

# **The impact of localized implementation: Perceived barriers and successes of an Addiction Medicine Unit (AMU) in Sudbury, Ontario Canada.**

Category: Oral Presentation

## Abstract Body

**Background:** In Sudbury & Districts, preliminary data for 2022 is showing annualized substance-related mortality rate of 51.1 deaths per 100,000 population per year (compared to 48.3 in 2021), which is ~3.2x higher than the provincial rate of 16.0 deaths per 100,000 population (17). As a result, Health Sciences North (HSN), an academic health science centre with a regional mandate to serve residents from small urban, rural, and remote communities of northeastern Ontario, has implemented a new addiction medicine in-patient unit (AMU).

**Objective:** The objective of this research is to present and evaluate the impact of the localized implementation of an AMU in Sudbury, Ontario Canada on patient-level and health system outcomes, as well as patient and staff perspectives on the AMU.

**Methods:** We are in the process of conducting a mixed-methods observational study. This includes a retrospective observational analysis using routinely collected data from HSN, a prospective analysis using primary data collection, and a prospective thematic analysis using patient interviews and staff focus groups. **Results:** We have a cohort of approximately 150 patients that have been admitted to the AMU for retrospective analysis, 30 patients have participated in the prospective research and approximately 20 staff will be involved in the focus groups. At this point in the research process, we have not observed significant changes in health system trends. However, based on preliminary qualitative analysis, patients have reported that the AMU is a helpful service to give them a safe space in the hospital to stabilize physically in a non-judgmental environment. **Conclusion and impact:** The findings of this project at HSN may in turn have implications for other regions grappling with high rates of SUD given the emergence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids in the illicit drug supply, subsequent isolation and increasing mental health and addiction rates.

## Key Words

- Caring in Crisis
- Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Substance Use Disorder (general)

Learning Objective # 1

1. After this presentation, conference attendees will be able to use the information to operationalize an evaluation of an addiction-focused program in a hospital setting.

Learning Objective # 2

2. After this presentation, conference attendees will be able to understand patient and staff perspectives on the value of an inpatient addiction medicine unit in a northern community in Ontario.

Reference # 1

Rush B. Application of the Needs-Based Planning Model to the Substance Use Treatment System in the Cochrane Sub-region of the Northeast Local Health Integration Network. Toronto Ontario; 2019.

Reference # 2

Public Health Sudbury and Districts. (2021). Opioid surveillance. 2021 [Available from: <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/alcohol-drugs/community-drug-strategy/research/opioid-surveillance/>].

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