that 30% of low-income respondents reported no participation

in any of 13 listed activities during the previous year. Persons who were young and male were more likely to have high activity levels.

Ford *et al.* (1991) studied physical activity during leisure, household activities or work among low socio–economic status men and women. Lower SES women were least active, while high SES women were most active. Higher SES men were also more active than their lower SES counterparts. High SES women spent considerably more time each week involved in leisure, household and job-related activities than low SES women.

In a similar study, Siegel *et al.* (1995) studied leisure-time activity among respondents to the 1990 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey. The percentages of low income, unemployed and obese persons who engaged in leisure-time physical activity were lower than that of the total population. This finding is consistent with other studies of similar populations (Fox and Dirkin, 1989; Ford *et al.*, 1991; Lewis *et al.*, 1993a,b; Lombard *et al.*, 1995). In contrast, the prevalence of walking for exercise among these "sedentary" groups was similar to that of the general population (35%).

Differences in patterns of active living related to socioeconomic factors have also been found in younger age groups. Among children, participation in organized sports cuts across all socioeconomic strata. Some sports are over-represented with children from upper-middle class families (Sage, 1986; Blanksby *et al.*, 1996). A positive relationship exists between parental encouragement, activity participation and involvement in sports for both males and females (Sage, 1986). Parents significantly influence their children's leisure choices and behaviors through their own attitudes and modelling.

WORK/OCCUPATION AND ACTIVE LIVING

Occupation and work-related factors are closely related to other determinants of health (e.g., education, age, smoking and obesity) and are associated with varying levels of activity (Sallis *et al.*, 1989; King *et al.*, 1992; Gallo *et al.*, 1995; Marino *et al.*, 1995). A person's occupation and/or source of income may be a catalyst for active living. It may also serve to constrain their ability to take part in leisure activities (Shephard and Bouchard, 1994). Gender is strongly related to work and occupation.

Generally, homemakers and clerical/sales employees are the least likely to be active. (Women are disproportionately over-represented in these categories). Homemakers are more likely than others to engage in casually organized activities. Retirees are second to students in proportion of who is active (Stephens and Craig, 1990). Hall *et al.* (1992) reported that those not in the paid workforce (i.e. homemakers, retirees, the unemployed and the disabled) are inactive in "sports", but may be active in other activities such as walking, swimming, and gardening. Conversely, salaried professionals and managers with good educations and high incomes tend to engage in sports which require a relatively greater amount of money, such as downhill skiing, indoor tennis, squash, windsurfing, golf, sailing and equestrian. This is due to the amount of money required to participate in such activities, and is also due to the considerable professional autonomy provided by these occupations. The aforementioned sports also involve extensive preparation and training (Hall et al., 1992; Hoen, 1992). Blue-collar and white-collar men tend to be involved in activities which provide a social setting, such as bowling, baseball, softball, hockey and fishing (Hall et al., 1992). Working class women display little or no interest in sport. This is likely due to barriers such as childcare, transportation and lack of money (Hall et al., 1992).

The relationship between active living and job-related strain has been explored (Ormel *et al.*, 1989; Brown, 1991; Jex *et al.*, 1991). Jex *et al.* (1991) found exercise was weakly related to measures of physical strain (sick days and doctor visits) and psychological strain (job satisfaction and turnover intent). In a following study, which employed more specific measures of exercise, and a more heterogeneous sample, exercise was weakly related to physical strain (doctor visits) but unrelated to psychological strain.

In summary, there is evidence of significant relationships between physical activity and occupation or work. The source(s) of such relationships remains unclear (King *et al.*, 1992). Nonwork activities may also have significant relationships to occupational roles and life satisfaction (Cox and Montgomery, 1991). Although activity preferences tend to be gender-dependent, there is also evidence that different age groups tend to have similar levels of activity preferences (Branholm and Fugl-Meyer, 1994).

ACTIVE LIVING AND OTHER HEALTH BEHAVIORS

Poor lifestyle habits are associated with increased morbidity and mortality rates and cost billions of dollars annually (Millar and Stephens, 1993; Anonymous, 1996; Gillis and Hirdes, 1996). Leisure-time physical activities have been linked to, or are associated with other health behaviors (Sobal et al., 1992; Uitenbroek, 1993a,b; Duncan et al., 1995a,b,c; Pate et al., 1996; Shephard and Bouchard, 1996). Typically surveys indicate that the majority of North Americans (Palank, 1991) rate their health as excellent or very good. Interestingly, data on self-rated health do not correlate well with the practice of other health behaviors. Frequent exercisers are more likely to rate their health positively and to describe themselves as happy. However, a majority of individuals who exercise less than 3 times per week also consider their health to be very good or excellent despite engaging in limited physical activity.

Recently, Johnson et al. (1995) suggested that the available data on associations between leisure-time physical activity and other health behaviors are conflicting. They examined National Heart 1989 Foundation (Australia) Risk Factor Prevalence Survey data to analyze associations between leisure-time physical activity and other lifestyle health behavior. Analysis showed that participation in leisure-time physical activity, even when it was not vigorous, was weakly associated with not smoking, following a special diet and moderate consumption of alcohol. It was inversely associated with obesity. The authors concluded that these weak associations could influence health practices at a population level if the adoption of leisure activity promotes the adoption of other good health practices. Their confirmation of earlier findings of cross-sectional associations between activity and other positive health practices justifies prospective or experimental studies to determine behavioral response(s) of various subpopulations to adoption of leisure-time physical activity.

Health promoting behavior and life style changes are influenced by a host of internal and environment factors, including personality factors, health beliefs, and health attitudes (Rabinowitz *et al.*, 1993; Williams, 1994). Participation in physical activity may act as an entry point to reflect on health behavior practices, creating a ripple effect to other areas of lifestyle behaviors.

ACTIVE LIVING: CHOICES AND CONSTRAINTS

According to many surveys (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988; Yoshida *et al.*, 1988; Stephens and Craig, 1990; King *et al.*, 1992; Rabinowitz *et al.*, 1993; Williams, 1994; Bonen and Shaw, 1995), the most popular activities reported by North Americans are walking, gardening, swimming, bicycling, and dancing. All of these activities have little need for supervision or training, are low cost, are convenient, and can be done outdoors and/or with friends (Stephens and Craig, 1990).

Perceived or real barriers are an important factor in predicting a wide range of health behaviors (Yoshida *et al.*, 1988), and such barriers negatively influence active living behavior (Sallis *et al.*, 1989, 1996). Time constraints are the most frequently cited cause for not being more active (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988; Yoshida *et al.*, 1988; Rudman, 1989; Stephens and Craig, 1990). Additional barriers most frequently associated with physical activity involvement are physical demands of activity, lack of motivation, perceived lack of access to a health and fitness facility, and a lack of social support from significant others (Rudman, 1989). Yoshida *et al.* (1988) differentiated between individual and structural barriers. *Individual barriers* are obstacles to active living which originate within the person. Examples include lack of energy, motivation, need and health reasons (injury and disability). *Structural barriers* are obstacles which originate outside the person, such as lack of time, cost/access, child care, family responsibilities, and household size.

The British health and lifestyle survey (Cox et al., 1993) indicated clear effects of the social environment as presenting challenges to active living and an impact on both physical and mental health. Cox et al. (1993) also detected an important change-related phenomenon. A deterioration in perceived levels of social support was strongly related to psychosocial health. The impact of changes varied significantly across age, gender and occupations. There were also clear gradients in participation in active leisure pursuits with higher rates both in urban vs rural areas, and in those from non-manual occupations vs those from manual occupations. These differences held across both genders. Results indicated that participation in "non-energetic" pastimes increased (1986-1993) across all age groups. However, those from the lower (manual) occupational groups were less likely to engage in either energetic or non-energetic activities.

INTEGRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERING ACTIVE LIVING AND THE DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Numerous authors have attempted to portray and explain relationships among the various factors discussed in this paper. The most common approach is to employ what has been called a "biopsychosocial" model (Eisenberg, 1986; Duffy, 1988; Valois et al., 1988; Cutrona, 1990; Omodei and Wearing, 1990; Sonstroem et al., 1991; Dishman, 1991; Headey and Veenhoven, 1991; Anderssen and Wold, 1992; English and Hicks, 1992; Ezzy, 1993; Facione, 1993; Budd, 1993; Cardinal, 1993; Cheadle and Psaty, 1993; Coppa, 1993; Headey, 1993; Galbally and Burrows, 1993: Johnson and Ratner, 1993: Ruffing-Rahal, 1993; Meek, 1993; Marcus and Simkin, 1994; Zanger and Groves, 1994; Anderson and Armstead, 1995; Appleby, 1995; Brown, 1995; Cardinal, 1995; Davidson and Strauss, 1995; Duncan et al., 1995a,b,c; Feeny et al., 1995; Haworth, 1995).

A useful model which accommodates many of the above models in a broader, heuristic planning approach is termed the Precede–Proceed model. The Precede model (Green and Kreuter, 1991) grows out of the science and practice of health promotion. The model can be used to describe active living determinants of health relationships and to elucidate causal pathways between active living program approaches and program effects or outcomes regarding determinants of health. The Precede model can be used together with available models and theories of behavior change and systems for assessing available evidence. It provides an overall framework for organizing models and theories of behavior change. Most importantly, precede facilitates the systematic planning, implementation and evaluation of potential programs and policies. Precede prompts users to articulate the underlying theoretical rationale for postulating links between or among specific determinants and active living.

WHY THE PRECEDE MODEL?

The Precede model has been widely applied in disease prevention and health promotion programs, and tested in research and evaluation projects. With over 600 published applications (and an equal number of unpublished applications) on a variety of health issues, the Precede model is by far the most widely tested and validated model for planning health promotion programs and policies.

The Precede model has its roots in health education and health promotion. As such, it may be viewed by some overly as "individualistic" and not giving enough consideration to the growing emphasis on the social and "structural complexity" of health (Luschen et al., 1996). Models such as the Precede model, while they need to be viewed with a critical eye and with appropriate consideration of extra-individual factors such as the social-cultural environment and structures are still useful. Precede provides a widely-tested framework for consideration of the broader determinants of health (as they relate to active living). It also provides a platform for linking the historically, individual-focussed literature on active living/physical activity with the emerging recognition that determinants of health such as education and income play a key role in influencing a wide range of activities of daily life.

Recent applications include: AIDS (Alteneder et al., 1992), smoking, (Polcyn et al., 1991), cancer (Michielutte et al., 1989), injury prevention (Gielen, 1992), medication education (Opdycke et al., 1992), mental health (Frankish et al., 1996a,b), suicide prevention (Frankish, 1994), asthma education (Green and Frankish, 1994), arthritis (Bartholomew et al., 1994), breast cancer (Earp et al., 1995), patient education (Jenny, 1993) and ecological models of health promotion (Richard et al., 1996). The model also provided the framework for the construction of Canada's health promotion survey (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988). Recently, the model was used to examine predictors of regular physical activity in participants in a Canadian health promotion program (Hill, 1996).

OUTLINE FOR USE OF THE PRECEDE MODEL

The multiple levels of the model are displayed. The steps in precede (the upper portion) are sequenced from right to left. Precede deals with issues related to health beginning with an analysis of social costs and quality of life issues (Phase 1) and continues through administrative and policy diagnosis (Phase 5). The (lower) portion of the model, from left to right, addresses issues related to implementation (Phase 6), process evaluation (Phase 7), impact or short-term evaluation (Phase 8) and long-term or outcome evaluation (Phase 9). The levels of evaluation correspond in reverse order to the levels of objectives delineated in the planning phases of Precede. The model guides the planning itself, implementation of intervention strategies and policies, selection or development and implementation of educational, organizational and political strategies for change; evaluation of change in factors predisposing, enabling or reinforcing behavioral or environmental risk factors; and extrapolation of impact to outcomes measured in terms of risk factors themselves, or in terms of health or quality of life. The model is comprehensive enough to encompass the full range of activities and outcomes that active living (health) programs or policies might attempt to address.

In summary, three possible mechanisms for relationships between active living and determinants of health can be suggested. First, the pre-existence of positive living conditions is associated with a greater propensity to active living. Second, there is evidence that active living may lead to changes or improvements in living conditions and determinants of health. A final likelihood is that relationships between determinants of health and active living are entwined with the influence of covariables such as mental health. Socio-demographic variables and specific risk factors have largely similar patterns of association with excellent health and with ill-health (Fuchs, 1996). The processes by which excellent health is generated probably have much in common with those that generate ill-health. Equally, it is obvious that our understanding of the determinants of health-illness relation is better than that of the relationships determinants of optimal health and well-being (Fuchs, 1996).

What is needed is a systematic approach to considering and integrating diverse theoretical approaches, weighing them against the available empirical evidence. Planning policies and programs need to based on a sound decision-making framework (Green and Kreuter, 1991; Frankish and Green, 1994; Mackenbach et al., 1994) which takes into account causal models of active living. Other key issues to be considered include the role of feminist perspectives in physical activity and active living (Woodward et al., 1989; Del-Rey, 1991; Henderson and Dialeschki, 1991; Freysinger and Flannery, 1992; Freysinger, 1995; Wright, 1996), the role of government in setting health goals and objectives that address the determinants of health (Health and Welfare Canada, 1991 Fitness Canada, 1993; Active Living Canada, 1994; Frankish *et al.*, 1996a,b; Federal, Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee on Population Health, 1996), the development of community-driven approaches to active living (Cheadle and Psaty, 1993; Collette *et al.*, 1994; Frankish and Green, 1994; Quinney *et al.*, 1994; Edwards, 1995; Wright, 1996) methodologic and analytic refinement of survey strategies (Health and Welfare Canada, 1988; Thomas and Graham, 1993; Statistics Canada, 1994; Statistics Canada, 1995; Crespo *et al.*, 1996) and exploration of participatory approaches to research on the relationships between active living and determinants of health (Green *et al.*, 1995).

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