



OTRU Knowledge and Evaluation Support Update

OTRU continues to support local Public Health Units, Tobacco Control Area Networks (TCANs), and other tobacco Transfer Payment Agencies (TPAs) regarding their tobacco control knowledge and evaluation requests. Several new requests have been received in the areas of smoke-free movies, young adult smoking prevention, smoke-free housing, and cessation initiatives among healthcare professionals.

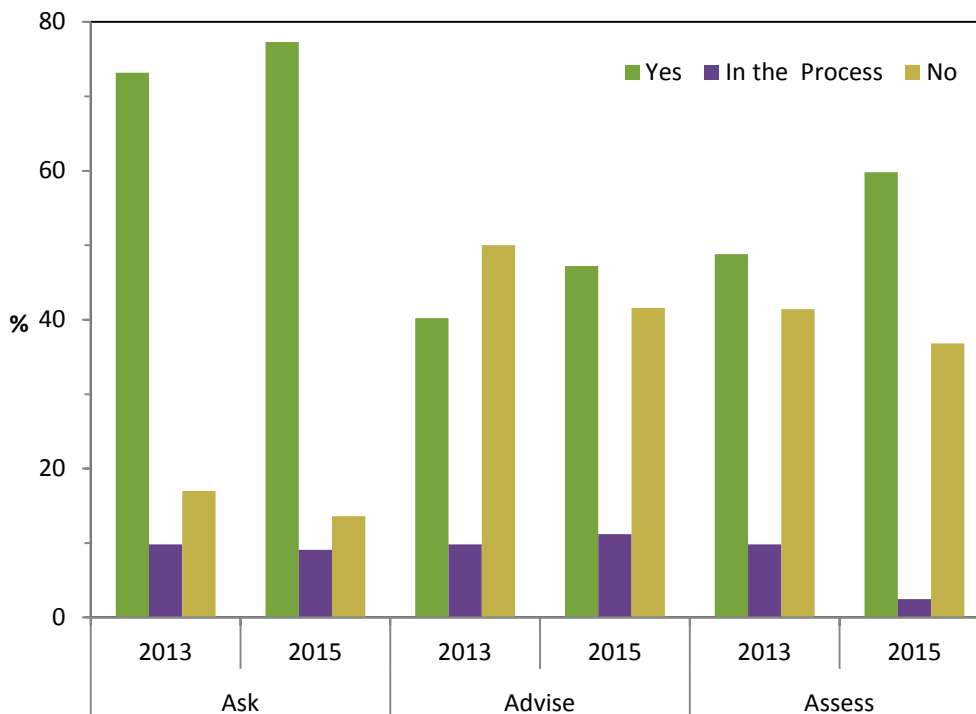
This edition of the Knowledge and Evaluation Support newsletter highlights findings from two recently completed projects from this initiative.

Project Highlights

Monitoring the Integration of the 5As Approach to Cessation in Central West Ontario

In order to understand and monitor the state of regional tobacco cessation practices and services, OTRU supported the Central West Tobacco Control Area Network (CW TCAN) in 2013 and 2015 to conduct environmental scans of public health and healthcare organizations who are members of local Tobacco Cessation Communities of Practice (CoP). Response rates were 73% in 2013 and 74% in 2015.

Figure 1: Integrating the Ask, Advise and Assess Components into Patient Records among Central West Organizations, 2013 and 2015



Main Barriers to Implementation:

- More pressing concerns with patients
- More pressing concerns with workload
- Lack of time
- Lack of staff knowledge/training

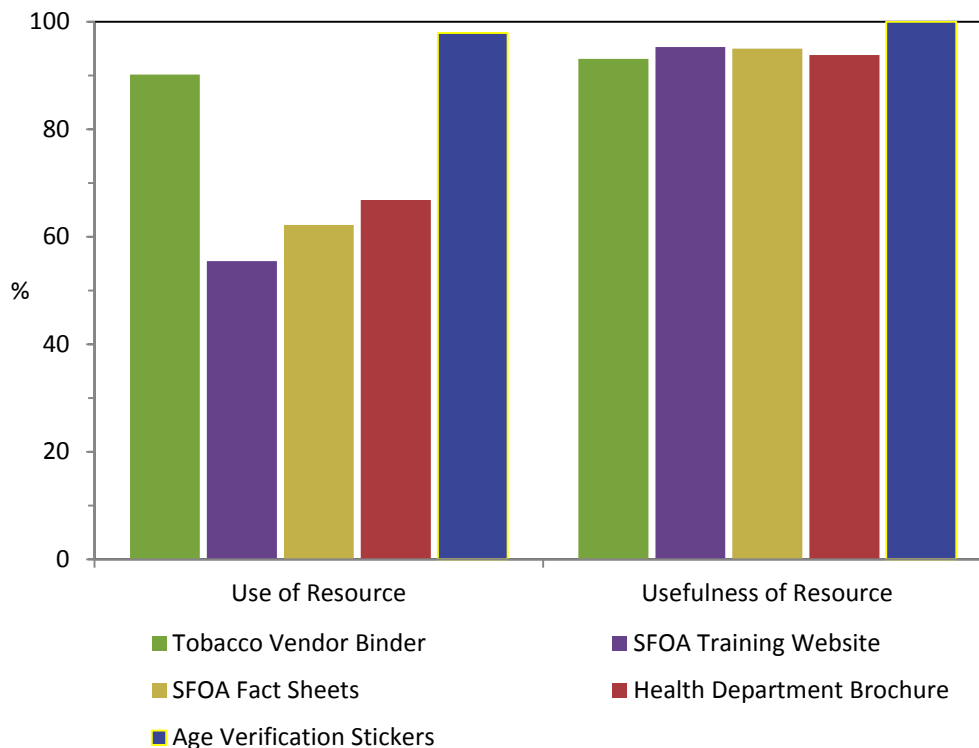


From 2013 to 2015, the proportion of organizations who had a formal policy in place to support the implementation of the 5As for tobacco cessation services increased by 16%. Cessation CoP organizations in the CW TCAN have improved on integrating the *Ask*, *Advise*, and *Assess* components into paper and/or electronic documentation systems. Most organizations have incorporated a standardized Ask question (73% in 2013 and 77% in 2015); over the two-year period, there were improvements for standardizing *Advise* and *Assess* questions (Figure 1). Additional efforts that focus on addressing barriers to implementation have the potential to facilitate organizational changes and adoption of evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions. We will continue to monitor progress of the regional cessation system in 2017.

Tobacco Vendor Education: A Needs Assessment in Halton Region

The Halton Region Health Department conducted a needs assessment to determine the awareness and usefulness of the tobacco vendor education resources they distribute. In October 2015, Tobacco Enforcement Officers completed the survey with 193 vendors.

Figure 2: Use and Usefulness of Tobacco Vendor Education Resources in Halton Region



Highlights of Recommendations for Vendor Education Resources:

Offer in other languages (Korean, Hindi, Chinese)

Clearer language

Educate vendors how to read government ID

Most of the tobacco vendors had used the Tobacco Vendor Binder (90%) and the Age Verification Stickers (98%); the SFOA training website and fact sheets, as well as the Health Department brochure were used less (Figure 2). All of the resources were rated as 'very useful' or 'somewhat useful' by those who had ever used each resource. The Age Verification Stickers were the most highly rated, with 87% reporting these to



be 'very useful'. Almost 60% of vendors stated they would prefer to receive paper copies of tobacco training and education resources delivered by the Tobacco Enforcement Officer at the time of an inspection. These findings and recommendations will be used to inform tobacco vendor training and education in Halton Region.

Looking for Support?

Are you planning to evaluate your work plan activities? Do you have specific knowledge needs? You can:

- Invite OTRU to join your next TCAN, PHU or TPA meeting. We can help you to identify evaluation and knowledge generation opportunities
- Visit our website and complete our support Request Form <http://216.34.99.34/votingmodule/s180/f/420080/1143/>
- Contact Lori Diemert, Project Manager lori.diemert@camh.ca