

Applied Health Research and Knowledge Mobilization Lab

Dr. Jeanna Parsons Leigh





Current Projects

1. Sociocultural Implications of COVID-19
2. Partnering with Canadian Families to Understand and Address COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts on Youth Wellbeing
3. Examining Drivers of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy
4. **Creating a Culture of Sepsis Awareness**
5. Value for Money
6. Improving Transitions in Care from the Intensive Care Unit



Creating a culture of sepsis awareness through advocacy, health literacy, and knowledge translation.

Sepsis is a medical complication of the body's response to fighting an infection. Sepsis can very quickly lead to organ damage and death if not recognized and treated early. Globally public awareness of sepsis is generally low, but we do not know what people living in Canada know about sepsis. This 5-year study aims to assess sepsis awareness and knowledge in Canada, identify major knowledge gaps, and address these gaps with the end-goal to improve sepsis literacy. We will use mixed methods involving national surveys, focus groups, and the development a national campaign to engage, educate, and empower the public to be able to make informed decisions about their health.

Team Lead

[Rebecca Brundin-Mather](#)

Funder

[Sepsis Canada](#) (via [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#))

Status

Not currently recruiting

Project Overview:

[Sepsis Canada Webinar](#)
April 21, 2022



Recruiting

We have finished recruiting individuals across Canada who were diagnosed with sepsis or were family members of sepsis patients to participate in focus groups.

Check back for information future studies or contact the project lead, [Rebecca](#) directly.





Results to Date



Focus Groups

Exploring the lived experiences and perspectives on raising public awareness of sepsis in Canada: A focus group study of adult sepsis survivors and family members of sepsis patients.

Summary: Building on the results of our 2021 [survey of public knowledge of sepsis](#), we conducted focus groups in the Fall of 2022 to better understand factors that may be contributing to gaps in awareness and knowledge. We had 2 main research objectives:

1. to explore lived experiences with sepsis, specifically focusing on communications between patients, family, and healthcare providers, and
2. to explore what individuals with lived experience of sepsis think the public needs to know about sepsis and how information could be optimally delivered.

We are currently writing up the results.





Results to Date



National Survey

Public awareness and knowledge of sepsis: a cross-sectional survey of adults in Canada

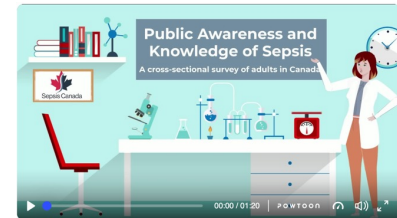
Summary: Sepsis can quickly cause life-altering physical and psychological effects and 39% of adults in Canada sampled in our survey have not heard of it. Critically, only a minority knew the possible signs of sepsis, risk factors, and strategies to lower risk. Females, older adults, and adults with post-secondary education were more likely to be aware of sepsis. Education initiatives should focus messaging on infection prevention, employ broad media strategies, and use primary healthcare providers to disseminate evidence-based information

Peer reviewed article published in [BMC Care Medicine](#)

Video study summaries:



[Who has heard of sepsis in Canada?](#)



[What do Canadians Know About Sepsis?](#)



Results to Date



Scoping Review

Patient, Public, and Healthcare Professional's Sepsis Awareness, Knowledge, and Information Seeking Behaviors: A Scoping Review.

Summary: Patient, public, and healthcare professional awareness and knowledge of sepsis vary globally. Future research may benefit from a consistent definition as well as country-specific data to support targeted public awareness campaigns.

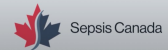
Peer reviewed article published in [Critical Care Medicine](#)

Video study summary: [English](#) | [Francais](#)

Patient, Public & Healthcare Professionals Sepsis Awareness, Knowledge, & Information Seeking Behaviours:
A Scoping Review



Comportements de sensibilisation, de connaissances et de recherche d'informations des patients, du public et des professionnels de la santé:





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