

A Cohort Study of the Impact of Prion Disease on Farm Family Community Health

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Study Goal

To establish the foundation for a longitudinal program of social science research on population health, gender and BSE that adds to our understanding of how individuals and populations manage risks and consequences associated with BSE.



Methods

Phase I: Survey (Baseline)

- ◆ Baseline demographic and health data from ~700 members of farm families across Canada (BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NS)

Phase II: Institutional Ethnographies

- ◆ Interviews and focus groups with farm families and key informants
- ◆ Environmental scan of programs and services available to farmers

Phase III: Food Provisioning

- ◆ Ethnographic interviews with beef producers to assess impact of BSE on family food provisioning

Phase IV: Survey (Follow up)

- ◆ Survey tool to be adapted from information yielded in previous phases
- ◆ Assess how farmers and families have adopted new ideas and practices, including interventions supported by regional and local programs

Phase V: Research Dissemination

- ◆ Involve micro, meso and macro policy audiences in knowledge translation activities

Phase VI: Media Analysis

- ◆ Explore how BSE has been framed in the media
- ◆ Understand the role of the media in communicating about BSE to the public



Significant Contributions and Innovative Approaches

- ◆ Putting a human face to prion disease
- ◆ Interdisciplinary research team
- ◆ Ecological framework
- ◆ Diverse policy audience
- ◆ Knowledge sharing, collaboration and capacity building
- ◆ Robust knowledge dissemination strategy
- ◆ Inclusion of Aboriginal farmers



Deliverables

- ◆ Portrait of BSE affected farm families
- ◆ Report for Aboriginal farmers
- ◆ Media analysis report
- ◆ National policy dialogue
- ◆ Training of graduate students
- ◆ Peer-reviewed publications
- ◆ Presentations at conferences