

# CARRFS: Brief History and Present State

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# Disclosure Statement

- I have no affiliation (financial or otherwise) with a pharmaceutical, medical device or communications organization.

# Who We Are

## Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance / l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque

CARRFS is a network of public health stakeholders across Canada interested in working together to build and strengthen regional/local chronic disease risk factor surveillance.

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CARRFS was established in 2008 and its members are primarily local, provincial/territorial, and federal public health professionals.

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And, since 2016:



## Staying Informed

- CARRFS Newsletter
- Interactive website
- Continuing education information
- List of upcoming events and workshops

## Symposium/Training Workshops

- Access to past training events
- In person and e-Learning workshops

## Professional Network

- Collegiality through network that supports the exchange of ideas with colleagues across Canada
- Full access to reports/resources posted by CARRFS members

## No Annual Membership Fees

*Goal is to provide learning and network opportunities for its members using multiple strategies.*

## Past events include:

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|--|------------------------|
| ▪ Canadian Collaborative Regional/Local Area Risk Factor Surveillance Think Tank Forum, Toronto.   | February 25 - 26, 2008 |
| ▪ The First Symposium of The Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance (CARRFS): Local Risk Factor Surveillance: Making it Happen, Toronto.                              | February 2-4, 2009     |
| ▪ Second National Event of the Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance (CARRFS) – an e-Forum: From Surveillance to Action: Building Usable Knowledge, National Webinar | May 16-17, 2012        |
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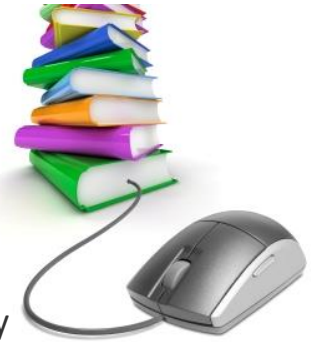
## 5 Regional Workshops

- Small Area Analysis Using R (Moncton)
- Use of EpiData in Public Health (Toronto)
- How to use GIS (Winnipeg)
- Identifying Socioeconomic Inequities in Health Using Health Surveillance Data (Vancouver)
- How to use GIS (Halifax)



## 15 e-Learning Sessions

- Canadian Marginalization Index
- Introduction to R
- Handling Missing Data
- Data Management Basics in Research & Survey
- New Directions in TB Epidemiology
- Developing Inuit Research Capacity and Access to Statistics for Health Planning and Community Action
- Building an Evidence Base for Health-related Built Environment Surveillance
- Evidence, Action, Equity
- How BRFSS has been used for Risk Factor Surveillance
- Rural Chronic Disease Surveillance & Small Area Analysis
- An Introduction to using CCHS Microdata
- EpiData
- Chronic Disease Dissemination Tools
- Perspectives on Public Health Surveillance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- GIS and Regional Factor Surveillance



# Past CARRFS Publications (2008-2013)

# Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance / l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque

- Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance Brochure



- Environmental Scan of Regional Risk factor Surveillance Final Report



Environmental Scan of Regional Risk Factor Surveillance  
Final Report

- Enhancing capacity for risk factor surveillance at the regional/local level: a follow-up review of the findings of the Canadian Think Tank Forum after 4 years

Choi et al. Archives of Public Health 2014, 72:2  
http://www.archpublichealth.com/content/72/1/2



RESEARCH Open Access

## Enhancing capacity for risk factor surveillance at the regional/local level: a follow-up review of the findings of the Canadian Think Tank Forum after 4 years

Bernard CK Choi<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Mary Lou Decou<sup>1</sup>, Drona Rasali<sup>4,5</sup>, Patricia J Martens<sup>6</sup>, Michelina Mancuso<sup>7</sup>, Ronald C Plotnikoff<sup>8</sup>, Cory Neudorf<sup>9,10</sup>, Joanne Thanos<sup>11</sup>, Lawrence W Svenson<sup>12,13,14</sup>, Keith Denny<sup>15</sup>, Heather Orpana<sup>16,17</sup>, Paula Stewart<sup>18</sup>, Michael King<sup>19</sup>, Jane Griffith<sup>20</sup>, Tannis Erickson<sup>20</sup>, Renate van Dorp<sup>21</sup>, Deanna White<sup>22</sup> and Amira Ali<sup>23</sup>

**Abstract**  
**Background:** National health surveys are sometimes used to provide estimates on risk factors for policy and program development at the regional/local level. However, as regional/local needs may differ from national ones, an important question is how to also enhance capacity for risk factor surveillance regionally/locally.  
**Methods:** A Think Tank Forum was convened in Canada to discuss the needs, characteristics, coordination, tools and next steps to build capacity for regional/local risk factor surveillance. A series of follow up activities to review the relevant issues pertaining to needs, characteristics and capacity of risk factor surveillance were conducted.  
**Results:** Results confirmed the need for a regional/local risk factor surveillance system that is flexible, timely, of good quality, having a communication plan, and responsive to local needs. It is important to conduct an environmental scan and a gap analysis, to develop a common vision, to build central and local coordination and leadership, to build on existing tools and resources, and to use innovation.  
**Conclusions:** Findings of the Think Tank Forum are important for building surveillance capacity at the local/county level, both in Canada and globally. This paper provides a follow-up review of the findings based on progress over the last 4 years.  
**Keywords:** Public health surveillance, Capacity building, Behavioural risk factors

- New Brunswick Student Wellness Survey: A Modular Case Study Report for Regional Surveillance



New Brunswick Student Wellness Survey: A Modular Case Study Report for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance

- An organizing partner of the 7th World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance (WARFS) Global Conference (2011), Toronto



WARFS  
World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance



**CARRFS Feature**  
**Not a Pretty Patchwork:**  
Canadian Indigenous Health Risk Factor Surveillance

**CARRFS Interview**  
**The Future of Public Health Surveillance**  
Dr. David V. McQueen  
former Director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**CARRFS Profile**  
**Lynne Russell**  
Coordinator, Ontario's Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS)



**Article vedette de l'ACSRFR**  
**Exploration de la réalité**  
Les mégadonnées et l'avenir de la surveillance des facteurs de risque

**Expérience de l'ACSRFR**  
**L'éthique dans le domaine de la santé pilotée par des données.**  
Dr. Howard Hu  
doyen, université de Toronto

**Profil de l'ACSRFR**  
**Dr Drona Rasdill**  
directeur, Surveillance de la santé de la population et épidémiologie à la Provincial Health Services Authority de la Colombie-Britannique



**CARRFS Feature**  
**Mental Health & Risk Factors**  
Surveillance

**CARRFS Interview**  
**Public Health Data**  
Dr. Robert J. Kyle  
Medical Officer of Health, Durham Region, Ontario

**CARRFS Profile**  
**Ruth Sanderson**  
Manager, Ontario Public Health, Ontario



**Article vedette de l'ACSRFR**  
**L'épidémie d'obésité**  
Un problème complexe touchant les soins de santé

**Entrevue de l'ACSRFR**  
**L'insécurité alimentaire**  
Valerie Tarasuk, Professeure, Université de Toronto

**Profil de l'ACSRFR**  
**Alli Arzaman**  
Directeur, Épidémiologie, surveillance et recherche, Unité de santé de l'est de l'Ontario

*“The goal of CARRFS eNews is to support the mandate of CARRFS and to provide a voice for the public health/chronic disease factor surveillance community in Canada.”* Jostein Algroj, Editor-in-Chief



# Recent CARRFS Events (2016-2019)

# Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance / l'Alliance canadienne de surveillance régionale des facteurs de risque



**January 2016**  
CARRFS  
Innovation  
Summit, Toronto

**Public Health 2017**  
Pre-Conference  
CARRFS Symposium  
& Collaborator  
Session, Halifax

**Public Health 2018**  
Pre-Conference  
CARRFS Symposium  
& Collaborator  
Session, Montreal

**Public Health 2019**  
Collaborator  
Session, Ottawa

# Thank You!

Questions?

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