



National Collaborating Centre
for Methods and Tools

Centre de collaboration nationale
des méthodes et outils

Newsletter

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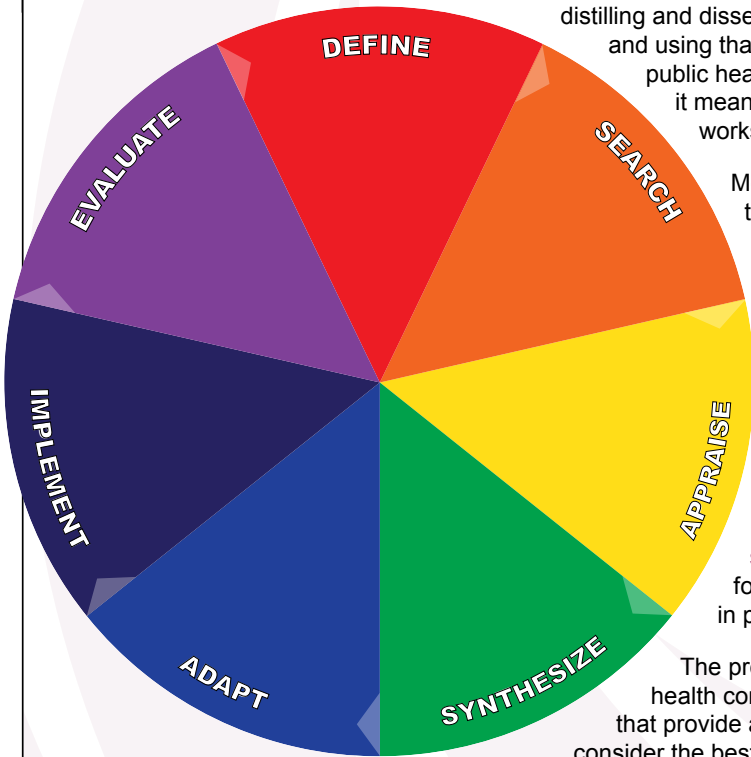
Decide to use evidence.

Use evidence to decide.

Public health decisions are made every day – decisions about practices, programs and policies. While they are all made with good intentions, only some of those decisions will achieve their objectives. Maximizing the results of public health decisions can save time and money.

What is evidence-informed public health?

Evidence-informed public health (EIPH) is the process of distilling and disseminating the best available evidence, and using that evidence to inform and improve public health practice and policy. Put simply, it means finding, using and sharing what works in public health.



Most public health professionals know that the best decisions are not based on research findings alone. By considering evidence from a range of sources, their decisions can result in programs and actions that are both effective and appropriate for their communities and target populations. Ultimately, a decision maker's public health expertise helps to integrate all relevant factors into a conclusion or recommendation. (See the [NCCMT fact sheet](#) for more details on the model for evidence-informed decision making in public health.)

The process of evidence-informed public health consists of seven essential steps that provide a process to help decision-makers consider the best available research evidence for the issue at hand.

DEFINE		Clearly define the question or problem.
SEARCH		Efficiently search for research evidence.
APPRAISE		Critically and efficiently appraise the research methods.
SYNTHESIZE		Interpret information; understand how to prioritize conflicting results.
ADAPT		Adapt the information to the local community.
IMPLEMENT		Decide whether (and plan how) to implement the change in practice or policy.
EVALUATE		Assess the effectiveness of the change in practice or policy.

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The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada. The NCCMT is affiliated with McMaster University.

... *Decide to use evidence ... cont'd >>>*

How can the NCCMT help you implement EIPH?

NCCMT is committed to supporting and encouraging EIPH. In addition to publications and presentations about EIPH, our efforts include a dedicated website section, workshops, and our "EIPH wheel."

website

The EIPH section of the [NCCMT website](#) includes a dynamic representation of the EIPH steps as well as links to additional resources and background information. We continue to increase the depth and breadth of information and the number of resources associated with each step of the EIPH process. Feedback from website visitors and workshop participants helps direct our activities in this area.

workshops

The NCCMT offers interactive workshops where participants learn about EIPH and practise finding and applying the best available research evidence in program planning and revision. In the past year, facilitators from NCCMT have presented EIPH workshops to over 500 participants across Canada.

wheel

The wheel is a hands-on memory aid to reinforce the concept and steps of the EIPH process. It is not meant to give all the answers. Rather, it directs users to the NCCMT website for more detailed information and guidance.

Since it was introduced in the spring of 2009, we have distributed the wheel at conferences, workshops and meetings across the country. To get your own wheel, watch for us at upcoming events and workshops.

Why implement EIPH?

Informed decision makers save their organizations precious resources by adopting interventions that work and avoiding those that do not.

Still not sure where to start?

Read our Introduction to [Evidence Informed Public Health and Compendium of Critical Appraisal Tools](#) or join our [discussion forum on EIPH](#). (see page 3)

NCCMT resources can help you at every step along the way. [Contact us](#) for more information or to find out about EIPH learning opportunities coming soon.

"I learned a lot, especially from those involved in practice & policy."

participant at Vancouver workshop

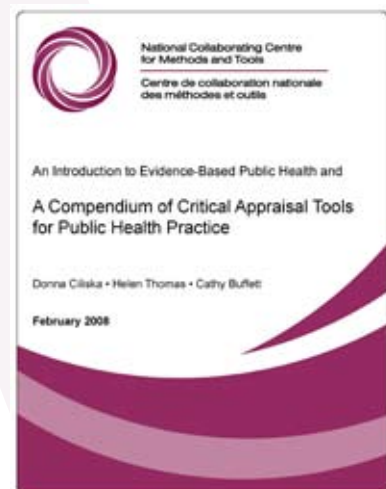
"I will take away valuable info to help me in my work - basic searches, basic appraisal/analytical skills, wonderful resources!"

participant at Halifax workshop

"I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the ... Workshop for Nursing and Dental Faculty that you facilitated at New York University."

I was particularly impressed with the wheel-shaped tool that you shared depicting the model for evidence-informed decision-making in public health."

**Director of Nursing Research
NYU Medical Center**



sharing what works in public health

Activities and Updates

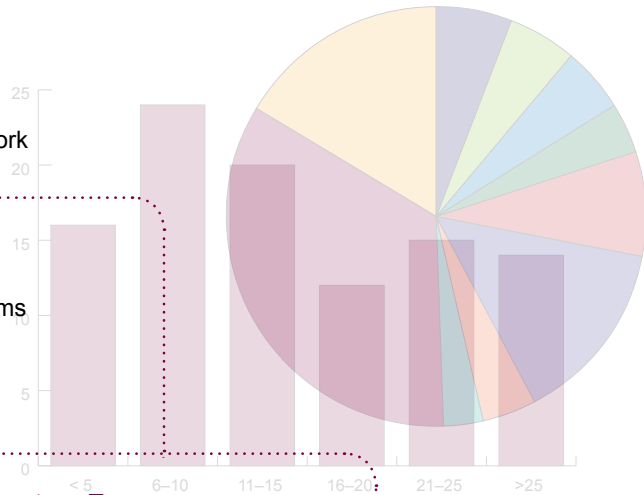
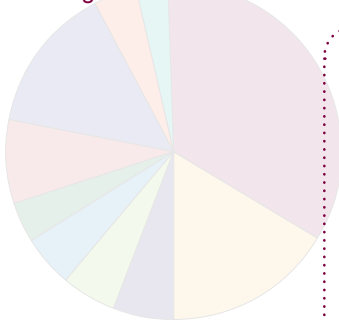
Network survey results are in -- We listened.

Respondents to the online survey of DialoguePH network members told us they wanted access to a **discussion forum**. Well, it's up and running! Check it out!

Results of the survey will be used to shape the design, format and content of the tools that will support the network, such as the NCCMT website, discussion forums and technological options for linking the membership.

Read the report for yourself:

[DialoguePH: Results of a National Online Survey](#)



New Online Discussion Forum

The discussion forum is a great place to find out more about EIPH. Questions, answers and conversations connect network members with experts and with each other.

Find out what other public health professionals are saying about incorporating evidence into their decisions.

The discussion forum is hosted by DialoguePH and moderated by our Knowledge Broker, [Pamela Forsyth](#).

It's **your** turn to share what works in public health.

Have you used evidence in a public health decision? Did your organization use a method or tool to develop a practice or policy? Did you use evidence to help you develop or improve an intervention? In the next few months, we will highlight some real-world examples of evidence-informed decisions.

[Contact us](#) for details on how you can share **your** story!

We welcome your feedback.

Send your comments or questions to nccmt@mcmaster.ca.

This newsletter is edited by Jeannie Mackintosh, communications coordinator for the NCCMT





What is your role on the front lines of infectious disease outbreaks?

NEW online CME course

Infectious Disease Outbreaks: Tools and strategies for front-line clinicians

- Best practices in preparedness, early detection and response to notifiable and emerging infectious diseases
- Designed primarily for front-line clinicians, including family doctors, emergency physicians, paediatricians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and outpost nurses
- Evidence-based with links to provincial/territorial resources

Developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Public Health Association and Professional Development & Conferencing Services, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University.

Up to six study hours.

For more information, go to: www.publichealth.gc.ca/outbreaks-course

NCCMT renews commitment to EIPH

NCCMT's new *Environmental Scan (2009)* will inform our strategic planning activities for the next five years.

NCCMT's 2010-2015 strategic plan reiterates our commitment to EIPH:

We believe that using evidence to inform public health practice and policy in Canada can improve our public health system.

Our revised mission statement reads:

The NCCMT will enhance evidence-informed public health practice and policy in Canada by providing leadership and expertise in sharing what works in public health.

Contact us for more information about NCCMT's strategic plan.



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