

Special Issue of the Journal on Indigenous communities

Sharing information about a **special issue of the journal Child Abuse and Neglect**, focused on Indigenous wellbeing, risk, and resilience which *“arose from the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) conference, March 27th-30th 2022. The event aimed to interrogate the meaning, scope and functions of “caring communities to enhance child and family wellbeing” research and practice. A prominent theme from the conference was Indigenous youth wellbeing and resilience, as well as structural factors and intersecting forms of marginalization affecting them.”*

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The call is at this link: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/child-abuse-and-neglect/call-for-papers/indigenous-wellbeing-risk-and-resilience>

Indigenous youth around the world have unique strengths and resilience despite facing a wide range of structural and systemic risks, such as poverty, health inequities, lack of access to services, over-representation in the child welfare system and lack of consideration of their views and voices. Current research shows land-based activities, prevention initiatives, positive social support, cultural continuity and personal agency/coping strategies strengthen pathways of perseverance or resilience for Indigenous youth. In fact, cultural identity is the foundation to holistic health outcomes and is nurtured through participation in cultural and strength-based activities. We now understand that wellness and resilience are broad concepts that encompass both the physical and mental spheres, but also the social, emotional, cultural and spiritual spheres.

Considering recent commissions of inquiry and policies (e.g., Royal Commission of Inquiry “Abuse in Care” involving Māori children in New Zealand, started in 2018) as well as recent legislative changes (e.g., new Indigenous child welfare law in Canada, Bill C-92, which came into effect in 2021), it is important to regularly gather high quality research and innovative practice ideas to support the wellbeing and resilience of Indigenous youth.