



FACT SHEET

What is ACTION for Health? It is one of few research projects in Canada to study health information technology from a social perspective, examining its impact on users and their environment.

Project start and end dates: October, 2003 – March, 2008

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ellen Balka

- Professor in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University.
- Senior Research Scientist at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute.
- Recipient of a 2007 Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Senior Scholar Career Investigator Award.

Research Funding: \$3 million over four and a half years from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) under their Initiative for the New Economy (INE).

Research Focus: The role of technology in the health sector as it relates to three themes:

- 1) Issues arising as members of the public increasingly turn towards information technology as a means of accessing health information.
- 2) The impact of information technology on those working in the health sector, and the development of health indicators.
- 3) The legal and ethical issues associated with health information technology.

Research Goals:

- To address the design, implementation and use of health information technology in real-world settings, as well as policies governing these areas.
- To help Canadians realize the benefits of health information technology and minimize the economic and social risks associated with widespread technological change.
- To determine if health information technology meets Canadians' expectations of their healthcare system: equity, compassion, individual and collective responsibility, respect for others, effectiveness and efficiency.

Research Context:

- Information and communication technologies are regularly viewed as a more effective way to deliver health care services.
- Increasing resources are spent on health information technology.
- Few studies, to date, have addressed the impacts of health information technology on users and their environments.

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