

Women's Environmental Scan Project

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RESEARCH PROJECTS FROM THE HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS DATABASE

(<http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov> – search “other collections”)

Part A: Research Related to Violence against Women

1. Title: Women with Physical Disabilities and Abuse.

Investigator: Phillips, Dena S.

Investigator Affiliation: Oregon Health & Science University

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Fax Number: (503) 418-0903

Email Address: phillide@ohsu.edu

Performing Organization: Oregon Health & Science University, US

Supporting Agency: National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

Initial Year: 2001/04

Final Year: 2003/03

Description: The specific aims of the proposed study are: (1) to describe women with physical disabilities' lived experiences of abuse in the context of society; (2) to describe women with physical disabilities' concerns and background meanings with regard to the influence of abuse on their emotional, social and physical well-being; and (3) to recommend abuse assessment and intervention strategies to prevent and end the problem of abuse as it occurs among women with physical disabilities. To achieve these aims the proposed study will employ a critical hermeneutic design. This approach allows for the context and meaning of everyday life experiences to emerge. Thirty women with physical disabilities from diverse ethnic backgrounds who have experienced abuse will participate in two unstructured individual interviews. The long-term goal of this program of research is to promote the health and safety of women with physical disabilities by increasing awareness and promoting a contextual understanding of their abuse experiences. It is anticipated that this understanding will facilitate the development of clinically relevant intervention strategies specifically targeted for use with this vulnerable population.

2. Title: Treatment Outcomes for Abused Women in Public Clinics.

Investigator: Groff, Janet Y.

Investigator Affiliation: UT- Houston Medical School

Investigator Phone: (713) 500-7590

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Performing Organization: University of Texas Health Sciences Center Houston, US

Supporting Agency: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Initial Year: 2000/09

Final Year: 2004/08

Project: This 4-year randomized controlled trial will design, implement, and test the efficacy

of nurse case management and group education for African-American, Hispanic, and White abused women attending inner city primary care clinics. These clinics are part of a countywide system that maintains a computerized information system of inpatient and outpatient encounters. The theoretically-based intervention will build on empirically tested components designed to: increase safety planning behaviors; increase self-efficacy for safety behaviors; decrease frequency and severity of abuse; improve physical, emotional and social well-being; decrease unscheduled medical care utilization; and increase work productivity. An additional objective is to evaluate the impact of the interventions on the health and functional status and medical utilization of abused women's children.

3. Title: Outcomes for Intimate Partner Violence--Patient and Provider Perspectives.

Investigator: Rodriguez, Michael.

Investigator Affiliation: University of California San Francisco, US

Investigator Phone: (415) 206-4989

Fax Number: (415) 206-8387

Email Address: mrodriguez@medsch.ucsf.edu

Performing Organization: University of California San Francisco

Supporting Agency: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Initial Year: 2000/09

Final Year: 2004/09

Background: In this study Intimate partner violence (IPV) is examined within the context of it being a major public health problem. The broad long-term objectives of this work are to develop methodologies for effectiveness research that have the capacity to sensitively measure the heterogeneity of health problems associated with IPV among diverse patient populations. Such methods are critical to understanding the short- and long-term health care outcomes for IPV interventions within the health care settings.

Project: The specific aims of the proposed project are to: (a) quantify the importance that women patients in public sector prenatal care place on potential health care outcomes for IPV interventions with a focus on Latino women; (b) quantify the importance that providers of public sector prenatal care place on potential health care outcomes for IPV interventions with their patients; and (c) describe the long-term alterations in Health Related Quality of Life of IPV-exposed women, comparing estimates calculated with outcomes valued according to patient and provider preferences. The adaptation of the method of effectiveness measurement will provide a comprehensive indicator of an intervention's impact on health status in a patient-centered manner that helps to insure that low SES and minority women are not marginalized in the process of evaluating and refining IPV interventions for health care settings.

4. Title: Alcohol, Violence, and Health Services in Rural Women.

Investigator: Logan, T K.

Investigator Affiliation: Center on Drug & Alcohol Research
Investigator Phone: (606) 257-8248
Email Address: tklogan@popuky.edu
Performing Organization: University of Kentucky
Supporting Agency: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
Initial Year: 2000/09
Final Year: 2005/05

Background: Alcohol use and intimate violence are significant public health problems for women that contribute to injury, poor health, mental illness, and disability.

Project: This project seeks to understand the role alcohol use may play in both health service utilization and victimization experiences by using baseline and follow-up interviews as well as event history data collection and analysis with intimate violence victims. Further, limited research indicates that the incidence of intimate violence across geographic areas may be similar. However, the qualitative experiences of intimate violence victims may differ across geographic areas. **(Within this context the overall aim of this study is to examine the effect of alcohol on the nature, extent, and co-occurrence of health service utilization over time among rural and urban women who have a protective order for intimate violence.)**

5. Title: Violence against Women and Health Care Services.

Investigator: McCloskey, Laura.
Investigator Affiliation: Harvard School of Public Health
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Performing Organization: Harvard University School of Public Health
Supporting Agency: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
Initial Year: 2000/09
Final Year: 2005/08

Background: Hospitals have responded to the threat of physical abuse against women by investing in either staff training or in-house programs for the purpose of identifying, referring or treating abused women who present to medical settings. There is a wide range in the scope, intensity and cost of these hospital-based interventions.

Project: The aim of this case-control research project is to compare the impact of these interventions on the mental and physical health of abused women. Specifically, at least 400 women drawn from several hospitals in the city of Boston will be interviewed and tracked over four years, with care to assure their safety and the confidentiality of their participation. Their well being will be compared to a control group of women matched from the same general source population. Finally, the long-term health care utilization of the women will be regularly assessed. It is anticipated that the findings will offer new information on the cost effectiveness of a variety of hospital-based interventions, leading to specific recommendations

Part B: Research Related to Breast Cancer and other Cancers

6. Title: Community trial to increase cancer-screening adherence.

Investigator: Fox, Sarah A.

Investigator Affiliation: RAND

Investigator Phone: (310) 393-0411

Email Address: sarah.fox@rand.org

Performing Organization: RAND Corporation

Supporting Agency: National Cancer Institute (NCI), US

Initial Year: 1998/09

Final Year: 2003/03

Background: Certain cancer screening tests are effective in early detection, most notably, the tests used for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers. These tests, all of which are endorsed by the U.S. Preventive Task Force for women over age 50, include mammography, clinical breast examination (CBE), Pap smear, and fecal occult blood test (FOBT). In spite of widespread endorsement, many women do not systematically receive these tests.

Project: This is especially true for certain subpopulations --Hispanics, poorer women, and women without health insurance. This is a randomized trial involving a sample of primary care physicians drawn from 29 contiguous communities in Los Angeles. The trial has four specific aims: 1) develop, pretest, and implement a multifaceted physician intervention designed to increase physician use and referral rates for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening for under screened female patients, 2) identify and track for two years the screening rates of female patients over age 50 for mammography, CBE, Pap, and FOBT, 3) compare the intervention versus control to estimate the cost effectiveness ratio for the intervention relative to the control, and 4) evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed intervention in achieving its stated goals

7. Title: Home based moderate exercise for breast cancer patients.

Investigator: Pinto, Bernardine M.

Investigator Affiliation: Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

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Performing Organization: Miriam Hospital

Supporting Agency: National Cancer Institute (NCI), US

Initial Year: 1998/09

Final Year: 2003/08

Background: Innovative treatments for the rehabilitation of the growing number of cancer survivors are sorely needed. Breast cancer patients who have completed medical treatment for cancer experience considerable psychological distress (e.g., anxiety, depression, poor body image), and physical symptoms of fatigue and weight gain that can last several years post-treatment. Exercise participation in other populations has been shown to reduce affective distress, improve body image, increase sense of empowerment, and reduce fatigue and weight gain.

Project: This study proposes to examine the feasibility of a home-based moderate exercise program among breast cancer survivors and the benefits that these women could gain from participating in such a program. One hundred and thirty-four women with early-stage breast cancer (stages 0, I and II diagnosed within the past two years) who have completed surgery and adjuvant therapy will be invited to participate. By evaluating the effects of a home-based exercise program on quality of life and mood in cancer survivors, this study can serve as a precursor to examining the long-term effects of exercise on quality of life and cancer recurrence. This study also raises the intriguing possibility of elucidating the physiological effects of exercise on hormonal and immune mechanisms involved in breast cancer.

8. Title: Risk perception and genetic testing for breast cancer susceptibility.

Investigator: Armstrong, Katrina.

Investigator Affiliation: University of Pennsylvania, 423 Guardian Drive, Philadelphia, US

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Email Address: karmstro@mail.med.upenn.edu

Performing Organization: University of Pennsylvania

Supporting Agency: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Initial Year: 1998/09

Final Year: 2003/08

Background: In the last ten years, the identification of cancer susceptibility genes has transformed genetic susceptibility testing for common cancers from a distant promise to an immediate clinical reality. Despite the simple appeal of defining individual risk based on genetic susceptibility, the practical reality of genetic susceptibility testing is complex. For testing to succeed in identifying high risk individuals in an environment where cost and other concerns are likely to preclude population based screening, counseling and testing must be directed to individuals at risk of carrying a mutation. Very little is known about the factors affecting the utilization of genetic testing outside a research setting. Understanding the role of risk perception and risk communication in this process is critical to our ability to direct limited counseling and testing resources to individuals at risk, and, thereby, realize the maximum clinical and public health benefit from genetic susceptibility testing. Project: The first study will use a case-control design to compare women who undergo genetic counseling for breast cancer susceptibility to women from the same population who do not. The second study will use a prospective cohort design to measure the effect of genetic counseling on risk perception and the relationship between risk perception, predicted risk and decisions about genetic susceptibility testing. Together, these studies will provide a comprehensive overview of the utilization of BRCA 1/2 testing and form the foundation for the candidate's transition to an independent researcher in preventive oncology.

9. Title: Informal Social Networks and Breast Cancer Screening in Black Women.

Investigator: Chiasson, Mary Ann.

Investigator Affiliation: Medical and Health Research Association of New York City

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Performing Organization: Medical and Health Research Association of New York City, Inc. (MHRA)

Supporting Agency: New York State Health Research Science Board (EMPIRE)

Initial Year: 2002/01

Final Year: 2003/12

Background: In medically under served communities, social networks may play a role in promoting healthy behaviors when traditional health education messages may not be effective. This proposal intends to inform the breast cancer research community more fully about the breast cancer screening knowledge and practices of older, low-income African-American and West Indian women in New York City.

Project: The study will explore the feasibility of a health information delivery model that engages young women to act as conduits of health related information to their older female relatives. Validating this delivery model in the African-American and West Indian populations will provide another strategy to disseminate information about breast cancer as well as increase screening initiation among women who may be medically under served.

10. Title: Chemotherapy Decisions and Outcomes for the Elderly.

Investigator: Mandelblatt, Jeanne S.

Investigator Affiliation: Georgetown University Medical Center, US

Investigator Phone: (202) 687-0812

Fax Number: (202) 687-0305

Performing Organization: Georgetown University

Supporting Agency: National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Initial Year: 2001/07

Final Year: 2006/05

Background: The elderly, who represent half of the 185,000 new cases of breast cancer and two-thirds of the deaths, have failed to realize any of the benefits of recent mortality reductions seen in younger women. At present, more than 40 percent of the elderly women who are diagnosed each year will have regional disease, where adjuvant chemotherapy can have survival benefits. At present, it is not understood how preferences contribute to the divergence of the patterns of care and guidelines for the elderly, and we have little data concerning the outcomes of chemotherapy in this age group. Understanding the role of risk perception and risk communication in this process is critical to the ability to direct limited counseling and testing resources to individuals at risk, and, thereby, realize the maximum clinical and public health benefit from genetic susceptibility testing.

Project: To fill this gap, Lombardi Cancer Center's Cancer and Aging and Outcomes Research programs, together with the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) propose to study a large prospective cohort of newly-diagnosed elderly breast cancer patients with regional disease. Utilization of genetic testing outside a research setting. The project will

involve two studies. The first study will use a case-control design to compare women who undergo genetic counseling for breast cancer susceptibility to women from the same population who do not. The second study will use a prospective cohort design to measure the effect of genetic counseling on risk perception and the relationship between risk perception, predicted risk and decisions about genetic susceptibility testing. Together, these studies will provide a comprehensive overview of the utilization of BRCA 1/2 testing and form the foundation for the candidate's transition to an independent researcher in preventive oncology.

Part C: Research Related to Women's Reproduction

11. Title: Reducing pre term birth by bacterial vaginosis screening.

Investigator: Paige, David.

Investigator Affiliation: School of Hygiene and Public Health, US

Investigator Phone: (410) 955-3804

Performing Organization: Johns Hopkins University

Supporting Agency: Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Initial Year: 1997/10

Final Year: 2002/09

Background: Despite the dramatic decrease in the infant mortality rate over the past several years, pre term and low weight births remain an intractable problem within the MCH community and contribute to high rates of neonatal morbidity and mortality. The problem is most acute among African-American women who have almost double the number of pre term live births and more than double the percentage of low birth weight newborns than do white women. Despite advances in the science of obstetrics, understanding the basic causes of pre term labor, low birth weight, and intrauterine growth retardation is limited. It is known that the determinants of low birth weight, including genetic, social, environmental, and behavioral factors, as well as underlying medical or biological conditions. In many cases of premature birth, however, no association with a pathologic factor can be identified. Newly published experimental data suggests infections of the genital tract double the number of pre term births, contributing up to 40% of pre term births. Bacterial vaginosis (BV), the term applied to an overgrowth of bacteria resulting in vaginal infection, is the most prevalent cause of vaginitis found in childbearing women today. BV doubles the risk of spontaneous preterm delivery and has been experimentally associated with a number of other adverse birth outcomes. Pregnant African-American women have nearly three times the level of BV as pregnant white women.

Project: This community-based intervention study is designed to determine the effect of a screening/treatment program for BV, which will be integrated into existing prenatal services. The program will identify and treat asymptomatic and symptomatic pregnant African-American women with BV in order to reduce preterm and low birthweight births.

12. Title: Evaluating a decision tool for prenatal testing.

Investigator: Kuppermann, Miriam.

Investigator Affiliation: University of California San Francisco, US

Investigator Phone: (415) 502-4089

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Performing Organization: University of California San Francisco

Supporting Agency: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Initial Year: 1999/09

Final Year: 2002/09

Project: This proposal seeks to pilot test, refine and evaluate an existing computerized prenatal testing decision-assisting tool. The tool is designed to assist pregnant women and their partners in making choices regarding prenatal diagnostic testing for fetal chromosomal

abnormalities, including maternal serum screening, chronic villus sampling, amniocentesis, ultrasonography and no testing. It is believed that the evaluation of such decision-assisting tools is timely and important; the need for methods to support patient decision making will grow as prenatal testing guidelines change to accommodate individual preferences, and as new genetic screens become available as a result of the Human Genome Project. The researchers will conduct a randomized controlled trial in 400 eligible women to measure the effect of the tool on knowledge about prenatal testing and its outcomes; satisfaction with decision making; and utilization of prenatal diagnostic testing. We hypothesize that women randomized to use the tool will have higher satisfaction and greater knowledge regarding prenatal testing. Researchers will also hypothesize that they will seek prenatal diagnostic testing at a different rate than women randomized to the control intervention. Researchers will test these hypotheses in women who are currently eligible for testing: women who are 35 or older or who have abnormal maternal serum screening results. Researchers will assemble a racially/ethnically and socioeconomically diverse cohort for the study. The long-term research goal is to develop methods to assist women of all ages to make informed decisions about prenatal testing, and to gain insight into how to develop patient-centered decision-assisting tools for other health decisions.

13. Title: Patient Satisfaction with Decision-Making About HRT (Advanced Career Development Award).

Investigator: Bastian, Lori.

Investigator Phone: (919) 286-0411

Fax Number: (919) 286-6825

Performing Organization: Durham VAMC

Supporting Agency: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Initial Year: 2000/01

Final Year: 2002/12

Background: It has been proposed that the topics of menopause and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) best illustrate the gap between the needs and expectations of the woman for information and what is provided by the physician. The decisions that women veterans and their physicians make at midlife regarding HRT may have considerable consequences for the capacity of healthy aging.

Project: The major goals of this project are to: 1) become familiar with the decision analysis literature and decision-making theory, 3) review the available models of HRT decision making and either pick the best model or synthesize a model using several of the best models available, and 4) design a decision support intervention for women veterans that includes decision aids promoting informed decision-making and decision models that encourage them to make optimal decisions about HRT.

14. Title: Individual, Family and Societal Outcomes of Infertility

Investigator: Croughan-Minihan, Mary.

Investigator Affiliation: University of California

Investigator Phone: (415) 476-0502

Fax Number: (415) 476-6051

Email Address: mscroug@itsa.ucsf.edu

Performing Organization: University of California, San Francisco

Supporting Agency: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Initial Year: 1999/07

Final Year: 2004/06

Project: The primary aim of this retrospective cohort study is to determine whether naturally and treatment-achieved pregnancies among infertility patients are at higher risk for adverse outcomes as compared to naturally conceived pregnancies achieved by fertile women and where these differences persist after controlling for maternal and infant factors such as maternal age, parity, and gestational age. The outcomes of interest include pregnancy complications (e.g., IUGR, placental complications, and pre-eclampsia), labor and delivery complications (e.g., operative delivery and still birth), and neonatal complications (e.g., death, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation).

Part D: Research Related to Mental Health

15. Title: Effects on children of treating maternal depression.

Investigator: Riley, Anne W.

Investigator Affiliation: Johns Hopkins University, 624 North Broadway

Investigator Phone: (410) 955-1058

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Performing Organization: Johns Hopkins University

Supporting Agency: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Initial Year: 1998/04

Final Year: 2003/02

Background: Maternal depression has devastating effects on the mental and physical health of children. An obvious first step to solving this social and public health problem is to determine the effects of treatment of maternal depression on children.

Project: This project captures a unique opportunity to study the influence of treating maternal depression on children ages 5-11 by studying children of women taking part in an NIMH-funded randomized treatment of a depression trial led by the co-principal investigator. Furthermore, this study fills gaps in the literature on the impact of maternal depression in three ways, by studying: 1) children of women screened while obtaining public sector family planning care, a sample more representative of depressed women than previous studies in psychiatric settings; 2) poor women; and 3) equal numbers of Latino, African American and White women so that cultural differences can be examined. The study will enable us to develop sensitive longitudinal models of the way in which changes in aspects of the mother's depression affect the outcomes of the child over time.

16. Title: Relapse and Predictors of Depression in Pregnancy.

Investigator: Stowe, Zachary N.

Investigator Affiliation: Emory University School of Medicine, 1639 Pierce Drive, Atlanta,

Investigator Phone: (404) 727-3692

Performing Organization: Emory University

Supporting Agency: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Initial Year: 1998/12

Final Year: 2003/11

Project: This proposal outlines a multi-institutional collaborative research project in which we will evaluate the risk of relapse in pregnancy among women with a history of major depression who either maintain or discontinue antidepressant treatment around the time of conception. The primary aims of this investigation are (1) to establish whether relapse/recurrence rates are lower in women who maintain versus discontinue antidepressant treatment during pregnancy; (2) to identify clinical and psychosocial predictors of relapse during pregnancy in those who maintain or discontinue antidepressants; and (3) to assess perinatal outcome and its relationship to depressive symptomatology in pregnancy.

Background: Given the prevalence of major depression during the childbearing years and the growing numbers of women who receive treatment with antidepressants, it is crucial to identify those women who may be able to safely discontinue antidepressant treatment during pregnancy as well as those who are particularly vulnerable to relapse. Delineating of

these subgroups provides an opportunity to screen for women "at risk" for relapse and allows for thoughtful treatment plan.

17. Title: Relapse of Bipolar Disorder during Pregnancy.

Investigator: Viguera, Adele C.

Investigator Affiliation: Massachusetts General Hospital, US

Investigator Phone: (617) 724-7220

Email Address: aviguera@partners.org

Performing Organization: Massachusetts General Hospital

Supporting Agency: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Initial Year: 1999/09

Final Year: 2004/08

Project: This program is designed to enhance clinical training and research expertise in the area of psychiatric disorders during pregnancy and the postpartum period. The research aim of this proposal includes a study to evaluate risk for recurrence among pregnant bipolar women. Following-up preliminary findings, morbid risk will be compared quantitatively in women who continue or discontinue mood-stabilizers; recurrence of a first new episode of DSM-IV mania or bipolar depression and its timing from initial assessment are primary outcome measures. Secondary considerations include analyses of associated clinical (demographic, social, prior morbidity) and pharmacological (drug-type, duration of use, mean dose and serum concentration, and rate of discontinuation) predictors of recurrence, as well as the neonatal outcome of infants born to the subjects. The design involves open and clinical, but prospective, single blind, longitudinal follow-up of parallel groups of women with DSM-IV bipolar disorders who become pregnant and continue vs. discontinue mood-stabilizing medications.

18. Title: Trauma in Primary Care--Interventions for Poor Women.

Investigator: Green, Bonnie L.

Investigator Affiliation: Georgetown University

Investigator Phone: (202) 687-6529

Email Address: green@gunet.georgetown.edu

Performing Organization: Georgetown University

Supporting Agency: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Initial Year: 2000/01

Final Year: 2004/12

Project: This project details a training and research program that will allow the principle investigator to develop expertise in mental health services research focused on trauma-related interventions for women in public medical care. Goals of the project include: 1) to enhance understanding of the impact of poverty and minority status on trauma exposure, experiences in the health care system, and barriers to care; 2) to delineate how health-related experiences of women with trauma histories differ from those of women without trauma, using in-depth and qualitative methodologies; 3) to understand links between trauma exposure and attachment style, and how these styles are related to clinical presentation and interactions with providers; and 4) to gain the knowledge necessary to develop interventions for traumatized women in primary care, and to pilot several short interventions in these settings. The long-term goal is to be able to develop and evaluate

interventions for patients and providers that increase quality of care, satisfaction with services, and appropriate use of services.

Part E: Other Research

19. Title: Woman focused HIV prevention with African Americans.

Investigator: Wechsberg, Wendee M.

Investigator Affiliation: Research Triangle Institute

Investigator Phone: (919) 541-6422

Email Address: wmw@rti.org

Performing Organization: Research Triangle Institute

Supporting Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Initial Year: 1998/04

Final Year: 2002/09

Background: With the alarming increase in the number of women becoming infected with HIV, particularly African-American women, an urgency exists for more women-focused interventions to assist women in reducing risky behaviors. Although several interventions have been demonstrated to reduce overall HIV and infectious disease risks, most have targeted those who inject drugs and share needles. Drug-using women in the Southeast, in contrast, are more likely to be crack users and low-frequency injectors-putting them primarily at risk from sexual transmission.

Project: This project involves a randomized field experiment with 1,200 African-American women from two North Carolina counties to evaluate the effectiveness of three interventions: (a) a woman-focused intervention, (b) standard-r, an intervention modeled on the existing NIDA standard HIV intervention, and (c) a Control group that receives only center for disease control HIV antibody testing and counseling. The Woman-Focused intervention is designed to address HIV risk through a personal, contextually relevant, and Afrocentric perspective. We hypothesize that by addressing issues of primary importance to African-American women, by demonstrating to them their individual risk, and by addressing specific concerns of their lives, our intervention will have a more substantial positive effect on the women's HIV/infectious disease risk behaviors than less specific interventions.

20. Title: Cardiac Rehabilitation without Walls Intervention Trial in Women (WITTI Women).

Investigator: Mosca, Lori.

Investigator Affiliation: University of Michigan, US

Investigator Phone: (734) 998-6301

Email Address: mwilderm@umich.edu

Performing Organization: University of Michigan

Supporting Agency: Academic Medicine and Managed Care Forum, Aetna

Initial Year: 2000/01

Final Year: 2002/12

Project: This study will test if intervention with a prevention facilitator will increase rates of participation in cardiac rehabilitation and will increase adherence to American Heart Association (AHA) secondary prevention guidelines for women. The specific aims of the

proposed study are: 1) to evaluate the impact of a prevention facilitator versus usual care on rates of participation in traditional cardiac rehabilitation and adherence to AHA prevention goals at baseline and 6 months; 2) to develop brief non-traditional home.

21. Title: Women's Health Leadership, Women's Choices.

Investigator: Littlefield, Diane.

Investigator Affiliation: 1401 21st Street, Fourth Floor

Investigator Phone: (916) 498-6967

Fax Number: (916) 443-7767

Performing Organization: Public Health Institute

Supporting Agency: California HealthCare Foundation

Initial Year: 2001/01

Final Year: 2004/01

Project: The project will train a culturally and geographically diverse group of grassroots women health leaders in California to become health care quality champions. The training will include information on quality measures, practice seeking and assessing quality information, and skills building so women in the program can participate in policy discussions on health care quality issues. The women trained through this project will then go out into their communities to educate consumers about health care quality issues. As part of the training these women will develop recommendations for culturally appropriate quality indicators based on their own experiences and expertise as members of their communities.

22. Title: Substance Abuse

Performing Organization: Mount Sinai School of Medicine of CUNY

Supporting Agency: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Initial Year: 1999/06

Final Year: 2004/05

Project: The primary goal of this study is to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness and costs of two contrasting approaches to organizing and structuring substance abuse treatment for women entering welfare-to-work programs. One approach will deliver standard care. The alternative approach will deliver care based on an innovative, public health model. Evidence-based interventions will serve as the core components of the innovative approach. The context of this study is a naturally occurring experiment. The state of New Jersey is conducting a welfare demonstration project in two counties. Women in welfare-to-work programs with substance abuse problems will be randomly assigned to two intervention conditions, standard care or innovative care. This study will evaluate the two-year outcomes of the demonstration project. In addition, the study will compare outcomes and costs of the substance-abusing women in the demonstration with those of a comparison group of non-symptomatic women in welfare-to-work programs. The study will examine treatment utilization patterns, and substance abuse, employment and other psychosocial outcomes. In addition, a full cost study including cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses will be conducted.

23. Title: Biochemical Markers and the Risk of Incident Hypertension in Men and Women.

Investigator: Sesso, Howard D.

Investigator Affiliation: Brigham and Women's Hospital, US

Performing Organization: Brigham and Women's Hospital

Supporting Agency: American Heart Association (AHA)

Initial Year: 2001/01

Final Year: 2004/12

Project: This study examines whether selected blood markers are associated with the future risk of hypertension. These biochemical markers include C-reactive protein, interleukin6, soluble intracellular adhesion molecule1, D-dimer, and homocysteine, which reflect underlying processes of inflammation, fibrinolysis, and atherosclerosis that may lead to hypertension and, eventually, cardiovascular disease. This study seeks to identify new risk factors in men and women that influence the development of hypertension. As a result, this proposal can improve our knowledge on the primary prevention of hypertension, looking beyond the well established lifestyle and dietary factors. The results from this study may be applied in the form of new diagnostic blood tests geared toward identifying men and women who are at a greater risk of developing hypertension.

Research funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research:

http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/index_e.shtml

A. Current Projects as of 16/10/2002

1) Title: The psychological and health consequences of caregiving: a critical comparison of husbands and wives

By: Lakehead University (Thunderbay Ontario)

Funding: \$49, 095

Investigator: Micheal Bedard

2) Title: Gender, Violence and health: the role of gender relations in the Ethiopian community.

By: the Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre – Illene Hyman

Funding; 49, 217

3) Title: Participation of immigrant women in health policy development: the role of advocacy coalitions and policy network

By: Wilfreda Thurston – University of Calgary

Funding: \$47, 358

4) Title: The influence of gender on self – management capacity, use of formal and informal supports, and quality of life outcomes in elderly patients with heart failure.

By: Queen's University (Kingston Ontario) – by Joan E. Tranmer

Funding: \$49, 950

5) Title: Effective Knowledge Translation Strategies for Breast Cancer Information

By Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre – Heather Maclean

Funding: \$19, 841

6) Title: Improving cardiac rehabilitation participation in women and men

By: Neville G Suskin – University of Windsor

Funding: \$78, 738

B. The Institute of Gender and Health: Gender Initiatives (Areas of Focus)
(http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/opportunities/institutes/2002/index_e.shtml)

1. Access and equity for vulnerable populations

- Gender and health equity
- Gender and access to health services
- Gender, violence and health

2. Promoting health in context of chronic conditions and disabilities

- Gender and chronic diseases (e.g. cardiovascular disease)
- Gender and disabilities

3. Gender and health across the life span

- Gender and healthy child development
- Gender and healthy aging
- Gender, work, leisure and health
- Gender and mental health in a changing society
- Reproductive and sexual health

4. Promoting positive health behaviours and preventing addictions

- Gender and health behaviours

5. Gender and the environment

C. Planned Future Research

1) Title: Reducing Health Disparities & Promoting Equity for Vulnerable Populations.

Start Date – January 2003 – 1 year project

Project Summary: build research capacity that assesses and reduces health disparities and promotes equity for vulnerable populations. The goal of this development grant is to enable interdisciplinary groups of researchers in health and other sectors to develop programs of research that describe, investigate and ultimately reduce health disparities.

2) Title: Understanding and Addressing the Impacts of Physical And Social Environments on Health.

Start Date – January 2003 – 1 year project

Project Summary: The goal of this research program development grant is to enable interdisciplinary groups of researchers in health and other sectors to develop programs of research to examine the health impacts of policy and programs that affect the quality of these environments, and design and test new interventions to achieve population-level health benefits. Research is also needed on how gender influences interactions with environments to produce differential health outcomes.

3) Title: Translation Acceleration Grants Program for Breast Cancer Control.

Start Date: July 1, 2003: Duration: Up to 4 years

Project Summary: The aim of the program is to accelerate the translation of basic breast cancer research findings into practice. a new program to foster the critical step of moving basic breast cancer research findings into phase I clinical testing or early evaluation:

4) Title: Improving Access to Appropriate Health Services for Marginalized Groups.

Start Date: October, 2002

Duration of projects: up to three years

Project Summary: The purpose of this strategic research initiative is to support excellent, innovative, cross-disciplinary research that will provide new evidence to inform policy-makers, program planners and service managers on the diverse factors that influence, and on approaches to improving, access to needed health services for identifiable "marginalized" groups.

Research Funded by the Status of Women Canada

<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/direct.html>

1. **Title: Trade Agreements: The health care sector and women's health.**
Expected to Release: Late 2003/early 2004.
2. **Title: Trade Agreements and Women's Health.**
Expected to Release: Late 2003/early 2004.
1. **Title: Women with disabilities access trade.**
Expected to release: late 2003/early 2004
2. **Title: Occupational Health of Women in Non – Standard Employment.**
Expected to release: March 2003

Forthcoming Books

October 2002

National Library of Canada

(<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/forthbks/2002-11/en/eindex.htm>)

- **Is anyone listening?: women, work and society / edited by Merle Jacobs.**
-- Toronto: Women's Press, 2002.
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 0-88961-409-1
1. Women--Employment 2. Discrimination in employment 3. Sex discrimination against women
- **Community and money: caring, gift-giving, and women in a social economy/ by Mary-Beth Raddon.**
-- Montreal : Black Rose Books, 2002.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 1-55164-214-X (pbk.) : \$19.99
1. Local exchange trading systems 2. Women in community development 3. Money--Social aspects 4. Barter 5. Consumption (Economics)
- **A full measure: towards a comprehensive model for the measurement of women's health / by Colleen Reid.**
-- Vancouver : British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, c2002.
35 p. ; 28 cm. -- (Women's health reports)
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 1-894356-04-7 (pbk.) : \$15.00
1. Women--Health and hygiene
1. Femmes--Santé et hygiène
- **Speaking of abuse: violence against aboriginal women in relationships : information about a woman's rights / [revision, Camille Callison, Carrie Humchitt ; editor, Winnifred Assman].**
-- Vancouver : Legal Services Society, Native Programs Dept., 2001.
, 49 p. ; 23 cm.
ISBN 0-7726-4726-7 : Free in BC ; \$3.50 outside BC for shipping and handling
Publications Clerk, Legal Services Society of British Columbia, Suite 1500, 1140 West Pender St., Vancouver, BC V6E 4G1
1. Wife abuse--British Columbia 2. Abused women-- Services for--British Columbia 3. Abused wives--Legal status, laws, etc.--British Columbia--Popular works 4. Native women-- Services for--British Columbia

November 2002

- **Preserving women's history: an introductory guide to preserving the records of women's lives / Patricia A. Myers.**
 - Edmonton: Alberta Women's Archives Association, 2002.
 - Includes bibliographical references.
 - ISBN 0-9697203-1-9: \$15.00
 - 1. Women--Canada--History--Sources 2. Women--Archives 3. Women--Canada--Archives
 - I. Melnyk, Olenka. What's cooking in women's history. II. Alberta Women's Archives Association.

December 2002

- **Women's Health During and After Pregnancy**
 - A Theory-Based Study of Adaptation to Change Lorraine Tulman, DNSc, RN, FAAN, and Jacqueline Fawcett, PhD, RN, FAAN, Authors 2002 208pp hard 0-8261-1994-8 \$42.95 (outside US \$47.80) Due December 2002
 - This book describes the results of the authors' NIH-funded study of more than 200 women during pregnancy and postpartum. Many aspects of pregnancy and postpartum are discussed, including physical and psychosocial health, functional status, and family relationships. Implications for nursing practice, and recommendations are included. This book was written for nursing and medical students, maternal-child health nurses, midwives, and social workers, obstetricians, pediatricians, and policy makers.

Federal Government Initiatives

Issues on the Women's Health Bureau Agenda

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/index.html>

Aboriginal Women

- Aboriginal Women and diabetes
- First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care
First Nations and Inuit women and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects
- First Nations and Inuit women and HIV/AIDS

Link: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/facts_issues/facts_aborig.htm

Cancer

- Health Canada has allocated \$7 million per year towards the renewed Canadian Breast Cancer Initiative for research, prevention, early detection, quality screening, support to community groups and networks, access to information, public and professional education, diagnosis, care and treatment, and surveillance and monitoring of breast cancer.
- Focus on breast cancer screening programs.
- Perspectives on Ovarian cancer in Canada.
- Support of the Cervical Cancer Prevention Network (CCPN).

Link: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/facts_issues/facts_cancer.htm

Mammography

In June 1998, Health Minister Allan Rock announced the renewal of the Canadian Breast Cancer Initiative (CBCI) with stable, ongoing funding of \$7 million per year. The key issues to be explored include:

- building awareness among health professionals and women about the value and benefits of participation in organized quality-controlled screening programs;
- developing a Canadian database and evaluating the relative effectiveness of different delivery models;
- identifying the quality determinants of an organized screening program and translating those into written recommendations or statements; and,
- encouraging participants in the Canadian Breast Cancer Screening Initiative to share information and learn from each other's experiences.

Link: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/facts_issues/facts_mammog.htm

Senior Women:

- issues of concern to senior women: incontinence, injury prevention, medication use/abuse, abuse of older adults, caregiving issues, Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis, arthritis and literacy.
- A training kit on all aspects of osteoporosis developed for seniors and health educators (Québec).

Link: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/facts_issues/facts_seniors.htm

Women and Sexual Reproductive Health:

- Health Canada is developing a model media literacy training package for adolescent sexuality education programs in Canada in partnership with the Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada (PPFC). Also in partnership with PPFC, a Sexuality Education Best Practice Sourcebook is being developed. Both projects are intended to produce resource material for sexuality educators and public health professionals.
- Health Canada is conducting a pilot project with the Cape Breton Wellness Centre, combining a mental health approach with active youth involvement, to provide sexual health information, programs and support to youth. This community-based program targets both young women and men and it is hoped that lessons learned will be transferable to other communities.
- *Link: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/facts_issues/facts_sexual.htm*

Menopause:

- The WHB is undertaking a new partnership with the Special Advisory Committee on Reproductive Physiology to the Drugs Directorate, Health Protection Branch. A researcher from the WHB is involved in the revision of the 1995 Report on Menopause through the preparation of a supplementary chapter which looks specifically at lifestyles issues of menopause, which include diet, exercise and self care in mid-life. This analysis will also incorporate an ethnocultural perspective on menopause, which will consider the differing needs of the various ethnocultural communities of women who comprise the foundation of the Canadian mosaic.

BC Ministry of Health Strategic Initiatives

<http://admin.moh.hnet.bc.ca/psa/projects/initiatives/index.html>

1. **Title:** HCC Supportive Living Program
Project #: 2003-526
Project Purpose: To develop the provincial Supportive Living Program
Project Manager: Stephanie Sainas
Target Completion Date: 2003/04/30

2. **Title:** End of Life Care Provincial Strategy
Project Purpose: To develop Provincial Strategy on End of Life Care
Project Manager: Laurianne Jodouin
Project Sponsor: Stephanie Sainas
Target Completion Date: 2003/04

3. **Title:** HCC Transition Guidelines
Project #: 2003 – 522
Project Purpose: To develop transition guidelines for health authorities that provides the framework for careful transition planning to ensure needs of clients are met during changes and redesign initiatives are introduced with minimal disruption to clients and families.
Target Completion Date: 2002/11/30

4. **Title:** Prevention of Falls in the Elderly: A Special Report from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer
Project # 2002-535
Project Purpose: To provide a special report, based on the legislated responsibility of the Provincial Health Officer on Prevention of Falls in the Elderly. The report will be developed to assist/support Health Authorities to take action to Prevent Falls in the Elderly which are a significant burden on the Health Care delivery system.
Project Manager: Dr. Shaun Peck
Project Sponsor: Dr. Perry Kendall
Target Completion Date: 2003/02

5. **Title:** Core Public Health Programs
Project #: 2002-533
Project Purpose: To develop mandatory, legislated, long-term programs, that represent the minimum level of public health services that health authorities will be required to provide. Core Public Health Programs will be entrenched in the new Public Health Act, and will have clear goals, measurable objectives, and an evidentiary base that shows it can improve or protect people's health.

6. **Title:** Framework for Improved Population Health and Wellness for BC
Project #2002-531
Project Purpose:
 1. The Framework for Improved Population Health and Wellness for British Columbia is designed to communicate the activities of the Population Health and Wellness Division

to the Ministries of Health Planning and Health Services, and eventually to health authorities and other stakeholders.

2. The Framework identifies the major activities of the Population Health and Wellness Division, and explains the links between them.
3. It discusses how the activities influence and are influenced by the others, and how they work together to improve health and support a more sustainable health care system for British Columbians.
4. The Framework and its components satisfy deliverables in the Ministry of Health Planning and Population Health and Wellness Service Plans.

Project Manager: Tom Gregory

Project: Perry Kendall, Andrew

Sponsors: Hazlewood

Target Completion Date: 2003/03

7. **Title:** Implementation of the Adult Mental Health and Addiction Service Continuum

Project #2002-503

Project Purpose: To support the New Era commitment to continuing mental health and addictions reform in British Columbia. In order to reform mental health services for adults (and addictions services for all age groups), three major initiatives must be undertaken including:

1. implement quality practices and create cultural shift;
2. develop Provincial Tertiary Mental Health Services; and
3. augment Community Infrastructure.

Project Manager: Irene Clarkson

Project Sponsor: Bert Boyd

Program Area: Mental Health

Target Completion: 2007/08

8. **Title:** Primary Health Care Transition Fund

Project #2002-502

Project Purpose: To support Health Authorities in the implementation of primary health care initiatives under the Primary Health Care Transition Fund intended to support the sustainability and affordability of British Columbia's health care.

LISTSERV

1. Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence list serve.

Web site address: <http://www.pwhce.ca/>

2. Policy, Action, Research – List Serve

The PAR-L discussion list is an online forum of more than 1,000 people, primarily women--and some men--in Canada, and also in more than a dozen other countries, who are interested in promoting women's equality. Subscribers include grassroots activists, researchers, academics, policy analysts, and many others. A Canadian Electronic Feminist Network for Policy, Action, and Research.

Web site address: <http://www.unb.ca/PAR-L/list.htm>

3. Women's health list serve – the BC Centre of Women's Excellence of Health

E-mail 'jkornelsen@cw.bc.ca' to gain access.

Upcoming Women's Conferences

Source: Canadian Women's Health Network Conferences Homepage

<http://www.cwhn.ca/hot/conferences/default.html>

- Title:** The "Menstruation: Blood, Body, Brand" Conference
Date: January 24 - 26, 2003
Location: The Medical Institution, the University of Liverpool, England
Description: The "Menstruation: Blood, Body, Brand" conference is part of the series put on by the [Institute for Feminist Theory and Research](http://www.iftr.org.uk) (IFTR). This interdisciplinary conference will build on the success of the last IFTR conference, "Third Wave Feminism", and will include papers from colleagues in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Women's Studies and History as well as Literary and Cultural Studies. The Keynote Speakers will be Julie-Marie Strange and Marie Mulvey-Roberts.
Link: <http://www.iftr.org.uk/news/2003/menstruation.html>.
- Title:** "Mothering and Work/Mothering as Work"
Date: May 3 - 4, 2003
Location: Toronto, ON
Description: The Association for Research on Mothering (ARM) invites you for a two day conference in honour of Mother's Day and May Day entitled "Mothering and Work/Mothering as Work" being held on May 3-4, 2003 at York University, Toronto, Canada.
Link: www.yorku.ca/crm/CFP/work%20cfp.htm
- Title:** CUExpo - Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress
Date: May 8 - 10, 2003
Location: Saskatoon, SK
Description: The CUExpo - Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy & Progress conference is being planned for May 2003 on Community University partnerships.
Link: www.usask.ca/cuisr/cuexpo/

4. **Title:** National Conference on Women's Substance Use Treatment
Date: September 25 - 26, 2003
Location: Vancouver, BC
Description: The Aurora Centre, a Vancouver-based women's substance use Treatment centre, will be celebrating its 30th year of offering services to women, in 2003. In recognition of this 30th anniversary, the Aurora Centre invites those interested, to join them in Vancouver for a national conference for the purpose of discussing where we are, and where we are heading, in providing women-centred care to women in Canada on substance use, and related health and social justice issues. Those from related fields - such as homelessness, violence against women in relationships, mental health, physical health, disability, race/culture, harm reduction, parenting ... - are encouraged to join in, to lead/share in discussion of the intersections of these issues with treatment for women with substance use problems.
- Link:** www.cw.bc.ca/bcw/aurora_centre.asp.
Contacts: Nancy Poole (npoole@cw.bc.ca) or Chris Kitteringham (ckitteringham@cw.bc.ca).

Source: Health on the Net Foundation

<http://www.hon.ch/cgi-bin/confevent?aff2+CONF02574>

- 5) **Title:** **Controversies in Women's Health**
Date: December 05 to December 06, 2002
Location: San Francisco - California - USA
Description: This program-designed for family physicians, internists, gynecologists, nurses, pharmacists and all others involved in providing quality health care for women-will present a practical update on a full range of common but controversial issues in women's health. Emphasis will be placed on new developments in preventive care for women, issues in reproductive health, and clinical strategies in the diagnosis and treatment of common gynecologic and medical disorders of women. Ample time will be provided for questions and discussion. A complete course syllabus will be provided for all participants at registration.
- 6) **Title:** **5th Annual Contemporary Womens Health Issues**
Date: December 06, 2002
Location: St. Louis - Missouri - USA - North America
Description: The Contemporary Womens Health Issues seminar is designed for primary care physicians and other healthcare providers of women. A brochure may be requested on-line.

7) Title: [Violence & Health 2003](#)
Date: April 03 to April 05, 2003
Description: Conference Description: The purpose of this conference is to provide an interdisciplinary forum to explore the health care needs of sexual assault survivors, women experiencing violence in intimate relationships, and children who have experienced abuse. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and develop collaborative responses to sexual assault, violence against women in relationships, and child abuse. Medical, legal and counselling issues will be addressed from a health care perspective. Emerging issues in the medical and forensic assessment and treatment of sexually and physically assaulted children, youth and adults will be reviewed. The conference will promote numerous opportunities for interactive learning through open question and answer periods, small group workshops, and a mock trial.
Link: <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Notices/AN-VH.htm>

8) Title: [Women's Substance Use Treatment: Celebrating and Moving Forth](#)
Date: September 25 to September 26, 2003
Description: The Aurora Centre is a women's substance use treatment center in Vancouver celebrating its 30th year of offering services to women in 2003. The Aurora Centre and many other Canadian agencies are dedicated to the provision of gender-specific programming for women on substance use and related health/social issues. In recognition of their 30th anniversary, the Aurora Centre invites those interested, to join them in Vancouver for a national conference. Centre members will discuss where they are, and where we they heading, in providing women- centered care to women in Canada on substance use and related issues.
Location: Vancouver - Canada
Link: <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca>

Useful Web sites

1. National Library of Medicine Gateway – (gives access to the Health Services Research Projects in Progress Database)
Link: <http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov>
2. Canadian Institute of Health Research Web Site
Link: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/services/funding/index_e.shtml
3. The Status of Women Canada Web Site
Link: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/direct.html>
4. National Library of Canada Web Site
Link: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/forthbks/2002-11/en/eindex.htm>
5. Women's Health Bureau
Link: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/women/index.html>
6. Ministry of Health Strategic Initiatives – Project Management Web Site
Link: <http://admin.moh.hnet.bc.ca/pso/projects/initiatives/index.html>
7. Canadian Women's Health Network Web Site
Link: <http://www.cwhn.ca/indexeng.html>
8. Health on the Net Foundation
Link: <http://www.hon.ch/>
9. Centres of Excellence for Women's Health Web Site
Link: <http://www.cewh-cesf.ca/en/index.html>
10. Medscape – Women's Health Centre Web Site
Link: <http://www.medscape.com/cmecenterdirectory/womenshealth>
11. British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
Link: <http://www.bcccewh.bc.ca/>
12. World Health Organization – Gender and Women's Health Department
Link: <http://www.who.int/frh-whd/>
13. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Link: http://www.sshrc.ca/web/home_e.asp
14. Health Canada
Link: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>

15. National Network on Environments and Women's Health
Link: <http://www.yorku.ca/nnewh/english/nnewhind.html>

16. Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
Link: <http://www.medicine.dal.ca/acewh/index-e.html>

17. Canadian Institute for Health Information
Link: <http://www.cihi.ca/eindex.htm>