

EcoPRISM: The economic and ecological evaluation of PRISM

This is a temporary page installed here to provide you with brief details about the EcoPRISM research project, pending the development of our web-page.

The link will take you to the web-pages as soon as they are developed.

EcoPRISM is one of two sister projects to the PRISM evaluation (the other is the GAPP project). We are independent from the PRISM team, but related to them because of our common focus on the PRISM intervention.

Components of EcoPRISM

The 'Eco' in EcoPRISM stands for both the economic and ecological evaluation of the PRISM intervention.

The *economic* component is comparing the costs of PRISM with its benefits, to see if the investment in PRISM has been worthwhile. Given how vital economic evaluation can be, an important element in this part of the project is to ensure that the full impacts of PRISM are documented to ensure that its benefits are not undervalued. We are also undertaking some work to examine how well we can value the benefits of PRISM.

The *ecological* component represents a theoretical approach which conceives PRISM as a dynamic entity which interacts with local context. We have been documenting the inter-organisational collaborative network into which the PRISM intervention was introduced in each community and collecting data about how the intervention has unfolded over time. We also have set up mechanisms to capture the wider, ripple effects of PRISM on people, organisations, policies and environments. Our assessment of the impact on mothers has been to examine impacts on the experience of motherhood, things like confidence and anxiety at 6 months post birth.

Research Activities in EcoPRISM

A variety of research methods and activities have been undertaken to meet these objectives. These include:

- (1) Event logs, maintained by the community development officers (CDOs) and community documenters, documenting actions and impacts in each of the intervention communities.
- (2) CDO diaries and interviews prospectively recording each CDO's reflections on how the PRISM intervention has evolved in their community
- (3) Key informant interviews with members of the steering groups and other people involved both closely and at a distance
- (4) Documentation of the resource costs associated with PRISM-initiated events and other resource sensitive consequences such as changes in health status

- (5) Focus groups with people in a non-PRISM community to establish the value they attribute to PRISM related changes in health status
- (6) A community-based postal survey designed to elicit community values for PRISM-related social outcomes
- (7) An organisational survey before and after the PRISM intervention to document the inter-organisational collaboration network into which the PRISM intervention was placed and the impact it had on those collaborations over time.

EcoPRISM Research Participants

All of the research activities listed above came to life through the generosity of our research participants who gave us their time and shared with us their views and experiences. We owe particular thanks to the Community Development Officers who maintained extensive documentation over two years and whose commitment to the intervention and it's evaluation was outstanding. Thanks to Annie Lanyon, Wendy Arney, Leanne Skipsey, Scilla Taylor, Deb Brown, Serena Everill, Jen Stone, Melanie Sanders, Kay Dufty, Mimi Murrell and Anna Crozier.

EcoPRISM Personnel

The EcoPRISM team includes Therese Riley, Lisa Gold, Bree Rankin, Alexandra Gartrell, Penny Hawe and Alan Shiell. At various points during the course of the project we have been assisted by Penny Smithers, Janne Skinner, Michael Ure, Jenny Challinor, Julianne Corboz, Sarah L'Estrange, Loretta Hoban, Andrea Spiers, Dianne Jackson, Maureen McMahon, Mandy Neely, Katherine Lindsay, Ingrid Crosser, Deb Brown, Debby McGorlick-Appleman, Sue Dawson, Kellie O'Callaghan, Mary Klonis, Louise Copley, Sharon Brady, Beth Rankin, Anne Potter, Carolyn Graham, Sharon Kitt, Angela Murphy and Lucie Lanyon.

EcoPRISM Funding

The funds for the EcoPRISM project were provided initially by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). More recently, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research has provided salary awards for Penny Hawe and Alan Shiell. Lisa Gold is also the recent recipient of an NHMRC scholarship to enable her to complete a postgraduate degree on EcoPRISM.

For further information about EcoPRISM please contact Alan Shiell. Email ashiell@ucalgary.ca.

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