

# Forum+

## >> Moving beyond health



Through Forum+, the McMaster Health Forum is moving beyond health in our work. We are building on McMaster's expertise in advancing human and societal health and well-being in our efforts to strengthen social systems and get the right programs, services and products to the people who need them. We base our efforts on the best available research evidence and systematically elicited citizen values and stakeholder insights.

By social systems we mean the following government sectors and program areas: citizenship, children and youth services, community and social services, consumer protection, culture and gender, economic development and growth, education, employment, financial protection, food safety and security, government services, housing, infrastructure, public safety and justice, recreation, and transportation. Said another way, our work through Forum+ addresses most of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the exceptions of the health part of goal 3 (which the Forum already covers well), most of goal 7 (energy), and all of goals 13-15 (climate, water and land).

## Our free online resources

### >> Social Systems Evidence

Social Systems Evidence is the world's most comprehensive, continuously updated repository of pre-appraised, synthesized research evidence about the programs, services and products available in a broad range of government sectors and program areas (e.g., community and social services, culture and gender, economic development and growth, education, and transportation), as well as the governance, financial and delivery arrangements within which programs and services are provided and the implementation strategies that can support getting these programs and services to those who need them. Policymakers and stakeholders can access the database for free at [socialsystemsevidence.org](https://socialsystemsevidence.org) and register to use enhanced features, or to sign up to receive monthly alerts on topics of interest.

### >> McMaster Optimal Aging Portal

The [McMaster Optimal Aging Portal](#) provides helpful, evidence-based information about the health and social aspects of aging, supporting citizens in making informed decisions about aging optimally, living well with their conditions, and about treatment choices.

## Our services

We can now help social-system leaders in many ways. You can contact us at [forum@mcmaster.ca](mailto:forum@mcmaster.ca) to follow up on any of the opportunities listed below.

### >> Learn how to make evidence-informed decisions

You can register to take our face-to-face courses or contact us to set up an agreement to host one of our customized training sessions.

### >> Find the evidence that matters

You can contact us to:

- set up a service agreement so your organization can call on us to prepare rapid syntheses in three, 10 or 30 business days;

- commission us to prepare an evidence brief or citizen brief (to inform a stakeholder dialogue or citizen panel, which we return to below); and
- engage us to create and maintain a 'white label' version of Social Systems Evidence or the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal.

### >> Spark action on pressing issues

You can contact us to:

- commission us to convene a stakeholder dialogue, citizen panels or a combination of the two; and
- set up a service agreement so your organization can rely on us to build or re-invigorate and support a community of practice.

### >> Embed supports for evidence-informed decision-making

You can contact us to find out how you can engage us to conduct 'supportive audits,' undertake external reviews of reports, and adapt resources to the needs of your organization, among other services.

### >> Evaluate innovations

You can contact us to discuss how to commission us to plan and execute evaluations.

Health-system leaders seeking similar types of support can also access our services.

## Follow us

Keep up on all the news and products available from the Forum.

>> Like us on [Facebook](#) (@McMasterForum)

>> Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) (McMasterForum)

>> Follow our Twitter feeds:

- [@McMasterForum](#) for news about the full range of Forum programs
- [@ForumONhealth](#) for coverage of Ontario's health system, [@ForumCDNhealth](#) for Canadian health systems, [@ForumHIC](#) for high-income country health systems, [@ForumLMIC](#) for low- and middle-income country health systems, and [@ForumHSS](#) for health and social systems
- [@Mac\\_AgingNews](#) for news about optimal aging

>> Sign up for [Forum Update](#), our monthly e-newsletter with updates about upcoming events, new publications, and other activities

>> Sign up to receive our curated [monthly evidence services](#) that provide links to recently identified evidence on topics covered by our stakeholder dialogues

- We encourage you to subscribe by logging into your free [Health Systems Evidence](#) or [Social Systems Evidence](#) account, or by creating a new account if you don't already have one. Once logged in, you can subscribe to our curated searches by choosing the 'saved searches' option from the account drop-down menu and then clicking the toggle button next to the search topic(s) that interest you, listed in the 'Curated searches' section of the page.

>> Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to view videos

Lavis JN. Forum+: Moving beyond health. Hamilton, Canada: McMaster Health Forum, 2017.



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#### >> Look us up

[mcmasterforumplus.org](http://mcmasterforumplus.org)  
[socialsystemsevidence.org](http://socialsystemsevidence.org)  
[mcmasteroptimalaging.org](http://mcmasteroptimalaging.org)

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