Fall 2023 Pop-up Communities of Practice:

Justice & Health Partnerships

Presented by the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre

CALC

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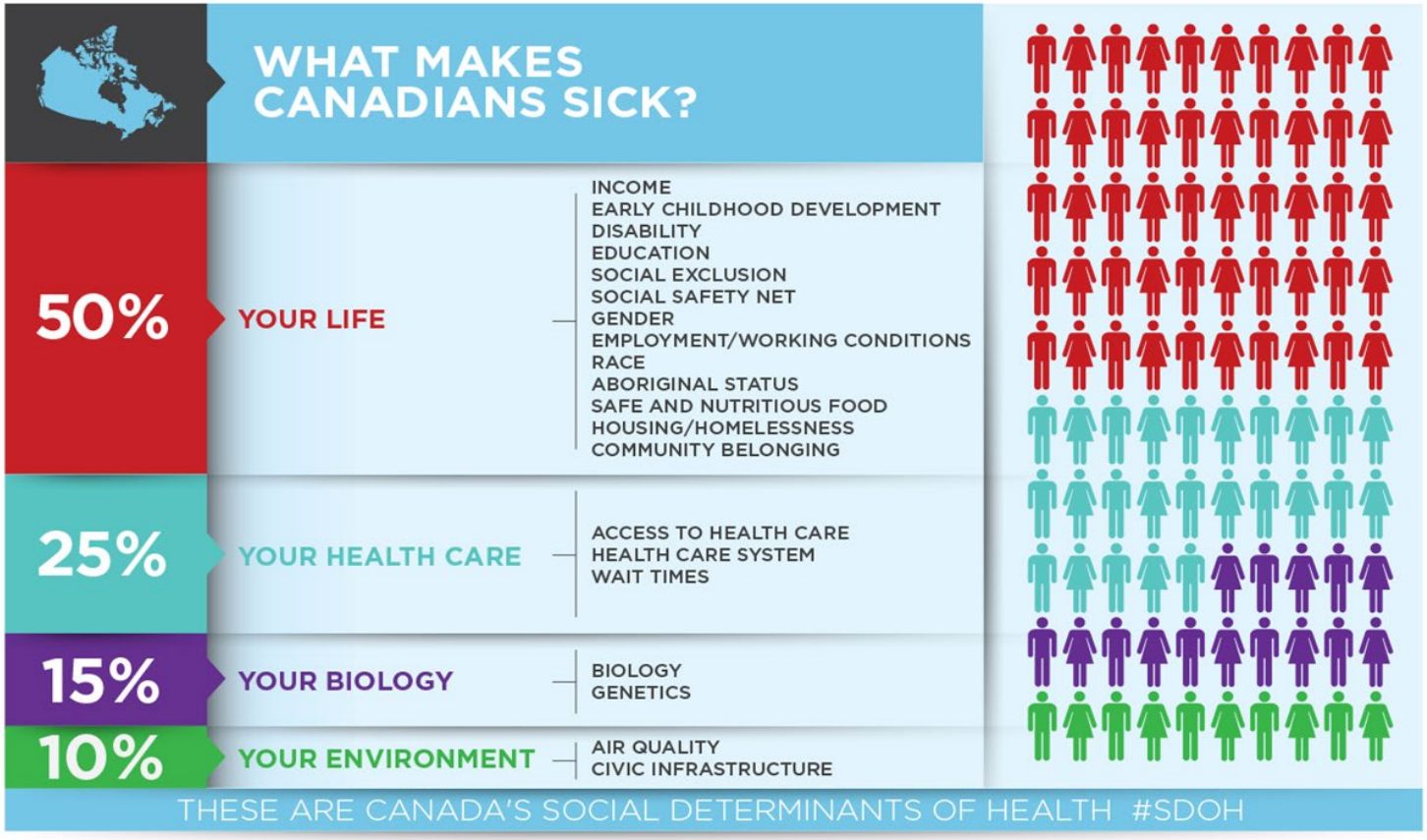
Introduction

The Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) is a non-profit community legal clinic that helps people living on a low income in Hastings, Prince Edward, and Lennox & Addington counties and Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory with their civil legal problems (focus: income and housing) from our main office in Belleville, Ontario. CALC is one of more than 70 clinics providing legal services across Ontario.

Legal Health – What Is It?



Infographic by the Canadian Medical Association

Legal Issue	Related Social Determinants	Legal Help	Impact on Health / Health Care
Tenant Rights	Housing Disability Early Life Food insecurity Gender Race	Evictions Repairs Pests Privacy Harassment Discrimination Utility bills /rent Vital services (heat) Lease breaking	Stable, healthy, decent housing → less stress → better compliance with treatment plans
Income Security	Income Income distribution Disability Early life Food insecurity Health services Social exclusion	ODSP, CPP-D denials OW denials OW/ODSP "on hold" Overpayments OW/ODSP benefits EI issues WSIB issues	Higher income means fewer trade-offs between food, a roof, heat, and healthcare. A stable income means less stress, better management of chronic illness, better health outcomes for children
Employment, Working Conditions, Education	Unemployment Job Security Working Conditions Education Health services Gender Race	Unpaid wages Reduced hours Termination Unsafe work Harassment Discrimination Suspensions/expulsions Special education	Education is one of the best predictors of adult health Health insurance is often linked to employment Safer work means fewer injuries

Adapted from the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership

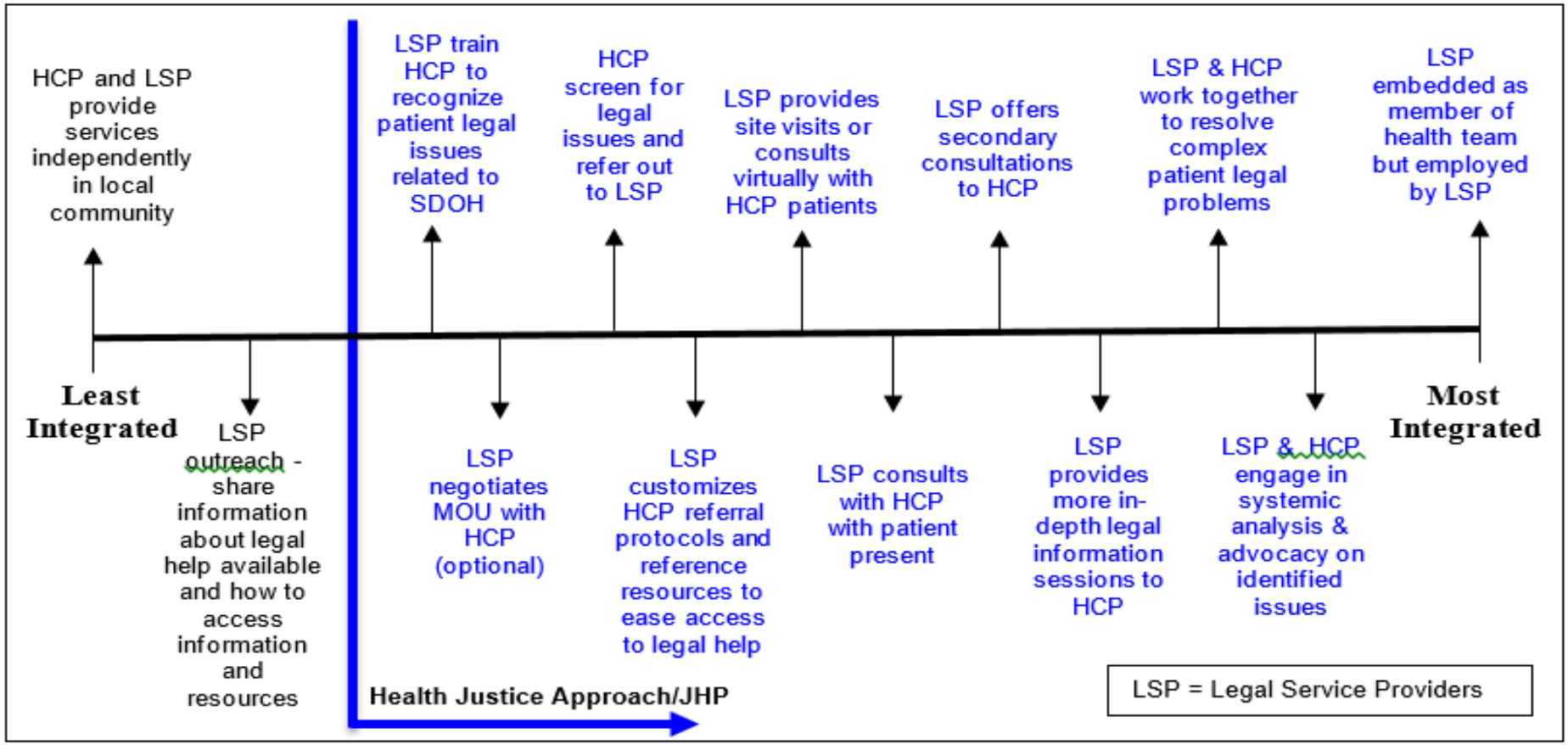
Legal Health – Why Does It Matter?

- **Benefits to improved legal health from US, UK, Canadian, Australian studies:**

  - Decreased healthcare costs, decreased healthcare spending – particularly complex, high-cost, high-use patients
  - Fewer emergency department visits
  - Fewer hospital admissions & re-admissions
  - Patients better able to comply with recommended treatment
  - Patients get resources they need (financial and otherwise)
  - Patients report less stress; greater hope + empowerment
  - Patients increase their use of preventative care services
  - Increased health care staff satisfaction when a medical-legal partnership program is part of the health care services

Change We Are Trying to Create

Spectrum of Possible Interventions of LSP in the Justice & Health Approach



Local Impact

Some of the Justice & Health Partnership's Activities:

1. Streamlining referral process
2. CALC staff attending health partners' offices to meet with clients
3. CALC providing training to health partners on topics at the intersection of law and health
4. Legal and health partners consulting regularly about community needs, collaborating on programs, tools and resources

Local Impact

- Over 1300 referrals received from healthcare providers
  - 50% of referrals are from rural areas
  - 50% had not accessed help from CALC before (and 64% of rural referrals)
  - We intervened “early” in over 90% of referrals
- We have provided training to over 1500 healthcare providers (primary, allied, and students)
- 90% of healthcare providers reported they were better able to identify legal issues because of the project, and more likely to refer patients for legal help.
- Project is valued by healthcare providers: 94% reported it was helpful to them, 97% reported it was helpful to their patients.

Local Impact

"The Justice and Health [project] has changed the way that we think about client problems. It makes us think we have hopeful resources for them. It is empowering for them to get help to resolve a problem. The legal clinic is extremely welcoming, open to providing support in whatever way that would be helpful to us. The heart that they bring to it is so evident."

"CALC has been able to successfully advocate for funding to feed our hungry patients, manage landlord/tenant issues with housing, address consumer debt issues and be involved in future planning for patients including completion of POA documents and wills".

"We understand, all too well, the detrimental effect of social issues on one's mental and physical health, and this collaboration with CALC has provided only positive outcomes for our patients in need".

Next Steps

JUSTICE & HEALTH
LEARNING CENTRE

With thanks to the Law Foundation of Ontario!

Contact

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Temporary Website: https://communitylegalcentre.ca/jhp/