



DIGITAL
**SEXUAL
HEALTH**
INITIATIVE

Fostering workforce capacity to maximize opportunities for the digital transformation of public health in Canada

Project update Public Health in Canada Advisory committee

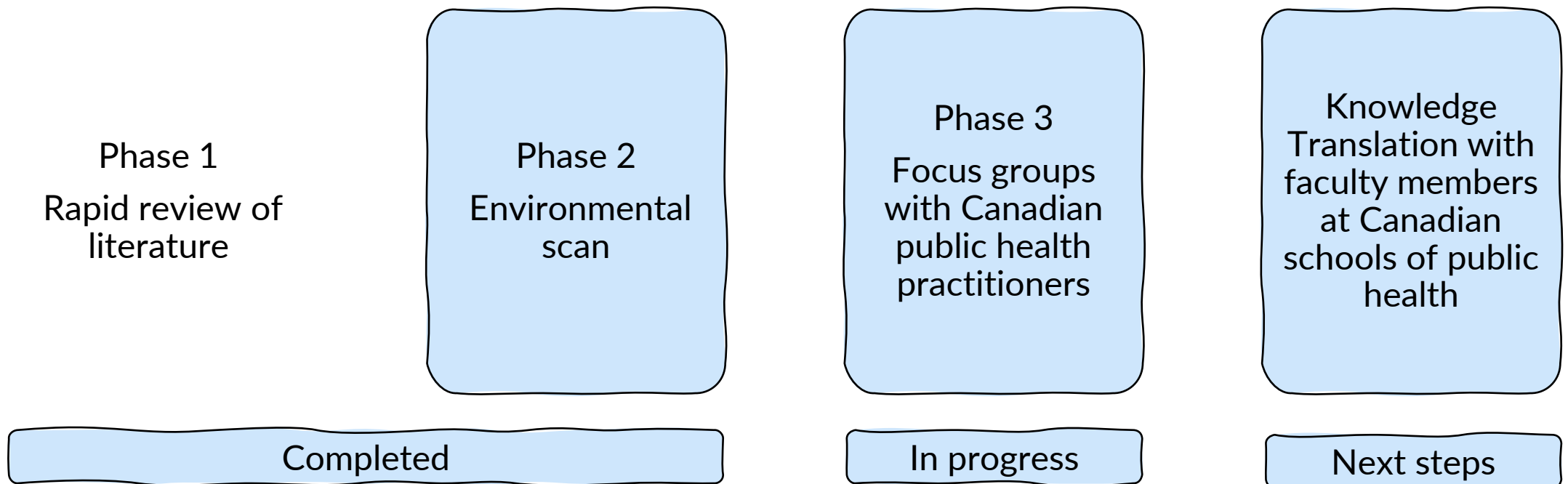
Ihoghosa Iyamu & Mark Gilbert | December 2023

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Phased multi-methods approach



Phase 1 - Rapid review: identified 45 unique competency statements

1 potential new competency category

8/15/2024

Public health sciences

- Develop and ethically apply research methods including data science, statistical genetics and omic technologies (i.e., exposomes), computational biology, epidemic and infectious disease modelling to public health problems.

Communication

- Use mass media, electronic technology, and communication methods (e.g., social media) for public health communication, health education and promotion.

Partnerships, collaboration and advocacy

- Use new media to conduct advocacy e.g., social media.
- Manage Information technology (IT) operations related to project or program and those managed by external organizations.

Data, data systems management & governance

NEW

- Apply policies and security protocols to protect confidential information in electronic files and computer systems while maximizing the benefits to public health.
- Develop public health information systems that are interoperable with other relevant information systems.

We identified a preliminary list of competency statements within the 12 included articles from the rapid review and provide examples here.



Assessment and analysis

- Use, protect and interpret complex, linked large data sets from multiple sources from administrative, clinical, biologic, environmental, population to social/societal levels, within and outside the health systems.

Policy and program planning, implementation and evaluation

- Design, implement and evaluate population-based projects, programs or interventions that use social media as a communication platform and a tool for public health education and promotion.

Leadership

- Support development of strategic directions for public health informatics within the enterprise.

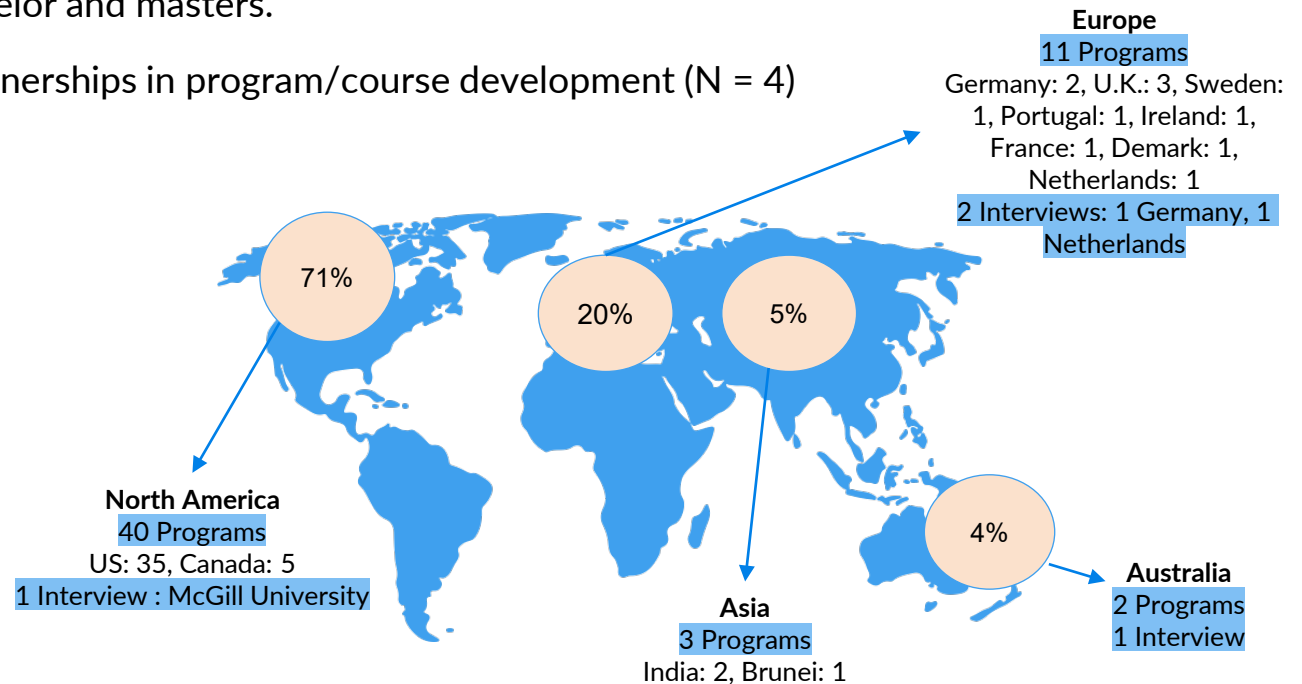
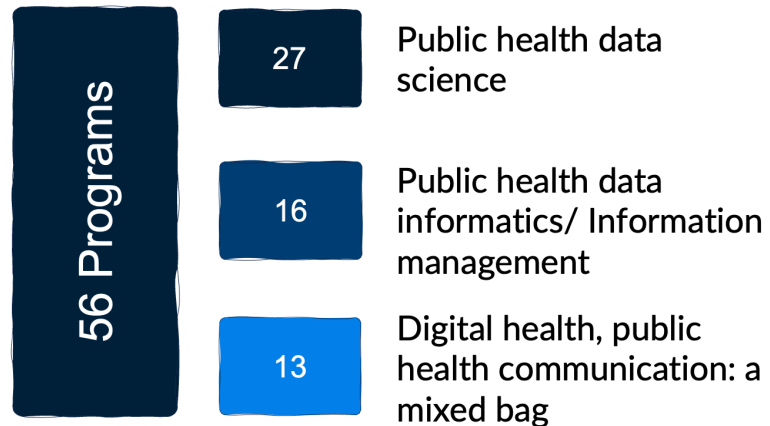
Diversity and inclusiveness

- Develop team approaches that bring together diverse disciplines and organizations to develop new and creative ways of designing and implementing studies and addressing public health concerns.



Phase 2 - Environmental scan

- Programs and courses included from the two staged search (N = 56)
- 51 at graduate level, 4 at undergraduate level, 1 Bachelor and masters.
- 4 interviews conducted to understand the role of partnerships in program/course development (N = 4)





Step 3: Focus groups public health practitioners

- 4 Focus groups completed
- 1 - Eastern and Central Canada, 2 - Western Canada and 1 – practitioners serving indigenous populations.

Findings:

- Need to tier digital competencies.
- Exploring digital resource persons within organizations and public health systems.
- Individual digital competencies are potentially limited by public health systems digital capabilities – resources, infrastructure, policies and equity.

Next steps

- Complete focus groups – January 2023.
- Planning KT event with public health faculty to inform final recommendations.





Thank you.

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