

Guidelines for Knowledge Notes

The Alberta Addiction and Mental Health Research Partnership Program (Research Partnership Program) has created a virtual research centre (VRC) web-based forum through which health and mental health care scientists and practitioners can obtain current and accurate information on the status of mental health in Alberta and Canada. The on-line resources available at the VRC include peer-reviewed journal publications, government reports, statistical packages, and large-scale databases to support current and upcoming scientists conducting innovative quantitative and qualitative research in the mental health field. To further support health and mental health care practitioners in making best decisions for their clients, we will make available a series of brief but comprehensive summaries of mental health research through the VRC.

The goal of including summaries is to disseminate addiction and mental health research knowledge in a simple and easily accessible form to potential and on-going VRC users on one of the four Research Priorities or the cross-cutting themes outlined by the Research Partnership Program. The four research priorities include: effectiveness of mental health services and the system, child and adolescent mental health, mental health in the workplace, and mental illness and addiction. The cross-cutting themes focus on issues that span across the priority themes. These include: Aboriginal and multicultural populations, suicide prevention, knowledge transfer, and the capacity of information systems to support research.

Guidelines

For the summary, we would like academic or applied researchers to synthesize evidence (research and/or practice-based) on critical issues (e.g., prevalence, conceptualization of mental illness, useful findings, innovative services) related to addiction or mental health.

Particulars:

Summary length: 3 pages, maximum (not including references)

Formatting: .To be submitted as an MS Word document; will be posted in PDF.

Review process: The summaries will be reviewed by three AHS staff members and an external reviewer (where appropriate) and suggestions or edits will be sent back to the author(s) for final revisions and approval.

Knowledge Notes Format

Depending on the research topic, please include relevant sections in the summary:

Background

Introduce the research topic (e.g., seniors and mental health) and why it is important

Objectives

Outline purpose of summary (e.g., to summarize recent meta-analysis on the effectiveness of CBT on alleviating depression in seniors).

Method

Describe materials and/or procedures used to synthesize knowledge and/or literature (e.g., brief description of search strategy, population, how the evidence was synthesized). When appropriate, explain how practice-based evidence was incorporated.

Results

Outline findings obtained by using the above method.

Conclusions

Briefly describe resulting interpretation(s) and implication(s) (e.g., policy/practice, need for specific type of follow-up research).

References

Provide a list of references for any literature used to produce the one-page summary. If this is an executive summary of a full report, please provide the URL where the full report can be accessed.