

The Last Straw!

A Board Game on the Social Determinants of Health

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Support for the production of this game was provided by the Association of Faculties of Medicine (AFMC) with contribution funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).



Background

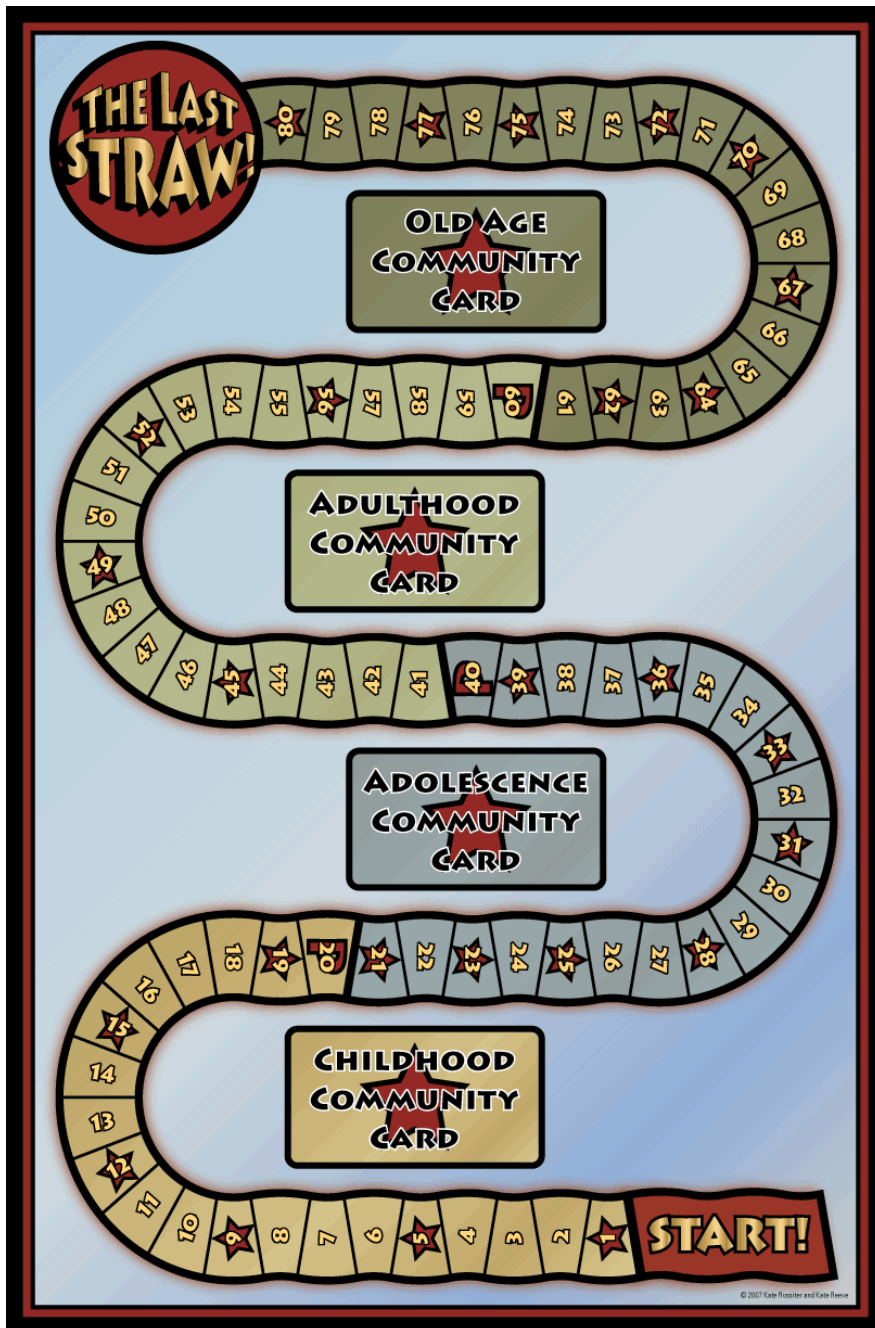
- Developed in 2004 as an HP course assignment
- Draws on SDOH literature linking health with SES, gender, race and other factors
- Now in world-wide distribution
 - over 300 copies sold to date
 - 100 to medical schools across Canada
- French version recently released



Game objectives

- To promote discussion about the social determinants of health
- To help players build empathy with marginalized people and gain an awareness of players' own social location
- To encourage learning in a fun and supportive environment





- Build profile with SES, race and gender
- Players experience individual and community scenarios and gain or lose vitality chips
- Guided by a facilitator
 - Facilitator training manual and on-line video available



Sample scenario:

After-school programs

SES 1-2: Your community offers nothing to do when school is out. You spend a lot of time watching TV or hanging out in a nearby parking lot. Lose 1

SES 3-4: Your community provides a few programs for kids during the summer and some after-school activities. You participate occasionally. Remain the same

SES 5-6: Soccer, gymnastics, basketball, swimming, dance, drama, art classes - you are so active, you hardly have time to do homework! Gain 1.



Evaluation

- “I learned a tremendous amount from it. I don't think it was all from just the game itself, but the combination of players along with the board game. I think that if it were a different group, I would have gotten different messages from it. I learned a lot about community.”
- “It was interesting how at times I empathized with other characters and the struggles they were enduring. The game was reflective of a real life to a degree and I learned that there are a multitude of factors that impact health.”



Uses of the game

- To introduce students to SDOH
- To train new staff or provide ongoing professional development
- To raise discussion about how SDOH impact or can be integrated into an organization's work

- Easy to facilitate
- Flexible
 - 45 minutes to 3 hours
 - 6 people to 200 people
 - Raise discussion on any topic



More information

- Rossiter, K., Reeve, K. “The Last Straw! A Participatory Education Tool about the Social Determinants of Health.” *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. 2(2): 137-144. 2008.
- Reeve, K. Rossiter, K., Risdon, C. “Board Game on the Social Determinants of Health.” *Medical Education*. 42(11): 1125-6. 2008.
- Recent conference presentations:
 - Ontario Public Health Association - 2007
 - Campus Community Partnerships for Health - 2007
 - Regional Forum of the United Nations Association - 2005
 - Ontario Health Promotion Summer School - 2005



Thanks!

Any questions?

www.TheLastStraw.ca

www.Coupdegrace.ca

