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| **Title of Research Presentation** (Sentence case)Using children’s Environmental Health Indicators to monitor how the environment affects the health of New Zealand children |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives** A healthy environment is important for children’s health and wellbeing. Children are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of environmental exposures, as their bodies are still developing and their exposures are greater relative to their size and body weight than for adults. Globally, a quarter of all deaths and healthy years of life lost in children under five years are caused by modifiable environmental factors. This project produced a set of children’s environmental health indicators specifically to monitor the effect of the New Zealand environment on the health of children.**Methods**A three-stage process of scoping, selection, and design was used to develop a set of environmental health indicators. The environmental exposures of household crowding, second-hand smoke exposure, damp and mouldy housing, transport, hazardous substances, and drinking-water quality, were included, as well as causal health outcomes. The resulting indicators were assessed against a set of indicator selection criteria, including their public health impact. The utility of the final set of children’s environmental health indicators was examined. **Results**The indicators showed that the environment, particularly housing quality and availability, has some negative impacts on the health of New Zealand children. Māori and Pacific children, and those living in the most deprived areas, were most likely to experience adverse health effects relating to environmental exposures. **Discussion**This project demonstrated the importance of creating a robust set of environmental health indicators to show the impact of the environment on children’s health. Focusing specifically on vulnerable population groups is an important part of monitoring, as it provides evidence to inform targeted actions to reduce inequalities. A similar process of indicator development could be used to prioritise and select indicators for other jurisdictions. **Keywords**environmental health indicators, children’s environmental health, housing, household crowding, transport, hazardous substances, second-hand smoke, monitoring |