



About Echo	What We Do	News	Research to Action	For Health Professionals	Researcher Directory	Contact Us
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NEWS

News Archive

Calendar

Newsletter

Newsletter Archive

Echo News - January 2013

Happy New Year!

In this year's first issue, we are very pleased to be releasing the Cancer Screening Evaluation Reports and the Women's Health Leadership Program video.

Echo's website will be shutting down March 2013, at which time links to our reports and Echo Advances will no longer be available. In this newsletter you will find all the links to the Echo Advances and reports that have been released to date.

At the end of this month, we will be releasing a special edition newsletter containing Echo's legacy document, *Sharing the Legacy - Supporting Future Action*.

Evaluating Strong Practices to Increase Cancer Screening Among Marginalized Women

It is well documented that certain groups of women have a disproportionate lack of access to cervical, breast, and colon cancer screening interventions. These women include immigrant women, low income women, Aboriginal women, and women who are living with disability. From 2009-2012, Echo embarked on partnerships with community-based organizations to increase access to cancer screening for marginalized women. Echo funded an independent evaluation to assess the three demonstration sites, which were:

- 1) Bay Centre for Birth Control (BCBC) Colposcopy Services: focus on serving diverse women from inner city communities in Toronto.
- 2) Brampton Multicultural Community Centre (BMC): focus on supporting women from South Asia to obtain cervical and breast cancer screening.
- 3) The Anne Johnston Health Station (AJHS): focus on serving women with physical disAbilities and mobility barriers to obtain cervical screening.

Evaluation findings indicate that each site demonstrated a strong practice model for improving cancer screening rates and quality of care for their respective communities. A fourth evaluation report highlights the success of the social capital approach¹ that Echo undertook to support the strengthening, spread, and evaluation of each model.

As part of this approach, in October 2012 Echo co-hosted two 'bridge'2 events with AJHS and BMC to adapt and adopt these successful models to Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre and Social Services Network, respectively.

Read the full reports and Echo Advances on the bridge events and evaluation reports.

1The social capital framework used in this study refers to the quality and quantity of relationships, networks, and norms among people and organizations that facilitate collective action, which is based on description of social capital formation drawn from an extensive review of the literature by the Social Planning Network of Ontario

2Based on the Social Capital Approach Echo is using to spread the knowledge of demonstration sites around the Province, bridging involves bringing together demonstration sites and new sites so that the new sites can adapt and adopt

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the promising practice models from the demonstration sites.

The Women's Health Leadership Program Video
Enabling, Illuminating, Empowering

From 2010 to 2012, the Women's Health Leadership Program brought women together from across Ontario through training retreats to:

- Help build a greater understanding of the ways sex and gender affect health and health care.
- Offer women the leadership tools and skills to work towards improving the quality of women's health and health care in their communities.
- Provide opportunities to network with women who are active in women's health.

This video highlights the voices of a number of Women's Health Leadership Program participants who shared their perspectives and experiences of the program and women's health in their communities.

The Women's Health Leadership Program was offered by the OWHN in partnership with Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario.

To watch the video, click [here](#).

For more information contact the [Ontario Women's Health Network](#) at owhn@owhn.on.ca

To download Echo Reports and Echo Advances, click on the links!

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