

The Lessons of COVID-19 for Canadian Learning Health Systems

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Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR)

October 21, 2020

Today's Talk

- CIHR and IHSPR
- Learning health systems
- IHSPR's emerging priorities
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Lessons/opportunities
- Your input

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure

- Salary support: CIHR, ICES, St. Michael's Hospital
- IHSPR host institution: ICES
- Research grants: CIHR, Ontario Ministry of Health
- Clinical income: Ontario Ministry of Health
- Corporate or private funding: none

About CIHR

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is Canada's health research investment agency with an annual budget of \$1 billion.

CIHR's mandate is to excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge and its translation into improved health for Canadians, more effective health services and products and a strengthened Canadian health system.



13 CIHR Institutes

Created in 2000, CIHR is a unique model for health research.

IHSPR is dedicated to supporting innovative research, capacity-building and knowledge translation initiatives designed to improve the way health care services are organized, regulated, managed, financed, paid for, used and delivered, in the interest of improving the health and quality of life of all Canadians



Learning Health System

- *A learning health care system is one in which science, informatics, incentives, and culture are aligned for continuous improvement and innovation, with best practices seamlessly embedded in the care process, patients and families active participants in all elements, and new knowledge captured as an integral by-product of the care experience.*

[\(Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care, 2012\)](#)

Does Canada have Learning Health Systems?

Creating Rapid-learning Health Systems
in Canada

10 December 2018



Lavis, J et al. https://www.mcmasterforum.org/docs/default-source/product-documents/rapid-responses/creating-rapid-learning-health-systems-in-canada.pdf?sfvrsn=102554d5_4

McMaster
University

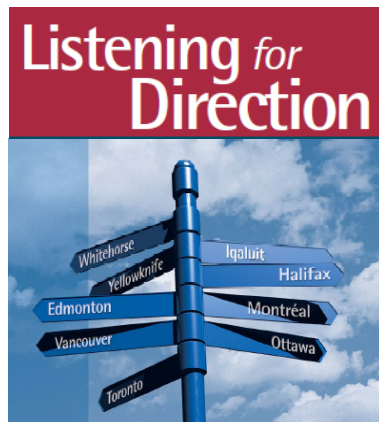
McMaster
HEALTH FORUM

What they found

- no 'recipe' but factors or strategies in particular contexts
- rich list of assets for the health system as a whole and for the primary-care sector and elderly but notable gaps
- Four examples
 - 1) primary-care sector in Newfoundland and Labrador;
 - 2) elderly population in Alberta;
 - 3) opioid crisis in Quebec; and
 - 4) Mississauga Halton region in Ontario
- Many windows of opportunity in health systems such as in B.C., Ontario and New Brunswick.
- Need to develop accreditation standards and other supports for rapid-learning health organizations and systems

IHSPR Priorities Through Time

2000 - 2008



Health workforce • Timely access to care • Managing for quality & safety • Sustainable funding & ethical resource allocation • Governance & accountability • Managing & adapting to change • Understanding & responding to public expectations • Linking care across place, time & settings • Linking public health to health services

2009 - 2014



- Drug Policy
- Access to appropriate care across the continuum
- Health information
- Financing, sustainability, governance

2015 - 2019



- Learning Health Systems
- eHealth
- Healthy aging in the community
- Financing, funding, sustainability

The Context

Virtual health care gets positive early reviews in New Brunswick

UWinnipeg Indigenous health research receives \$3.5 million boost

NATIONAL POST

Mandatory masks made big impact on Ontario's COVID-19 trajectory: study

OTTAWA

Canada's soldiers have provided a wake-up call for our long-term care system

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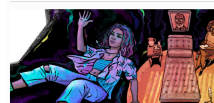
Canada Bombarded with COVID-19-Themed Cyberattacks

Racism in the medical system goes far beyond a few bad apples

Can 'The Culture' Make Mental Health Cool?

By Ben Arthur

Ben Arthur is a freelance journalist and author of several books on mental health.



Toronto

Problems in Ontario long-term care homes need fixing now, PSWs and unions tell province

Husband, 83, dies with medical assistance after wife's court bid to stop him fails

Jack Sorenson of Bridgewater, N.S., died on Saturday following legal battle with wife over MAID

Taryn Grant - CBC News - Posted: Oct 06, 2020 11:41 AM AT | Last Updated: October 6



Health minister says Canadians 'can make a difference' by celebrating Thanksgiving virtually

By Sandra Stewart

Sandra Stewart is a freelance journalist and author of several books on mental health.



B.C. Supreme Court rules against private healthcare centre, sides with province

Globalnews.ca

Joyce Echaquan's death highlights systemic racism in health care, experts say

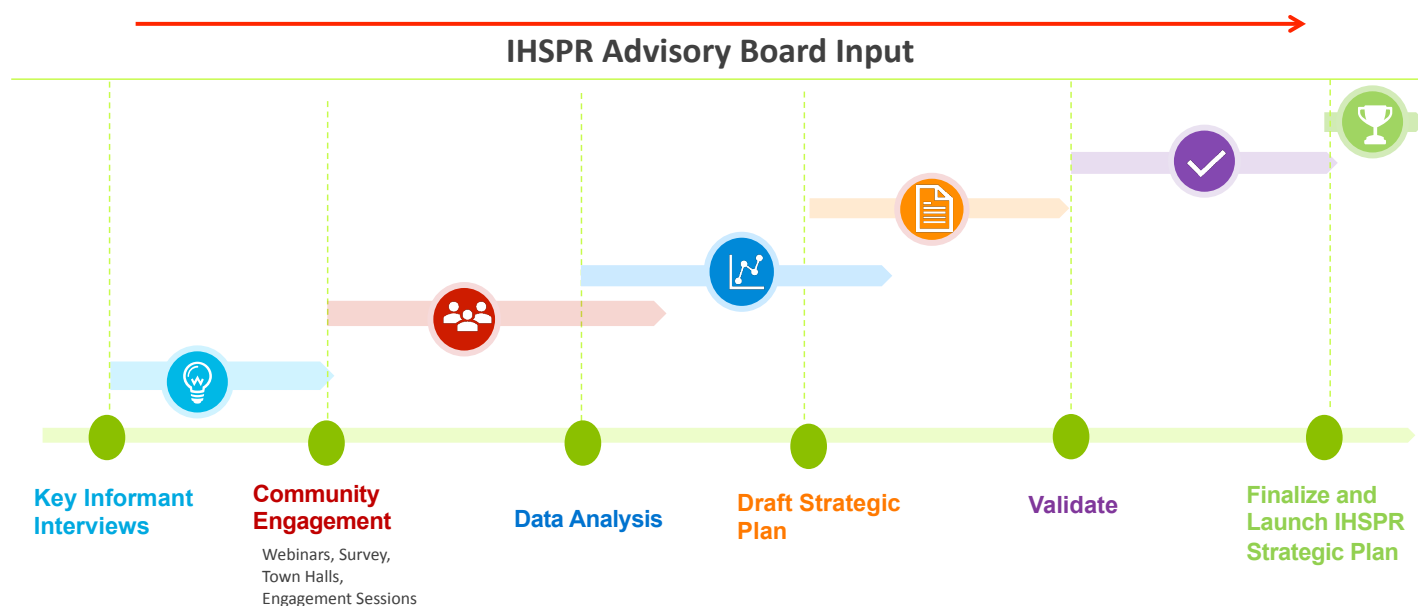
Joyce Echaquan's death highlights systemic racism in health care, experts say. By Morgan Lowrie and Kelly Geraldine Malone The Canadian ... 3 days ago



Community Engagement



Engagement Strategy





Setting Priorities for Health Services and Policy Research

- Over-arching themes:
 - **Health system needs fundamental reform**
 - fragmentation, weak governance, long waits
 - **Evidence does not reliably inform policy or practice**
 - up to 17 years
 - **Need to leverage technology and data**
 - far behind others

Health System: Structural Issues

hospitals
global
budget

long-term care
number of beds

doctors
FFS

} Paid from
separate
budgets

} 13+ systems

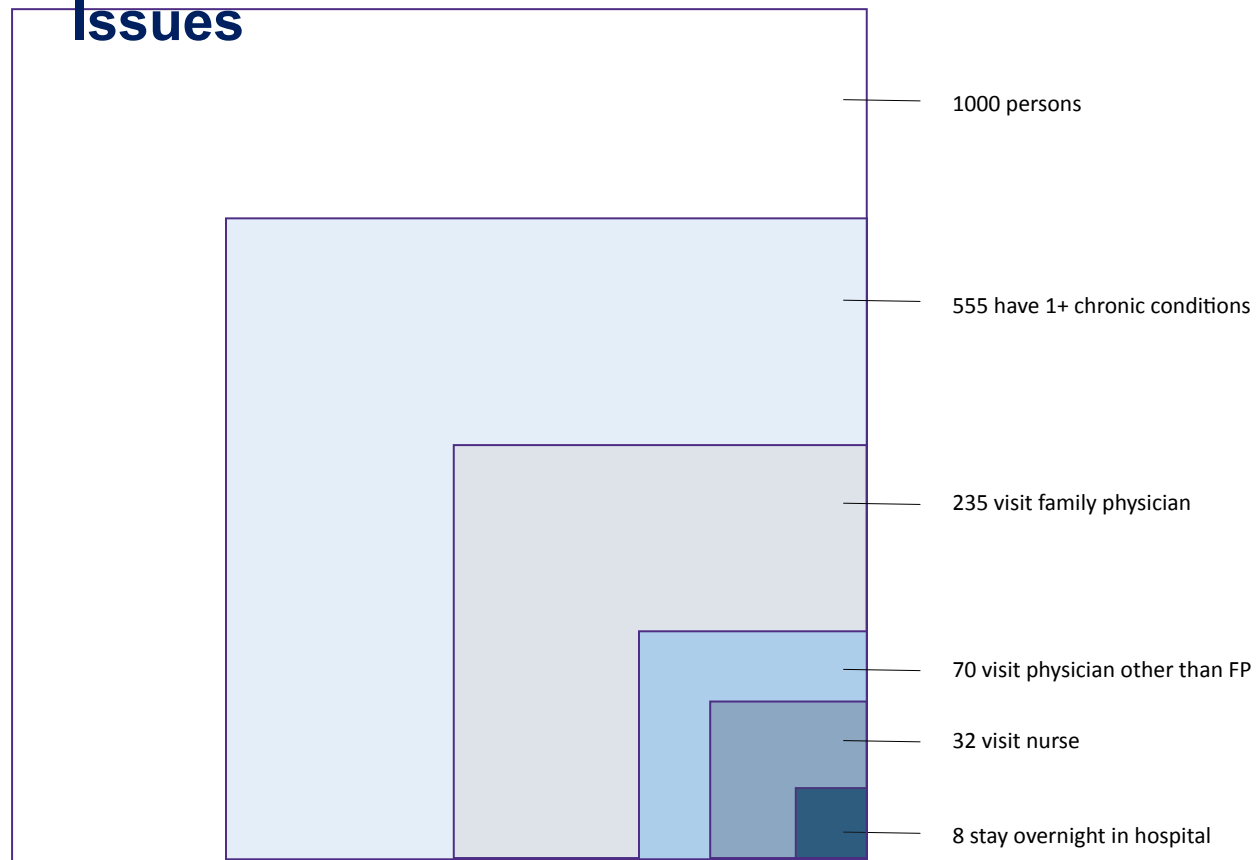


- few accountabilities
- weak measurement
- few networks
- little governance
- not many teams
- mostly FFS
- not organized or connected

- focus on hospitals, illness and individuals
- long waits
- inequities in access and outcomes
- patient and public voices insufficiently heard

Health System: Investment Issues

Standardized
Monthly
Rates –
Canada Ages
15+

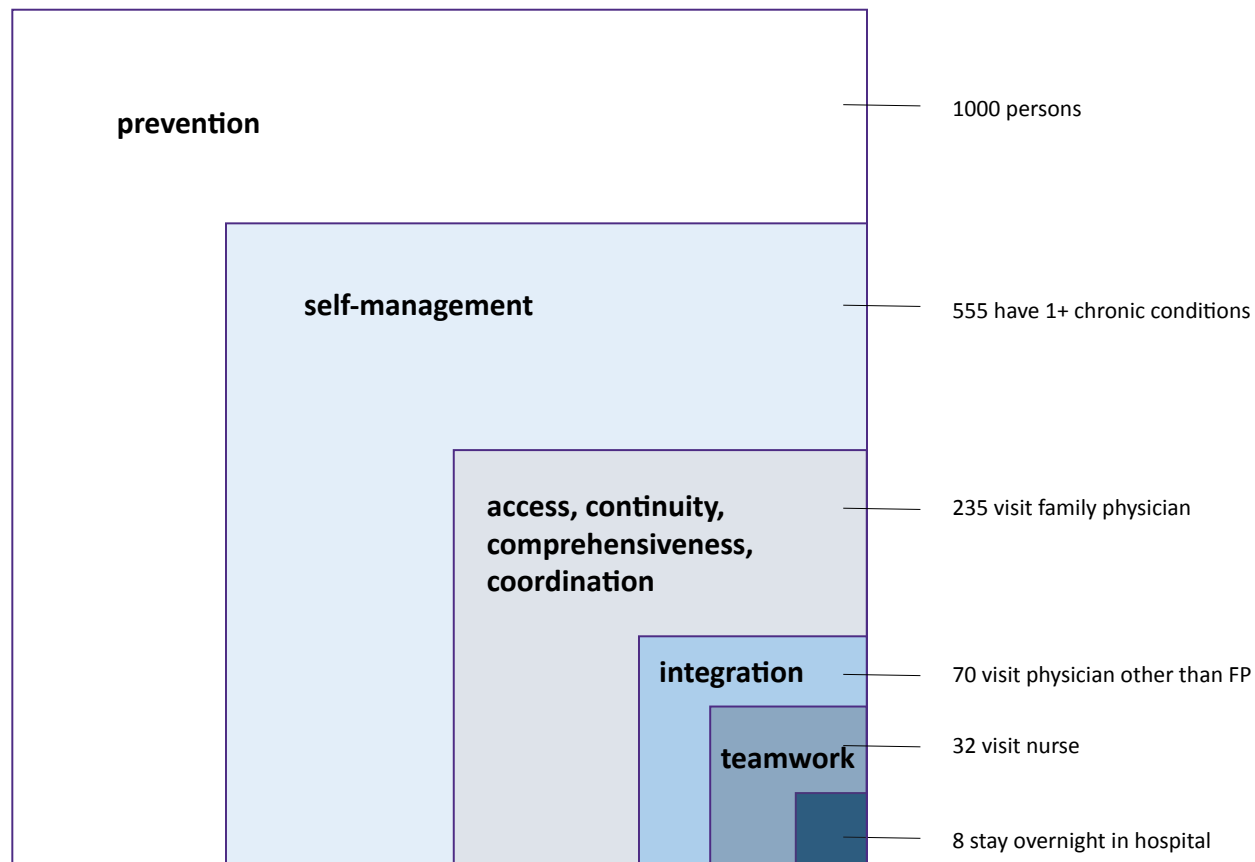


Stewart M, Ryan B. Ecology of health care in Canada. Can Fam Physician, 2015 May 1; 61 (5): 449-53.

Health System: Investment Issues

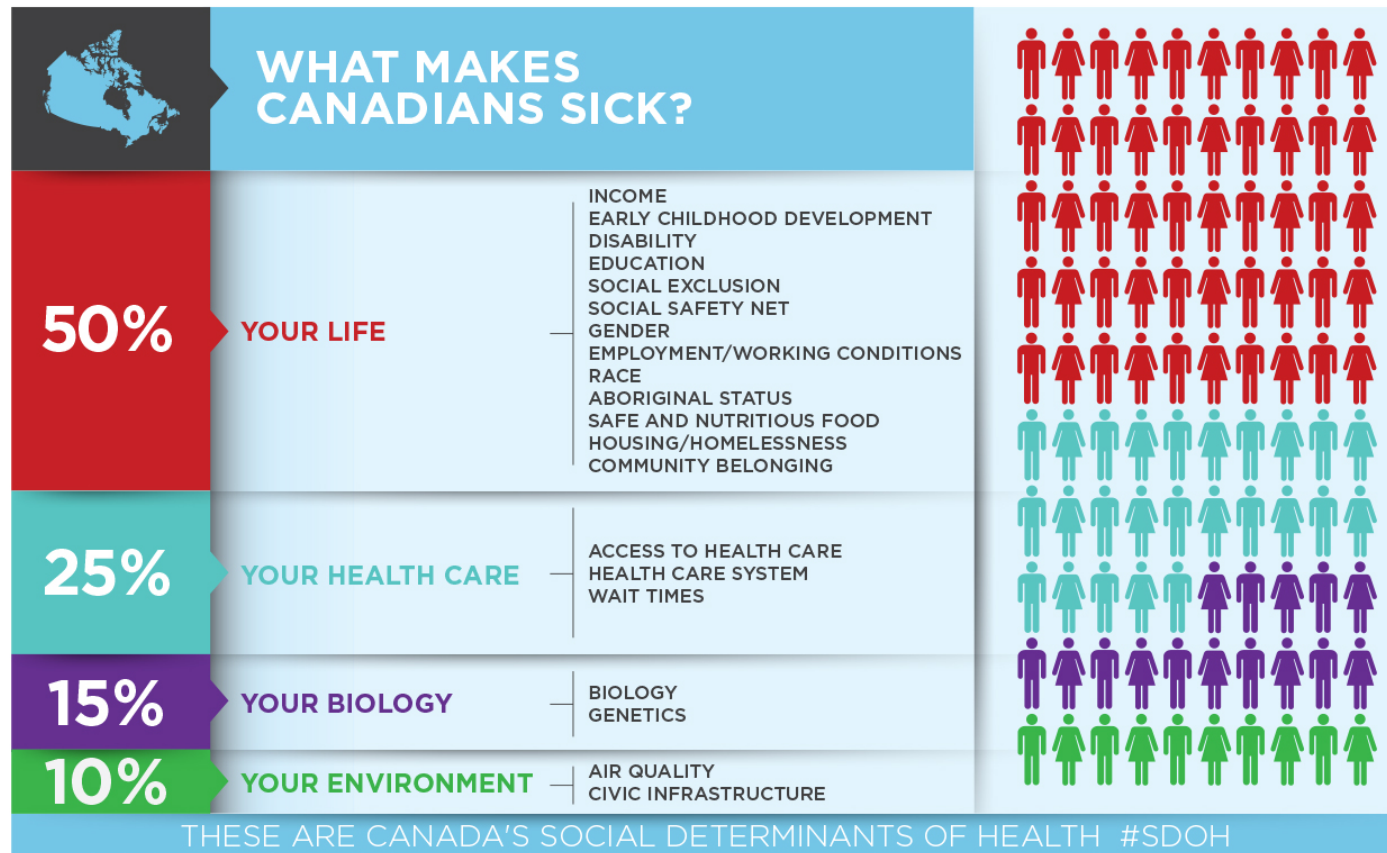
(\$264 billion per year)

Standardized
Monthly
Rates –
Canada Ages
15+



Stewart M, Ryan B. Ecology of health care in Canada. Can Fam Physician, 2015 May 1; 61 (5): 449-53.

Health System: Priority Issues



Canadian Medical Association, 2013

<http://healthcaretransformation.ca/infographic-social-determinants-of-health/>

@upstreamlab

Evidence to Policy and Practice

The Canadian Health Services and Policy Research Alliance (CHSPRA) <https://www.chspra.ca/>

Pan-Canadian Vision
and Strategy for Health
Services and Policy
Research 2014–2019



RESEARCH INTELLIGENCE DRIVING HEALTH SYSTEM
TRANSFORMATION IN CANADA

The Vision

*Research intelligence drives health system
transformation in Canada*

The Mission

*Build and sustain an integrated, high
performing pan-Canadian HSPR community
that adds value to the health of Canadians
and health services for Canadians*

**Training
Modernization**

**Impact
Assessment**

**Learning Health
Systems**

Evidence to Policy and Practice

The Health System Impact Fellowship*



*Re-launching soon!

1

Support Impact-Oriented Career Paths

- Elevate PhD trainees' and post-doctoral fellows' career readiness and ability to make an impact in a broader range of employment sectors.

2

Expand and Enrich the Traditional Training Environment

- Engage health system and related organizations in preparing a cadre of promising PhD-trained individuals for successful, impactful careers.

3

Increase Research Talent within Health System Organizations

- Provide health system organizations with direct opportunities to realize and harness the benefits that PhD-trained individuals can bring to such organizations.

Our goal: Prepare the next generation of health services and policy PhD graduates with the professional skills, competencies, experiences and networks to make meaningful and impactful contributions throughout their careers, within and outside of academia.

Evidence to Policy and Practice Impact Assessment

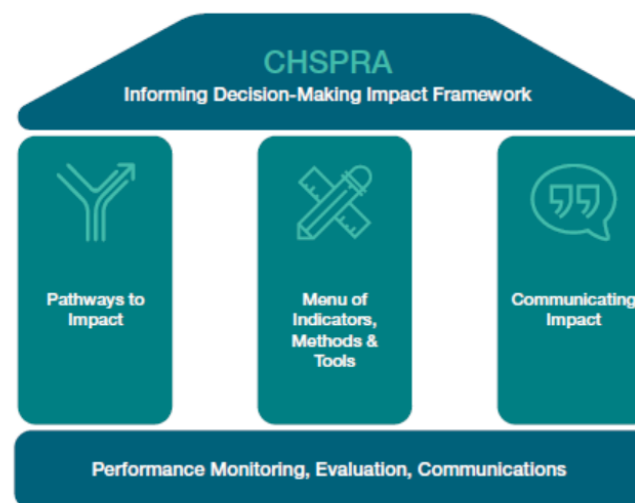
Canadian Health Services and
Policy Research Alliance



Making an Impact:

A shared framework for assessing the impact of health services and policy research on decision-making

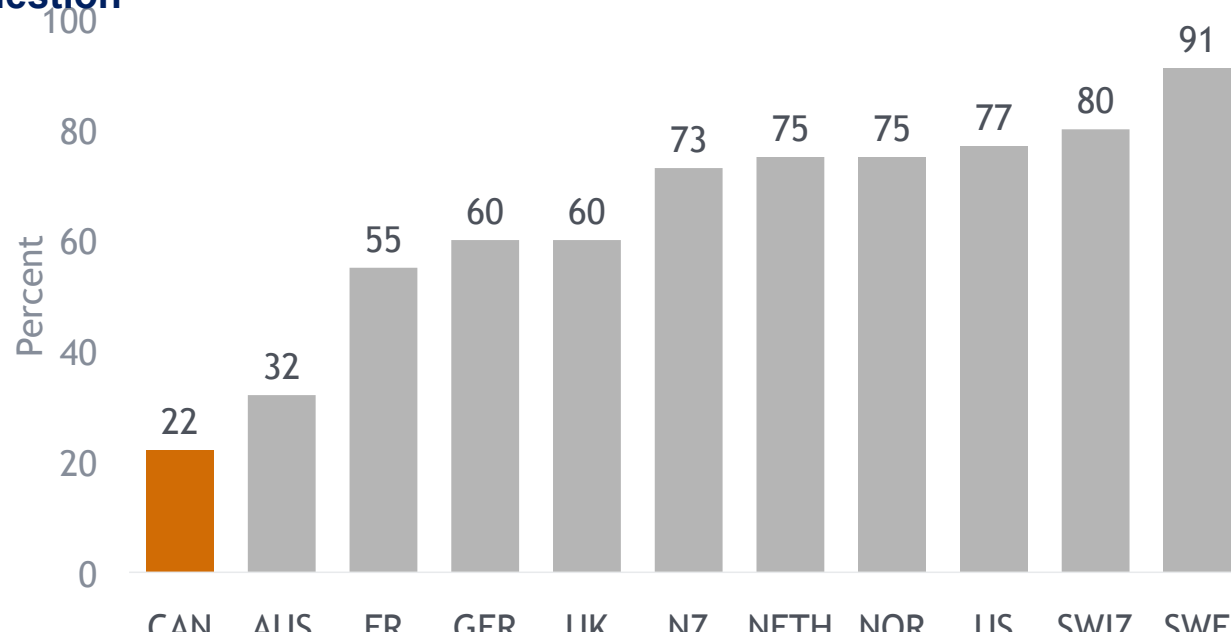
PREPARED BY THE IMPACT ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP OF THE CANADIAN HEALTH SERVICES AND POLICY RESEARCH ALLIANCE (CHSPRA)
AUGUST 2018



- New frameworks for demonstrating, measuring, and communicating the impact of HSPR
- New tools and resources for implementing the framework and training the community

Leverage Technology and Data

Practice offers patients option to communicate via email or secure website about a medical question



The Commonwealth Fund

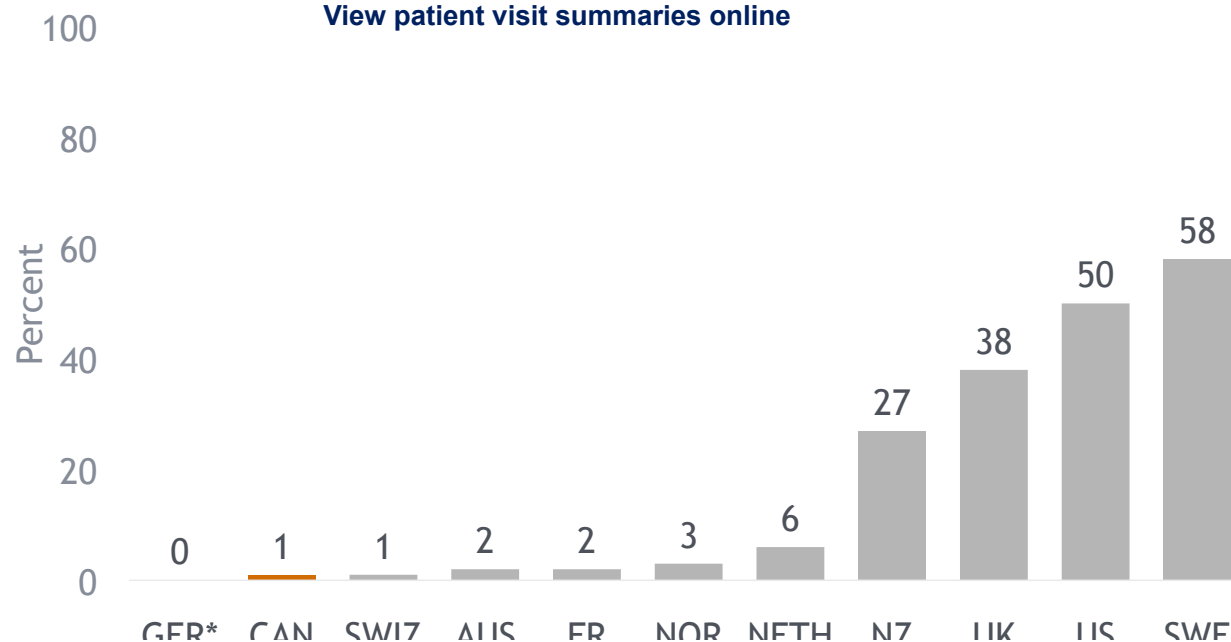
Data: 2019 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians.

Source: Michelle M. Doty et al., "Primary Care Physicians' Role in Coordinating Medical and Health-Related Social Needs in Eleven Countries," *Health Affairs*, published online Dec. 10, 2019.

Leverage Technology and data

Practice offers all four of following functions:

Request appointments online
Request refills for prescriptions online
View test results online
View patient visit summaries online



The
Commonwealth
Fund

* GER response 0%.

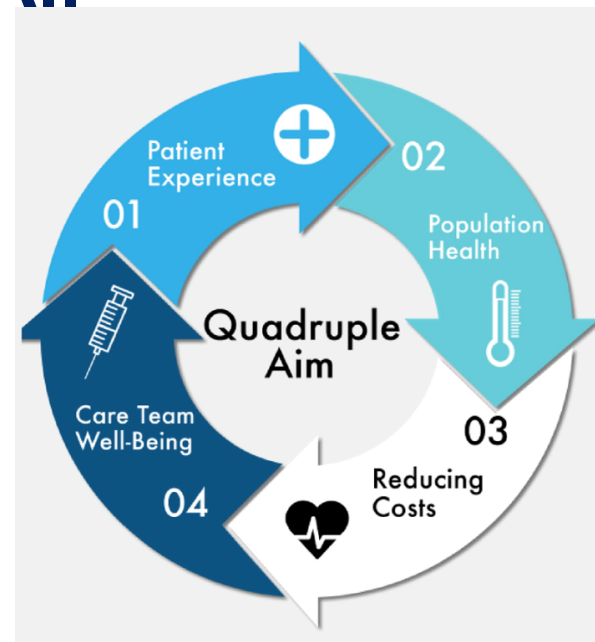
Data: 2019 Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey of Primary Care Physicians.

Source: Michelle M. Doty et al., "Primary Care Physicians' Role in Coordinating Medical and Health-Related Social Needs in Eleven Countries," *Health Affairs*, published online Dec. 10, 2019.

IHSPR Emerging Strategic Priority 1:

Re-envision the Healthcare System to Achieve the Quadruple Aim and Health Equity for All

Goal: To develop, integrate and evaluate interventions (policies, processes, practices, products) that will advance Canadian healthcare delivery systems along the path towards improving health equity for all and achieving the quadruple aim of improved patient experience, better population health, improved provider experience and lower costs.



IHSPR Emerging Strategic Priority 2:

24

Amplify the use and impact of health services and policy research for improved health system performance and outcomes

Goal: To ensure health care and policy decisions are grounded in high-quality, timely evidence stemming from strong collaborative research that is appropriately contextualized



IHSPR Emerging Strategic Priority 3:

Modernize the healthcare system with enhanced access to data, digital health solutions and data science

Goal: To modernize Canada's health systems through enhanced access to data, the use of digital health solutions and data science that optimizes health system performance and enables efficient, appropriate, high-quality patient-centred care.



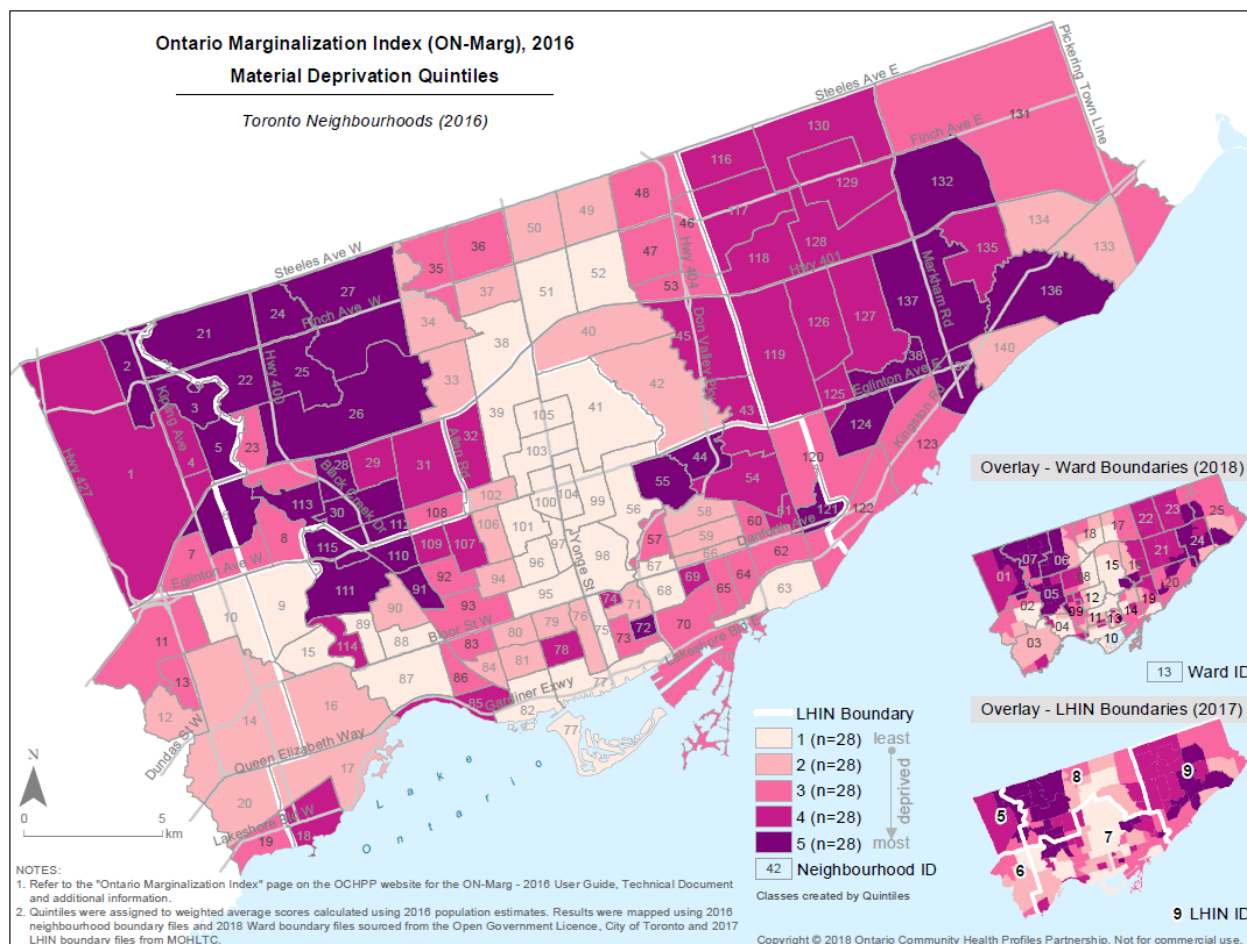
Then We Had a Pandemic....

- Providers
 - “Health care changed more in the past 2 weeks than in the 20 years since we graduated”
 - majority of care went virtual in a few days
 - lack of PPE limited care options, increased anxiety, risk
 - decline in visits severely stressed fee-for-service practices
- Population
 - fear, anxiety, confusion, misinformation
 - mental health, substance use, domestic abuse
 - enormous economic/school/caregiving impact
 - differential impacts on women, low income, racialized groups

COVID-19 Challenges

- Exposed societal fault lines
 - ageism
 - racism
 - sexism
 - classism

} Intersectionality → much harder to deny, ignore
- Exposed health system fault lines
 - neglect of long-term care, primary care, homecare
 - uncoordinated jurisdictions and sectors
 - inconsistent attention to evidence, messaging
 - poor data systems, lack of transparency
 - patients and public even more left out



This information is updated three times per week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

[View the mobile version.](#)

City of Toronto COVID-19 Summary

Data as of October 15, 2020 02:00 PM

Data source: Ontario Ministry of Health, Integrated Public Health Information System and CORES

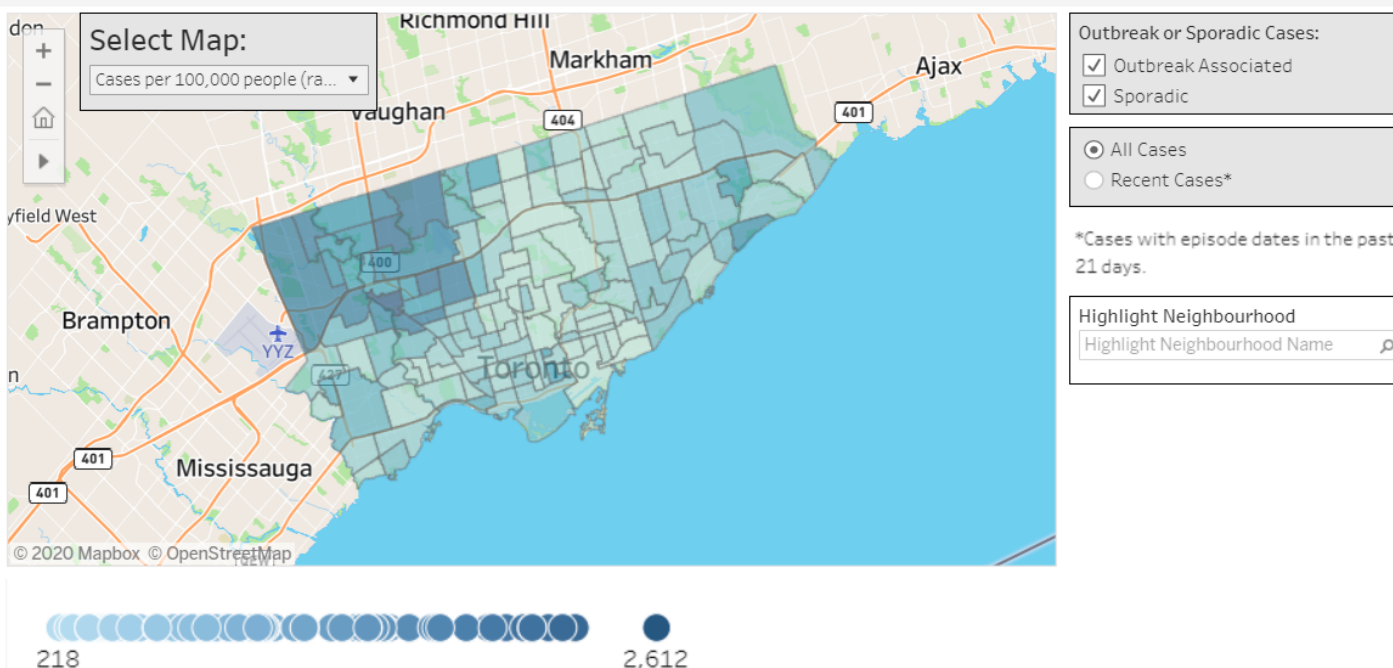
*Map reports on confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19

[Download PDF](#)

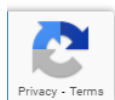
[Download Technical Notes](#)

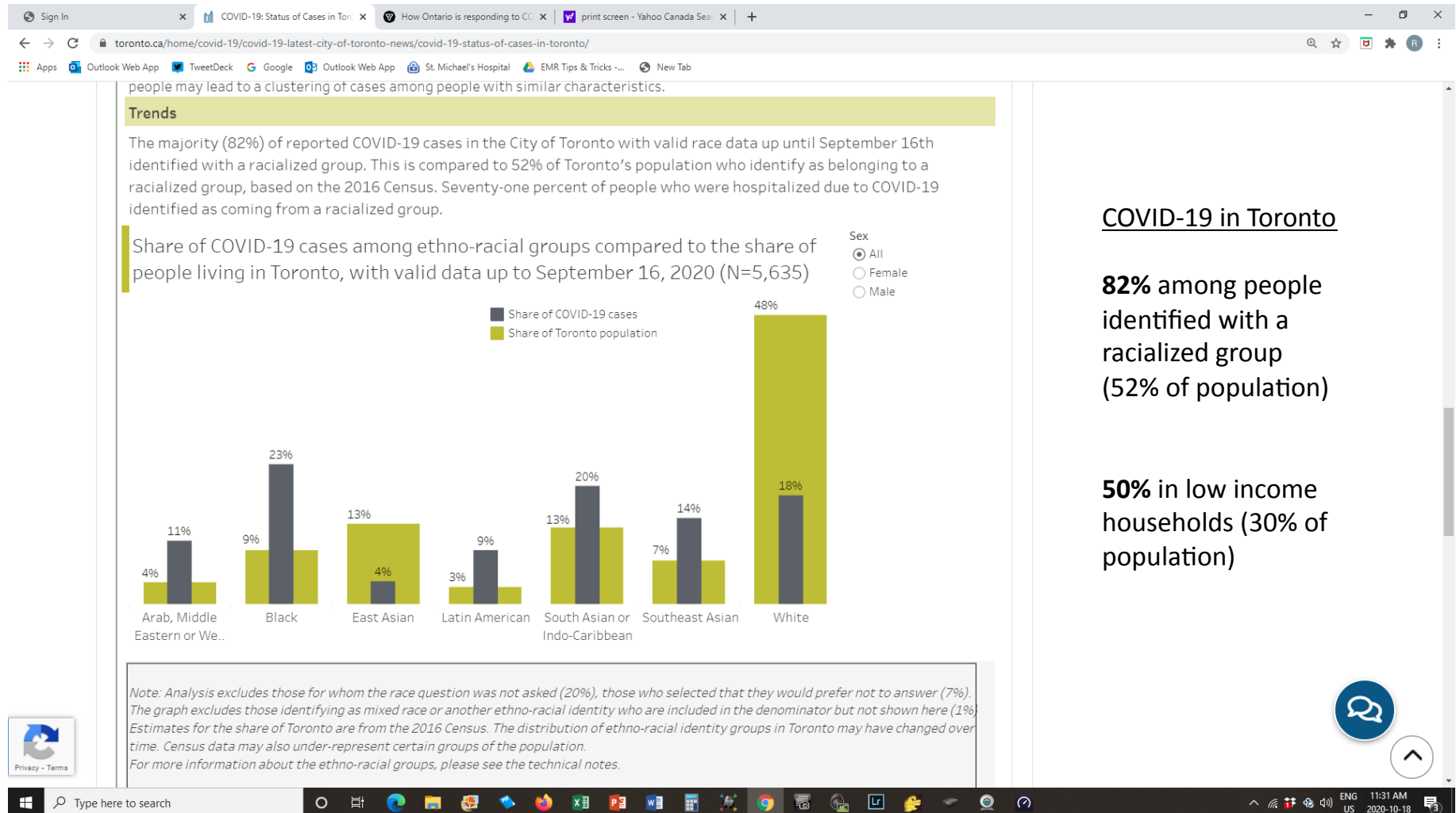
[Download Excel Data](#)

Map of Cumulative COVID Rates by Neighbourhood - January 21, 2020 to October 15, 2020



Map shows cumulative cases and rates by neighbourhood since the beginning of the outbreak that have a valid postal code.





Sociodemographic data to identify systemic racism

Dr. Onye Nnorom, Dr. Kate Mulligan, Dr. Marcia Anderson



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KepfKl1bS8>

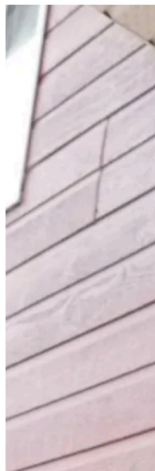
Investigations launched after Atikamekw woman records Quebec hospital staff uttering slurs before her death

Release Date: December 12, 2014



WARNING: This

Benjamin Shingler ·



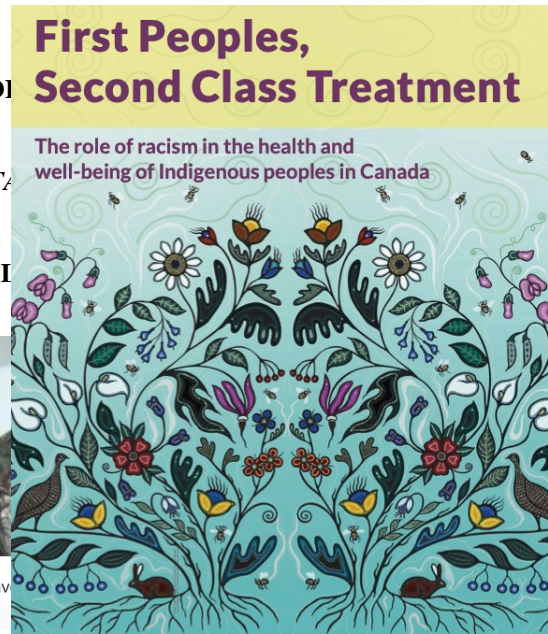
IN THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF

IN THE MATTER OF: *THE FATA*

AND IN THE MATTER OF: BRIAN LI

Joyce Echaquan's death on Monday in the hospital in Joliette, Que., is now the subject of two inv (Facebook)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-atikamekw-joliette-1.574344>



Executive Summary

Wellesley
Institute
advancing urban health



<https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/publications/first-peoples-second-class-treatment/>

IHSPR's COVID-19 Priorities



Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada

Informing Canada's Health System Response to COVID-19: Priorities for Health Services and Policy Research - Healthcare Policy, 16 (1), August 2020 (pre-release)
doi:10.12927/hcpol.2020.26249

7 COVID-19 PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH SERVICES AND POLICY RESEARCH

1. Supporting the health of Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable populations
2. Data and digital infrastructure
3. Learning health systems and knowledge platforms

3 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

1. System adaptation and organization of care
2. Resource allocation decision-making and ethics
3. Rapid synthesis and comparative policy analysis of the COVID-19 response and outcomes
4. Healthcare workforce
5. Virtual care
6. The longer-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic
7. Public and patient engagement

Access to the paper and introductory comments by Healthcare Policy Editor Dr. Jason Sutherland available here:
<https://www.longwoods.com/content/26249/healthcare-policy/informing-canada-s-health-system-response-to-covid-19-priorities-for-health-services-and-policy-r>

Access all CIHR COVID-19 news, resources and opportunities here:
<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51917.html>

Contact IHSPR: info.ihspr@ices.on.ca

IHSPR Webpage: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/13733.html>



Research Paper

Healthcare Policy 16(1) August 2020 : 112-124.doi:10.12927/hcpol.2020.26249

Informing Canada's Health System Response to COVID-19: Priorities for Health Services and Policy Research

Meghan McMahon, Jessica Nadigel, Erin Thompson and Richard H. Glazier

Longwoods.com
Better Care | Health Services Publishing, Education & Recruitment

Click here to read the full article:

<https://www.longwoods.com/content/26249/healthcare-policy/informing-canada-s-health-system-response-to-covid-19-priorities-for-health-services-and-policy-r>

October 2020 Update:

- long-term care
- greater emphasis on virtual care
- addressing racism
- Indigenous Peoples' health

The LTC+ Acting on Pandemic Learning Together initiative

- **Goal:** Support the implementation of promising practice interventions* within LTC and retirement homes across Canada in time to avoid or mitigate the impacts of a second wave of COVID-19.
- **How?** Provide quality improvement (QI) support to homes, including: assessment tools, coaching, peer affinity groups, seed funding, national huddles & policy labs.
- **Who?** Voluntary participation of any LTC or retirement home in Canada. Seed funding randomly allocated, while other supports available for all participating homes.



*Promising Practice Interventions:

1. Preparation
2. Prevention
3. People in the workforce
4. Pandemic response and surge capacity
5. Planning for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 care
6. Presence of family

<https://www.cfhi-fcasi.ca/innovations-tools-resources/item-detail/2020/07/20/re-imagining-care-for-older-adults-next-steps-in-covid-19-response-in-long-term-care-and-retirement-homes>

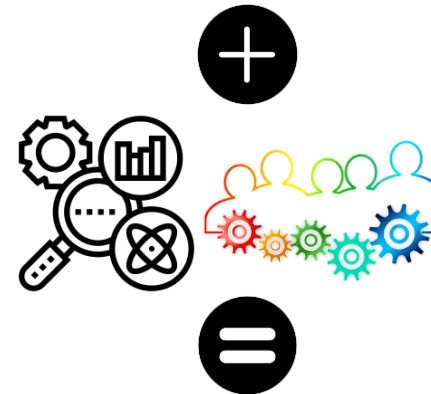


CIHR | Discoveries for life
IRSC | Découvertes pour la vie

A Role for Research: Implementation Science Teams (ISTs)

CIHR's Institutes of Aging (IA) and Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR) in partnership with CIHR's Institutes of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH), Gender and Health (IGH) Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA), Infection and Immunity (III), and Population and Public Health (IPPH) as well as Canadian Foundation for Health Care Improvement (CFHI), Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF), the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF), and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)

- **Goal:** Support implementation efforts and sustainability of CFHI/CPSI's promising practice interventions, rigorously evaluate the outcomes and impacts of the interventions, and improve LTC preparedness for a potential second wave.
- **The value-add of ISTs:**
 - support implementation in different homes & contexts
 - generate evidence on which interventions and approaches are most effective, in which settings and contexts, and why
 - support the scale and spread to other facilities and jurisdictions
 - Bonus: Measurement Framework Project



s for life
es pour la vie

The Lessons/Opportunities of COVID-19 for Canadian Learning Health Systems

- Address systemic racism in our institutions
- Make a massive leap forward in data and digital health
- Invest in compassionate and evidence-based care of older adults
- Empower patients/families/citizens/caregivers in new ways
- Build and test new models of governance, integration, payment and care delivery
- Use meaningful data to inform decisions that enhance impact and equity

Your Turn

- What should health services and policy research priorities be in Canada?
 - What appeals to you/not?
 - What needs more emphasis/less?
 - What's missing?

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Acknowledging the Contributions of the IHSPR Team!

