

Land Acknowledgement

OUR MISSION

The Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research is a network of individuals and partner organizations dedicated to conducting ethical, collaborative, high-quality studies of risk and protective factors for substance use and addictions, and evaluating interventions relevant to substance use and related health determinants. Our research informs a broad range of projects and initiatives with the goal of preventing and reducing community-wide harms from substance use among diverse populations locally, nationally, and internationally.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Improve wellbeing, reduce harms

Attention is required to both immediate factors (e.g. behavioural patterns and contexts) and distal factors (e.g. social, economic, policy-related) to effectively prevent and address harms from substance use and addictions across the life course. Recognition that some people will continue to use psychoactive substances and experience addictions is also critical, so strategies are needed to reduce harmful consequences, in addition to efforts that aim to directly reduce or prevent high-risk behaviours. Research that is of high quality and high public health relevance to local, national, and international populations are prerequisites in support of this principle.

Conduct commercially independent, ethical scholarship

Commitment to solid ethical principles and transparency governing internal and external relationships and financial management, the conduct of research and the communication of research findings is of utmost importance. Protection from vested interests is crucial to ensure that research is conducted in the broader public interest and to support public health. This will be enabled by excluding representatives of commercial interests (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and gaming entities) from CISUR membership, and not accepting direct research funding from such sources. Work with government or other funders will involve mindful consideration of political influence or other factors affecting any aspect of the research.

Prioritize collaborative relationships

Dynamic, collaborative relationships at multiple levels are essential for ensuring relevance of the research across diverse experiences and outcomes of substance use and related interventions. Key relationships include those with policymakers, nongovernmental and community organizations, researchers from many disciplines, health and social practitioners, media, and the public including people with lived and living experience of substance use and those coping with addictions and other substance-related problems.

Address social equity, inclusion and justice issues

A commitment to the promotion of equity and fairness and the pursuit of social justice through attention to the impact of the environmental context and social determinants that shape substance use and the development of health inequities is critical. A focus on the role that substance use and related policies play in creating and driving inequalities is required to improve health and address disparities among vulnerable populations. Special attention must be paid to addressing the negative impacts of colonization on Indigenous populations both overall and with respect to substance use.

Engage in informed discussion and debate

Open-mindedness and a commitment to fostering respectful discussion is a crucial part of the research process among researchers, and is matched by a commitment to engage in public discussion and debate through focused knowledge mobilization and knowledge exchange activities in order to facilitate the adoption of evidence-based public policy regarding substance use that will improve health and well-being.

Train and mentor emerging scholars and learners

Training and mentoring the next generation of scholars and learners promotes and sustains high quality substance use-relevant research. We strive to provide collaborative educational opportunities for diverse populations, and to be inclusive of those in non-academic settings (e.g., community or government) or with non-academic career goals.

CONTENTS

Message from the Chair	1
Message from the Director	2
In Memoriam: Dan Reist	3
Our People and Partners	5
KEY RESULTS AREA 1: Building Capacity for Research & Knowlege Exchange	17
KEY RESULTS AREA 2: Engaging Academic Expertise	23
KEY RESULTS AREA 3: Implementing Quality Research	27
KEY RESULTS AREA 4: Disseminating & Mobilizing Knowledge	43
Appendix: Research Analytics	51

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Last year marked the first presentation of CISUR's Harold Johnson Award for Changing the Alcohol Story. The inaugural recipient was Jarret Nelson of Montreal Lake Cree Nation for his work rebuilding community, especially his work with youth, through the practice of traditional Cree culture and going out on the land. The late Harold Johnson was an award-winning Cree lawyer and author of many books including *Firewater: How Alcohol is Killing My People (and Yours)*, and *The Power of Story*. Harold said stories can hurt but they can also heal. We have to ask the question "how do we change the story we're telling ourselves?"

The Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research is answering that question and changing the story about substance use. This has been another outstanding year for CISUR, creating positive societal change, locally, nationally, and internationally. With the guiding principles of improving wellbeing and reducing harms from substance use and addictions for all, CISUR's new initiatives and ongoing projects are grounded in brilliant, collaborative scholarship and, beautifully, compassion. They have enormous impact on public health and individual lives, often the lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society.

It is a great honour to be the incoming Chair of the Advisory Board. As I begin my term and on the board's behalf, I want to offer profound thanks to Dr. Michael J. Prince who chaired the Advisory Board since it was a zygote! I also express my thanks and gratitude to the esteemed members of our Advisory Board for their guidance and for sharing their unique perspectives. And enormous gratitude, thanks and respect for the scientists, scholars, staff and students who are part of the innovative work of CISUR. You are changing the story about substance use, every single day.



Shelagh Rogers, O.C.

Chancellor Emerita, University of Victoria

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm very happy to report that the past year has been a strong one for the Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research, as we continue to be a leading resource for substance use research and for translation of that research to policy makers and our community partners.

This was also a year of renewal and re-dedication for CISUR, as we completed our strategic plan that reaffirmed and updated our core principles, identified, and celebrated our successes and areas of strength, identified areas of growth in future opportunity, and outlined some key challenges that lie ahead. At the end of the day, however, our mission remains the same: to provide high quality research in order to promote health and wellbeing with respect to substance use and related determinants among communities and individuals locally, nationally and internationally.

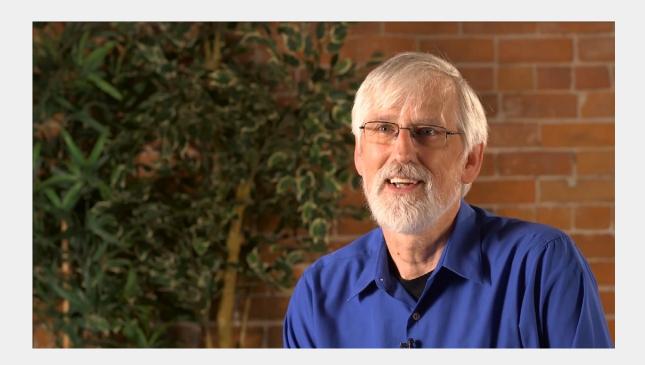
CISUR faculty and staff have concluded another successful year of research. Papers, grants, contracts, awards, and innumerable media engagements have been matched by important translation and outreach activities. Important research and service work includes the evaluation of the Prescribed Safer Supply program, impacts of minimum unit prices for alcohol on health and vulnerable populations, and the impact of the decriminalization for small amounts of drugs in British Columbia, among other projects. On a personal level, I am very grateful to have been reappointed for a second term as Director at CISUR; I feel privileged to work with such a great group.

We are also very fortunate to have Shelagh Rogers as our new Chair of the Advisory Board -- we welcome her expertise, vision, inimitable wit and sunny disposition. We thank her joining our ranks, particularly since she's recently been named Chancellor at Queen's University!



Timothy S. Naimi, M.D., M.P.H.

Director, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) Professor, Department of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria



REMEMBERING DAN REIST

Dan Reist, who retired in 2022, led a Vancouver-based team that focuses on communicating current evidence in a way that supports the evolution of effective policy and practice. With a background in continental philosophy and hermeneutics, Dan was quick to acknowledge that evidence is far more than statistics about patterns of use and harm and includes attention to the ways we experience and talk about drugs and drug use in our cultures and communities.

Sadly, Dan passed away in September 2023.

Dan, for over two decades, contributed to policy dialogues in British Columbia related to substance use and addictive behaviours, and participated in many national and international discussions. He was deeply committed to a health promotion approach to substance use. He championed the

careful use of language to describe substance use and the related risks and problems and sought to bridge the ideological divides and professional barriers that have too often undermined effective responses.

He led the development of a competency-based approach to drug and gambling education. This included the articulation of a set of drug literacy and gambling literacy competencies and the development of a suite of resources to support constructivist education using a variety of dialogic techniques.

Dan's interests included health promotion, dialogue and hermeneutics, theories of knowledge, the philosophy of education, healthy public policy and the phenomenology of psychoactive substance use.





SCIENTISTS

Dr. Timothy Naimi Director, Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)

Dr. Jaime Arredondo Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)

Dr. Cecilia Benoit Scientist (Emerita, Sociology)

Dr. Russ Callaghan Scientist (Northern Medical Program, UNBC)

Dr. Marilou Gagnon Scientist (Nursing)

Dr. Mikael Jansson Scientist (Sociology)

Dr. Marjorie MacDonald Scientist (Emerita, Nursing)

Dr. Scott Macdonald Scientist (Emeritus, Health Information Science)

Dr. Bernie Pauly Scientist (Nursing)

Dr. Adam Sherk Scientist

Dr. Tim Stockwell Scientist (Emeritus, Psychology)

Dr. Karen Urbanoski Scientist (Public Health & Social Policy)

Dr. Bruce Wallace Scientist (Social Work)

Dr. Jinhui Zhao Scientist



TIMOTHY NAIMI



JAIME ARREDONDO



CECILIA BENOIT





MARILOU GAGNON



MIKAEL JANSSON



MARJORIE MACDONALD



SCOTT MACDONALD



BERNIE PAULY



ADAM SHERK



TIM STOCKWELL



KAREN URBANOSKI



BRUCE WALLACE



JINHUI ZHAO

STAFF

Lauren Airth Research Assistant

Scotty Archondous Peer Research Associate

Aaron Bailey Research Assistant

Phoenix Beck McGreevy Research Assistant/ Peer Research Associate

Shawn Belcourt Peer Research Associate

Katy Booth Drug Checking Service Coordinator and Research Assistant **John Dorocicz**

Emily Bosdachin Research Assistant

Meaghan Brown Research Coordinator

Reanne Buchart Peer Research Associate

Rhiannon Bulycz Peer Research Associate

Piotr Burek Research Assistant

Matthew Busby-O'Connor Research Assistant

Katt Cadieux Peer Research Associate Fred Cameron Community Research Associate

Jenny Cartwright Research Manager

Devon Cassidy Research Assistant

Nicole Chaland Research Coordinator

Keshia Cleaver Research Assistant

Andrea Cowan Project Coordinator

Allen Custance Drug Checking Analyst

John Dorocicz IT Support and Programming

Shane Douglas Peer Research Associate

Dr. Tim DyckResearch Associate

Katie Fajber Research Associate

Elizabeth Farkouh Research Assistant

Amanda Farrell-Low Communications Officer/Assistant to the Director

James Fraser Research Assistant



PHOENIX BECK MCGREEVY



PIOTR BUREK FRED C





TIM DYCK



MEAGHAN BROW



JENNY CARTWRIGHT



AMANDA FARRELL-LOW



JAMES FRASER

Kendall Fraser Abby Hutchison Research Assistant Research Associate Mo Jackson Delana George Peer Research Research Assistant Associate Josh Jai **Drug Checking** Maiya Gillespie Research Assistant Technician Pablo González Nieto Hermione Jefferis Research Assistant Peer Research Coordinator Sybil Goulet-Stock Research Coordinator Priya Johal **Project Coordinator** Lea Gozdialski Research Associate Jeremy Kalicum Research Assistant **Brittany Graham** Research Assistant and **Dave Keeler CoP Coordinator** Peer Research Associate Kayla Gruntman HR Research Assistant **Collin Kielty** Research Associate Daniel Gudiño Research Associate Marshall Kilduff Research Coordinator Priscilla Healey Research Assistant Suzanne Kilroy-Huculak Kris Hedlund Peer Research Research Assistant Associate Elvse Kim Nancy Henderson Research Assistant Research Administrator **Katherine Hogan** Research Assistant **Liam King** Research Assistant Barbara Hooton Peer Research Janine Kitchen Peer Research Associate



NANCY HENDERSON

HERMIONE JEFFERIS



Community Research

Associate

Mike Knott

Associate

Keifer James Spence

Houle

Associate

Peer Research

Brett Koenig Research Assistant Alexander Kuzma-

Hunt Research Assistant

Jessica Lamb Peer Research Associate

Keegan Lawrence Research Associate

Morgan Lindsay Research Associate

Bruce Livingstone Program Assistant

Rob Louie Peer Research Associate

Celeste Macevicius Research Assistant

Ava Margolese Drug Checking Analyst

Rebecca Martens Research Assistant

Susan Martin Research Associate

Kate McAllister Research Assistant

Jenny McDougall Peer Research Associate

Julie McEachern Research Assistant

Becky McLeod Peer Research Associate

Taija McLuckie Peer Research Associate

Sydele Merrigan Research Associate

Megan Mills Research Assistant

Allie Miskulin Research Assistant

Zakkaery Moebes Research Assistant

Maksim Muratov Research Assistant

Ella Newman Research Assistant

Emily Nichol Research Associate

Dr. Trudy Norman

Research Associate **Alexa Norton**

Research Assistant Lyric Paddison

Peer Research Associate

Joshua Pelletier Peer Research Associate

Eric Poarch Research Assistant

Tina Price **Project Coordinator**

Bella Priore Research Assistant















TINA PRICE

Lauren Qualls Research Assistant

Corey Ranger Research Coordinator

Anjana Rao Research Assistant

Deidre Rautenberg Research Assistant

Zephen Rheaume Peer Research **Associate**

Zoe Riell Software Developer

Jeremy Riishede **Project Coordinator**

Derek Robinson Data Journalist

Faaria Samnani Research Assistant

Oscar Sandford Software Developer

Beatriz Scandiuzzi Research Coordinator

Miriam Sherman Service Coordinator and Research Assistant

Irene Shkolnikov Research Assistant

Emmett Sihoe Research Assistant **Heather Spence** Peer Research Associate

Tyra Spence Peer Research **Associate**

Ginger Sullivan Research Assistant

Taylor Teal Training Developer and Education **Facilitator**

Joanne Thompson **Administrative Officer**

Alexandra Trifonidis Transcriptionist

Phuong Truong Data Analyst

Kate Vallance Research Associate

Dr. Thea van Roode Research Associate

Laura Vetrone Research Assistant

Nicole Vishnevsky Research Assistant

Shawn Wood Peer Research **Associate**

Ashley Young Research Assistant



DEIDRE RAUTENBERG



JOANNE THOMPSON



KATE VALLANCE







ALEXANDRA TRIFONIDIS



THEA VAN ROODE



LAURA VETRONE

POST-DOC FELLOWS

Dr. James Clay (Psychology, CISUR)

Dr. Samara Mayer (Nursing)

Dr. Andrea Mellor (Sociology)

Dr. Jennifer Robinson (CISUR)





ANDREA MELLOR



JENNIFER ROBINSON

ADVISORY BOARD

Shelagh Rogers (Chair)

Chancellor Emerita, University of Victoria

Dr. Mark Asbridge

Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University

Sam Bottrill

Threshold Housing Society

Dr. Fraser Hof

Associate Vice-President, Office of the Vice-President Research, University of Victoria

Dr. William Kerr

Senior Scientist, Alcohol Research Group, Public Health Institute, Oakland, California

Conor King

Inspector, Victoria Police Department

Jessica Mensinger

Practice Lead, Substance Use Team, Interior Health Authority

Dr. Catherine Paradis

Interim Associate Director, Research, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

Dr. Kathleen Perkin

Director, Advice and Reporting, Mental Health, Substances, Injury and Chronic Disease Prevention, Office of the **Provincial Health Officer**

Dr. Sandra Richardson

Chief Executive Officer, Victoria Foundation



SHELAGH ROGERS



FRASER HOP

MARK ASBRIDGE











DARRYL STURTEVANT

Colleen Salter

Director, Mental Wellness Clinical Services, First **Nations Health Authority**

Darryl Sturtevant

Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental **Health and Addictions**

Joanne Thompson

Administrative Officer, CISUR (staff representative)

COLLABORATING SCIENTISTS

Dr. Brittany Barker

Senior Scientist, Health Surveillance, First **Nations Health Authority**

Dr. Jane Buxton

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine, School of Population and Public Health, University of British

Dr. Chris Gill

Professor of Chemistry, Co-Director of the Applied Environmental Research Laboratories, Vancouver Island University

Dr. Adrian Guta

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Windsor

Dr. Erin Hobin

Scientist, Public Health Ontario

Dr. Dennis Hore

Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Victoria

Dr. Mark Kaplan

Professor, UCLA Luskin School of Public **Affairs**

Dr. Gillian Kolla

Assistant Professor, Population Health and Applied Health Sciences, Memorial University

Dr. Nathan Lachowsky

Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria

Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater

Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria

Dr. Doug Magnuson

Professor, School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria



BRITTANY BARKER





CHRIS GILL



ADRIAN GUTA



ERIN HOBIN





MARK KAPLAN



GILLIAN KOLLA



NATHAN LACHOWSKY



BONNIE LEADBEATER



DOUG MAGNUSON

Dr. Lenora MarcellusProfessor, School of
Nursing, University of Victoria

Dr. Christine OuAssistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of Victoria

Dr. Sana ShahramAssistant Professor, School of Nursing, UBC Okanagan

Dr. Amanda SlaunwhiteSenior Scientist, BC Centre for Disease Control, Assistant Professor, UBC School of Population & Public Health

Dr. Gerald ThomasDirector, Legal Substances & Problem Gambling Policy & Prevention, Ministry of Health



LENORA MARCELLUS



CHRISTINE OU



SANA SHAHRAM



AMANDA SLAUNWHITE



GERALD THOMAS

RESEARCH AFFILIATES

Dr. James Clay

PhD Researcher, Department of Psychology, University of Portsmouth

Dr. Alissa Greer

BC Centre for Disease Control Harm Reduction Program Peer Engagement & **Evaluation Project**

Dr. Kathleen Perkin

Director, Advice and Reporting, Mental Health, Substances, Injury, and Chronic Disease Prevention, Office of the Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Cheryl Peters

School of Population and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, UBC

Dr. Marion Selfridge

Research Manager, Cool Aid Community **Health Centre**

Prof. Robert Solomon

Senior Legal Policy Associate, Distinguished University Professor, Faculty of Law, Western University

Dr. Vidhi Thakkar

Institute of Health Policy, University of Toronto

Dr. Kara Thompson

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, St Francis Xavier University

Kate Vallance

Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst, BC Cannabis Secretariat, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Dr. Zach Walsh

Professor, UBC; Director, Therapeutic, Recreational and Problematic Substance Use (TRPS) Lab













ROBERT SOLOMON



VIDHI THAKKAR



KARA THOMPSON



KATE VALLANCE



ZACH WALSH



ASHLEY WETTLAUFER



ERICA WOODIN

Ashley Wettlaufer

Policy Officer, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Dr. Erica Woodin

Professor & Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology, University of Victoria

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Stephanie Arlt

Social Dimensions of Health (MA)

Alison Barnett

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Brianne Bourdon

Health Information Science (PhD)

Meaghan Brown

School of Nursing (PhD)

Piotr Burek

Social Dimensions of Health (MA)

Melissa Forsyth

Department of Sociology (PhD)

Sybil Goulet-Stock

Department of Psychology (PhD)

Lea Gozdzialski

Department of Chemistry (PhD)

Daniel Gudiño

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Sarah Graham

School of Social Work (MSW)

Peter Greenwell

Department of Sociology (PhD)

Nancy Henderson

School of Nursing (PhD)

Sionnach Hendra

School of Nursing

Abby Hutchison

School of Public Health and Social Policy (MPH)

Jeremy Kalicum

School of Public Health and Social

Policy (MPH)

Leanne Kelly

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Marshall Kilduff

Social Dimensions of Health (MA)

Liam King

Island Medical Program (MD)

Megan Kirk

School of Nursing

Brett Koenig

Department of Sociology

Celeste Macevicius

School of Public Health and Social

Policy (MPH)

Rebecca Martens

Department of Chemistry

Kirstin McLaughlin

School of Nursing (PhD)

Jennifer Miller

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Allie Miskulin

Department of Chemistry

Zakkaery Moebes

Department of Sociology

Ashley Mollison

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Pablo González Nieto

Social Dimensions of Health

Program (MPH)

Deidre Rautenberg

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Darci Skiber

Social Dimensions of Health (PhD)

Ginger Sullivan

School of Nursing (PhD)

Gioi Tran Minh

Social Dimensions of Health (MA)

Joanna Tulloch

School of Nursing (PhD)

Roísín Unsworth

Department of Sociology (PhD)

Laura Vetrone

School of Child and Youth Care

(PhD)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Devon Cassidy

Social Work

Practicum Student, Department of

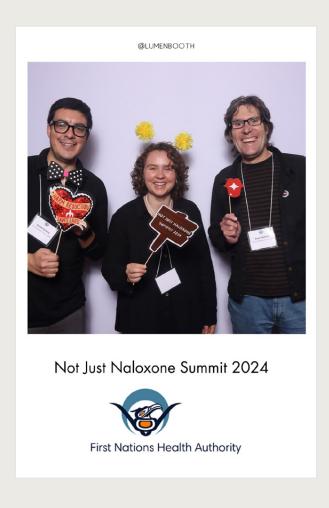
Hannah Dalton

Practicum Student, Department of

Social Work

Aaron Grinberg

Reed College, Portland OR



CISUR-LED COLLABORATING CENTRES

 World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO) Collaborating Centre on Alcohol and Public Health Policy, Washington, DC/Geneva, Switzerland

COLLABORATING RESEARCH CENTRES

- Canadian Centre on Substance use and Addiction (CCSA), Ottawa, ON
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Institute for Mental Health Policy Research (CAMH), Toronto, ON
- Alcohol Research Group (ARG), National Alcohol Research Center, Berkeley, CA, USA
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), Curtin University, Perth, WA, Australia
- Health Economic Research Unit, Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC
- Child and Family WISE Lab, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto ON
- RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA, USA

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT **COLLABORATIONS**

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support and collaboration of many colleagues and community agencies, including the following:

VICTORIA:

- Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness
- **AVI Health and Community Services**
- Community Social Planning Council
- SOLID Outreach Society
- Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services
- Victoria Cool Aid Society
- Victoria Police Department

VANCOUVER:

- Eastside Illicit Drinkers Group for Education (EIDGE)
- St Paul's Hospital
- **Providence Health Centre**
- Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)
- Vancouver Coastal Health

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

- BC Centre for Disease Control
- BC Centre on Substance Use
- BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch
- **BC Liquor Distribution Branch**
- BC Ministry for Attorney General
- BC Ministry for Mental Health and Addictions
- **BC** Ministry of Health
- BC Ministry of Health, Office of the Provincial **Health Officer**
- BC Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
- **BC Support Unit-Vancouver Island Centre**
- BC Representative for Children and Youth
- BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre BC/Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors
- Coalition of Substance Users of the North
- (CSUN), Quesnel
- East Kootenay Network of People who Use Drugs
- First Nations Health Authority
- Fraser Health
- Interior Health
- Island Health
- KANDU (Knowledge for All Nations and **Developing Unity)**
- Lookout Housing and Health Society
- Northern Health
- Port Alberni Shelter Society
- Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)
- Public Health Association of British Columbia (PHABC)
- Vancouver Island Mental Health Society
- Vancouver Island University

REST OF CANADA:

- CAN, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
- CAN, Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform
- CAN, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), Statistics Canada
- CAN, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA),
- CAN, Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
- · CAN, Centre of Excellence on Women's Health (CEWH)
- CAN, Health Canada
- CAN, Mental Health Commission of Canada
- CAN, Public Health Agency of Canada
- CAN, Royal Society of Canada
- ON, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
- ON, Homewood Research Institute, Guelph
- ON, Jean Tweed Centre, Etobicoke
- ON, Ottawa Inner City Health, Ottawa

INTERNATIONAL:

- **Boston University**
- **Oregon State University**
- University of Stirling and Salvation Army Research Unit
- University of New South Wales
- University of Southern California

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

To build Canadian infrastructure and capacity to conduct research and knowledge exchange that will increase understanding and support more effective responses to substance use.

OBJECTIVES:

- to maintain or increase the number of substance use research projects through grants and contracts;
- to maintain or increase national and international funding for substance use and health research at CISUR; and
- to maintain or increase projects and funding for knowledge exchange concerning substance use and health promotion at CISUR.

HIGHLIGHTS

CISUR faculty earned 12 new or renewed competitive grants (5) and contracts (7) during the 2023/24 fiscal year; these are listed below. The total funds from these new grants and contracts was \$2.59 M. A list of projects and amounts from all new and ongoing projects follows in the next section.

NEW SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS TO FUNDING COMPETITIONS

- HEALING GRIEF: TAKING ACTION ON GRIEF EXPERIENCED AMONG HEALTH PROVIDERS AT THE VICTORIA YOUTH CLINIC SOCIETY
 - Vancouver Foundation Field of Interest Participatory Action Research Convene grant, \$19,580, 2023-2025
- IMPLEMENTING AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGIES FOR DRUG CHECKING IN RESPONSE TO THE OVERDOSE CRISIS New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration, \$250,000, 2023-2025
- INDIGENOUS YOUTH'S EXPERIENCES
 OF ACCESSING SEXUAL HEALTH &
 REPRODUCTIVE CARE AT THE FOUNDRY
 VICTORIA
 - CIHR Catalyst Grant: Healthy Youth, \$99,047, 2024-2025

- PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A
 CULTURALLY CENTRED INTERVENTION
 FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH WITH
 SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES:
 ADAPTING THE NATIVE WELLNESS
 ASSESSMENT TOOL TO THE COWICHAN
 VALLEY
 - Island Health Seed Grant, \$7,500, 2023-2024
- UVIC RIGHT TO HOUSING RESEARCH CLUSTER
 UVIC Research Cluster, \$100,000, 2023-2025.

NEW COMMISSIONED CONTRACTS WON AND OTHER GRANTS

- DRUG CHECKING: A NEW TOOL IN THE TOOLBOX Island Health Authority's Resiliency and Safety grants, \$50,000, 2023-2024
- PILOT EVALUATION OF THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF SUBSTANCES IN VICTORIA BC Ministry of Health/University of Victoria Seed Grant Program, \$46,000, 2023-2024
- PROVINCIAL DISSEMINATION OF LOWER RISK CANNABIS USE GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH Health Research BC, \$15,000, 2023-2025

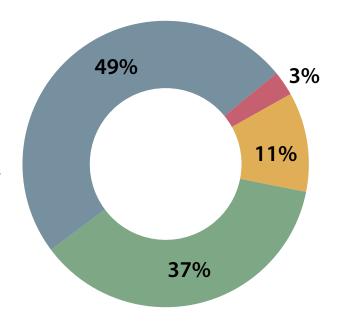
- REMOTE TESTING FOR DRUG CHECKING SITES IN BC
 BC Ministry of Health, \$900,000, 2023-2026
- VANCOUVER ISLAND DRUG CHECKING PROJECT Island Health Authority, \$1,050,000, 2023-2026
- VANCOUVER ISLAND DRUG CHECKING PROJECT SUPPORT Island Health Authority, \$190,000, 2023-2024
- MINIMUM UNIT PRICING FOR ALCOHOL: A VIEW THROUGH THE LENSES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE Ministiry of Health, \$50,000 2023-24

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2023/24 FROM NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS AND OTHER SOURCES

The figure below summarizes the various sources of our income which come to a total of approximately \$10 M. The bulk of these funds come from grants (~\$3.5 M) and contracts (~\$4.7 M), with the rest coming from core funding from the endowment and knowledge exchange grants and contracts. The endowment funding includes carryover from the previous year (endowment funding without the carryover was approximately \$0.42 M). We also receive approximately \$80,000 annually in overhead costs.

CISUR 2023/24 Revenue and Carry-forward Summary

- Research Grant Competitions \$3,518,155
- Other Research Grants & Contracts \$4,733,316
- Knowledge Exchange Grants & Contracts \$267,940
- Endowment \$1,078,463





Key Result Area 1: Building Capacity for Research & Knowledge Exchange



2024 Harold Johnson "Changing the Alcohol Story" Award recipient Yvonne Rigsby Jones with CISUR Advisory Board Chair Shelagh Rogers (left), Harold's widow Joan Johnson (second from right), and CISUR Director Tim Naimi (right)

THE HAROLD JOHNSON "CHANGING THE ALCOHOL STORY" AWARD

Harold Johnson encouraged us to have the clarity and courage to "change the story" about alcohol, whether through individual awareness and change or through collective action. Harold knew and understood alcohol and its effects in many dimensions: through the communities in which he lived and worked, through the eyes of the criminal justice system in his role as crown prosecutor, through policy advocacy with the Northern Alcohol Strategy, and through his reflections as an acclaimed writer.

The Harold Johnson Award is for an individual who has worked tirelessly and fearlessly to change the story about alcohol in order to prevent or reduce its harmful consequences on people and populations.

2024 recipient: Yvonne Rigsby Jones

Yvonne is a member of the Snuneymuxw First Nation who has dedicated 29 years of her professional life to leading Tsow-Tun Le Lum NNADAP Treatment Center, retiring in June 2015. Tsow-Tun Le Lum has long been acknowledged as an innovator and leader in treatment for First Nations people.

Currently Yvonne is working as Class Elder for Simon Fraser University in the Community Capacity Building Program. In May 2023 the program was awarded National Recognition in Continuing Studies in the category of Non-Credit Programming.

She is also a member of the Board of Governors MSW Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency. Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. As the first of its kind in North America, this two-



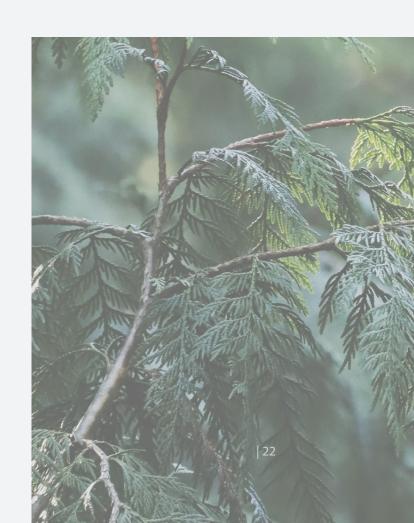
2023 Harold Johnson "Changing the Alcohol Story" Award recipient Jarret Nelson with Joan Johnson and Tim Nami, June 2023.

year Master's program is dedicated to preparing advanced social work professionals to develop capacity in Indigenous Communities. In addition, she is a team member of Indian Residential School Survivors Society Cultural Support as well as a member of the Survivors Circle, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Yvonne was presented with the 2024 Harold Johnson Award on June 5, with a gathering at the First Peoples House Ceremonial Hall.

2023 recipient: Jarret Nelson

In June 2023, we presented our inaugural Harold Johnson "Changing the Alcohol Story" Award to Jarret Nelson of Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan (photo above). Jarret accepted the award at First Peoples House at the University of Victoria and spoke about his work rebuilding community through culture & connection to the land.



ENGAGING ACADEMIC EXPERTISE

To capitalize on the resources of Canadian universities through the recruitment of high-calibre graduate and postdoctoral students from multiple relevant disciplines to the study of substance use, addiction and harm reduction.

OBJECTIVES:

- to attract and retain high quality researchers from a broad range of disciplines to the BC substance use and addictions field;
- to attract and retain high quality students from a broad range of disciplines to the BC substance use and addictions field;
- to empower new researchers to become PIs; and
- to encourage collaborative relationships.

HIGHLIGHTS

CISUR Scientists, Collaborating Scientists and Research Affiliates are recognized for their leadership in research, knowledge mobilization and public health practice related to substance use. CISUR faculty were active in teaching substance use-relevant courses in online and inperson formats across several disciplines and faculties at UVic. We continue to house and mentor a handful of postdoctoral students, and mentor approximately 20 graduate students. The high quality of our team was acknowledged through several awards during the past year, listed below.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Marilou Gagnon

 Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR)- Canadian Foundation For AIDS Research (CANFAR) Excellence in Research Award (community-based research)

Tim Stockwell

- Distinguished Scientist Award, International Society for Behavioural Medicine (2023)
- Sir John Foxton Lecturer, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh (2024)



SCALING UP COMMUNITY DRUG-CHECKING SERVICES IN B.C. COULD HELP **RESPOND TO THE OVERDOSE CRISIS**

By Piotr Burek and Bruce Wallace

British Columbia is in the midst of an enduring drug overdose crisis that continues to claim hundreds of people every year with no end in sight. With a significant rise in deaths over the last seven years, innovative responses are urgently needed.

Among these responses is community drug checking, which continues to gain traction in both public health practice and research. Drug checking is a harm reduction practice that provides chemical analysis of substances. This is not only to inform harm reduction for people who use, buy and sell drugs (and those who support them), but also to monitor the supply for emerging trends that inform both the community and policymakers about the state of the unregulated supply, which remains volatile, unpredictable and dangerous.

As researchers providing drug checking on Vancouver Island, we see value in exploring new ways to deliver this service to reach more people who use drugs, at a scale required to address the current crisis.

Drug checking in global perspective

While drug checking has been around since the 1990s, it remains an underused intervention that is often limited in both scope and scale. However, innovations in how and where the service is provided, as well as technological advancements within analytical chemistry and instrumentation, are helping to overcome these limitations.

Internationally, groups like the Drug Information Monitoring System in the Netherlands have been pioneering drug checking and continuing to inform drug-checking research and practice internationally.

While services in some countries remain beholden by archaic prohibitory legislative environments that challenge the legality of drug checking, others are finding success in embedding drug checking within novel legal frameworks, like the legalization of drug checking in New Zealand.

Drug checking in Canada

A drug user places a fentanyl test strip into a mixing container to check for contamination, using a fentanyl test strip. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

In Canada, drug checking has its origins in the festival and rave scene as a grassroots bottom-up response to the harms of an unregulated market. The oldest drug-checking project has provided critical services at Shambhala Music Festival in Salmo, B.C. for the last two decades.

The success of drug checking in festival settings for lowering potential harms and highlighting broader trends is now increasingly being evaluated as a response to the overdose crisis in B.C. and other parts of the country.

Drug checking alone is not enough to curb the dramatic increase in drug toxicity deaths in the province and nationally. However, some of its strengths include generating evidence of trends within the drug supply, as well as evidence for its effectiveness as a harm-reduction measure. It can also be incorporated into other harm reduction programs and methods, including safe supply.

Substance: The Vancouver Island drug-checking project

Our research-based service in Victoria, B.C. has spent the last five years developing and evaluating drug-checking service models while conducting



robust multi-disciplinary research in the fields of social work, chemistry, computer science and public health. This research provides evidence to support services that respond to the unique needs of people accessing drug-checking services.

On the chemistry side, our research evaluates and improves analytical technologies and methods, and boosts their effectiveness in detecting fentanyl and other adulterants. Public health research highlights how drug checking goes beyond individualistic responses to act within community, market and policy arenas. This research supports services that respond to the unique needs of people accessing drug-checking services.

Vancouver Island's unique model of drug checking

In responding to the challenges of scaling up drug-checking services, we developed a unique distributed drug-checking model to increase the reach of these services.

This model aims to fill in gaps in service delivery for diverse communities that are vulnerable to the unregulated drug supply. It also highlights the importance of multidisciplinary research and service design that draws critical insight from multidisciplinary fields to better inform drugchecking services.

Drawing on a network that enables the collection of samples in various locations and communities, our distributed model provides a hybrid, easy-to-use drug-checking program. The program

blends immediate portable drug-checking technologies for timely harm reduction with more comprehensive lab-based technologies that provide greater accuracy of drug composition.

Through the use of specialized spectrometers and test strips distributed at various sites and connected to a central server and database, drug analysis can be done remotely within our central hub. These results get looped back to service users distributed across Vancouver Island who also have the opportunity to receive further analysis at a later time using a lab-based method called paper spray mass spectrometry.

This model responds to the unique challenges of providing critical harm reduction across geographical locations and within different communities. Through the distributed model, we continue to evaluate what works best for whom in the context of an ever-changing drug supply and policy landscape.

Most consumables in Canada have quality controls that help inform purchasing and consumption decisions. People who use drugs and those who support them deserve the same. It is long past time that we respond to the enduring crisis to the magnitude it deserves.

Drug checking everywhere for everyone: is it possible? It is certainly a worthwhile goal with life-saving potential, and we will continue working to achieve it.

This article originally appeared in the *Conversation Canada*.

IMPLEMENTING QUALITY RESEARCH

To conduct high quality research that increases understanding of substance use, addiction and related harms in order to inform effective responses and promote health.

OBJECTIVES:

- to conduct research on the patterns, distribution, determinants and consequences of substance use in Canada and internationally;
- to conduct research that is valued by stakeholders as being of high quality, responsive to emerging issues and relevant to public policy and practice in Canada and internationally;
- to publish research findings in international peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, books and research monographs;
- to disseminate research findings through reports, systematic reviews and other resources, nationally and internationally;
- to achieve a high academic impact for CISUR addictions-related research so that it is well known, frequently requested and often cited internationally; and
- to conduct research in the following other key priority areas:
 - the impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to minimize alcohol and other drug-related harms

- development and evaluation of more effective community prevention programs
- policy research on the social determinants of substance use among marginalized and stigmatized groups
- understanding pathways to enhance access to youth substance use services, interventions, and overdose prevention resources
- substance use patterns and epidemiological analyses of risk and protective factors for substance use and related harms
- development and evaluation of more effective treatment systems and programs
- the influence of structural determinants of social contexts of drug use on the implementation of harm reduction strategies
- research and evaluation of effectiveness of knowledge translation and exchange activities and strategies, and delivery of knowledge exchange services.

A WORD CLOUD OF COMMON KEYWORDS FROM CISUR'S ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS. Alcohol-Related Disorders Opiate Ac Social Determinants of Health Injection Drug User Qualitative Research COVID-19 Qualitative Product Labeling Fentanyl Sex Workers Harm Public Health Substance-Related Disorders Opiate Overdose Police Supply Alcohol Drinking Thiamazole Ethanol British Columbia Comments Cannabis International Professional Pro Cannabis IntoXication Alcohol Consumption Legalization IntoXication Alcohol Consumption Harm Reduction Prostitution Drug Use nse Stigma Canada Homeless Persons Implementation Science Alcohol Policy Health Equity Criminalization Drug Overdose Yukon Territory Human In Health Policy

HIGHLIGHTS

CISUR had another outstanding year for high quality, impactful research projects and scientific output. Major active research projects cover the effect of policies and regulatory interventions, substance use epidemiology, the, social determinants of health, harm reduction among those with lived or living experience and/or active substance use disorders, and community engagement and knowledge translation products and evaluations. Overall, there were 59 total ongoing research projects in which CISUR scientists served as principal investigator, plus another 24 projects involving CISUR scientists with non-CISUR PIs; these research projects are listed below in alphabetical order. The word cloud gives a high-level overview of the featured topics of research based on published studies.

Publications are an important measure of research productivity and impact, particularly within the scientific community. During the past year, CISUR scientists co-authored approximately 60 publications. From 2020 through the first part of 2024, CISUR scientists co-authored 303 peer-reviewed manuscripts, with an average of 9.4 citations per manuscript. The average field weighted citation index for these manuscripts was 1.97 (the average for all published manuscripts is 1.0). In addition, the cumulative h-index of these publications was 85, meaning that there were 85 CISUR-authored publications with at least 89 citations.

Approximately 20% of all published manuscripts were in the top 10% of the most cited publications worldwide, and 30% of all publications appeared in the top 10% of journals in terms of impact. For nine out of 10 CISUR research focus areas, the worldwide impact of our publications was above the 90th percentile. Furthermore, reflecting our focus on substance use policy, 17% of publications were cited in government policy documents. Approximately 38% of manuscripts involved international collaborators, and 45% of manuscripts involved national collaborations (i.e., with other researchers in Canada outside of UVic). For additional detail including scientist-specific information, please see Appendix I: Research Analytics at the end of the report.



A. CISUR PROJECTS

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SCREENING AND EDUCATION

Investigators: Dyck, T. & Reist, D.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance

Use Services

Duration of support: ongoing

APPRISING THE EVIDENCE: A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERSTANDING THE **DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE IN SEX WORK**

Investigators: Benoit, C. (NPA), Mellor, A., &

Koening, B. (co-ls)

Funding body: CIHR Planning and Dissemination

Grant.

Duration of support: 2023-2024

ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF THE CANNABIS ACT ON HEALTH- AND CRIME-RELATED OUTCOMES AMONG YOUTH

Investigators: Callaghan, R. (PI), Asbridge, M., Hathaway, A., & MacDonald, M. (co-ls) Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support: 2022-2024**

TO ASSESS THE OVERALL COHERENCY OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATED TO LEGAL SUBSTANCES AND PROBLEM GAMBLING USING PUBLIC HEALTH CRITERIA (E.G., BURDEN OF ILLNESS) TO **IDENTIFY LEADING PRACTICES AND/OR** OPPORTUNITIES TO INFORM MINISTRY STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Investigators: Naimi, T. (PI), Vallance, K., Priore,

B., & Vishnevsky, N.

Funding body: Ministry of Health **Duration of support:** 2022-2023

BC COMMUNITY NETWORK OF SUBSTANCE USE OBSERVATORIES: MONITORING AND INFORMING PUBLIC **RESPONSES TO DRUG USE**

Investigators: Naimi, T., Pauly, B. (PI), Urbanoski, K., Stockwell, T., Reist, D., Wallace, B., Shahram, S., Lachowsky, N., Sherk, A., & Buxton, J.

Funding body: Health Canada, Substance Use and

Addiction Program

Duration of support: 2019-2024

BC PARTNERS EVALUATION

Investigators: Reist, D. & Norman, T.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health

Services Authority

Duration of support: Ongoing

BC PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ALCOHOL **REPORT**

Investigators: Naimi, T. (PI), Zhao, J., Farkouh, E.,

& Price, T.

Funding body: BC Ministry of Health **Duration of support: 2023-2024**

CANADIAN SUBSTANCE USE COSTS AND HARMS PROGRAM (CSUCH)

Investigators: Stockwell, T., Kent, P. (co-Pls), Sherk, A., Biggar, E., Dorocicz, J., Zhao, J., Churchill, S., Giwa, A., Malam, R., McGreer, N., Payer, D., & Ziv, A. Funding body: Health Canada and Canadian

Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) **Duration of support: 2016-2024**

DEVELOPING METHODOLOGIES FOR THE ALCOHOL-RELATED DISEASE IMPACT SYSTEM

Investigators: Naimi, T. & Sherk, A. (co-PAs) Funding body: United States Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention

Duration of support: 2020-2024

DEVELOPMENT OF A WEB APP FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF ALCOHOL HEALTH RISKS

Investigators: Naimi, T. (PI), Sherk, A., Stockwell,

T., Johal, P., Cowan, A., & Vallance, K.

Funding body: Health Canada's Substance Use and

Addiction Program

Duration of support: 2022-2027

DRUG CHECKING: A NEW TOOL IN THE **TOOLBOX**

Investigators: Wallace, B. & Hore, D. (co-PAs) Funding body: Island Health Authority's Resiliency

and Safety grants

Duration of support: 2023-2024

DRUG CHECKING: ENHANCING SCALABILITY TO EFFECT SYSTEMS **CHANGE**

Investigators: Wallace, B., Hore, D. (co-PAs) Cartwright, J., Davison, C., Jensen, K., Pauly, B., Stanwick, R., Tupper, K., & Willson, R.

Funding body: Vancouver Foundation **Duration of support: 2021-2024**

ESTIMATES OF ALCOHOL-ATTRIBUTABLE DEATHS AND YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST IN THE UNITED STATES AND ANALYTIC METHODS

Investigators: Naimi, T. (PI) & Sherk, A. Funding body: Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (USA)

Duration of support: 2021-2024

EVALUATING CANNABIS SUBSTITUTION ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PARTICIPANTS IN MANAGED ALCOHOL **PROGRAMS**

Investigators: Pauly, B. (PI), Goulet-Stock, S., &

Stockwell, T. (co-ls)

Funding body: Health Canada (Substance Use and

Addictions Program)

Duration of support: 2022-2024

AN EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF PRESENTING HEALTH RISKS OF ALCOHOL TO YOUNG ADULTS

Investigators: Stockwell, T., Priore, B., Goulet-

Stock, S., & Naimi, T. Funding body: CISUR

Duration of support: 2021-2023

THE FEASIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CANNABIS FOR ALCOHOL SUBSTITUTION FOR MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM **PARTICIPANTS**

Investigators: Pauly, B., Stockwell, T., & Goulet-Stock, S.

Funding body: Health Canada, Substance Use and Addictions Program

Duration of support: 2022-2024

FENTANYL DETECTION IN STIMULANTS: A PILOT IN THREE MEXICAN CITIES

Investigators: Arredondo, J. (PI), Garcia, A., Garcia,

L., Gonzalez, P., Chaves, A., & Zwitser, G.

Funding body: Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) Programa de Política de Drogas

(PPD)

HEALING GRIEF: TAKING ACTION ON GRIEF EXPERIENCED AMONG HEALTH PROVIDERS AT THE VICTORIA YOUTH CLINIC SOCIETY

Investigators: Justice, R. (PI), Mellor, A. (PI), &

Benoit, C. (co-l)

Funding body: Vancouver Foundation - Field of Interest Participatory Action Research Convene

grant

Duration of support: 2023-2025

HEALTHY MINDS | HEALTHY CAMPUSES

Investigators: Reist, D., Dyck, T.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health

Services Authority

Duration of support: ongoing

HERE TO HELP (INFORMATION PRODUCTS)

Investigator: Norman, T.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health

Services Authority

Duration of support: ongoing

HOMELESS RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

 $\textbf{Investigators: Pauly, B.} \ (\text{PI}) \ \textbf{Wallace, B.}, \text{Curran, D.},$

Sweetman, S., & Daly, K. (co-ls)

Funding body: University of Victoria Strategic

Framework Impact Fund

Duration of support: 2021-2023



IMPACT OF ALCOHOL LABELLING ON HEALTH OUTCOMES IN CANADA

Investigators: Sherk, A., (PA) & Stockwell, T. (PI),

Funding body: Health Canada

Duration of support: 2022-2023

IMPACT OF MARIJUANA POLICIES ON ALCOHOL USE AND ALCOHOL-RELATED MORTALITY

Investigator: Naimi, T. (PI)

Funding body: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health (USA)

Duration of support: 2018-2024

IMPLEMENTING AUTOMATED
 TECHNOLOGIES FOR DRUG CHECKING IN
 RESPONSE TO THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

Investigators: Hore, D. (NPI), Wallace, B. (co-PA) Storey., M.A. (co-A) Allison, S., Hewitt, W., Payer, D., Strosher, H., Tupper, K., & Willson, M. (Collaborators) Funding body: New Frontiers in Research Fund:

Exploration

Duration of support: 2023-2025



INDIGENOUS YOUTH'S EXPERIENCES OF ACCESSING SEXUAL HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE CARE AT THE FOUNDRY **VICTORIA**

Investigators: Benoit, C. (NPA), Pambrun, N. (PKU), Langton, J. (KU), Mellor, A., Hubert, J., Lavan, J., Lawlor, R., Pooyak, S., & Turnbull, H.

Funding body: CIHR Catalyst Grant: Healthy Youth

Duration of support: 2024-2025

A MIXED METHODS EVALUATION OF SAFER SUPPLY INITIATIVES TO REDUCE ILLICIT DRUG OVERDOSE IN BC

Investigators: Urbanoski, K., Pauly, B., Nosyk, B., Slaunwhite, A.K., Barker, B. (NPAs), Arredondo, J., Burmeister, C., Giesinger, W., Kolla, G., Nicholls, T., Reddon, H., Tupper, K., Beck McGreevy, P., Buxton, J., Greer, A., Lock, K., Norton, A., Sutherland, C., Wallace, B., Brar, R., Davison, C., Hobbs, H., Meilleur, L., Palis, H., Thomson, E., & Wieman, C. (co-PAs)

Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support: 2022-2026**

MODELLING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TAX AND PRICE POLICIES AND IMPACTS ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND HARMS IN DIFFERENT SOCIO-**ECONOMIC GROUPS IN CANADA**

Investigators: Stockwell, T., Sherk, A., Naimi, T., & Churchill, S.

Funding body: Public Health Agency of Canada

Duration of support: 2022-2023

MONITORING AND INFORMING PUBLIC **HEALTH RESPONSES TO SUBSTANCE** USE (BC COMMUNITY NETWORK OF SUBSTANCE USE OBSERVATORIES) AKA BC CO/LAB

Investigators: Pauly, B. (PI), Urbanoski, K., Stockwell, T., Reist, D., Wallace, B., Shahram, S., Lachowsky, N., Sherk, A., & Buxton, J.

Funding bodies: Health Canada **Duration of support: 2019-2024** NORTH-SOUTH LESSONS IN SUBSTANCE **USE: EXPANDING BEST PRACTICES IN** HARM REDUCTION BEYOND CANADA (CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN SUBSTANCE USE AND HEALTH POLICY)

Investigator: Arredondo, J. (PI)

Funding body: Canadian Institutes of Health

Research (CIHR)

Duration of support: 2021-2026

P2P: PEER 2 PEER SUPPORT

Investigators: Buxton, J. & Pauly, B. (co-Pls) Funding body: Health Canada Substance Use and

Addictions Program

Duration of support: 2018-2023

PERINATAL COLLABORATIVE **COMMUNITY LABORATORY ON** SUBSTANCE USE AND HARM REDUCTION: THE MOTHERING CO/LAB

Investigators: Shahram, S. (NPA), Urbanoski, K. (PA), Phillips, G., Pierre, S., Pauly, B., Horsethief, C., Ndumbe-Eyoh, S.

Funding body: SSHRC, Race, Gender and Diversity

Initiative

Duration of support: 2022-2025

PILOT INTEGRATION OF MIDWIVES INTO A COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY CARE **SETTING**

Investigators: Benoit, C. (NPA), Mellor, A., Victoria Youth Clinic Society in Victoria (Community Partner) Funding body: The Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine - Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program. Employment and Social Development Canada

Duration of support: 2022-2025



PILOT EVALUATION OF THE **DECRIMINALIZATION OF SMALL** AMOUNTS OF SUBSTANCES IN VICTORIA

Investigators: Naimi, T. (lead), Urbanoski, K., & Arredondo, J.

Funding body: Victoria Seed Grant Program

Duration of support: 2023-2024

PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A **CULTURALLY CENTRED INTERVENTION** FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH WITH SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES: ADAPTING THE NATIVE WELLNESS ASSESSMENT TOOL TO THE COWICHAN **VALLEY**

Investigators: MacKenzie, J. (co-PI), Mellor, A. (PI),

& Benoit, C. (co-l)

Funding body: Island Health Seed Grant **Duration of support: 2032-2024**

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ALCOHOL MINIMUM UNIT PRICING AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LABELLING AS A CANCER PREVENTION INTERVENTION IN CANADA, BY SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, AT THE NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL LEVELS

Investigators: Stockwell, T. (PI), Cukier, S., de Groh, M., Haligan, M., Hobin, E., McEachran, J., Naimi, T.,

Sherk, A., Shield, K., & Thomas, G. Funding body: CIHR Catalyst Grant **Duration of support: 2022-2024**

PROVINCIAL DISSEMINATION OF LOWER RISK CANNABIS USE GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH, BY YOUTH

Investigators: Benoit, C. (NPA), Langton, J. (co-PI), Barbic, S., Card, K., Naimi, T., Koenig, B., Nixon, D. (co-l), & Mellor, A. (Trainee)

Funding body: Health Research BC **Duration of support: 2023-2025**

PROVINCIAL EVALUATION OF PRESCRIBED SAFER SUPPLY

Investigators: Urbanoski, K. (co-PI), Pauly, B. (co-PI), Barker, B. (co-PI), Noysk, B. (co-PI), Arredondo, J., Carter, C., Greer, A., Kerr, T., Kolla, G., Naimi, T., Nicholls, T., Reddon, H., Wallace, B., Sutherland, C., Hobbs, H., Brar, R., Shah, S., Kerr, A., Medhurst, K., Glynn, K., Issac-Mann, S., Meilleur, L., Wieman, N., Norton, A., Tousenard, N., Thomson, E., Spence, H., Wilson, M., Geisinger, W., & Wood, S. Funding body: Ministry of Mental Health and

Addictions

Duration of support: 2022-2024

REALIZING THE RIGHT TO HOUSING: THE HOUSING JUSTICE PROJECT

Investigators: Pauly, B. (NPI), Gibson, D., Chaland, N., Swain, S., Cujeko, M., & Sweetnam, S.

Funding body: Vancouver Foundation Participatory

Action Research Grant

Duration of support: 2022-2025

REDUCING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING **INSTABILITY DURING COVID19: A** VANCOUVER ISLAND CASE STUDY

Investigators: Pauly, B. (PI), Stockwell, T., &

Goulet-Stock, S. (co-ls)

Funding body: Victoria Hospitals Foundation

Duration of support: 2021-2024

REMOTE TESTING FOR DRUG CHECKING SITES IN BC

Investigator: Wallace, B. (PI) Funding body: Ministry of Health **Duration of support: 2023-2026**

STRENGTHENING SAFETY NETS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO OPTIMIZE YOUTH-DETERMINED HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Investigators: Benoit, C. (NPA), Cloutier, D., Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services (SCCFS), Victoria Youth Clinic Society (VYCS) (co-ls), Mellor, A. (Trainee/Post-doctoral fellow), BC Representative for Children and Youth (RCY), (co-Knowledge Users), Premji, Z., Naimi, T. (Collabs.), & Koenig, B. (Research Assistant)

Funding body: Michael Smith Health Research BC - Convene and Collaborate, SSHRC Partnership **Engagement Grant Banting Postdoctoral**

Fellowship, CIHR

Duration of support: 2023-2025

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF CASE-CONTROL AND **COHORT STUDIES ON ALCOHOL USE** AND INCIDENCE/MORTALITY RISK OF PANCREATIC CANCER

Investigator: Zhao, J.

Funding body: CISUR Endowment Fund **Duration of support: 2023-2025**

UNDERSTANDING PATHWAYS TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES, INTERVENTIONS, AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION RESOURCES IN VICTORIA, BC

Investigators: Benoit, C. (NPA), Cloutier, D., Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services (co-ls), Mellor, A. (Trainee), BC Representative for Children and Youth (RCY), Victoria Youth Clinic Society (VYCS) (Co-Knowledge Users), & Premji, Z. (Collabs.)

Funding bodies: Michael Smith Health Research BC. Convene and Collaborate, Canadian Institute for

Substance Use Research

Duration of support: 2022-2024

UPDATING, OPTIMIZING AND **EXPANDING THE CANADIAN ALCOHOL** POLICY EVALUATION (CAPE) PROJECT

Investigators: Naimi, T., Giesbrecht, N., Stockwell, T., (co-Pls), Asbridge, M., Callaghan, R., Gagnon, M., Mann, R., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., & Thompson, K. (co-ls)

Funding body: Health Canada (Substance Use and

Addictions Program)

Duration of support: 2022-2027

UVIC RIGHT TO HOUSING RESEARCH CLUSTER

Investigators: Pauly, B. (NPI), Masuda, J. (NPI), Cloutier, D., Curran, C., **Wallace, B.**, Swain, S. Daly, K., Sweetnam, S.

Funding body: UVIC Research Cluster **Duration of support:** 2023-2025

VANCOUVER ISLAND DRUG CHECKING PROJECT

Investigators: Hore, D. & Wallace, B. (co-PAs) **Funding body:** Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

Duration of support: 2023-2026

VANCOUVER ISLAND DRUG CHECKING PROJECT SUPPORT

Investigators: Hore, D. (PA) & Wallace, B. (PA) Funding body: Island Health Authority Duration of support: 2023-2024

VISIONS: BC'S MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE JOURNAL

Investigator: Norman, T.

Funding body: BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services, a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Duration of support: ongoing



B. CISUR AFFILIATED PROJECTS

ADDRESSING THE HARMS OF COVID-19 ON THE HEALTH OF THE CANADIAN **HEALTH WORKFORCE: EVALUATION OF** AN EVIDENCE-INFORMED, MULTI-LEVEL INTERVENTION STRATEGY

Investigators: Bourgeault, I. (NPA), Benoit, C., Atanackovic, J., Corrente, M., & McMillan, M. (co-Pls) Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant: Addressing

the Wider Health Impacts of COVID-19. **Duration of support: 2022-2024**

ASPIRATION CLUSTER IN MENTAL HEALTH

Investigators: Caruncho, H., (Lead) Ames, M., Arredondo, J., Bradley, M., Clark, N., Costigan, C., Gair, J., Garcia-Barrera, M., Gawryluk, J., Krigolson, O., Naimi, T., Paterson, T., Stajduhar, K., Slemon, A., Swayne, L-A., Tremblay, ME., Turner, B., Urbanoski, K., Willerth, S., & Woodend, J.

Funding body: University of Victoria, Aspiration

Research Cluster Program

Duration of support: 2022-2025

ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF MINIMUM UNIT PRICING ON HOMELESS AND STREET DRINKERS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Investigators: Elliott, L., Emslie, C. (co-Pls), Whiteford, M. (lead researcher), Stockwell, T., Dimova, E., Johnsen, S., Whittaker, A., Smith, I., Rush,

R, & Homeless Network Scotland.

Funding body: Scottish Government's Chief

Scientist Office (CSO)

Duration of support: 2019-2023

CAREGIVING FOR VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED OLDER ADULTS AT THE **END OF LIFE**

Investigators: Stajduhar, K. (PI), Black, F.M., Chou, F., Colgan, S., Dosani, N., Gagnon, M., Gerke, J.B., Jakubec, S.L., McNeil, R., Sawatzky, R., & Thorne, S.E.

Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant **Duration of support: 2020-2024**

CENTERING YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE: A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED MIXED METHODS STUDY OF SUBSTANCE USE, HARM REDUCTION AND SAFER SUPPLY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WHO **USE DRUGS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Investigators: Barker, B. (NPI), co-PIs: Fast, D., Pauly, B., Nosyk, B., Slaunwhite, A., Urbanoski, K., Beck-McGreevy, P., Hogan, K., Krebs, E., Macevicius, C., Palis, H., Piske, M., Norton, A., & Thomson, E. (co-Pls Funding body: Office of the Representative for Youth and Children

Duration of Support: 2012-2023

DEVELOPING SOCIAL CONNECTION GUIDELINES TO HELP CANADIANS BUILD HAPPIER, HEALTHIER, AND MORE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN THE LATE PANDEMIC PERIOD

Investigators: Benoit, C., Card, K., Chen, F., &

Nicholson, V. (PAs)

Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support:** 2022-2027

DRUG-CHECKING SERVICES PILOT **EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Investigators: Bichler, L. (PA) Airth, L. (co-A), Burek,

P., Hore, D., & Wallace, B.

Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support: 2022-2027**

DRUG DECRIMINALIZATION IN BRITISH **COLUMBIA: AN EQUITY ORIENTED OUALITATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT**

Investigators: Buxton, J., Crabtree, A., Farrell, J., Lock, K., Pauly, B., Shahram, S., Urbanoski, K., Van

Veen, C., Wood, B., & Zakimi, N. Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support:** 2023-2026

 ESTIMATING THE VALUE AND LONG-TERM IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTING RISK MITIGATION GUIDANCE TO REDUCE THE HARMS OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A SIMULATION MODELING ANALYSIS

Investigators: Irvine, M.A., Krebs, E. Nosyk, B., Slaunwhite, A.K. (co-Pls), Coombs, D., Lock, K., Otterstatter, M.C., Palis, H., Pauly, B., & Urbanoski, K

Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support:** 2021-2024

 EVALUATING PRESCRIBED SAFER SUPPLY AMONG FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSONS DURING AN OVERDOSE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Investigators: Slaunwhite, A., Palis, H. (Leads), Korchinski, M., Brown, H., Young, S., Pauly, B., Urbanoski, K., Greer, A., Lock, K., & Nicholls, T. Funding body: Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program

Duration of support: 2022-2023

 HART CENTER(ED): HARM REDUCTION TEAM FOR SUBSTANCE INITIATIVES AND EDUCATION

Investigators: Bichler, L. (PA), Bottorff, J., Hore, D., Kenedy, M.-C., Oelke, N., Wallace, B., Walsh, Z., Airth, L., Baharuddin, F., Cates, J., Feddersen, M., Matthews, J., Sage, C.

Funding body: CIHR, Strategy for Patient Oriented

Research Catalyst Grant

Duration of support: 2023-2024

 HEALTHY PROFESSIONAL/KNOWLEDGE WORKERS: EXAMINING THE GENDERED NATURE OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, LEAVES OF ABSENCE & RETURN TO WORK EXPERIENCES FROM A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Investigators: Bourgeault, I. (NPA), **Benoit, C.** (co-Lead), et al.

Funding body: SSHRC/CIHR Partnership Grant

Duration of support: 2018-2024

 THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL LABELLING ON BEHAVIOUR, KNOWLEDGE, AND SUPPORT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Investigators: Zuckermann, A., Morissette, K., Boland, L., Garcia, A., Domingo, F., **Stockwell, T.**, & **Hobin, E.**

Funding body: Public Health Agency of Canada

Duration of support: 2021-2023

 IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF AN INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN CALGARY, ALBERTA AND VICTORIA

Investigators: Milaney, K. (Nominated PI), Nixon, L., **Pauly, B.** (co-ls), in collaboration with Calgary Aboriginal Standing Committee on Homelessness and Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness (Victoria, BC).

Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant **Duration of support:** 2020-2023

IMPLICATIONS OF STATE ALCOHOL POLICY FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS' BINGE DRINKING, SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR AND SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION

Investigators: Kerr, D. (PI) & Naimi, T. (co-I) Funding body: National Institute for Alcohol Abuse

and Alcoholism

Duration of support: 2023-2025

A MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAM FOR **AUSTRALIA**

Investigators: Ezard, N., Stockwell, T., Haber, P., Baldry, E., Day, C., Dobbins, T., Peacock, A., Pauly, B., Lintzeris, N., & Dolan, K.

Funding body: Australian Government National Health and Research Council Partnership Project

Duration of support: 2019-2024

MAPPING SURVEILLANCE IN HARM **REDUCTION: A NEW MATERIALIST** ANALYSIS OF EMERGING PRACTICES, **TECHNOLOGIES, AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Investigators: Guta, A. (PI), Gagnon, M., Strike, C.,

& van der Meulen, E.

Funding body: SSHRC Insight Grant **Duration of support: 2024-2027**

MARGINALIZATION & COVID-19 (MARCO): PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR **LEARNING & OUTREACH**

Investigators: Bayoumi, A. (NPA), Boucher, L., Dodd, Z., Durbin, A., Firestone, M., Hayman, K., Issacs, B., Kolla, G., Matheson, F., Steer, L., Yakubovich, A., Young, S. (PAs), Beder, M., Brothers, T., Dobrow, M., Du Mont, J., Holness, L., Huijbregts, M., Hwang, S., Hynie, M., Kendall, C., Kenny, K., Long, C., Maguire, J., Nisenbaum, R., Shankardass, K., Strike, C., & Walker, D. (co-As)

Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant: Emerging

COVID-19 Research Gaps & Priorities **Duration of support: 2022-2023**

ONTARIO'S OPIOID DRUG OBSERVATORY: GENERATING EVIDENCE ON THE **EVOLVING OPIOID CRISIS TO INFORM** AND EVALUATE DRUG POLICY AND CLINICAL PRACTICE

Investigators: Gomes, T. (PI), Antoniou, T., Bayoumi, A., Caudarella, A., Clarke, H., Juurlink, D., Kolla, G., Leece, P., Mamdani, M., Paterson, M., Sproule, B., & Tadrous, M. (co-ls)

Funding body: CIHR Project Grant **Duration of support: 2021-2024**

A PROPOSAL TO EVALUATE SAFER SUPPLY PILOT PROGRAMS IN CANADA

Investigators: Werb, D. (NPA), Boyd, J., Brunelle, C., Hyshka. E. (PAs), Bertrand, K., Bonn, M., Bowles, J., Kennedy, M.C., Kolla, G., Touesnard, N., Strike, C., Guta, A., Pauly, B., Urbanoski, K., Herder, M., Gomes, T.

Funding body: CIHR Operating Grant: Evaluation of Harm Reduction Approaches to Address the Opioid Crisis in the Context of COVID-19

Duration of support: 2021-2025

A PROPOSAL TO EVALUATE SAFER SUPPLY PROGRAMS IN CANADA

Investigators: Werb, D. (NPA), Boyd, J., Brunelle, C., Hyshka, E., Kennedy, M.C., Bertrand, K., Kolla, G., Bowles, J., Strike, C., Guta, A., Pauly, B., Urbanoski, K. (Collaborators), Herder, M., Gomes, T., Touesnard, N., & Bonn, M.

Funding body: CIHR

Duration of support: 2021-2025

SUBSTANCE EXCHANGE: DRUG-CHECKING SERVICES PILOT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Investigators: Bichler, L. (NPA), Airth, L. (co-A),

Burek, P., Hore, D., & Wallace, B. Funding body: UBC Health After 2020

Duration of support: 2023

CHEERS TO HEALTH? UNCOVERING MYTHS AROUND THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF MODERATE DRINKING

By James Clay and Tim Stockwell

The notion that enjoying a casual beer or sipping on your favourite wine could not only be harmless but actually beneficial to one's health is a tantalizing proposition for many. This belief, often backed by claims of research findings, has seeped into social conversations and media headlines, painting moderate alcohol consumption in a positive light.

As researchers at the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, we find ourselves frequently revisiting this topic, delving deep into the evidence to separate fact from wishful thinking. Can we confidently say, "Cheers to health?"

Unpacking beliefs about moderate drinking

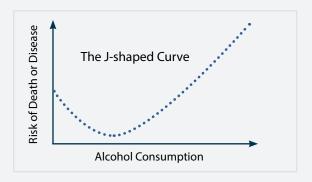
The commonplace belief that moderate drinking can be beneficial to health can be traced back to the 1980s when researchers found an association suggesting that French people were less likely to suffer from heart disease, despite eating a diet high in saturated fat.

This contradiction was thought to be explained by the assumption that the antioxidants and alcohol found in wine might offer health benefits, leading to the term "French paradox."

This concept reached a broader audience in the 1990s, following a segment on the American news show 60 Minutes which had a profound impact on wine sales. Later research expanded

on this idea, suggesting that frequently drinking small amounts of any type of alcoholic beverage might be good for health.

This idea was formalized into what is now known as the J-shaped curve hypothesis. Put simply, the J-shaped curve is a graphical representation of the apparent relationship between alcohol consumption and death or disease. According to this model, abstainers and heavy drinkers are at higher risk of certain conditions, such as heart disease, compared to moderate drinkers, whose risk is lower.



Current perspectives on moderate drinking

People used to think that tobacco use was good for health, historically describing it as a remedy for all disease. As scientific understanding has advanced, however, tobacco use has been increasingly recognized as a leading cause of preventable disease and death.

Like tobacco, alcohol was once used in medicine and has since become recognized as a major cause of preventable mortality and illness. For instance, recent global estimates suggest alcohol is responsible for 5.3 per cent of all deaths.

Furthermore, in Canada, the revenue generated from selling alcohol does not come close to covering the damage it causes, leaving the government \$6.20 billion short every year. However, much of these costs can be attributed to heavy drinking.

So where does this leave moderate drinkers? We recently set out to answer this question by analyzing data from over 4.8 million people from more than 100 studies, covering more than 40 years.

We found that many studies exaggerate the benefits of moderate drinking due to methodological flaws known as selection biases. No matter if we analyzed the studies as one big group, using statistical methods to try and lessen these mistakes, or if we separated the good studies from the not-so-good ones, one thing was clear: moderate alcohol consumption does not appear to offer the health benefits once believed.

Explaining the contradiction

Selection biases represent data distortions caused by how research participants are selected. Such biases lead to unfair comparisons between groups, which skews analyses towards finding a J-shape curve. Essentially, it is like comparing two runners in a race, where one wears heavy boots and the other wears lightweight running shoes. Concluding that the second runner is more talented misses the point; it is not a fair comparison.

Here are five examples of selection bias in the context of the alcohol J-shaped curve which can accumulate as people age:

- Poor health, less alcohol. As health declines, especially in older age, people often reduce their alcohol consumption. Not distinguishing between those who cut back or quit for health reasons can falsely indicate that moderate drinking is healthier.
- Unhealthy lifetime abstainers. Comparing moderate drinkers with individuals who have never consumed alcohol due to chronic health issues may falsely attribute health advantages to alcohol consumption.
- Moderate in other ways. Moderate drinkers often lead balanced lifestyles in other areas, too, which may contribute to their perceived

better health. It is not just moderate drinking, but also their healthier overall opportunities and choices, such as better health-care access and self-care, that make them seem healthier.

- 4. Measurement error. Assessing alcohol consumption over a short period of time, like a week or less, can lead to a misclassification of drinkers. Heavy drinkers who happened to not consume alcohol during the week of assessment would be incorrectly classified as abstainers, for example.
- Early alcohol-attributable deaths. The
 inevitable exclusion of individuals who may
 have died from alcohol-related causes before
 a study of older people starts can result in
 a "healthy survivor" bias, overlooking the
 earlier detrimental effects of alcohol.

Continuing the conversation

We should be skeptical of results suggesting that moderate drinking is healthy because selection biases can muddy the waters. For instance, multiple implausible J-shape curve relationships have been published, including between moderate drinking and liver disease.

We are well aware that this news might not be what you were hoping to hear. It might even stir up feelings of unease or skepticism. For many people, limited alcohol consumption is enjoyable. However, it is not without risk and it is important for people to understand these risks to make informed decisions about their health.

The risks are reflected in the 2023 Canadian Drinking Guidance. The guidance attempts to "meet people where they are at," suggesting that one to two drinks per week represent a low risk of harm, three to six drinks a week represent a moderate risk, and seven or more drinks a week represent an increasingly high risk. Ultimately, they enable people to make informed decisions that best suit their health and well-being.

This article originally appeared in the Conversation Canada.

DISSEMINATING AND MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE

To disseminate knowledge that increases understanding of substance use and addiction, raises awareness of related harms and identifies effective responses and contribute to constructive communication and cooperation between producers, intermediaries and users of various types of knowledge for the implementation of evidence-based policy and practice.

OBJECTIVES:

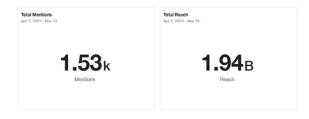
- to conduct seminars, workshops, lectures and occasional conferences on related policy, practice and research; these can be geared to community-based organizations, governmental agencies and officials, members of the general public, or the scientific community;
- to ensure access to relevant knowledge while working in partnership with policymakers and practitioners in planning and implementing projects to address substance use in Canada and internationally;
- to develop and promote resources (e.g., print and web-based reports,

- webinars, briefing notes, social media posts, participation in key advisory panels, communities of practice) with the potential to make direct contributions to policies, programs or service delivery systems in Canada and internationally; and
- to provide broad access to balanced information on substance use and related harms and health promotion approaches through a variety of knowledge exchange strategies.

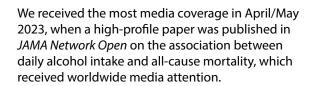
HIGHLIGHTS

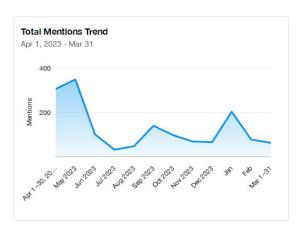
MEDIA COVERAGE

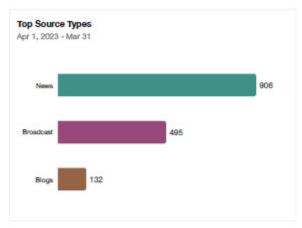
CISUR research and personnel received over 1,500 media mentions in 2023/24, reaching an estimated 1.94 billion people. This is down a little from 2022/23, partly due to the extensive coverage received that year with the release of the Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health, and because we switched media monitoring platforms which means the two years aren't directly comparable. However, this is still a considerable amount of media attention for the work CISUR is involved in.

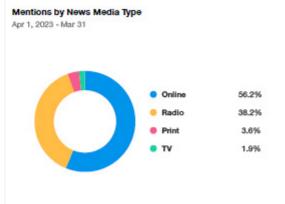


While most media coverage was from online articles, there was also a large amount of broadcast stories, particularly radio interviews.





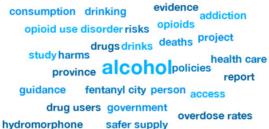




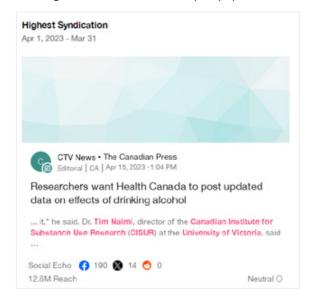
Apr 1, 2023 - Mar 31

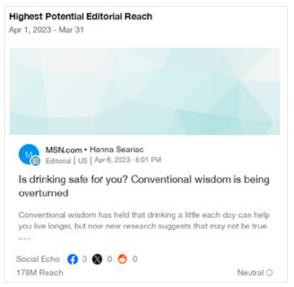
Top Keywords

Most coverage was related to alcohol, but other key issues such as safer supply, overdose, fentanyl and policies were also among the top key words found media coverage.



A story calling on Health Canada to update its alcohol guidance to reflect the updated 2023 Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health was the most syndicated (or reprinted/rebroadcasted) piece, while coverage of the JAMA Network Open paper reached the most people.

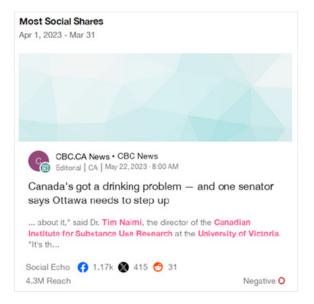




SOCIAL MEDIA

CISUR's social media presence has held steady, with 2,683 followers on Facebook and 3,194 followers on Twitter/X. Due to Meta's ban on the sharing of Canadian news articles and overall hostility towards the substance-use field on X, CISUR has scaled back its social media presence quite a bit over the last year.

Our new media monitoring program reports on stories most shared across social media platforms, not just via our own channels. This year, an article on a Canadian senate bill about alcohol labelling was the most widely shared CISUR story on social media.



WEBSITE

CISUR's website had 37,583 visitors and 98,916 pageviews. The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) project, which launched its third iteration in May 2023, had the most pageviews this year, as well as several files in our top downloaded files. The Safer Bathroom Toolkit, launched in October 2022, also continued to attract a lot of website traffic and downloads.

CISUR'S TOP TEN MOST VISITED WEBPAGES, 2023/24

Rank	Page Name	Pageviews
1	Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE)	12,803
2	CISUR homepage	12,551
3	The Safer Bathroom Toolkit	7,842
4	Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study	4,896
5	Understanding Sex Work	4,705
6	iMinds	3,070
7	Alcohol consumption in BC	2,628
8	About CISUR	2,553
9	Projects	2,271
10	Publications & Resources	2,060

CISUR'S TOP TEN MOST DOWNLOADED FILES, 2023/24

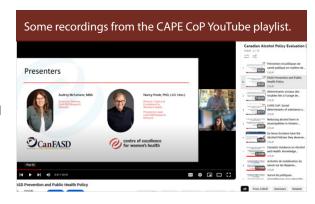
Rank	File Name	Downloads
1	Bathroom Safety Assessment Walkthrough Checklist*	627
2	CAPE 3.0: Federal Results	434
3	CAPE 3.0: Policy Domain Results Summary (Provincial/Territorial)	393
4	Overview of MAPS in Canada	355
5	CAPE 3.0: Results from Ontario	348
6	Safer Bathrooms Toolkit: Example Sign 1*	325
7	Helping Schools Drug Literacy Curriculum	297
8	Lower Cannabis Use Guidelines for Youth, by Youth	273
9	Safer Bathrooms Toolkit: Design Fact Sheet*	259
10	Safer Bathrooms Toolkit: Policy and Protocol Guide*	256

^{*} Part of the Safer Bathrooms Toolkit

Note: Due to a changeover in analytics platforms, file download data from October 9 to November 14, 2023, is missing.

VIDEOS, WEBINARS AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Over the past year, 26 videos have been uploaded to the <u>CISUR YouTube page</u>, primarily presentations from CISUR's three active Communities of Practice (CoPs): The Canadian Managed Alcohol Program Study (CMAPS) CoP, the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) CoP, and the Co/Lab CoP. This has included several videos in French as part of the CAPE CoP.



PUBLIC TALKS

CISUR also hosted five public presentations this year: Harold Johnson Award recipient Jaret Nelson in June 2023, UVic honorary degree recipient Ann Livingston in June 2023, visiting scholar Leo Beletsky in November 2023, author Ann Dowsett Johnston in February 2024 and visiting scholar Fiona Measham in March 2024.



PRINT/WEB COLLATERAL

In addition to the peer-reviewed academic outputs outlined in Section 3 above, CISUR researchers also produced several reports, brochures and other documents related to their work.

One large suite of work was from the Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) Project, which produced several reports, methodology documents and infographics for their evaluation of federal, provincial and territorial alcohol policies. The Knowledge Mobilization team also updated several Here to Help factsheets and brochures. The Co/Lab project also created two new resources: an evidence brief on decriminalization in BC and an overview and infographic of their Substance Use Monitoring Framework. CISUR scientist Marilou Gagnon was also part of a research group commissioned by the Royal Society of Canada to create a peer-reviewed evidence brief on drug decriminalization. The team at the Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project (Substance UVic) created weekly and monthly reports on their drug-checking results, which can be viewed on their blog.



A selected list of some of these other outputs is outlined below.

Selected commissioned reports

- Sherk, A. & Stockwell, T. (2023) Modeling the impact of alcohol labels on alcohol use and health outcomes in Canada. Commissioned report for the Alcohol Policy Unit, Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch, Health Canada. Victoria, Canada: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.
- Farkouh, E., Clay J., Pauly, B., Stockwell T., & Naimi, T. (2024) Alcohol-related Vulnerability and Health Equity Considerations for Minimum Pricing Policies: Theory, Evidence and Research Gaps

Selected special reports and bulletins

- BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel, (Nov 1, 2023). An Urgent Response to a Continuing
- Farkouh, E., Price, T., Vallance, K., Wettlaufer, A., Farrell-Low, A., Giesbrecht, N., Stockwell, T., Vishnevsky, N., Priore, B., Ma, J., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Hynes, G., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Thomas, G., Thompson, K., & Naimi, T. (2023). Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) 3.0: Methodology and Evidence (Federal and Provincial/Territorial). Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.

- Gruben, V., Hyshka, E., Bonn, M., Cox, C., Gagnon, M., Guta, A., Jackman, M., Mercredi, J., Munga, A., Oscapella, E., Strike, C., & Virani, H. (2024). Urgent and Long Overdue: Legal Reform and Drug Decriminalization in Canada. Royal Society of Canada.
- Macevicius, C., Ranger, C., Urbanoski, K., and Pauly, B. (2024). <u>Decriminalization of Currently</u>
 Illegal Drugs in British Columbia (BC): An Evidence Brief. Canadian Institute for Substance Use
 Research, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC.
- Naimi, T., Stockwell, T., Giesbrecht, N., Wettlaufer, A., Vallance, K., Farrell-Low, A., Farkouh, E., Ma, J., Priore, B., Vishnevsky, N., Price, T., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Hynes, G., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Thomas, G., & Thompson, K. (2023). Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation 3.0: Federal Results. Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.
- Naimi, T., Stockwell, T., Giesbrecht, N., Wettlaufer, A., Vallance, K., Farrell-Low, A., Farkouh, E., Ma, J., Priore, B., Vishnevsky, N., Price, T., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Hynes, G., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Thomas, G., & Thompson, K. (2023). Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) 3.0 Project: Policy Domain Results Summary (Provincial/Territorial). Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria.
- Naimi, T., Stockwell, T., Giesbrecht, N., Wettlaufer, A., Vallance, K., Farrell-Low, A., Farkouh, E., Ma, J., Priore, B., Vishnevsky, N., Price, T., Asbridge, M., Gagnon, M., Hynes, G., Shelley, J., Sherk, A., Shield, K., Solomon, R., Thomas, G. & Thompson, K. (2023). Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation (CAPE) 3.0: Best Practice Policy Leaders (Provincial/Territorial). Victoria, BC: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria
- Pauly, B., van Roode, T., Carter, C., & Urbanoski, K. (2024). Co/Lab Substance Use Monitoring
 Framework: Equity-Oriented Monitoring of Substance Use and Health [Overview]. Canadian
 Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria; Victoria, BC
- Weatherall, K., Datar, G., Pauly, B., Buxton, JA. (2023). Report on the Peer2Peer Scale-Up Project.
 BC Centre for Disease Control. April 2023.

Selected informational resources and guides

- Pauly, B., van Roode, T., Carter, C., & Urbanoski, K. (2024). Co/Lab Substance Use Monitoring
 Framework: Equity-Oriented Monitoring of Substance Use and Health [Infographic]. Canadian
 Institute for Substance Use Research, University of Victoria; Victoria, BC.
- HeretoHelp Factsheets and Brochures:
 - » Hosting a Teen Party
 - » Learn about Methamphetamine
 - » Safer Drinking: Beer, wine and spirits
 - » Youth and Alcohol
- Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation infographics: available at alcoholpolicy.cisur.ca
- Substance UVic weekly/monthly drug checking reports: available at substance_uvic.ca/blog



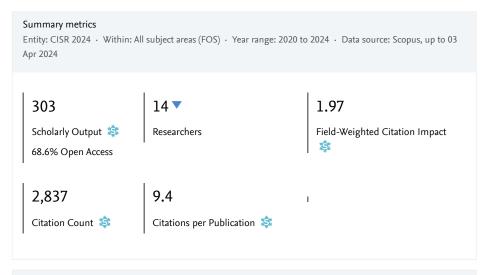
CAMADIAN INSTITUTE FOR SUBSTANCE LISE RESEARCH

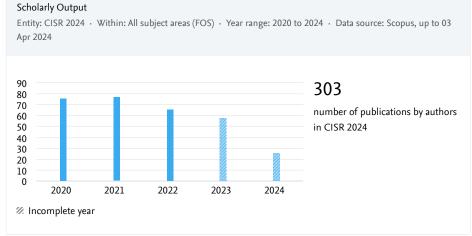






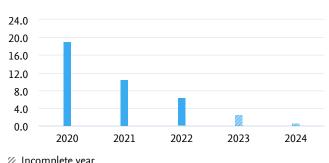
APPENDIX: RESEARCH ANALYTICS





Citations per Publication

Entity: CISR 2024 · Within: All subject areas (FOS) · Year range: 2020 to 2024 · Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024



9.4 average number of citations per

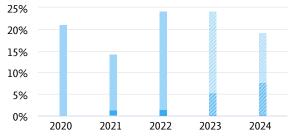
publication in CISR 2024

Incomplete year

Outputs in Top 10% Citation Percentiles (field-weighted)

Entity: CISR 2024 · Within: All subject areas (FOS) · Year range: 2020 to 2024 · Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

Share of publications in CISR 2024 that are among the most cited publications worldwide field-weighted



62 (20.5%)

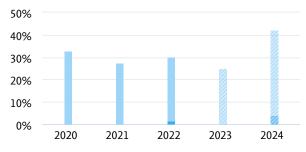
number of publications in the top 10% most cited publications worldwide

- % publications in top 10% most cited
- % publications in top 1% most cited
- Incomplete year



Entity: CISR 2024 \cdot Within: All subject areas (FOS) \cdot Year range: 2020 to 2024 \cdot Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

Share of publications in CISR 2024 that are in the top journals by CiteScore Percentile



88 (30.3%)

number of publications in the top 10% journals by CiteScore

- % publications in top 10% journals
- % publications in top 1% journals
- Incomplete year

Research Impact on Policy

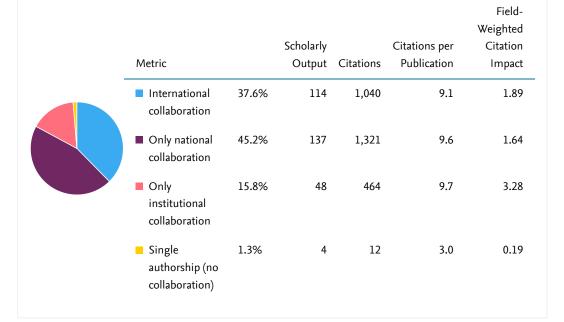
Entity: CISR 2024 \cdot Within: All subject areas (FOS) \cdot Year range: 2020 to 2024 \cdot Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

51	90	49	
Scholarly Output cited by Policy	29	1	
16.8%	107	15	
Scholarly Output cited by Policy	Policy Citations	Citing Policy Body Countries	
51 of 303 publications	Scholarly Output cited	Policy Citations	Citing Policy Body Countries
51 of 303 publications	Scholarly Output cited	Policy Citations	Citing Policy Body Countries
51 of 303 publications	Scholarly Output cited	Policy Citations	Citing Policy Body Countries
52 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
53 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
54 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
55 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
56 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
57 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
58 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
59 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
50 of 303 publications	Citing Policy Body Countries		
5			

Geographical Collaboration - Overall

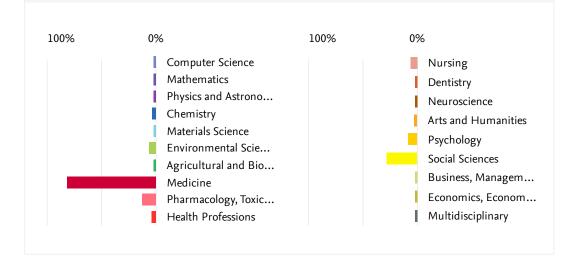
Entity: CISR 2024 · Within: All subject areas (FOS) · Year range: 2020 to 2024 · Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

International, national and institutional collaboration by in CISR 2024 in the selected year range.



Publication share by Subject Area

Entity: CISR 2024 · Within: All subject areas (ASJC) · Year range: 2020 to 2024 · Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

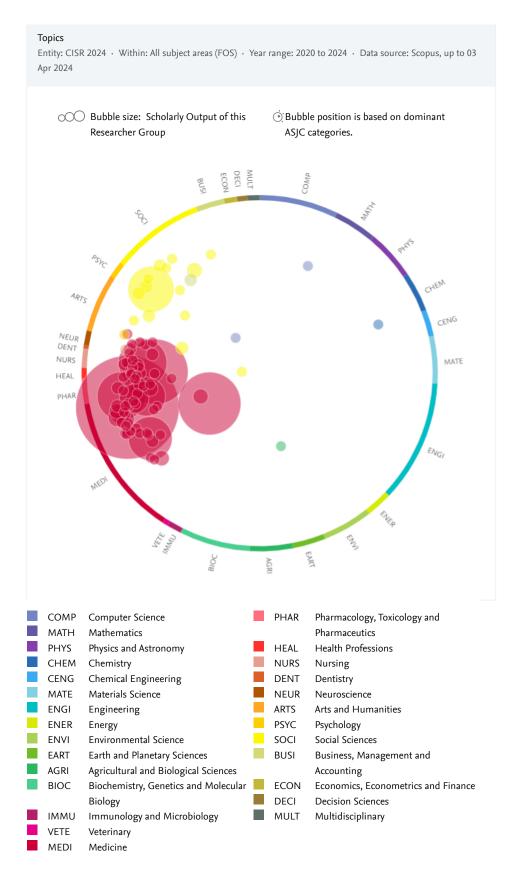


Keyphrase analysis

Entity: Publications in CISR 2024 | 2020 to 2024 \cdot Within: All subject areas (FOS) \cdot Year range: 2020 to 2024 \cdot Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

Injection Drug User Qualitative Research COVID-19 Qualitative
Product Labeling Fentanyl Sex Workers Harm
Public Health Substance-Related Disorders
Opiciate Overdose Police Supply Alcohol Drinking
Thiamazole Ethanol British Columbia Commentary
Cannabis Intoxication Alcohol Consumption
Legalization Illicit Drug Reduction Prostitution
Response Stigma Canada Homeless Persons
Implementation Science Alcohol Policy Health Equity
Criminalization Drug Overdose
Human Immunodeficiency Virus 1
Health Policy

A A A relevance of keyphrase | declining A A A growing (2020-2022)



Topics Entity: CISR 2024 $\,\cdot\,\,$ Within: All subject areas (FOS) $\,\cdot\,\,$ Year range: 2020 to 2024 $\,\cdot\,\,$ Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

	By this Group of Researchers		Worldwide	
Tania	Scholarly	Field-Weighted	Prominence	
Topic	Output	Citation Impact	percentile	
Injection Drug Use; Needle-Exchange Programs; Intravenous Substance Abuse	40	1.55	97.835	
T.261				
Alcohol Policy; Unit Pricing; Alcohol Drinking	24	1.50	93.719	
T.8136				
U-47700; N-(1-Phenethylpiperidin-4-Yl)-N-	23	2.24	96.588	
Phenylacetamide; Intoxication				
T.25953				
Homelessness; Assisted Living Facilities; Mental	17	1.16	98.545	
Disease				
T.736				
Medical Cannabis; Young Adult; Legalization	17	1.60	99.267	
T.2466				
Prostitution; Sex Workers; Sexual	16	2.68	94.154	
T.4650				
Alcohol Consumption; Red Wines; Alcohol	15	6.45	94.559	
Drinking				
T.1387				
Tobacco Industry; Alcohol Drinking; Alcohol	13	2.19	88.972	
Policy				
T.31269				
Alcohol Consumption; Vodka; Ethanol	9	2.27	90.262	
T.12700				
Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs;	5	2.03	99.720	
Narcotic Analgesic Agent; Morphinomimetic				
Agent T.248				

Overall h-index

Within: All subject areas (FOS) · Year range: 2020 to 2024 · Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

Entity 1 2020 to 2024

% CISR 2024 85

Metric 1: h-indices \$\$ (h-index)

h-index is based on a Researcher's total publication output since 1996.

Types of publications included: all. Self-citations included: yes.

Metric 2: **Publication Year**

Researchers

Entity: CISR 2024 $\,\cdot\,\,$ Within: All subject areas (FOS) $\,\cdot\,\,$ Year range: 2020 to 2024 $\,\cdot\,\,$ Data source: Scopus, up to 03 Apr 2024

N	ame	Scholarly Output	Most recent publication	Citations	<i>h</i> -index
1.	Pauly, Bernie (bernie)	71	2024	674	33
2.	Stockwell, Tim	65	2024	748	50
3.	Naimi, Timothy S.	53	2024	681	50
4.	Sherk, Adam	35	2024	408	14
5.	Wallace, Bruce B.	34	2024	474	19
6.	Gagnon, Marilou	33	2024	242	17
7.	Benoit, Cecilia Myra	28	2024	134	29
8.	Urbanoski, Karen A.	26	2024	172	25
9.	Arredondo, Jaime	19	2024	173	18
10.	Zhao, Jinhui	16	2024	216	28
11.	Callaghan, Russell Clarence	14	2023	117	24
12.	Macdonald, Scott A.	11	2022	105	31
13.	Jansson, Mikael	10	2024	67	17
14	Macdonald Mariorie A	8	2023	45	18



Health and Wellness Building University of Victoria, Victoria, BC 250.472.5445 | cisur@uvic.ca

www.cisur.ca uvic_cisur uvic.cisur