|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Research Presentation: Traditional knowledges and food security for Canadian Indigenous youth: Implications for planetary health** |
| **Background/Objectives**  Health care systems, governments, and communities agree that food insecurity is a major issue for Indigenous people in Canada, with highest vulnerability for children and youth. Food insecurity is a complex issue tied to many environmental, social and health outcomes. Youth account for over 25% of the overall Indigenous population in Canada are the fasted growing demographic of any group. Little research exists on the successes of Indigenous traditional knowledges in food security and how these are related to concrete health outcomes, such as life transitions in education and employment. Goals of the research include mobilizing Indigenous traditional healing knowledge to improve health care system change by focusing on traditional knowledge related to food.  **Methods**  This study fills these literature gaps by using an Indigenous qualitative research methodology that employs a community-based framework to ask: *What are the intersections of Indigenous knowledges, food insecurity, and life transition outcomes for Indigenous youth*? Focus groups with Indigenous youth, traditional knowledge keepers (such as Elders and Healers), and key community informants are the main sources of data with participants in a large Canadian city.  **Results**  Results and implications for health researchers include meta-themes of racism, access to traditional foods, decolonizing food, caring for the land, spirituality, and cultural identity.  **Discussion**  Results will contribute new insights to Indigenous health and traditional knowledges theories with understandings of the immediate and pressing food security issues facing these youth so that appropriate health and social services and policies can be mobilized and evaluated and more specific research into imminent key food security issues can be investigated. Extending these understandings to planetary health will be critical to raise the awareness and create change for both food systems and individuals. Results will contribute to research methodology, extending understanding of community-based and Indigenous research ethics and procedures, and food security programs and policies.  **Keywords**  **Indigenous food security; Indigenous health, Indigenous youth; Indigenous research methodology** |