

## Linking to Better Health - a pan-Canadian surveillance system for mental health in young people

What are the **objectives** of the proposed team?

- 1) To identify sources of population-level indicators of system transformation in broad datasets (including administrative, survey & clinical data)
- 2) To refine analytic and reporting methods for youth mental health
- 3) To conduct feasibility studies on whether administrative data can provide the following:
  - Annual overall and specific rates of treated mental disorders for young people across Canada.
  - Compare changes over time and by jurisdiction to assess the affect of policy changes

What are the **biggest challenges** your proposed team has to overcome?

- Working across a wide number of jurisdictions
- Standardising and validating data quality and case definitions

**Who are the key leaders** in your team?

S Kisely (Nova Scotia, currently in Australia, but moving to Quebec in the Fall of 2013), is a psychiatrist & public health specialist. His surveillance-based research using administrative health data has won two national awards in the UK and Canada respectively, and been published in the *BMJ* & *CMAJ* amongst other journals

A Lesage is the lead investigator on a CIHR-funded project on the validation of case definitions for the surveillance of psychiatric conditions in children and adolescents. A Lesage also serves as an expert to the chronic disease surveillance unit of Quebec's public health institute (INSPQ)

E. Lin is an adjunct scientist at ICES with expertise in mental health & addictions services research using large datasets (administrative & survey). She serves on national advisory committees including CIHI's inpatient mental health dataset (OMHRS) advisory, PHAC's mental health surveillance panel, & Stats Can's upcoming national mental health surveys.

M Smith, is the Associate Director at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy Repository. He has extensive experience in health research with expertise in business intelligence, analytics & privacy, as well as in developing & managing health & social data repositories. He participates in several national chronic disease surveillance committees

S Patten and C Adair from Alberta have experience of epidemiological surveys. A further team member is V Kovess who has just completed a mental health survey in children from 9 European countries in collaboration with A Lesage and another team member, R Tempier (Montfort, Ottawa)

Which **organisations** are part of the team?

- University of Queensland/ Dalhousie University
- University of Montréal
- Calgary University
- University of Sherbrooke
- Monfort Hospital, University of Ottawa

How will your team **contribute to a transformation** in adolescent mental health in 5 years?

This project will make an important contribution at a policy and service delivery level, in the surveillance and benchmarking of psychiatric, alcohol and substance use disorders among young people. There is a critical lack of systematic, objective 'real-world' evaluation of mental health or addiction policies and initiatives at regional, national and international levels. This is a major public health concern. In developing infrastructure for an ongoing national surveillance system, this project will bring together a set of indices that will provide a cross-jurisdictional surveillance measure of trends over time in psychiatric, alcohol and substance use disorders in young people. In addition, it will provide a uniform, accessible benchmarking tool to assess and evaluate the effects of health policy and program initiatives that can then be translated and deployed in other jurisdictions both nationally and internationally. The project team members have an excellent track record in the translation of research to inform policy.

What expertise, skills, resources, networks or infrastructure **could your team bring** as a network collaborator ?

The team have collaborated and published extensively on the analysis of administrative data for surveillance in Canada. Several acted as original advisors to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in the setting up of the Agency's mental health surveillance system & were associated with feasibility studies that assessed the case definitions used by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to assess overall, & some specific, mental disorders> they regularly meet through the Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology

Who should other interested groups **contact** to learn more about you? (include phone/ e-mail)

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