



# The Need to Know...

Funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
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Director: Patricia Martens

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

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## The Need To Know Team Meeting #13: Celebrating Our 4th Year!



The thirteenth meeting of *The Need to Know* Team in May 2005 marked the fourth year anniversary of the project!

A main focus of the meeting centered on final versions of graphs for the *Sex Differences* Deliverable (due to be released Fall 2005). This deliverable pro-

vides an overview of male/female differences in health status, health services use, and quality of care. It includes many indicators previously used by MCHP, but separates results by sex, so that males and females can be compared. This report will be highlighted at the upcoming Rural and Northern Health Care Day October 18, 2005 at its new location - The Caboto Centre on Wilkes Avenue.

RHA Team members from regions recently having had a site visit presented an overview about the day for the rest of the Team members. Feedback continues to be very positive. Site visits to the RHAs by *The Need to Know* MCHP staff are

continuing throughout Fall 2005.

Team member Sarah Bowen (Evaluation Researcher) presented an update on the new CIHR-funded *From Evidence to Action* project. Information included progress to date, and a timeline for the project's three-year duration (see p.2 for more information about this project).

Some meeting time was spent brainstorming for future deliverables. Each year, MCHP's director, Pat Martens, meets with representatives from Manitoba Health to negotiate deliverable topics for the upcoming year. *The Need to Know* Team is one of the groups consulted, helping to ensure that rural perspectives are taken into account when deciding on topics.

Malcolm Doupe, MCHP researcher, presented findings to-date from the *Personal Care Home (PCH) Quality Indicators* Deliverable, providing Team members with an opportunity for discussion and questions. This report is due to be released in early 2006, and will be highlighted at both the Rural and Northern Health Care Day and the WRHA Day (Dec 6, 2005 at the Caboto Centre).

## The Need to Know Project: A Strong Presence at National Conferences



*The Need to Know* Team continues to be a strong presence at national conferences, helping to disseminate project findings and illustrate the practical uses of MCHP and related research

(e.g., community health assessments, indicator development). The following is a snapshot of activities since the last newsletter:

- "Epidemiology Without Borders" conference in Toronto (June 2005)
  - poster: *How Often, and For What Reasons, Do People With Mental Illness Use Health Care Services?*; findings from *The Mental Illness* Deliverable (Elaine Burland, Research Coordinator for *The Need to Know* project)
- "The Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research" (CAHSPR) conference in Montreal (September 2005)
  - presentation: *The Need to Know Knowledge Translation Model* (Randy Fransoo, MCHP Researcher)
- "The 6th International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services" in Montreal (September 2005)
  - panel presentation: *Creating Knowledge Translation Capacity* (*The Need to Know* Team members Randy Fransoo - MCHP, Shahin Shooshtari - Manitoba Health, Doreen Fey - Interlake and Nancy McPherson - Brandon)
- "The Knowledge Mobilization for Human Sciences Conference" in Banff (September 2005)
  - poster presentation: overview of Knowledge Translation and *The Need to Know* Project (Pat Martens)
- "The Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA)" in Ottawa (September 2005)
  - presentation: *Patterns of Use of the Health Care System by the Elderly with Mental Illness*; findings from *The Mental Illness* Deliverable (Pat Martens, Project Director)
  - presentation: *Is Access to Mental Health Services Dependent Upon Where People Live—Urban/Rural or Higher/Lower Income Neighborhoods?*; findings from *The Mental Illness* Deliverable (Elaine Burland, Research Coordinator)
  - presentation: *The Power of Partnerships in Population Health Planning: The Manitoba Experience* (Catherine Hynes, Nor-Man RHA)
  - poster: *Health Promotion and Prevention Activities in the Interlake—From Knowledge to Practice* (Tannis Erickson, Interlake RHA)
  - poster: *Hormone Replacement Therapy Use in Manitoba: A Population-Based Study*; results from the upcoming *Sex Differences* Deliverable (Heather Prior, MCHP systems analyst)
  - poster: *The Social Gradient in Vasectomy/Tubal Ligation rates in Manitoba*; results from the upcoming *Sex Differences* Deliverable (Elaine Burland)

## The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

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## MCHP website:

www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp  
(link to *The Need to Know* website from here)

## F.Y.I.

- **NEW LOCATION!** This year's MCHP Rural and Northern Health Care Day was held **October 18, 2005 @ The Caboto Centre (1055 Wilkes Avenue)**
- attendance for MCHP's Rural and Northern Health Care Day has been growing exponentially since its inception in 1999, starting at approximately 30-40 to over 200 this year!
- **WRHA Day** will be held December 6, 2005 at the Caboto Centre; contact MCHP for details

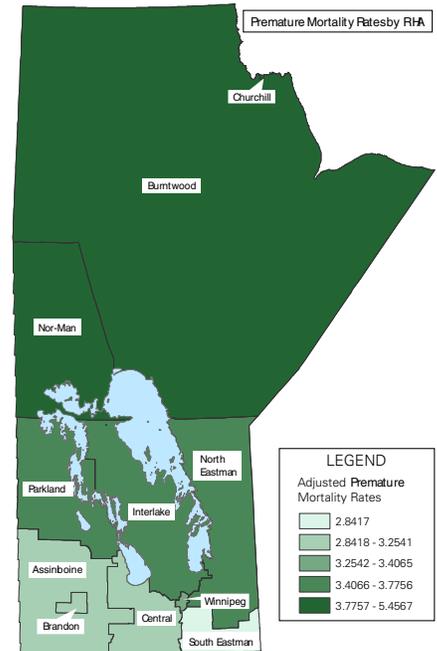
## The Power of Mapping: Helping to Visualize Population Health

Mapping is a powerful complement to graphs, tables and charts, helping to visualize a population's health and compare regions' rates of different health indicators.

The map to the right shows the premature mortality rates (PMR), or death before the age of 75 years, for Manitoba's Regional Health Authorities (RHAs). PMR is a good indicator of a region's overall health status. Dark green indicates a high premature mortality rate or relatively poor health status for an area. The lighter the green, the lower the premature mortality rate and the better an area's relative health.

It is possible to make your own maps with different health indicators. Go to [www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/reports](http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/reports) and look at the graphs in the

*Sex Differences* Deliverable to see what indicators have been run at regional and district levels. The data for these graphs are available by clicking on *data from the report*. These data can be mapped for the districts in your region and/or all of Manitoba. The needed free software for editing shapefiles (fGIS) has been developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/GIS/Applications/FGIS/index.htm> (see website for installation instructions). The required map shapefiles for Manitoba's RHAs and districts can also be obtained via the MCHP website's concept dictionary ([http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/concept/dict/rha\\_area/index.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/concept/dict/rha_area/index.html)).



## The Need to Know Team Members:

### RHA MEMBERS:

- Jody Allan
- Faye White (Assiniboine)
- Bev Cumming
- Nancy McPherson (Brandon)
- Marion Ellis
- Mieke Busman (Burntwood)
- Shelley Buchan (Central)
- Randy Gesell (Burntwood/Churchill)
- Tannis Erickson
- Doreen Fey (Interlake)
- Sue Crockett
- Catherine Hynes (Nor-Man)
- Bonnie Frith
- Suzanne Dick (North Eastman)
- Maggie Campbell (Parkland)
- Patti Fries (South Eastman)
- Janet Bjornson (WRHA Liaison)

### MANITOBA HEALTH MEMBERS:

- Deborah Malazdrewicz (Health Information Management)
- Lorraine Dacombe Dewar (Community Health Assessment)
- Valdine Berry (Strategic Planning)
- Eilish Cleary (Medical Officer of Health)
- Shirley Dzogan (Community Health Assessment)
- Shahin Shoostari (Regional Support Services)
- Heather Sparling (Community Health Assessment)
- Rachel McPherson (Health Information Management)
- Bob Li (Epidemiologist)

### MCHP PROJECT STAFF:

- Pat Martens (Director)
- Randy Fransoo (Researcher)
- Sarah Bowen (Evaluation Researcher)
- Elaine Burland (Research Coordinator)
- Charles Burchill (Systems Analyst)
- Linda Kostiuk (Finance Coordinator)
- Kristin Backhouse (Planning Coordinator)
- Janine Harasymchuk (Website & Software)
- Jeremy Dacombe (Research Assistant)
- Jen Magoon (Research Assistant)



## - From Evidence to Action - Addressing Challenges to Knowledge Translation in

*From Evidence to Action* is a research project that has been developed in response to the identification of organizational barriers that hinder evidence-based planning and decision making at the RHA-level.

The purpose of this 3-year project is to identify, from the perspective of the RHA decision makers themselves, organizational factors that hinder evidence-based decision making in RHAs and to collaboratively develop strategies to address these barriers.

Some barriers that have been identified through previous consultations include: (i) time constraints/work demands that leave insufficient time for facilitating capacity building at the organizational level, (ii) crises that push research off the agenda, (iii) difficulties establishing effective communication channels within the RHA, and (iv) insufficient awareness of the importance of research and the skills required to use it effectively.

The objectives of this project are to develop, apply and collaboratively evaluate designed instruments and strategies that address barriers to the use of research in RHA planning and to produce user-friendly resources for use by all RHAs.

The initial consultation phase has already begun, during which time an assessment instrument is to be developed and implemented.