



MASES

Project  
Day  
2019

## Surgery And Society

# 'OPERATION'-alising the evidence to dismantle structural barriers to pediatric care at BCCH



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Social Pediatrics is about who  
we aren't seeing.



It takes a village.

Solutions to inequities in health include  
responsive, interdisciplinary services plus  
access to 'RICHER' supportive  
environments that will foster resiliency  
and build social capital.

Nurture trumps nature every time.

# Put down the self-help books. Resilience is not a DIY endeavour.



*“The science of resilience is clear: The social, political and natural environments in which we live are far more important to our health, fitness, finances and time management than our individual thoughts, feelings or behaviours. When it comes to maintaining well-being and finding success, environments matter. In fact, they may matter just as much, and likely much more, than individual thoughts, feelings or behaviours.”*

*Michael Ungar, Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and  
Community Resilience, Dalhousie University*

CONTRIBUTED TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL

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<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-put-down-the-self-help-books-resilience-is-not-a-diy-endeavour>

# In Canada...

~1 in 6 children (16.8 %) live in poverty.  
1 in 2 children with disabilities live in poverty.  
1 in 2 Status First Nations children live in poverty.



Low SES → **higher rates of infant mortality, mental health issues, among other adverse outcomes, and experience poorer adult health**

Low income homes receive:

- **more acute care**
- **less preventative care**



# In British Columbia...

~1 in 5 children (18.7%) live in poverty.  
BC has the highest provincial child poverty rate.

# Background/Objectives

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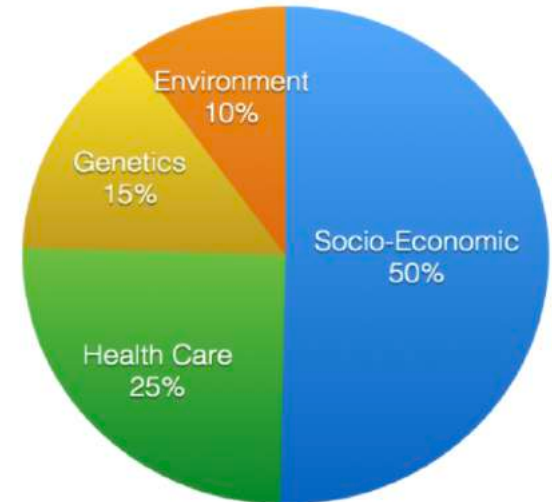
## Background:

To date, there had been limited to no study of SDoH or ACES for pediatric age surgical patient populations.

## Objectives:

1. To take a snapshot of who is sitting in our waiting room.
2. To explore what healthcare professionals at BCCH can do to mitigate the impact of social and financial challenges that pediatric patients and their families may face.

What makes Canadians sick?



# Methods

## Quality Improvement Study Survey - 30 Questions

Participants: Convenience sample of families at BCCH (N=610)

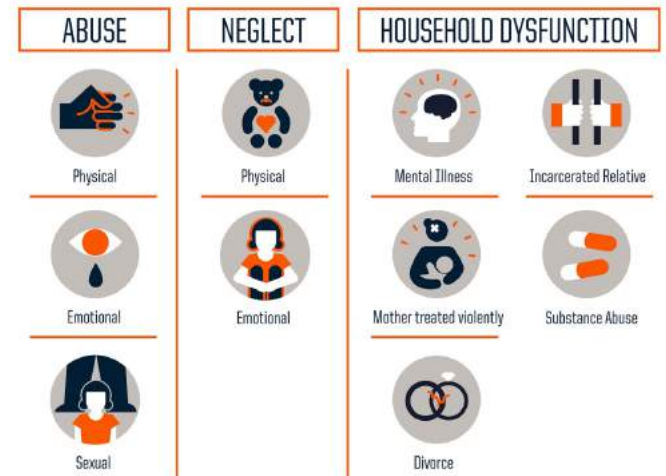
### 10 Ambulatory Surgical Clinics (25 families/clinic)

1. Cerebral Palsy [Ortho]
2. Dentistry
3. ENT
4. General Surgery
5. Neurosurgery
6. Ophthalmology
7. Ophthalmology [RICHER]
8. Orthopedics
9. Plastics
10. Urology

### 3 MDT Clinics (12 months)

1. Cleft / Craniofacial
2. VIP
3. Spinal Cord

## ACES Optional



A. Of the statements below, how many apply to your child? Write the total number in the box.

*At any point since your child was born...*

- Your child's parents or guardians were separated or divorced.
- Your child lived with a household member who was depressed, mentally ill or attempted -suicide.
- Your child lived with a household member who served time in jail or prison.
- Your child saw or heard household members hurt or threaten to hurt each other.
- Your child lived with someone who had a problem with drinking or using other drugs.
- A household member swore at, insulted, humiliated, or put down your child in a way that scared your child OR a household member acted in a way that made your child afraid that s/he might be physically hurt.
- Someone touched your child's private parts or asked your child to touch their private parts in a sexual way.
- More than once, your child went without food, clothing, a place to live, or had no one to protect her/him.
- Someone pushed, grabbed, slapped or threw something at your child OR your child was hit so hard that your child was injured or had a bruise or a mark.
- Your child often felt unsupported, unloved and/or unprotected.



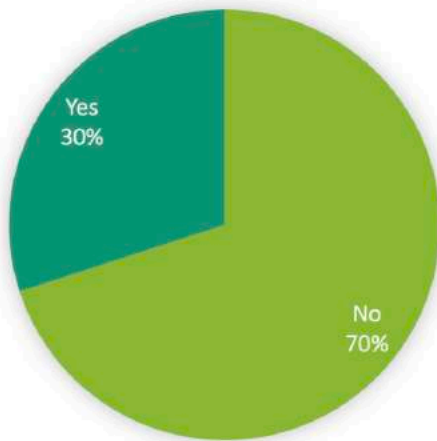
# Results & Conclusions

## Social

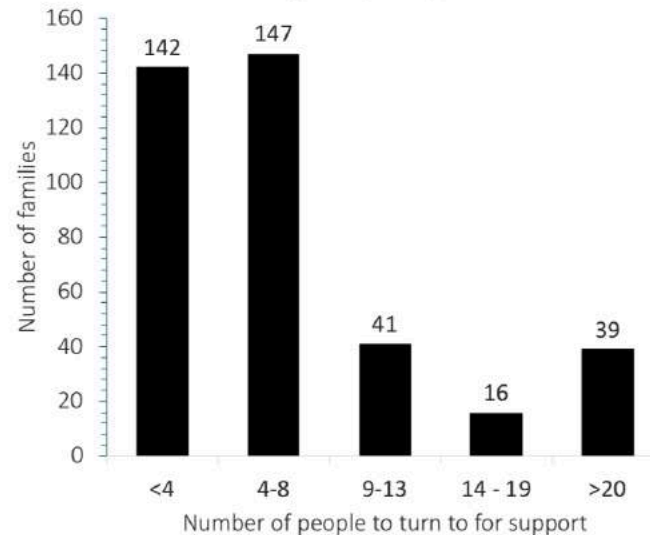
- While almost all families had a primary care provider (n=366, 94.3%), only 76.9% (n=321) reported being able to turn to them for assistance.
- One third (30%, n=360) of participants identified as a visual/cultural minority.

1 in 3 families had fewer than 4 people to turn to for support

Do you or anyone in your household identify as a minority visually or culturally?  
(n=360)



In times of stress, how many people can you turn to for support? (n=385)





# Results & Conclusions

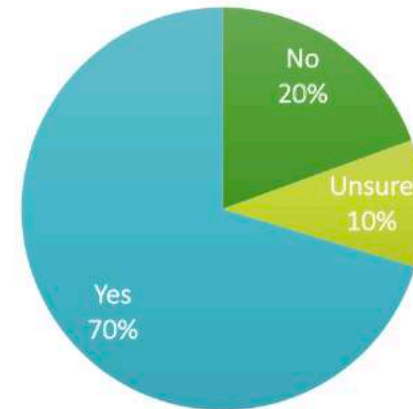
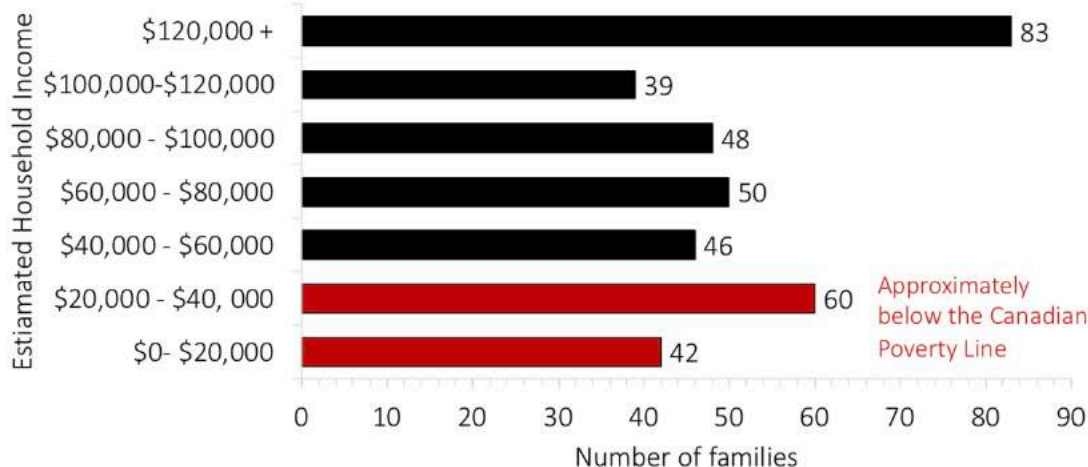
## Economic

- Half of families reported having difficulty making ends meet (n=364, 53.3%).
- Twenty-three percent of families had an income below \$40,000, with \$37,542 being the Canadian Poverty Line (2015).

Nearly 1 in 4 families live below the poverty line

Have you completed your tax forms to be considered for benefits? (n=391)

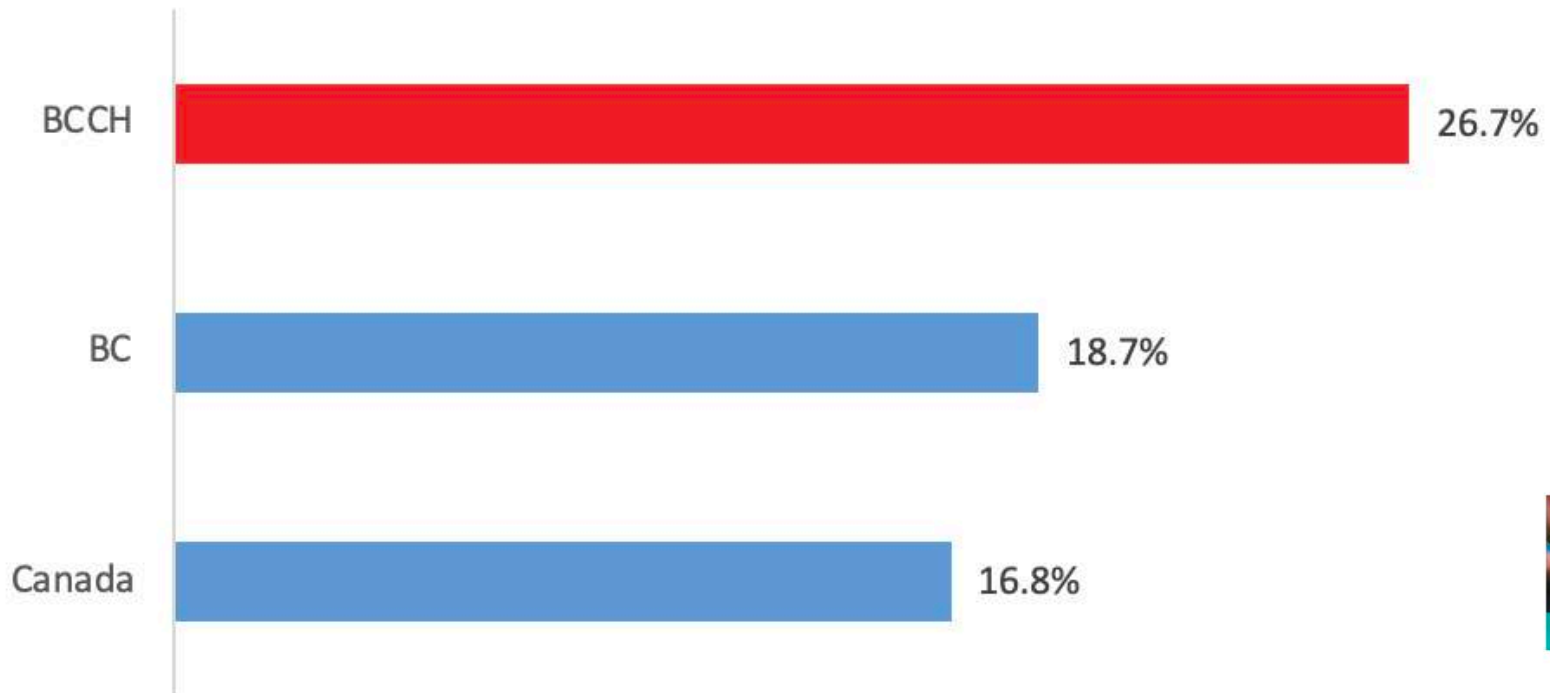
What is your estimated annual household income? (n=368)



# Results & Conclusions

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Poverty Rates at BCCH (n=566) Compared to BC and Canada



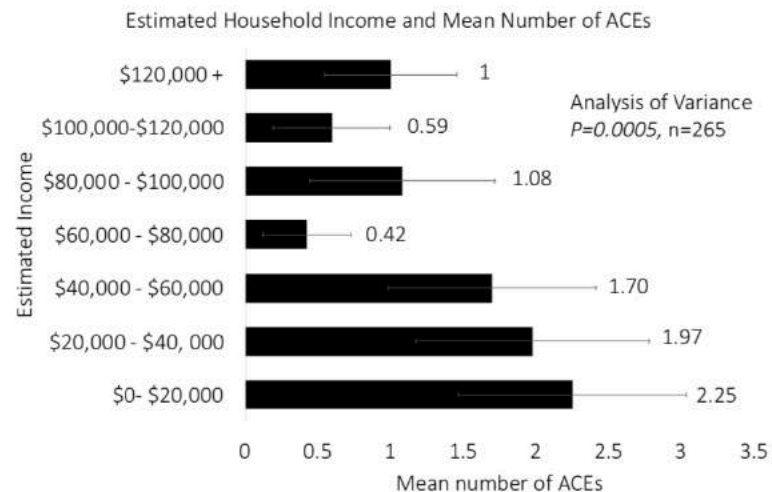
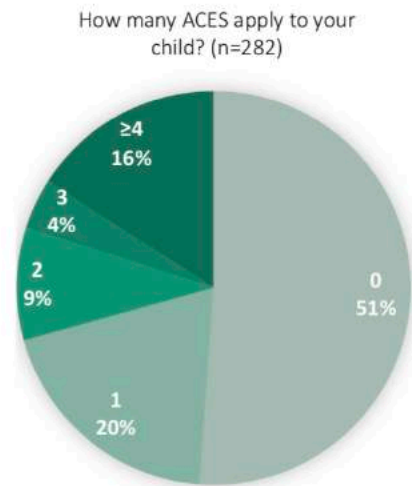
# Results & Conclusions

## Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Sixteen percent of children in our study had an ACE score of 4 or more ( $\geq 4$ ) (16%, n=282), compared to the US national average of 12.5%, where ACE scores  $\geq 4$  are significantly related to poorer health outcomes.
- We found a significant difference in mean ACE scores between income brackets (ANOVA,  $P=0.0005$ , n=265), with those of the lowest income having the highest mean ACE score (mean=2.25).

1 in 6 children had an ACE score of 4 or greater

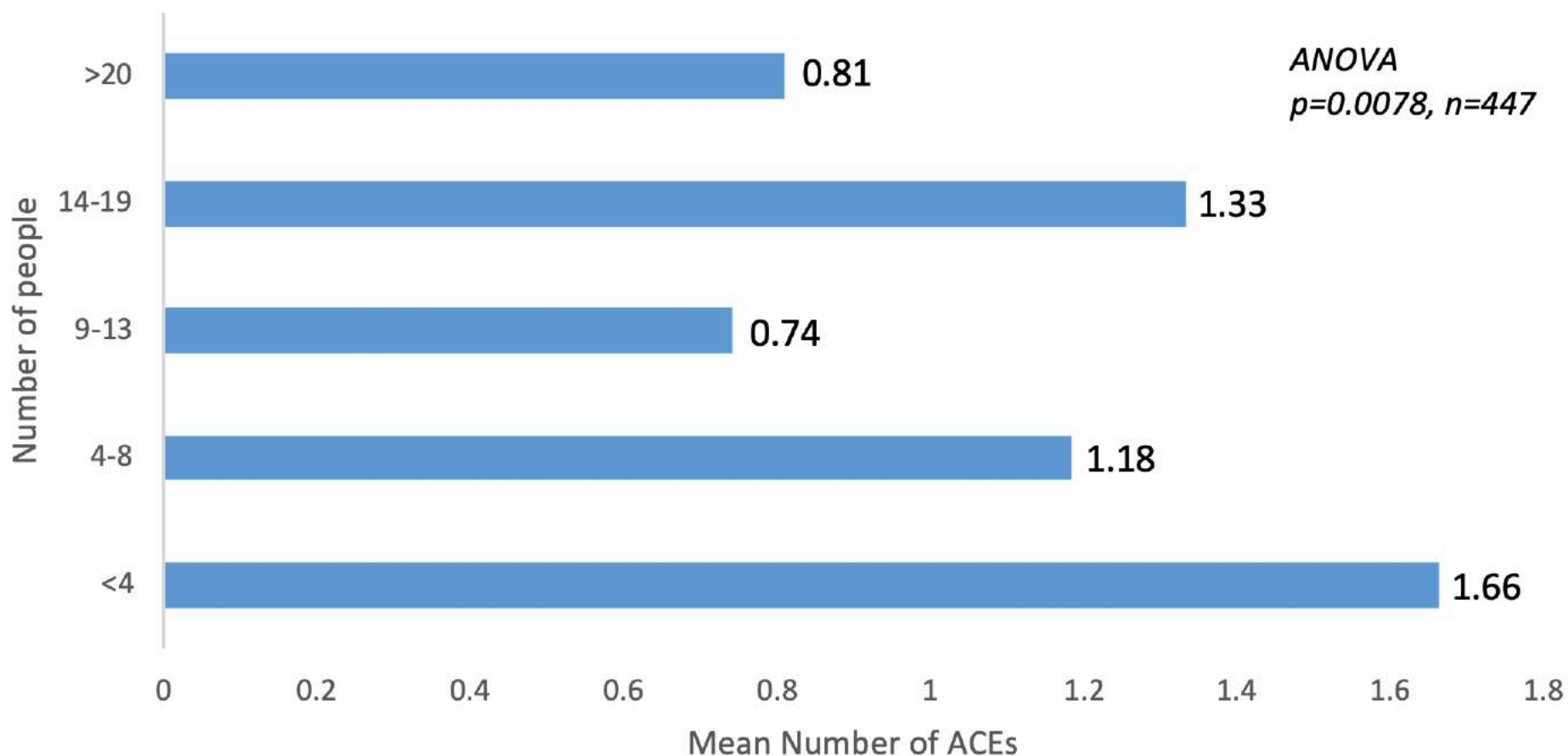
Lowest income bracket had highest number of ACEs





# Results & Conclusions

How many people you have to turn to vs. Mean number of ACEs

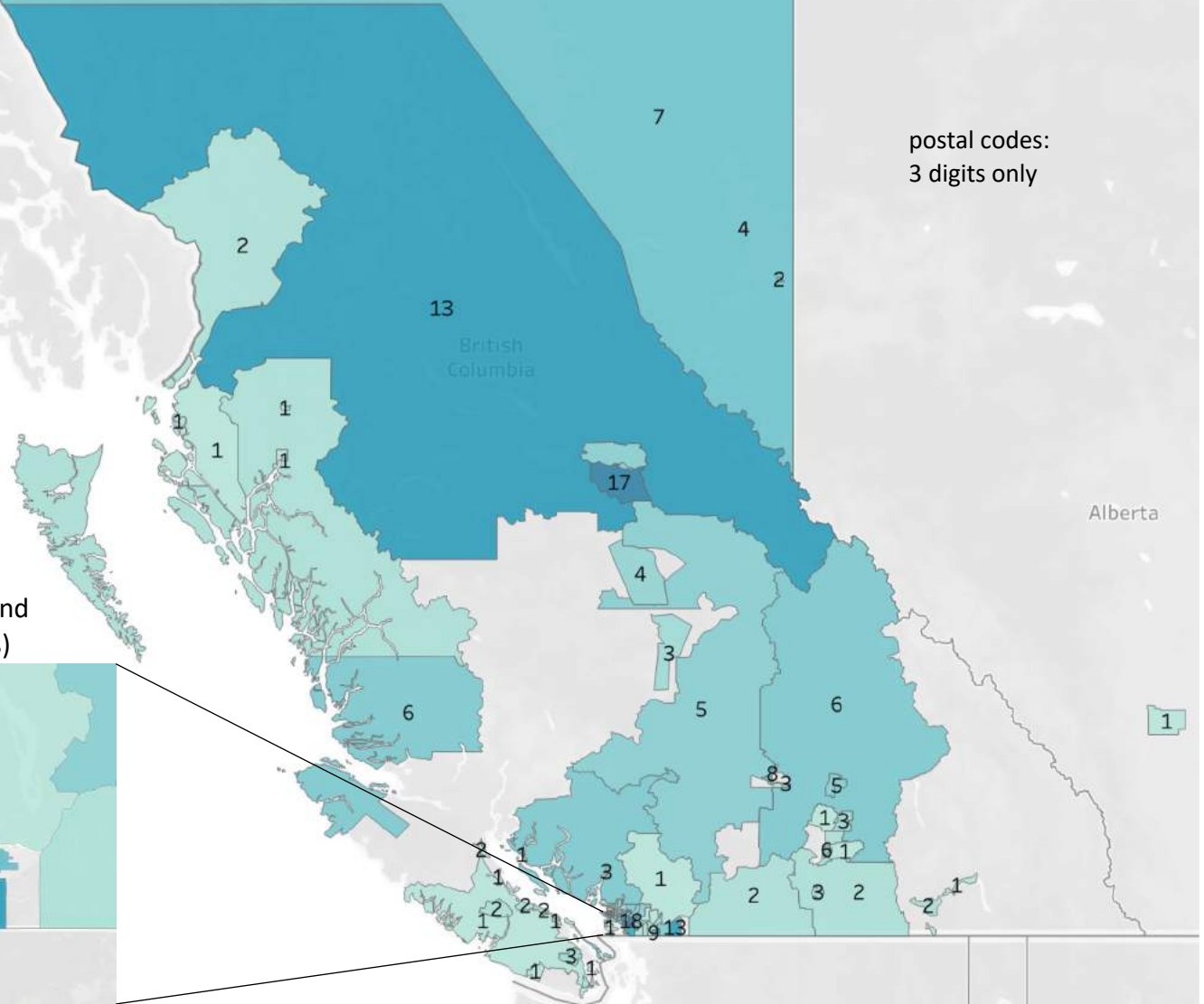
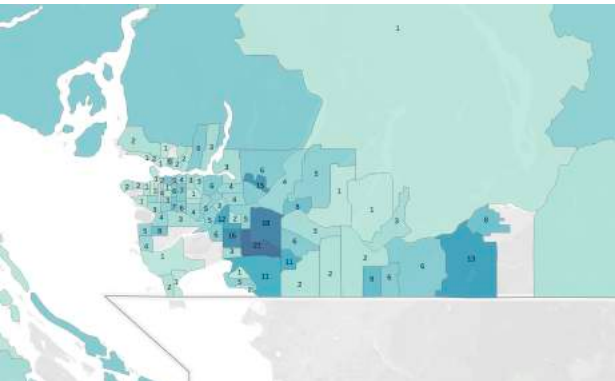


# Results & Conclusions

Our sample provides a representative snapshot of who sits in our waiting rooms

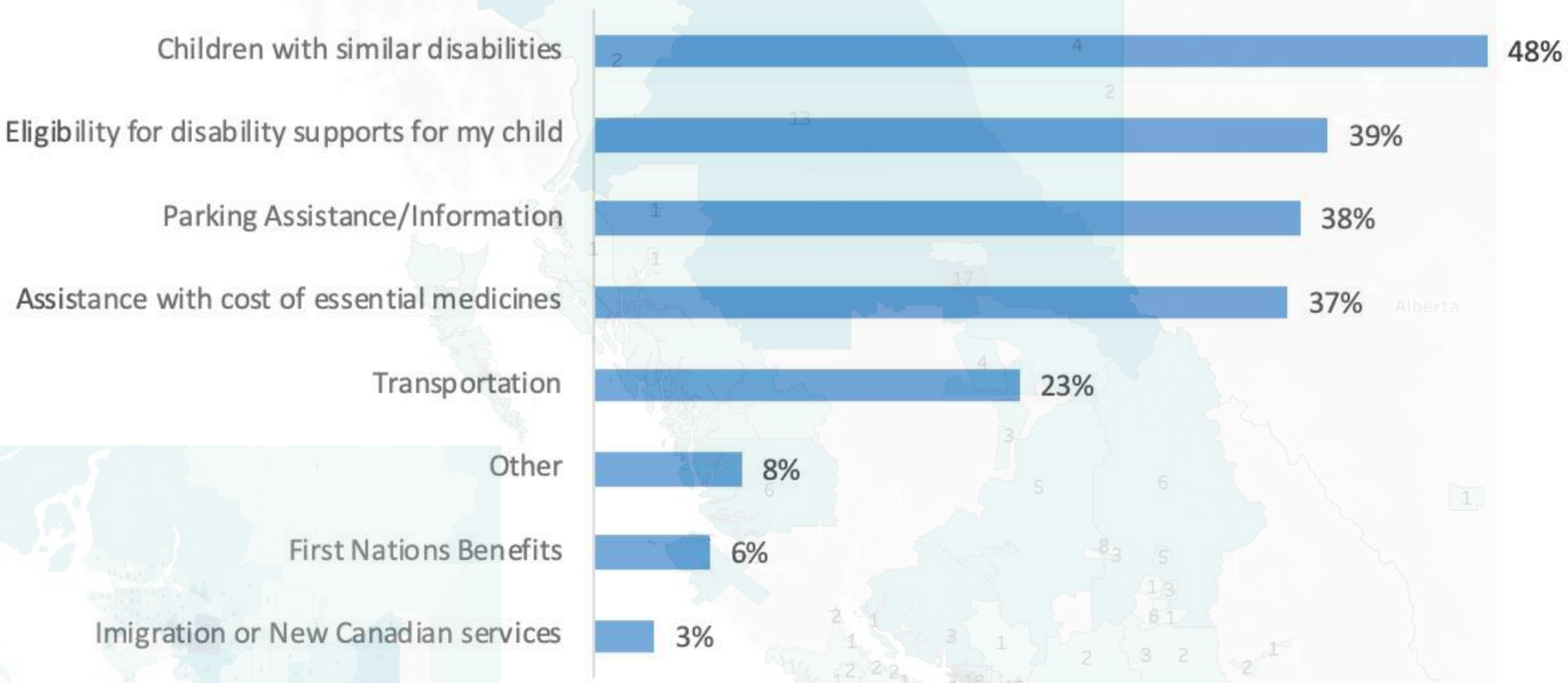
postal codes:  
3 digits only

~60% come from the lower mainland  
(Vancouver + Fraser Health Areas)



# Results & Conclusions

What types of information do you think might assist you in your child's health journey? (n=610)



# Results & Conclusions

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## Remember “Fours”...

1. While the majority of our patients report having a primary healthcare provider, one in 4 can not turn to them for assistance.
2. Patients who don't believe they have an adequate social network have fewer than 4 people they can turn to in times of stress.
3. Approximately 1 in 4 of our families live below the BC poverty line.
4. 1 in 6 patients have an ACEs score of 4 or more [only 1 in 4 families skipped the ACE question].





# PHSA Engagement & Outcomes

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- **Staff Engagement:** We are learning more about the “real time” vulnerabilities that families in our Children’s Hospital waiting rooms are experiencing, allowing our staff to participate in solutions to address these inequities.
- **Staff Training:** In partnership with the Social Pediatrics Program at BCCH, OPSEI has hired a summer student for 2019 to expand and develop a shared “SDoH Curriculum for Surgery and Society” to support all trainees and staff in the Department of Surgery at BCCH.
- **Clinician QOL:** Feedback from hospital-based clinicians participating in this study suggests that being included in the design and implementation of quality improvement studies may offset and/or mitigate risks for future “moral distress” and professional “burnout”.

# Resources





Unit area: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

MRUN: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Work Referral-Consultation Services**

**Send to Fax: (604)875-2770 Phone: (604)875-2149**

**REFERRAL SOURCE**

Date of referral: \_\_\_\_\_ clinic area: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referring person and position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact number & Email for referrer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is referral urgent? Yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_  
Upcoming clinic visit date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PATIENT/FAMILY CONTACT**

Parent(s)/guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**IS THE FAMILY AWARE OF THIS REFERRAL? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_**

**REASON FOR REFERRAL**

Safety/Risk: **Please Explain** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Psychosocial Assessment and Crisis Intervention: **Please Explain** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 Access to Resources: Urgent \_\_\_ Non-Urgent \_\_\_ **Please Explain** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HAVE YOU REFERRED TO ANY OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE?**

Psychology  Child Life  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

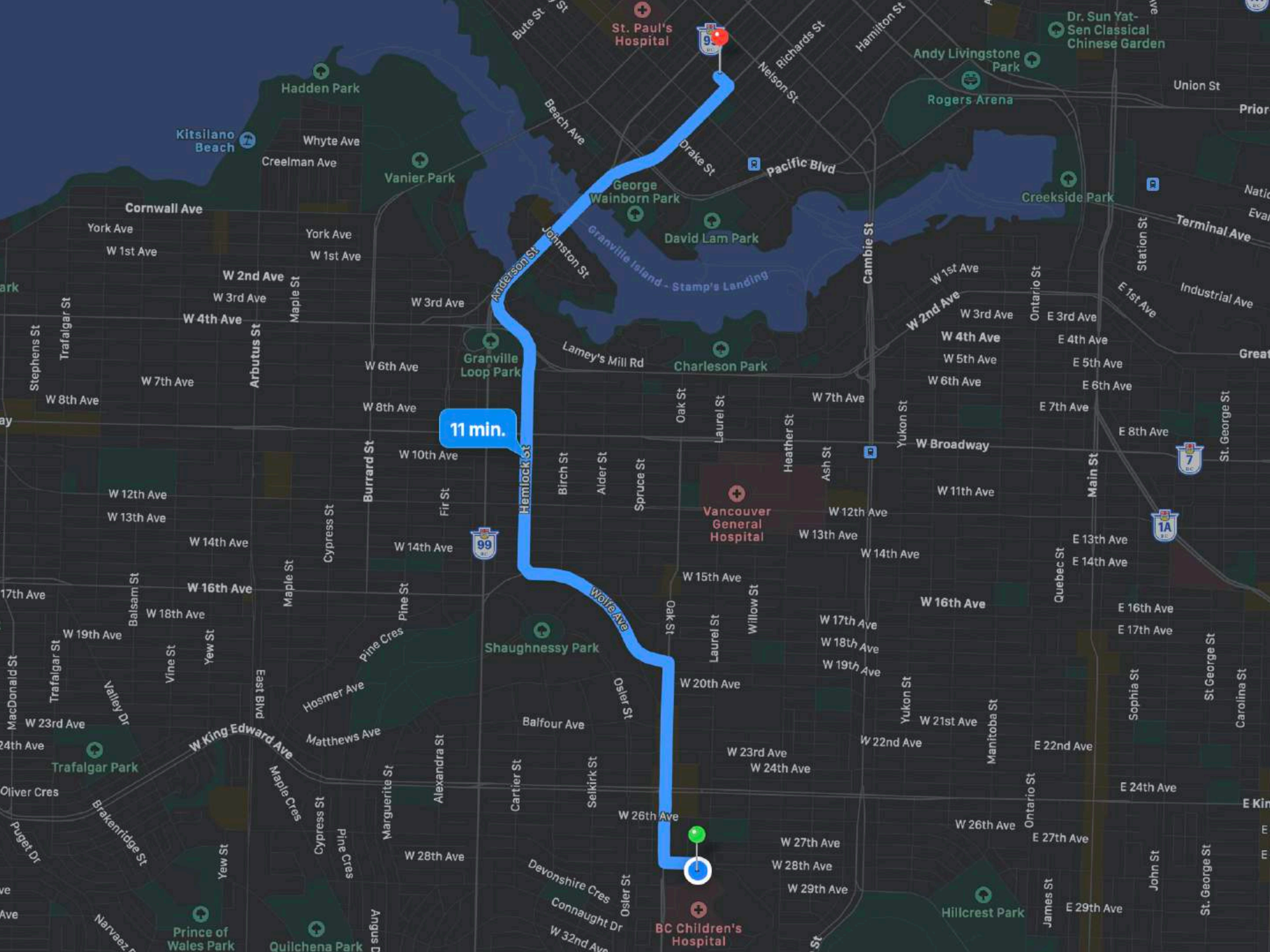
**INTERNAL USE ONLY: SOCIAL WORK INTAKE**

Date/ Time Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_ Assigned To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Work Intervention: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Original for medical chart  
Cc for social work office

# Social Work Referral Form





11 min.

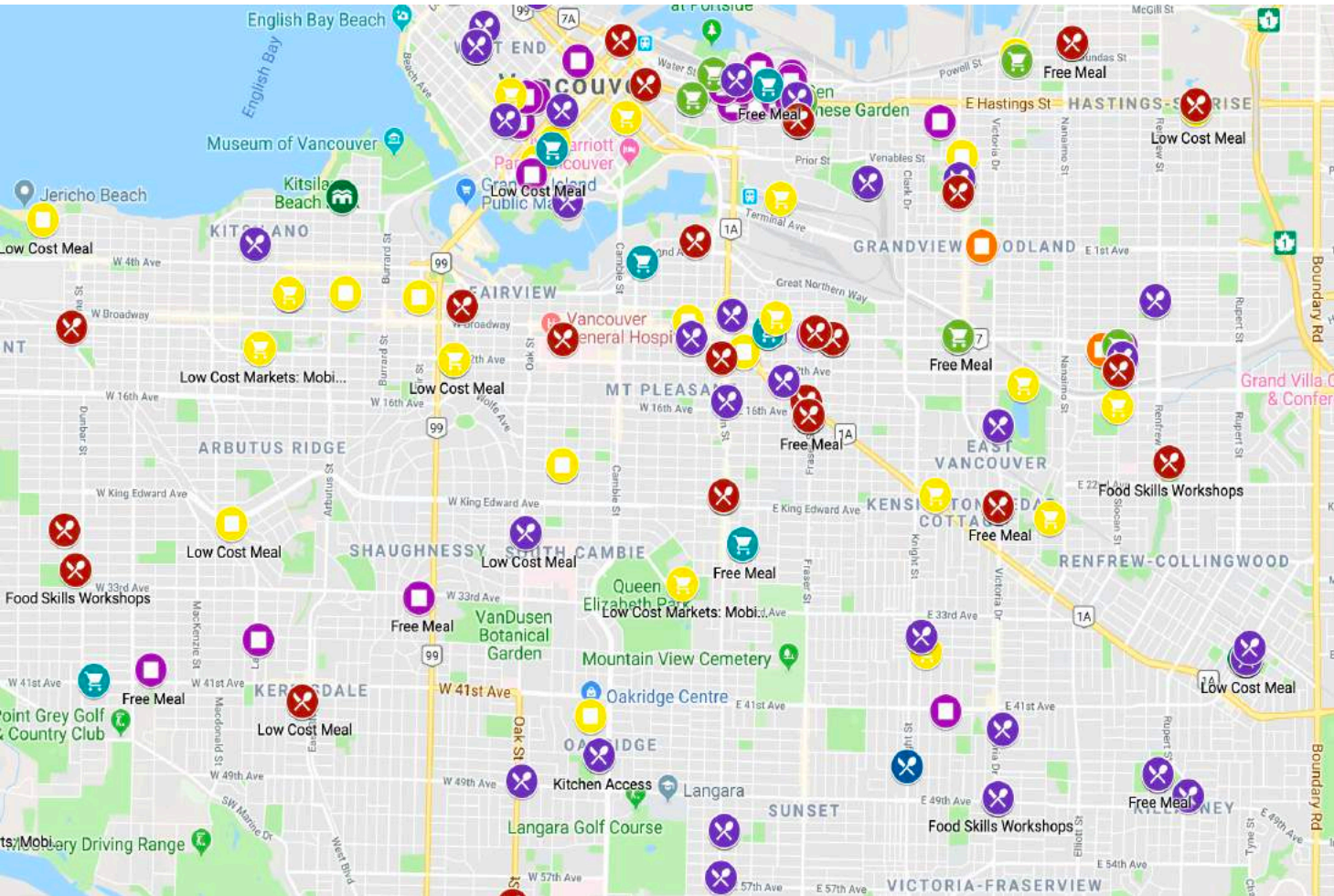
St. Paul's Hospital

BC Children's Hospital





# Vancouver Food Asset Map



- Neighbourhood Food Networks
- Free or Low Cost Meals
- Free or Low Cost Grocery Items
- Kitchen or Food Programs
- Growing Food
- Schools
- Community Organizations
- Retail Stores or Markets

# Housing/Lodging



**COPS FOR KIDS**  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

## BC Family Residence Program

To qualify for assistance with accommodation costs, families must:

- Be residents of B.C. and have medical insurance coverage under the Medical Services Plan of BC, and
- have a child who is receiving medical care at BC Children's Hospital or Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, including premature babies and newborns with other health concerns, and
- live outside Metro Vancouver (**50km**)
  - Residents of Bowen Island and island communities within Electoral Area A are eligible for the accommodation subsidy due to the requirement of ferry travel
    - Essentially Abbotsford and beyond (past maple ridge).

Need to have their home details, parents' names, day of the appointment, doctor, health care number.

- Can have accommodation from **1 day before admission to 1 day after discharge** (for a maximum of 30 days).
- If two appointments are within **7 days**, they can be covered for the time between appointments
- Book as early as possible (limited space)

1-866-496-6946



# Social Support



Parent Support Services of BC

- Support groups for parents or those in a parenting role
- Safe and Secure (hidden location)



inclusionBC

Advocates for those with intellectual disabilities and family members who need assistance

- Educational program for employers
- Provides full or part-time support



Provides a list of support groups for all sorts of situations:

- People with certain diagnoses
- People living with a drug user
- Single mothers
- Women who have experienced violence
- Etc.

# Transportation Support



Provides flights to specialist appointments

- Family income must be  $\leq$  \$65 000
- Family makes travel request online



Only flies between Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland

- Passenger must be able to board plane with little/no assistance
- Family calls and gets assistance making a flight request
- No max income requirement



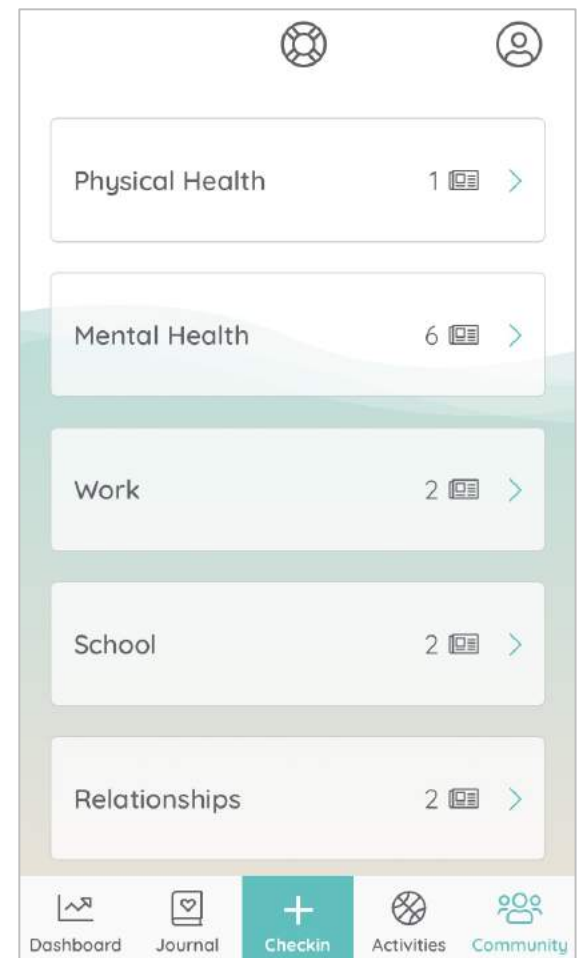
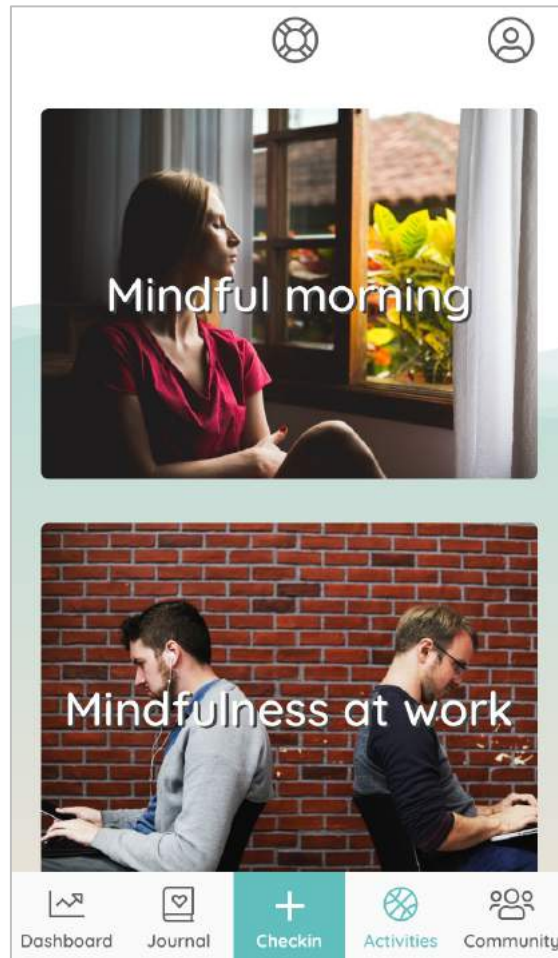
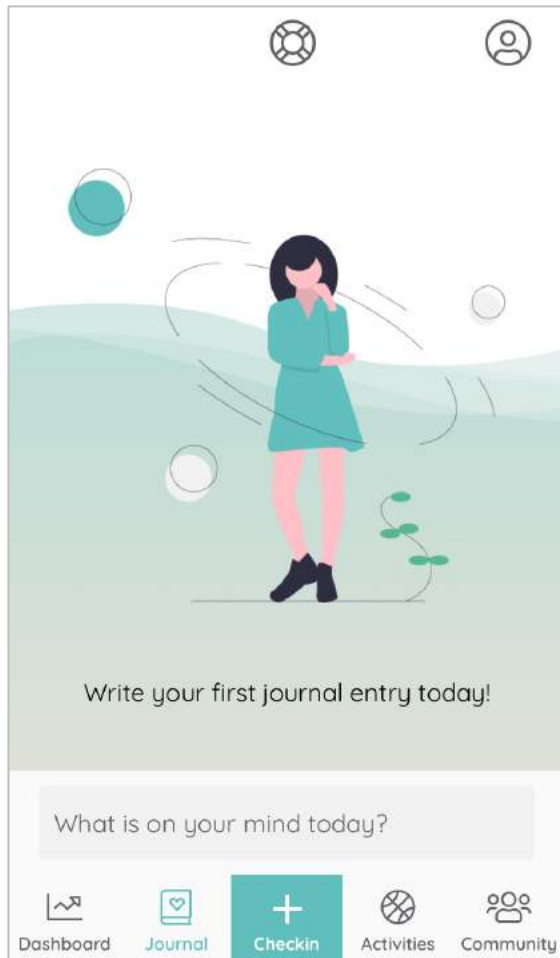
# BC Travel Assistance Program (TAP)

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be a BC resident enrolled in MSP
- Must have a referral from physician or nurse
- Travel expenses cannot be covered by third party insurance
- Escort covered if patient is 18 years old or younger
- Clinic MOAs should have these forms (link to order and instructions on the OPSEI website)
  - Social Work will also have these forms

Air Transportation (-30%)	Ground Transportation (-30%)	Ferry Transportation (-100%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angel Flight (-100%)</li> <li>• Central Mountain Air</li> <li>• Harbour Air</li> <li>• Helijet</li> <li>• KD Air</li> <li>• Pacific Coastal Airlines</li> <li>• Seair Seaplanes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Via Rail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Ferries</li> </ul>

# Mental Health



# But remember that “resilience is not a DIY endeavour”. It’s all about relationships.

- *“A positive attitude may be required to take advantage of opportunities as you find them, but **no amount of positive thinking on its own is going to help you survive a natural disaster, a bad workplace or childhood abuse.**”*
- *Change your world first by finding the **relationships that nurture** you, the opportunities to use your talents and the places where you experience **community and governmental support and social justice.**”*
- *Once you have these, your world will help you succeed more than you could ever help yourself.”*

**Michael Ungar, Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and  
Community Resilience, Dalhousie University**

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# Ask about BEARS:



[#Canada](#) [#BritishColumbia](#) Great Bear Rainforest Hits a Screen Big Enough to Fit Its Grandeur | The Tyee

- Barriers
- Economic Status (SES)
- ACES
- Resiliency
- Social Capital





# Surgery And Society

**‘OPERATION’-alising the evidence to dismantle structural barriers to pediatric care at BCCH**



June 27, 2019



Thank You



M A S E S

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Day  
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