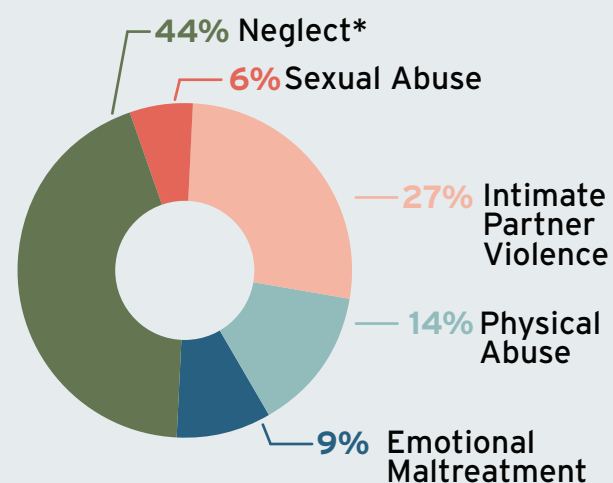


Newborn Apprehensions

Who Is Impacted? Factors At Play

- **Racialized** persons such as Black and Indigenous families
- People of **lower socio-economic status**
- Parents experiencing **mental health challenges and/or substance use**
- Individuals experiencing **homelessness**
- **Newcomer and immigration families**
- Parents navigating **domestic violence**
- Interactions with **healthcare and organizations** contributing to **parent mistrust**
- Access to resources (physical, economic, etc.)
- **Generational trauma**
- **Birth alerts**
- **Mandatory reporting**
- **Colonial systems of oppression and racism**

Primary Category of Maltreatment in Investigations Involving First Nations Children in Canada in 2019



(CCWRP, 2019)

*Neglect is defined by unwillingness and inability. How can we support parents who don't have the resources?

"I wasn't offered the same post-partum care as other moms – no lactation support, no check-ins. It felt like the system had already decided I didn't deserve that kind of help."

A Parent

"If we collectively decided to function differently, and chose to be in solidarity with people over systems of power, the possibilities would be endless."

Sophia Sarantakos

Centring Families

How can we prevent newborn apprehensions and keep families together through a systems of care approach?

Scan the QR Code to Learn More About Our Project



Current Systems & Solutions

Current Systems and Solutions include a variety of often disconnected organizations offering services to individuals with diverse needs.

What Works?

- People may be able to get access to individualized resources for specific contexts
- People may be able to find community through others experiencing similar issues

What Isn't Working?

- The lack of **interorganizational communication**
 - Repeating stories of trauma may result in **retraumatization**
 - Professionals may not be aware of **alternative options** (reporting versus helping families)
 - Information may be **withheld** that could better the lives of families
- Not understanding that newborn apprehensions are **preventable, not inevitable**
- **Not every parent** may feel safe to reach out for help
- **Misunderstanding of the Systems of Care Approach** in Albertan applications

"There's this mentality that if your kids came into care there's a reason for it, and you must be a horrible person and you must be doing nothing to change yourself – and that is not the case."

A Parent

The Systems of Care Approach

A Systems of Care Approach is a family-led inter-organizational collaboration – akin to multi-service and holistic care, with emphasis on empowering families in the system.

Some ways it may be implemented include:

- Looking to Indigenous groups for solutions
- Building relationships based on trust and accountability
- Open communication between organizations
- Meeting others where they're at and recognizing personal biases

Family-Led: Families with experience act as leads and advocates.

Community-Rooted: Bringing resources to families where they feel safe.

Culturally-Grounded: Responsive to the intricacies of identity.



Challenge: Preventing Newborn Apprehensions

What's the Impact of the Challenge?

- Targeting of vulnerable communities (race, class, and ability)
- Health-care & organization-related traumas
- Addiction
- Over-policing (Systematic Inequity)
- Access to resources

Impact Gaps

What's Missing?

Inter-organizational support centring families.

- Provide alternative resources for healthcare professionals to suggest (mandatory support versus mandatory reporting)

What Can We Learn?

Many require a variety of supports that are physically and economically inaccessible

- Facilities near public transport, provisions for providing affordable access

Current Solutions

Dispersed organizations attempting to treat intersecting issues individually.

What's Working?

- People have access to some resources

What Isn't Working?

- Organizations cannot get a full picture of someone's experience
- Resources may be out of reach