

**ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE 2009**  
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**Presentation Abstract**

**Presentation title:**

Feasibility Issues in Studies of Integrated Treatment Programs for Women with Substance Use Issues and their Children.

**Presenter:**

Dr. Joanna Henderson

*Joanna Henderson is a Psychologist and Clinical Scientist with the Child, Youth & Family Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health who has worked with families of youth with behavioural and emotional needs. Dr. Henderson's research focuses on evidence-based practices for youth with concurrent disorders and knowledge translation.*

**Presentation abstract:**

Efficacious treatments are of limited value if they cannot be readily adopted and implemented by community-based agencies. However, adopting and implementing new treatment approaches is a complex process impacted by characteristics of the treatment itself, the knowledge exchange process, the individual, and the agency. While efforts to close the research-practice gap have resulted in increased attention to these factors, it still is not clear whether traditional academic modes of dissemination, such as journal articles, have increased attention to these factors. We examined the presence of information about issues that can impact uptake of recommended clinical practices in studies of integrated treatment programs for women with substance use issues and their children. Specifically, we examined the extent to which feasibility factors, such as treatment, agency, and dissemination characteristics, were provided in 105 studies included in our meta-analysis. Findings reveal that most articles provided some general information about treatment services and participants, but few provided sufficient information to evaluate feasibility. For example, few studies provided information about the educational or experiential backgrounds of treatment staff and even fewer reported on whether or not the treatment had been documented or manualized. Implications for adoption and implementation of such treatment approaches are discussed and continued efforts to close the research-practice gap will be proposed. Group discussion will be encouraged and facilitated.