



The Need to Know...

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Manitoba
Centre for
Health
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NTK Meeting #18: Review of Upcoming RHA '08 Atlas & Related Reports

The first half day of the February 2007 *Need to Know* meeting was dedicated to a discussion about the **RHA '08 Atlas**—an update of the comprehensive RHA Indicators Atlas that was produced in 2003. A list of indicators likely to be included was reviewed by *The Need to Know Team*. See the bottom of this page for more information about the 2008 Indicators Atlas.

As well, several guest speakers were present to talk about reports they were working on that would complement the 2008 Atlas, providing information about indicators not covered in the Atlas.

Alain Demers (CancerCare) outlined the contents of the *Cancer in the Community* report: incidence/proportion of new cases (2002-06), the ten most commonly diagnosed cancer (by sex), the prognosis of invasive cancer sites, and the proportion of stage I to IV cancers per site.

Deborah Malazdrewicz (Manitoba Health) provided an overview of the indicators to be reported in the *Regional Profile Document (2008)*. Some of these include health conditions (e.g. low birth weight), system competency (e.g. re-admission rate for acute myocardial infarction), living and working conditions (e.g. occupation, unemployment rate), and finances (e.g. total medical and surgical supply costs).

Marni Brownell (Manitoba Centre for Health Policy) reviewed the list of indicators that will be included in the *Child Health Atlas Update*—an update of the 2001 Child Health Atlas. Some examples of indicators are: causes of childhood mortality, adolescent smoking rates, condom use for ages 15-19, rates of antidepressant prescriptions and grade 12 exam performance.

Greg Hammond, Kathy Mestery and Sherrie Kelly spoke to The Team in the afternoon about the **Immunization and Tuberculosis Registry in Manitoba**. All positive and suspected cases of tuberculosis (TB) must be reported to



Greg Hammond,
Director of Public
Health, MB Health

this control program. There are approximately 100 new cases of TB reported in Manitoba each year (Public Health, Manitoba Health). For more information check out the Manitoba Health website: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/>

Day two started with an update from Sarah Bowen and Pearl Soltys about the **From Evidence to Action** research project. See page 2 for more on the progress of the project.

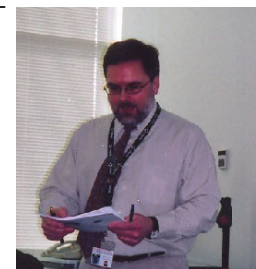
The Need to Know Team member, Nancy McPherson (Brandon RHA) spoke to the Team about **Data Gathering and Synthesis at the RHA level**, and using different data sources for decision making and planning.

Project PI Pat Martens updated the Team on the progress of the **What Works project**. The focus of the update was on the qualitative component of the research—tables and graphs for each indicator, providing detailed information about programs/policies, including timelines for initiation.

MCHP researcher Greg Finlayson, briefed the Team on the methodology used in his upcoming deliverable on **Population-based Funding Allocation**. This research looks at alternate ways of meeting the health care needs of Manitobans while remaining cognizant of practical, policy and equity issues. This report is expected to be released this coming summer/fall. For more information, see the MCHP website— 'projects in progress'.



Nancy McPherson
(standing, far right)



Greg Finlayson



RHA Atlas '08: An Update to Help with the 2009 Community Health Assessments

Work has begun on the *RHA Atlas '08*—an update to the *RHA Atlas* that was produced by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy in 2003. The initial

2003 report was chock-full of rates for a wide variety of health indicators, most of them over two time periods—the early 1990s prior to regionalization, and the latter 1990s following regionalization. The 2003 atlas was instrumental

in assisting RHAs in preparing their Community Health Assessments, and the 2008 Atlas is intended to do the same.

The *RHA Atlas '08* will include an update of many of the same indicators as its predecessor, as well as select indicators from two other MCHP reports— The Mental Illness Report (2004) and the Sex Differences Deliverable (2005). Chapter topics will include population health status; the

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

F.Y.I.

- the next meeting of *The Need to Know* Team will take place Monday November 19, 2007
- this year's **Rural and Northern Health Care Day** will take place Tuesday November 20, 2007 at a **NEW LOCATION: Fort Garry Place, 83 Garry Street**

From Evidence to Action - Update

The project moved into Phase 2 in January of this year and a report on the Phase 1 activities and findings was distributed in February. Phase 1 research activities have provided some unique insights on RHA decision maker perspectives and points out that although there are some similarities; these perspectives differ in important ways from the perspectives of the academic community. This report is now publicly available, and an article on the findings submitted for publication. (Bowen, S., Erickson, T., Martens, P., *The Need to Know* Team (2007. *More than "using research": the real challenges in promoting evidence-informed decision-making*. Under review, *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*, March 2007.) The Phase 1 report included recommendations for RHA consideration, as well as recommendations for coordinated RHA/Manitoba Health consideration, and for joint academic/



health system collaboration.

The recommendations for RHA consideration include:

1. Undertaking activities to determine characteristics of their organizational culture that facilitate and impede EIDM
2. Ensuring that research-related evaluation and decision support functions are considered and prioritized in any restructuring activities
3. Increasing organizational capacity for rigorous program/service evaluation (e.g. by requiring objective evaluation of new activities)
4. Reviewing and improving mechanisms for community and staff input
5. Establishing mechanisms for coordinating, tracking and retrieving data
6. Developing strategies for "maximizing" use of resources available (e.g. Has the potential of *The Need to Know* team member as a "knowledge broker" been fully realized in the region?).

Phase 2 is currently underway: new "tools" for EIDM are being developed and will be refined after being trialled in the RHAs. An evaluation of the toolkit is planned to begin in September.

**see The Need To Know newsletter Vol. 11, Fall 2005, p.2 for E2A project overview. It is available via The Need To Know website: <http://www.rha.cpe.umanitoba.ca/newsletters.shtml>*

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Atlas Update (cont'd)

prevalence of various physical and mental illnesses; the use of physicians, hospitals, high profile and preventative services; home care and personal care homes; prescription drug use; and quality of primary care.

As well, there will be some new indicators, including 'osteoporosis' and 'mortality rates with and without specific diseases'.

In addition, Manitoba-relevant information will be included from several cycles of the *Canadian Community Health Survey* (CCHS)—a survey of Canadians 12 years and older, conducted regularly by Statistics Canada. Information is collected about health status, determinants of health, and health system use.

The CCHS indicators that will be reported in the updated atlas include: self-rated health, activity limitations, functional physical and mental health, body mass index, dietary practices (fruit and vegetable consumption), frequency of heavy drinking and smoking, second hand smoke exposure, leisure time physical activity, and life and work stress.

For more information on the survey, visit the Statistics Canada website: <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=82M0013G>.