



# ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAMS:

## Who gets it and does it matter?

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# Objectives

- Why build primary health care teams?
  - Canadians want them
  - Governments want them
  - Providers support them
  - International evidence, though not a wealth of robust evidence, supports their value
- Who gets access to primary health care teams in Canada?
- What's the value to Canadians?
  - Processes of primary health care with teams
  - Outcomes of primary health care with teams

# Why build primary health care teams?

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# Primary health care teams: Canadians want them

- Canadians see the team approach, led by doctors, as the “centre piece of the health care system,” because it would be “responsive to individual needs, structured to emphasize wellness and prevention, and would offer integrated and coordinated care through a team of various professionals”.

Maxwell J. et al. Report on citizens’ dialogue on the future of health care in Canada. Saskatoon: Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada; 2002.

- In 2007, 70% strongly/ somewhat support “requiring health professionals to work in teams with other types of health care providers”

Pollara and partners. 2007. Health Care in Canada: A national survey of healthcare providers, managers, and the public. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition.

# Primary health care teams: Governments want them

- “Canadians receive the most appropriate care, by the most appropriate providers, in the most appropriate settings” ... “to promote the establishment of interdisciplinary primary health care teams that provide Canadians first contact with the health care system”
- “to establish multi-disciplinary primary health care teams, so that most appropriate care is provided by the most appropriate provider”
- “at least 50% of residents have access to an appropriate health care provider, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.”
- “with the objective of 50% of Canadians having 24/7 access to multidisciplinary teams by 2011”
- First Minister’s Action Plan for Health System Renewal, 2000
- Primary Health Care Transition Fund, 2001-2006
- 2003 Health Accord
- 2004 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care in Canada

# Primary health care teams: Providers want them

- In 2007, doctors (55%), pharmacists (81%) and nurses (85%) strongly/ somewhat support “requiring health professionals to work in teams with other types of health care providers”

Pollara and partners. 2007. Health Care in Canada: A national survey of healthcare providers, managers, and the public. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition.

- Professional association support
  - CFPC-CNA. Vision Statement on Inter-Professional Care. 2007.
  - CFPC-RCPSC Conjoint Discussion Paper. Family Physicians and Other Specialists: Working & Learning Together. 2006

# Primary health care teams: International evidence suggests value

- “There is high-quality evidence supporting positive outcomes for patients/ clients, providers and the system in specialized such as interprofessional collaboration in mental health, and chronic disease prevention and management”
- “There is findings of cost benefits of interprofessional collaboration in some primary health care settings”

Barrett J, Curran V, Glynn L, Godwin M. CHSRF Synthesis: Interprofessional collaboration and quality primary health care. Ottawa. Canadian Health Services Research Foundation; 2007.

# Primary health care teams: Who gets access to them

## ● Methods

- Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care (2007) and its nationwide sample
- Inclusion criteria:
  - Regular medical doctor or place
  - *Is there a nurse working with your primary care provider who is regularly involved in your health care?; and/or*
  - *Are there other health professionals like dietitians and nutritionists working in the same office where you get your regular health care?*
- Descriptive statistics and adjusted odds ratios

# Primary health care teams: Who gets access to them

## ● Results

- Almost four in ten Canadians (39.3%) report having access to a primary health care team, including:
  - Nurse working with their primary provider who is regularly involved in their health care and there are other health professionals working in the same office where they get regular health care (6.1%)
  - Only a nurse (22.8%)
  - No nurse but there were other health professionals working in the same office (10.4%).
- Four in ten Canadians (43.9%) report that they did not have access to either a nurse or other health professionals.

# Primary health care teams: Who gets access to them

## ● Results

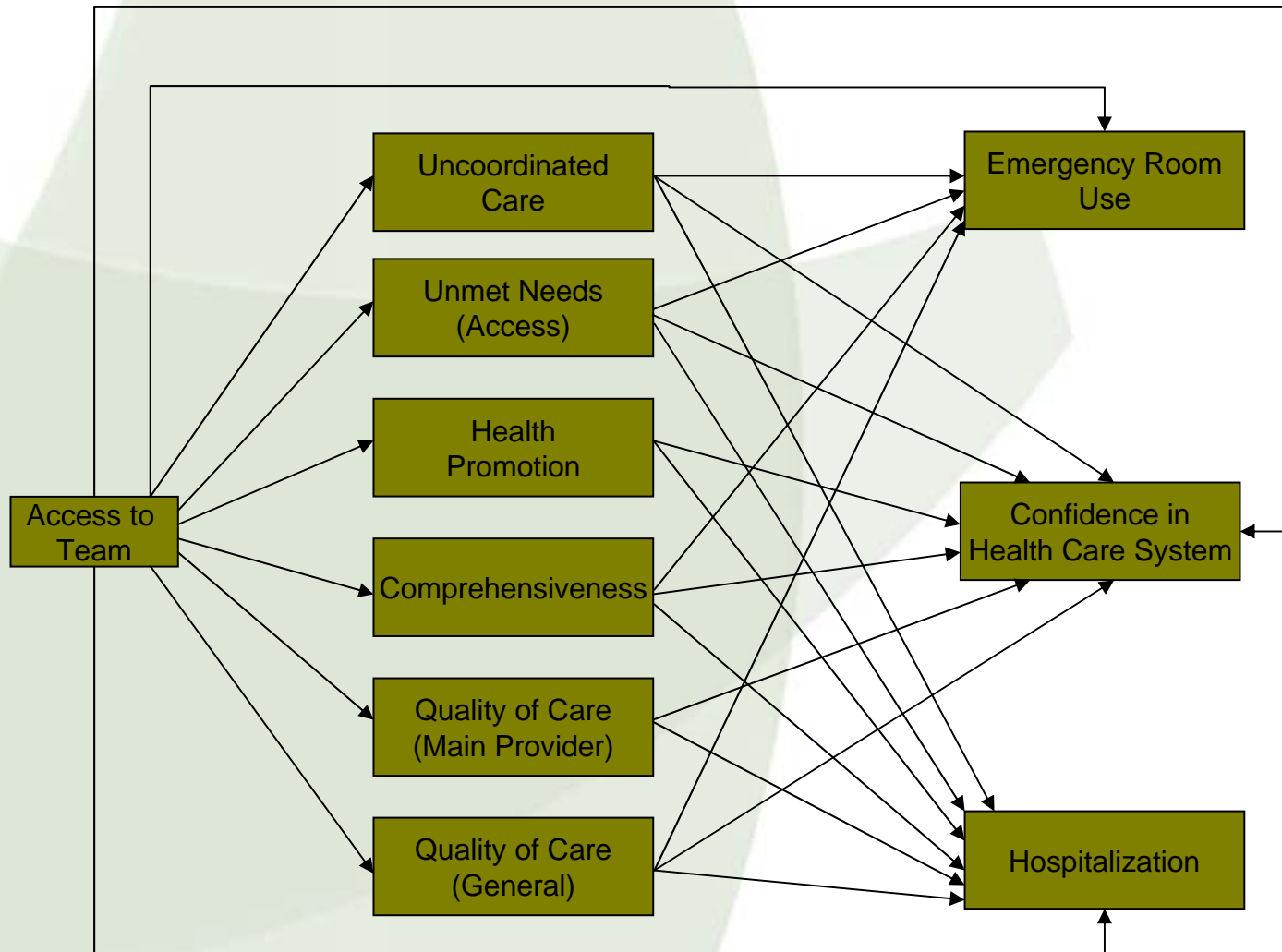
- Individuals with two or more chronic conditions are 1.5 times (adjusted odds;  $p < .05$ ) more likely to report access to a team compared to those with no chronic health conditions.
- Individuals who report that they have “fair/poor” health are 1.4 times (adjusted odds;  $p < .10$ ) more likely to report access to a team compared with those in “very good/excellent” health.
- Our finding that team-based primary health care services is equitably distributed across the population suggests that this new approach will not disrupt historic health-related distributional equity in this sector.

# Primary health care teams: What's the value to Canadians?

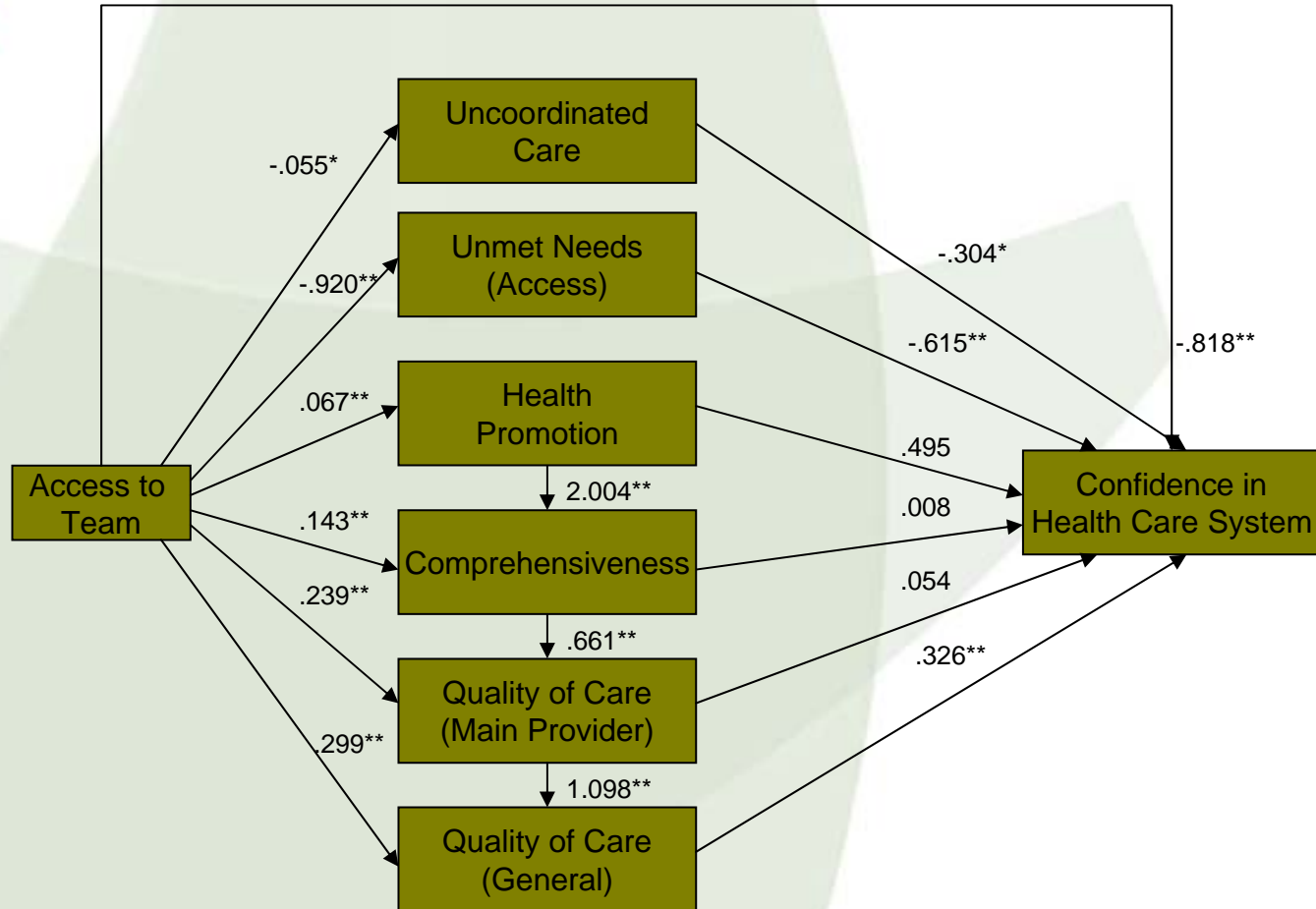
## ● Methods

- Canadian Survey of Experiences with Primary Health Care (2007) and its nationwide sample
- Same inclusion criteria
- Structural equation modeling
  - Conceptual foundation: Results-Based Logic Model for Primary Health Care (Watson et al., 2004)
  - All adults as well as individuals who have select chronic health conditions

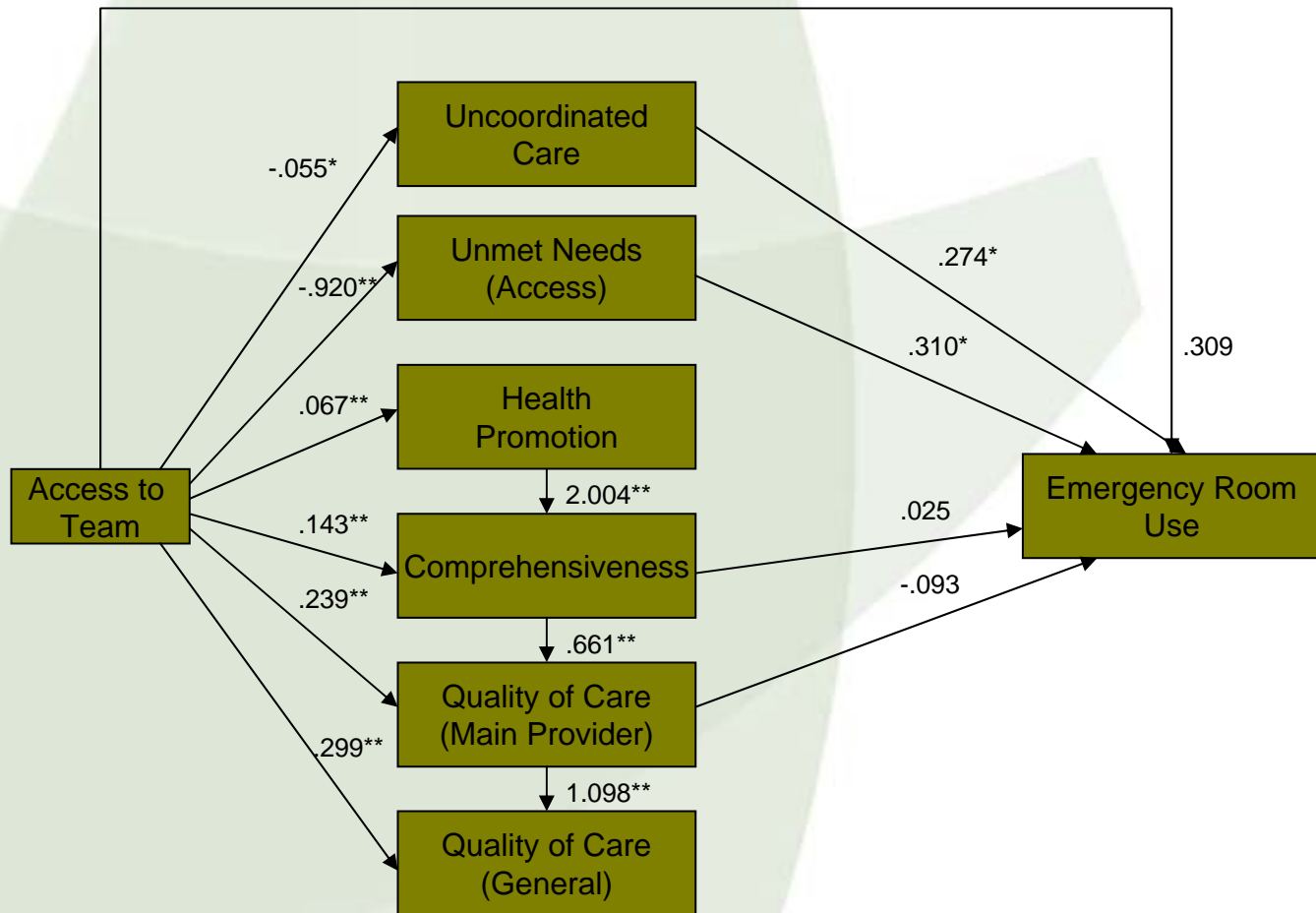
# Primary health care teams: What's the value to Canadians?



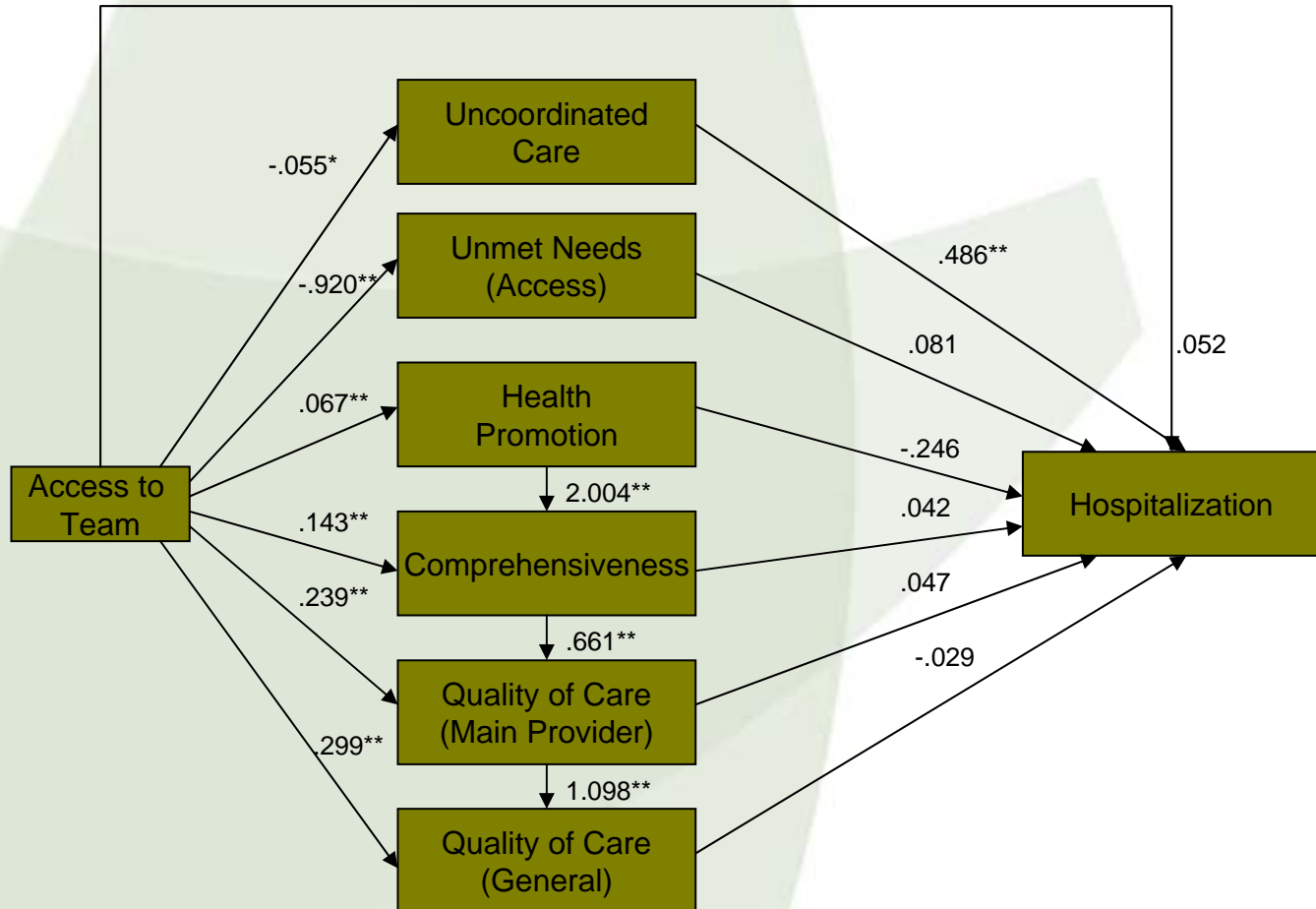
# Increased Access to Teams Builds Confidence



# Increased Access to Teams Lowers ER Use



# Increased Access to Teams Reduces Hospitalization



# Primary health care teams: What's the value to Canadians?

- In conclusion, there is good news for ...
  - First Ministers that have invested in improving access to primary health care teams
  - Health care professionals who have worked to create primary health care teams
  - Canadians who have chronic health conditions as they have preferred access to these teams
  - All Canadians regarding their health care system; the individuals most likely to benefit from health outcomes associated with primary health care teams are the ones most likely to have access to them.