

A REGIONAL AUDIT OF COMMUNITY BASED WOUND CARE SERVICES IN CANADA**Kevin Woo**^{1,2,3}, Gary Sibbald^{1,2,3}.¹*Women's College Hospital (Toronto, Canada)*²*Toronto Regional Wound Clinics (Toronto, Canada)*³*Univeristy of Toronto (Toronto, Canada)*

Aim: Chronic wounds are disabling and constitute a significant burden on patients and the healthcare system. However, community-based care for people with wounds is often fragmented and inconsistent, leading to prolonged healing times and ineffective use of resources. In light of the growing problem and financial restraints, there is a need to examine the existing care of patients with wounds and identify the gaps to improve the quality of care. The objective of this study was to establish the prevalence of various types of wounds and benchmark the care provided for home care patients.

Methods: Regional community based nursing providers were requested to assessment all their clients for wounds and complete a survey developed by the investigators. The location of all open wounds, primary wound etiology, wound duration, and frequencies of nursing visits were documented.

Results: 1353 clients (mean age=63 years) participated with 37% receiving wound care at the time of the survey. Of all the wounds, 36.4% were surgical, 35.1% were leg and foot ulcers, 12.7% were pressure related and 15.8% were miscellaneous. A large portion (34.7%) of the clients had wounds for more than 6 months indicating poor healing and chronic nature of these wounds. 32.9% of these clients were receiving daily dressing changes.

Conclusion: Results indicated a need to develop health policies that address the growing number of stalled wounds and surgical wounds. Best practice should review the practice of daily dressing changes that may not be cost effective.