

A significant number of youth have a chronic health condition or a healthcare condition that may have a lifelong impact. Given this prevalence, attention must be paid to ensure that youth develop self-care and disease management knowledge and skills, as well as receives the support needed from the healthcare system. “Children with chronic diseases who live into adulthood have unique challenges. The transition to adulthood within the healthcare system, as well as accessing appropriate resources, can be frustrating.” (Health Canada, 2007, p.149)

Influences on Adolescent Health: A Framework

Adolescent development and health status are influenced by multitude of factors, and may have either positive or negative impacts. These factors are interdependent and not only involve individuals themselves, but societal influences and resources, a framework based on a population health model; Figure 1 provides an overview of the important considerations regarding promotion of healthy adolescent development. This framework is founded on the social determinants of health as key underlying elements in adolescent development, and recognizes the underlying conditions that contribute to or impede development.

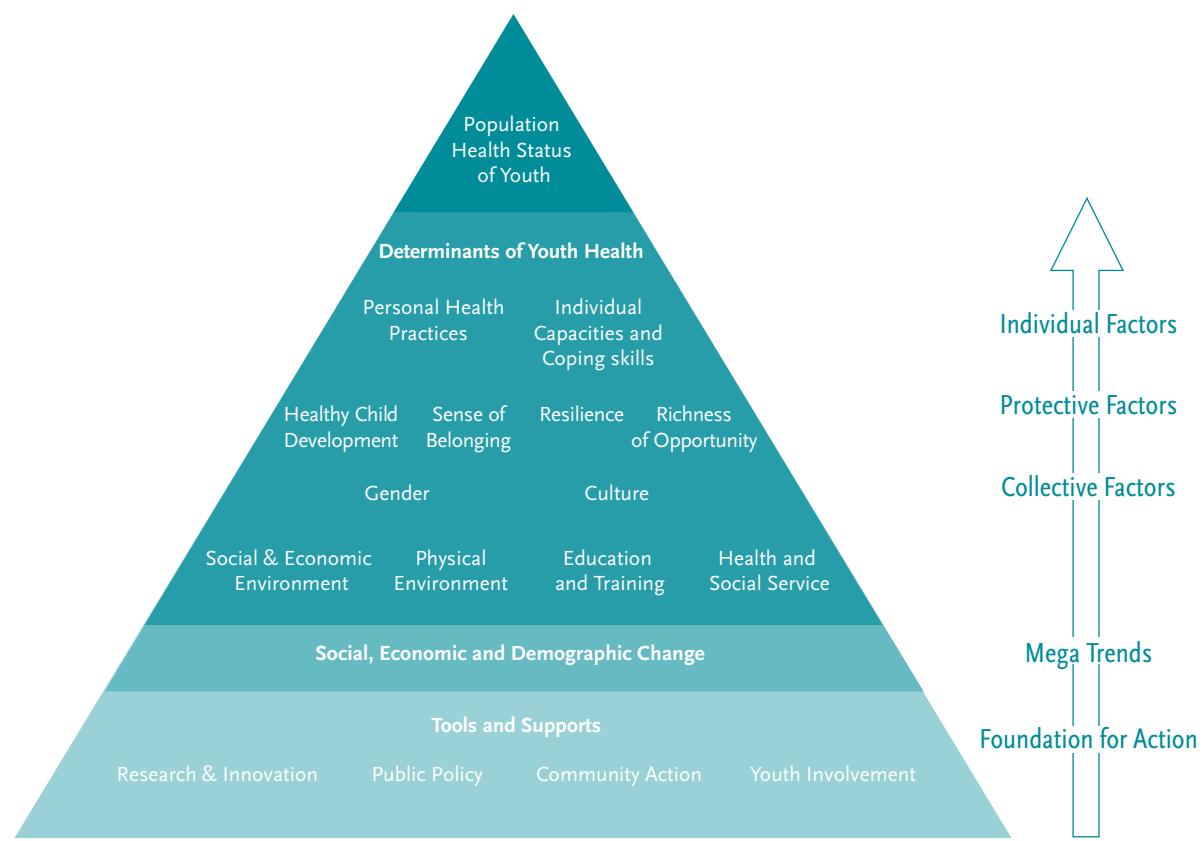


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Youth Health Status

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Campbell (2000) described the framework thusly:

“... a broad set of collective and individual factors, such as income and social status, employment and working conditions, education, social support networks, biological factors, child development, and personal health practices interact to influence health and disease processes directly and indirectly.