



Toronto
Public
Health
Research

2016

Acknowledgements

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- Cathy Canonizado and Bibi Nasib-Mohammed provided administrative support
- Directors/Managers reviewed proposals for relevance, feasibility, and scientific merit
- REB Members conducted ethics review of proposals
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- Tracey dal Bianco, Megan Easto, and Jeff Maus reviewed proposals for privacy and information management issues
- Jane Speakman provided legal expertise

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2016 Highlights and Initiatives Planned for 2017

This third Annual Report of Toronto Public Health (TPH) Research profiles key activities related to TPH Research Ethics Review (RER) in 2016 as well as key initiatives planned for 2017.

In 2016:

- TPH marked the first full year of implementing its revised RER Policy and Procedure
- the Research Ethics Board celebrated its first anniversary
- 33 projects were screened to determine if TPH RER was required
- 16 projects were submitted for RER
- 14 projects received ethics approval
- TPH staff authored 8 scientific publications, conference presentations, and posters disseminating findings of projects approved through the RER process since 2012
- capacity building was undertaken related to:
 - research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples of Canada
 - multijurisdictional research ethics review
 - explicit decision making regarding ethical issues
 - ethical issues associated with the provision of honoraria
 - pilot and pragmatic research trials
 - digital data management
- the Research Coordinator attended the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Board's Annual Conference in Toronto

Initiatives Planned for 2017 include:

- procuring an automated system to support RER
- developing additional RER administrative procedures
- developing a research related privacy module
- capacity building in areas such as: reasonable risk benefit ratio and strategies to mitigate risk; assessing measures to protect privacy and confidentiality; and ethical implications of research involving children, youth and marginalized populations

Research Ethics Review Policy and Process

The Toronto Public Health (TPH) Research Ethics Review (RER) [Policy](#) outlines the criteria for TPH RER and describes the five step RER process:

- Pre-screening, when necessary, to determine if projects require RER
- Organizational assessment for relevance, feasibility, scientific merit, and privacy and information management issues
- REB review of projects which receive organizational approval
- Notifying Principal Investigator(s) of the Research Ethics Board (REB) decision
- Ongoing ethics monitoring until completion

In 2016, 33 projects were screened to determine if they required TPH RER. Twenty three of these projects did not require RER. Most of these projects were internal evaluations of TPH programs.

Sixteen projects were submitted for TPH RER in 2016, three of which were pre-screened in 2015 and four of which were prescreened in 2016. Three projects were subsequently withdrawn by the Investigators. Fourteen projects received TPH REB approval, ten of which were submitted for review in 2015. Nine projects submitted in 2016 were still undergoing ethics review as of December 31, 2016.

More information about the RER process, types of projects requiring RER, and responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the RER process is available on the TPH [RER website](#). If you have other questions regarding the RER Policy and process please contact:

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Research Ethics Board

The Research Ethics Board (REB), which meets monthly, is comprised of 15 Members. Heather Sampson, the REB Chair, is an Assistant Professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine at the University of Toronto (U of T). She also manages the clinical research program at the Michael Garron Hospital/Toronto East Health Network (formerly Toronto East General Hospital).

The following TPH staff were members of the REB in 2016:

- Nancy Day (Performance and Standards)
- Dr. Meg Gassanov (Communicable Disease Control)
- Morris Komakech (Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention)*
- Heather Richards (Healthy Environments)
- Dr. Herveen Sachdeva (Communicable Disease Control)
- Anne Wenger (Healthy Communities)
- Debra Williams-Conliffe (Child Health and Development)
- Linda Wood (Healthy Public Policy)

External REB members in 2016 were:

- Dr. Patricia Hughes (Community Member)
- Dr. Nancy Kreiger (University of Toronto)
- Maria McDonald (Community Member)
- Dr. Brenda Roche (The Wellesley Institute)
- Dr. Thomas Tenkate (Ryerson University)
- Connie Utrecht (Community Member)

*On Leave

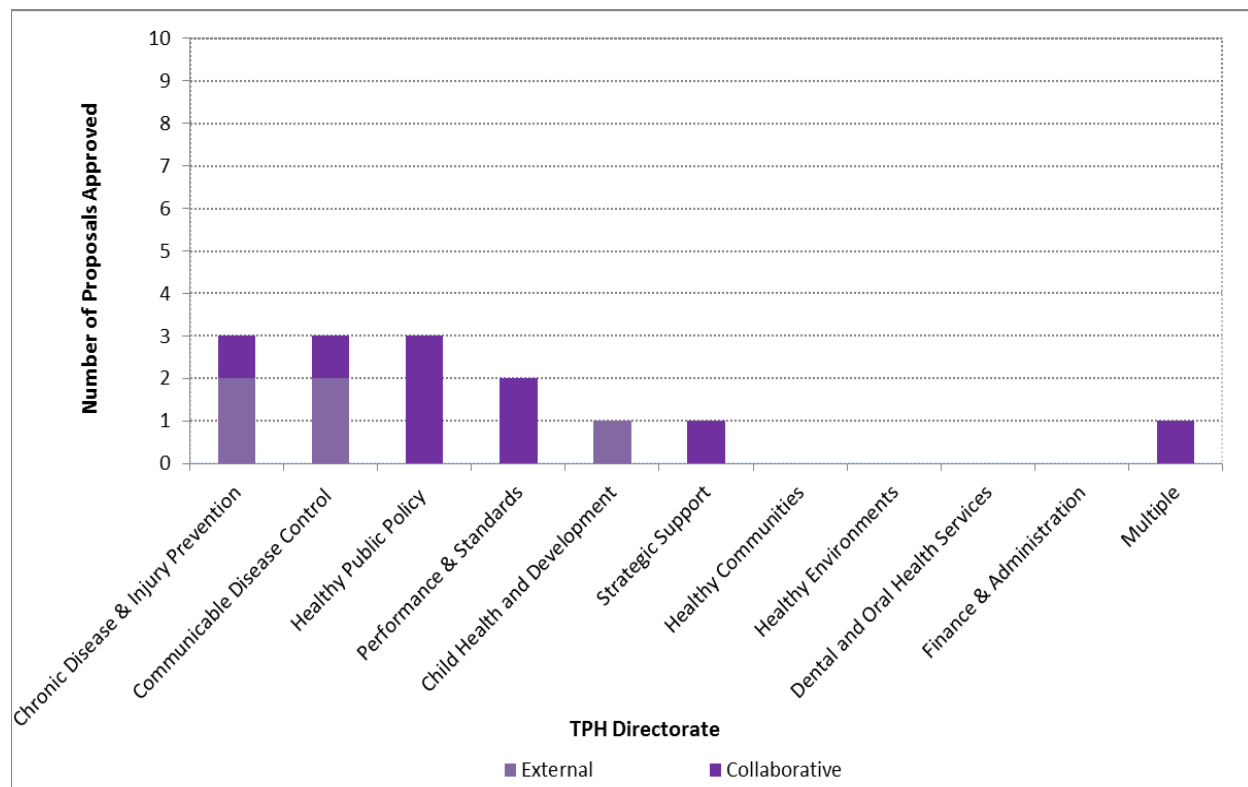
Research Proposals Approved

In 2016, fourteen research proposals relevant to six Toronto Public Health (TPH) Directorates were approved through the TPH Research Ethics Review (RER) process. Ten of the proposals approved in 2016 were submitted in 2015. Nine were collaborative projects involving TPH staff and external researchers and five were submitted by external researchers. (see Figure 1)

Relevance of Proposals to TPH Directorates

Most proposals were assessed for feasibility and relevance to Toronto Public Health's mission and mandate by one Directorate. Three were assessed by each of the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Communicable Disease Control, and Healthy Public Policy Directorates. Two were assessed by the Performance and Standards Directorate. One was assessed by each of the Child Health and Development and Strategic Support Directorates. One proposal was assessed by two Directorates (Communicable Disease Control and Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention). (see Figure1)

Figure 1: Research Proposals Approved by Type and TPH Directorate Relevance 2016



Research Proposals Approved in 2016

A complete list of all research proposals approved in 2016 is presented below. A key TPH contact person is provided for collaborative projects only.

Collaborative Projects

1. The Importance of Context: A Realist Evaluation of Knowledge Translation Interventions for the Use of Evidence In Health Equity Impact Assessment
Contact: Ida Hersi, Health Promotion Specialist, Ida.Hersi@toronto.ca, 416-338-0926
2. Climate Change, Asthma, and Allergy Risk in Toronto
Contact: Kate Bassil, Manager Healthy Public Policy, Kate.Bassil@toronto.ca, 416-338-7413
3. Beyond BMI: The Collection and Integration of Risk and Protective Factor Information in Electronic Medical Records for Childhood Healthy Weights Surveillance in Ontario
Contact: Sarah Collier, Supervisor Health Status and Epidemiology, Sarah.Collier@toronto.ca, 416-392-1359
4. Understanding the Health Impact of Extreme Weather in Homeless Populations with a View to Enhancing Toronto's Extreme Weather Plans and Responses
Contact: Kate Bassil, Manager Healthy Public Policy, Kate.Bassil@toronto.ca, 416-338-7413
5. Child and Youth Health Assessment
Contact: Paul Fleiszer, Manager Health Status and Epidemiology, Paul.Fleiszer@toronto.ca, 416-338-8073
6. Assessing the Impact and Sustainability of Food Procurement Portal Case Study
Contact: Barbara Emanuel, Manager Healthy Living, Barbara.Emanuel@toronto.ca, 416-392-7464
7. Cluster Busting: Integrating Whole Genome Sequencing with Enhanced Surveillance Data and the Development of Case Investigation Algorithms for Large Tuberculosis Strain Clusters
Contact: Elizabeth Rea, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Communicable Disease Control, Elizabeth.Rea@toronto.ca, 416-338-5565
8. Measuring Food Literacy in Public Health
Contact: Ella Manowiec, Consultant Nutrition Promotion, Ella.Manowiec@toronto.ca, 416-338-8482
9. Experiences of Social Inclusion in Toronto
Contact: Donna Ansara, Health Research Specialist, Healthy Public Policy, Donna.Ansara@toronto.ca, 416-338-4941

External Projects

1. Supporting Evidence Informed Public Health Decision Making in Cancer Prevention
2. A Mixed Methods Cross-Cultural Investigation of Conversational Turn Taking in Families of Children with Hearing Loss

3. Social Perspectives on TB and Immigration
4. HIV Serodiscordant Couples in Canada: A Mixed-Methods Study of Risk Management, Health and Wellbeing for People Living with HIV and their Partners
5. The Public Health Response to HIV/AIDS in Ontario: A Critical Ethnography of Case Management Nursing

Publications, Conference Presentations and Posters

Disseminating research findings to research participants, funders, agencies which supported the research, public health practitioners, researchers, policy makers and the broader community is an integral component of the research process. A variety of strategies are used to disseminate research findings including: presentations to relevant communities, researchers and policy makers; presentations at scientific and other conferences; development of web-based information, popular press articles, or research briefs; and publication in scholarly journals. Depending on the project the dissemination strategy can be simple or complex, formal or informal, and short or long term. This section of the report profiles scientific publications and conference presentations/posters authored by Toronto Public Health (TPH) staff in 2016 related to research projects which received TPH ethics approval since 2012.

Publications

Leece, P; Gassanov, M; Hopkins, S; Marshall, C., & Shahin, R (2016). Process evaluation of the Prevent Overdose in Toronto (POINT) program. *The Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 107 (3), e224-e230.

Conference Presentations

Extreme Cold Weather Alerts in Toronto: An Emerging Public Health Issue
Paul Coleman, Kate Bassil, Donna Ansara, Stephanie Gower, Monica Campbell
Canadian Public Health Association Annual Conference
June 13-16, 2016; Toronto, ON

Into Kids Health: Learnings from an Innovative Pilot Initiative to Address Childhood Obesity Prevention in Higher Needs School Communities in Toronto
Julie Charlebois
Toronto Public Health Knowledge Exchange Forum
November 22, 2016; Toronto, ON

FoodReach: Getting Good Food at Good Prices - A Portal to Enhance Not-for-Profit Buying Power
Barbara Emanuel, Victor Willis, Mark Pearlman
The Ontario Public Health Convention
April 4-6, 2016; Toronto, ON

FoodReach: Bringing Good Food to Community Agencies and Student Nutrition Programs at Wholesale Prices
Barbara Emanuel, Paul Coleman, Alvin Rebbick, Mark Pearlman
Resetting the Table: Food Secure Canada's 9th National Assembly
October 13-16, 2016; Toronto, ON

Evaluation of Toronto's Tuberculosis Contact Screening Parameters Tool
European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Rebecca Stuart
November 28-30, 2016; Stockholm, Sweden

Conference Posters

Into Kids Health: Learnings from an Innovative Pilot Initiative to Address Childhood Obesity
Prevention in Higher Needs School Communities in Toronto
Julie Charlebois, Magdalena Wasilewska
The Ontario Public Health Convention
April 4-6, 2016; Toronto, ON

Into Kids Health: Learnings from an Innovative Pilot Initiative to Address Childhood Obesity
Prevention in Higher Needs School Communities in Toronto
Julie Charlebois, Magdalena Wasilewska
6th Conference on Recent Advances in the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity and
Asthma
October 24-26, 2016; Ottawa, ON