



EQUIP Healthcare

Research to Equip Primary Healthcare for Equity

Innovative Responses to Structural Violence Among Vulnerable Populations: Integrating Trauma-and Violence- Informed Care into Routine PHC Practices



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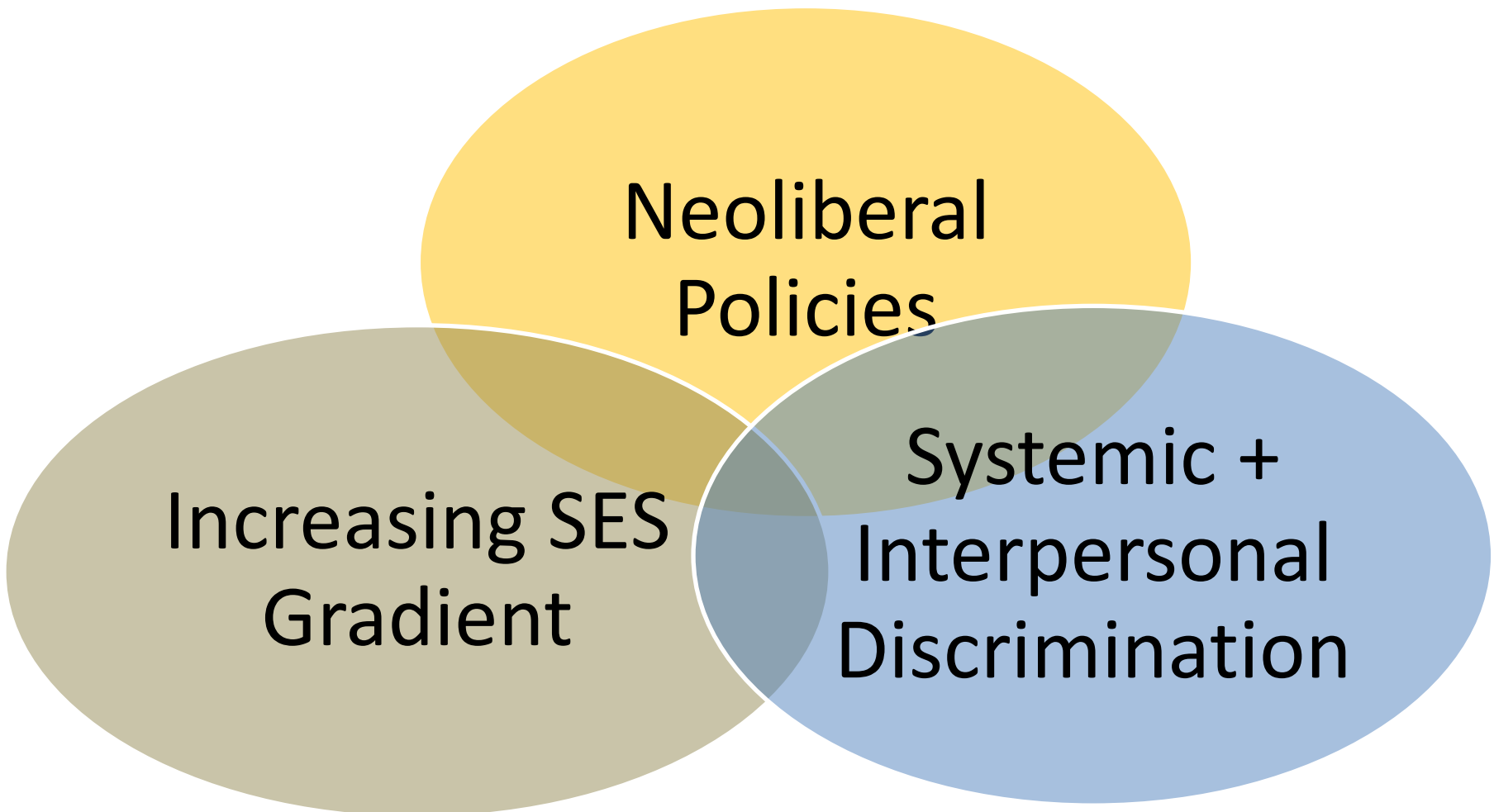
Overview of Session:

- ❑ Role of PHC sector in responding to structural and interpersonal violence
- ❑ Multi-component ***organizational*** intervention
- ❑ Examples of strategies for integrated TVIC
- ❑ Implications

Context



Challenge for the PHC Sector: How to Respond to Growing Social, Health and Healthcare Inequities?



Current Issue in Canada: *Missing Women Inquiry*





Structural violence is defined as “a host of offensives against human dignity, including extreme and relative poverty, social inequalities ranging from racism to gender inequality, and the more spectacular forms of violence” ([Farmer, 2003, p. 8](#)).

Inequities are structural because they are **embedded in social, political and economic policies and organizations**, and they are violent because they cause harm to people ([Farmer, 2003](#))

Drawing on Multiple Programs of Research

Women's Health
Effects
(of Violence)

(Ford-Gilboe, Varcoe,
Wuest)

Emergency Use for
"Non-Urgent"
Needs

(Browne, Smye, Rodney)

Intervention for
Health Enhancement
After Leaving (iHEAL)

(Ford-Gilboe, Varcoe, Wuest,
Merritt-Gray)

Urban Aboriginal
Health Centres

(Browne, Varcoe, Wong,
Smye, Lavoie)

**"EQUIP":
Intervention
Research to Equip
Primary Health
Care for Equity**

(Browne, Varcoe, Ford-
Gilboe, Wathen et al)

Aboriginal Women's
Health Intervention

(Varcoe, Browne, Ford-Gilboe)

Equity Lens for
Public Health
(ELPH)

(Pauly et al.)

Testing Internet-
based Safety
Decision Aid

(Ford-Gilboe, Wuest, Varcoe)

Aboriginal
Women's
Experiences of
Violence

(Smye, Browne & Varcoe)



EQUIP:
An Organizational-level Intervention to
Address Structural Violence in Primary
Health Care Clinics

Program Purposes:

- Test effectiveness of a **multi-component organizational intervention to promote health equity** for marginalized populations
- Identify and operationalize **measures of equity-sensitive PHC** to capture the processes and impact of services
- Analyze **policy and funding contexts** that can support uptake (and scale up) of equity-oriented interventions



Partnered with Four PHC Centres



Overall Research Design: Case Study, Mixed Methods

Mixed methods:

- Quantitative Measures
- Open-ended interviews
- Participant observation
- Document & policy analysis

Complexity Theory



Mixed-methods Case Study Design

Case Study

- Organizations conceptualized as Complex Adaptive Systems
- **PHC Clinics as unit of analysis**

Intersectionality

Sex- and Gender-based Analysis

Key Assumptions Guiding *EQUIP*

Context: Structural Violence



Trauma and Violence

Chronic Pain

Substance Use

**Discrimination,
Dismissal and Stigma**

Mistrust in Healthcare System

EQUIP: An Organizational Intervention

I. Staff Education in 3 Overlapping Areas:

- **A: Equity-Oriented Healthcare Strategies**
- **B: Countering Discrimination + Cultural Safety**
- **C: Trauma-and-Violence Informed Care (TVIC)**

II. Organizational Integration and Tailoring:

- **Tailoring specific strategies to the local context**
- **Practice Consultant**



3 Main Outcome Assessments

1. Clients:

- Cohort Sample $n = \sim 150/\text{site} \times 4 \text{ sites}$
- Structured interviews at 4 points in time (standard measures and interview questions)

2. Staff:

- Pre-post measures of knowledge, attitudes and practices

3. Assessing Organizational Changes:

- Interviews with staff
- Observations of team meetings and decision-making processes
- Review of organizational documents (e.g. new policies or guidelines)

EQUIP Patient Cohort (baseline n=567)

Retention across Waves 1, 2 & 3

Site	Wave 1 Spring 2013 (n)	Wave 2 Fall 2013 (n)	Wave 3 Fall 2014 (n)	Retention Rate (%)
Site A	133	124	120	90%
Site B	125	118	99	79%
Site C	153	134	118	77%
Site D	156	121	118	76%
Overall	N= 567	N= 499	N =455	80%

What's the Value Added of TVIC....



Health
Equity



Structural
Violence



SDH

Trauma- and Violence Informed Care

Focuses Attention on Intersections

Violence and abuse as well as other forms of stress (e.g. racism and poverty) have physiological affects

Ability to regulate pain is altered



All forms of abuse are associated with higher levels of substance use

Unresolved pain is associated with substance use

Brings the pathophysiological mechanisms into view

Chronic diseases as related to the physiological consequences of trauma and poverty



Examples:
Organizational
Integration and Tailoring



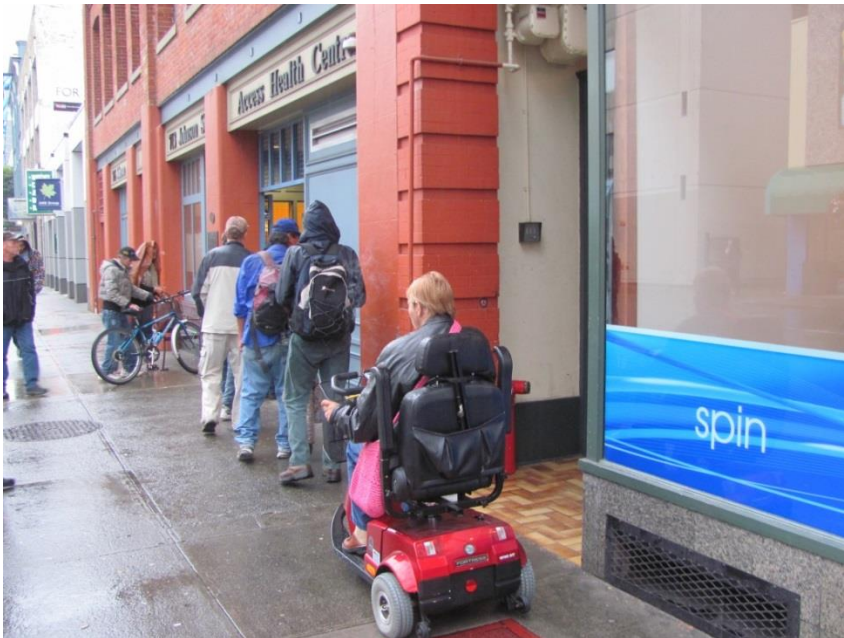
- **Uniquely planned with staff at each site**
- **Practice consultant supporting implementation**

Example:

“Lining up outside our clinic”

“Dismissing patients over the phone”

**Receptionist’s
Insights:
*This is
“structural
violence!”***



Example:

Clinical Guidelines to Better Address Chronic Pain in Context of Substance Use

“What Am I Supposed to Do about My Pain?”



“I was put on Tylenol # 3’s [Codeine] when I was 12... I have pain every single day...”

“They want me to go off of [narcotic medications] but what am I supposed to do about my pain?”

Example:

Tailoring place and space



Example:

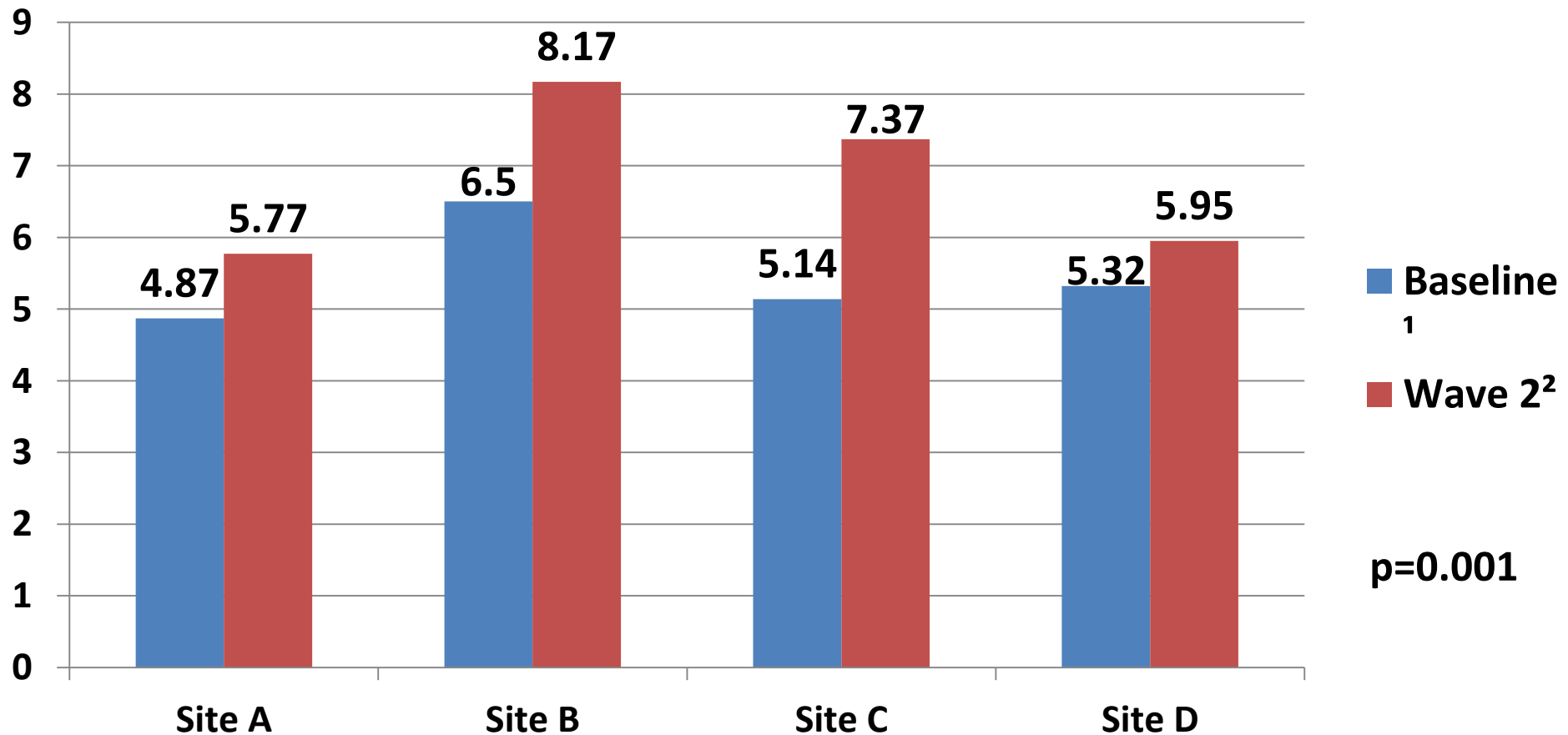
Enhancing Access to Support for Vicarious Trauma



In a patient encounter, how confident are you that you can explain the effects of trauma to a patient?

All clinics

1 (Not at all confident) to 10 (Very confident)



1. For baseline, N=80; n=64, 16 missing

2. For Wave 2, N=83; n=72, 11 missing

What can we do in practice?

What can we do in our organizations?



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Questions?

www.equiphealthcare.ca



Examples of Resources on TVIC

Varcoe, C., Browne, A.J. & Michaelson, L. (2014). Substance use in the context of health assessment (pp. 107-119). In A. J. Browne, J. MacDonald-Jenkins & M. Luctkar-Flude (Eds.), *Physical Examination and Health Assessment by C. Jarvis* (2nd Canadian Edition). Toronto: Elsevier.

Hopper, E. K., Bassuk, E. L., & Olivet, J. (2010). Shelter from the storm: Trauma-informed care in homelessness services settings~!2009-08-20~!2009-09-28~!2010-03-22. *The Open Health Services and Policy Journal*, 3(2), 80-100. doi:10.2174/1874924001003020080

Coalescing on Women and Substance Use: Linking Research, Practice and Policy website: <http://www.coalescing-vc.org/index.htm> (Re: Violence, trauma and substance use)

BC Trauma Informed Practice Guide (2013). BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. http://bccewh.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2013_TIP-Guide.pdf