

The Politics of Health in the Canadian Welfare State



Subjects

Sociology of Health
Health Policy
Social Determinants of Health
Health Promotion
Nursing
Health Studies
Sociology
Canadian Studies
Political Science

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The first book to discuss the Canadian welfare state through a health-focused lens, *The Politics of Health in the Canadian Welfare State* argues that the nature of Canada's liberal welfare state shapes the health care system, the social determinants of health, and the health of all Canadians. Documenting decades of work on the social determinants of health, authors Toba Bryant and Dennis Raphael explore topics such as power and influence in Canadian society, socially and economically marginalized populations, and approaches to promoting health. Each chapter examines different aspects of the links between public policy, health, and the welfare state, investigating how broader societal structures and processes of the country's economic and political systems shape living and working conditions and, inevitably, the overall health of Canadians.

Contextualizing the history and status of Canadian health and health care systems with Canada's welfare state, this concise and timely text is well suited as a supplementary resource for health studies, sociology of health, and nursing courses in universities across Canada. ****FEATURES****

- provides a comprehensive overview of how the form of the welfare state acts as an important determinant of health
- includes international comparative data to demonstrate where Canada stands in comparison to other welfare states
- offers opportunities for further exploration of various topics through lists of further readings and websites

Author Information

Toba Bryant

****Toba Bryant**** is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ontario Tech University, whose topics of interest include health and social policy, globalization, the health of Canadians, social determinants of health, and urban health.

Dennis Raphael

****Dennis Raphael**** is a Professor of Health Policy and Management at York University, whose areas of interest include topics in public policy, poverty, and social determinants of health.

Reviews

"This book convincingly documents how important it is to apply a policy perspective to health promotion. Health is a political issue, and the book underpins the main message from the WHO of the significance of addressing the social determinants of health. The data in the book is about Canada, but it also compares Canada to other Western countries, making it highly relevant for students and scholars in both North America and Europe."

—Elisabeth Fosse, Professor of Health Promotion, University of Bergen, Norway

"Throughout their careers, Bryant and Raphael have made valuable contributions to our understanding of the social determinants of health and health promotion strategies. This passionate and readable book takes the vital next step of examining how to improve uptake of these strategies in their home country of Canada. Their main point—that political ideology shapes policymaking—needs to be conveyed to all who are endeavoring to improve population health."

—Cheryl A. Camillo, Assistant Professor, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Regina; Associate, North American Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, University of Toronto

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