**Health inequalities at the local level**

In order to address health inequity, the first step is to measure health inequalities (differences in health outcomes between different groups in the same population). The Saskatoon Health Region developed an approach for measuring the extent of health inequalities at the local level, by analyzing data from 1995 to 2011 on hospital admissions, physician billing, reportable diseases, vital statistics and childhood immunization from health administrative databases, taking deprivation into account (Figure 2). After quantifying inequality using a variety of statistical analyses, the team developed an Inequalities Prioritization Matrix to prioritize action for the outcomes showing the greatest inequality. Injuries and chronic pulmonary disease were identified as the top priorities for inequalities in admission to hospital; teen pregnancy and all-cause mortality for vital statistics; mental disorders and diabetes for physician billing; and hepatitis C for communicable diseases. The authors suggest that policies should consider health inequalities and adopt population-based and targeted actions to reduce inequalities. *CMAJ Open* 2015;3:E366-72.

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**Figure 1:** Rate of women in a small area who were up to date on cancer screening, 2011.

**Figure 2:** Percent change in rate ratio, rate difference and area-level concentration curve for health outcomes using admissions to hospital data.