|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Research Presentation** (Sentence case)  Pathways linking housing conditions to Indigenous Peoples’ health: a knowledge synthesis of quantitative and qualitative research |
| **Authors: Karine Perreault, René Iwo, Michelle Maillet, Mylene Riva** |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)**  **Background/Objectives**  The particular situation of Indigenous peoples with regards to housing is a well-recognized yet chronic source of social and health inequity. Among Indigenous populations, epidemiological studies have documented associations between structural housing conditions (e.g., overcrowding) and infectious and chronic diseases and symptoms. Other studies have looked at housing-related psychosocial and cultural factors (e.g., control, identity) as potential mechanisms linking housing to health. We conducted a knowledge synthesis (KS) to assess the state of evidence linking housing and health for Indigenous Peoples in Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, and Nordic Countries.  **Methods**  A systematic review of quantitative and qualitative peer-reviewed literature was conducted following PRISMA guideline. The initial search of the literature yielded 5,564 unique studies, of which 73 quantitative and 31 qualitative studies were included in the KS. A narrative synthesis approach was adopted.  **Results**  Most of the quantitative studies used cross-sectional study design (68%). Structural housing conditions examined include overcrowding, household composition, repairs needed, and indoor air quality; their effects were mainly assessed in children and youth populations (55%), and in relation to respiratory outcomes (47%). Only three studies examined psychosocial factors associated with the home environment. Household overcrowding and composition were the variables most consistently associated with health outcomes, especially with respiratory health. KS of the qualitative studies identified five themes that should be considered as the context within which housing-related health inequities are generated: 1) the everyday experience of living in substandard housing as a chronic source of stress; 2) being housed and having a home as two distinct determinants of health, the latter being necessary for human development, cultural identity and sense of belonging; 3) the lack of services in remote Indigenous communities and related experiences of urban absolute and hidden homelessness; 4) the challenges of home ownership; and 5) evidence of colonialism, discrimination, and racism in public housing policies.  **Discussion**  These findings help to conceptualize housing needs and etiological connections between housing and health within the broader context of housing provision for Indigenous populations, construction and policies, and point to future areas of inquiries.  **Keywords**  Upstream determinant of health, housing, Indigenous health, systematic review |