Health Advocacy Projects
Advocacy Groups

• Covid-19 Women’s Health Initiative
  • Group of interdisciplinary students across the country
  • Co-founders: Karlee Seale and Aman Dhaliwal (University of Toronto MD Candidates)
  • https://www.covidwi.com/about

• University of Toronto Health Advocacy Group
  • Emma Skolnik- Resident Advocacy lead with over 40 residents involved in 4 main initiatives.
1. Food Insecurity Initiative
   • Raised >$6000 “donateyourdatenight” campaign, providing hundreds of warm individually packaged meals (in line with physical distancing) to Toronto women’s shelters

2. Intimate Partner Violence
   • Created an IPV awareness campaign for patients and healthcare providers, while disseminating an evidence based Healthcare Provider IPV Screening Resource to clinical centres across Toronto

3. Contraception Access
   • Created the Sexual and Reproductive Health Services Map; an online patient mapping tool used to access to contraception, abortion and STI screening during the COVID-19 pandemic.
   • >1100 hits to the site within the first week of its launch, which led to media coverage by the Canadian Press, CTV and CBC.
   • Secured partnership with Acton Canada and planning to release an Open Letter addressed to the Hon. Christine Elliot (MOH) advocating for 100% coverage of contraceptives

4. Maternal Mental Health at Mount Sinai Hospital
   • Established a partnership between perinatal psychiatry and Obstetrics at Mount Sinai Hospital to successfully carrying out group counselling sessions for pregnant patients on a virtual platform
   • Success demonstrated in attendance of >50 patients weekly
Intimate Partner Violence Awareness

Subcommittee Chair
- Emma Skolnik
- Rebecca Zur

Members
- Rebecca Cherniak
- Sara Porisky
- Elizabeth Miazga
- Anjali Kulkarni
- Marta Cybulsky
- Olga Kciuk

Everyone says to stay home but what if home is not safe?

1 in 10 Canadian women are very concerned about the possibility of violence in the home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You are not alone. It’s not your fault.

There is help.

If you feel there is immediate threat to your life or safety, please call 911.

Assaulted Women’s Helpline available 24/7
1-866-863-0511

Get a copy of the below posters for your clinic by contacting the COVID-19 Women’s Initiative.
Food Insecurity Fundraiser

Subcommittee Chair
- Siddhi Mathur
- Rebecca Zur

Members
- Noora Alshamsi
- Anna Shishkina
- Azra Shivji
- Emma Skolnik
Maternal Mental Health Awareness

Subcommittee leads:
Shira Gold
Kinshuk Kumar

Members:
Emma Skolnik
Haniya Khan
Michal Sheinis
Contraception Access

Subcommittee leads:
Emma Skolnik
Marta Cybulski

Members:
Adam Rosen
Martha Smith
Haniya Khan
Alix Murphy

Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS) Map

This map can be used to find sexual and reproductive health services that are operating through the pandemic, and are located close to you. Some of these services include contraception and emergency IUD insertion, STI screening and treatment, abortion services, and pap testing. This map will be updated to reflect any changes in clinic hours and availability. We are currently in the process of expanding this map to other locations in Canada.

Please call clinics to confirm service availability prior to making an appointment. Please note that some family physicians and OB/GYNs continue to provide essential reproductive healthcare, so please keep in mind that you can contact your physicians and inquire as to whether they are providing these services.

To see a detailed list of the services offered by the clinic, please use the sidebar icon on the top left of the map.