**THREATS TO CHILDHOOD 2022**

Inequity and the Impacts of COVID-19

 Threat #1 Unintentional and Preventable Injuries

**Unintentional injuries were the #1 cause of death to children in Canada in 2020.**

- 108,225 falls
- 25,235 sports injuries
- 21,606 transport injuries

The above figures represent number of emergency department visits.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2020; Parachute, 2021

 Threat #2 Poor Mental Health

In Canada, 52% of youth (aged 12-18) experience depression and 39% face anxiety.

Source: Craig et al., 2022

 Threat #3 Systemic Racism and Discrimination

Indigenous children are 12 times more likely to be taken out of their homes and placed in foster care than non-Indigenous children.

Source: Fallon et al., 2021

 Transgender adolescents (aged 15-17) are 7.6 times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to their peers.

Source: Kingsbury et al., 2022

 Threat #4 Child Abuse

1 in 3 Canadians report experiencing some form of child abuse by the age of 15. This statistic is higher among Indigenous populations (40%).

Source: Burton et al., 2017; Afifi et al., 2014

1 in 4 children surveyed experienced sexual harassment or assault in schools by Grade 7.

Source: Marcoux, 2019

 Threat #5 Vaccine-Preventable Illnesses

National average of children with two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine:
- Ages 5 – 11: 42%
- Ages 12 – 17: 84%

Source: Statistics Canada Vaccine, 2021

 Approximately 1 in 4 children in Canada are behind in their routine vaccinations.

Source: Community Pharmacies & 19 to Zero, 2021

 Threat #6 Poverty and Food and Nutritional Insecurity

Over 1.3 million children in Canada (or about 1 in 5 children) live in poverty.

In 2021, approximately 1 in 5 children lived in food insecure households.

Source: Statistics Canada Food Insecurity, 2022

 Threat #7 Infant Mortality

Canada’s infant mortality rate is particularly high compared with other wealthy nations at a rate of 4 infant deaths per 1,000 births.

Source: United Nations, 2022

Canada ranks 30th among 38 OECD countries.

Source: UNICEF, 2021

 Threat #8 Bullying

In Canada, approximately 1 in 3 youth experience bullying.

Evidence shows rates of bullying are higher among children from minority groups (2SLGBTQIA+, immigrants, refugees, and Indigenous youth).

1. Canadian Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey, 2018
2. Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter & Project 1907, 2022; Guo et al., 2019

 Threat #9 Limited Physical Activity and Play

Physical activity and play deteriorated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic:

Only 12% of respondents aged 12 to 17 met the guidelines for moderate-to-vigorous physical activity.

Source: Guimaraes, 2021

 Threat #10 Climate Change

Child acute bronchitis related to wildfires has more than doubled. Asthma symptom days for children aged 5 to 19 have followed a similar trend.

Cross-Cutting Theme #1 Disruption to Education

On average, learning losses were equivalent to roughly 1/2 a year’s worth of learning.

Source: Patrick, Vega & Carter-Rea, 2022

Reference the Raising Canada 2022 report for list of sources.

Cross-Cutting Theme #2 Access to Health Care and Other Social Services

Wait times for accessing pediatric surgical services are up to 2.5 years beyond clinically accepted timelines.

Source: Hospital News, 2020

Cross-Cutting Theme #3 Youth Representation

Less than 25% of the interventions studied involved children and youth in the decision-making process.

Source: Leman et al., 2018

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