Population Health:	
What further research is needed?	-
Scott B. Patten, University of Calgary	
A Consessor Development Conference on Depression in Adults: How to Improve Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment	
Primary Prevention	
An unusual aspect of the epidemiological	
literature is the relative lack of "etiologically" oriented studies – The traditional primary goal of epidemiologic	
research is primary prevention. – Traditional epidemiological models may not	
work well. • Good focus for future research	
	-
A Consession Development Conference on Depression in Adults: Now to Improve Prevention, Comprosis, and Treatment	
Screening	
-	
 May be opportunities to develop useful screening/case finding strategies 	
 More intensive monitoring may nevertheless be very valuable and is a 	-
related goal.	
A Consession Development Conference on Depression in Adults: Here to Improve Prevention, Comprosis, and Treatment	

Treatment

- Much of the past literature has emphasized the issue of access to treatment.
 - Quality and (real world) effectiveness has been relatively neglected.
- Most of the emphasis has been on access to treatment in primary care.
 - May need to think more broadly.
 - The primary care environment itself is evolving.
 - · E.g. Primary Care Networks



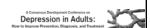
Treatment

- Another unusual element is the relative lack of longitudinal studies
 - Exceptions include NEMESIS, the Baltimore ECA follow-up and an Edmonton study.
 - Canadian researchers increasingly making use of the NPHS and NCLSY
 - Time dependent probabilities characterize this condition.
 - Sophisticated decision rules may enhance clinical practice but these depend on supporting evidence.



Have the epidemiologists "dropped the ball?"

- Innovative ideas for improving clinical treatment guidelines have apparently derived from intuition (e.g. NICE) guidelines.
- The large scale epidemiological studies sometimes seem to be in the role of "awareness raising" rather than exploring the distribution and determinants of depression.



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Centralization of Psychiatric Epidemiology

- Global standards have become a "two edged sword."
- Unprecedented quality has been achieved, but at the expense of some traditional scientific values.



Health Policy Research

- · Many good ideas for better management
 - But, Canadian primary care systems lack the funding and accountability levers of the NHS or HMO environments.
- Opportunities exist in public/population health but little action taking place.
- A "stepped care model" fits the evidence but will encounter barriers to implementation.



Research Needs

- More decisive epidemiologic studies (longitudinal) to inform practice.
- Health policy research to address "Canadian" issues.

