



Annual Report 2022-23

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy

Data | Insight | Informing Solutions



University
of Manitoba

Rady Faculty of
Health Sciences

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Director's Message

This past year has been an exciting year of change at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP). I'm delighted to be writing to you in my capacity as the new Director of MCHP. I began this role in July 2022, after working at MCHP for a decade. It has been a challenging and rewarding experience, and I thank the Executive team for their continued support.

Our excellent team of researchers and support staff have been hard at work leading many impactful research projects, which you can learn more about later in this report. Together, we've brought in \$5.7M in funding and published more than 140 peer-reviewed publications over the past year. We also successfully delivered two reports to the Government of Manitoba, both are valuable resources as Manitoba Health moves ahead with public health transformation.

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, our team attended knowledge exchange events and conferences around the globe. We presented at the International Population Data Linkage Network conference in Edinburgh, Scotland last fall and our researchers just returned from presenting at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) in Montreal in May. We also hosted an in-person Evidence to Action (E2A) event in November 2022. E2A is a fundamental component of MCHP's knowledge exchange and mobilization strategy and allows our team to share findings directly with our partners and stakeholders. Our researchers also contributed to public discussion in the media, with 17 articles mentioning MCHP research by local and national news outlets this year.

We continue to manage and curate the world-class Manitoba Population Research Data Repository; and our data access team processed more than two dozen new research projects. We continue to improve the capacity of the Repository, and this year two new databases were added including the Youth Health Survey and Temporary Resident Immigration data.

Students remain an integral part of our research activities, and this year a number of our students won awards recognizing their excellence, including a Vanier Scholarship, Research Manitoba and CHRIM Masters Studentship Awards, and a student prize for research at the CAHSPR annual meeting.

Another exciting change at MCHP has been our transition to hybrid work after working entirely from home for more than two years. It's been wonderful to connect again in the office while continuing to support remote work and an online workspace. I am grateful to our knowledgeable IT team for making this transition seamless for MCHP staff and researchers.

I'm eager for another year of opportunities as we build on MCHP's mission and vision while also producing groundbreaking research that improves the health and well-being of Manitobans.



Nathan Nickel MPH, PhD

Director

“ I’m eager for another year of opportunities... producing groundbreaking research that improves the health and well-being of Manitobans. ”

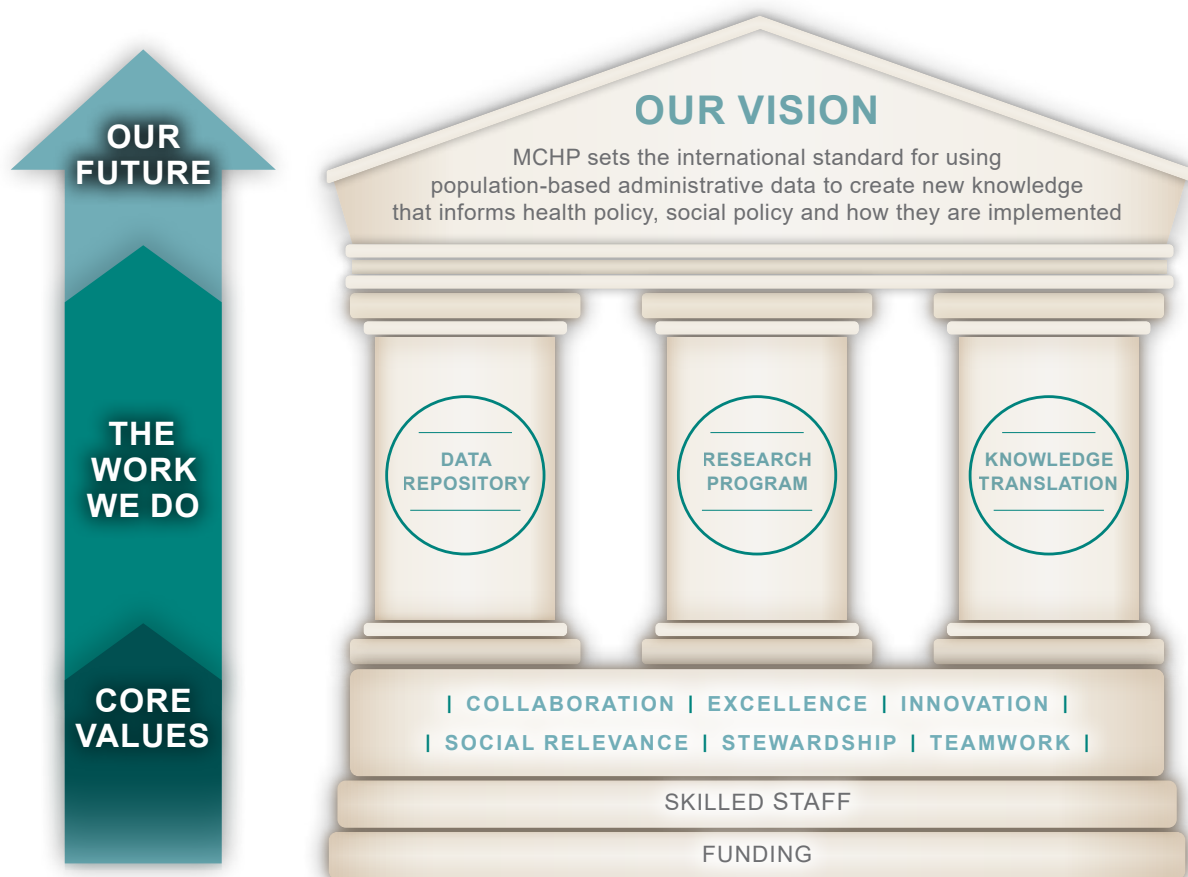
About the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy

The Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) is a research unit situated in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, within the University of Manitoba. Our research team focuses on answering the question, “What makes people healthy?”

We maintain the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository which holds de-identified administrative data records, linkable at an individual level. Our database contains a wealth of information on the health and well-being of Manitobans across multiple sectors including health, justice, education, income and more. Our researchers and staff train future policymakers and researchers to improve the lives of all Manitobans.

We utilize innovative knowledge mobilization approaches to connect directly with our knowledge users to maximize the relevance and impact of our research.

MCHP works within the Strategic Research Plan of the University of Manitoba and follows the ‘Integrative Research in Health and Well-being’ theme. We are also committed to furthering the Principles of Reconciliation through the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Reconciliation Action Plan. We support a Learning Health System in Manitoba by being an integral part of the University’s Complex Data Strategy which contributes to the Provincial Information Management and Analytics Strategy. We are also a founding member of the Health Data Research Network, a coalition of people and organizations across Canada working towards transformative and world-leading health data use.



Mission and Objectives

The University of Manitoba's (UM) mission is to create, preserve, communicate and apply knowledge, contributing to the cultural, social and economic well-being of the people of Manitoba, Canada and the world. MCHP works within the 'Integrative Research in Health and Well-being' theme of UM's Strategic Research Plan.

Our strategic objectives, detailed in our strategic operational plan, cover the following areas:

1

To maintain and enhance a population-based data repository (Repository) that meets the needs of researchers, graduate students, and analysts in a privacy-compliant environment;

2

To advance the research capacities of the Centre and its affiliated researchers, to support research which is relevant, and uses the most appropriate methodologies;

3

To integrate knowledge translation within our work, to measure the impact of our research on policy and practices, and engage the public in our research, where relevant;

4

To maintain the strong foundation needed for a centre of excellence by securing adequate funding, supporting skilled staff, and being accountable for our funding.

Get to Know MCHP's New Director

Q & A with Dr. Nathan Nickel

Q: Tell me a bit about your background

A: I first became interested in pursuing a career in public health programming and evaluation after working in Asia for a couple of years. I wasn't necessarily interested in research but in working to identify programs that positively impacted population health, figuring out what worked to make them successful, and scaling up those programs. When I returned to the U.S., I looked for a university that focused on program theory and evaluation from an applied public health perspective. I applied to a couple programs and decided to attend UCLA for my Master of Public Health (MPH). I had a dual focus in maternal-child health and global health. During my MPH, I found myself gravitating more towards the research and evaluation side of my studies as opposed to the implementation and practice side. I did my practicum with the Higher Population Council in Amman, Jordan, working on developing measurement and evaluation tools for a few of their reproductive health indicators. This experience confirmed that I was more interested in public and population health research and evaluation as opposed to program implementation. I looked for additional educational programs that would give me a strong foundation in research and evaluation and was able to pursue my PhD in Maternal and Child Health Policy at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Q: You've been with the MCHP for more than 10 years. What initially inspired you to work here?

A: A few things came together that inspired me to come to Manitoba to work at MCHP. When I decided to pursue my PhD, it was with the intent of working someplace that prioritized conducting actionable evidence-based research and evaluation that has positive impacts on population health and well-being. I initially wanted to work at a "think tank" of sorts that did both peer-reviewed and commissioned research proximal to health and social services and systems. However, I also wanted to immigrate to Canada, and being unfamiliar with the Canadian landscape, those types of places were not jumping out at me.

I attended a breastfeeding conference where I met Dr. Pat Martens – a former MCHP Director. She suggested that I remain in touch, and we reconnected when I was

attending the annual meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association. We had dinner together and she told me about MCHP, the government commissioned research MCHP completes to respond to evidence needs emerging from the system, and the rich holdings of the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository. At the time information on the justice system was not part of the Repository, but those data were coming, and this was of keen interest to me. I had recent personal experiences that generated several research questions around child outcomes after a parent's involvement with the justice system. The combination of partnering with people working in government on research, the future possibility of looking at family involvement with the justice system and associated outcomes, and the capacity to start doing multi-generational research (as a maternal-child-health researcher the concept of multi-generational impacts of the determinants of health were part of my academic upbringing) all made it clear for me that MCHP was the type of place where I would want to work.

Q: What is one research project you feel most proud of in your history with MCHP

A: The 2018 Health and Social Outcomes Associated with High-Risk Alcohol Use project is one I feel most proud of. As part of this work, we partnered with folks in the Manitoba Government who were working on the VIRGO report, a provincial strategy addressing access and coordination of mental health and addiction services. Our research in this area led to some meaningful policy changes that increased access to treatment for folks experiencing alcohol use disorders.

Q: How do you like to spend your time outside of work?

A: It really depends on the season. Those who know me personally know that I am a huge fan of thermal experiences. My partner Geoffrey and I built an outdoor sauna and cold dunk on our property that I like to use in the wintertime. During the summer, I spend quite a bit of time working with the plants on our property. We spend our time planting trees (we have planted over 300 saplings over the past few years) and tending to edible plants that we're trying to get going from herbs, fruit, berries, and some perennial vegetables.

Highlights of MCHP Activities for 2022-23

In Numbers

142

Peer-Reviewed
Publications



16 First
Authors

41

Researcher
Presentations

2 Post-doctoral
Fellows

15 PhD
Students

10 MSc
Students



Manitoba Population
— Research Data —
Repository supports
— Studies Including —

10 MSc
Theses

11 PhD
Theses

\$5.7M In Funding

Research

There are two types of research MCHP carries out using data from the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository: contracted research for agreed deliverables and grand funded research.

Contract Use of Manitoba Population Research Data Repository

For more than 30 years, MCHP has been partnered with Manitoba Health and contracted to complete up to five research projects per year. MCHP researchers lead these “deliverable” projects with input from policymakers, clinicians and other partners. In 2022-23 we delivered two reports to government with input from our partners as co-investigators or on advisory groups. This engagement has enriched the reports we produce.

Orthopedic and Ophthalmology Surgical Projection Models

Katz A, Taylor C, Ekuma O, Bowes JM, Soodeen RA, Owczar H

The Manitoba health care system has faced long wait times for orthopedic and ophthalmological surgical procedures. Wait times for surgeries are considered a significant barrier to accessing health care and can have negative health impacts for patients. Recently, the Government of Manitoba identified reducing surgical wait times as a key health care priority. In this study, we explored the delivery of orthopedic and ophthalmology surgical procedures between April 2004 and March 2020 in relation to population demographics. Using this data, we developed models to project surgical procedure demands up to 2027. We found that orthopedic procedures are expected to increase by 18.8% from 2020 to 2027, with growth resulting from a projected 40% increase in clinic-based procedures. Additionally, the number of ophthalmology procedures is also expected to increase as models projected a 67.6% rise from 2020 to 2027.

<http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverable.php?referencePaperID=88448>



Describing Patterns of Home Care Use in Manitoba

Chateau D, Prior H, Tan Q, Stevenson D, Jarmasz J, Burchill S

Results from a data linkage study about home care services use in Manitoba found that women aged 85 years and older are more likely to be home care clients compared to men; however, men use these services more often than women. The Manitoba Home Care Program offers at-home care for Manitobans who need health services or assistance with daily living, which includes housekeeping, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and respite work. In recent years, Regional Health Authorities started using Procura, a new software that provides more information on home care clients. In this study, we evaluate the validity of the Procura data and use this data to look at the nature of home care use in Manitoba. We found the Procura data to be accurate and reliable, and future analyses can uncover information that is useful for health care providers .

<http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverable.php?referencePaperID=88443>



Grant Funded Research

MCHP researchers and support staff are highly successful in receiving grant funding for peer-reviewed research projects. Our research into the health and well-being of Manitobans is funded through a range of sources including federal and provincial funding bodies, foundations, and research trusts. This year, researchers, staff and students published 142 peer-reviewed papers and our team brought in approximately \$5.7 million in funding. Below we have highlighted research projects some of our Senior Research Scientists and Research Associates carried out this year:

Dr. Marni Brownell Senior Research Scientist

SPECTRUM (Social Policy Evaluation Collaborative Team Research at Universities in Manitoba) is a partnership comprising community organizations, government staff, researchers and students who work together to produce research evidence to inform social policy in Manitoba. The collaboration aims to address social policy challenges for a fairer and more equitable society. Dr. Marni Brownell, along with several MCHP-affiliated researchers (Drs. Nathan Nickel, Selena Randall, Jennifer Enns and Amy Freier) and students, has been leading this work since the partnership's inception in 2018.

SPECTRUM's first research project focuses on studying children in the care of Child and Family Services (CFS) in Manitoba. Manitoba has the highest rates of children in out-of-home care in Canada, and Indigenous children are disproportionately impacted. Partners involved in the project team represent the First Nations Family Advocate Office, the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, and Manitoba Families. Using linked administrative data housed in the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository the team is examining social and health outcomes of children in out-of-home care compared with children involved with CFS but who remain at home. This research will be paramount in developing policy responses that better support families facing challenges in Manitoba.

In addition to this research, Dr. Brownell co-led SPECTRUM partnership workshops which occurred in April and May 2022, and in March 2023.

Learn more

- SPECTRUM website — <https://www.spectrum-mb.ca>
- The Full SPECTRUM: Developing a Tripartite partnership between community, government and academia for collaborative social policy research, *UTS ePress* (forthcoming)

Discover more research from Dr. Brownell:
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7673-4404>

Dr. Mariette Chartier Senior Research Scientist

This year, we sadly said farewell to Dr. Mariette Chartier who retired after a highly productive career as both a registered nurse and a researcher.

Dr. Chartier began her career working in the areas of medical, surgical and psychiatric nursing where she stayed for nearly a decade. She later moved to a research role and joined the Anxiety Disorders Research Team at St. Boniface General Hospital where she contributed to research efforts in studying pharmacological and psychological interventions for those with anxiety disorders. After returning to school and completing graduate studies, she joined the team at MCHP in 2008 and worked on many impactful projects throughout her 15 years with the Centre. Most recently, she was the co-principal investigator for the Methamphetamine Use in Manitoba deliverable and led the reports on the Mental Health of Manitoba's Children, Mental Illness among Adult Manitobans, and the Health and Well-being of First Nations Children in Manitoba. Notably, she worked in partnership with Swampy Cree Tribal Council community members and First Nations organizations to study the implementation, and educational and mental health impacts of the PAX-Good Behaviour Game on First Nations youth in Manitoba.

Dr. Chartier was well-respected among her peers, students, partners and by the community members she worked with. She was a much-loved member of the MCHP team and will be greatly missed, but we are so excited for her next adventure. Happy trails, Dr. Chartier!

Learn more

- Evaluating the strengths and challenges of PAX dream makers approach to mental health promotion: perspectives of youth and community members in Indigenous communities in Manitoba, Canada, *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* — <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/22423982.2022.2089378>
- Is PAX-Good Behaviour Game (PAX) Associated with Better Mental Health and Educational Outcomes for First Nations Children?, *International Journal of Population Data Science* — <https://ijpds.org/article/view/1957>
- Methamphetamine Use in Manitoba: A Linked Administrative Data Study — <http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverable.php?referencePaperID=88215>
- The Mental Health of Manitoba's Children — <http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverable.php?referencePaperID=77480>
- Mental Illness Among Adult Manitobans — <http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverable.php?referencePaperID=77849>

- Our Children, Our Future: The Health and Well-being of First Nations Children in Manitoba — <http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverable.php?referencePaperID=88226>
- Changes in Health and Well-being of Nursing Home Managers from a Prepandemic baseline in February 2020 to December 2021, *The Journal of Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine* — <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36584970/>

Discover more research from Dr. Chartier:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4580-6510>

Dr. Malcolm Doupe

Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Malcolm Doupe is co-leading a program of international projects with researchers from Norway, exploring healthcare for older adults and designing innovations to help improve care transitions for these people. Older adults are the fastest growing segment of our population; our traditional modes of healthcare delivery are not designed to care for people with complex multimorbid needs that impact daily living and often require a multitude of care transitions (e.g., across providers, between communities and institutions).

Dr. Doupe and Dr. Frode F Jacobsen (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences) are examining best practices for emergency department-to-community transitions through the International Network to Enhance Older Adult Care Transitions (iNET) partnership. Established in 2019, iNET is a collaboration that includes Canadian and Norwegian researchers, healthcare policymakers, planners, and students, and is funded by the Research Council of Norway. The partnership aims to connect international stakeholders to learn different jurisdictional approaches to older adult care. In fall 2022, iNET hosted a workshop in Norway which provided Canadian members an opportunity to see how Norway cares for their aging populations. In May 2023, iNET came to Winnipeg and Norwegian counterparts got a glimpse into Manitoba's older adult healthcare facilities. The collaboration is preparing a member exchange series in Norway in fall 2023.

Learn more

- Welfare of older adults across healthcare, *Open Access Government* (pg. 76-77) — <https://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=eaaa2691-f2e2-4ecd-9e5e-f2985210b663>
- Dr. Malcolm Doupe | Dr. Frode F. Jacobsen – Ending the Revolving Door of Emergency Department Visits for Older Adults, *Scientia* — <https://www.scientia.global/dr-malcolm-doupe-dr-frode-f-jacobsen-ending-the-revolving-door-of-emergency-department-visits-for-older-adults/>

In the media this year:

- Norwegians in Manitoba to learn about province's older adult care, *UM Today* — <https://news.umanitoba.ca/norwegians-in-manitoba-to-learn-about-provinces-older-adult-care/>
- Norwegians among group researching elder-care reform touring Manitoba health facilities, *Winnipeg Free Press* — <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/health/2023/05/09/norwegians-among-group-researching-elder-care-reform-touring-manitoba-health-facilities>

Dr. Jennifer Enns

Research Associate

Dr. Jennifer Enns is co-leading efforts to produce and publish findings from our research focused on the health and social impacts of methamphetamine use in Manitoba. This project is funded by Health Canada and aims to study the epidemiology of methamphetamine use in Manitoba and harm reduction approaches and interventions that address the rising rate of methamphetamine use in Winnipeg. The research will examine three major outcomes: health service use, mental health diagnoses and contacts with social services. Dr. Enns is using data housed in the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository, as well as engaging with a team of research partners and stakeholders, including people with lived experience, to better understand the scale and scope of this issue. The project is co-led by Drs. Nathan Nickel, Amy Freier and Mariette Chartier (retired).

Learn more

- Characterising methamphetamine use to inform health and social policies in Manitoba, Canada: a protocol for a retrospective cohort study using linked administrative data, *BMJ Open* — <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/12/10/e062127.info>

In the media this year

- Methamphetamine use is on the rise, worsening Canada's already complex opioid crisis, *The Globe and Mail* — <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-methamphetamine-opioids-drug-crisis/>

Discover more research from Dr. Enns:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7805-7582>

Dr. Alan Katz

Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Alan Katz's research interests focus on the delivery of primary care, including quality of care indicators, knowledge translation and disease prevention. Dr. Katz has been the principal investigator or co-investigator on grant funding totaling more than \$20 million.

Dr. Katz recent project, which received more than \$200,000 in funding from CIHR in 2021, explores the prevalence, risk factors and outcomes of long COVID-19. This study aims to better define long COVID, its symptoms, and treatment. Dr. Katz was also appointed to a federal government task force led by the Chief Science Officer to provide feedback into the report Post-COVID-19 Conditions in Canada: What We Know, What We Don't Know and a Framework for Action, which was released in December 2022. He is a co-investigator on the pan Canadian Long COVID Web, a CIHR funded grant.

Learn more

- Post-COVID-19 Conditions in Canada: What We Know, What We Don't Know and a Framework for Action, *Government of Canada* — <https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/office-chief-science-advisor/initiatives-covid-19/post-covid-19-condition-canada-what-we-know-what-we-dont-know-and-framework-action>
- A population data-driven approach to identifying 'Long COVID' cases in support of diagnosis and treatment, *International Journal of Population Data Science* — <https://ijpds.org/article/view/1924>
- Long COVID Web — <https://www.longcovidweb.ca/>

In the media this year

- This woman is among a growing long COVID population that a U of M team is studying, *CBC News* — <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/long-covid-research-health-care-1.6474362>
- University of Manitoba launches long Covid survey, *Global News* — <https://globalnews.ca/news/8936554/university-of-manitoba-long-covid-survey/>
- Long COVID is affecting thousands of Canadians. These researchers are racing to understand its risk factors, treatments, *Globe and Mail* — <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-researchers-are-working-to-understand-the-scale-and-scope-of-long/>
- No plans for dedicated long COVID clinic: Shared Health, *Winnipeg Free Press* — <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2022/06/29/no-plans-for-dedicated-long-covid-clinic-shared-health>

- Researchers call for provincial action on youth eating habits, *Winnipeg Free Press* — <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/food/2023/04/20/researchers-call-for-provincial-action-on-youth-eating-habits>
- Why we should listen to new national alcohol guidelines?, *Global News* — <https://globalnews.ca/video/9417789/why-we-should-listen-to-new-national-alcohol-guidelines>
- Opinion: Social safety net no longer meeting needs, *Winnipeg Free Press* — <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/2023/02/02/social-safety-net-no-longer-meeting-needs>
- Opinion: Innovative thinking required in healthcare, *Winnipeg Free Press* — <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/2022/12/22/innovative-thinking-required-in-health-care>
- Opinion: Startling results in youth nutrition study, *Winnipeg Free Press* — <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/2023/04/25/startling-results-in-youth-nutrition-study>

Discover more research from Dr. Katz:

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8280-7024>

Dr. Marcelo Urquia

Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Marcelo Urquia's research examines the intersection of gender, immigration, family health and well-being from an epidemiological perspective. A recent project focuses on child marriage and perinatal health in the Americas, which has generated numerous peer-reviewed publications in the past year. Child and adolescent marriage are manifestations of gender inequality and have been linked to poor health and well-being among women. However, the perinatal epidemiology of minor mothers has been understudied, particularly in high- and middle-income countries such as Brazil, Canada, Ecuador and the United States. Dr. Urquia's research seeks to understand child marriage and its relationships to various social and health outcomes.

In April 2022, Dr. Urquia received renewal for a Canada Research Chair in Applied Population Health, Tier 2.

Learn more

- The perinatal epidemiology of child and adolescent marriage in Brazil, 2011-2018, *SSM-Population Health* — <https://www.sciencedirect.com/um.l.idm.oclc.org/science/article/pii/S2352827322000726?via%3Dihub>

- Marital status, immigration, and reproductive health among adolescent mothers in Canada, 1990-2018: A population-based, observational study, *Preventive Medicine* — <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/umli.idm.oclc.org/36273618/>
- Associations between child and adolescent marriage and reproductive outcomes in Brazil, Ecuador, the United States and Canada, *BMC Public Health* — <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/umli.idm.oclc.org/35871000/>
- Prevalence and sociodemographic correlates of marriage among adolescent mothers in Canada, 1989-2018, *Can J Public Health* — <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/umli.idm.oclc.org/36562916/>
- Reproductive health among married and unmarried mothers aged less than 18, 18-19, and 20-24 years in the United States, 2014-2019: A population-based cross-sectional study, *PLOS Medicine* — <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/umli.idm.oclc.org/35271581/>
- Child marriage and perinatal health in Ecuador, 2015-2020, *Salud Colectiva* — <http://revistas.unla.edu.ar/saludcolectiva/article/view/4325>

In the media this year

- Six Canada Research Chairs Announced at UM, *UM Today* — <https://news.umanitoba.ca/six-canada-research-chairs-announced-at-um/>
- UM researcher probes data on marital status and young moms' health, *UM Today* — <https://news.umanitoba.ca/um-researcher-probes-data-on-marital-status-and-young-moms-health/>

Discover more research from Dr. Urquia:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Urquia%2C+M+Canada>

Health Data Research Network (HDRN)

The Health Data Research Network is a pan-Canadian non-profit organization connecting data centres and individual partners in knowledge sharing, collaboration and innovation. MCHP is a founding member of HDRN, and two of our researchers are actively involved in leading research on both data equity and algorithms and harmonized data.

Dr. Amy Freier Research Associate

Dr. Amy Freier is trailblazing research related to data equity at MCHP and as part of her role with HDRN. Administrative data is an important component of equitable health outcomes and how data is collected, distributed and interpreted can be subject to bias in research and may contribute to inequitable distribution of health services. Dr. Freier examines how data centres can take a more equitable approach to research using administrative data, and ways to address these data biases in all phases of the research process.

Dr. Freier is the Chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) Team at HDRN which holds a shared space to explore the limits and possibilities of equitable data research in Canada. The team is actively building capacity by learning from anti-oppressive strategies piloted by HDRN member organizations, challenging the status quo, along with identifying, developing, and implementing IDEA with consideration for the diverse needs of IDEA informed data research in Canada.

Learn More

- Data for Equity Newsletter — <https://www.hdrn.ca/en/data-equity>
- Recognition of Inherent Biases in Administrative Data, *Canadian Family Physician* — <https://www.cfp.ca/content/68/12/933/tab-e-letters>
- Accessibility and Disability in the Research Process, ICES Research Forum – Advancing Health Equity Through Data — <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwj-0kqWhOXqEs-ooqyibZV4tIFxrhgBI>

Dr. Lisa Lix Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Lisa Lix is leading work in Manitoba and across Canada in research that assesses the quality of de-identified and anonymized 'big data' in health-care databases, which are being used to study whole population health and health services use.

Dr. Lix is the Chair of the Algorithms and Harmonized Data Working Group with HDRN and in this capacity she is responsible for the development and ongoing maintenance of several resources and projects to support multi-regional research in Canada. These resources include the Data Assets Inventory, which contains a listing of provincial/territorial and pan-Canadian electronic health and social databases, a description of their contents, and other information about accessibility of these data. As well, the Algorithm Inventory

provides information about case-finding algorithms to measure population health, health service use, and the determinants of health across multiple provinces/territories; these algorithms have either been validated or tested for their feasibility of implementation across Canada.

Upcoming projects focus on the creation of standardized labels and dataset description templates, de-identification methods for unstructured text data, and the development of a common data model to harmonize data assets across Canada.

Dr. Lisa Lix is also a professor of community health sciences, the director of the Data Science Platform and holds a prestigious Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in methods for electronic health data quality.

Learn more

- HDRN Canada seeks multi-region studies for Algorithm Inventory — <https://blog.hdrn.ca/2022/12/hdrn-canada-seeks-multi-region-studies-for-algorithm-inventory/>

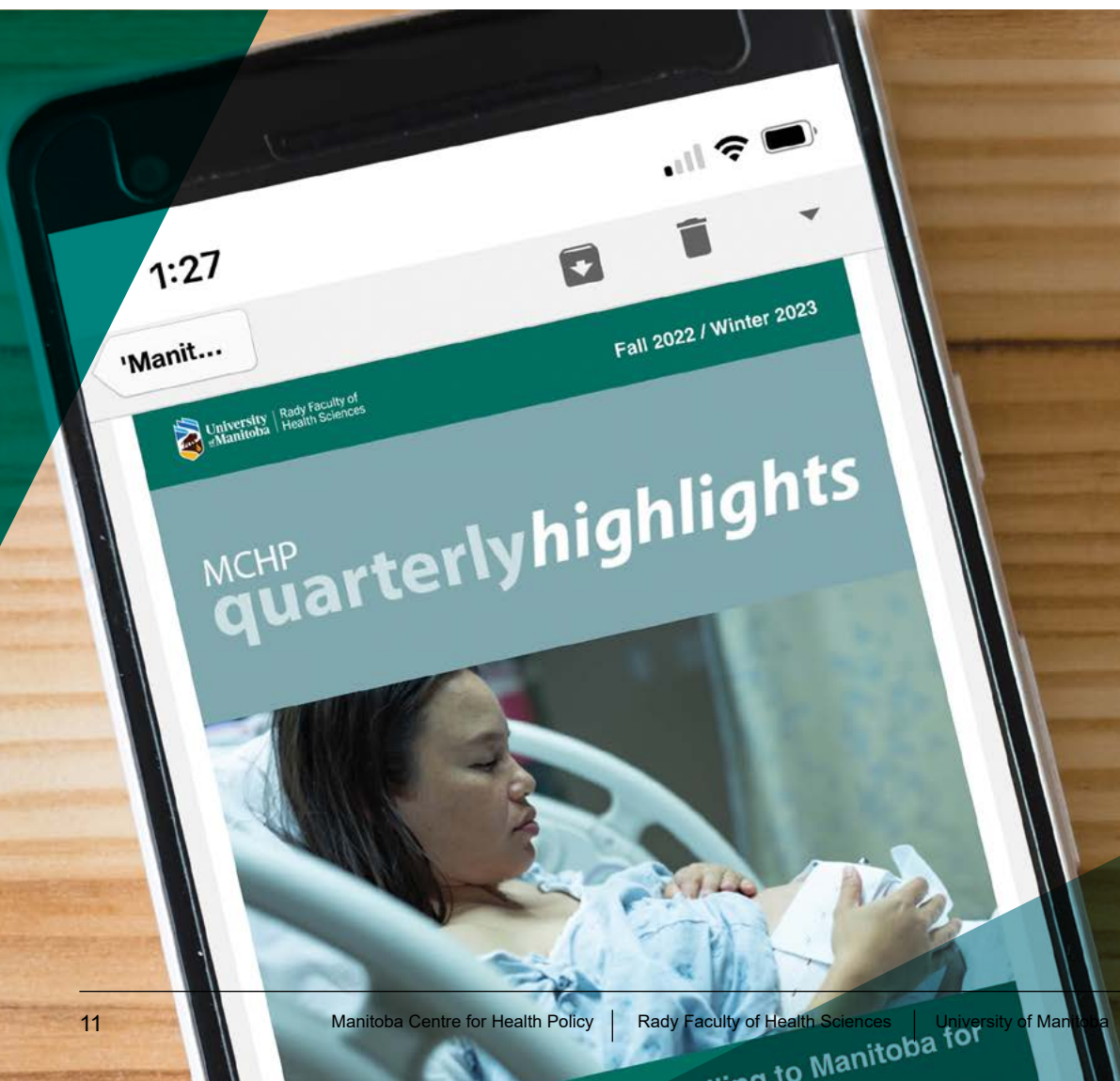
In the media this year

- Data Quality Detective, *UM Today* — <https://news.umanitoba.ca/data-quality-detective/>
- Rady health researchers receive nearly \$9 million in federal support, *UM Today* — <https://news.umanitoba.ca/rady-health-researchers-receive-nearly-9-million-in-federal-support/>

Discover more research from Dr. Lix:
<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8685-3212>

Find out what MCHP's researchers are publishing! Sign up for our eNewsletter, MCHP Quarterly Highlights here:

<https://umanitoba.ca/manitoba-centre-for-health-policy#sign-up-for-our-eneewsletter>



Education

Our researchers are active members of the University of Manitoba community and teach courses at the Max Rady College of Medicine. Dr. Alan Katz teaches an undergraduate medicine course in the population health program; Drs. Marni Brownell, Malcolm Doupe, Nathan Nickel, and Marcelo Urquia all teach graduate courses in the department of Community Health Sciences. Our researchers also supervise post-doctoral fellows, and doctoral and master's students. For the last several years, the MCHP Student Engagement Committee has worked to build up the student body at MCHP and to enhance the graduate school experience. Students are an integral part of MCHP and have assisted researchers and staff on numerous research projects. Additionally, MCHP offers two awards to graduate students which are distributed annually: The Evelyn Shapiro Award for Health Services Research and the Roos Prize for Best Publication in Population Health.

Evelyn Shapiro Award for Health Services Research

Financial support up to \$5,000 is provided through this award to students who are enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Manitoba (preferably in the Faculty of Health Sciences) and whose thesis research uses the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate academic achievement (min. cumulative 3.75 GPA) and show strong research potential in the field of health services. This award was established by the late Dr. Evelyn Shapiro, a renowned health services researcher, and founding member of MCHP, whose contributions include the development of Manitoba's home care program. The winners of this award in 2022 were: Laila Aboulatta, Hera Casidsid and Samuel Quan.

Roos Prize for Best Publication in Population Health

The Roos Prize is given to a recent full or part-time graduate student (min. 3.5 GPA) who published a paper incorporating research results using the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository. This prize was created to honour the pioneering work of Drs. Leslie and Noralou Roos in the use of administrative data for research, their extensive publication and knowledge sharing reputations, and their role in the creation of MCHP. This prize was not awarded in 2022.

Vanier Scholar

Congratulations to Darrien Morton on receiving a Vanier Scholarship this year! This highly competitive award is presented to a PhD student in Canada who excels as both an emerging scholar and a visionary leader in their community. His work will help to identify racist policies in our social and healthcare systems so we can work to build a fairer more equitable Manitoba. Darrien is supervised by MCHP Senior Research Scientist and Director, Dr. Nathan Nickel.



Other Scholarship Recipients



Emily Brownell

Emily Brownell received the 2022 Research Manitoba and CHRIM Masters Studentship Award for her research into First Nations women's experience with perinatal care in Northern Manitoba.



Hera Casidsid

Hera Casidsid received the 2022 Research Manitoba and CHRIM Masters Studentship Award for her project exploring links between the Healthy Baby program and postpartum depression among women in Manitoba.



Sarah Filiatreault

Sarah Filiatreault received the Dr. Ann C. Beckingham Award from the Canadian Nursing Foundation to support for work studying older adult delirium care in emergency departments.

Convocation June 2022:
Marcello Nesca,
Dr. Nathan Nickel,
Susan Burchill



Providing Access to Data

The Repository Access Unit monitors and tracks the approval process for all research projects that use the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository. The access unit provides support to researchers and students in navigating the required project approval processes. This year, 43 people attended accreditation sessions, we reviewed the feasibility of 52 new projects, and processed 28 new Researcher Agreements.

This year, the data access team added two new databases to the Repository, including the Youth Health Survey and Temporary Resident Immigration data.

Youth Health Survey (YHS)

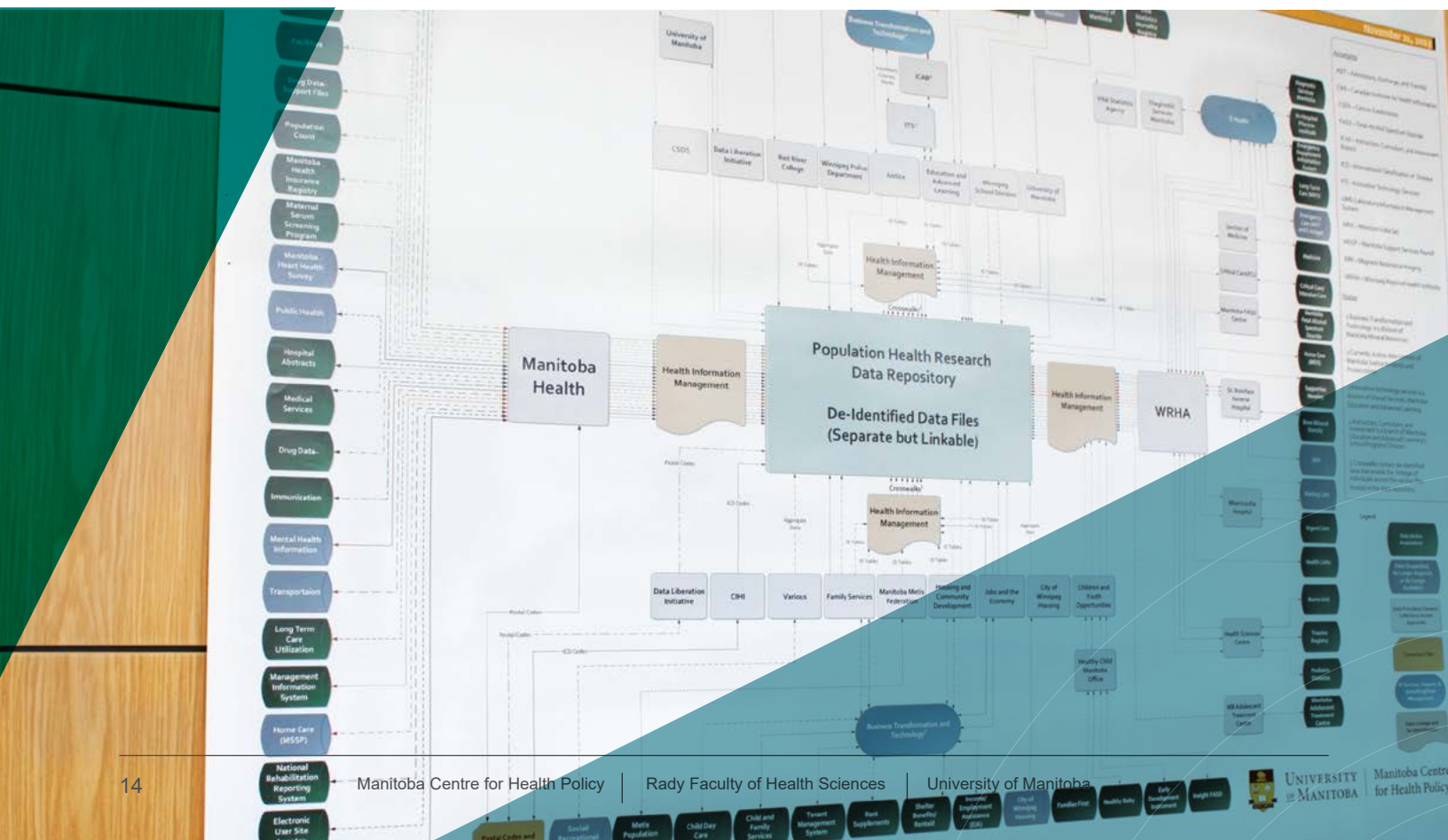
The Youth Health Survey was conducted between the 2012-13 school year among students in grades 7-12. Students from about 500 public and other schools in Manitoba participated in the survey. Questions were asked regarding demographics, work, volunteering, feelings, sleep, physical activity, sun exposure, screen time, eating, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, safety, sexuality, and Physical Education/Health Education.

Immigration – Temporary Resident

The Temporary Residents data contains both legacy and new data for the following files: Temporary Resident Permit holder files, Study Permit holder files, and Work Permit holder files. The data contains work permits for the purpose of paid employment, study, humanitarian and compassionate, and permanent residency.

The Temporary Resident Database Legacy File provides data from 1980 to 1999. A new system for the Temporary Resident Database provides data from 2000 to 2019. The Transition Database covers the Temporary to Permanent Resident Database which provides data from 2000 to 2022.

In our efforts to increase the accessibility of the Repository, we transformed our Remote Access Sites (RAS) which enables data analysts and researchers access to the Repository from locations outside of the physical MCHP space. Virtual Private Network access keeps the data and applications within MCHP and maintains our privacy and security provisions. This has been vital to supporting research through our ongoing hybrid working environment.



Knowledge Translation

This year, we welcomed the return of in-person workshops and conferences as part of our integrated knowledge mobilization efforts. In November 2022, we hosted Evidence to Action at the RBC Convention Centre after a nearly two-year hiatus. We also helped to organize three in-person SPECTRUM workshops, which took place

in April and May 2022, and March 2023. Several of our researchers were able to attend the International Population Data Linkage Network conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in September 2022.

Below are a few snapshots from the events.



1. Dr. Amy Freier IPDLN 2022 | 2. Anita Durksen (MCHP) and Wanda Phillips-Beck (First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba) IPDLN 2022
 3. Drs. Mami Brownell, Nathan Nickel, and Alan Katz E2A 2022 | 4. Attendees E2A 2022 | 5. Dr. Lorna Turnbull (UM Faculty of Law) SPECTRUM, March 2023 | 6. Dr. Mami Brownell, Dr. Nathan Nickel, Kayla Frank (policy analyst, First Nations Family Advocate Office) SPECTRUM, March 2023

People

MCHP is fortunate to have a team of about 65 highly skilled staff who all contribute to the work of the Centre, including:

Research Scientists who design and implement research projects, including deliverables for Manitoba Health and grant-funded research projects. Our research scientists also teach undergraduate and graduate courses and mentor students

Research Coordinators who coordinate deliverable project activities. Students also act as Research Assistants and carry out a variety of support tasks for research coordinators and our research support team.

Data, Documentation and Access team who support the development and use of the Manitoba Population Research Data Repository.

Data Analysts who provide data analysis and statistical support for research projects.

Information Technology specialists who manage all our information technology services within MCHP and for researchers accessing our Remote Access Sites.

Knowledge Broker who plans and implements communications and knowledge translation strategies for research projects.

Graphic Designer who designs layouts for reports, ensures outputs look professional and polished, and creates infographics to support interpretation of data.

Finance Grant Accountants who set up and administer grants, ensure we all get paid on time, and monitor our finances.

Research Support who provide administrative, research and clerical support to researchers in the completion of deliverables and peer-reviewed journal articles.

Below is a list of all staff who worked at MCHP at any point between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. Those who joined us during the year or were promoted are listed in *italics*, and those who we said goodbye to are underlined.

Executive

Dr. Nathan C. Nickel, Director, Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Marni Brownell, Associate Director (Research), Senior Research Scientist

Charles Burchill, Associate Director (Repository, Data Access and Use)

Dr. Selena Randall, Associate Director (Planning and Development)

Kara Dyck, Executive Assistant

Researchers

Dr. Mariette Chartier, Assistant Professor, Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Malcolm Doupe, Associate Professor, Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Jennifer Enns, Research Associate

Dr. Amy Freier, Research Associate

Dr. Jill Hnatiuk, Lead Research Associate

Dr. Alan Katz, Professor, Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Kathleen Kenny, Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Lisa Lix, Professor, Senior Research Scientist, Canada Research Chair - Methods for Electronic Health Data Quality

Dr. Alyson Mahar, Assistant Professor, Research Scientist

Dr. Leslie Roos, Distinguished Professor, Senior Research Scientist

Dr. Noralou Roos, Professor, Senior Research Scientist (retired)
Dr. Chelsea Ruth, Assistant Professor, Research Scientist
Dr. Deepa Signal, Assistant Professor, Research Scientist
Dr. Marcelo Urquia, Associate Professor, Senior Research Scientist, Canada Research Chair – Applied Public Health
Dr. Elizabeth Wall-Weiler, Assistant Professor, Research Scientist, Canada Research Chair – Population Data Analytics

Research Support

Amber Arnold, Repository Access Assistant
Eileen Boriskewich, Project Manager and Outreach Officer “Get Your Benefits”
John-Michael Bowes, Research Assistant
Laura Bowler, Data Equity Specialist
Susan Burchill, Research Assistant
Lindsey Dahl, Research Project Coordinator
Theresa Daniuk, Repository Access Assistant
Nkiruka Eze, Research Coordinator
Cheri Farfan, Research Office Assistant
Diane Gordon Pappas, Research Project Coordinator
Aaron Goss, Knowledge Broker
Cara Jonasson, Graphic Designer
Emily Jones, Repository Access Assistant
Ina Koseva, Lead Research Project Coordinator
Scott McCulloch, Research Coordinator
Chelsey McDougall, Research Project Manager
Hannah Owczar, Technical Writer
Jennifer Pepneck, Knowledge Broker
Farzana Quddus, Research Project Coordinator
Danielle Saj, Research Project Coordinator
Basirat Shittu, Research Coordinator
Ruth-Ann Soodeen, Lead Research Coordinator

Data analysts and Data managers

Wendy Au, Data Analyst
Matt Dahl, Data Analyst
Shelley Derksen, Information Technologist

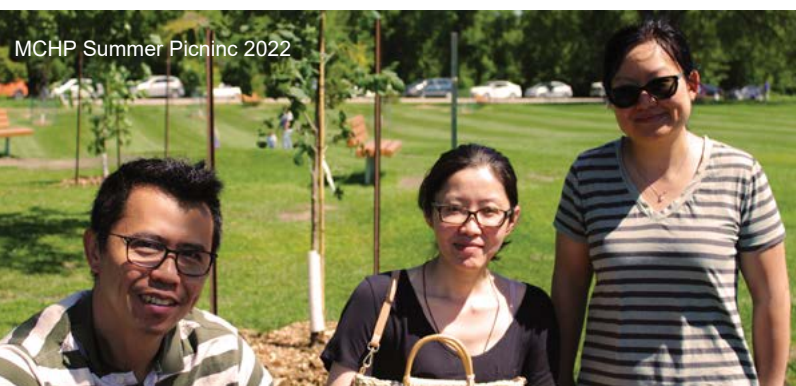
Gilles Detillieux, Data Analyst
Isuru Dharmasena, Data Analyst
Abhishek Dhankar, Natural Language Specialist
Roxana Dragan, Data Analyst
Okechukwu (Oke) Ekuma, Data Analyst, Statistical Consultant
Lisa Flaten, Data Analyst
Kevin Friesen, Data Analyst
Say Hong, Data Management Analyst
Mary Horodyski, Semantic Labelling Implementation Consultant
Kun Liu, Data Analyst
Heather Prior, Lead Data Analyst
Sathi Saha, Data Management Analyst
Joykrishna Sarkar, Data Analyst
Monica Sirski, Data Analyst
Qier (Angela) Tan, Data Analyst
Carole Taylor, Data Analyst
Dave Towns, Senior Data Management Analyst
Ken Turner, Repository Data Analyst
Randy Walld, Data Analyst
Marina Yogendran, Data Analyst

Finance and Information Technology

Sophie Buternowsky, Senior Grants Accountant
Jeannie Chen, Grants Accountant
Darrin Halabuza, Information Technology Support
Rod McRae, Information Technology Manager
Jo-Anna Wichenko, Finance Assistant

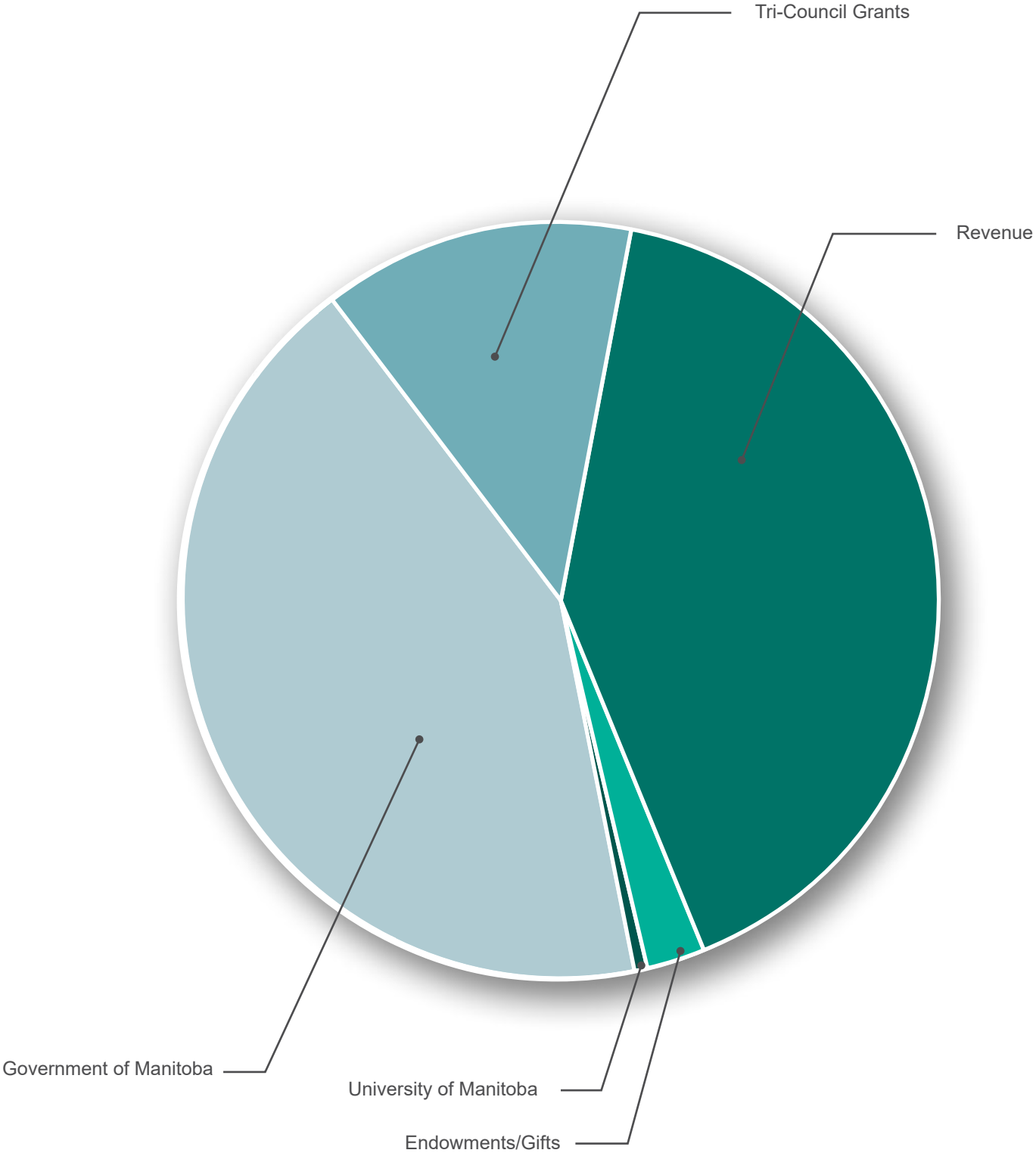
Students

Elizabeth Agnew, Rilwan Azeez, Deborah Balogun, Ruth Bond, John-Michael Bowes, Megan Campbell, Rashmita Chatterjee, Jessica Duris, Sarah Filiatreault, Ariane Geerts, Pierce Gorun, Lyndsay Harrison, Ann Jansson, Lonnie Kehler, Lauren MacEachern, MD Moniruzzaman Moni, Bekelu Negash, Mallika Saggio, Erin Scott, Erin Sinclair, Bhautik Sojitra, Kaitlyn Tate, Talia Tumack, Tessa Vanderhart



MCHP Funding Sources

MCHP is funded from a diverse range of sources including individual and multi-year project grants and career awards from federal grant-funding bodies, support from Rady Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Manitoba, as well as contracts and grants from the Manitoba Government. MCHP also generates revenue in the form of Repository access and remote access fees paid from externally administered research grants. In 2022-23, new funds from these sources totaled approximately \$5.7M.



Advisory Board

The advisory board meets twice a year to hear about MCHP's activities and to provide advice on areas of development for the Centre. The advisory board is made up of members representing:

- MCHP
- Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living
- Other government departments sharing data with us
- The University of Manitoba

Board Chair

Dr. Peter Nickerson

Vice-Dean Research, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

Members by Position

Dr. Nathan Nickel

Director, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP)

Ms. Karen Herd

Deputy Minister, Manitoba Health

Dr. Sharon Bruce

Head, Department of Community Health Sciences, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

Dr. Brian Postl

Dean and Vice-Provost, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

Drs. Noralou Roos and Leslie Roos

Founding Directors

Vacant – Member of the Treasury Board

Appointed Members

Up to seven appointees of Manitoba Health Seniors & Active Living

Mr. Dave Wright

Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General, Justice

Mr. Scott Sinclair

Deputy Minister, Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services

Ms. Dana Rudy

Deputy Minister, Education and Early Childhood Learning

Mr. Richard Groen

Deputy Minister, Finance

Vacant

Previously Shared Health

Vacant

Vacant

Appointed Members

Up to seven appointees of the University of Manitoba

Dr. Digvir Jayas

Vice-President, Research and International, University of Manitoba

Note: Dr. Jayas no longer on the board as of June 2022 due to his retirement

Dr. Terry Klassen

Academic Director, George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation

Reg Toews

Member of the Community

Note: Mr Toews stepped down from the board in November 2022

Connie Walker

President and CEO, United Way of Winnipeg

Note: Ms. Walker no longer on board as of April 2023 due to retirement

Michael Schull

President and CEO, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

Vacant

previously Deputy Provost, Academic Planning and Programs, University of Manitoba

Vacant

Ex Officio Members

Phil Jarman

Executive Director and Chief Data Officer, Information Management & Analytics, MH

Dr. Marni Brownell

Associate Director of Research, MCHP

Dr. Selena Randall

Associate Director, Planning and Development, MCHP

Charles Burchill

Associate Director, Data Access and Use, MCHP

MCHP Staff Support to Advisory Committee

Kara Dyck

Executive Assistant

Change as of October 3, 2022

Board Chair

Dr. Brian Postl

Former Dean & Vice-Provost, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

Members by Position

Dr. Peter Nickerson

Dean & Vice-Provost, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

Appointed Members

Up to seven appointees of the University of Manitoba

Dr. Mario Pinto

Vice-President, Research and International

Note: added to board Nov 2022