

# Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU)

## STATUS REPORT

<http://www.spheru.ca/>

**Mission:** SPHERU's vision is to work with communities and policy makers to improve the health of Saskatchewan people. Our mission is the promotion of health equity by understanding and addressing population health disparities through policy relevant research.

**Goals and objectives of the centre:** SPHERU takes a collaborative approach to population health research by working with communities and policy makers. We are committed to: mobilizing and building upon the expertise of our researchers, students, trainees, and research partners; ensuring our research questions and results are relevant to improving the health of Saskatchewan residents; and exchanging our research knowledge through engagement with communities and policy makers.

**Types of activities undertaken to achieve mandate:** SPHERU's research is focused on three main themes: Aboriginal and Northern Health; Healthy Children; and Rural Health; as well as Evaluation Research. SPHERU research addresses these main themes while working with community members, government representatives, and other academic institutions to enhance our understanding of population health and the social determinants of health resulting in research outcomes that are aimed at improving the health of Saskatchewan people. SPHERU provides training for undergraduate students, graduate students and post doctoral fellows, as well as community based staff and researchers through their involvement on research teams and projects.

As a bi-university research unit SPHERU promotes and facilitates relationships between researchers based at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. We have offices in three office sites across Saskatchewan (the University of Regina in both Regina and Prince Albert and the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon), which enable our researchers to form close ties within the communities where the research is conducted. Effective relationships between SPHERU researchers and community organizations, other academic institutions, and government representatives are important for conducting policy relevant research that will facilitate enhanced health for the people of Saskatchewan.

**Governance:**

The Management of SPHERU is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. This MOU outlines the cooperative agreement to support the work of SPHERU and highlights the role of the Management Advisory Group in providing consultation and advice to the Director and members of SPHERU. The members of this Group are appointed by the Vice-Presidents Research at each university and bi-annual meetings allow for an update of research and financial activities of SPHERU as well as the provision of collegial support to the research program.

**Management Advisory Group:** Dr. M.E. (Beth) Horsburgh (Chairperson) (University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Jim Thornhill (University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Craig J. Chamberlin (University of Regina), and Dr. Michael Tymchak (University of Regina).

**Research Faculty:**

Dr. Bonnie Jeffery, Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina (Director)

Dr. Sylvia Abonyi, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Paul Hackett, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Shanthi Johnson, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Regina

Dr. Diane Martz, Research Ethics Office, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Tom McIntosh, Faculty of Arts, Political Science, University of Regina

Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Pammla Petrucka, College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Nazmi Sari, Economics, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Mary Hampton, Faculty of Psychology, Luther College, University of Regina

**Research Associates:**

Dr. James Daschuk, Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies, University of Regina

**Post Doctoral Fellows:**

Dr. Gloria DeSantis, University of Regina

Dr. Hongxia Shan, University of Saskatchewan