Community Health & Epidemiology Seminar Series

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Title: Income-related inequalities in health among Canadian Indigenous populations: 2001-2012

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 12:00 PM
Location: CH&E Classroom, r. 409, Centre for Clinical Research, 5790 University Ave
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Abstract: Notwithstanding several federal and provincial initiatives and political commitments to reduce health inequalities in Canada, Indigenous Canadians currently experience the poorest level of health in Canada and their health indicators are often comparable to those of developing countries. Large variations in health status also exist across the three Indigenous populations viz. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, recognized under the Constitution Act 1982, in Canada. Although the existence of socioeconomic-related inequalities in health among the general population of Canada is well-documented, the extent of socioeconomic inequalities among Canadian Indigenous populations poorly understood. Using three nationally representative Aboriginal Peoples Surveys (APSs, 2001, 2006 and 2012) we aimed to examine trends in income-related inequalities in self-perceived poor or fair general health status among off-reserve Indigenous Canadians (aged 18 and older) over the period between 2000 and 2012. Moreover, we performed decomposition analysis to determine factors that explain income-related inequality in health among Indigenous Canadians. We observed a significant increase in income-related inequalities in health within First Nations and Métis populations over the study period. Decomposition analyses indicated that, besides income itself, occupational status, educational attainment and behavioral factors were the most important factors contributing to the concentration of poor/fair health among the poor off-reserve Indigenous Canadians.

Biography: Dr. Mohammad Hajizadeh is an Assistant Professor at the School of Health Administration at Dalhousie University and cross-appointed with the School of Health and Human Performance and Department of Community Health and Epidemiology. He is also an Associate Research Scholar at the Healthy Populations Institute (HPI). Dr. Hajizadeh received his PhD in Economics from the University of Queensland and have held postdoctoral positions at McGill and Western universities. Prior to his PhD studies, he worked as a lecturer at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences. A health economist by training, his primary research interests are analyzing equity of health care, measuring inequality in health and evaluating health and social policies. His other research interests include health services research, global health and economic analysis of chronic diseases.