

Who we are

IHE researchers include full-time staff and academic fellows who are faculty members at Alberta universities.

Researchers who have contributed to IHE initiatives in mental health and addictions include:

Egon Jonsson – PhD, economist,
Executive Director and CEO of IHE

Philip Jacobs – PhD, economist
at IHE and University of Alberta

Angus Thompson – PhD, clinical
psychologist at IHE and University
of Alberta

Arto Ohinmaa – PhD, economist
at IHE and University of Alberta

Rita Yim – MA, MPH, research
economist at IHE

Bing Guo – MD, physician, health
technology assessment researcher
at IHE

Christa Harstall – MHSA, Director of
Health Technology Assessment at IHE

Scott Patten – MD, PhD,
psychiatrist and epidemiologist
at University of Calgary

Mingshan Lu – PhD, economist
at University of Calgary

Steve Newman – MD, physician and
epidemiologist at University of Alberta

Ray Block – PhD, former CEO
at AMHB, economist at University
of Alberta

Carolyn Dewa – PhD, economist
at University of Toronto and Centre
for Addiction and Mental Health

Kim Lim – PhD, economist at University
of Singapore and visiting IHE staff

Institute of Health Economics

The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) connects clinicians, managers, and researchers with government, academic leaders, and industry to address complex health care issues. IHE generates evidence from economic research, clinical and epidemiological investigations, and health technology assessment to inform health policy and practice.



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Mental Health and Addictions



INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH ECONOMICS
ALBERTA CANADA

Generating evidence to support health policy and practice

“... researchers work with partners on projects which aide decision-makers in better understanding the implications of resource use in mental health and addictions ...”



Background

Economic research in mental health and addictions deals with the use of scarce resources and their outcomes. A variety of techniques, including cost effectiveness analysis and health technology assessment, have evolved in recent years to provide information for policy makers who have recognized that there are not enough resources to go around and who need information to help develop priorities.

IHE initiatives in this area began several years ago when the Alberta Mental Health Board (AMHB) approached IHE to collaborate on an initiative to develop provincial databases for the use of economic analysis. IHE has partnered with government, non-profit agencies, and industry to develop economic studies to be used as an aide to policy making.

Types of studies

IHE conducts policy driven research. IHE researchers work with partners on projects which help decision-makers in better understanding the implications of resource use in mental health and addictions by studying the interplay of the economic environment, health determinants, and services.

IHE activities include:

- Macroeconomic overviews of resource use
- Economic evaluation analysis
- Studies of specific treatment modalities, including modes of care and pharmaceuticals
- Studies of resource use for specific population groups (immigrants, aboriginals, seniors, children, women)
- Studies of persons with specific diagnoses (depression)
- Economic modeling
- Systematic literature reviews
- Consensus development conferences

Dissemination and knowledge transfer

IHE conducts and disseminates research in a number of ways to increase its impact. These include traditional approaches such as publications in scientific journals, conference presentations, information via the Internet, press releases, workshops, seminars, and other educational activities.

The most recent dissemination and knowledge transfer activities include:

- A Consensus Development Conference on Depression in Adults: How to Improve Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment hosted by IHE, Alberta Health Services-Alberta Mental Health Board, and the Mental Health Commission of Canada, with support from the Alberta Depression Initiative
- Mental Health Economic Statistics in Your Pocket, an IHE report co-sponsored by Alberta Health Services-Alberta Mental Health Board
- How Much Should We Spend on Mental Health?, an IHE booklet in partnership with Alberta Health Services-Alberta Mental Health Board
- The Alberta Depression Initiative (a collaboration of Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Health Services-Alberta Mental Health Board, IHE, and Wyeth) studies on the epidemiology and economics of depression
- Spousal Violence Against Women: How to Prevent Recurrence, an IHE report
- Jacobs P, Yim R, Ohinmaa A et al. Expenditures on mental health and addictions for Canadian provinces from 2003/2004. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 53(5) (2008)
- Block, R, Slomp M, Patterson S, Jacobs P, Ohinmaa A, Yim R, Dewa C. The impact of integrating mental and general health services on mental health's share of total health care spending in Alberta. *Psychiatric Services* 59(8) (2008).
- Studies currently underway in partnership with the Alberta Alcohol and Substance Abuse Commission and the Mental Health Commission of Canada.