



Incorporating equity into performance measurement:  
Results from the Project for an Ontario Women's health Evidence-based Report (POWER) study

**AUTHORS**  
Monika K. Krzyzanowska  
Lisa Barbera  
Laurie Elit  
Refik Saskin  
Naira Yeritsyan  
Arlene S. Bierman

POWER Study Women's Health Equity Report  
**Cancer**  
Chapter 4

power  
Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report

## A Tool for Monitoring and Improvement

The **Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report (POWER)** is designed to serve as a tool to help policymakers and providers to improve the health of and reduce inequities among the women of Ontario.

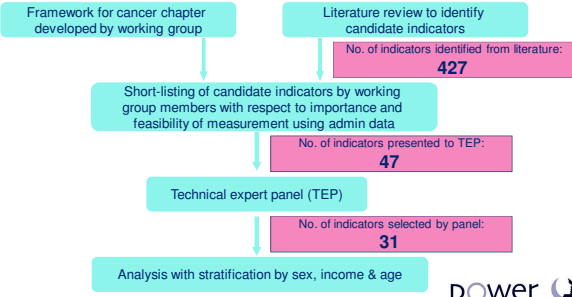
power  
www.powerstudy.ca

## Cancer Chapter: Indicator Selection

- Include major causes of cancer-related morbidity and mortality in women including:
  - Women-specific tumours: breast, ovarian, cervix and endometrial
  - Non-gender specific tumours: lung and colorectal
- Cover continuum of care from screening, diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance, through to the end of life
- Process and outcome measures eligible provided feasible to calculate from available data in Ontario

power  
www.powerstudy.ca

## Process for Indicator Selection



Framework for cancer chapter developed by working group

Literature review to identify candidate indicators  
No. of indicators identified from literature: **427**

Short-listing of candidate indicators by working group members with respect to importance and feasibility of measurement using admin data  
No. of indicators presented to TEP: **47**

Technical expert panel (TEP)  
No. of indicators selected by panel: **31**

Analysis with stratification by sex, income & age

power  
www.powerstudy.ca

## Cancer Chapter Indicators

- General Indicators (3 indicators)
- Screening Indicators (5 indicators)
- Colorectal Cancer (4 indicators)
- Lung Cancer (3 indicators)
- Breast Cancer (5 indicators)
- Gynecologic Cancers (4 indicators)
- End-of-life Care (5 indicators)

power  
www.powerstudy.ca

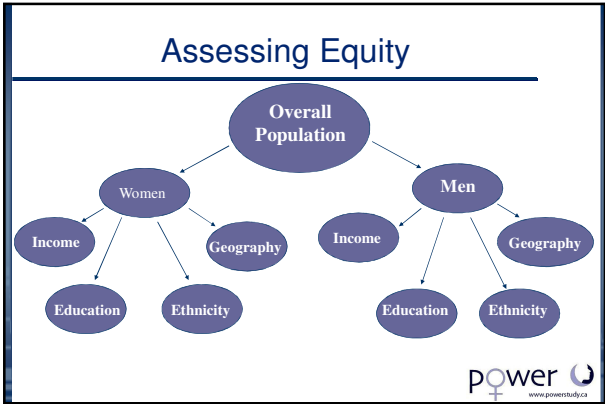
## Data Sources

Most recently available data (2003-2005) from:

- Ontario Cancer Registry
- Registered Persons Database
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan Database
- Canadian Institutes of Health Information Database
- CytoBase
- Ontario Breast Cancer Screening Program
- National Ambulatory Care Reporting System
- Ontario Home Care Administrative System

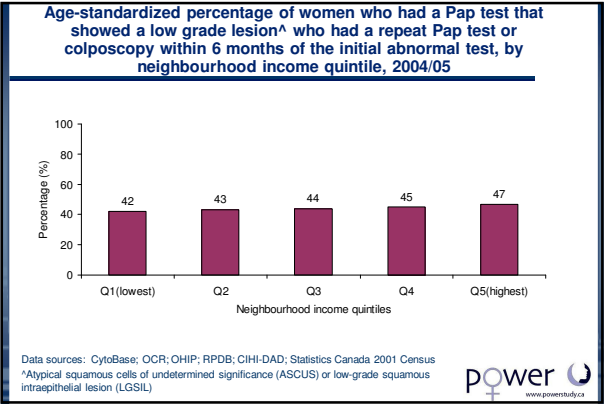
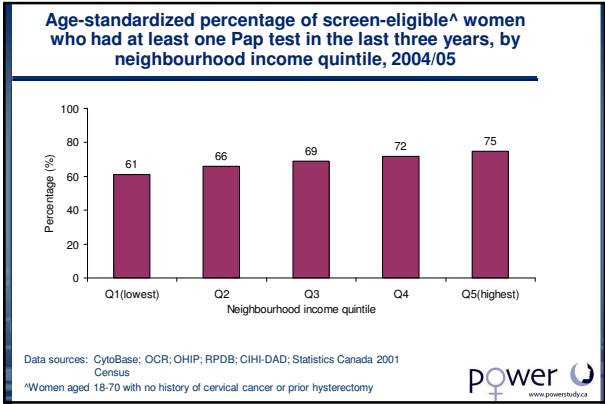
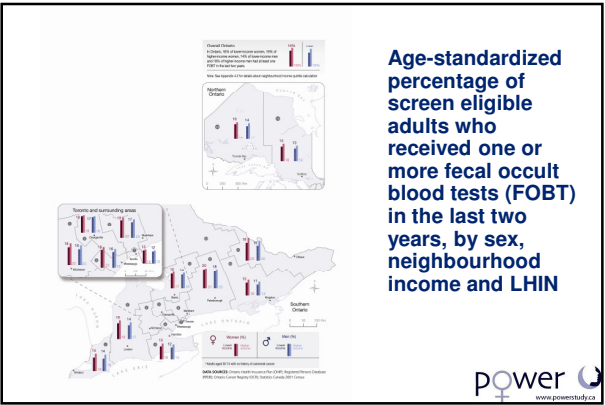
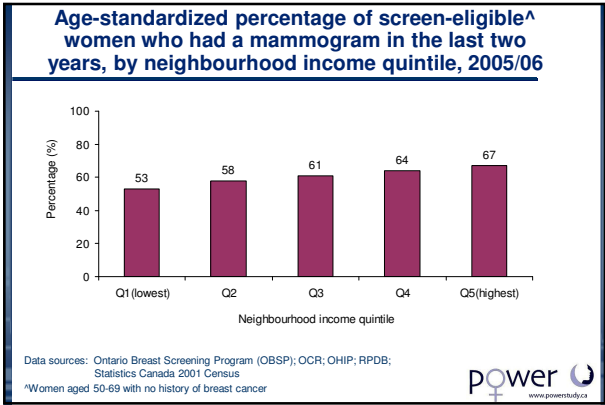
All analyses stratified by sex then by age, income at provincial and regional levels sample size permitting

power  
www.powerstudy.ca



■ Screening Indicators

power www.powerstudy.ca



## Conclusions

- Cancer screening rates in Ontario remain below target and are especially low in low-income communities
- Follow-up of abnormal Pap tests is suboptimal
- It is important to look at differences in care between subgroups of individuals:
  - Income is an important determinant of screening, but is generally less important when it comes to treatment
  - Some sex differences in care were observed, but these were not pronounced
  - Age is the most consistent determinant of cancer treatment
  - Where you live also matters



## Implications for Policy and Practice

- Need to improve overall cancer screening rates and make special efforts to reach people who live in lower-income communities, where screening rates are the lowest.
- Screening programs are not enough. As we work to reach cancer screening targets we need a system to ensure that abnormal screening tests are followed-up.
- We need to improve data to assess follow up of abnormal mammograms and colorectal cancer screening tests.
- Factors such as age, income and where one lives are important predictors of care underscoring the importance of stratification by such factors when evaluating quality of care.



## For more information, please contact us:

**The POWER Study**  
St. Michael's Hospital  
30 Bond Street (80 Bond Street)  
Toronto, ON M5B 1W8  
Telephone: (416) 954-6050, Ext. 3946  
Fax: (416) 864-6057  
[powerstudy@smh.toronto.on.ca](mailto:powerstudy@smh.toronto.on.ca)  
[www.powerstudy.ca](http://www.powerstudy.ca)

*The POWER Study is funded by Echo: Improving Women's Health in Ontario, an agency of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. This presentation does not necessarily reflect the views of Echo or the Ministry.*



Improving Women's  
Health in Ontario  
Pour l'amélioration de la  
santé des ontariennes

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL  
A teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto  
KEENAN RESEARCH CENTRE  
LI KA SHING KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTE

