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 Telethon Kids Institute – *Perth, WA, Australia*
 Funded by CHW under the Health Grand Challenges program

Introduction

- Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) Project
- Focuses on importance of culturally appropriate fit between values, needs and expectations of Aboriginal families
 - Elders (community leaders) as co-researchers; Aboriginal people guide project
- Bring Aboriginal communities of Perth together with service providers/policymakers that influence a range of later life outcomes

Objective of Internship

Using the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC), I conducted thematic analysis and preliminary examination of descriptive statistics to see what housing issues Aboriginal families face and the shortcomings of questions related to housing.

Work profile

- Conduct a thematic analysis using the qualitative question: What needs to be repaired in the home?
- Housing security as one of priority research areas for project
 - Housing in an urban context for Aboriginal families is overlooked in research
- Addressing social determinants of health through community's suggestion

Reflection

- Housing as a foundational tool for the wellbeing of families
- Qualitative nature of questions allowed for variety of responses
- Highlighted possibility that families may not have other mediums to voice their concerns
- Caretakers hint at knowledge of environmental health without prompting

		Feasibility of house repairs by house occupancy type						Total	
		don't know	no	not always	not asked	other	yes		
houseocc	Public	Count	1	137	71	351	1	96	657
	% within	0.2%	20.9%	10.8%	53.4%	0.2%	14.6%	100.0%	
Private	Count	2	42	25	225	0	21	315	
	% within	0.6%	13.3%	7.9%	71.4%	0.0%	6.7%	100.0%	
Mortg.	Count	0	15	11	213	1	21	261	
	% within	0.0%	5.7%	4.2%	81.6%	0.4%	8.0%	100.0%	
Other	Count	0	3	0	19	0	0	22	
	% within	0.0%	13.6%	0.0%	86.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	
Total	Count	3	197	107	808	2	138	1255	
	% within houseocc	0.2%	15.7%	8.5%	64.4%	0.2%	11.0%	100.0%	

Type of House Occupancy			Measurement of Overcrowding			
Count	%	Cumulative %	Valid	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative %
Public Housing	657	52.4	Not "Over-crowded"	1110	88.4	88.8
Private Housing	315	25.1		140	11.2	100.0
Mortgage	261	20.8	Total	1250	99.6	
Other	22	1.8	Missing System	5	.4	
Total	1255	100.0	Total	1255	100.0	

Figures 1,2,3: Preliminary Examination of Descriptive Statistics

- With a rough measure of “overcrowding”, it’s clear that it doesn’t give a whole picture
 - Measures of overcrowding is based on assumptions of dominant culture (i.e. Eurocentric)
- Difficulty in drawing analysis with feasibility of house repairs as many households weren’t asked
- Households in public housing made up majority of respondents
- Moving towards more culturally appropriate studies that involve community in process
 - How are we involving Aboriginal people in research about them
- Understanding what longitudinal studies can and can’t measure

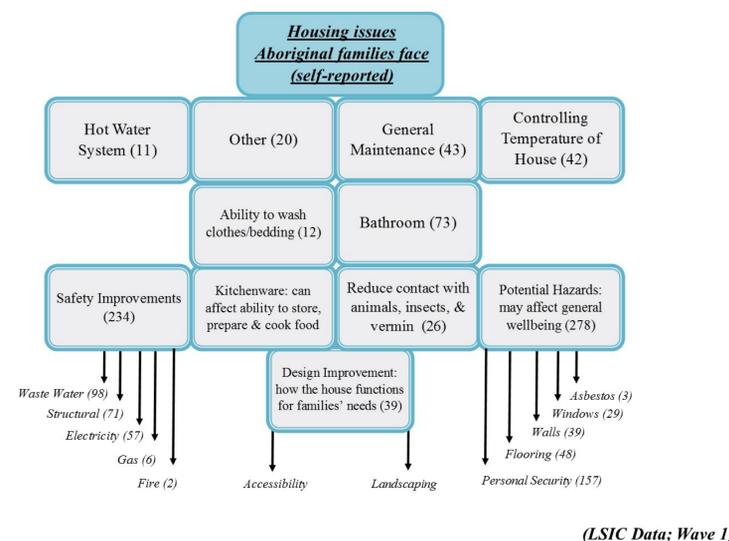


Figure 4: Identified Themes of Housing Repairs using NVivo (LSIC Data; Wave 1)

- What are the **housing issues** Aboriginal families in an **urban setting** face?
- Is it possible to measure if **overcrowding** is prevalent?
- What is the relationship between the **number of housing issues** and **house occupancy type**?
- Do Aboriginal households **face difficulty seeking repairs** for their housing in an urban setting?

Looking ahead

- Reflected on what it means to actually engage with underrepresented communities
 - A long process in order to not be tokenistic
- Decolonizing research as a lens moving forward in independent work
- Confirmed desire to pursue work in public health (and largely concept of wellness)

Questions

- How have questions concerning housing changed throughout the years in this study?
- How can the language of these questions be more culturally appropriate in order to get a better picture of outcomes?

Conclusion

- Qualitative analysis allows a suitable medium for communicating Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives
- Process of involving communities in research has to be intentional

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge my supervisors Brad Farrant, Nicole Ilich and Carrington Shepherd and the rest of the NKNK team. I would also like to thank the Health Grand Challenges program and CHW for sponsoring this opportunity.