

INTRODUCTION

- Recently, worldwide priorities for women's health have shifted from the narrow focus on maternal and child health to a broader framework of sexual and reproductive health.
- Co-ordinated surveillance and reporting on indicators for women's health enables identification, measurement and reporting on status and trends in order to develop, prioritize, and advocate for interventions, research funding, and programs.
- Currently in Canada, there is no repository or clearinghouse for data, prevalence and trends that describe the state of women's' obstetrical, gynaecological and reproductive health.

AIM

The aim of this study was to identify indicators important from patient and healthcare provider perspectives, for tracking Canadian data related to obstetrical, gynaecological and sexual and reproductive health.

METHODS

- A list of 143 potential indicators were developed, based on the literature and expert opinion, and a survey was created for participants to rank importance based on a Delphi approach.
- A sample (N=30) of women's healthcare providers and patients (N=20) were invited to participate in the pilot study via email
- Two rounds of the Standard Delphi methodology were completed; data consensus for inclusion was set at >75% agreement for "agree" or "strongly agree" on a likert scale and participants were given 72 hrs to respond for each round; after each round, responses were analyzed and culled for redistribution
- Descriptive statistics were used to calculate mean scores and standard deviations
- Future analyses will explore differences between professions and patients

RESULTS

- The completion rate was 25/44 (57%) for round 1 and 12/25 (48%) for round 2 (Table 1)
- Of 143 potential indicators in the round 1, consensus was reached on 124 (86%) (N= 25 respondents; Table 2)
- 12 respondents participated in round 2, identifying 118 indicators (95% of round 2; 82% of round 1 indicators) as important for data collection, reporting and surveillance
- Of the 118 key indicators of identified, only 47 (39.8%) are currently being reported on, in some capacity, on a National scale in Canada.

INDICATORS

Asterisk * represents the conditions with nationally reported data

Gynaecological and Sexual Health

Gynaecological Conditions

- Chronic pelvic pain
- Dysmenorrhea
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disorder *
- Abnormal uterine bleeding
- Endometriosis
- Urinary incontinence *
- Moderate to severe uterine prolapse
- Vulvar disease
- Vaginismus

Gynaecological Surgeries

- Sterilization
- Infertility surgery
- Urinary incontinence surgery
- Surgery for prolapse
- Hysterectomy *

Sexual Health

- Contraception use
- HIV *
- HPV *
- Hepatitis B & C *
- Syphilis *
- Chlamydia Trachomatis *
- Neisseria gonorrhoeae *
- Sexual dysfunction
- Female genital mutilation
- Sexual Abuse *

Female specific cancers

- Ovarian and tubal cancer *
- Uterine and endometrial cancer *
- Cervical cancer *
- Vulvar cancer
- Vaginal cancer
- Breast cancer *
- Vaginal, vulvar or cervical intraepithelial neoplasia

General Health and Wellness

Healthcare Access

- Proportion of women who have a primary healthcare provider *
- Proportion of healthcare funding allocated to women's health
- Federal government funding allocated to women's health research
- Percentage of NPO with grants or donations for women's health research
- Access to 1st trimester pregnancy management
- Access to 1st trimester prenatal screening and ultrasound
- Access to obstetrical care within 100km radius
- Access to 2nd trimester ultrasound
- Access to PHC screening (HPV, mammography)
- Access to PHC for uncomplicated gynaecological care
- Access to secondary and tertiary gynaecological consultations
- Access to medical and/or surgical abortion for all trimesters
- Access to gynaecological surgery for benign pathologies
- Access to gynaecological cancer surgery
- Access to telemedicine
- Access to contraception

Age Related Conditions

- Hormone replacement therapy
- Genitourinary syndrome of menopause
- Postmenopausal bleeding
- Osteoporosis *
- Urinary incontinence *
- Pelvic floor dysfunction

Infertility

- Primary infertility
- Secondary infertility

Pediatrics

- Congenital abnormalities
- Trauma
- Sexual Abuse

Adolescents

- Abnormal uterine bleeding
- Anorexia
- Dysmenorrhea
- Sexual abuse
- Accessing transgender care
- Pregnancy *
- Abortion
- Contraception

Overall Health and Wellness

- Life expectancy *
- Obesity *
- Education
- Homelessness *
- Income level *
- Domestic violence shelter attendance
- Access to clean water
- Type 2 diabetes *
- Cardiovascular disease *
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Stroke *
- Dementia including Alzheimer's *
- Smoking/Vaping *
- Alcohol use *
- Opioid use *
- Cannabis use *
- Methamphetamine use *
- Substance use disorder

Mental Health (including Perinatal Mental Health)

- Anxiety disorders *
- Depression *
- Bipolar Disorder
- PTSD
- Premenstrual dysphoric disorder
- Eating disorders (anorexia and bulimia)
- Self harm *
- Victims of trauma *
- Intimate partner violence *
- Suicide attempts/ideation *

Pregnancy and Pregnancy Complications

- Planned pregnancy
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Gestational diabetes *
- Gestational hypertension *
- Preeclampsia
- Cardiovascular disease in pregnancy
- Antenatal hemorrhage
- Postpartum hemorrhage *
- VTE *
- Cervical insufficiency
- Maternal death *
- Preterm labor
- Smoking in pregnancy
- Recreational and illegal drug use
- Multiple pregnancy
- Obesity in pregnancy

Pregnancy Loss

- Surgical abortion *
- Medical abortion *
- Spontaneous abortion/miscarriage
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Recurrent pregnancy loss

Mode of Delivery

- Caesarean delivery *
- Vaginal delivery *
- Assisted vaginal delivery *

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

Demographics of Respondents (N (% of sample))

	Round 1 (N=25)	Round 2 (N=12)
OBGYN	10 (50)	7 (58)
Midwife	1 (8)	0
Student	4 (20)	2 (17)
Researcher	1 (5)	1 (8)
Patient	1 (5)	0
Resident	5 (25)	1 (8)

CONCLUSIONS

- For the first time, this study identifies critical indicators for women's health, relevant in the current social and systems context, from both healthcare provider and patient perspectives
- National statistics on fewer than half of these indicators are currently available, highlighting the gaps in Canada's national surveillance systems for reporting on health indicators and outcomes that are patient- and provider- oriented
- Establishing infrastructures for surveillance and reporting on indicators that accurately reflect the state of women's health, broadly defined, in Canada is critical to increasing awareness of women's health issues, highlighting gaps in data that impact practice and policy decision-making that improve outcomes, and provide a reliable mechanism for quantifying changes in health status of Canadian women over time
- Next steps include creating an interactive online dashboard tracking indicators of women's health across the lifespan to provide an up-to-date clearinghouse for current statistics and reports

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