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CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

Submitter Name

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Title

Indigenous Child Wellness in Manitoba: A Scoping Review of Canadian and International Best Practices

Background

The measurement of wellness among Indigenous Peoples is crucial to understanding the health-related needs of communities today and for generations to come. Here, we summarize the extant research on assessments suitable to understanding the wellness of Indigenous children in Canada through an examination of existing international best-practices. A thoughtful identification of wellness metrics aligned with the Indigenous cultural context is important because in the past, Indigenous health and wellness assessments that were not co-developed by Indigenous partners and have perpetuated systemic harms through the pathologizing cultural differences in wellness or failing to include key concepts such as the significance of extended family connections (Indigenous Corporate Training Inc, 2019).

Objective

The central objective of this research has been to identify existing Canadian and international best-practices in Indigenous wellness assessments through a Scoping Review.

Methods

A scoping review of existing measures across Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand was completed with the PRISMA method across five databases (Tricco et al., 2018). Search terms included "child-welfare", "Indigenous" or "Aboriginal", "wellness", "children", "families" and "framework" or "measure". All work was led by Indigenous students in keeping with Traditional Ways of Being and Knowing and self-determination practices. These are the traditional systems of thought and process that have guided Indigenous Peoples through life before the era of colonization and that are currently being revitalized.

Results

In total 896 titles, keywords, and/or abstracts were screened. Of these, 88 articles were reviewed and ultimately 43 were identified as relevant to our work. Results highlight a unique set of factors to consider from an Indigenous values perspective when assessing child and family wellness. The most salient of

these includes elements of self-determination by ensuring the assessment derives from Indigenous developers and focuses on restoring empowerment among sovereign Nations. Themes of family, community and wholism were repeatedly emphasized, particularly among Indigenous-led instruments. (See table 1.)

Conclusion

Results highlight an emerging assessment base for measuring wellness, however with minimal work to date directly designed to be relevant for Indigenous children or youth. This gap is significant because it limits the ability of interdisciplinary agencies to support Indigenous families by understanding both strengths and unmet needs. Moving forwards, we will seek to fill this gap by supporting the development of a wellness measure with potential to multi-contextual relevance. This holds the potential to contribute to meaningful advancements in Indigenous child wellness through a culturally safe assessment of wellbeing revealing unmet needs of children, in turn, promoting the adequate and equitable dispersion of supports and resources to families and communities.

Theme:

Community Health / Policy

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

Yes

Untitled

Table 1 Scoping Review 2020.pdf

Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?

Yes

Presenter Status:

Undergraduate Students

What was your role in the project?

Project Manager

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Summary Table 1. Measures

Measure Name	Developers	For Whom	Context	Strengths
Aboriginal Children's Health and Wellness Measure Canada (ACHWM) - Aaniish Naa Gegii questionnaire	Laurentian University and Wiigwemkoong	Indigenous Youth – Ontario	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses spiritual, mental, emotional and physical wellness For young people in communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations conception of wholistic wellness Developed by community, for community
Aboriginal Framework for Healing and Wellness Manual - Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society:	Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society (funded by Alberta Children's Services)	Indigenous women and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healing from trauma Wholistic approach Ensuring all parts of the self are in balance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicine Wheel model Does not involve questionnaire.
Affect Balance Scale	Norman M. Bradburn	American adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive and negative emotion assessment Used in Australian Aboriginal communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 10 items Simple and concise
Children's Intrinsic Needs Satisfaction Scale (CINSS)	Véronneau et al., McGill University	Canadian children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on self-determination theory Measures autonomy At home, school, and with peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positively worded questionnaire Strengths-based
Children's Worlds International Survey of Well-Being (ISCWeB)	Children's Worlds research team	Children of diverse cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International assessment of child wellness At home, school and other social contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different versions for different age groups
Holistic Student Assessment	Liu et al., The Forum for Youth Investment, The Pear Institute	American youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work-life preparation, Social and emotional adjustment Youth programs and schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengths-based Includes items to measure quality of service for children in programs, schools, etc.
Hua Oranga Outcome Instrument	Te Kani Kingi and Mason Durie Massey University	New Zealand Maori and Pacific people with mental illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wholistic wellness Used with clinical assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of family to wholistic wellness Use of multiple reporters
Native Wellness Assessment	Thunderbird Partnership Foundation (Canada)	Indigenous Canadians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture as intervention in addictions treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culturally grounded Focuses on spirituality of First Nations