Méthode : En mai 2010, nous avons demandé aux élèves de la 5^e à la 8^e année des sept communautés de réserves du conseil tribal de Saskatoon de remplir sur papier un questionnaire exhaustif sur la santé des jeunes. Un protocole de consentement en huit étapes a été suivi avant de les laisser participer.

Résultats : Sur les 271 élèves admissibles, 204 ont rempli le questionnaire, soit un taux de réponse de 75,3 %.

Selon l'échelle de dépression du Center for Epidemiological Studies, 25 % des jeunes éprouvaient des symptômes dépressifs modérés. Après tabulation en croix, 1 variable socioéconomique, 10 variables sociales, 3 variables du soutien social, 1 variable de l'estime de soi, 5 variables des relations parentales et 3 variables de l'intimidation étaient associées à l'humeur dépressive.

Par régression logistique, nous avons repéré quatre indicateurs de risque indépendamment associés à l'humeur dépressive chez les jeunes des Premières nations : 1) ne pas avoir résolu des traumatismes survenus durant l'enfance, 2) n'avoir personne qui leur montre de l'amour et de l'affection, 3) avoir beaucoup de disputes avec les parents et 4) subir de l'intimidation physique au moins une fois par semaine.

Conclusion : Nous avons observé des taux élevés d'humeur dépressive chez les jeunes des Premières nations dans les réserves. Ces jeunes courent maintenant un risque accru d'avoir des problèmes plus tard dans leur vie si l'on ne met pas en œuvre des interventions efficaces pour les aider.

Mots clés : facteurs de risque; dépression; minorités

IN MEMORIAM

William Harding le Riche, BSc, MB.ChB., MD, MPH, FRCPC, FACP

It is with sadness that we inform the public health community of the death on December 31st, 2010 in Toronto of Dr. Harding le Riche. Dr. le Riche was Professor Emeritus in the University of Toronto, where he had been a pioneering public health researcher and a provocative, stimulating and supportive teacher of public health students for more than 25 years, until his retirement in 1984.

Born in South Africa, Professor le Riche earned his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. His MD thesis dealt with human growth and nutrition. He held public health positions in South Africa and in 1945 established the first non-segregated Health Centre at Knysna, South Africa. In 1950, while on a Rockefeller fellowship, he completed a Master of Public Health (cum laude) at Harvard University. When the South African government abolished his position and refused to recognize his MPH from Harvard, he decided to move to Canada.

In 1952, Dr. le Riche joined the Department of National Health and Welfare in Ottawa, where he was involved in the first Canadian sickness survey. In 1954, he relocated to Physicians Services Incorporated in Toronto. He was appointed to the University of Toronto in 1957 and in 1962 became Professor and Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Biometrics in the School of Hygiene. Under his astute leadership, MSc and PhD programs in epidemiology and biostatistics were developed and expanded. Professor le Riche was renowned for his challenging teaching style, and colleagues and students alike appreciated his keen insight and forward thinking with respect to a wide array of public health issues.

His early research in nutrition and maternal and child health, as well as the development of local public health and primary care services in South Africa, marked areas of interest that continued throughout his career. In Canada, his epidemiologic research in a wide range of topics – including the control of hospital infections, manpower studies, and his pioneering work in analyzing the Physicians Services Incorporated medical insurance records – are landmarks in health and health care research. His research also included work on infectious diseases, tropical diseases, international health and environmental degradation.

In 1981, Professor le Riche received the R.D. Defries Award, the highest award of the Canadian Public Health Association, for outstanding contributions to the broad field of public health. This award carried with it Honorary Life Membership in the Association.

Harding le Riche was a leader in public health in Canada. He is remembered with deep respect and gratitude by many colleagues and former students.