INTRODUCTION

Chronic Diseases in Canada and Preventing Chronic Disease: copublishing on health in Aboriginal populations*

The January 2011 issue includes 6 papers that are copublished by *Chronic Diseases in Canada* (CDIC) and *Preventing Chronic Disease* (PCD). In this example of copublishing, each journal is the primary publisher of 3 of the papers and secondary publisher of the other 3. Copublication is uncommon among scientific journals; however, it does offer an opportunity for journals to reach a broader readership with information about areas of common interest. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors identifies this model of publishing as appropriate. Copublication is based on the understanding that publishing effort; without their agreement, this initiative would not have been possible.

The collection includes 4 original research papers as well as an editorial by Malcolm King, PhD, scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health and a member of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (Ontario). Dr King's career spans 30 years; he is responsible for advancing Aboriginal public health research in Canada and has a clear understanding of the role of social determinants of health in achieving overall health. It is an honor to have him pen the editorial that preceded this collection. This special issue is also preceded by our introduction, as editors-in-chief of the 2 journals. Two of the 4 original research papers (Bruce et al. and Riediger et al.) are companion studies that involve a Manitoba First Nation community. Bruce et al. looked at obesity in this population and the related comorbidities—dyslipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes. The other 2 papers (Ng et al. and Tjepkema et al.) are national studies. Ng and colleagues studied arthritis in the Canadian Aboriginal population, focusing on the differences between Canada's northern territories and the 10 provinces to the south. Tjepkema compared mortality patterns and rates among the urban-dwelling Canadian Aboriginal population and other urban residents.

These papers report data from Canadian Aboriginal people, but others have reported similar findings among US American Indian/Alaska Native people. These and other studies show a substantial burden of risk factors and chronic diseases in these populations. The articles document the need for public health interventions to address chronic disease prevention and management. Ng and colleagues note regional differences in arthritis. This finding is an example of the importance of recognizing that Aboriginal people are not a monolithic population and that different groups will require different interventions. Moving forward, development and evaluation of interventions are needed. As with any other high-risk group, documenting the burden is insufficient. Action to address the issues is where public health will improve the well-being of the populations it serves.

This landmark copublishing effort is a first for both PCD and CDIC and an innovation in the world of scholarly publication. With this effort, we are able to reach a broader range of researchers. Our initiative has the power to facilitate information sharing and discussion among researchers in this field. We hope that the readership of both journals will find joint publication useful and that it will be a model for further publishing efforts. In addition to the scientific discussion, we are interested in feedback on copublishing.

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