Examples of research on Aboriginal child health using Statistics Canada data

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Disclosure

Anne Guèvremont has no relevant financial relationships with the manufacturer(s) of commercial services discussed in this CME activity.

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Outline

• Examples of findings from work by the Health Analysis Division
  • Social determinants of health

• Examples of outcomes from Statistics Canada surveys
  • Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)
Social determinants of health

Source: World Health Organization, undated
See also: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/determinants/index-eng.php#determinants
Child in excellent or very good health (parent-rated)

- First Nations: 85%
- Métis: 87%
- Inuit: 77%
- Non-Aboriginal: 90%

## Social determinants of parent-rated excellent/very good health for off-reserve First Nations children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social determinant of health</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>0.82*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Education (high school graduation or higher)</td>
<td>1.23*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One person raising the child (vs 2)</td>
<td>0.56*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three or more people raising the child (vs 2)</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size</td>
<td>0.89*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income</td>
<td>1.05*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of times the child has moved (per year)</td>
<td>0.93*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very satisfied or satisfied with housing conditions</td>
<td>1.44*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent/very good/good health facilities</td>
<td>1.32*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child was breastfed</td>
<td>1.46*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecure household</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoker in the household</td>
<td>0.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Has ___ ever experienced being hungry because the family has run out of food or money to buy food?”

Housing conditions for Inuit children aged 2 to 5

Source: Statistics Canada, ACS, 2006; NLSCY 2006; Kohen, Bougie & Guèvremont (forthcoming). Health Reports
Outline

• Examples of findings from work by the Health Analysis Division
  • Social determinants of health

• Examples of outcomes from Statistics Canada surveys
  • Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)
Evaluation of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

• Purpose:
  1. to determine if previously established SDQ subscales are valid for Aboriginal children
  2. to determine if alternative subscales have higher reliability and validity

• Data: Aboriginal Children’s Survey (ACS), 2006
  – First Nations, Métis, Inuit children aged 2-5

• Analytic strategy:
  – Confirmatory/Exploratory Factor Analysis

Goodman SDQ factor structure for Aboriginal children

- **Prosocial**
  - Considerate
  - Shares
  - Helpful
  - Kind
  - Offers to help
  - **1 good friend**
  - **Liked**
  - Thinks before acting
  - Well behaved

- **Inattention/hyperactivity**
  - Restless, overactive
  - Thinks before acting
  - **Good att’n span**
  - Fidgets
  - Easily distracted

- **Emotional symptoms**
  - Headaches
  - Worries
  - Unhappy
  - Nervous, clingy
  - Many fears

- **Conduct Problems**
  - Loses temper
  - Well behaved
  - Fights, bullies
  - Argumentative
  - Spiteful

- **Peer problems**
  - Solitary
  - 1 good friend
  - Liked
  - Picked on
  - Adult-oriented

Summary

- Focus on the relationship between social determinants and health

- Importance of validating outcomes for Aboriginal children
General Limitations

- Coverage
  - ACS and APS do not include the on-reserve population
  - Aboriginal children under age 6

- Parent-reported

- No longitudinal data
Directions for future research

- APS 2012 Education and Employment
- Linked data e.g administrative data
- Further explorations of the social determinants for Aboriginal child health
Thanks!

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References

• Health of First Nations children living off reserve and Métis children younger than age 6

  Available at: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/82-003-x/2012001/article/11624-eng.htm

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  D. Kohen, E. Bougie, A. Guèvremont (forthcoming). Health Reports.

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  L. Oliver, L. Findlay, D. Kohen, and C. McIntosh (2009).
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