

Defining Research Priorities for Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infections in Canada

Lee et al. (2014)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

bacterial sexually transmitted infections

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

North America - Canada

Why was it conducted at all?

Bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are an important public health issue internationally and within Canada, causing a significant burden of disease and consuming substantial health care resources. Research is clearly needed to identify ways to better understand, prevent and control bacterial STIs in Canada. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is relatively little coordination of research efforts focused on bacterial STIs across institutions, regions, and areas of expertise in Canada. Further, there has been a lack of dedicated funding for bacterial STI research at the national level.

What was the objective?

to define priority areas for research on chlamydia, gonorrhoea, and syphilis in Canada

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 17 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi; meeting

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: survey asking participants to list 5-10 research priorities in the field of bacterial STIs. Step 2: data processing: 280 research topics listed, representing 31 unique topics. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to rate importance and also to indicate whether they would consider each response to be one of the top five research priorities related to bacterial STI research in Canada. Step 3: meeting: to elaborate on priority topics, prior to meeting background papers on each priority area with brief summaries of current state of knowledge developed, small group discussions, participants were the asked to select 3 most important topics in each priority area in consideration of importance and feasibility of research on each topic

Which stakeholders took part?

People working in bacterial sexually transmitted infections across Canada, including clinicians, policymakers, public health practitioners, and researchers. Delphi round 1: 46 participants. Delphi round 2: 25 participants. Meeting: 27 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

The initial list of Delphi process participants was generated by investigators in consultation with key stakeholders. A snowball sampling was used: Participants were asked to forward the survey directly to other stakeholders, or to provide names and contact information for stakeholders to the investigators.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.