

Barriers and Enablers to Primary Care Access for Equity-Deserving Populations in Ontario

Research Background

Primary care is a foundational part of the healthcare system. It acts as a point of first contact for patients and serves as a conduit for other types of care (e.g., specialty care), and is importantly positioned as enabling continuity of care for patients. Despite its important role in providing care to patients, evidence indicates that some equity-deserving groups face the greatest barriers accessing primary care. For example, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ adults are less likely to have a family doctor.

Purpose and Methods

Wellesley Institute has conducted a scoping review of literature on barriers and enablers to primary care for equity seeking groups in Ontario to better understand inequities. **As a follow up, the next phase of our research is a qualitative study that will expand on and identify additional themes from the scoping review.** This qualitative study will involve key informant interviews and focus groups with healthcare providers and community members from racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ communities. This research will answer the following questions: (1) what barriers do economically marginalized, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ populations experience accessing primary care in Ontario? (2) what can be done at the organizational- and health system- levels to facilitate improved access for these populations?

Requirements of participants:

We are recruiting participants for our focus group and please see the recruitment information on the next page.

Researchers Contact Information:

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Appendix: Recruitment Flyer for focus group participants

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The Wellesley Institute is looking for participants from Black, East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities to hear about their experiences of accessing primary care in Ontario in a focus group.

To participate, you must:

- Be 18 years old or older.
- Self-identify as Black, East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, or 2SLGBTQ+
- Have difficulty finding or seeing a family doctor, nurse practitioner or other provider for your healthcare needs
- Are low-income or have difficulty making ends meet financially
- Have challenges accessing primary care

The focus group via Zoom will be up to 90 minutes. We are looking for up to 40 participants in total, and participants will receive \$40 via e-transfer or \$40 cash or gift card via mail for your participation.

If you are interested in participating or would like more information about this project, please contact the following research team members of the Wellesley Institute:

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The contact information of the research team:

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The ethics protocol for this study has been reviewed and approved by the Toronto Metropolitan REB (REB 2024-287).

