



# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

REDUCING CHILD POVERTY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT: WHAT WORKS AND HOW

**2024**

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# FOREWORD

INRICH was established in Montreal in 2008 by Louise Seguin (Université de Montréal, School of Public Health, Canada) and Nick Spencer (University of Warwick, United Kingdom). It currently comprises over 172 active researchers, including leading specialists in the field of research on child health inequalities.

Over the past 16 years, the network has facilitated high-level workshops with the objective of establishing collaborative research projects and the publication of scientific articles, while maintaining its commitment to facilitating student exchanges with its members and working directly with policy-makers. The 15th workshop marked the third return to Montreal since the inception of the network and brings together academic researchers from this city and specialists from the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Australia, the United States, and South America.

This document highlights some takeaways from the 15th INRICH workshop. It is intended for our partners, government policy-makers, and other organizations dedicated to children's health, well-being, and development. It should not be viewed solely as a summary of the highlights of the 15th INRICH workshop. Rather, it is intended to aim for a broader impact, providing an overview, a state-of-the-art analysis, and a reference tool for anyone involved in promoting children's health and development. We hope our work will lift the next generation out of poverty and contribute to building a better future.

## EDITORS

Lise Gauvin  
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## WRITING BASED ON RECORDINGS OF PRESENTATIONS

Samuel Montière

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The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive analysis and recommendations to our valued partners and policy-makers who are committed to advancing social responsibility initiatives with the ultimate goal of reducing child poverty and improving child health and development. The issues raised in this report were those presented for discussion at the 15th INRICH Workshop, held in Montreal on 27-28 May 2007.

At the outset of this report, it was considered essential to review the prevailing trends in child poverty rates in Québec. The evidence suggests that the incidence of poverty has been reduced, at least in part, as a result of the social policies that have been implemented. However, it is clear that much remains to be done to maintain the progress that has been made.

## SUMMARY

The 15th INRICH workshop aims to take stock of current research on children's health and development. To this end, the following axes have been prioritized:

- **Societal measures to reduce child poverty**
- **Economics of poverty reduction**
- **Interventions at the family level**
- **How specific social policies either reduce or increase inequalities in health**
- **Research from Low-and Middle-Income countries**

In addition to the presentations in the various INRICH sessions, the event's highlights included the presentation of posters, the winners of the best scientific posters ones and the panel discussion, entitled "Rethinking how to reduce child poverty and mitigate its effects on children's health and development." The discussion featured three emblematic figures in health and wellness in Québec, who shared their professional experiences in acting on health inequalities among children. They also discussed the actions that are needed and those that remain to be implemented to achieve this goal.

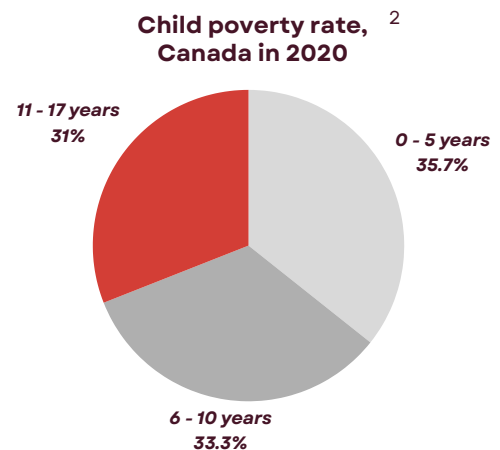
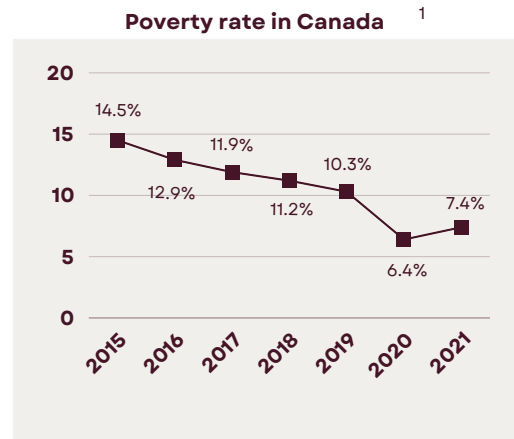


# KEY MESSAGE

## CHANGES IN CHILD POVERTY RATES IN QUEBEC

To what extent are children in Québec affected by poverty, and what is being done to improve the situation in the province? The 2023 census showed that the poverty rate in Canada was 6.4% in 2020, down from 14.5% in 2015. The poverty rate has fallen for all age groups, but especially for children. By 2020, children aged 0 to 5 (9.1%), children aged 6 to 10 (8.5%) and young people aged 11 to 17 (7.9%) were all less than half the level reached in 2015. The increase in government transfers in 2020, in particular the enhanced Canada Child Allowance (CCA) and temporary benefits linked to the pandemic, explain the fall in the poverty rate.<sup>3</sup>

Despite the progress made in reducing child poverty in Québec in recent years, there is still a great deal of work to be done to achieve the goal of completely eradicating child poverty. However, as the following portrait shows, the government's actions and sustained efforts are helping to improve the situation.



**In 2020, the poverty rate for lone-parent families headed by a woman with a child aged 0-5 was 31.3%, the highest of all family types and more than five times higher than the rate for couple families with a child of the same age (6.0%).**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2023021-fra.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-X/2021009/98-200-X2021009-fra.cfm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/hcp/child-poverty.aspx/>  
<https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/18/06/quebec-shows-way-fight-child-poverty>  
<https://irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Lifting-Singles-Out-of-Deep-Poverty-The-Case-for-Increasing-Social-Assistance-Benefits.pdf>

The period from 1990 to 2000 is particularly interesting in this context. During the 1990s, child poverty in Québec reached alarming levels due to a confluence of factors, including economic recessions and measures to reduce public spending. Despite the commitment made by the Canadian Parliament in 1989 to eliminate child poverty by 2000, the situation deteriorated in the mid-1990s. For example, the child poverty rate in Canada rose from 12.8% in the 1990s to 15.1% at the end of the 2000s.

Since the 2000s, however, efforts have been made to remedy the problem. Québec has distinguished itself by creating social programs such as universal childcare services and generous family benefits, which have considerably reduced child poverty in the province.

These measures have enabled Québec to maintain one of the lowest poverty rates in the country, even though household incomes have remained relatively lower.

Family support measures and increases in the minimum wage have played a positive role in some improvements. However, despite this progress, disparities remain, and some regions continue to suffer from poverty.

Québec's family policies have played an important role in the overall reduction of child poverty, but they have not decisively reduced inequalities.

**The years 2000-2010 were marked by a degree of stability, with child poverty rates fluctuating but generally falling.**



Over the period 2010-2020, constant efforts have been made to reduce child poverty in Québec. In general, child poverty rates have tended to fall, although regional and socio-economic inequalities have persisted. During this period, Québec continued to fight against child poverty.

Measures included:

- 1. Increased child benefit**
- 2. Support programs for low-income families**
- 3. Affordable housing programs.**

These measures appear to have had a beneficial effect, leading to an overall reduction in child poverty rates. Nevertheless, despite this progress, regional and socio-economic inequalities have persisted, underlining the importance of continuing efforts to address these disparities.

## For the period 2020 - 2024



The economic crisis and disruptions to jobs and support systems have had a major impact on child poverty, leading to temporary increases in rates as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency measures, such as emergency assistance services, have mitigated some of the negative effects, but it will be necessary

to continue to support families after the crisis in order to stabilise and reduce child poverty rates in Québec.

Child poverty rates in Québec were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families faced financial instability due to the disruption caused by the pandemic, leading to a temporary increase in poverty rates. However, emergency measures such as increased employment insurance benefits and housing assistance played a crucial role in preventing a further increase in poverty.

These measures stabilized the situation of many families, providing them with much-needed support during the most difficult moments of the crisis. As the pandemic progressed, the Québec government introduced additional measures to reduce poverty and support low-income households. These included targeted financial assistance, measures to control inflation and initiatives to improve access to housing. Despite these efforts, challenges remained, including ensuring that recovery initiatives reached the most vulnerable populations and addressing regional disparities. Efforts to support families have continued during the recovery phase, but the long-term success of these measures will depend on further policy changes to address the underlying inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.

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## In conclusion

In the post-pandemic context, the question of whether children can escape poverty has some definitive answers, because we have evidence how to do it. As indicated by the effects of the programs put in place from 1990 to the present day to reduce poverty, it is clear that efforts made by various governments through interventions for the well-being of children have had a positive effect on reducing the poverty that affects them. Nonetheless, additional efforts and coordinated action are still needed.





The International Network for Research on Inequalities in Child Health ([INRICH](#)) provides a cutting-edge forum for scientific knowledge exchanges on child health and social inequalities and equity. The mission of INRICH is to share and advance knowledge and research into :

- **Inequalities in child health and well-being**
- **Social equity in child health and well-being**
- **Child policy for child health and well-being**

by establishing a scientific community in which research priorities can be identified, collaborative projects established, and new researchers encouraged. In fulfilling this mission, INRICH has held 15 workshops since 2008 and continues to share research and ideas among its members throughout the year.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The organizers of the 15th workshop would like to express their gratitude to the speakers and poster presenters, the INRICH members who attended this year's workshop, and the students who provided volunteer logistic support during the 15th INRICH workshop.

Furthermore, the success of this event would not have been possible without the valuable contributions of our partners. In particular, we would like to acknowledge contributions of the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal Research Center (CRCHUM) and the Université de Montréal School of Public Health (ESPUM) and of the Université de Montréal Vice-Rectorate for Research, as well as the Fondation Lucie & André Chagnon (FLAC), the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux (MSSS), the Centre Intégré Universitaire de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) Centre-Sud de l'Île-de Montréal, the Université de Montréal (UdeM), the Centre de recherche Léa-Roback sur les inégalités sociales de santé de Montréal (CLR), the Multisectorial Urban Systems for Health and Equity in Canadian Cities Team (MUSE), the Observatory for Children's Education and Health (OPES), and the Perinatal Research Network.



# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCCH	Centre communautaire pour la santé des enfants/Centre for Community Child Health
CIUSSS	Centre Intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux
CLR	Centre de recherche Léa-Roback sur les inégalités sociales de santé de Montréal
CHU	Centre hospitalier universitaire
CHUM	Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal
CPE	Centre de la petite enfance
CRCHUM	Centre de recherche du CHUM
DEEP	Département de l'équité, de l'éthique et des politiques
ESPUM	École de santé publique de l'Université de Montréal
FLAC	Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon
GRIP	Groupe de recherche sur l'inadaptation psychosociale chez l'enfant
INRICH	Réseau international pour la recherche sur les inégalités en matière de santé des enfants/International Network for Research on Inequalities in Child Health
LMIC	Low-and-Middle Income Countries
MSSS	Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux
MUSE	Multisectorial Urban Systems for Health and Equity in Canadian Cities / Multisectorielles et urbaines : Santé et équité dans les villes canadiennes
OPES	Observatoire pour l'éducation et la santé des enfants
UCD	Collège universitaire de Dublin/University College Dublin
UdeM	Université de Montréal
UQAM	Université du Québec à Montréal



Takeaways



Questions raised



Video's link



Powerpoint presentation's link



# REDUCING CHILD POVERTY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT: WHAT WORKS AND HOW?

May 27 - 28, 2024

Organized collaboratively by INRICH members Lise Gauvin and Sylvana Côté who are both professors at the École de santé publique de l'Université de Montréal (ESPUM) and members of the Observatory for Children's Education and Health (OPES) along with Nick Spencer and Louise Séguin from INRICH, the 15th annual INRICH workshop was hosted at the Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM) - Montréal, Québec, Canada

## INTRODUCTION

Increasing amounts of data demonstrate that large numbers of children and young people worldwide are exposed to poverty which in turn hampers health and development. Ongoing research is disentangling the processes through which poverty and economic hardships undermine health and development. There is consensus that implementing and evaluating evidence-based interventions is a promising direction to address this public health issue. Yet, there is limited research on the types, scale, and spread of programs and policies required to mitigate the negative effects of these adversities but more importantly how to prevent adversity and its consequences all together.

The focus of the 15th INRICH interdisciplinary workshop will be on what is known about what works to reduce child poverty and how poverty reduction interventions can successfully improve health and development.

By bringing together an international group of clinicians, researchers, and policymakers to discuss what works and how to reduce child poverty and improve health and development, we hope to contribute to catalyzing more intervention research, which can orient action across different sectors including health, education, municipalities, and recreation.



15th INRICH WORKSHOP participants, Montreal, Agora of the CRCHUM





## SYNTHESIS AND RECOMMANDATIONS

Through the various presentations offered by speakers, the most effective strategies to eradicate child poverty are public policies of resource redistribution to reduce family and child poverty. These include policies to increase the income for families with young children, family support policies, access to universal child care programs at low cost, access to quality education, and targeted community interventions. These approaches facilitate the provision of equal opportunities for children, thereby enabling them and their family to “escape” poverty. Indeed, the implementation of family benefit programs and affordable childcare services would serve to alleviate the financial burden on families. Furthermore, early education initiatives and transition to school programs are designed to enhance the school readiness of children as a whole. It is also imperative to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration between the health, education, and social services sectors to provide comprehensive support to families facing adversity.

The implementation of enhanced childcare policies for low-income families, accompanied by the provision of financial subsidies and assistance, represents a crucial step in addressing the challenges faced by this demographic. It is recommended that subsidies for childcare services be increased in order to reduce costs for low-income families and thereby enhance accessibility to these services. The quality of the services provided is also a significant factor to consider. It is imperative that educators receive adequate training and professional development to ensure the provision of high-quality childcare services, which is crucial for children's optimal development. The ability to schedule flexible hours is a crucial aspect of any childcare arrangement. It would be beneficial for childcare facilities to offer flexible options, including extended hours and emergency childcare, in order to better accommodate the needs of parents who work irregular hours.

It is recommended that social responsibility initiatives be established to provide support for educational and health programs for children from low-income families. Partnerships with local organizations should also be formed. It would also be beneficial for the private sector to collaborate with NGOs and community organizations with the goal of funding projects that improve access to childcare and education.



It is recommended that employment opportunities be created for parents, accompanied by training and professional development programs, with the objective of improving their economic situation and that of their children.

A number of countries have implemented measures to enhance accessibility to childcare services. One such example is Sweden, where the government has introduced a subsidized childcare system that ensures the availability of high-quality services at affordable rates for all families. This has led to a notable increase in the participation of women in the workforce. France has implemented accessible childcare policies, with financial aid and public childcare structures, allowing low-income families to easily access services of a quality that meets their needs. In Canada, the province of Québec (1) has developed low-cost childcare models, supported by its government subsidies, promoting access for low-income families and improving equality of opportunity.

The 15th INRICH workshop underscored the necessity of an intersectoral approach to diminish child poverty and enhance children's health and development. The discussions underscored the pivotal role of public policies, the caliber of childcare services, and early education in the struggle against inequalities. To ensure a lasting impact, it is essential to continue investing in evidence-based programs and foster collaboration between the various stakeholders involved.

The issue of how best to support children's full development is a topic of considerable interest in Québec and beyond. This is evidenced by the recent publication of several reports on the subject in Québec, including the Montréal Director of Public Health's report [La santé et le développement des enfants montréalais](#) and the report by the Observatoire des tout-petits, [Dans quels environnements grandissent les tout-petits au Québec ?](#)

(1) Québec was the only province in Canada to provide a universal low cost day care program up to last year.

**a** [https://ccsmtlpro.ca/actualite/rapport-de-la-directrice-de-sante-publique-la-sante-et-le-developpement-des-enfants-montrealais?](https://ccsmtlpro.ca/actualite/rapport-de-la-directrice-de-sante-publique-la-sante-et-le-developpement-des-enfants-montrealais?utm_source=Institut+national+de+sant%C3%A9+publique+du+Qu%C3%A9bec&utm_campaign=ab86c45dfe-POL_PUBL_2024_11_06&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b5d9f3a57e-ab86c45dfe-432821134)  
utm\_source=Institut+national+de+sant%C3%A9+publique+du+Qu%C3%A9bec&utm\_campaign=ab86c45dfe-POL\_PUBL\_2024\_11\_06&utm\_medium=email&utm\_term=0\_b5d9f3a57e-ab86c45dfe-432821134

**b** [https://tout-petits.org/publications/portraits/portrait-environnements-2024/?utm\\_campaign=portrait2024&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=tout-petits&utm\\_content=infolettre](https://tout-petits.org/publications/portraits/portrait-environnements-2024/?utm_campaign=portrait2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=tout-petits&utm_content=infolettre)

# SESSION 1 : SOCIETAL MEASURES TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY

## CAN WE ERADICATE CHILD POVERTY AND REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES?

David GORDON, Professorial Research Fellow in Social Justice, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, United Kingdom



## HELD BACK BY INEQUALITY: HOW ECONOMIC INEQUALITY SHAPES CHILDREN'S HEALTH, WELLBEING AND LIFE CHANCES AND WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING ABOUT IT?

Kate PICKETT, Professor of epidemiology, Health Sciences, University of York, York, United Kingdom



## CHILD POVERTY IN QUEBEC AFTER 22 YEARS OF THE ACT TO COMBAT POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Amélie QUESNEL-VALLÉE, Director, McGill Observatory on Health and Social Services Reforms; Canada Research Chair in Policies and Health Inequalities, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

## FOR WHOM AND UNDER WHICH CIRCUMSTANCES CAN CHILD CARE SERVICES IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES?

Sylvana CÔTÉ, Professor, School of public Health, Université de Montréal, researcher at the CHU Ste-Justine, Montréal, Québec, Canada



**CAN WE ERADICATE CHILD POVERTY AND REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES ?**

DAVID GORDON, Professorial Research Fellow in Social Justice, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

**Eradicating child poverty and reducing health inequalities are achievable goals that do not require major scientific advances**

The eradication of child poverty and the reduction of health inequalities are achievable goals without the need for additional scientific advances. The ideas of redistribution of resources and the welfare state have been around for a very long time. Inequalities in health and child poverty are global problems that require political will to solve. Education is essential to change mentalities and promote a more egalitarian society.



- The ideas of resource redistribution and the welfare state have been around for a long time
- Health inequalities and child poverty are global problems that require political will to solve
- Education is essential to change mentalities and promote a more egalitarian society



- What measures are needed to improve living conditions for children around the world?
- How can wealth inequalities be reduced to promote equitable development?
- What concrete solutions can be put in place to eradicate child poverty and improve child health worldwide?

**HELD BACK BY INEQUALITY: HOW ECONOMIC INEQUALITY SHAPES CHILDREN'S HEALTH, WELLBEING AND LIFE CHANCES AND WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING ABOUT IT?**

Kate PICKETT, Professor of epidemiology, Health Sciences, University of York, York, United Kingdom

**Economic inequality and its impact on children's health**

The relationship between economic inequality and children's health is a topic of significant importance. It is crucial to understand the impact of income inequality on poverty and the subsequent psychological and social disparities that arise from these inequalities. Political action is essential to combat these inequalities and to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all.



- Income equality is an important feature in relation to poverty
- Inequalities affect the whole of society, creating psychological and social disparities
- Political action to combat inequalities and tackling inequalities for a more equitable and sustainable future



- What impact does educational inequality have on society?
- How can we combat inequality to promote the well-being of children and the planet?

### **CHILD POVERTY IN QUÉBEC AFTER 22 YEARS OF THE ACT TO COMBAT POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

Amélie QUESNEL-VALLÉE, Director, McGill Observatory on Health and Social Services Reforms; Canada Research Chair in Policies and Health Inequalities, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

#### **Significant drop in child poverty by 2020 due to governments measures**

The province of Québec has demonstrated considerable success in reducing child poverty through the implementation of ambitious legislative measures. By the year 2020, it is anticipated that there will be a significant decline in the prevalence of child poverty and an impact of the work-family interface on the mental health of parents and children.



- There has been political success in Québec in reducing child poverty through ambitious legislation
- There are ongoing concerns about children's mental health linked to food insecurity
- The work-family interface impacts the mental health of parents and children



- How is the Market Basket Measure used to assess poverty in Québec?
- What are the worrying trends in adolescent mental health in Québec?
- How are Québec's public health authorities tackling mental health problems among young people?

**FOR WHOM AND UNDER WHICH CIRCUMSTANCES CAN CHILD CARE SERVICES IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES?**

Sylvana CÔTÉ, Professor, School of public Health, Université de Montréal, researcher at the CHU Ste-Justine, Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Childcare policy in Quebec aims to reduce social inequalities**

The childcare policy in Québec has the objective of reducing social inequalities. It is well established that early childhood education can improve socio-emotional and educational outcomes. Furthermore, it is evident that publicly funded childcare services offer a higher quality of care than private ones. However, despite the advantages of female employment, issues of stress remain. It is therefore clear that investment in quality educational structures is essential for equality.



- Early childhood education can improve socio-emotional and educational outcomes
- In Québec, publicly funded childcare services offer better quality than private ones
- Childcare policies support women's participation in the workforce, but issues of high stress remain omnipresent for women
- Investment in quality educational structures is essential for equity



- What impact does early childhood education have on reducing social and educational inequalities?
- How state-funded childcare services compare with private services in terms of quality?



## SESSION 2A : ECONOMICS OF POVERTY REDUCTION

### REDUCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITY THROUGH EARLY INTERVENTION: EVIDENCE FROM IRELAND



Orla DOYLE, Professor, School of Economics and Research Fellow at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, Dublin, Ireland

### QUEBEC CHILDCARE AT 25: ECONOMICS TAKEAWAYS



Pierre FORTIN, Emeritus Professor, Department of Economic Science, UQAM, Montréal, Québec, Canada

### THE LONG-RUN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION: EVIDENCE FROM A RANDOMIZED EXPERIMENT ON POOR MONTREAL KID



Yan ALGAN, Doyen associé des programmes pré-expérience et professeur d'économie, HEC, Paris, France

## SESSION 2B : INTERVENTIONS AT FAMILY LEVEL

### POVERTY TO INVESTMENT: WHAT'S REALLY NEEDED FOR FAMILIES TO CLOSE THE CHILD EQUITY GAP



Sharon GOLDFELD, Director, Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) the Royal Children's Hospital, Co-Group leader of Policy and Equity, and Theme Director, Population health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia

### LEARNING FROM THE EXPERTS: TAKING A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WORKS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF POVERTY



Josie DICKERSON, Director - Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub and Bradford Inequalities Research, University of Bradford, Bradford, United Kingdom

## REDUCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITY THROUGH EARLY INTERVENTION: EVIDENCE FROM IRELAND

Orla DOYLE, , Professor, School of Economics and Research Fellow at the UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, Dublin, Ireland

### Intervention program to reduce children social inequalities: a 17 year study in Ireland

In this program, women from the target communities were recruited at the maternity hospital. On average, they were about 20 weeks pregnant when they started participating.

A 17-year study in Ireland revealed that an intervention program designed to reduce social inequalities in children has lasting effects on children's cognitive skills up to age 9 years. The intensive home-visiting program yielded significant results, demonstrating a positive impact on cognitive skills, executive functioning, and school performance. The program's cost-effectiveness, coupled with its long-term economic benefits, makes it a promising intervention. However, measuring the effects on children's emotional skills and health remains a challenge.



- A home-visiting program developed in Ireland has effects on children's cognitive skills up to age 9
- The program can have positive impact on cognitive skills, executive functioning and school performance
- The programs have long-term economic benefits and can be cost-effective
- Measuring effects on children's emotional skills and health is challenging



- How has the home visiting program helped to reduce social inequalities among children in Ireland?
- What effects are observed on children's cognitive skills at different ages?

## QUEBEC CHILDCARE AT 25: ECONOMICS TAKEAWAYS

Pierre FORTIN, Emeritus Professor, Department of Economic Science, UQAM, Montréal, Québec, Canada

### Investing in childcare in Québec has had a positive impact on the economy and on equal opportunities for women

The Québec childcare model, which was launched in 1997 and funded with provincial money, has resulted in an increase in women's participation rates in the workforce and a reduction in the wage gap. However, there are still challenges to be addressed, including the expansion of childcare spaces and the improvement of service quality. The positive impact on the economy and women's well-being justifies investment in childcare. Indeed, investing in childcare in Québec has had a positive impact on the economy and equal opportunities for women.



- The Québec childcare model, launched in 1997, was funded with the government of Québec funds
- The Québec's childcare system has led to an increase in rates of women's participation in the workforce and a reduction in the wage gap
- Current challenges include expanding childcare spaces and improving the quality of services
- The positive impact on the economy and women's well-being justifies investment in childcare



- What is the hourly wage gap between men and women in Québec?
- How has the Québec childcare model been financed, and what are its economic implications?
- What is the trend in women's participation in the Québec labor market?

### **THE LONG-RUN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION: EVIDENCE FROM A RANDOMIZED EXPERIMENT ON POOR MONTREAL KID**

Yan ALGAN, Associate Dean of pre-experience programs and Professor of economics, HEC, Paris, France

#### **The study shows a reduction in crime, an increase in diplomas and income**

The intervention under examination focuses on improving non-cognitive skills. The impact of the study indicates a reduction in crime, an increase in diplomas and income. The intervention improved participants' confidence and social skills. Results demonstrated significant long-term economic benefits and an interdisciplinary approach is essential for this type of research.



- The intervention focused on improving non-cognitive skills
- The intervention improved participants' confidence and social skills
- Results showed significant long-term economic benefits
- An interdisciplinary approach is essential for this type of research



- What is the impact of the intervention on the children's social skills, as assessed by various stakeholders?
- What impact has the intervention had on reducing crime and increasing participants' incomes?
- How has the intervention influenced children's perspective-taking and their interpretation of other people's behavior?



### **POVERTY TO INVESTMENT: WHAT'S REALLY NEEDED FOR FAMILIES TO CLOSE THE CHILD EQUITY GAP**

Sharon GOLDFELD, Director, Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) the Royal Children's Hospital, Co-Group leader of Policy and Equity, and Theme Director, Population HEALTH AT THE MURDOCH CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

#### **Investment in poverty reduction is crucial to closing the equity gap for children**

Investment in poverty reduction is of paramount importance in order to bridge the equity gap for children. Programs that provide financial assistance to families can have a positive impact on parents' mental health and children's outcomes. The "stacking" approach to interventions for children, which involves combining multiple services, can be effective in improving equity. It is essential to invest sufficient resources in order to ensure program success and to use data to drive system change. These strategies can help to improve outcomes for children and families.



- Programs aimed at giving money to families can have a positive impact on parents' mental health and children's outcomes
- The "stacking" approach to interventions for children, combining multiple services, can be effective in improving equity
- It is essential to invest sufficient resources to ensure program success, and to use data to drive system change



- What is the impact of randomized controlled trials on parental well-being and child outcomes?
- How can investment in poverty reduction help close the equity gap for children?
- How can investment in interventions for disadvantaged families help close the equity gap and improve outcomes for children?

**LEARNING FROM THE EXPERTS: TAKING A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WORKS TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF POVERTY**

Josie DICKERSON, Director - Better Start Bradford Innovation Hub and Bradford Inequalities Research, University of Bradford, Bradford, United Kingdom

**Analysis of population groups shows specific vulnerabilities and strengths to be considered in interventions**

This presentation examines the ongoing interventions and research programs implemented in Bradford with the objective of improving children's health. It highlights the existence of socio-economic and health disparities within the community and emphasizes the importance of community involvement and flexible interventions. Furthermore, it demonstrates how cultural, religious, and linguistic factors must be taken into account to adapt programs to the specific needs of the population. Finally, the analysis of population groups reveals specific vulnerabilities and strengths that must be considered in interventions.



- Ongoing interventions and research programs are being carried out in Bradford to improve children's health
- There are persistent socio-economic and health disparities within the community
- Community involvement and flexible interventions are key to impact
- Cultural, religious and linguistic factors must be taken into account to adapt programs



- What are the key factors in loneliness and lack of social support?
- How are community interventions adapted to the specific needs of ethnic minority families?
- How can the region in which you live influence your social well-being?





# SESSION 3 : HOW SPECIFIC SOCIAL POLICIES EITHER REDUCE OR INCREASE INEQUALITIES IN HEALTH

## **CHANGING TIME AND CHANGING DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: CAN OUR UNDERSTANDINGS KEEP UP?**

Arjumand SIDDIQI, Professor, Division Head of Epidemiology, and Canada Research Chair in Population Health Equity at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto

## **SOCIAL POLICY, CHILD POVERTY AND CHILD OUTCOMES IN THE UK**



Kitty STEWART, Associate professor of social policy and associate director of the Centre for analysis of social exclusion, Department of sociology, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom

## **INEQUALITIES IN CHILD HEALTH: PATHWAYS, POVERTY AND POLICY ENTRY POINTS**



David TAYLOR-ROBINSON, W.H Duncan Professor of Public Health and Policy, Liverpool, United Kingdom

## **HOW PERIODIC EDI SURVEYS CATALYZED INTERSECTORIAL ACTIONS TO PROMOTE CHILD TIMELINE EXPLORATION OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS**



Catherine DEA, Medical Director - Youth 0-25 years old, Montréal regional Public Health department, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

## **DESIGNING SOCIAL POLICIES TO SUSTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR POVERTY REDUCTION**



Olivier JACQUES, Assistant professor, School of Public Health, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

### **CHANGING TIME AND CHANGING DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: CAN OUR UNDERSTANDINGS KEEP UP?**

Arjumand SIDDIQI, Professor, Division Head of Epidemiology, and Canada Research Chair in Population Health Equity at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto

#### **Importance of not losing sight of the complexity of social and historical processes in policy analysis**

This analysis examines the effects of social policies on children's health. It also considers the phases of the literature on this subject and the evolution of methods for evaluating specific social policies. Furthermore, it assesses the impact of social reforms on maternal health and highlights the importance of not losing sight of the complexity of social and historical processes in policy analysis.



- Analyzing the effects of social policies on children's health must be multifaceted
- Issues have been approached in different phases and there had been an evolution of methods for evaluating specific social policies
- Selected social reforms have impacted maternal health



- What impact and how has the Canada Child Benefit policy had on food insecurity among young children?
- What are the positive benefits on maternal and child health resulting from the Earned Income Tax Credit?

### **SOCIAL POLICY, CHILD POVERTY AND CHILD OUTCOMES IN THE UK**

Kitty STEWART, Associate professor of social policy and associate director of the Centre for analysis of social exclusion, Department of sociology, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom

#### **Current challenges: Changes in social policy in the united kingdom and outcomes for children**

This presentation examines the impact of social policy changes in the United Kingdom on children and families. It considers the allocation of resources for benefits and services, the effects of reforms on social security, and the outcomes for children. It finds that there has been a downward and then an upward trend in child poverty, an increase in child obesity in some areas, and a need for investment and redistribution in the fight against poverty.



- Changes in social policy in the UK :
  - 1) Study of spending and outcomes for children
  - 2) Investment in benefits and services for families
  - 3) Impact of reforms on social security
- Changes in outcomes for children :
  - 1) Downward, then upward trend in child poverty
  - 2) Increase in child obesity in some areas
  - 3) Importance of investment and redistribution in the fight against poverty
- Current challenges :
  - 1) Reduced family benefits and health services
  - 2) Impact on inequalities and children's health
  - 3) Need for effective social policies to support families



- What are the main factors influencing the evolution of child poverty over the years in England and the UK?
- What are the trends in child poverty and obesity in certain areas, and what measures have been taken to tackle them?
- What role has investment in family benefits and services played in tackling child poverty?

### **INEQUALITIES IN CHILD HEALTH : PATHWAYS, POVERTY AND POLICY ENTRY POINTS**

David TAYLOR-ROBINSON, W.H Duncan Professor of Public Health and Policy, Liverpool, United Kingdom

#### **Budget cuts have led to an increase in poverty among children in the UK**

The implementation of budget cuts has led to an increase in child poverty and further widened the gap in health inequalities among children in the United Kingdom. A comparative analysis of austerity and health policies between different countries is essential for understanding the effects of policies on health.



- Macroeconomic policies have an impact on health inequalities
- There is a need for concrete action to reduce poverty and reinvest in social services
- Giving children a voice in political decision-making is important



- What are the impacts of health inequalities on children and adults in the United Kingdom?
- What are the factors and what is the role of macroeconomic policies in the decline in life expectancy in the UK, particularly among women in disadvantaged areas of the United Kingdom?

### HOW PERIODIC EDI SURVEYS CATALYZED INTERSECTORIAL ACTIONS TO PROMOTE CHILD TIMELINE EXPLORATION OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS

Catherine DEA, Medical Director - Youth 0-25 years old, Montréal Public Health Regional department, Montréal, Québec, Canada

#### Local data analysis as a powerful tool for mobilizing communities

Local data analysis is a valuable tool for mobilizing communities. It is essential to recognize the importance of intersectoral action in order to improve child development. A combined approach that integrates research data, surveillance, and monitoring is recommended. Furthermore, it is crucial to conduct comparisons between Montréal and the rest of Québec in order to assess inequalities. Finally, it is vital to recognize the significance of quality childcare services.



- Intersectoral action is critical to improve child development
- An approach combining research data, surveillance and monitoring is recommended
- Comparisons between Montréal and the rest of Québec is helpful in assessing inequalities
- Quality childcare services are pivotal for child health



- What are the main priority issues defined by the results found with over 20 organizations in Montréal?
- How can early development tools positively influence children's growth?

### DESIGNING SOCIAL POLICIES TO SUSTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Olivier JACQUES, Assistant professor, School of Public Health, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

#### Effective redistribution requires a balance between universalism and targeting, while taking into account public perception and the resilience of social policies

In order for redistribution policies to be effective, they must aim for universalism. Targeted benefits are less resilient during periods of austerity. It is therefore important to communicate the results of redistribution policies in order to mobilize public opinion. The level of taxation and the size of benefits are crucial to the redistribution process. Universal programs are more sustainable than those that target only the poor. In order to maintain the willingness to pay, it is essential to consider public trust and the quality of services. Effective redistribution requires a balance between universalism and targeting, while taking into account public perception and the resilience of social policies.



- To be effective, redistribution policies must aim for universalism
- Targeted benefits are less resilient during austerity
- Communication of results must mobilize public opinion
- Tax levels and the size of benefits are crucial to redistribution
- Universal programs are more sustainable than those targeting only the poor
- Public trust and service quality are essential to maintain willingness to pay



- How can the targeted welfare state increase polarization between rich and poor?
- What role does communicate results play in mobilizing public opinion?





# SESSION 4A : RESEARCH FROM LOW-AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

## MEASURING THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL POLICIES ON CHILD HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN LMICS



Gonzalo MORENO, Senior analyst at the World Policy Analysis centre, Public Policies, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Jody HEYMAN, Distinguished Professor of Public Health; founding director of the World Policy Analysis Center; University of California, Los Angeles, United States of America

## IMPACT OF POVERTY ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH: EVIDENCE FROM LOW-AND-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (LMIC)



Marilyn AHUN, Assistant Professor, Department of medicine, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, CANADA

## DECOMPOSING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN CHILD UNDERNUTRITION IN INDIA



Arijit NANDI, Associate Professor jointly appointed at the Institute for Health and social policy and the Department of epidemiology, biostatistics and occupational health; Research Chair in the Political Economy of Global Health, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

**MEASURING THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL POLICIES ON CHILD HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN LMICS**

Gonzala MORENO, Senior analyst at the World Policy Analysis centre, Public Policies, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Jody HEYMANN, Distinguished Professor of Public Health; founding director of the World Policy Analysis Center; University of California, Los Angeles, United States of America

**importance of health and social policies for children's well-being**

A discussion of the significance of health and social policies for children's well-being in middle income countries was held. Subsequently, studies were presented on the impact of policies on reducing child wasting. The effects of policies on child marriage and access to education were explored. It was identified that access to detailed data on child labor would be beneficial for more in-depth studies. Additionally, there was a suggestion that collaboration could be undertaken to study the impact of policies on child labor and other policy areas. Finally, a call was made for collaboration on in-depth studies of social and health policies.



- Presentation of studies on the impact of policies on reducing child stunting
- Exploration of the effects of policies on child marriage and access to education
- Need access to detailed data on child labor for more in-depth studies
- Possible collaboration to study the impact of policies on child labor and other policy areas



- What impact do health and social policies have on children's well-being in middle-income countries?
- How can policies help reduce child wasting?
- What are the effects of social and health policies on child well-being in middle-income countries?

**IMPACT OF POVERTY ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH: EVIDENCE FROM LOW-AND-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (LMIC)**

Marilyn AHUN, Assistant Professor, Department of medicine, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Young people's mental health is influenced by socio-economic and family factors**

The transfer of cash to individuals living in poverty can have an impact on their mental health. Studies have yielded mixed results regarding the effectiveness of cash transfers. Socioeconomic and family factors influence the mental health of young people. Interventions that promote parenthood and mental health, when combined, could improve outcomes for children. Future research should focus on the mechanisms and long-term effects of interventions.



- Cash transfers can have a positive impact on the mental health of young people living in poverty
- Studies show mixed results on the effectiveness of cash transfers
- Combined interventions to promote parenthood and mental health could improve outcomes for children
- Future research should focus on the mechanisms and long-term effects of interventions



- What are the impacts of cash transfers on young people's mental health according to systematic reviews?
- How do socio-economic and family factors influence young people's mental health?
- What are the main challenges faced by cash transfer programs in improving young people's mental health, according to systematic reviews?

### **DECOMPOSING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN CHILD UNDERNUTRITION IN INDIA**

Arijit NANDI, Associate Professor jointly appointed at the Institute for Health and social policy and the Department of epidemiology, biostatistics and occupational health; Research Chair in the Political Economy of Global Health, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

#### **Importance of interventions to reduce social inequalities in child health**

This presentation examines the macroeconomic determinants of health, social inequality and child nutrition, and discusses interventions on social determinants. Causal mediation methods are employed to assess the efficacy of interventions in reducing social inequalities in child health.



- Macroeconomic determinants of health are associated with health inequality
- Social inequalities are associated with child nutrition
- Causal mediation methods are useful in evaluating interventions



- How do social determinants influence child nutrition, and what interventions hold promise for reducing social inequalities in this area?
- Discussions on social intervention to mitigate social inequalities and children's health in India were addressed. What specific social interventions are recommended to improve children's health in India?
- Do social determinants influence child nutrition, and how does this manifest itself in social inequalities?

# SESSION 4B : STUDENTS AND PHD FELLOWS - ORAL PRESENTATION AMONG THE POSTERS

## **INCOME BASED INEQUALITIES IN HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON HEALTH SERVICES IN CANADA**

Emmanuelle ARPIN, Postdoctoral Fellow in Health Services Research, Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy (DEEP), School of Public and Global Health, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

## **NARROWING THE SOCIOECONOMIC SCHOOL READINESS GAP VIA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES**



Ophélie, COLLET, Doctoral candidate in public health, school of public health, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

## **INEQUITIES IN THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANT VERSUS AUSTRALIAN BORN WOMEN IN THE PERINATAL PERIOD DURING RAPID COVID-19 POLICY SHIFTS: A QUALITATIVE STUDY WITH AN EQUITY LENS**



Ashleigh, SHIPTON, PhD Candidate, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia



Winners of the inrich poster awards :  
**Emmanuelle Arpin, Ophélie Collet and Ashleigh Shipton**

**INCOME BASED INEQUALITIES IN HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON HEALTH SERVICES IN CANADA**

EMMANUELLE ARPIN, Postdoctoral Fellow in Health Services Research, Department of Equity, Ethics and Policy (DEEP), School of Public and Global Health, McGill University, Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Income inequality and household spending in Canada**

Low-income households spend a greater proportion of their income on excluded health services. This results in a greater risk of low financial protection for low-income households. A study of households with children and specific programs was conducted to understand the inequalities in access to healthcare. Regression models were used to identify the factors influencing the financial risk for households with children. The impact of the burden of disease on expenditure was also considered. Finally, a similar distribution of use of free services was observed among low-income households.



- Low-income households spend more on excluded health services
- There is a risk of low financial protection for low-income households
- Policies should aim to reduce financial risk for households with children



- What are the descriptive trends in financial protection as a function of household income?
- What are the differences between the budget approach and the ability-to-pay approach to household financial protection?

**NARROWING THE SOCIOECONOMIC SCHOOL READINESS GAP VIA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES**

Ophélie COLLET, Doctoral candidate in public health, school of public health, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Inequalities persist despite quality childcare**

The significance of preparing children for school is underscored, as it is linked to academic success and future income. Childcare services influence children's readiness for school. Educational programs such as CPE and Passe-Partout facilitate the preschool-school transition. Inequalities persist despite quality childcare. It is essential to reduce long-term inequalities by examining factors associated with school readiness. Childcare plays a crucial role in preparing children for school, but inequalities persist despite educational programs.





- Preparing children for school is linked to academic success and future income
- Childcare services influence children's readiness for school
- Educational programs such as CPE and Passe-Partout facilitate the preschool-school transition
- There is a need to reduce long-term inequalities by examining factors associated with school readiness



- How important is childcare to the education of children in Québec?
- How do educational programs like CPE and Passe-Partout facilitate the preschool-school transition

### **INEQUITIES IN THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANT VERSUS AUSTRALIAN BORN WOMEN IN THE PERINATAL PERIOD DURING RAPID COVID-19 POLICY SHIFTS : A QUALITATIVE STUDY WITH AN EQUITY LENS**

Ashleigh SHIPTON, PhD Candidate, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia

#### **Pregnancy experiences of migrant women in Australia**

This presentation examines the experiences of pregnant migrant women in Australia. It identifies three key challenges: mental health, inequitable maternity care, and distrust of the health system. The study concludes with a call for more inclusive, quality maternity and childcare services for vulnerable migrant communities. Finally, it highlights the importance of trust and community engagement to improve healthcare during and after the pandemic.



- There are significant challenges with mental health, inequitable maternity care and distrust of the health system among migrant women
- There is a need for more inclusive, quality maternity and childcare services for vulnerable migrant communities
- Trust and community engagement are critical to improve healthcare during and after the pandemic



- What are migrant women's experiences of maternal and child health in Australia?
- How can trust and community involvement improve health services for vulnerable migrant communities?
- What impact the pandemic had on access to maternal and child healthcare for migrant women in Australia?

## PANEL

### **RETINKING HOW WE REDUCE CHILD POVERTY AND MITIGATE IMPACTS ON HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Marie-France, RAYNAULT**

Professeure émérite, École de santé publique, Université de Montréal,  
Présidente de l'Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé, Montréal,  
Québec, Canada

**Mylène, DROUIN**

Director of the Montreal regional public health department, Montréal,  
Québec, Canada

**Vania, JIMENEZ**

Professor, Family medicine department, McGill University, founder of La  
Maison Bleue, Montréal, Québec, Canada

#### **A widespread view attributes the causes of child poverty to parental failings - what strategies can we use to counter this widespread view?**

In order to challenge the pervasive belief that child poverty is the result of parental shortcomings, it is proposed that we direct our attention to the stress-related needs of parents and endeavor to comprehend the obstacles they confront. It is also recommended that the immigration experiences of parents be examined in order to better ascertain their needs. Furthermore, policies and support programs should be put in place that are adapted to living conditions and parenting skills, particularly for migrant families. Finally, it is crucial to gather data to comprehend the evolution of parenting roles in a rapidly evolving society.

#### **Politicians and policy makers frequently express concern about child poverty but fail to enact effective policies to reduce it – how can researchers best inform them of the evidence-base for child poverty reduction?**

In order to inform elected officials and policymakers about the evidence for reducing child poverty, researchers must provide solid evidence on the impacts of existing policies and recommend approaches based on rigorous research. Furthermore, they can underscore the significance of consistency and long-term commitment in implementing efficacious policies, while underscoring the importance of data-driven decision-making and action.



**Social determinants of child health research has a relatively low academic profile and is generally underfunded – how can we work to raise its profile and ensure adequate funds to support this research ?**

To enhance the visibility of research into the social determinants of child health and guarantee the availability of sufficient funding, it is imperative to increase awareness among policymakers, funders, and the general public of the significance of this research for children's health. It is similarly vital to reinforce the collaboration between researchers, public health organizations, and communities with the objective of advancing research and disseminating its outcomes. Ultimately, the formation of coalitions and strategic alliances with other stakeholders in the field of child health can enhance the visibility and impact of research on the social determinants of health.

**Research into the social determinants of child health is relatively unknown in academic circles and generally underfunded. How can we work to raise its profile and secure sufficient funding to support this research?**

To raise the profile of research into the social determinants of child health and secure sufficient funding, it is essential to raise awareness among policymakers, funders, and the public about the importance of this research for children's health. Strengthening partnerships between researchers, public health organizations, and communities can help promote the research and its findings. Creating coalitions and strategic alliances with other stakeholders in child health can also help increase visibility and support for research on the social determinants of child health.

**In the context of persuading elected officials and the general public with compelling evidence, what is the role of the media, and journalists in particular?**

The dissemination of research findings and success stories, as well as the raising of public and political awareness, are key functions of the journalistic profession. Such collaboration can facilitate the elevation of research profiles and the promotion of efficacious initiatives for the resolution of health and social issues. It is recommended that researchers interact frequently with journalists in order to increase the impact and recognition of their work, particularly by sharing research results and success stories.



Word cloud based on anonymous comments collected

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