

Chronic Disease Surveillance in Canada: The Chronic Disease and Injury Indicator Framework

Marisol Betancourt¹

Conflictos de interés: Los autores declaran no tener conflictos de interés alguno.

Abstract

Background: The Public Health Agency of Canada (the Agency) has developed a Chronic Disease and Injury Indicator Framework (the Framework) which is the first of its kind in Canada. The Framework provides a snapshot of current data on chronic diseases and associated risk and protective factors using a set of core evidence based indicators. **Purpose:** The Framework is intended to improve access to current chronic disease and risk factor surveillance data in Canada by providing consistent, reliable and ongoing pan-Canadian information on chronic disease. The Framework's main target audiences are policy makers and public health professionals. The Framework has broad applicability as a reference tool.

Study/Intervention/Design: Public health surveillance systems

Methods: From literature review to expert opinion consultations, a framework's conceptual model comprised of six domains was developed. Based on inclusion criteria and using an iterative process, indicators and measures were prioritized/ranked resulting in a set of core set of 41 indicators that were incorporated into the Framework's model domains. The Framework's indicators and measures are re-assessed and updated annually. **Results:** Using a life-course approach and focusing on upstream factors, the Framework pulls together core population level indicators that are classified within the Framework's domains: Social and environmental determinant, early life/childhood risk and protective factors, behavioural risk and protective factors, risk conditions, disease prevention practices, and health outcomes/status. Through its main products, the Framework's web interface and Quick Stats, the Framework presents the most updated pan-Canadian estimates, time trends, and data breakdowns by sex, regions, age groups and many other demographic and socioeconomic variables when feasible.

¹MD, MSc(Epidemiology), Public Health Agency of Canada

Conclusion: Understanding the evidence related to chronic disease and its determinants is key to interpreting trends and crucial to the development of public health interventions. In the first year of its release, the Framework is proven to be an important source for evidence-informed public health decision making in Canada.