

Local Government Involvement In Public Health, The Role Of The Medical Health Officer And Current Health Issues

Nanaimo

March 29, 2019

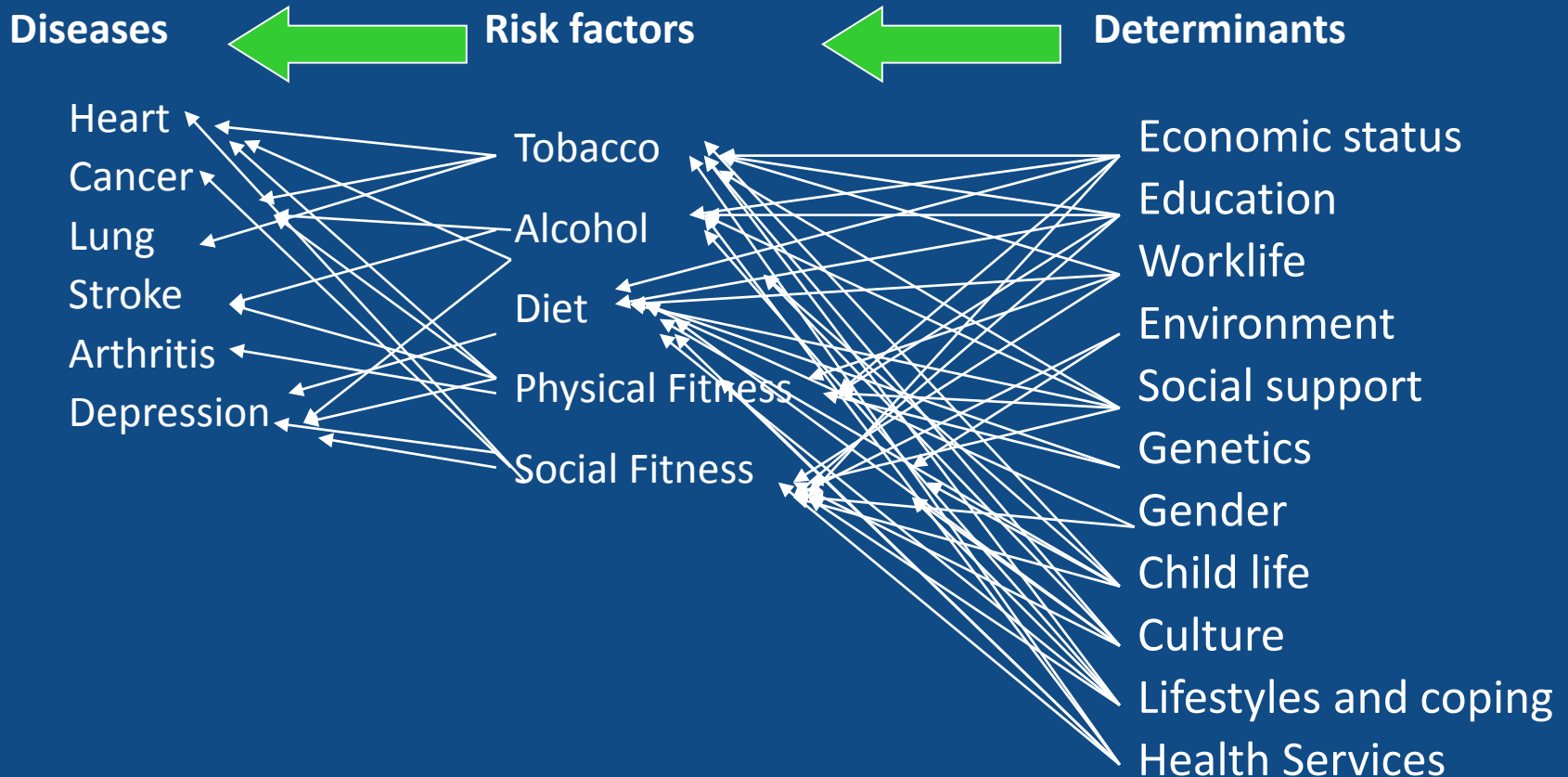
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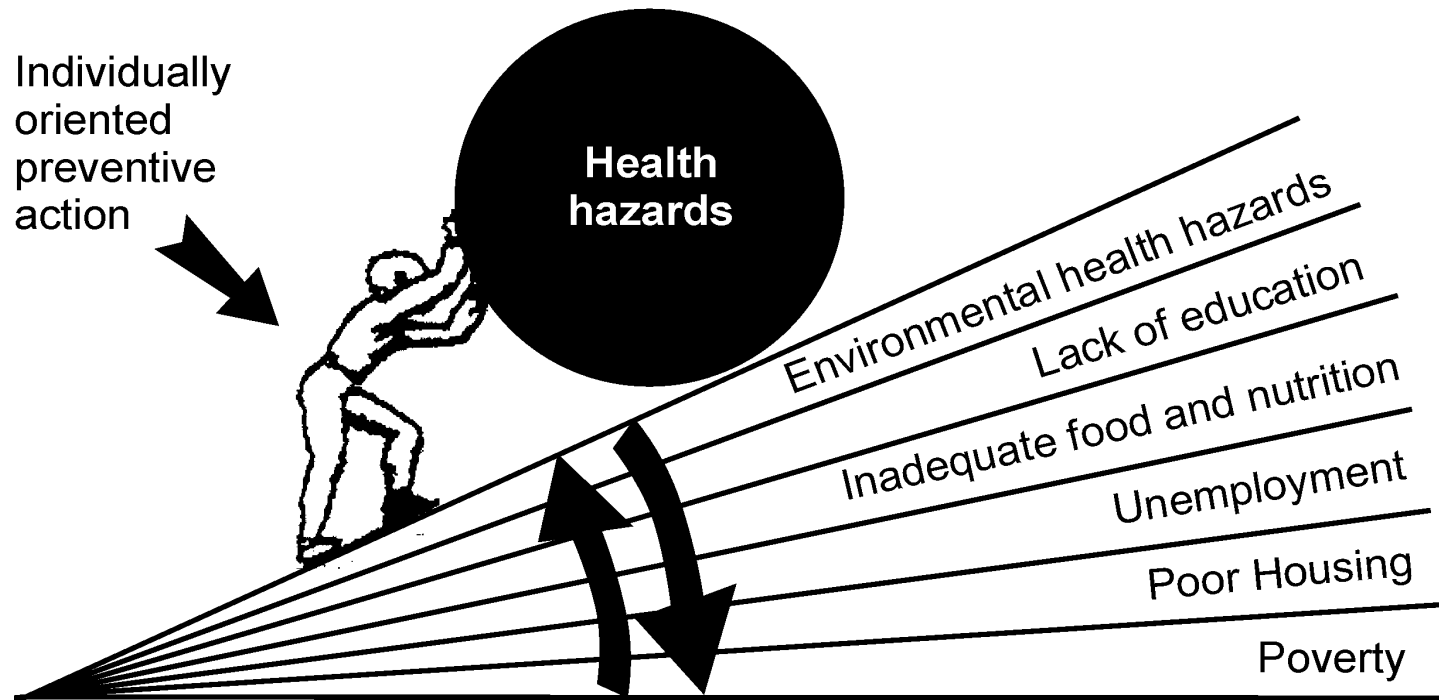
Health

- *“A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.”*
- To achieve health an individual or group must be able to:
 - identify and to realize aspirations.
 - satisfy needs.
 - change or cope with the environment.

Determinants of Health



The Health Gradient



Source: adapted from Making Partners: intersectoral action for health.

Legislated Responsibilities

- *Public Health Act*
 - Role of local government
 - Role of Medical Health Officer
- *Community Charter*
 - Public Health Regulation

Non-Regulatory Roles of Medical Health Officer

- “Medical consultant” on public health issues (cannabis, alcohol, smoking)
- Support or linking to supports for addressing issues that impact the determinants of health such as homelessness/housing, poverty, early childhood development
- Supporting healthy built environment planning, growth strategy, OCP, neighbourhood planning
- Resource on linking to health sector
- Emergency planning and response

Key Public Health Approaches

- Health surveillance and reporting
- Promotion of health
 - Positive approaches, collaborative
- Protection from health hazards and impediments
 - Enforcement, regulatory, potentially confrontational
- Disease Prevention
 - Individual specific services

Hot Topics In Public Health

- Overdose crisis
- Housing 'crisis'
- Cannabis legalization
- Alcohol consumption
 - Negative impacts and volume continuing to rise
- Early childhood indicators/adverse events of Childhood
 - increased vulnerabilities and behavioural issues

Simmering Issues

- Poverty/Wealth inequity
- Climate Change and Health
- Transportation and Health
- Healthy Environments
- Healthier Ageing
- “Family” support and future health impacts

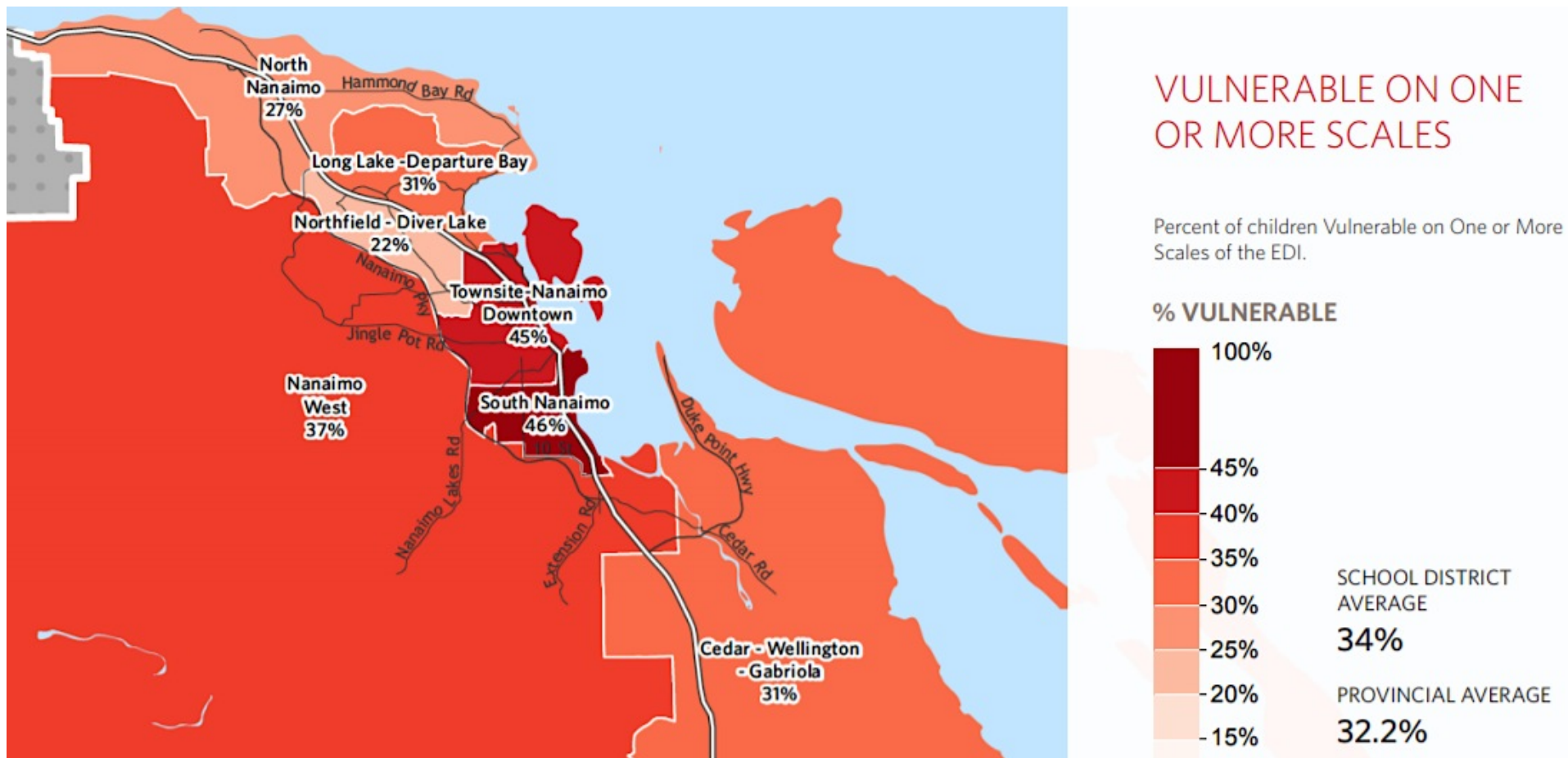
Nanaimo Specific Data

Life Expectancy Improving

1.2 year less than Island average

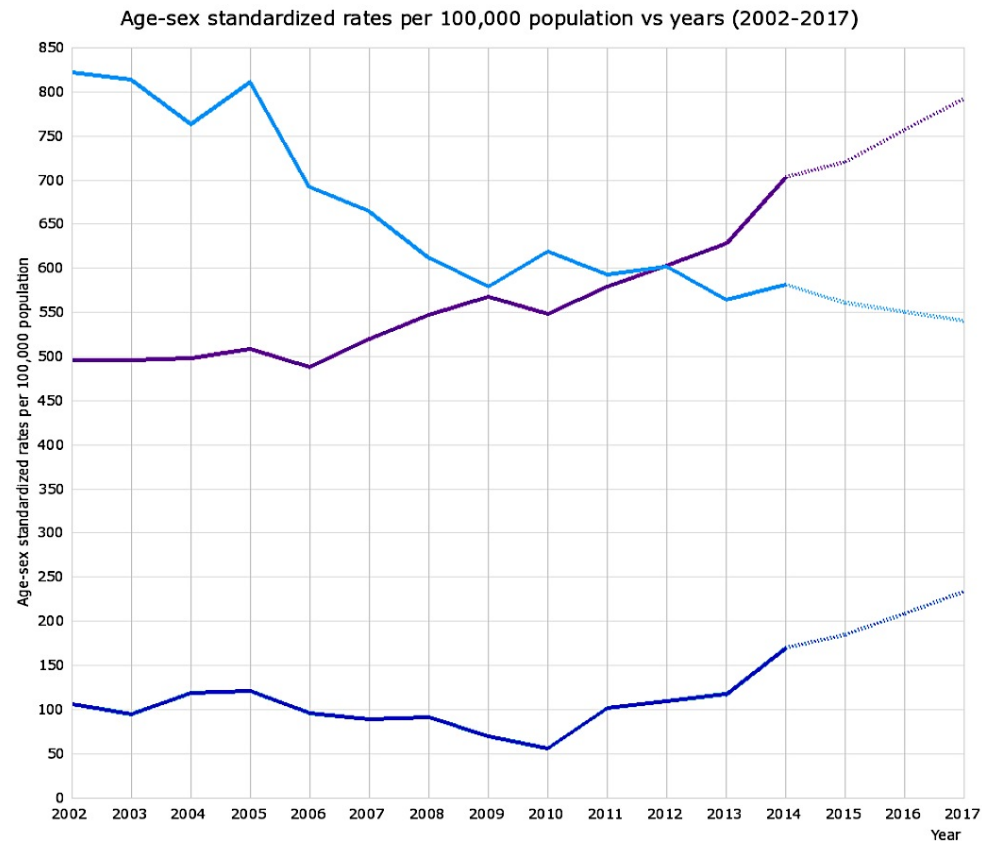
- Males – 1.5 years less
- Females – 0.7 years less

Child development – EDI – High Inequity

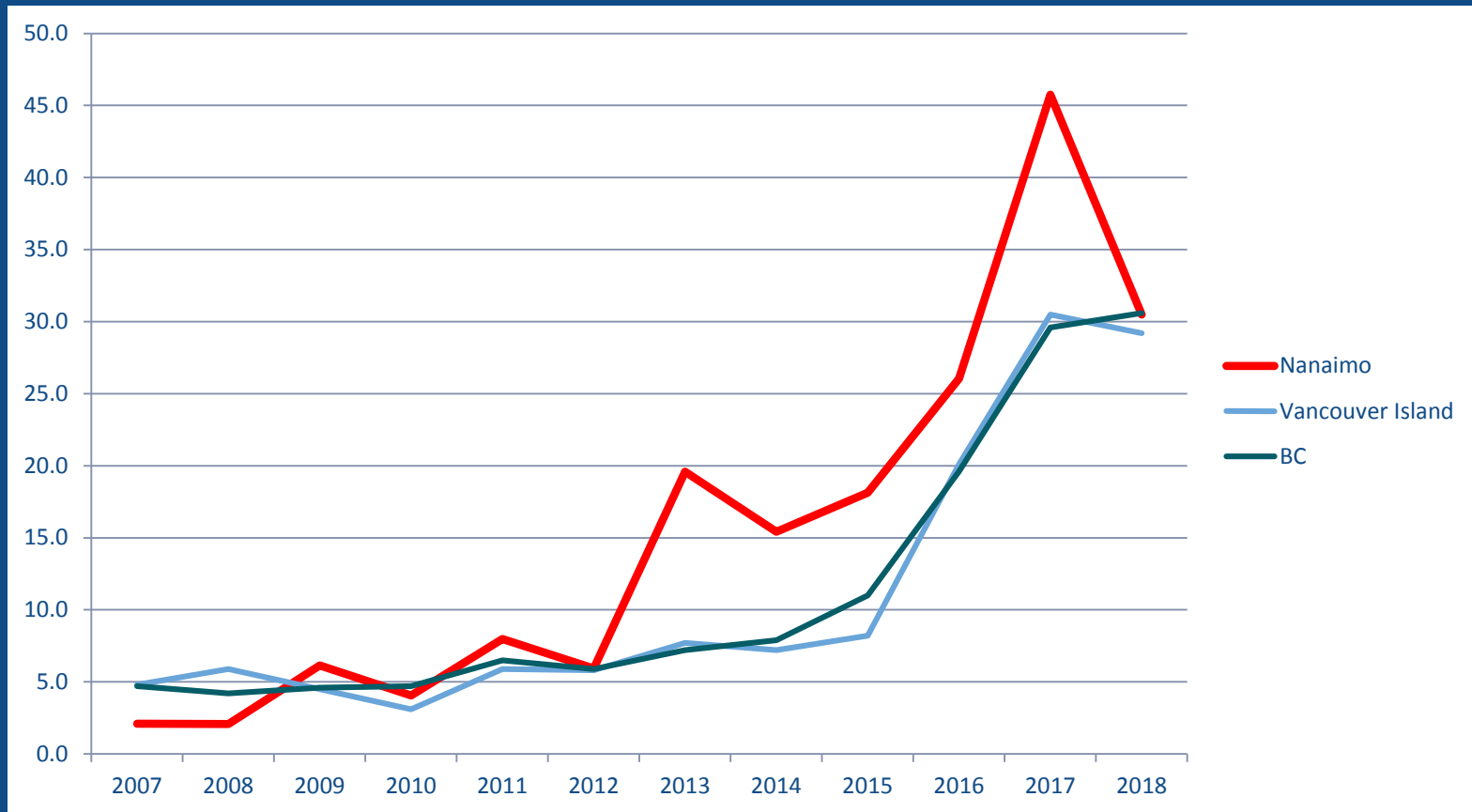


Substance Use Health Outcome Trends

Indicator Description	Time Period	BC	Island Health	Greater Nanaimo	
Alcohol-related deaths (age-standardized rate per 100,000)	2014	26.5	36.4	41.1	
Illicit drug-related deaths (age-standardized rate per 100,000)	2014	8.3	8.6	12.2	
Tobacco-related deaths (age-standardized rate per 100,000)	2014	84.6	114.6	123.6	



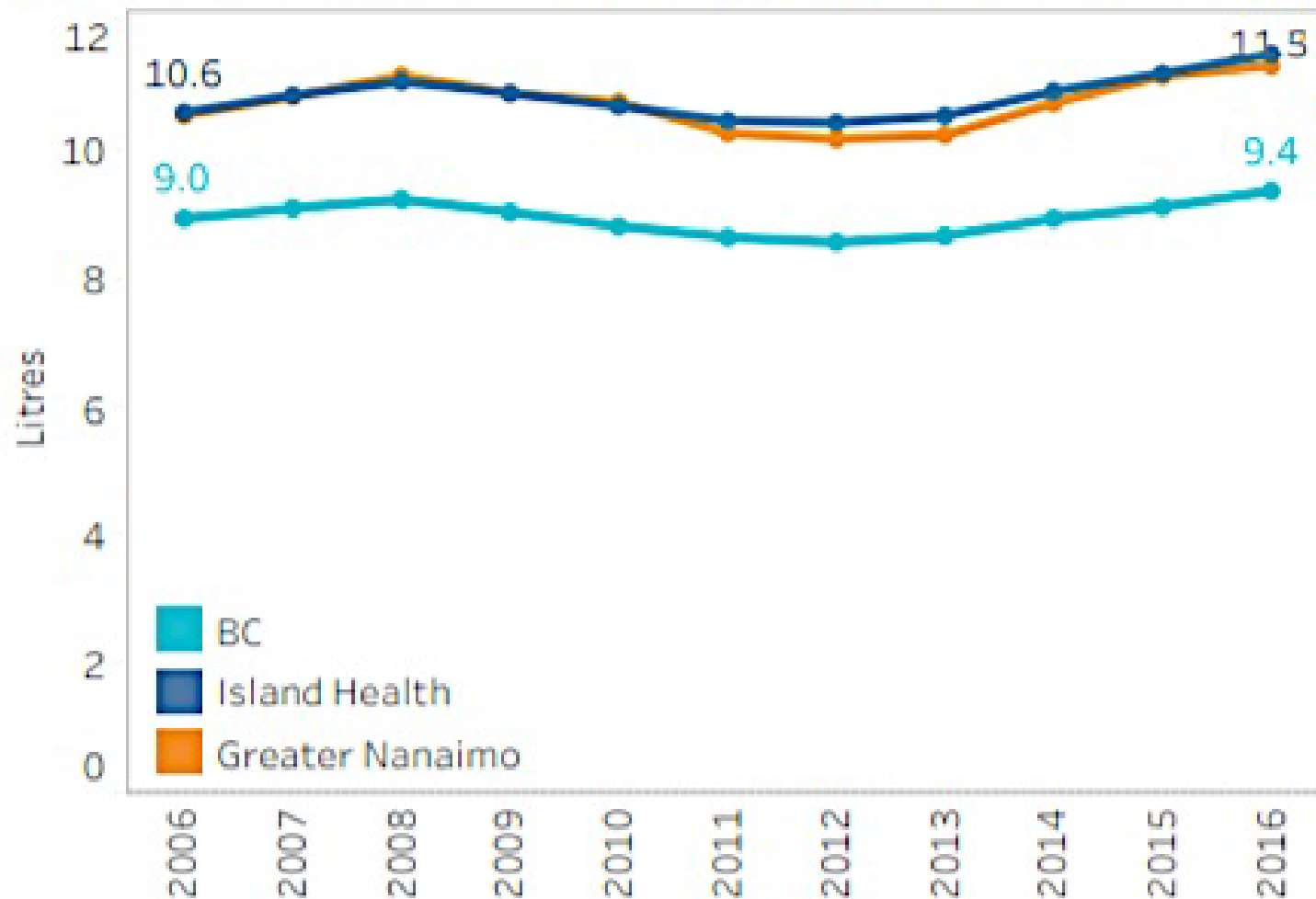
Overdose rate – an update



Alcohol And Drug Use Rates Rising

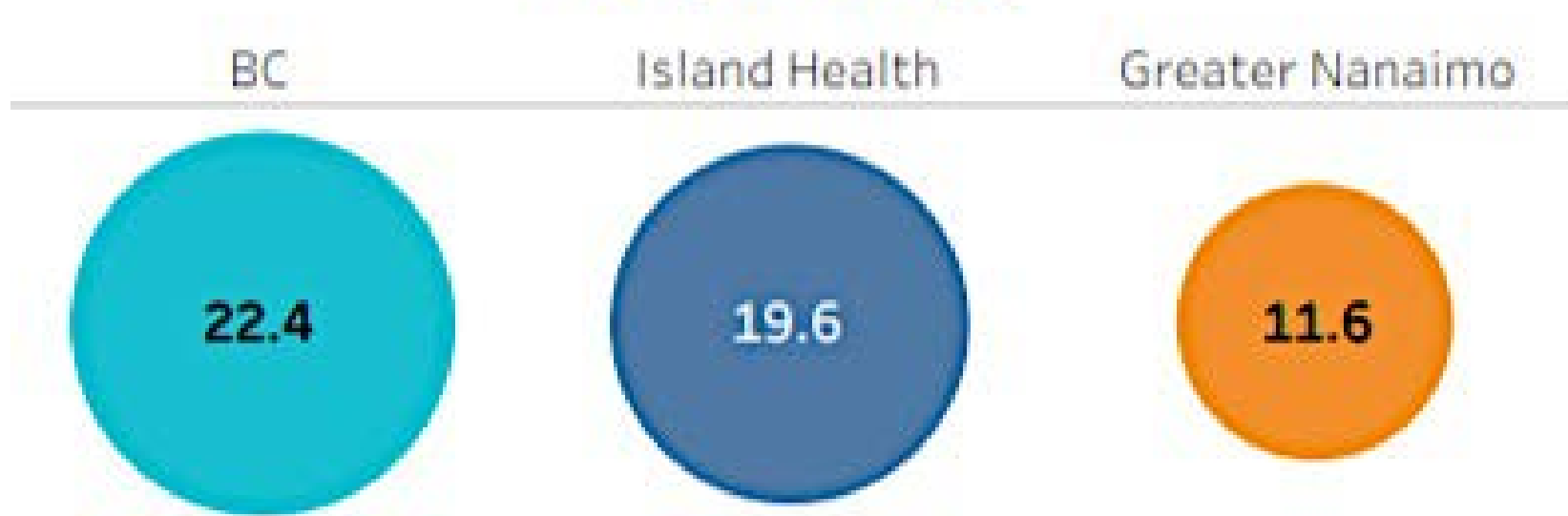
Healthy Behaviours and Built Environment

Alcohol Consumption
(litres of absolute alcohol sold per person, 1L=58 standard drinks)



Shifting To Active Transportation

Employed Population Aged 15 and Over Walking, Biking or Busing to Work (%)



Conclusions

- Current housing insecurity and overdose crisis impacting short and long term health efforts.
- Many other disease specific indicators demonstrate room for improvement
- Disease rates are linked back to determinants of health where gains can be made.
- Health service utilization is comparable
- Children's wellbeing decreasing, and geographic inequity increasing

Areas For Action Where Local Government Decisions Have A Large Impact On Health

- *Children's wellbeing and future*
 - *Child friendly (and age friendly) community*
- *Housing insecurity*
- *Substance use*
 - *Stigma and empathy*
 - *Municipal alcohol action plan*
 - *Cannabis*
- *Climate change adaptation*
- *Facilitating healthier lifestyles (eg active transport)*

Key Health Information Resources

- **LHA profile** <https://www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/medical-health-office/population-health-statistics/local-health-area-profiles>
- **HELP data** <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/#> (maps and data tab)
- **Census** <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>
- **Education data** - <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/province.php>
- **BC community health profiles** <http://communityhealth.phsa.ca/HealthProfiles>



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Questions????