

Sharing Knowledge: One Collaboration Leads to Another



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Agenda

- A process to understand agency and service provider knowledge needs
- Building research collaborations
- Examples from the field

Sharing Knowledge One Project Leads to Others

CYFP Common Screening Initiative (2005-2007)

Local*
Youth Screening Project
(2008-2009)

Local**
Youth & Adult Screening
Project (2009-2011)

Local*****
Stigma Project
(2011- 2012)

Provincial***
Youth Screening Projects
(2009-2014)

National ****
Youth Screening Project
(2010-2013)

Funders:

Addiction Service Providers Working Group, TC-LHIN*
Toronto Central LHIN (Provincial Health Region)**
CAMH Development & Dissemination Fund***
Canadian Institutes of Health Research***
Drug Treatment Funding Program, Health Canada****
CAMH & local network partners*****

† There are other projects we have consulted to but are not directly involved in.

Objectives of the Projects

- To build collaboration amongst youth service providers across sectors by developing/enhancing community based networks within the respective jurisdictions of the projects*
- To use a common screening tool with youth seeking services to enhance consistent identification and treatment planning for youth with SU and MH concerns
- To obtain feedback from service providers regarding the feasibility & utility of the GAIN-SS as a screening tool
- To examine the effectiveness of cross-sectoral collaboration on a common EBP project as a knowledge translation strategy
- To inform planning processes within agencies that relate to:
 - identifying commonalities and differences in youth seen
 - identifying gaps in the continuum of services
- To inform policy makers & system planners
- To inform further research and innovation

*Provincial (Ontario): ~ 4 networks
National (Canada): ~10 networks

National & Provincial* Youth Screening Networks

Newfoundland
Nova Scotia
Prince Edward Island
Ontario*
Manitoba
British Columbia
Northwest Territories
Nunavut



Project Deliverables

- Local report, collaboratively developed
 - Information about the network
 - Information about the needs of participating youth
 - Feedback from service providers about feasibility and utility of various project components
 - Information about the effectiveness of cross-sectoral collaboration as a knowledge translation strategy
 - Feedback from youth about the project
- Synthesis of local reports
 - local, provincial, national in accord with scope of the project

Building the Reports

- Information collected locally
- Information submitted to CAMH
- Preliminary data analyses
- Network and youth review and feedback
 - What other questions need to be asked?
 - Do the findings thus far resonate?
 - What do the findings mean?
 - What should be highlighted and for whom?
 - What are the implications?

Toronto Projects

- GAIN Collaborating Network – Youth Screening Project (12-24)
- Concurrent Disorders Support Services – Youth and Adult Screening Project (16+)

GAIN-Collaborating Network Partners

1. Breakaway
2. Canadian Mental Health Association
3. CAMH – Child, Youth and Family Program
4. East Metro Youth Services
5. Griffin Centre - Day Treatment
6. Hospital for Sick Children – Substance Abuse Program
7. LOFT Community Services
8. NYGH: Branson Site - Addictions Program, Transitional Age Youth Substance Use Program
9. Turning Point Youth Services
10. YMCA - Youth Outreach and Intervention

Concurrent Disorders Support Services Screening Project Partners

1. CAMH
2. COTA Health
3. Fred Victor Centre
4. Jean Tweed
5. Madison Community Services
6. Native Child and Family Services
7. St. Stephen's Community House
8. SHOUT – Central Toronto Community Health Centre
9. Street Haven at the Crossroads
10. Turning Point Youth Services

GAIN-Collaborating Network (CN)

**Local Project Overview
&
Sample Findings**

GAIN-CN

Project Overview

- Collaborative, cross-sectoral research
- Focus on knowledge exchange and capacity building
- Key components:
 - Learn about service provider attitudes, knowledge & practices related to addressing youth SU & MH concerns
 - Learn about service seeking youth 12-24 yrs and their needs

Stakeholder Involvement

Mental Health & Addiction Youth Network

- Project development & initiation:
 - GAIN CN
 - Advisory Committee
- On-going consultation:
 - Objectives
 - Study Package
 - Protocols
 - Youth Engagement Strategies

Stakeholder Involvement Service Providers & Youth

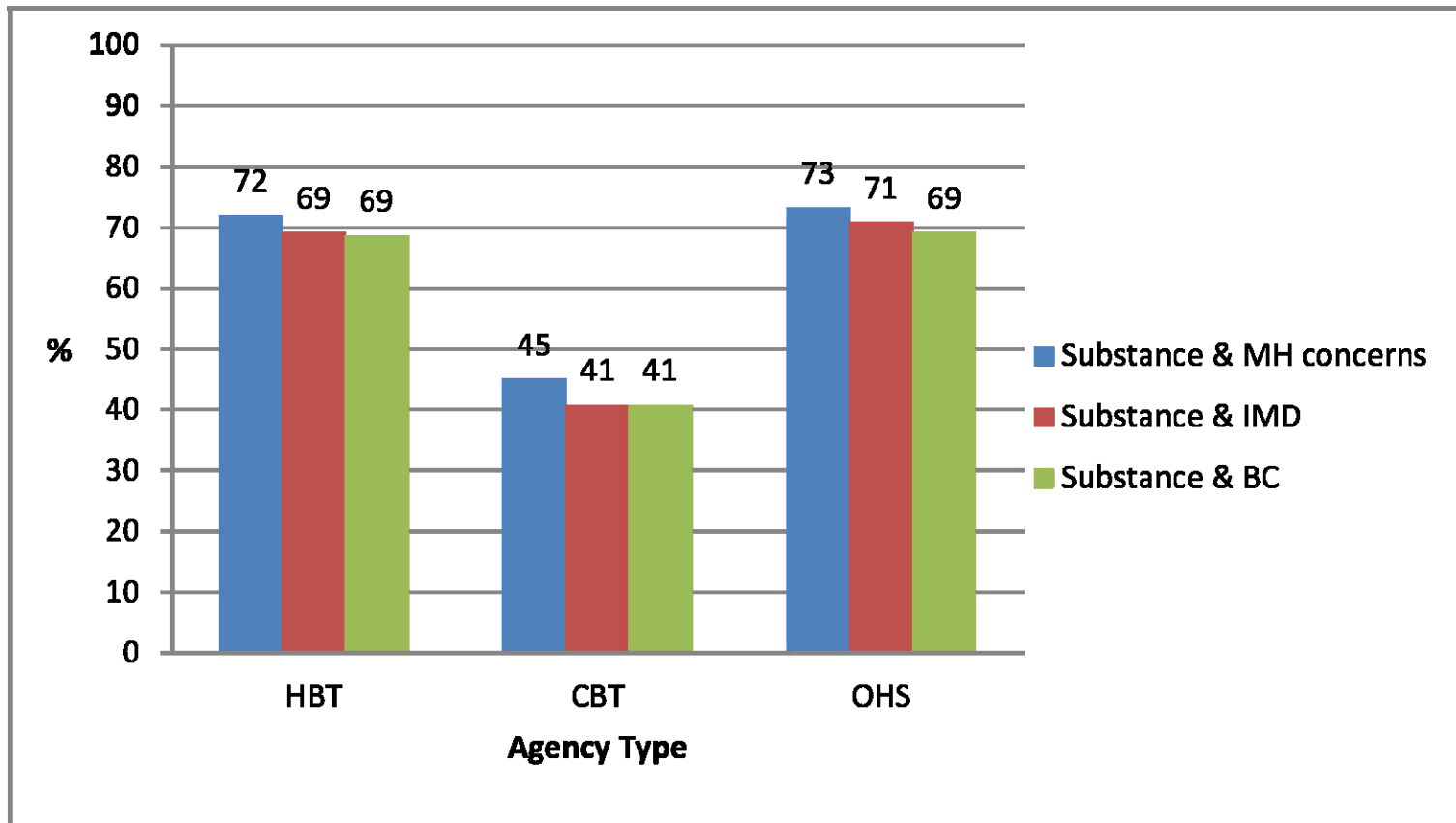
Service Providers

- Pre-post survey
 - Attitudes, knowledge, practices
- Training
 - Youth SU & MH
 - Project protocol
- Administered measures to youth
- Tracked youth participation rates
- Submitted data to CAMH for analysis
- Feedback - feasibility & utility of measure

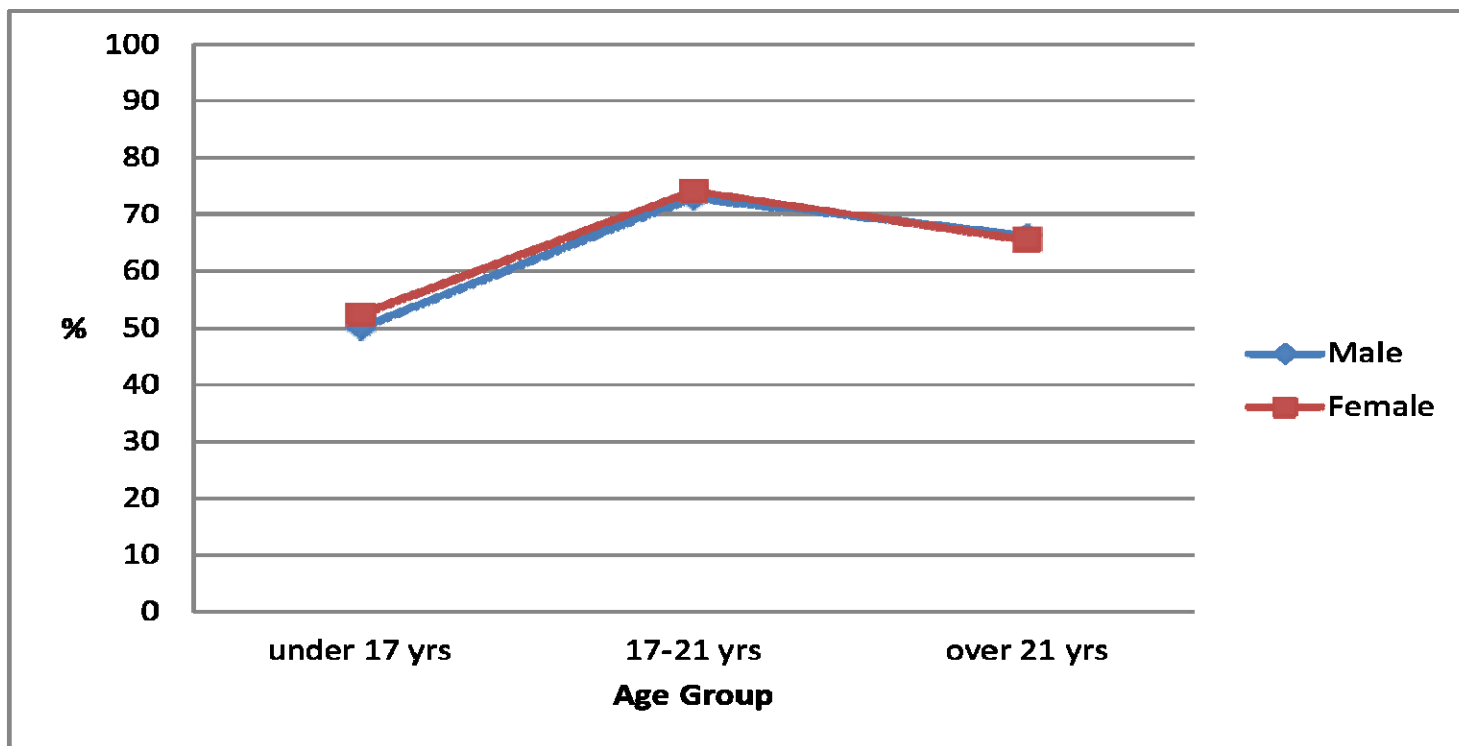
Youth

- Study participation
- Youth Focus Groups
 - Review findings and recommendations
 - Feedback & recommendations

GAIN-CN: Recent Co-occurring Concerns



GAIN-CN: Co-occurring Concerns by Sex & Age



The Turning Point Experience

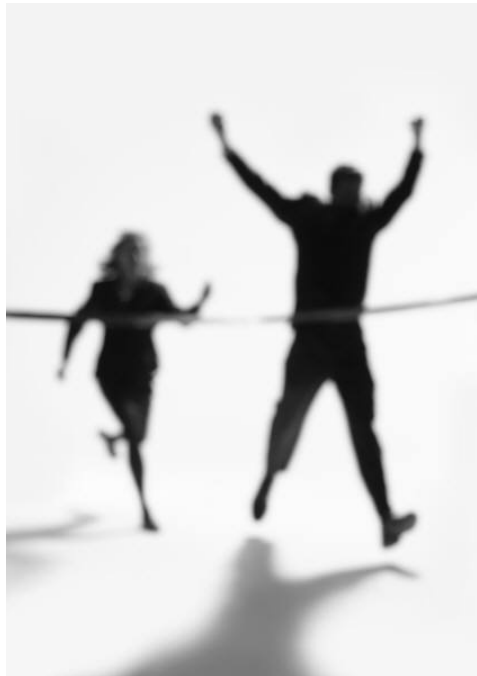
- Who are we?
- What we participated in:
 - GAIN Collaborative Network (Shelter)
 - CDSS Youth & Adult Screening Project (Shelter, Community Counselling, Residential Treatment)

Why Research Collaborations?

- Gain access to research staff that agencies may not necessarily have employed.
- Gain access to a rigorous ethics review process.
- Get exposure to and a chance to pilot new tools.
- Contribute to a larger sample size.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships.
- Financially beneficial.
- Improve staff members skills and knowledge.
- Contribute to field's knowledge base.

Why Research Collaborations

- *It ultimately improves our services to our clients!*



Implementation

- Identify the on-site coordinator.
- Educate staff on the project and its benefits to them, their clients, & the field (get buy in!!).
- Thoroughly train staff.
- Implement the research project according to the protocols.
- Coordinator assures compliance, sets up agency specific protocols, collects and submits the data.
- Survey staff on the process and the product.

Gains from the GAIN Projects

- A new tool to add to the repertoire.
- Staff reported that the tool was useful, especially in structuring a first session.
- Raised the profile of the agency.

Agency Lead & Service Provider Feedback

“Staff were initially reluctant to use this tool but once they started administering the tool, they found it easy and useful in understanding the youth and underlying issues.”

“The GAIN was always helpful because it provides information – service providers can use it to their benefit, helpful to compliment tools that they may already be using – good way to “start a conversation,” get client talking”

Drawbacks

- Tools may feel burdensome to clients and/or staff if they replicate ones already used.
- May get in the way of service provision.

“The GAIN SS may not make sense as an intake tool – clients are often pre-occupied with more pressing issues (i.e. food, housing, security, court appearance)”

Youth Focus Group Feedback About using screening tools

“Screeners are helpful for sure. They are helpful to recognize other concerns....came in for concerns about depression and anxiety but then started substance use treatment.”

Youth Focus Group Feedback About using the findings

“Findings can help decrease stigma and increase the likelihood that people will find services to get help.”

“If people aren’t informed, they aren’t going to do anything.”

Examining Knowledge Translation

- Indicators
 - Network development
 - Referral activities
 - Service provider opinions
- Surveys
 - Organizational Information Form
 - Service Provider Survey



Thank you!

