

EXAMPLE VERSION ONLY



CONSENT FORM

[will be distributed via REDCap]

Project title: ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY IN NOVA SCOTIA BY EXPLORING GAPS IN HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

Lead researcher: Jennifer Lane, Dalhousie University, HERLab@dal.ca

Other researchers

Co-investigators: Dr. Marilyn Macdonald (Dalhousie University), Dr. JianLi Wang (Dalhousie University), Dr. Neda Alizadeh (Dalhousie University), Dr. Christine Cassidy (Dalhousie University), Dr. Janet Curran (Dalhousie University), Dr. Joshua Edward (Nova Scotia Health), Neil Forbes (University of Prince Edward Island), Dr. Mohammed Hajizadeh (Dalhousie University), Dr. Kelly Lackie (Dalhousie University), Helen Wong (Dalhousie University), Dr. Lori Wozney (IWK Health Centre)

Associates: Dr. Brittany Barber (IWK Health Centre), Elizabeth Obeng Nkrumah (Nova Scotia Health), Noah Doucette (Dalhousie University), Kris Lane (Dalhousie University)

Partners: Brenda Beauchamp (ML Family Counselling), Drew Burchell (IWK Health Centre), Katrina Jarvis (Association of Black Social Workers), Warren Kelsie (Mobilizing Partnerships Project), Marwa Kuri (Nisa Homes), Wyatt LeRoy (Nova Scotia Health), Kendra MacEachern (Nova Scotia Health), Christopher McCarthy (Department of National Defence), Janet MacMullin (Department of National Defence), Cyril O'Brien (Dalhousie University), Courtney Pennell (IWK Health Centre), Chelsea Provo (Regional Independent Students' Association), Darius Sheppard (Dartmouth High School), Hallie Thompson (Dalhousie University)

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Introduction

You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by, Jennifer Lane, a faculty member in Nursing at Dalhousie University. Choosing whether or not to take part in this research is entirely your choice. There will be no impact on your studies, employment, performance evaluation, or the services you receive if you decide not to participate in the research. The information below tells you about what is involved in the research, what you will be asked to do and about any benefit, risk, inconvenience or discomfort that you might experience.

You should discuss any questions you have about this study with Jennifer Lane. Please ask as many questions as you like. If you have questions later, please contact HERLab@dal.ca or call her at (902) 489-7410.

[Include comprehension question in REDCap:

This study is voluntary. I do not have to take part or can leave the study at any time and my usual health care and/or employment will not be affected.

True

False

TRUE: You do not have to take part in this study.

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Continue

No thanks, I am not interested

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Purpose and Outline of the Research Study

The purpose of this research is to identify and explore health equity-related gaps in service delivery. This will inform more research on how an integrated model of care can be implemented to advance health equity in the part of Mi'kma'ki that is referred to as Nova Scotia (NS). We will use multiple methods to achieve the study's purpose. Our research team is comprised of individuals working with and/or belonging to underserved populations in NS who will use health equity indicators (e.g., age, appearance, beliefs, belonging, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic class) to address the following objectives: 1) create an inventory of NS-relevant health equity-related knowledge, 2) conduct a survey and interviews to examine the integration of care in NS using a context-specific health equity lens, and 3) share what we found out about health equity-related gaps in service delivery in NS to inform an integrated model of care that advances health equity across the province. This consent form is for group interview participants.

Who Can Take Part in the Research Study

You are eligible to participate in an interview if you live in Nova Scotia, are 16 years of age or older, and have accessed and/or delivered healthcare services in NS. If you are a person who experiences a language barrier and has not yet disclosed this to us, then you can request an interpreter by contacting HERLab@dal.ca.

What You Will Be Asked to Do

If you decide to participate in this research, then you will be asked to attend one group interview that will last for up to 60 minutes, and may be virtual or in person. With your consent, we will record your interview. If you participate in a virtual interview, it will take place over the videoconferencing platform, Zoom. If you participate in an in-person interview, it will be recorded using a digital recorder. During the interview, we will use a set of questions to guide the conversation that was developed by the full research team.

Possible Benefits, Risks and Discomforts

Participating in the study might not benefit you, but we might learn things that will benefit others.

This study is defined as minimal risk research, but it is important to consider the possible harms that might result from participating an interview. Risks include experiencing discomfort when discussing the conditions under which health services are delivered. This could include being reminded of negative experiences from your past, which could trigger trauma or discomfort and place some individuals' mental health at a moderate risk. If the interview elicits negative emotions, a list of mental health professionals can be provided at your request. The biggest risk associated with this study is a breach of confidentiality for those who participate in a virtual interview because we are using online platforms to collect data. We will take steps to mitigate this risk. Virtual interviews will happen over a videoconferencing platform, called Zoom. Our Zoom account is password protected and only members of the research team who have signed a confidentiality agreement have access to the password. Virtual interviews will be recorded to and temporarily stored on a password protected computer until they are transferred to a secure server, in a folder that only Jennifer Lane and research coordinator have access to. Those participating in an in-person interview will not experience this risk because their data will be collected using a digital audio-recorded and directly saved on a secure server within Canada.

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If you are an Indigenous Person and have not yet developed an agreement on how your data will be used in this study, but wish to do so, please email us at HERLab@dal.ca prior to signing this consent form so one can be developed.

The data collected in this study will all undergo the same analyses, and no participants are being asked to speak on behalf of anyone but themselves. No individual's data will be passed off as if it's representative of a specific culture, community, or population. We asked for information about your identity to help us involve a diverse group of people in interviews and to analyze survey data, if you chose to participate in that aspect of the study.

Compensation / Reimbursement

To thank you for your time, we will send you an electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$50.

How your information will be protected:

Your participation in this research will be known only to Jennifer Lane and the research coordinator. A number will be assigned to each person who completes the questions on identity. This number will be used to identify you as a participant in this study. You will be given an opportunity to provide a pseudonym that we will use in place of your real name in any knowledge sharing activities (e.g., publications, presentations, etc.). If you do not have a preference for what pseudonym is used, we will choose one for you. A key-code that was created and is being saved in a password-protected file that is stored in a Dalhousie OneDrive account that is only accessible to lab members and the only place your real name, assigned number, and pseudonym can be found together. Only Jennifer Lane and the research coordinator will have the password to password-protected files.

The information that you provide to us will be kept confidential. The people who work with us have an obligation to keep all research information confidential, which is outlined in a confidentiality agreement that everyone who has access to data in any form will have to sign. All your identifying information has been securely stored since you expressed an interest in participating in this part of the study and will remain separately stored from your interview data indefinitely.

Group interview participants will be required to agree that they will not communicate, or in any manner disclose publicly or privately, information discussed during the group interview. Even still, we cannot fully guarantee your privacy because a group interview puts a participant's privacy more at risk than individual interviews between just the researcher and the participant. You can change your mind, do an individual interview, or no interview at all.

If your interview is transcribed, the transcriptionist will have signed a confidentiality agreement to protect your identity. During the transcription process, your data will be de-identified, which means any identifying information, such as names of people or places will be removed.

We will not disclose any information about your participation except as required by law or our professional obligations. This means that if you inform us about abuse or neglect of a child or an adult in need of protection, then we are required by law to contact authorities. This also means that if we notice that you are at an immediate risk of harming yourself or other people, then we are required by our professional code of ethics to seek assistance.

You are free to leave the study at any time. If you decide you want to be in this study now, you can change your mind later. There are no risks involved with changing your mind at any point. If you decide to withdraw from the study, you can ask to have your personal identifying information (your name and contact information) removed from the study key. If you leave the study, we will not collect new information from you. After participating in the study, you can decide for up to 4 weeks if you want us to

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remove your data. After that time, it will become impossible for us to remove it because it will already be de-identified and/or analyzed.

[Include comprehension question in REDCap:

What are some of the risks participating in this study? Please check all the appropriate answers. (Further sections will only expand when all the right answers are checked)

- Discomfort when remembering past negative experiences
- Financial hardship
- Weight gain
- Withdrawing from the study

CORRECT RESPONSE: Privacy is the biggest risk that you may or may not experience by participating in this research.

- Continue
- No thanks, I'm not interested

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How to Obtain Results

The general findings of this research will be shared on the study website (HEResearch.ca) and described in at least two publications. All participants will be notified when study results are available via their preferred method of being contacted (i.e., email or phone) unless they have asked us not to contact them or if they withdraw from the study. Any narratives might be quoted from interviews or transcripts, but all identifying information will be removed. If you do not want to be directly quoted, then please let us know this, and your data will be used in group results, but not in any other way. If you are directly quoted, then a pseudonym will be used in place of your name. You can choose this pseudonym yourself or you can choose for us to provide one for you.

Questions

We are happy to talk with you about any questions or concerns you may have about your participation in this research study. Please contact Jennifer Lane at jennifer.lane@dal.ca (or call me: (902) 489-7410) with questions, comments, or concerns about the research study.

If you have any ethical concerns about your participation in this research, you may also contact Research Ethics, Dalhousie University at (902) 494-3423, or email: ethics@dal.ca (and reference REB file # 2023-6903).

Conflicts of Interest

The researchers have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Signature Page

Project Title: Advancing Health Equity In Nova Scotia By Exploring Gaps In Healthcare Delivery

Lead Researcher: Jennifer Lane

I have read the explanation about this study. I have been given the opportunity to discuss it and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that I have been asked to take part in a group interview that will occur at a location acceptable to me, and that the interview will be recorded. I understand direct quotes of things I say may be used without identifying me. I agree to take part in this study. My participation is voluntary, and I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time, until 4 weeks after my interview is complete.

Name Signature Date

I hereby affirm that I will not communicate, or in any manner disclose publicly or privately, information discussed during the group interview.

Name Signature Date

Please provide an email address below if you would like to be sent a summary of the study results.

Email address: _____

FUTURE CONTACT?

Do you give permission for us to contact you about future research?

Yes No

If yes, please list preferred contact, if different from above.

Email address: _____