

Project Summaries

Partnerships for Child and Youth Health Indicators Competition

Canadian Injury Indicators Team: Child & Youth Policy Indicators

Principal Investigators: BRUSSONI, Mariana J - University of British Columbia / MACPHERSON, Alison - York University (Toronto, Ontario), University of British Columbia

Co-Applicants: BABUL, Shelina / BARR, Ronald G / DESAPRIYA, Ediriweera B / GROFF, Philip R / HAMEED, Syed M / HERMAN, Matthew S / HEWITT, Allyson / HOWARD, Andrew W / MACARTHUR, Colin / PIKE, Ian / RAINA, Parminder S / SIMONS, Richard K / STATHOKOSTAS, Liza / SWAINE, Bonnie R / WARDA, Lynne J / YANCHAR, Natalie L / YOUNG, Julian B

Goals/Objectives: The overall goal of this research is to investigate Policy Indicators (reflecting known effective interventions and having sufficient research evidence for defining 'best practice' policy) and the associated risk factor and outcome indicators necessary for interpretation, uptake, and action. Specific objectives include: 1) to specify and validate **five policy indicators**, including definitions, data sources, methods, and limitations, 2) to identify the most feasible methods for **monitoring** and **reporting** these indicators as specified, and to address related deficiencies (e.g. availability, coding, methodology), 3) to **assess** the usability and **utility of policy indicators** for the stakeholder group(s) invested in the policy/theme area, 4) to investigate the **feasibility** of a periodic injury **Risk Indicator survey** examining the prevalence of key observable behaviours relevant to the policy areas of interest.

The proposed research will focus on five injury prevention policy indicators: 1) child restraint legislation, 2) graduated driver licensing legislation, 3) bicycle helmet legislation, 4) regulations requiring compliance with the CSA playground standard, and 5) the presence of coordinated pediatric trauma services. Each of these indicators will be evaluated on three levels: the policy level, the risk factor level, and the outcome level.

Term: 3 YRS

Measuring the Quality of Hospital Care for Children and Youth in Canada

Principal Investigators: GUTTMANN, Astrid - Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences-Toronto / ANDERSON, Geoffrey M - Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences-Toronto / Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Co-Applicants: MATLOW, Anne G / MOORE, Charlotte / PARSHURAM, Christopher S / STUKEL, Therese A / TO, Teresa

Goals/Objectives: To define a set of relevant, sound and where possible, feasible quality measures that can be applied across the continuum of hospital-based care for children. Investigators will capitalize on existing measures through a critical review of the medical and grey literature. The team will be guided by input from an advisory committee made up of key stakeholders with interests in accountability and quality improvement, and by hospital utilization data from Ontario to delineate the most **relevant** areas and clinical conditions for indicator refinement and development. Using modified Delphi techniques, medical and surgical expert panels will be used to define indicators that are clinically **sound**. The investigators will then work with data custodians and experienced health services researchers to assess how **feasible** it will be to measure these indicators with existing data and to identify key priorities for future data development and validation. Canadian hospital data will be used to report on selected feasible measures and compare quality across different care settings.

Term: 3 YRS

Developing an Assessment Framework and Indicators for Pediatric Oncology Services in Ontario

Principal Investigators: KLASSEN, Anne F - McMaster University / GREENBERG, Corin M - Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (Toronto) / McMaster University **Co-Applicants:** BARR, Ronald D / CHAN, Yee-Ching L / GREENBERG, Mark L

Goals/Objectives: There is currently no framework in place to systematically manage and analyze data for monitoring the performance of the system of health care delivery to children with cancer and their families. The overall goal of this research is to develop a conceptual framework and identify a set of health care performance indicators for reporting on different aspects of the pediatric oncology health care services in Ontario. Various approaches can be used to evaluate health care system performance. The 'balanced scorecard' method has been selected for adaptation to a framework specifically for pediatric oncology. This approach translates an organization's strategic initiatives into objectives that are measured by specific indicators, providing managers with a comprehensive but streamlined set of information linking health service policies and outcomes.

Term: 2 YRS

Child Maltreatment and the Risks of Deliberate Self-Harm

Principal Investigators: RHODES, Anne E - St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto) / WEKERLE, Christine M - University of Western Ontario / St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto) **Co-Applicants:** BOYLE, Michael H / GOODMAN, Deborah / LEUNG, Erman Y

Goals/Objectives: To build new knowledge and develop tools to support the implementation of strategies to improve the health of children and youths at risk for maltreatment or maltreated in Canada. Important components of the project will be the development of an ongoing structure and process with partners and decision-makers to select the indicators; to translate the knowledge generated, and to enhance research capacity by supporting trainees. Sex differences in outpatient medical care and presentations to the emergency department (ED), e.g. for injuries and self-poisonings, will be an initial focus based on the much higher prevalence of suicidal ideation in this cohort and concerns about the impact of sex differences in access to care on outcomes for maltreated males and females

Term: 3 YRS

Development of an Indicator of the Impact of Assistive Devices on Children with Disabilities and Their Families

Principal Investigators: RYAN, Stephen E - Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto) / CAMPBELL, Kent A - Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto) / SAWATZKY, Bonita J - University of British Columbia / Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto) **Co-Applicants:** MCKEEVER, Patricia D / MONTPETIT, Kathleen / PERKIN, Susan / RIGBY, Patricia J / ROXBOROUGH, Lauren A / STEVENS, Joan C

Goals/Objectives: The proposed study is designed to answer the primary research question: "How does child and family life change over 18 months for Canadian families of children with physical disabilities. Aged 14-15 years, following the introduction and use of prescribed manual wheelchairs, as measured by the Family Impact of Assistive Technology Scale (FIATS)?" This study is important because it will provide decision makers with a clearer understanding of the impact of funded wheelchair technologies on child and family life.

Term: 3 YRS

Evaluating the Validity and Responsiveness of the FOCUS: Focus on the Outcomes of Communication Under Six

Principal Investigators: THOMAS-STONELL, Nancy L - Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto) / MACLEAN, Claire - Ministry of Children and Youth Services (Toronto, Ontario) / ODDSON, Bruce - Laurentian University of Sudbury / ROSENBAUM, Peter L - McMaster University / Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto)

Goals/Objectives: Outcome evaluation is critical to improving the effectiveness of therapy in an evidence-based manner. Clinicians and health policy makers need valid and reliable communication outcome measures to evaluate the impact of preschool speech and language services. This study will evaluate the concurrent validity of the FOCUS (an outcome measure that links speech and language treatment to child's ability to *participate* in their world) and its responsiveness to change. Validity will be established by comparing FOCUS scores with scores from the Children's Speech Intelligibility Measure. Responsiveness will be evaluated using a repeated measures group design. Once completed, the FOCUS will be made available, at no cost, to health care organizations across Canada.

Term: 3 YRS

Functional status indicators for young children with cerebral palsy: evaluating ability to detect change and determining clinically important change

Principal Investigators: WRIGHT, Virginia F - Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto) / WRIGHT, Jeff D - Ministry of Children and Youth Services (Toronto, Ontario) / Bloorview Kids Rehab (Toronto) **Co-Applicants:** FEHLINGS, Darcy L / FERGUSON, Joan M / GOLDSMITH, Charles H / MCLEAN, Mary Anne / RIGBY, Patricia J / ROSENBAUM, Peter L / STRATFORD, Paul W

Goals/Objectives: This national, multi-centre study will take two recognized approaches to determine sensitivity to change and minimal clinically important differences (MCIDs) associated with the WeeFIM Instrument and the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (two established measures of functional outcome) in young children with cerebral palsy. This work will provide decision makers with valid benchmarks for change that can be used in making decisions about program provision and resources.

Term: 3 YRS
