

Syphilis Treatment Outreach and Prevention (STOP) Education Project Summary

Project Purpose:

Canada is currently experiencing a syphilis outbreak, with a 109% increase in cases since 2018 and a corresponding 599% increase in confirmed early congenital syphilis cases. Evidence-based up to date education for health professionals to address this outbreak is critical.

The purpose of the STOP Project is to address sexual health, syphilis, and other STBBI testing, treatment, and care inequities by providing relevant CME and PD courses to healthcare providers, thereby improving access to appropriate care for populations disproportionately affected by Canada's syphilis outbreak.

Funding:

Alberta Health has granted the Centre for Sexuality project funding for 3 years through the Syphilis Outbreak Action Response (SOAR) Fund.

Key Project Deliverables:

The STOP Project will work to reduce stigma and healthcare inequities by developing a program of nationally accredited online (synchronous and asynchronous) and in person workshops for healthcare providers on syphilis, culturally safe STBBI care, sexual health literacy and supporting underserved women. The project will seek accreditation from MOC, MAINPRO+, CNA and CCCEP to provide CME and PD course credits for physicians, family physicians, nurses and pharmacists. This series of workshops will be accompanied by the development supporting educational resources.

Needs Assessment:

A comprehensive needs assessment will be carried out in support of the STOP Project deliverables. This assessment will include a review of the literature, engagement of a scientific planning committee, surveys, interviews and focus groups with stakeholders, and the completion of a final needs assessment report to be used for curriculum planning. Using an evidence-based approach will strengthen the potential of the curriculum to change the practice behaviors of physicians, nurses and pharmacists and improve patient outcomes.

The Centre for Sexuality:

Our mission: We teach, we train, and we advocate to support healthy bodies, healthy relationships, and healthy communities. Our national Training Centre offers a full range of workshops tailored for professionals working in all sectors. We cover everything from diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace to building staff confidence in addressing sexual health and STBBIs with clients. <https://www.centreforsexuality.ca/>

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