

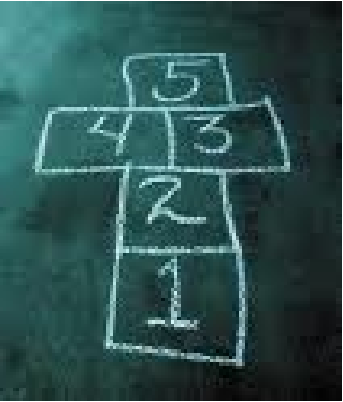
Engendering Regional Health Planning in Manitoba

Harpa Isfeld, Researcher
Margaret Haworth-Brockman, ED

Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence

6th Australian Women's Health Conference
Hobart Tasmania
May 19, 2010

Presentation Plan



- Consider progress improving the implementation of gender-based analysis (GBA) in health planning
- Describe GBA workshops held with Regional Health Authority staff in Manitoba & Saskatchewan, Canada
- Reflect on successes, challenges, facilitating factors & potential

Our Growth Supporting Gender in Health Planning

Generating individual RHA consultations 2009/10

GBA workshops, Saskatchewan RHAs, 2009 /10

Workshops ('Profile' based), Manitoba RHAs, 2008/09

A Profile of Women's Health in Manitoba, 2005-2008

Women's Health Profile Feasibility Study, 2004

Introductory GBA workshops, Manitoba RHAs, 2004

GBA Guide for Regional Health Authorities, 2003 (rev. 2005)

'Invisible Women': Horne, Donner & Thurston 1999

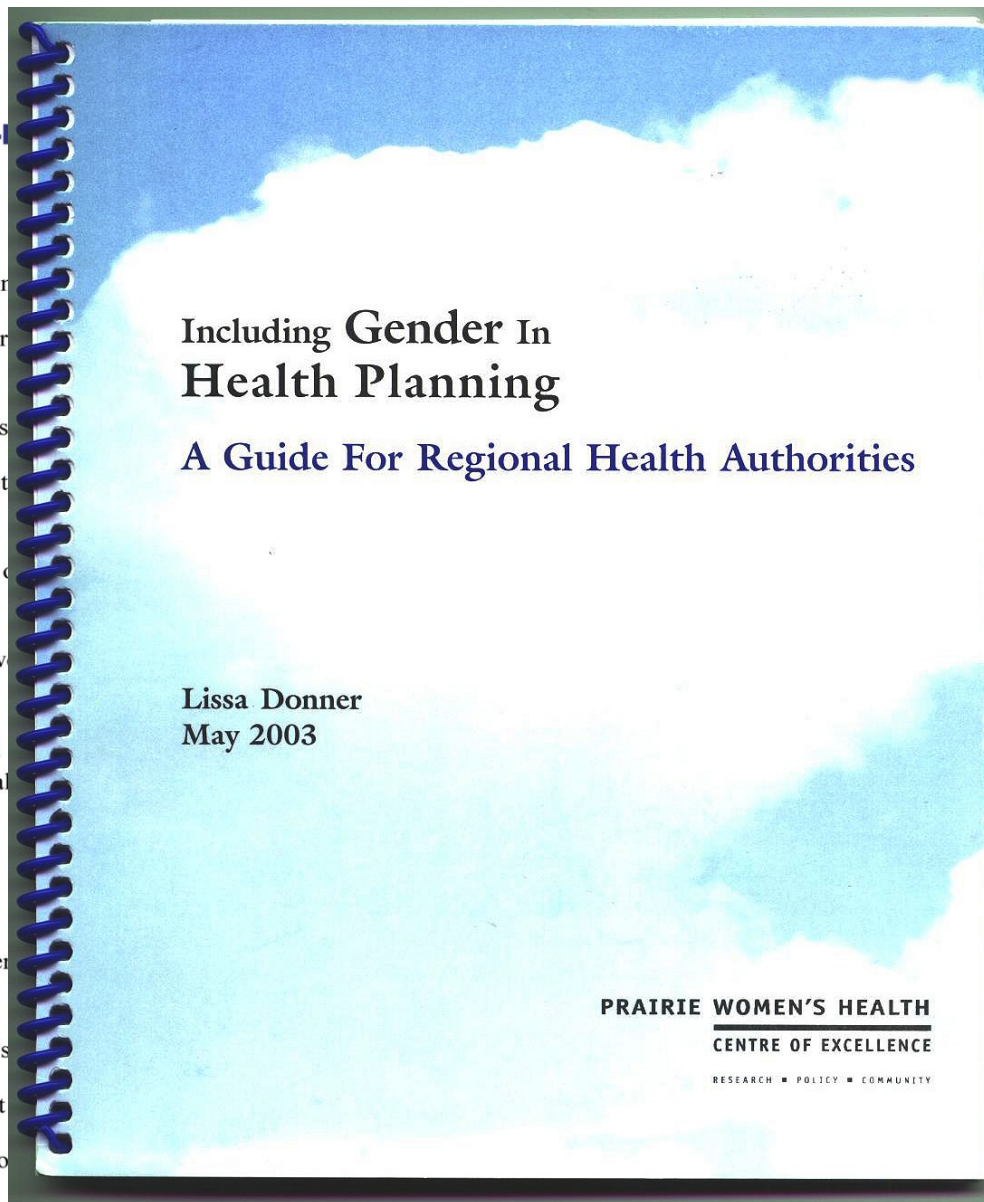
A Checklist for Gender-

Analyzing Data

- √ Sex disaggregated data is presented;
- √ Women, girls, men and boys are included in data collection, as appropriate;
- √ Data is available for individuals;
- √ The effect of gender as a determinant of health is considered;
- √ The influence of gender on health outcomes is considered;
- √ Data about diversity among women and girls is presented and analyzed;
- √ Data about women, girls, men and boys with a high burden of illness or whose health is at risk is presented and analyzed.

Program Planning

- √ considering the similar and different needs of girls and boys;
- √ with input from the women/girls and boys;
- √ using existing knowledge about the needs of girls and boys;
- √ considering diversity among women and girls.



ys and men
 lth may be
 s, boys and
 as sources
 girls, men
 riences of
 a and boys
 lth may be
 data which
 er-
 WOMEN'S HEALTH
 CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
 RESEARCH • POLICY • COMMUNITY

150 Indicators

- @ Socio-Economic Determinants
- @ Behaviours and Lifestyle
- @ Sexual and Reproductive Health
- @ Women's Health Status
- @ Services Use
- @ Life Expectancy /Mortality
- @ Aboriginal Women and other sub-populations throughout



Profile
Women's Health
Manitoba

Lissa Dunbar
Harpa Isfeld
Margaret Haworth-Brockman
Caitlin Forsey

Final
November 2008

PRAIRIE WOMEN'S HEALTH
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
RESEARCH ■ POLICY ■ COMMUNITY

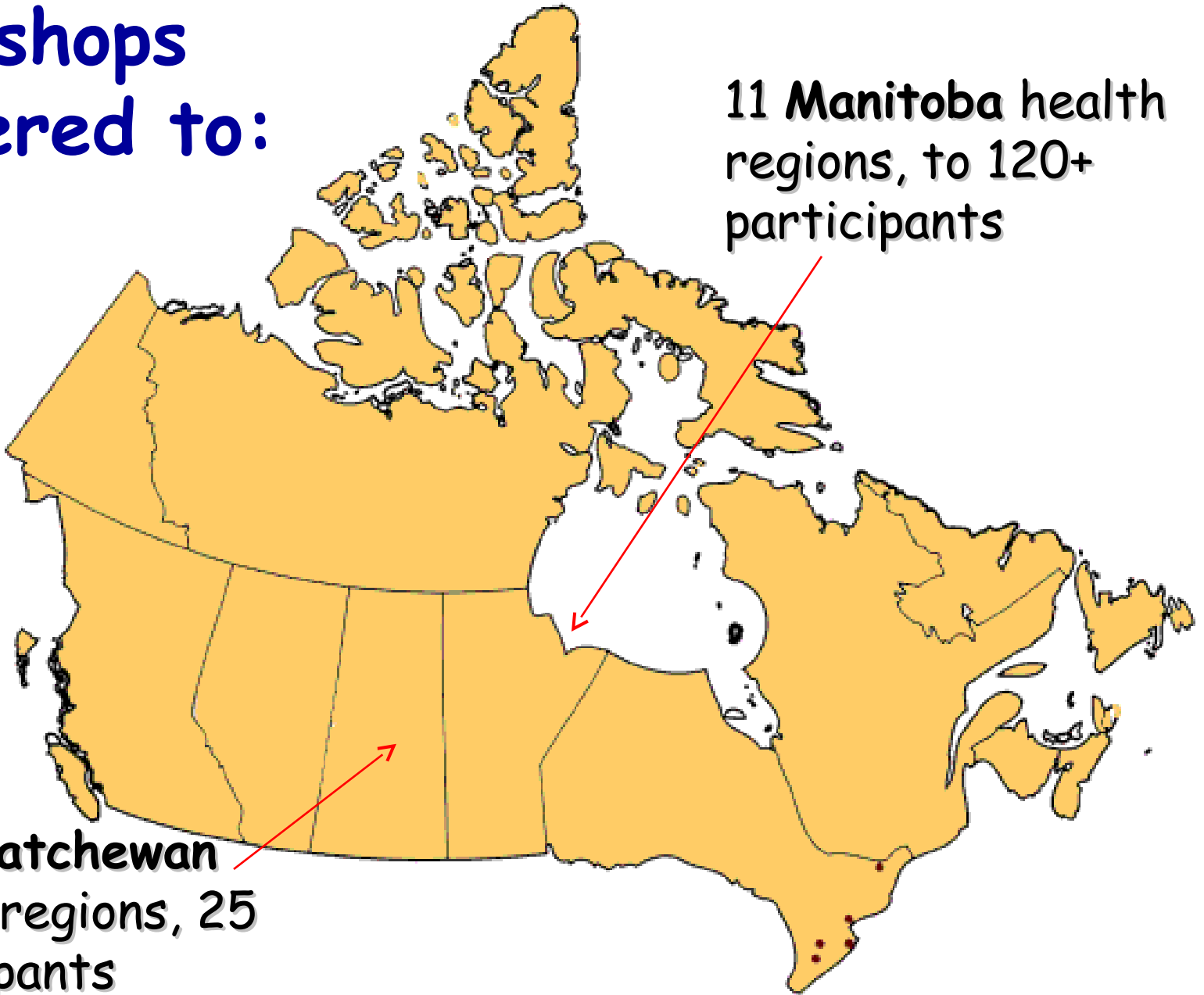
Lessons:

- ✓ Broad understanding of health
- ✓ New information & new understanding through GBA
- ✓ Health data plus current literature of how gender roles and responsibilities influence the data



Workshops Delivered to:

11 Manitoba health
regions, to 120+
participants



2 Saskatchewan
health regions, 25
participants

Purpose

Build skills in GBA to support its ongoing use in regional planning, e.g. community health assessment & analysis

Approach

Not a prescriptive recipe, but a responsive **'what's in the fridge'** approach



Typical Workshop Agenda

- ✓ Introduction to concepts: gender, sex, gender-based analysis
- ✓ Group exercises to become familiar with concepts & apply to health planning scenarios
- ✓ Introduction to methods
- ✓ Walk through case study demonstration of methods
- ✓ Hands-on, small group exercises with choice of topic

Group Exercise



- ② Analyse & discuss data
- ② Consider other information from the RHA that can expand understanding
- ② What this information says about women in the RHA
- ② Consider gender influences on the issue, linking the biological and social factors
- ② Discuss interventions that would be more gender-sensitive
- ② Deliver brief presentation

SUCCESS...Added Insight



Participants...

- Challenged their assumptions,
- Recognized bias in mainstream knowledge,
- Expanded their awareness of the health issues and needs of women in their region, &
- Gained a more holistic understanding of health

"I was challenged to think about sex/gender in a different way..."

"It highlights important issues in health care that are neglected"

"It was useful for programming and bridging gaps in health care."

"As service providers, we need to be able to see the whole picture, not one component"

Built practical skills for planning

- Hands-on exercise gave a 'learn by doing' approach.
- Staff built skills in data analysis and saw its application for their work.
- Participants saw clear applications for community health assessment & planning

"I think it really helps you to understand and translate the statistical data in a more concrete, practical way."

"Knowing how to use data in such a powerful way to do direct planning... and generating questions as to what needs to be done and who needs to be involved."

"I do think that when our RHA is ready to present the health assessment, this explanation of GBA would help in the following planning process."

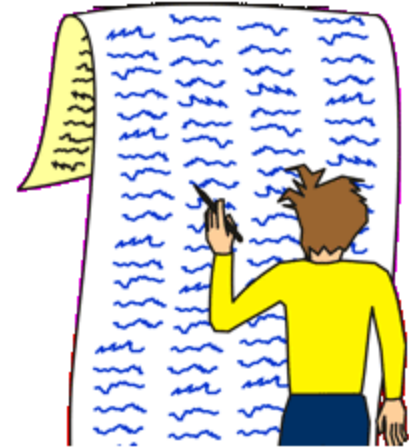
CHALLENGES

Perception & politics

- Engaging managers, not only front-line staff
- Perception that gender means *women's* health, or dichotomy male <--> female
- Engaging males
- Engaging Aboriginal staff
- Gender perceived as 'add on' or alternative to other strategic priorities

Data, your friend or foe?

- ☀ Data can promote learning & lends credibility, but complex and daunting
- ☀ Lack of regional-level data constrained our efforts to engage participants using local content
- ☀ In small northern RHA, incomplete or poorer quality data detracts from GBA lessons
- ☀ Data issues can hijack objectives
- ☀ Data availability conflated with data validity issues



Bridge Paradigms ... in an hour!

Service Providers

Participants approached maternal care exercise with health care mandate & orientation, which favours service provision

Researchers

Yet our research demonstrated some services not promoting health in women & infants





Other Lessons Learned getting the right balance:



- ❑ Tie into reporting and accountability structures
- ❑ Bridge communication divides; tend to learning styles
- ❑ Articulate which data & why; avoid data 'overload'
- ❑ Exercises with personal, concrete, local examples
- ❑ Case studies that expand knowledge beyond needs of women for reproductive health service
- ❑ Ample discussion - 2:3 lecture to group work ratio
- ❑ Address intersections of sex & gender, and gender continuum

Dreams & Potential

- ④ Tailored consultations with RHAs
- ④ Event to share new GBA work by RHAs
- ④ Build resource on examples of good practice in gender-sensitive policies and programs
- ④ Innovative GBA training materials to bring forward marginalized women's health stories (video, photo voice)
- ④ Exploring opportunities to advance GBA through language of 'equity'

Thank you

Partners:

Manitoba Healthy Living
Bureau of Women's Health & Gender Analysis, HC
Health Canada, Manitoba & Saskatchewan Region

Input on presentation:

Yvonne Hanson, GBA Coordinator



Prairie Women's Health
Centre of Excellence
www.pwhce.ca
pwhce@uwinnipeg.ca