

Parent-Child Relationship Outcomes for Indigenous Parents in the At Home/Chez Soi HF Demonstration Project



Rachel Caplan

Postdoctoral Fellow

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

Al Wiebe

Peer Advisor

Canadian Lived Experience Advisory Council

Land Acknowledgement

We are gathering at this Forum at CAMH in Toronto, Ontario on the **traditional territory** of the **Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabeg** and **Huron-Wendat Peoples**.

Native Land Digital: <https://native-land.ca>

Presentation Overview

I. Context

- ☐ At Home/Chez Soi Project
- ☐ Thistle's (2017) Definition of Indigenous Homelessness

II. Research Findings

III. We Che Win Housing First program at Ma Mawi:

An interview with Al Wiebe

IV. Questions

CONTEXT



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada

Canada's At Home/Chez Soi Project



- **Housing First**
- **Participants: 2,148** participants overall
 - » **31%** reporting having one or more minor children
- **Semi-structured interviews (10% of sample)**
 - » **Baseline** interview sub-sample (***n*=219**)
 - » **Follow-up** interview sub-sample (***n*=197**)

(Goering et al., 2014)

Definition of Indigenous Homelessness in Canada



Definition of Indigenous Homelessness in Canada

- ❑ Structural, political, social systems
- ❑ Disconnection, displacement, disruption of
“All my Relations”: relationships with **“land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages, identities”** (Thistle, 2017, p. 6)

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Research Overview

- I. Family Homelessness and Parent-Child Separation in Canada
- II. Objective and Methodology
- III. Part A: Indigenous and White Parents' Experiences
- IV. Part B: Parent-Child Relationship Outcomes

Family Homelessness and Parent-Child Separation in Canada

- **Significant and increasing crisis** (Donnan, 2016; Gulliver-Garcia, 2016)
- **Families** experiencing homelessness **more likely** to experience **parent-child separations** than families with a home (Cowal et al., 2002; Goodman, 1991)
- **Parent-child separation** and “**invisible**” parenting

Research Objective and Methodology

Objective: Examine experiences of “invisible” parents who have experienced homelessness, mental illness, and separation from their children

Methodology:

- **Secondary data** from At Home/Chez Soi (AHCS) project
- **Participants for this research**
 - **Parents (n=43)** from sub-sample of n=197 participants

Part A



**Indigenous and White Parents with Mental Illness
Separated from their Children and Experiencing
Homelessness in Canada**

Introduction

- **Research Questions (RQ):**

How do parent-child relationship experiences differ between:

(a) Mothers and fathers? (gender) - RQ1

**(b) Indigenous parents and White parents?
(ancestry) - RQ2**

(c) Indigenous mothers, White mothers, Indigenous fathers, and White fathers? (gender x ancestry: intersectional) - RQ3

Introduction

- **Theoretical Approaches and Tools:**
 - Gender identity
 - Indigenous worldviews
 - Intersectionality as an **analytic tool**
- **Participants** (N=36 parents)
 - 12 mothers
 - 24 fathers
- ✧ **Indigenous:** First Nations or Métis
- ✧ **White:** Non/Indigenous/non-Racialized → White Canadian/European Settler

Data Analysis

❑ **Three** qualitative thematic analyses
conducted (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

1. Gender;
2. Ancestry;
3. Intersectional

Findings: Narrative Identities of Mothers versus Fathers (Gender Analysis)

- Children as central in **mothers'** narrative identities
- Children as more peripheral in **fathers'** narrative identities



Findings: Narrative Identities of Indigenous versus White Parents (Ancestry Analysis)

- Violence, intergenerational racism and trauma
- Cultural (dis)connection
- **Cultural reclamation** through **cultural healing** resources to **restore relationships**

Only for Indigenous parents!

Findings: Narrative Identities by Gender x Ancestry (Intersectional Analysis)

- (a) Children as **most peripheral** in WHITE FATHERS' narrative identities

Findings: Narrative Identities by Gender x Ancestry (Intersectional Analysis)

- (a) Children as **most peripheral** in WHITE FATHERS' narrative identities
- (b) Children as **most central** in INDIGENOUS MOTHERS' narrative identities...



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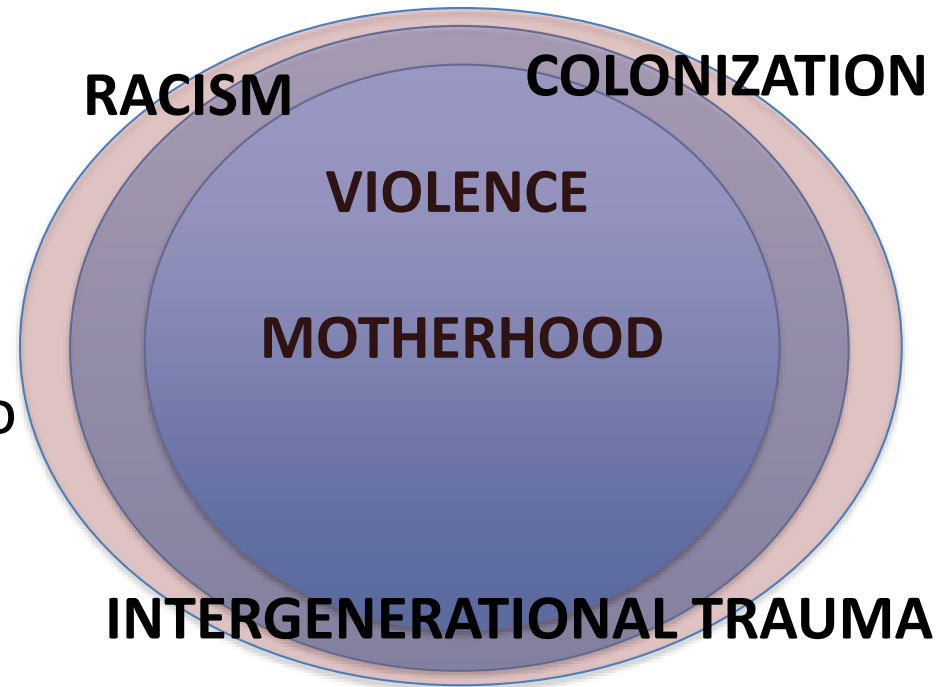
(b) Children as **most central** in INDIGENOUS MOTHERS' narrative identities... DESPITE Indigenous Mothers also describing **experiences of violence the most!**



Findings: Narrative Identities by Gender x Ancestry (Intersectional Analysis)

(a) Children as **most peripheral** in WHITE FATHERS' narrative identities

(b) Children as **most central** in INDIGENOUS MOTHERS' narrative identities... DESPITE Indigenous Mothers also describing **experiences of violence the most!**



Conclusions

- Differences between narrative identities of Indigenous parents and White parents
- Many Indigenous parents' relationships with their children **deeply and inextricably linked** with a holistic Indigenous worldview of “**all my relations**” (nature, spirituality, culture, community, kinship)
- **Children and motherhood** are essential to narrative identities of **Indigenous mothers**

Part B



**Parent-Child Relationship Outcomes in the AHCS
Randomized Controlled Trial**

Introduction

Hypothesis: there will be **greater changes** in parent-child relationships **for parents in the HF intervention** relative to those in the Treatment as Usual (TAU) (control) group, **particularly for Indigenous parents**

Question: Does **HF** impact **parent-child** relationship **outcomes** for **Indigenous** and **non-Indigenous** parents differently?

Introduction

- **Theoretical Approach:**
 - Recovery lens
- **Participants** (N=43 parents)
 - 21 Indigenous parents (13 in HF; 8 in TAU)
 - 22 Non-Indigenous parents (14 in HF; 8 in TAU)
- ✧ **Indigenous:** First Nations or Métis
- ✧ **Non-Indigenous:** White Canadian/European Settler **AND** Racialized

Data Analysis

- Qualitative data:
 - ❑ **Step 1:** Analyzed **qualitatively** (thematic analysis)
(Braun & Clarke, 2006)
 - ❑ **Step 2:** Analyzed **quantitatively** (quantitization
through count data) (Sandelowski, 2001)

Findings

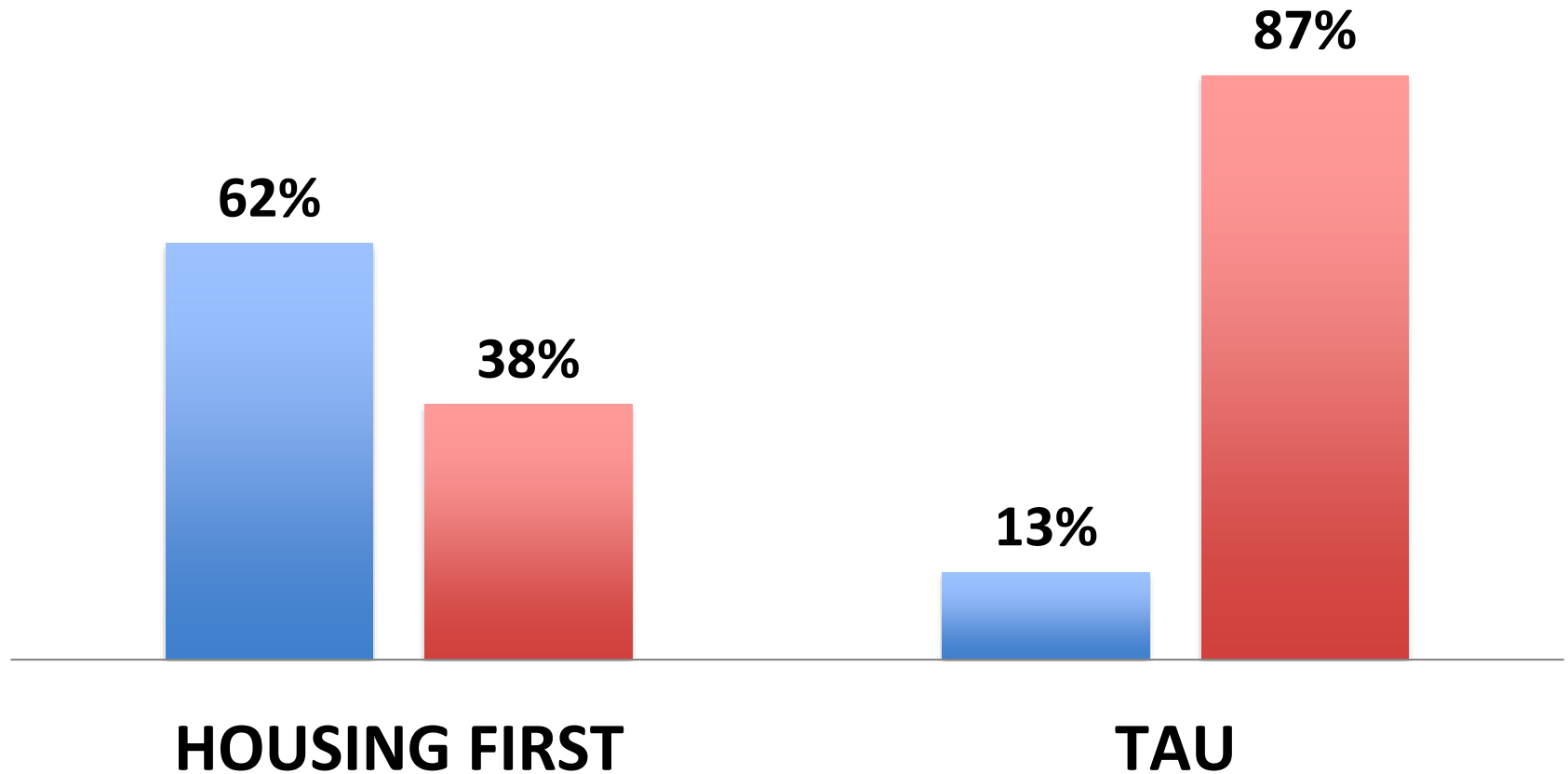
- **Qualitative Analysis:**
 - **Positive parent-child relationship outcomes identified** (positive changes from baseline to follow-up)
 - » **Differences between HF treatment group and control group**

Findings

- **Quantitative Analysis:**
 - **Significant relationship between parent-child outcomes and treatment group (HF vs TAU) for INDIGENOUS parents: $\chi^2 (1, N = 21) = 5.59, p < .05$**

Differences in Parent-Child Relationship Outcomes between HF and TAU for Indigenous Parents

■ Change ■ No Change



Conclusions

- Housing First improves parents' relationships with their children
- Culturally-adapted Housing First significantly improves Indigenous parents' relationships with their children



Overarching Implications

- Culture and indigeneity; relationships/connection with children, family, and community; Indigenous worldviews with Indigenous peoples
- Housing First programs must offer culturally-appropriate approaches with Indigenous peoples

**We Che Win Housing First
Program at Ma Mawi:
An Interview with Al Wiebe**

QUESTIONS?



Contact Information:

Rachel Caplan
rcaplan@yorku.ca

Al Wiebe
albelieve@hotmail.ca