



Welcome to the first newsletter of the POWER Study!

The POWER Study is developing two report cards to help policy makers, providers, and advocates improve health and reduce inequities among the women of Ontario. We will update you twice a year with Spring and Fall newsletters as we move forward with producing our 2007 and 2008 Report Cards.

All of the content here, and much more, is posted on our website: www.powerstudy.ca. Please visit us on the web for project updates, news & events, and information about our team of investigators, staff, and advisors.

We have accomplished a lot this past year, due to the collaboration and expertise of POWER Study researchers, staff, and stakeholders. We're enormously appreciative of the time and energy everyone has devoted so far — thanks to all who have participated. I'm delighted to give you a brief update of our activity to date.

“We have selected indicators that drive change in women's health...”

We held two planning meetings of the full research team along with regular meetings of the individual working

groups, which are organized around the five chapters in our 2007 Report Card: *access to care, burden of illness, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and depression*. Each chapter's Technical Expert Panel met and finalized the indicators for reporting. This was our biggest goal for the first 6 months of the POWER Study and we're really pleased we've reached this milestone. We have selected indicators to drive change — they are focused on equity issues and they address limitations of previous measurement and reporting efforts in women's health.

The indicator selection process was very much guided by our stakeholder consultations. To get input from key stakeholders, we held three POWER Study Roundtables in the Fall of 2006 with consumers and providers of women's health care across the province. These Roundtables focused on the priority areas of reporting for women's health, identified other complementary work going on in the province, and led to us identifying new partnerships and data sources. (A summary is contained on page 2 of this newsletter, and more detail is on www.powerstudy.ca).

Our second round of stakeholder consultations will be held in September 2007. Please get in touch with us if you would like to attend or would like more information.

In addition, our Advisory Council, which provides strategic support on the

design, implementation and dissemination of the POWER Study, will meet in July 2007. Their input, together with the stakeholder consultations and work of the researchers, has been invaluable.

We gave several presentations this year, which helped raise awareness about the POWER Study, and allowed us to learn more about how to make our Report Cards useful to stakeholders.

We have now begun the data analysis. We're well on our way to the release of our Fall 2007 Report Card!

Future newsletters will update you on our progress. Please let us know what you would like to see in future newsletters.

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POWER out & about

- We gave a poster presentation called “Action-oriented performance measurement in women's health” at the *Community-Campus Partnerships for Health* conference in Toronto on April 12, 2007.
- Asma Razzaq gave an oral presentation on the POWER Study at the *Academy Health* annual meeting in Orlando, Florida on June 2, 2007.
- Arlene Bierman and Jocalyn Clark published an editorial on performance measurement and equity in the June 30, 2007 edition of the *BMJ (British Medical Journal)*.
- The second round of Stakeholder Consultations will take place in September 2007. Please contact Jocalyn Clark for more information or if you would like to participate.

Feature: Summary of the First Round of Stakeholder Consultations

Stakeholder consultations are an integral part of the POWER Study's mission to produce report cards that are meaningful and actionable for stakeholders in women's health in Ontario. The first of two series of POWER Study Roundtables for the 2007 Report Card were held in the Fall of 2006. Participants represented a range of health care areas and diverse groups of women.

We asked stakeholders: *How can the Report Card be most useful to you? What are your burning issues in women's health? What are the barriers to action on women's health and health care? What are the limitations of our Report Card?*

Three strategic themes were identified:

Social context of women's health. This context includes women's roles as mothers, partners, and caregivers, and acknowledges the "intersectionalities" of women's lives due to their simultaneous gender, race, class, and other social positions.

Social determinants of health. The factors that determine women's health

are the same factors that impact on their access to and quality of care: threats of violence, language or cultural barriers, having a disability, and living in a rural or insecure housing environment.



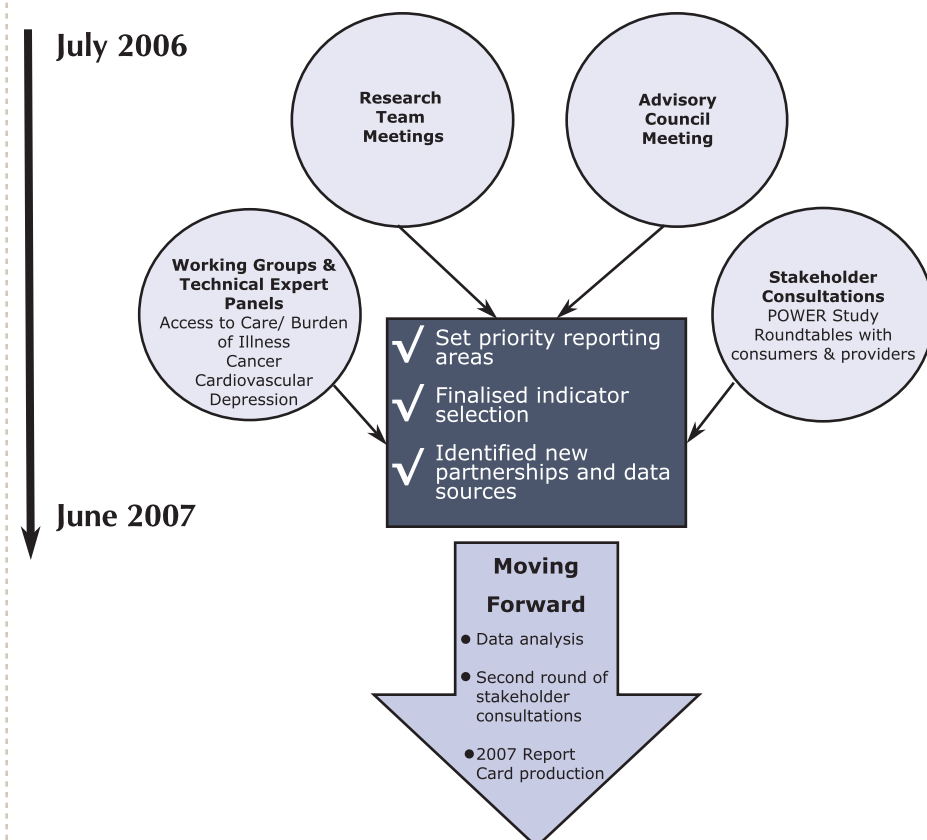
Data access and quality. The report cards will be valuable if we report what data are not currently available, such as information on immigration, legal or aboriginal status, disability, and ethnicity. Emphasizing that "what is measurable" may not be the same as "what is important" to women's health will support the advocacy agendas of stakeholders in women's health. The POWER Study can be a tool for awareness and education.

Five actionable items were identified:

1. Contextual framework – We will include a background chapter in our report cards that highlights the conceptual and reporting framework we are using.
2. What we can't measure – We will include an account of what important data and constructs are not available.
3. Complementary work – Other report cards and women's health measurement activities will be used as background material and for the interpretation of our data.
4. New contacts – Additional stakeholders were identified and will be included in our consultations.
5. Dissemination partners – Several stakeholders volunteered to assist with vetting and/or dissemination of the report cards.

More information about the stakeholder consultations can be found at www.powerstudy.ca. Thank you to all the participants!

POWER Progress



About the POWER Study

POWER is a partnership between St. Michael's Hospital and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. More than 30 researchers are collaborating on the study, as well as an advisory council, technical expert panels, and community stakeholders from across the province.

More information can be found at:

www.powerstudy.ca,
or by emailing us at
powerstudy@smh.toronto.on.ca

Please get in touch and tell us what you would like to see in future newsletters!