

Count Every Kilometre: The Hidden Impact of Travelling for Pediatric Cancer Treatment in Canada

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Goal

To generate Canadian evidence through a national, cross-sectional online survey that improves our understanding of the financial, physical, and psychosocial burden of travel to treatment for pediatric cancer patients and their families, in order to inform more equitable access to care

Study Method

Design: National, cross-sectional online survey

Population: Caregivers of children and adolescents with a pediatric cancer experience within the past 5 years

Scope: Canada-wide, all pediatric cancer types

Instrument: Pediatric-specific questionnaire co-developed with health care providers, and persons with lived experience (patients and caregivers)

Data Collection: Self-administered digital survey using REDCap™

Distribution

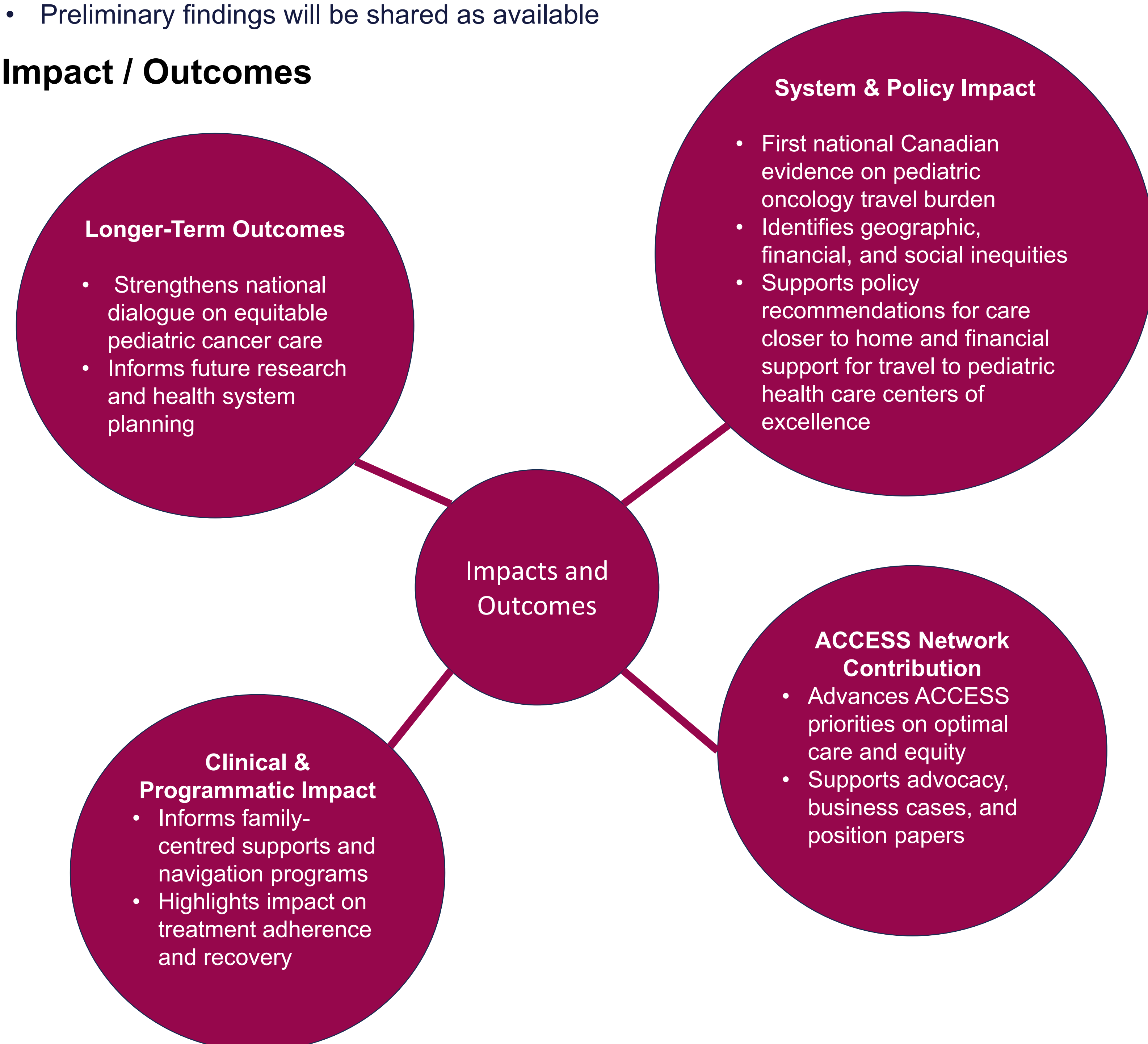
- Through health care workers e.g. social workers, primary nurses, representing the C17 pediatric health care centers
- Patient organizations and community organizations that include a pediatric oncology focus
- Project to be reviewed by the Research Ethical Boards for each of these centers

Key Domains: Travel time and distance; Financial impact; Employment disruption; Physical and psychosocial effects; Family separation and missed care

Results

- Study currently in progress
- Analysis will include descriptive statistics and subgroup comparisons
- Preliminary findings will be shared as available

Impact / Outcomes



Objective

- Determine the impact of travel to treatment on caregivers and families of children with cancer in Canada
- Compare experiences across regions, distances travelled, and community contexts
- Generate evidence to support policy, program, and system-level solutions that reduce travel-related burden

