

CARRFS: Brief History and Present State

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Disclosure Statement

- I have no affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a pharmaceutical, medical device or communications organization.
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Who We Are

Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance / l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque

CARRFS is a network of public health stakeholders across Canada interested in working together to build and strengthen regional/local chronic disease risk factor surveillance.

CARRFS was established in 2008 and its members are primarily local, provincial/territorial, and federal public health professionals.

And, since 2016:



Goal is to provide learning and network opportunities for its members using multiple strategies.

Past events include:

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- Canadian Collaborative Regional/Local Area Risk Factor Surveillance Think Tank Forum, Toronto. February 25 - 26, 2008
 - The First Symposium of The Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance (CARRFS): Local Risk Factor Surveillance: Making it Happen, Toronto. February 2-4, 2009
 - Second National Event of the Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance (CARRFS) – an e-Forum: From Surveillance to Action: Building Usable Knowledge, National Webinar May 16-17, 2012
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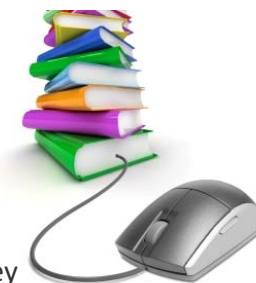
5 Regional Workshops

- Small Area Analysis Using R (Moncton)
- Use of EpiData in Public Health (Toronto)
- How to use GIS (Winnipeg)
- Identifying Socioeconomic Inequities in Health Using Health Surveillance Data (Vancouver)
- How to use GIS (Halifax)



15 e-Learning Sessions

- Canadian Marginalization Index
- Introduction to R
- Handling Missing Data
- Data Management Basics in Research & Survey
- New Directions in TB Epidemiology
- Developing Inuit Research Capacity and Access to Statistics for Health Planning and Community Action
- Building an Evidence Base for Health-related Built Environment Surveillance
- Evidence, Action, Equity
- How BRFS has been used for Risk Factor Surveillance
- Rural Chronic Disease Surveillance & Small Area Analysis
- An Introduction to using CCHS Microdata
- EpiData
- Chronic Disease Dissemination Tools
- Perspectives on Public Health Surveillance in the 21st Century
- GIS and Regional Factor Surveillance



Past CARRFS Publications (2008-2013)

Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance / l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque

Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance Brochure



Environmental Scan of Regional Risk factor Surveillance Final Report



Environmental Scan of Regional Risk Factor Surveillance
Final Report

Enhancing capacity for risk factor surveillance at the regional/local level: a follow-up review of the findings of the Canadian Think Tank Forum after 4 years

Choi et al. Archives of Public Health 2014, 72:2
http://www.archpublichealth.com/content/72/1/2



RESEARCH Open Access

Enhancing capacity for risk factor surveillance at the regional/local level: a follow-up review of the findings of the Canadian Think Tank Forum after 4 years

Bernard CK Choi^{1,2,3*}, Mary Lou Decou¹, Drona Rasal^{4,5}, Patricia J Martens⁶, Michellina Mancuso⁷, Ronald C Plotnikoff⁸, Cory Neudorff^{9,10}, Joanne Thanos¹¹, Lawrence W Svenson^{12,13,14}, Keith Denny¹⁵, Heather Orpana^{16,17}, Paula Stewart¹⁸, Michael King¹⁹, Jane Griffith²⁰, Tannis Erickson²⁰, Renate van Dorp²¹, Deanna White²² and Amira Ali²³

Abstract
Background: National health surveys are sometimes used to provide estimates on risk factors for policy and program development at the regional/local level. However, as regional/local needs may differ from national ones, an important question is how to also enhance capacity for risk factor surveillance regionally/locally.
Methods: A Think Tank Forum was convened in Canada to discuss the needs, characteristics, coordination, tools and next steps to build capacity for regional/local risk factor surveillance. A series of follow up activities to review the relevant issues pertaining to needs, characteristics and capacity of risk factor surveillance were conducted.
Results: Results confirmed the need for a regional/local risk factor surveillance system that is flexible, timely, of good quality, having a communication plan, and responsive to local needs. It is important to conduct an environmental scan and a gap analysis, to develop a common vision, to build central and local coordination and leadership, to build on existing tools and resources, and to use innovation.
Conclusions: Findings of the Think Tank Forum are important for building surveillance capacity at the local/county level, both in Canada and globally. This paper provides a follow-up review of the findings based on progress over the last 4 years.
Keywords: Public health surveillance, Capacity building, Behavioural risk factors

New Brunswick Student Wellness Survey: A Modular Case Study Report for Regional Surveillance



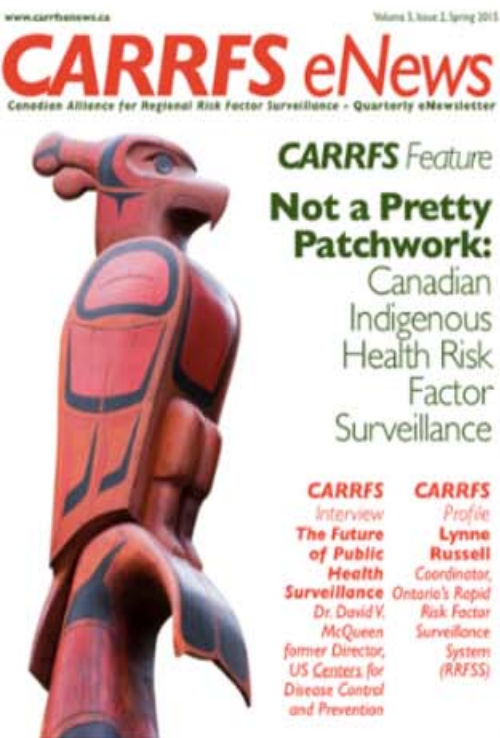
New Brunswick Student Wellness Survey: A Modular Case Study Report for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance

An organizing partner of the 7th World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) Global Conference (2011), Toronto



CARRFS eNews (2013-2015)

Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance / l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque



“The goal of CARRFS eNews is to support the mandate of CARRFS and to provide a voice for the public health/chronic disease factor surveillance community in Canada.” Jostein Algroy, Editor-in-Chief

Recent CARRFS Events (2016-2020)

Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance /
l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque



CARRFS 2016
CARRFS
Innovation
Summit,
Toronto

**Public Health
2017**
Pre-Conference
CARRFS
Symposium &
Collaborator
Session, Halifax



**Public Health
2018**
Pre-Conference
CARRFS
Symposium &
Collaborator
Session,
Montreal



**Public Health
2019**
CARRFS
Collaborator
Session,
Ottawa



**Public Health
2020 Virtual**
Pre-Conference
CARRFS
Symposium &
Collaborator
Session, Virtual

Thank You!

Questions?
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