



Driving Change Spotlight

A multi-level understanding of concussion reporting and removal from play in youth sport

Interdisciplinary research team - Managing concussion in youth sport



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- Ottawa Sport Council



Contemporary landscape of concussion reporting and removal in youth sport

- Continuing education, awareness campaigns, guidelines/regulations in support of the effective management of concussion in youth sport
- Yet, continued underreporting and low likelihood of removal from play (Bretzin et al., 2022; Cusimano et al., 2017; Salmon et al., 2021)
- Inconsistent assumptions and ambiguity of roles and responsibilities; focus on individual strategies rather than collective action (e.g., Clacy et al., 2017)

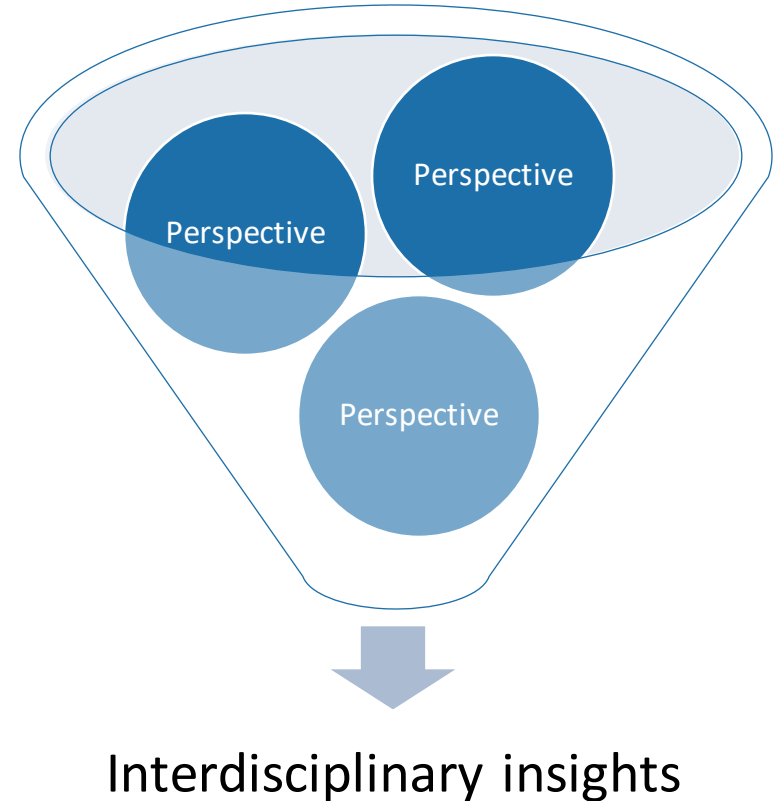


Addressing reporting and removal - Our project

- Multi-level factors (and actors) that influence reporting/removal behaviour
- Help inform effective policy and practice for safe youth sport

Interdisciplinary Approach

- Suitable for complex (“messy”, “wicked”) problems (Brown et al., 2010)
- Diverse team (scholars, practitioners) brings a variety of perspectives to the process of thinking about a phenomenon





Project context

- Youth sport
 - 12-17 years of age
 - starting point/peak of participation in organized sport
 - minors who are legally regulated by their parents
- Club sport
 - potential to inform policy and practice through the Canadian sport system
 - Vs. school sport system



Key actors in concussion reporting/removal in youth sport

- Youth athletes themselves
- Fellow athletes
- Coaches
- Parents
- Club leaders
- On-field officials



What do you think? (Mentimeter)

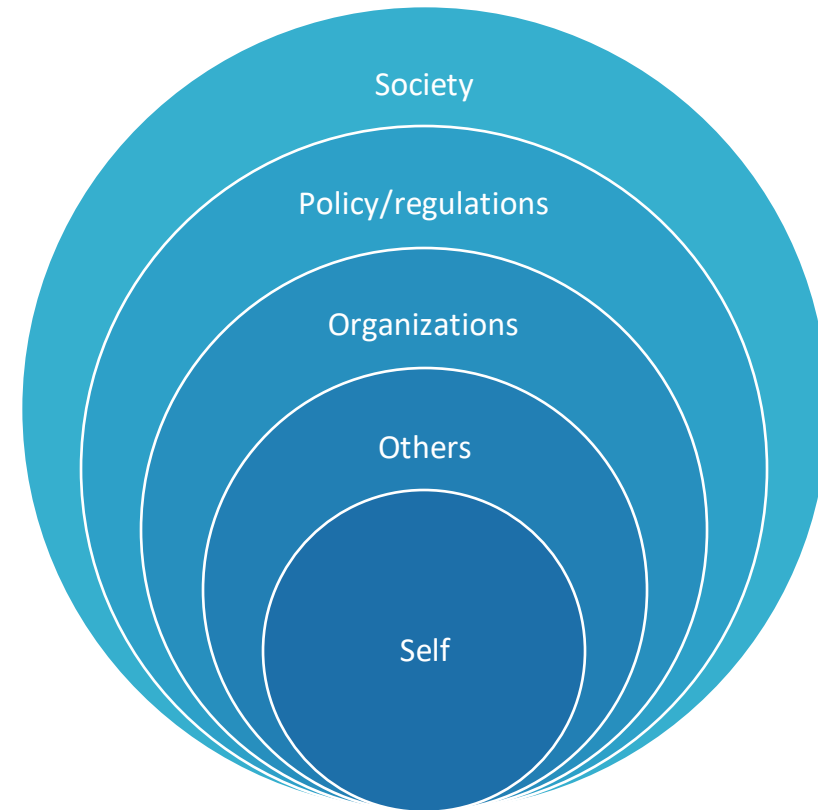
Why would an [actor*] not report a possible concussion?

* Athlete themselves, teammate, coach, parent, on-field official, club leader

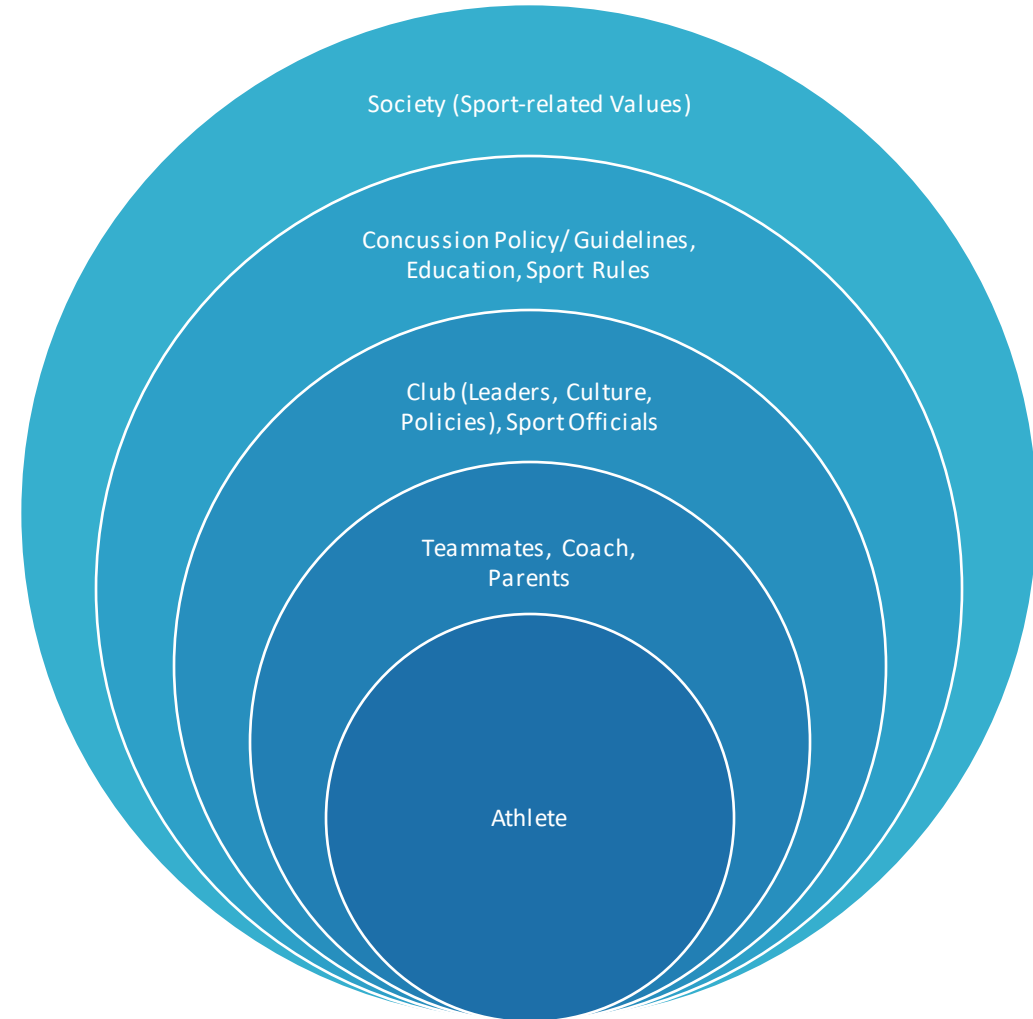


Socioecological Perspective

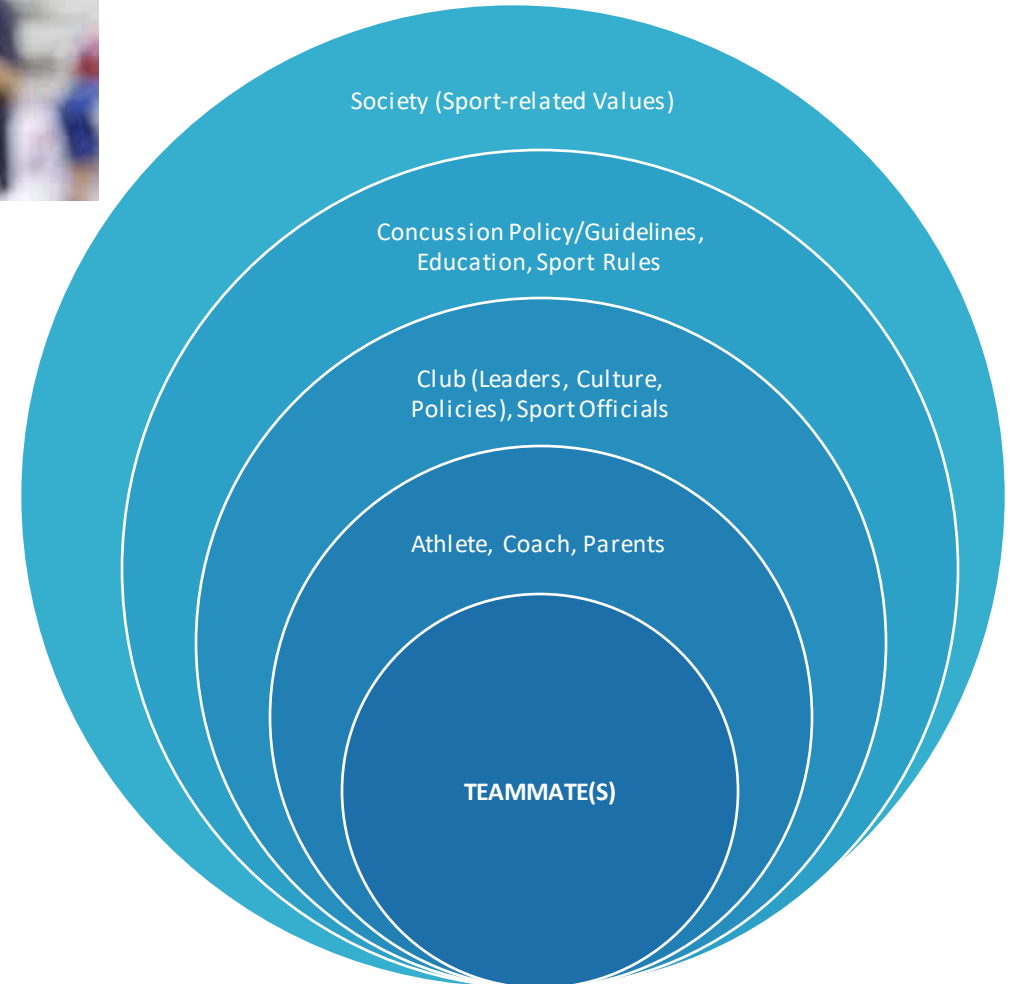
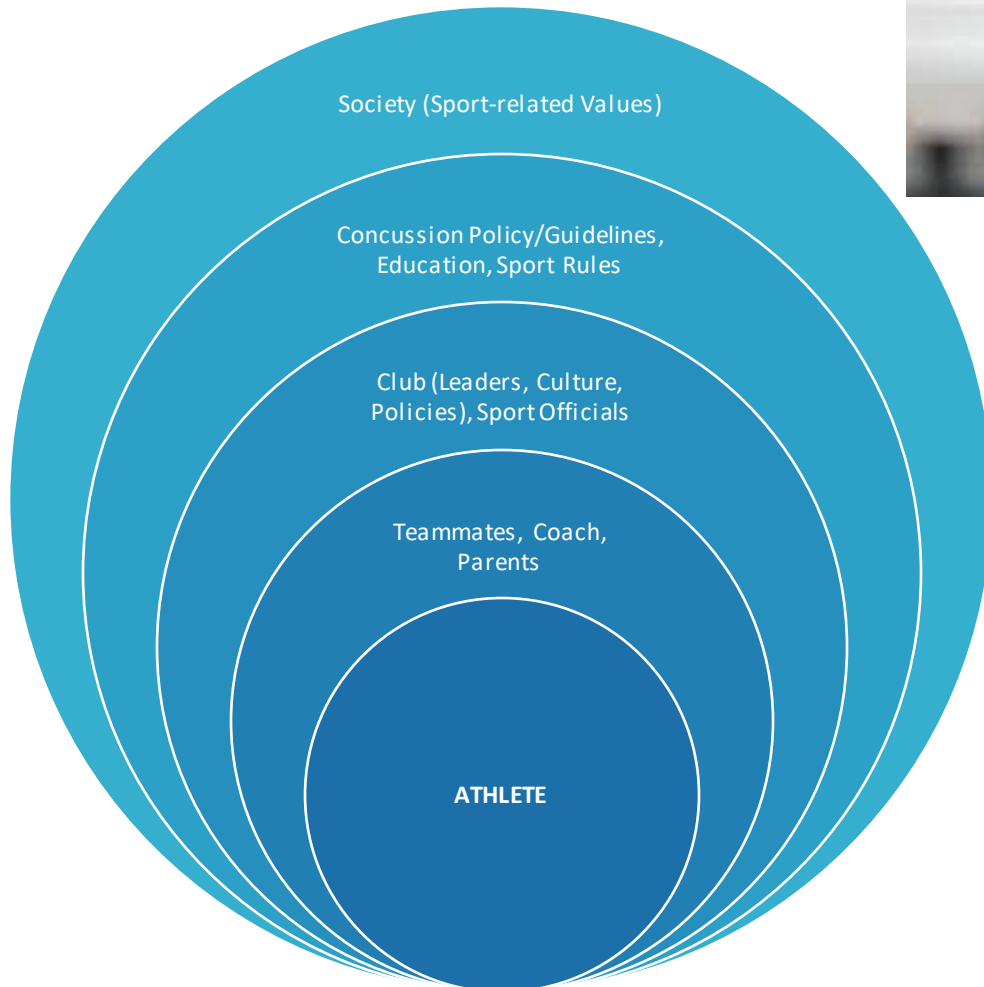
- Considers the complex, multi-layered, interacting influences to individual behaviour (Bronfenbrenner, 1979 and others)
 - Intrapersonal (individual, self)
 - Interpersonal (others)
 - Organizational
 - Regulatory/policy/institutional
 - Societal (values, norms)



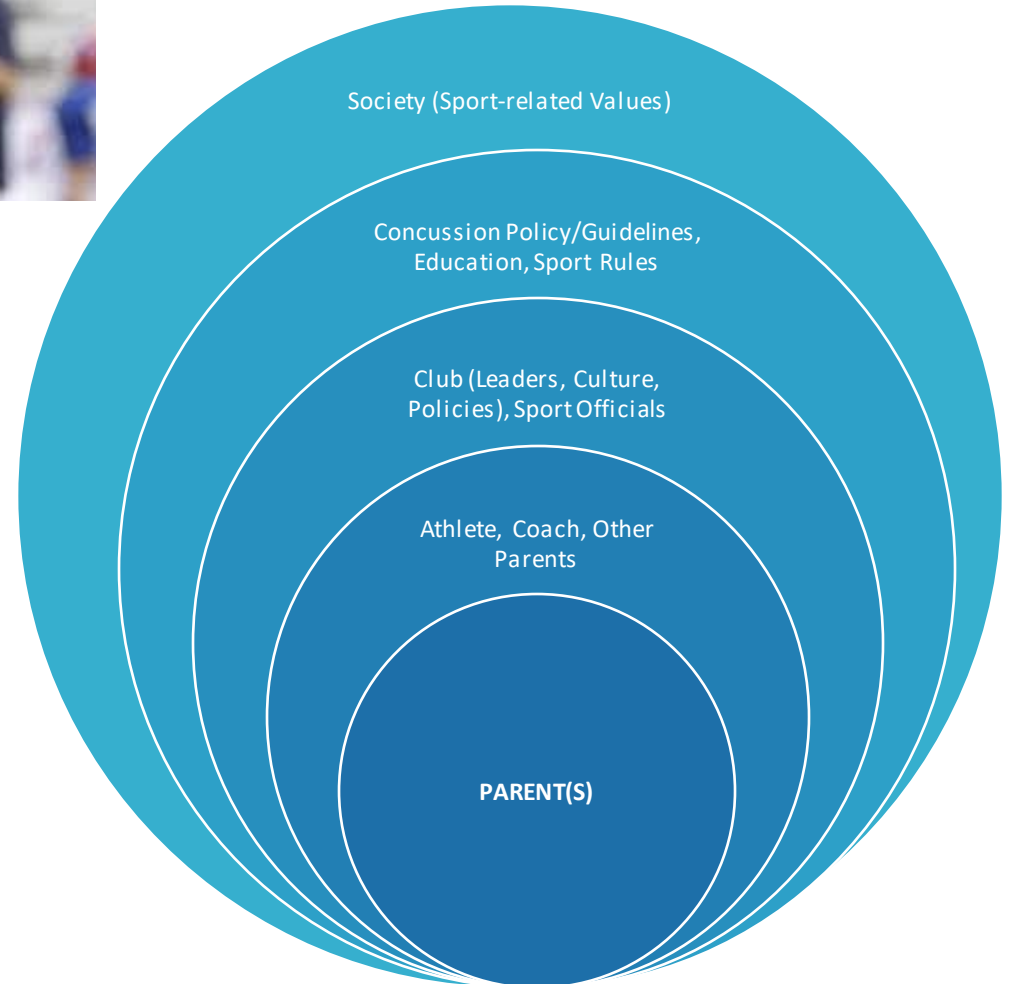
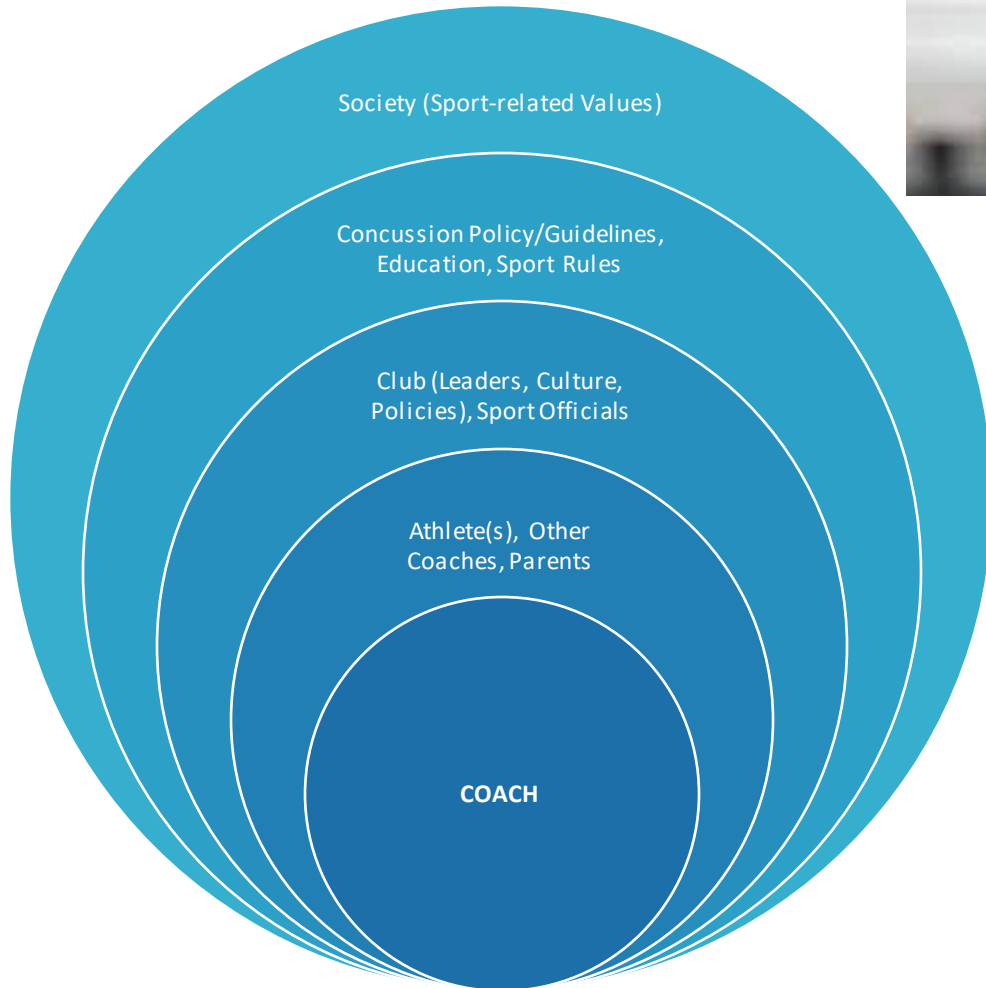
Multi-level influences to concussion reporting/ removal in youth sport



Multi-level influences to concussion reporting/removal



Multi-level influences to concussion reporting/removal



Project next steps...

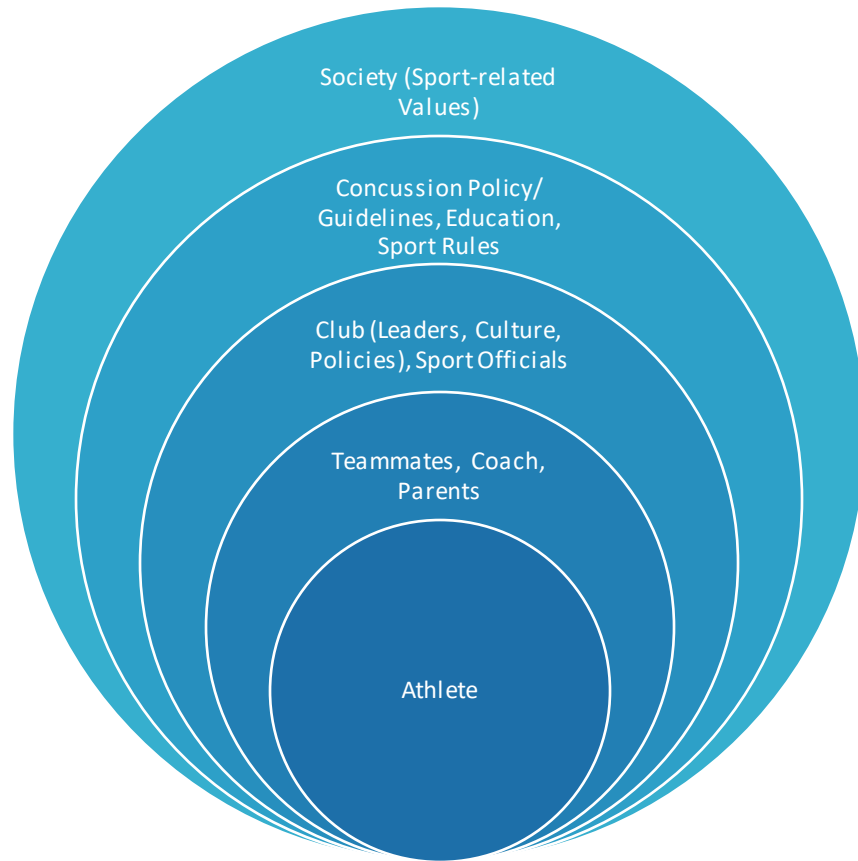
- Review of research on influences to reporting/removal intention and action by athletes, teammates, parents, coaches, officials, club leaders
- Evidence of facilitators and barriers
- Interconnections among actors and influences



Multi-model, multi-level understanding of influences to reporting/removal

- Highlights potential complexity of influences and consideration of where attention should be directed
 - Education, policy, practice
- Inform and support collective action for less fragmented guidelines, more consistent practices, and clearer, relevant messaging





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