

Making policy relevant to the needs and priorities of communities

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The Scandinavian welfare model

The Scandinavian welfare model is based on some core values;
It is about social rights and the principle that everyone should have equal access to

- health and social benefits
- education
- culture

There is a strong correlation between welfare and labor market policies and welfare and housing policies

The model also applies to the care of socially vulnerable and vulnerable groups in society

The Public Health Act

- The Public Health Act is based on the principles of ‘Health in All Policies’
- This act acknowledges that most causes of health problems are found in the society outside the health services (education, culture, business, living conditions, transportation, etc.)
- The municipalities are made responsible for keeping the overview over their health situation and the factors that impact on it
- **The political leadership in the municipality** - not on the health services - has the responsibility for the public health work in the community

The Municipality Health Barometer and Public Health Profiles

- Norwegian health information system which presents key statistics on health and the prevalence of diseases, risk- and protective factors in the Norwegian population.
- The information is used to generate a Public Health Profile for each of the municipalities (428) and counties (19) in the country
- Indicators that are of relevance to mental health include wellbeing in school, reading skills in school, bullying in school, drop out from school, mental disorders seen in the primary health care, prescription of medication for mental disorders, self-reported health, social support and a large number of social background factors.

Other relevant public initiatives regulated by law

- **Health**
 - The Patients' Right Act
 - The Mental Health Care Act
 - The National Mental Health Action Plan
 - The Coordination reform
 - The White Paper on Public Health
- **Social Services**
 - The Norwegian Child Welfare Act
- **Education**
 - The Education Act
 - The Kindergarten Act

Inter sectorial cooperation, some examples

- At municipal level, there are formalized cooperation between the school health service and schools, although this is not regulated by law. The aim of the cooperation is to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health among children and adolescents
- The municipalities have different ways of organizing inter sectorial cooperation, examples are:
 - The Child and Family Unit; is based on services from different units in the municipality: Obstetrics, Youth Prevention, Pedagogics and Counselling services, serving children, youths and their families between the ages of 0-24 years
 - The Family House model; a model for coordination of municipal services that can offer parents and children comprehensive and readily available support in their communities

Inter sectorial cooperation, some examples

- Education and health authorities have provided financial support for the development and dissemination of school programs through several initiatives.
 - Schools have access to a variety of programs, many of which are evidence-based with good results from Norwegian efficacy and effectiveness studies.
- The Norwegian website “Ung sinn” (Young Minds) is an information bank which provides practitioners and decision makers with information about evidence based interventions in the field of child and adolescent mental health.
 - “UngSinn” is managed by Regional Centre for Child and Youth - Mental Health and Child Welfare (RKBU-North) at UiT, The Arctic University of Norway.

The Norwegian State Housing Bank

- One of the pillars of welfare policy in Norway, is for everyone to stay safe and well. Social housing is recognized as a fundamental element in welfare policies together with employment, social services, health care and child welfare.
- Therefore, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health and Care Services, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion and the Ministry of Justice have worked together in developing the new national strategy (2014) for social welfare. They have committed to work towards common goals in the social housing area in close cooperation with the municipalities.

Thank you for your attention