Structural Risk Factors Affecting Poor Outcomes for First Nations Children & Youth

**Poverty**

- “First Nations children more frequently come into contact with child welfare as a result of neglect and risk factors associated with poverty rather than referrals for physical or sexual abuse” (Trocmé et al., 65)
- “Almost half (48.8%) of all children aged 4 and under in foster care [in 2011] were Aboriginal children” (Statistics Canada, 2013)
- “Socio-economic barriers [to equity in health services] include lower levels of education and income.” (National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2011b, p. 2)
- “Health and safety of students is a concern for 72% of First Nations schools, and 32% of schools have an issue with access to clean drinking water.” (Chiefs Assembly on Education, 2012, p. 3)
- “One in four First Nations children live in poverty compared to 1 in 9 other Canadian children (UNICEF, 2009); “Food security is an issue for almost 50% of reserve residents” (Chiefs Assembly on Education, 2012, p. 2)
- “poverty is associated with increased substance use” (Reading and Wien, 2009, p. 3)

**Substandard Housing**

- “Among First Nations, 28% lived in a home requiring major repairs. On reserve, housing disparities were greater with approximately 44% of First Nations residing in homes in need of major repairs. (National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2011a, p. 2)
- “Poor housing conditions such as mold, lack of safe drinking water, and overcrowding have been associated with increased risk of morbidity from infectious disease, chronic illness, injuries, poor nutrition, and mental disorders” (National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2011a, p. 1)

**Inequities in Government and Voluntary Sector Services**

- “Approximately 47% of First Nations currently need a new school”; “Funding has been identified as the MAIN challenge by over 55% of First Nations Schools” (Chiefs Assembly on Education, 2012, pp. 3-4)
- “Youth substance over-use and violence as well as behaviour problems in children have been linked to over-crowded living conditions (Reading and Wien, 2009, 4)"}

**Substance Misuse**

- “Among First Nations, 28% lived in a home requiring major repairs. On reserve, housing disparities were greater with approximately 44% of First Nations residing in homes in need of major repairs. (National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health, 2011a, p. 2)
- “poverty is associated with increased substance use” (Reading and Wien, 2009, p. 3)

Sources: