



Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report

The POWER Study (Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report) is a comprehensive research study, which examines gender differences in access to care, as well as quality and outcomes of care for the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. Study findings will serve as evidence-based tools for policy makers, providers, and consumers in their efforts to improve health and reduce inequities and disease burden among the women and men of Ontario.

A series of technical expert panels identified a comprehensive set of valid and reliable health indicators, to assess both population health and clinical care. Stakeholders from a range of community organizations, government, and health care settings across the province were instrumental in shaping the indicator selection and in helping to define priority reporting areas.

The study documents essential information about differences between women and men, but also between subgroups of women and men, depending on their age, income level, education, ethnicity and where they live.

Each report chapter will be sequentially released beginning in 2009 as follows:

Volume 1

- ❖ Burden of Illness
- ❖ Cancer
- ❖ Cardiovascular Disease
- ❖ Depression
- ❖ Access to Health Care

Volume 2

- ❖ Musculoskeletal Disorders
- ❖ Diabetes
- ❖ HIV infection
- ❖ Reproductive Health
- ❖ Social Determinants of Health
- ❖ Populations at Risk

The products of the POWER study are designed as tools for knowledge translation to increase the uptake of evidence-based practice and policy in women's health. It is our intention that the findings from the Study will be used to target areas where inequities exist, develop interventions to reduce these differences and monitor the effectiveness of our efforts to promote equity. The aim is to develop a sustainable model for measuring and monitoring changes in access, quality, and outcomes of care to assess the effectiveness of health system reform and integration efforts.

The POWER Study is a multi-year project funded by Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario, an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). It is a partnership between the Keenan Research Centre in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) in Toronto. Dr. Arlene Bierman is the Principal Investigator of the study, working in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team of over 60 researchers.