

CHRD 2024: Abstract Submission Form

Presenter Name
Morgan Hanson-Oliveira

Presenter Status
Undergraduate Students

Role in the project
Design
Perform Experiments
Analyze Data
Write Abstract

Research Category
Community Health / Policy

Title
SPPARC: Service Provider Perspectives on mental health Accessibility and Resources within northern Manitoba Communities

Background
Northern Manitoba faces a unique set of challenges in healthcare accessibility, particularly regarding mental health support.

Objective
Through the perspectives of mental health providers, SPPARC aims to identify northern Manitoba's mental health service needs and recommend necessary structural changes to improve service delivery and accessibility for those living in northern rural and remote communities.

Methods
Mental health service providers who have delivered care to northern Manitoban communities for at least two weeks in the past year were invited to participate in semi-structured Zoom interviews. The interviews aimed to gather insights on the state of mental health resources, including adaptations, new programs, and key information for clinical providers and policymakers. Transcribed interviews will undergo thematic analysis to identify key themes related to "training and opportunities", "accessibility and barriers", "training and working well", and "takeaway messages".

Results
Thus far, nine of the planned 10-15 interviews have been completed. Participants include service providers from Manitoba with a focus on care for communities in the north. Preliminary data reveals recurring themes that underscore the importance of community connection, appreciation for traditional cultural practices, and a focus on supporting the region's youth. Discussions also highlighted challenges such as inadequate funding and limited services. Findings explored how services have been adapted to meet community needs and participants offered suggestions for enhancing the availability and delivery of mental health services in northern Manitoba.

Conclusion
Preliminary findings highlight the critical need for enhanced mental health support in northern Manitoba, with challenges focusing on funding gaps and service limitations. Applications of final results from SPPARC aim to further develop targeted recommendations to overcome challenges identified within mental health services in our province's north.

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Authors

Name	Email	Role	Profession
Morgan Hanson-Oliveira	hansonom@myumanitoba.ca	Presenting Author	Undergraduate Student
Kristin Reynolds	Kristin.Reynolds@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Associate Professor
Sydney Levasseur-Puhach	puhachs@myumanitoba.ca	Co Author	Graduate Student
Kenzie Bremner	bremner1@myumanitoba.ca	Co Author	Undergraduate Student
Brooklyn Toderan	toderanb@myumanitoba.ca	Co Author	Undergraduate Student
Kyla Wiens	chisholk@myumanitoba.ca	Co Author	Undergraduate Student
Leslie E. Roos	leslie.roos@umanitoba.ca	Co Author	Associate Professor