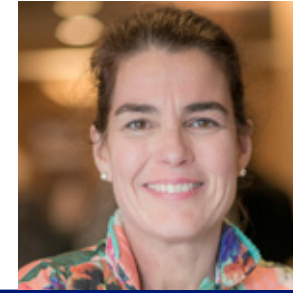


# Advancing Ontario's mental health strategy with system-wide benchmarking and analysis

Astrid Guttmann



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Canada's new Health Accord allocated an additional \$1.9 billion for Ontario in support of mental health initiatives. These funds come with a requirement that each province must develop performance indicators and mechanisms for annual reporting. This work is already well underway in Ontario due in part to the Mental Health and Addictions Scorecard and Evaluation Framework (MHASEF). An ICES initiative that released its **first scorecard** in 2015, the multi-year project releases scorecards every two years. The scorecards are broken into adult and child and youth sections, with the next child and youth scorecard to be published in June 2017. An adult scorecard is planned for 2018.

"The existence of MHASEF has helped to position Ontario as a national leader in mental health performance measurement," says **Paul Kurdyak**, who is lead scientist of the ICES mental health and addictions program and director of health systems research at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Kurdyak was recently named co-chair of the steering committee for Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Data Strategy Project, which will oversee the creation of a data and performance measurements strategy for the province.

The MHASEF child and youth scorecards are also being used by the provincial government to track progress on its comprehensive strategy for child and youth mental health, an area highlighted for improvement in recent recommendations from Ontario's auditor general. Since the first scorecard was released in 2015, the team has been expanding its data holdings to reflect system-wide determinants of child and youth mental health with new acquisitions of interministerial data through partnerships with the ministries of Children and Youth Services, Education, and Community and Social Services.

"Our team brings a sophisticated knowledge of performance measurement and data, with deep experience around data linkage and validation," comments **Astrid Guttmann**, ICES' chief science officer and a clinician and researcher at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "Not only do we play a leading role in housing and analyzing large data sets, but our team possesses the clinical expertise to ask and investigate highly relevant research questions that result in robust peer-reviewed evidence."



The **MHASEF scorecards** measure province-wide indicators for system performance and patient outcomes for children, youth and adults through geographic and equity lenses.



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