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Student Presentation  
Abstracts

**A CASE STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATED MIDWIFERY IN MANITOBA**

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**Purpose:** The objectives of this mixed-methods case study were to describe the utilization of midwifery health care services in Manitoba from 2001/02 to 2009/10 and explore factors influencing the implementation and utilization of regulated midwifery services in Manitoba.

**Method:** Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection were utilized. The evidence was derived from three sources: documents, administrative data, and interviews. The quantitative analyses used population-based administrative data from the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy. Twenty-four key informants were purposively selected for semi-structured interviews. Content analysis was used to identify themes from both the interviews and document review.

**Results:** There was modest growth in the overall rate of midwifery-attended births, as well as in the number of midwives over the 10-year time period. Three main topic areas were explored: barriers, facilitators, and future strategies/recommendations. Themes arising under barriers included conflict and power; lack of an educational program; perceptions of the profession, and a precarious profession. Issues of gender underpinned some of these barriers. Constituent influence was a prominent facilitator of the profession. Future strategies for sustaining the midwifery profession focused on ensuring avenues for registration and education, improving management strategies and accountability frameworks, enhancing the work environment, and evaluating the model of practice and employment.

**Summary:** The number of midwives in Manitoba has not met projected targets, and there remains an inherent struggle to justify and sustain the profession. The findings have implications for policies and programs that aim to promote utilization of midwifery services in Manitoba and across Canada.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT THROUGH AN INCOME-RELATED HEALTH EQUITY LENS:  
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM A MANITOBA REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

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**Purpose:** The community health assessment (CHA) process in Manitoba has not been reviewed from an income-related health equity perspective to date. The purpose of this presentation is twofold:

- 1) to explore how one RHA incorporated an income equity lens in their process; and
- 2) to discuss the facilitating and impeding factors for incorporating such a lens.

**Method:** This research used case study methodology. Three cases (i.e., RHAs) were selected due to their diversity. This presentation will only include the preliminary analysis from one of the RHAs (i.e., cases). Data collection involved document reviews of key organizational reports and individual interviews with CHA staff and senior management/board members using a semi-structured interview guide. Interview data were audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim. NVivo (version 10) was used to manage, code, and analyze the transcripts. Categorical aggregation was used to establish themes from the data.

**Results:** Several high level themes (e.g., income-related health equity is often viewed from a health services perspective; quantitative data is limited and only provides one side of the story; community relationships are critical; “partnerships” is a blurry area in this process) emerged from the data and will be discussed in the presentation.

**Summary:** Several recommendations are made towards an equity-focused CHA, which could result in more useful and valuable information to assist in regional and provincial health strategic planning activities. In addition, the focus and generation of knowledge on income-related health equity through the CHA process will raise the profile on the social determinants of health.

## **TASK-ORIENTED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH ARTHRITIS OF THE HANDS: RESULTS OF A PILOT RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL**

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**Purpose:** A task-oriented training program incorporating real life object manipulations has been developed for people with arthritis of the hands. For this purpose, an innovative computer-based gaming platform that allows a broad range of objects used for therapy to be transformed seamlessly into a common input device (i.e. equivalent to a plug-n-play computer mouse) has been developed. Objects are selected, personalized to target specific training goals such as graded finger mobility, strength, endurance or fine/gross manual dexterity. The movements and object manipulation tasks that replicate common situations in everyday living will then be used to control and play any computer game, making practice challenging and engaging.

A pilot randomized controlled trial was conducted, 1) to describe feasibility in terms of study procedures, resources, and interventions, and 2) to determine preliminary estimation of therapeutic effectiveness of the task-oriented training program in 15 people with RA or HOA.

**Methods:** The control group (CG) performed conventional hand exercises and the experimental group (EG) the task-oriented training program for 6 weeks. Performance based hand function, self reported hand function ability, and exercise compliance were the study outcomes.

**Results:** The pilot trial demonstrated feasibility of study procedures and interventions. From baseline to six weeks, the total time taken to complete six common dexterous tasks of daily living improved by 12.5% in the CG, and 16.5% in the EG. Scores on self-reported hand function ability showed improvements by 27% in the CG and 17% in the EG. Exercise compliance rate was >80% in both groups.

**Summary:** The study findings were very encouraging. Task-oriented training program coupled with computer gaming was feasible in delivering personalized training for people with arthritis.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF A PHN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MODEL USING PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH**

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**Purpose:** A common vision for public health nurses (PHN) based on the Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) discipline specific competencies and full scope of practice has been identified as a national priority. The intention of this study was to develop a model for service delivery with PHNs in an urban Canadian city, grounded in the experience and local context of PHNs.

**Method:** This qualitative study used a participatory action research (PAR) approach with PHNs to develop a Professional Practice Model based on the full scope of PHN practice. Data was gathered using a semi-structured interview guide during audio-recorded group meetings from November 2012 to July 2013. A reflexive journal and field notes were kept. The data was analyzed using qualitative methods. A significant feature was that participants were involved in all aspects of the data collection and analysis process.

**Results:** A PPM was developed to foster PHN full scope of PHN practice and role clarity, with a focus on early childhood development and equity. The result was a shift in PHN practice with greater awareness of health equity. A PAR approach was essential in developing the framework and common language necessary to articulate the PHN role within the health system.

**Summary:** A Professional Practice Model is a key organizational tool that provides the framework to articulate the PHN role and value within the health system. These findings can be used to more clearly define the PHN role, especially related to early childhood development and equity, so that a consistent and evidence-based PHN practice is attainable.

**EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDHOOD EMOTIONAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT AND MENTAL DISORDERS: RESULTS FROM A NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE ADULT SAMPLE FROM THE UNITED STATES**

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**Purpose.** Child maltreatment is recognized as a substantial public health concern. However, compared to research on physical and sexual abuse, far less is known about the long term impact of emotional maltreatment on mental health. The purpose of this study was to examine the association of childhood emotional maltreatment and mental disorders using a nationally representative adult sample from the United States.

**Method.** Data were from the National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions collected in 2004 and 2005 (n=34,653). Logistic regression analyses were conducted to examine differences in the prevalence of Axis I and Axis II mental disorders based on childhood emotional maltreatment status.

**Results.** In models adjusting for sociodemographics, all categories of emotional maltreatment (emotional neglect, emotional abuse, and both emotional neglect and abuse) were associated with elevated odds of virtually every mental disorder assessed in this study. Relationships were attenuated, but a substantial proportion remained statistically significant, even after further adjustment for other forms of child maltreatment and a family history of dysfunction. The effects appeared to be greater for active (i.e., emotional abuse) relative to passive (i.e., emotional neglect) forms of emotional maltreatment.

**Summary.** Childhood emotional maltreatment, particularly emotionally abusive acts, are associated with lifetime diagnoses of a number of different mental disorders. Parents and other caregivers need to be made aware of the harmful effects that emotional maltreatment has on children's mental health. These findings can be used to better inform child maltreatment prevention and intervention efforts.

**A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE ONTARIO LUNG ASSOCIATION'S QUIT AND GET FIT WEBSITE**

Reija Karioja

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**Purpose:** Mass media campaigns are frequently used as a means to disseminate health-based educational messages such as quitting smoking. While these campaigns are an important endeavour, it is important to realize that they are the products of complex social phenomena. Discourse analysis is a methodology used to critically analyze text in all its forms and situate it in the context in which it occurs. The purpose of this project was to analyze the text of the website of a current quit smoking promotional campaign, *Quit and Get Fit* using critical discourse.

**Method:** The *Quit and Get Fit* website was analyzed using a feminist poststructuralist lens in conjunction with an intersectionality framework.

**Results:** Examples of power relationships emerged as evidenced through the voice of privilege. Stereotypical gender roles were observed along with the failure to take into consideration race, class and culture in this campaign. The biomedical perspective was the dominant approach used to disseminate knowledge to the public. No consideration was given to other factors that can affect a smoker's attempt to quit including environmental, social, economic systems or social class.

**Summary:** Acknowledging the value of the *Quit and Get Fit* website, there are several areas in which it can improve upon. Including a diverse population that represents the entirety and reality of those who smoke is strongly recommended. Adopting language that is clear and straightforward and is inclusionary is also strongly recommended.