



## From Research to Practice: The Development of a Child Welfare Best Practices Knowledge Translation Website

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Brenda Moody, Randall Waechter, Eman Leung & Chris Wekerle

*Need evidence? Be informed*

*The MAP KT initiative is a virtual colleague ready to help*

The Maltreatment and Adolescent Pathways (MAP) Project collects health, social functioning, and outcomes-related information that describes the population of CAS youth in the Greater Toronto Area. Furthermore, the MAP project tracks their development over time, and addresses some “causal” mechanisms that may help explain problems and resiliency among these youth. To accomplish this, the MAP Project collects data directly from the youth, from the primary worker, and links to administrative data within CAS agencies.

### MAP Project Goals

- ❑ To provide immediate and user-driven access to best-practice guidelines, quality research, data synthesis and scientific expertise.
- ❑ To build an interactive practitioner/scientist community, and to facilitate communications across individual CAS agencies and among practitioner, policy makers and scientists to achieve consistency and excellence in service delivery.
- ❑ To evaluate the impact of knowledge translation (KT) by measuring changes in specific child welfare youth outcome indicators over a specified period of time. MAP/Ministry outcome indicators will be collected in parallel to the MAP KT initiative, enabling an analysis of the relationship between KT service usage and outcomes among youth in the MAP project.

### MAP Project Group

- ❑ a group of multidisciplinary researchers working on the issues of child maltreatment
- ❑ a research advisory board of CAS representatives from the front-line, supervisors, and research;
- ❑ a primary project team

### MAP KT Services

1. **Scholarly articles:** A search engine for maltreatment-related peer-reviewed journal articles
2. **Knowledge synthesis:** A service to provide a summary of users' article searches
3. **Best-practice materials:** A search engine for practice guidelines, screening tools and practice recommendations
4. **Child welfare outcome statistics:** A search engine for outcomes data on child welfare youth and youth in the general population
5. **Researcher-on-call service:** A personalized expert-driven service that responds to user's questions regarding child welfare youth
6. **Blog:** For voicing opinions, providing immediate communications and service considerations

Priority areas of the website include: relationship violence, mental health, physical health, risky sexual practices, socioeconomic status/ethnic minority issues, substance use, and youth justice

*What evidence do you need to help inform your practice?*

### Would it help you to know...

- What to do about school when kids come into care?
- The costs and utility of parental drug-testing in child protection?
- How to respond when a child asks why does my mom or dad drink so much?
- How to have a dialog with a child who has a parent with bipolar disorder?

The MAP site has resources and advice from a wide variety of professionals that addresses questions such as these

### Put yourself on the MAP

Enter the MAP web site through the OACAS web site at: <http://www2.oacas.org>

- If you are an OACAS member, use your email address and the OACAS member's password
- If you are not a member of OACAS, you can get 24 hours access to the site using your email address and the password: *mapquesttest*. For more permanent access contact Eman Leung, at [leung.eman@gmail.com](mailto:leung.eman@gmail.com)
- Click on the MAP Project icon and enter the MAP Web Site!

### MAP Project Grant Funders:

- The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Community Action Health Research and the Institute of Gender and Health
- The Ministry of Child & Youth Services Ontario
- The Ontario Mental Health Foundation
- The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Centre of Excellence in Child & Youth Mental Health
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- The Public Health Agency of Canada
- The Centre for Excellence in Research in Child Welfare

### MAP Co-investigators

Chris Wekerle, Ph.D. (University of Western Ontario); Harriet MacMillan, M.D. (McMaster University); Michael Boyle, Ph.D. (McMaster University); Nico Trocme, Ph.D. (McGill University); Eman Leung, Ph.D. (University of Western Ontario); Randall Waechter, Ph.D. (University of Western Ontario); Deborah Goodman, Ph.D (Toronto CAS); Bruce Leslie, M.S.W. (Toronto Catholic CAS); Brenda Moody, M.B.A. (Peel CAS)

### Want to learn more?

Contact Dr. Eman Leung, the MAP team's manager  
of data management & knowledge translation at:

[leung.eman@gmail.com](mailto:leung.eman@gmail.com)