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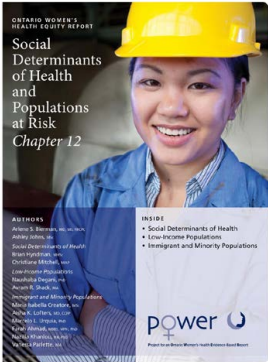
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Echo News - March 2012

Echo celebrates the final chapters of the POWER Study!



On February 28th, Echo, St. Michael's Hospital and the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) celebrated the launch of the final data chapter of the POWER (Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report) Study - [Social Determinants of Health and Populations at Risk](#).

The Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's Hospital provided a wonderful backdrop for the launch, which was followed by a reception with more than 70 health stakeholders in attendance.

Teresa Piruzza, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues representing Windsor West joined Echo to offer her congratulations and support for the crucial work of the POWER Study. Other attendees included Laurie Scott, Critic, Women's Issues and Critic Natural Resources (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes- Brock); Andreas Laupacis, Executive Director, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute; David Henry, President & CEO, ICES; members of Echo's Board of Directors; researchers, health professionals and other health system stakeholders.

Led by Dr. Arlene Bierman, ICES scientist and principal investigator of the POWER Study, the Social Determinants of Health and Populations at Risk chapter synthesizes prior analyses that examined the health of low-income, minority, and immigrant women, and enriches this by reporting additional indicators of the social determinants of health and immigrant women's health. Based on the analyses, opportunities were identified to improve health and health care and reduce inequities. Together with broad community consultation and dialogue, a Health Equity Road Map was also developed. The aim of the Road Map is to help move the province forward towards the goal of achieving health equity in Ontario.

The POWER Study has produced the most comprehensive provincial women's health report to date, examining a broad set of evidence-based indicators bridging population health and health system performance.

Please [click to download](#) a copy of the full chapter or the highlights document (which outlines the chapter's key findings and messages).

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RECENTLY UPDATED TOPICS

▶ Researchers urge action to improve health of all Ontarians

▶ Women experience greater complications and less life-saving therapy from ICD implantation: study

▶ Health Unit asks women about quit smoking services

▶ A Conversation on Menopause

▶ Nearly half of Ontario seniors do not see dentists regularly: study

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Also available for download at www.powerstudy.ca:

[Burden of Illness](#)

[Cancer](#)

[Depression](#)

[Cardiovascular Disease](#)

[Access to Health Care Services](#)

[Musculoskeletal Conditions](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[Reproductive and Gynaecological Health](#)

[HIV Infection](#)

[Older Women's Health Report](#)

The POWER Study's concluding chapter 'Achieving Health Equity in Ontario: Opportunities for Intervention and Improvement' will be available soon.

Visit our Facebook page to view [photos](#) from the event!

Caregiver report and advance



Many people in Ontario who live with chronic conditions or illnesses are cared for at home by family members and friends. These caregivers are predominantly women. Caregivers relieve some of the burden to the health care system, but often have support needs themselves: for information, coping strategies, and help to look after their own health. Echo commissioned [St. Elizabeth](#) to investigate what makes caregiver education and support programs effective. In this innovative project, caregivers were not only participants in interviews and focus groups; they were also members of the advisory committee and the research team itself. The resulting project report makes evidence-based recommendations that reflect the life experience of many caregivers. The team identified five promising practices and 20 practice indicators for effective caregiver education and support programs.

[Read "Promising Practices and Indicators for Caregiver Education and Support" Report](#)

[Read "A Guide to Promising Practices and Indicators for Caregiver Education and Support Programs" Report](#)

[Read the Executive Summary](#)

[Read the Echo Advance](#)

Echo comments on CPSOs updated medical records policy



The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) recently updated their policy on Medical Records to reflect changes in practice, particularly in relation to electronic medical records (EMRs). When they opened this draft policy for public comment, Echo responded.

We emphasized that EMRs help support standardized practices which help support equitable, quality provision of care. We also pointed to the evidence that women experience more complex co-occurring disorders, such as chronic conditions, or mental health/violence/substance abuse. Because of this, women may be accessing care at multiple points with multiple practitioners; interprofessional access to a woman's complete medical record is essential to mitigate her risks of misdiagnosis or adverse events, and to ensure she receives continuity of care.

The full response can be read [here](#).

Women's Mental Health Day recap!



On March 22, Echo held a Women's Mental Health event in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs, the Canadian Mental Health Association – Ontario, and the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario. The event, held at the Hyatt Regency on King, drew over 100 attendees from a range of professions including (but not limited to) nurse practitioners, social workers, occupational therapists, students, and policy-makers from around the province.

The success of the event was due in great part to the exceptional presenters.

Participants actively discussed how the content of presentations would inform their everyday practice.

Echo would like to thank our partners for their unflagging support in publicizing the day to their membership, as well as the excellent service and facilities provided by the venue, for making this event such a success.

Video excerpts will be posted soon.

Ignite Innovation website officially launched!



Echo and our Ignite Innovation partners are pleased to announce that the [Ignite Innovation website](#) has been launched. The website provides important information about Echo's Smoking Cessation and Maternal Health project for

service providers and policy-makers and supports communities across Ontario to connect with and learn from the project demonstration sites so that evidence-based programs can be developed by and for pregnant and recently pregnant women who smoke.

On the site you can find information on how to start a program in your community, how to connect with others who have experience using the project's approach, and how to influence policy to encourage effective and supportive approaches to smoking cessation across Ontario.

Please visit www.igniteinnovation.ca for more information.

Visit Echo at the Ontario Public Health Convention



On April 3rd and 4th, Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario will be attending the Ontario Public Health Convention in Toronto. On the Tuesday of the conference Echo will be presenting a workshop on smoking cessation entitled, "Creating Evidence-Informed and Community-Created Programs to Help Pregnant Women Quit Smoking". In this training workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn about evidence-informed and community-created program design processes. These program design processes are believed to be strong practice which will lead to improved health outcomes and reduced health inequities. This workshop will describe a community engagement approach used to support women of child-bearing years, who are experienced with smoking, to design smoking cessation programs for pregnant and postpartum women.

Wednesday April 4th, Echo will be holding a panel presentation at the conference. Echo was concerned that despite advances during the past several decades, breast and cervical cancer screening remain below the provincial targets, as many women have never been screened, or are not tested regularly. Low socioeconomic status, poverty, low levels of education, lack of knowledge and barriers to acculturation have been established as reasons for the low screening rates for Ontarian women. This panel discussion will concentrate on the efforts of Echo to increase cancer screening rates for women.

We encourage all attendees to visit our display booth for information on Echo's work.

Echo's Quality Cancer Screening Innovations Conference



Earlier this month, Echo and the Centre for Community-Based Research (CCBR)

hosted the "Quality Cancer Screening Innovations Conference" in Toronto. The conference was designed to support uptake of cancer screening promising practices by service providers and policy-makers.

More than 70 participants attended, including community women leaders and health care providers and policy-makers from across the province. Echo's partners, Anne Johnston Health Station, The Bay Centre for Birth Control, The Brampton Multicultural Community Centre, The New Canadian Centre of Excellence, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Durham Nurse Practitioner-Lead Clinic, and Tazim Virani and Associates made presentations about strong practice models. Similarly we heard presentations from Norwest Community Health Centre, Immigrant Women's Health Centre, The Wellness Centre at the Catholic Immigration Centre, and Cancer Care Ontario. Wendy Katherine, Manager of Women's and Family Health in the Health System Strategy and Policy Division of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care acted as Conference Chair providing context for discussions from the Ministry's perspective.

The day was designed to support senior service providers to extract and adapt key program elements from a rich array of promising practice models and tested demonstration projects to create or enhance cancer screening initiatives suited to the diverse women experiencing disadvantage in their respective communities.

Participants ended the day with a reception to celebrate International Women's Day.

To view Echo Advances on Echo's Cancer Screening initiative please click [here](#).

Join the Directory of Women's Health Researchers!



Sonia Anand

Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, McMaster University
Eli Lilly Canada-May Cohen Chair in Women's Health

There are almost 200 researchers in the [Directory of Women's Health Researchers](#).

The Directory seeks to provide a comprehensive listing of researchers working in the field of women's health and related areas and support a broad community of women's health scientists and students from across Ontario. Since its launch just over a year ago, the Directory has grown to include researchers from Brampton, Dryden, Guelph, Hamilton, Kenora, Kingston, Kitchener, London, Mississauga, North York, Oakville, Oshawa, Peterborough, Scarborough, St. Catharines, St. Thomas, Thunder Bay, Waterloo, Whitby and Windsor.

We encourage all researchers to [join the directory](#) to become a part of this growing resource. Non researchers are also invited to join as an Echo User to view profiles and search health issues of interest to you.

Interesting Resources:

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Mobile Health Solutions for Breast Cancer Case-Finding, Referral, and Navigation in Rural Bangladesh](#)

[Recommendations for a Healthier Ontario: Taking Action to Prevent Chronic Disease](#)

Observances:

April 7th is [World Health Day](#)
This day marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948.

The theme this year is Aging and Health.

Events:



April 2 – 4, 2012
Ontario Public Health Convention – Staying Ahead of the Curve
Venue: Sheraton Centre Downtown Toronto Hotel
Organizer: Public Health Ontario together with the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA).

[Read more](#)



April 30, 2012
Business of Aging -Care, Career & Caregiving
Venue: MaRS Centre Auditorium, 201 College Street, Toronto
Organizer: MaRS.

[Read more](#)



May 9, 2012
Innovation and Leadership in Rural and Northern Health Care
Venue: Radisson Admiral Hotel Toronto-Harbourfront, 249 Queen's Quay West, Toronto
Organizer: Ontario Hospital Association.

[Read more](#)



May 25, 2012
1st Canadian Conference on Bleeding Disorder in Women
Venue: Le Méridien King Edward, 37 King Street East, Toronto
Organizer: Canadian Hemophilia Society.

[Read more](#)



May 23, 2012
Canada's 1st Applied Research Conference in Cancer Control
Venue: Hilton Bonaventure Hotel, 900 de la Gauchetiere W, Montreal
Organizer: Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control.

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