

# CHRD 2024: Abstract Submission Form

**Presenter Name**

Emily Brownell

**Presenter Status**

Masters Student

**Role in the project**

Design  
Analyze Data  
Write Abstract  
Data Collection

**Research Category**

Community Health / Policy

**Title**

First Nations women's perinatal care experiences in Northern Manitoba

**Background**

The colonial healthcare system and the removal of First Nations (FN) birthing parents from their communities for perinatal care causes fragmented and culturally unsafe care and a disproportionate number of adverse outcomes for FN parents and babies.

**Objective**

Our objective was to better understand the perinatal care experiences of FN birthing parents in Northern Manitoba to address and deconstruct systemic racism and improve models of person-centred, culturally safe care grounded in FN approaches to health.

**Methods**

Our work is integrated within a project partnered with the healthcare system, FN communities, and Indigenous health organizations. We co-developed a patient-reported experiences measures (PREMs) instrument grounded in a Two-Eyed Seeing framework. An FN Grandmother (Elder) and a graduate student facilitated Sharing Circles and conversational interviews with FN mothers and Elders to refine and validate a PREMs instrument that would describe the experiences of FN birthing parents receiving perinatal care. Transcripts were initially analyzed using NVivo, and participants took part in analyzing, interpreting, and presenting their stories.

**Results**

The stories, teachings, and recommendations shared by participants can be used by the healthcare system to better support FN families and to examine and address ongoing barriers, including racism, that FN birthing parents often face navigating the colonial healthcare system. Stories and recommendations will also be shared with Indigenous partner organizations. The results of this study will inform changes to the PREMs instrument, which will be used by the healthcare system to monitor parents' experiences and any improvements in the care provided to FN parents and their children.

**Conclusion**

Stories and participant recommendations will be returned to the larger project's partners to help deconstruct racism in the healthcare system. Sharing mothers' stories in partnership with FN communities and organizations will position the findings to positively impact perinatal care and help improve outcomes for FN families.

**Do you have a table/figure to upload?**

No

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