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HEALTH SCIENCES
Psychiatry & Behavioural
Neurosciences

Research Work

The Back to Reality Series is a set of three psychoeducational video games: Harry's Journey, Harry's Journal, and Harry's PathwaystoCare map. Harry's Journey imparts the story of Harry - as he considers whether to seek help for his psychosis and marijuana use. Harry's Journey simulates the multitude of emotional and perceptual experiences associated with psychosis and marijuana use. Harry's Journal delivers experiential knowledge about major psychiatric symptoms, including psychosis. The PathwaysToCare Map displays 3-D replicas of over ten actual youth mental health and addictions services in Hamilton. The games are original KT (knowledge translation) products, funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research and inspired by research on first-episode psychosis, substance use, and pathways to care. The games were created by an innovative KT community involving students, young people with lived experiences, designers, clinicians, and researchers. A fellow has recently published the views of family doctors.

The student(s) would conduct interviews, pre-and post-game play, with youth between the ages of 14 and 19 years. The participants would be recruited from 3G McMaster Hospital or AMH SJH. The purpose is to explore whether the Series raises awareness of the association between marijuana use among youth and psychosis.

Engagement Opportunities

Introductory Level

Intermediate Level

Advanced Level

- Learn about research ethics and privacy legislation
- Conduct qualitative interviews and collect quantitative data from youth admitted to hospital with mental health and addictions issues.
- Learn to code data obtained from qualitative interviews and conduct thematic analysis
- Expand knowledge of the literature on cannabis, psychosis and use of 'serious' games for psychoeducation.
- Present poster at research day or conference such as the CPA or the APA.

If you are interested in learning more, please leave your contact information with the Research Office and/or contact Suzanne Archie (archie@mcmaster.ca).