Where’s The Beef?
Calming the COVID-19 Storm With Socio-Clinical Interventions

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Background: COVID-19 Outbreak and Impact
Cargill meat-packing plant located in High River, AB was the site of the largest workplace outbreak in North America during the first wave of the pandemic.
• 936/2000 employees tested positive
• 1560 total cases linked to the outbreak
• Socioeconomic risk factors played a large role in transmission

Profile of Employees Who Were Impacted
• Temporary Foreign workers
• Low Income Earners
• Newly arrived immigrants
• Language
• Refugees
• Job insecurity

Same COVID-19 Storm but Different Socioeconomic Boats

Community Agency Response
Supported 2163 households over the course of months to address needs related to:
• COVID-19 (26%) & isolation (29%)
• Underlying medical conditions (15%)
• Unemployment, reduced income (30%)
• Family violence (5%)

PCNs and community agencies collaborated in new ways to meet the patients’ medical and social needs

Objectives
• Evaluate and improve service delivery
• Goal: patient-centered, efficient & effective
• Improve connections between community, primary

Methods
Recruitment through community-based methods:
• Patient advisors from ethno-cultural groups (also involved in planning & recruitment)
• Town halls
• Online platforms
• Snowball sampling

Qualitative data collection:
• Semi-structured interviews with first language translation
• Thematic analysis for pain points & gain points

Results
Data collection in progress. Preliminary pain points from initial scoping interviews with providers revealed a need for improved role clarity and data sharing.

We plan to collect:
• 40 Patient interviews
• 40 Provider interviews
• Stop collection if saturation is reached

Future Work
The COVID-19 outbreak at Cargill meat-packing plant in High River was a catalyst for primary care and the social sector to collaborate like never before. At this time, these new relationships between primary care and the social sector are being leveraged for the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine.

We hope to improve and strengthen these relationships for the future not only to respond to future outbreaks, but also to improve the overall health and well-being of our communities.

Weathering The Storm: Primary Care Response
Primary Care Networks (PCNs) were instrumental in detecting the outbreak and rapidly responding by:
• organizing COVID testing sites
• referring to community agencies for social supports
• managing COVID patients in the community
• preventing calls to Health Link and emergency department visits

Fig. 1 COVID-19 incidence in Canada from February to July 2020. Cases related to the Cargill outbreak are represented in red.

Fig. 2. Overview of Canada’s epidemic with selected key milestones (December 2019 to August 2020)

Fig. 2 Project Timeline
Community Agency and PCN Collaborators
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