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Website reviews

Canadian Best Practices Portal for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Website: http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca
Contact: http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca/support/index_e.cfm(in English)
http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca/support/index_f.cfm(in Français)

Canadian Best Practices Portal

the first of three phases. There are currently 97 best practice interventions contained in the database. These interventions are relevant to health promotion and chronic disease prevention and population health and are fully evaluated by experts.

What is it?

The Canadian Best Practices Portal (CBPP) is an entry point or a bridge to access qualified resources, interventions and systematic reviews related to health promotion and chronic disease prevention. It provides a user-friendly interface built on the best available evidence with input from experts and potential users across Canada.

Who is it for?

Decision makers in practice, policy and research will find it useful to help obtain high quality sources of information in health promotion and chronic disease prevention.

What information is contained?

The Canadian Best Practices Portal, which is a component within the Canadian Best Practices System, is an ongoing project and has completed

How do I access it?

CBPP provides three ways to access its interventions:

1. *Search Best Practices Interventions: Keyword Search* allows the user to enter keyword(s) to quickly locate interventions. You can list all interventions by clicking the search button without entering any keywords. *Advance Search* provides keyword entering plus data categories selecting such as language, population, diseases, gender, etc. to let the user easily narrow their search criteria. The search results will be listed in alphabetical order.
2. *Suggested Resources for Each Element of the Population Health Template*: The user can find resources based on eight key elements, such as ''*Focus on the health of populations*'', ''*Address the determinants of health and their interactions*'', etc. There is also a list of ''*10 Most Recent Frequently Accessed Resources*'' ranking the most popular interventions.

3. *Selected Systematic Review Sites:* Currently there are 13 systematic review databases selected on the Portal. The user can read the detailed summary or follow the provided links visiting these review sites.

Comments

Surfing for information is a basic task for every researcher and decision maker. In today's ''information boom'', gathering high quality and useful information can be quite a challenge. CBPP tries to ease the task and it has made a very good start.

CBPP provides three different ways to access the interventions in their database. The ''*Advance Search*'' option is recommended since the basic keyword search will retrieve only exact matches. For example, if you type ''cardiovascular'' in the searching textbox it identifies only one record, but if you select ''cardiovascular disease'' from the advance search page you get six records. Alternative orders such as by subject or by best matched would be much more useful to the user. Sometimes different interventions link back to the same review article, just like a review of reviews. It would be more useful if CBPP would link to the original sources.

CBPP continues its development in phases 2 and 3. I suggest you return to the website periodically for updated information.

Canadian Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance Infobase

Website: http://cvdinfobase.ca/surveillance
Contact: infobase@phac-aspc.gc.ca

What is it?

Canadian Non-Communicable Diseases Surveillance Infobase (NCD Infobase) is supported by the Surveillance Division, Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Public Health Agency of Canada. It profiles the epidemiology of major non-communicable diseases in Canada. Its user-friendly interface provides a quick and easy way to generate complex maps, graphs and tables.

Who is it for?

Policy makers and health professionals will find it is one of the best data dissemination resources for public health, and chronic disease prevention and control in Canada. The public can easily obtain and understand general health information from the maps and graphs.

What information is contained?

NCD Infobase can be divided to two parts: database and web application.

The database contains over 200 data subgroups in five major categories: demographics, morbidity, mortality, risk factors and health related services. Disease listings include cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory, spanning the past few decades to the present, at national, provincial/territorial and health region levels. The data include numbers, pre-calculated rates and averages from several Canadian national databases.

The web application retrieves data from the database, applies analyses, and displays the results on maps, graphs and tables on the internet with a link to indicate the original sources. Many statistical analyses can be applied to provide such information as age-standardized incidence, hospital discharge and mortality rates; risk factor prevalence; mortality trends, birth cohort and proportional mortality trends; and national, provincial/territorial and health regional profiles.

NCD Infobase is available in English and French.

How do I access it?

NCD Infobase provides the following five pages for different user needs. Except for the ''Profiles'' page, all the pages contain several menus to select region, data category and data sub-category, gender, year, etc. One can then generate maps, graphs and tables as required. NCD Infobase also provides data downloading for further analyses.

Maps

National, provincial or health regional data can be displayed on a colour-coded map with a data value distribution graph (for health regional data), a detailed data table, source and notes.

If the user has selected two variables, a scattergram or correlation diagram can also be generated. At the same time, the correlation coefficient and regression line between two variables can be calculated.

Trends

The user can create up to 12 trend lines on one graph to compare rates among different areas, variables, age groups, or by gender. The optional standard population menu provides several populations for generating age-standardized incidence or mortality rates for different needs. Data tables are also available.

Cohorts

Birth cohort mortality trends and age specific mortality trends can be created on one graph with detailed data tables.

Proportions

Proportional mortality trends for all causes, all CVDs, or all cancers can be generated on a bar or pie graph, with data from 1960 to 2000.

Profiles

The most recent demographics, morbidity, mortality, risk factor, and health service data can be summarized for any province/territory and any health region in Canada. A printer-friendly version is also available.

Comments

NCD Infobase provides a user-friendly interface to access its rich database. Dynamic maps, graphs, and tables are produced in seconds. Planned enhancements include the addition of other non-communicable diseases such as digestive and renal diseases, mental disorders, injury, etc., as well as more variables at the health region level.

NCD Infobase is an ongoing project. It is updated often as new data become available. Visit the website frequently to access the most current data.

Disclosure: NCD Infobase is a project that was conceived and developed by Dr. Wielgosz and myself.

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