



The Need to Know...

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Director: Patricia Martens

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Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

Deliverable #3 Topic Decided: *The Need To Know* Meeting #9

The focus of *The Need to Know* Team meeting #9 (February 2nd & 3rd, 2004) was to decide on a topic for the third and final deliverable for the project. Numerous possible topics were discussed by the Team. In the end, an overwhelming majority selected 'gender differences' as the topic for the final *Need to Know* deliverable. Work on it is already underway - Team members are working to compile a list of specific indicators to be included in the report.

Other meeting business included continuing discussions about the second *Need to Know* deliverable - The Mental Health report. The session started with a presentation on suicide by Dr. Nancy McKeen, a new researcher at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) and newest member to *The Need to Know* team. Team members, including the mental health working group discussed results and report progress to date. The Mental Health Deliverable is set to be released this fall (2004).



Mental Health Deliverable Discussion

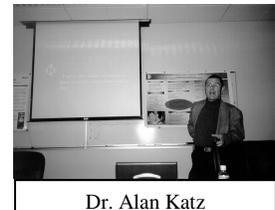
Sarah Bowen, the project's evaluation coordinator, presented an evaluation update. Some of the highlights included team members' increased understanding and use of research, and increased confidence using population health terminology.

Team members had a chance to put their poster making skills to work during a poster workshop on the second day of the meeting. Several posters have since been completed, and many more are well underway.



Poster Workshop

The meeting came to a close with a presentation on *Quality of Care Indicators of Physician Practices* by physician and MCHP researcher Dr. Alan Katz. The quality of care provided by Manitoba physicians was assessed using various indicators including immunizations (e.g. childhood, influenza) screening (e.g. cervical cancer blood sugar, cholesterol), prescriptions (e.g. asthma), laboratory use (e.g. monitoring blood tests after a heart attack) and consultations (eye care in diabetes).



Dr. Alan Katz

Copies of this report are available through the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy website: www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp.

RHA Indicators Atlas Highlighted at Manitoba Health Day

The inaugural Manitoba Health Day was held this spring at the Deer Lodge Centre in Winnipeg (March 10, 04). This day-long session provided an opportunity for Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Manitoba Health staff to get together and share knowledge and experiences.

This day, modeled after Rural and Northern Health Care Days, featured *The Manitoba RHA Indicators Atlas: Population-Based Comparisons of Health and Health Care Use*. Facilitated roundtable discussions followed a project overview by Dr. Patricia Martens. Each group examined a different chapter, and then presented a summary their shared insights to the whole group.

Three other Manitoba Centre for Health Policy reports were also highlighted. Dr. Sharon Bruce presented work-

to-date on the Patient Safety Deliverable. Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj presented work on two pharmaceutical deliverables. The first, *Pharmaceuticals: Therapeutic Interchange and Pricing Policies* focused on issues surrounding generic drugs and different proposed pricing policies. The second pharmaceutical deliverable is currently underway, and looks at high cost/high frequency pharmaceutical users in Manitoba.

The day closed with a presentation from Louis Barré, Director of Health Information Management at Manitoba Health, in which he outlined the process by which MCHP deliverables are decided upon.

Feedback from Manitoba Health staff was very positive. It is likely that this will become an annual event.

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

Brodie Centre
University of Manitoba
4th Floor, Room 408
727 McDermot Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3E 3P5

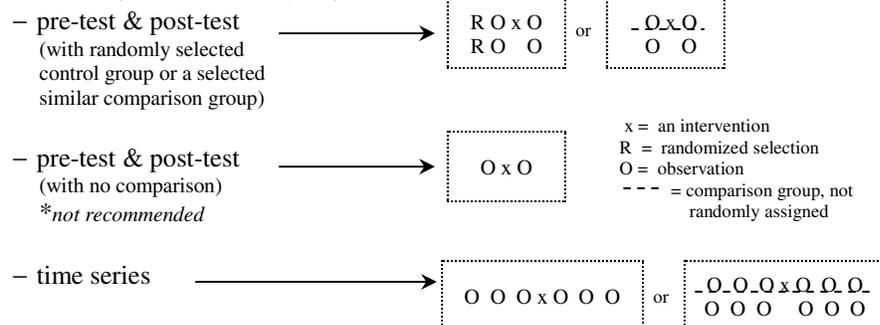
Newsletter contact:
 Elaine Burland
 Phone: (204)789-3875
 Email: elaine_burland@cpe.umanitoba.ca

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

Program Evaluation 101: Quantitative Research Methods

Thinking of evaluating a program? Here are some basic decisions to make before starting out:

- choose your study **design** (cross-sectional or longitudinal)
- choose your design **features** (experimental or observational)
- decide what **measurements** will be made and whether one or more groups will be measured: (Fitz-Gibbon & Morris, 1987)



F.Y.I.

- Next *Need to Know* Team meeting: September 27, 2004
- 11th Annual Rural and Northern Health Care Day: September 28, 2004 - **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!**
- 2004 Manitoba Provincial Health Conference and Exhibition: September 29-30, 2004 @ the **Winnipeg** Convention Centre
- Several new MCHP reports have recently been released, including *Using Administrative Data to Develop Indicators of Quality in Family Practice* and *Patterns of Health Care Use & Cost at the End of Life*; these and other reports are available via the MCHP website (see above)



Need to Know Team members helping demonstrate the pre-test/post-test measurement design

Choice of method will depend on available resources and evaluation goals: are you trying to find out if (i) program X has caused any changes (internal validity) or (ii) study results are applicable to the real world (external validity)?

Highlighting The Need to Know Project

The *Need to Know* project will be well represented at the Canadian Public Health Association's 95th Annual Conference this year in St. John's Newfoundland, June 13-16, 2004. This year's theme is *Population Health In Our Communities*. Five posters and two oral presentations related to the project have been accepted.

The 2004 Provincial Health Conference & Exhibition (September 29 & 30) will be held in **Winnipeg** at the Convention Centre. This year's theme is *Partnerships and Balance: Today's Choices—Tomorrow's Outcomes*. Several *Need to Know* project posters abstracts have been submitted for consideration. Contact Elaine Burland (see top) for general conference information which will be available in June.

Several *Need to Know* project abstracts have also been submitted to The Fifth Canadian Rural Health Research Society Conference to be held in Sudbury, Ontario (October 21-23, 2004).

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
- Donna Champagne (Central)
- Margaret Fern (Churchill)
- Tannis Erickson
- Doreen Fey (Interlake)
- Sue Crockett
- Catherine Hynes (Nor-Man)
- Eilish Cleary
- Bonnie Frith (North Eastman)

- Connie Chapen
- Maggie Campbell (Parkland)
- Betty MacKenzie (South Eastman)
- Patti Fries
- Val Austen-Wiebe (WRHA Liaison)

MANITOBA HEALTH MEMBERS:

- Deborah Malazdrewicz
- Lorraine Dacombe Dewar
- Valdine Berry
- Shirley Dzogan
- Shahin Shoostari
- Heather Sparling
- Rachel McPherson

MCHP PROJECT STAFF:

- Pat Martens (Director)
- Sarah Bowen (Evaluator)
- Randy Fransoo (Co-ordinator)
- Elaine Burland (Research Assistant)
- Laurel Jebamani (Research Assistant)
- Charles Burchill (Systems Analyst)
- Linda Kostluk (Planning & Finance)
- Eileen Pyke (Website/Software)
- Darlene Harder (Planning)