

Healthcare Quarterly

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Call for Abstracts

The Challenge of Mental Illness and Substance-Use Disorders

Mental illness and substance-use disorder are among the most pervasive and challenging issues facing Canada's healthcare system. According to the Centre for Mental Health and Addiction, one in five Canadians experience mental illness each year, while mental illness and substance-use disorders are the leading cause of disability in Canada. (CAMH 2023). Many Canadians are also finding it difficult to access mental health care (Statistics Canada 2021). Yet, despite the concerns, there are new approaches and innovations that can be shared.

The editors of *Healthcare Quarterly* are pleased to announce a call for abstracts that address the challenge of mental health and substance-use disorder. Abstracts should address a topic related to one of the six following areas of interest:

1. The early years as a foundation for mental health in later life

- Early intervention programs
- Integrated school-based mental health programs linking schools with health providers
- Family and parenting support programs
- Increased access to care in the community

2. Community-based programs to support people experiencing mental health and substance-use disorder challenges

- Immigrant and refugee mental health
- Safe injection sites/Public supply of addictive drugs
- Mental health supports for the unhoused
- Cross-sectoral programs – health and justice, etc.

3. Helping people thrive in their work environments

- Case studies of workplace mental health programs that have impact
- Implementing and supporting after-hours programs
- Post-pandemic mental health – new awareness/focus
- Mental health and wellness programs for remote and hybrid workers

4. Innovative technologies and models of care that address mental health human resource challenges and improve access

- New technologies/techniques in care delivery
- Examples of mental health supports in primary care e.g. referral pathways
- Programs/tools to address increased demand for mental health service
- Access to psychotherapy and virtual mental health care

5. Policy options to address mental health challenges

- Examples of cross-ministry/cross sector collaborations
- Innovations/ideas from other countries

6. Funding allocations and investments in mental health and substance-use disorder

- Economic analyses and funding models to support decision making and track system performance
- Financing/budgeting models that demonstrate value
- Compensation for less intense therapies
- Integration of psychotherapy and digital mental health supports

We are initially looking for a 200-word abstract that provides details of your proposed paper including key messages and potential value to readers. Abstracts are due January 19, 2024. Please feel free to contact us if you have comments, questions or suggestions. We look forward to receiving many interesting and important submissions.

For more information, or to submit an abstract, please contact:

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References

Centre for Mental Health and Addiction (CAMH). 2023. *Mental Illness and Addiction: Facts and Statistics*. Retrieved November 17, 2023. <<https://www.camh.ca/en/driving-change/the-crisis-is-real/mental-health-statistics>>.

Statistics Canada. 2021. *Self-Perceived Mental Health and Mental Health Care Needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Retrieved November 17, 2023. <<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2021001/article/00031-eng.htm>>.