



**OVERVIEW:**

**For this study, we are looking at the health and wellness of First Nations infants and their mothers, as well as factors that influence their health and wellness.**

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Janet Smylie, MD, MPH

**START DATE:** 2009

**END DATE:** 2011

**FUNDERS:**

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research

**RESEARCH PARTNERS:**

- First Nations Information Governance Committee
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
- Union of Nova Scotia Indians
- Council of Yukon First Nations

## WELL INFANTS, WELL FAMILIES, WELL NATIONS

**A National and Regional Multivariate Analysis of First Nations Infant Health using First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey Data**

**BACKGROUND:**

There is very little data to monitor First Nations infant health. This data is needed for effective planning and program design.

Infant health and wellness is an upstream indicator of First Nations health. The promotion of infant health and wellness also presents an opportunity for early prevention. Historically, many First Nations communities considered the nurturance and protection of infants to be central to community functioning.

**STUDY GOAL:**

To understand the health and wellness of First Nations infants and their mothers, as well as factors that influence their health and wellness. We will look at health and wellness within the context of families and communities, and from a national and regional perspective.

**METHODS:**

We have consolidated partnerships and data access agreements/protocols through meetings between Dr. Smylie and national/regional Regional Health Survey (RHS) team members/governing authorities.

Our multivariate analytic models build on the RHS interpretive framework as well as a review of the scientific literature regarding known social, behavioural, health service, and medical factors that influence infant health. We used these models to analyze the aggregate national data set and disaggregated regional data, including a small national level data set for pregnant women.

Findings have been interpreted in partnership with the First Nations Information Governance Committee (FNIGC) of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and regional First Nations governance authorities, drawing on the RHS interpretive framework as well as our knowledge of the field. We have documented and will be disseminating results in partnership with the FNIGC of AFN and regional First Nations governance authorities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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Well Living House at The Centre for Research on Inner City Health (CRICH) is part of the Keenan Research Centre in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's. Our vision is that every Indigenous infant will be born into a context that promotes health and wellbeing - at the individual, family and community levels.