

Ontario's Mosaic of Children's Treatment Services



ICES Investigative Report

January 2005

Ontario's Mosaic of Children's Treatment Services

ICES Investigative Report

Authors

Paul T. Dick, MDCM, MSc, FRCPC

Lynn Kavanagh, BA, MES

Karen Spalding, BA, MScN

Patricia D. McKeever, PhD

**Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences
Toronto**

Publication Information

Published by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) © 2005

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the proper written permission of the publisher.

How to cite the publication:

Dick PT, Kavanagh L. ICES Investigative Report. Ontario's Mosaic of Children's Treatment Services. Toronto: Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences; 2005.

Additional copies of this report can be downloaded from the ICES web site (www.ices.on.ca).

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)
G1 06, 2075 Bayview Avenue
Toronto, ON M4N 3M5
Telephone: 416-480-4055
www.ices.on.ca

Authors' Affiliations

Paul T. Dick, MDCM, MSc, FRCPC

Adjunct Scientist

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Associate Professor

Departments of Pediatrics and Health Policy Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto

Adjunct Scientist

Population Health Sciences and Division of Pediatric Medicine, The Hospital for Sick Children and Research Institute

Regional Consulting Pediatrician

Grey Bruce Health Services

Lynn Kavanagh, BA, MES

Research Coordinator

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Karen Spalding, BA, MScN

Associate Professor

School of Nursing, Ryerson University

Patricia McKeever, PhD

Professor

Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto

Acknowledgments

The authors wish to acknowledge the following individuals for their contributions to the publication of this research atlas.

Critical Review

Andreas Laupacis, MD, MSc, FRCPC

President and CEO

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Astrid Guttman, MDCM, MSc

Scientist

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Knowledge Transfer

Paula McColgan

Director, Policy and External Relations

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Editor

Carolynne Varney

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Design

Laura Benben

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

About ICES

Ontario's resource for informed health care decision-making

ICES is an independent, non-profit organization that conducts research on a broad range of topical issues to enhance the effectiveness of health care for Ontarians. Internationally recognized for its innovative use of population-based health information, ICES knowledge provides evidence to support health policy development and changes to the organization and delivery of health care services.

Unbiased ICES evidence provides fact-based measures of health system performance; a clearer understanding of the shifting health care needs of Ontarians; and a stimulus for discussion of practical solutions to optimize scarce resources.

Key to ICES' research is our ability to link anonymous population-based health information on an individual patient basis, using unique encrypted identifiers that ensure privacy and confidentiality. This allows scientists to obtain a more comprehensive view of specific health care issues than would otherwise be possible. Linked databases reflecting 12 million of 30 million Canadians allow researchers to follow patient populations through diagnosis and treatment, and to evaluate outcomes.

ICES brings together the best and the brightest talent under one roof. Many of our faculty are not only internationally recognized leaders in their fields, but are also practising clinicians who understand the grassroots of health care delivery, making ICES knowledge clinically-focused and useful in changing practice. Other team members have statistical training, epidemiological backgrounds, project management or communications expertise. The variety of skill sets and educational backgrounds ensures a multi-disciplinary approach to issues management and creates a real-world mosaic of perspectives that is vital to shaping Ontario's future health care.

ICES collaborates with experts from a diverse network of institutions, government agencies, professional organizations and patient groups to ensure research and policy relevance.

Contents

Executive Summary	i
Purpose	i
Study	i
Methods	ii
Findings and discussion	ii
Overview	v
Introduction	v
Background	v
Scope of report	vi
Chapter 1. Service Information	1
Introduction	1
Service inventory	1
Service information	1
Discussion	3
Exhibits	4
Chapter 2. Service Distribution	7
Introduction	7
Concerns of District Health Councils	7
Types of services provided	8
Children's health services professionals	8
Service distribution by category	9
Special populations	11
Emergency services	11
Discussion	12
Exhibits	13
Chapter 3. Service Utilization	24
Introduction	24
Waits for service	24
Physician services utilization	25
Regional variation in home care utilization	28
Discussion	29
Exhibits	30
Chapter 4. Service Coordination	64
Introduction	64
Relationships between organizations	64
Discussion	65
Exhibits	66
Chapter 5. Stakeholder Views on Service Delivery	70
Introduction	70
Effective service delivery—challenges and solutions	70
Discussion	74
Exhibits	75

Chapter 6. Synthesis of Children's Treatment Services	77
Introduction	77
A bird's-eye view of change	77
Discussion	78
Policy Options	81
Data collection	81
System	82
Appendices	85
A. How the Research was Done	85
B. Detailed Analytic Methods	89
References	92