

Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities ^[1]

Closing the gap in health and education outcomes for Indigenous children in Canada

Author: Statistics Canada

Source: Government of Canada

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AVAILABILITY

Read online ^[2]

Full report PDF ^[3]

KEY MESSAGES

- A new study by Statistics Canada^{Footnote 1} found evidence that Indigenous early childhood development programs such as Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities (AHSUNC) are associated with **positive health and education outcomes for both elementary and intermediate/high school** aged Canadian Indigenous children.
- The study also found that AHSUNC is **successfully reaching high risk Indigenous populations**. Children who have attended these programs experience significantly greater socio-demographic challenges such as living with a single parent, having a parent or grandparent who attended residential school, living in the north and in a lower income household than those who attended non-Indigenous-focused early child development programs.
- Children and youth who participated in AHSUNC **achieve similar health and education outcomes as their peers who are not faced with the same adversity**.
- These results suggest that AHSUNC and its focus on Indigenous culture and language helps participating Indigenous children to close the gap in health and education outcomes with non-AHSUNC participants who are not faced with the same adversity. These results also suggest that the program helps these children become more resilient and results in healthier and higher-achieving students.

Region: Canada ^[4]

Tags: Indigenous ^[5]

health and safety ^[6]

education system ^[7]

Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022): <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/17/12/aboriginal-head-start-urban-and-northern-communities>

Links

[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/17/12/aboriginal-head-start-urban-and-northern-communities> ^[2]

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/aboriginal-health/closing-gap-health-education-outcomes.html> ^[3]

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/aboriginal-head-start/closing-the-gap-fact-sheet-en.pdf> ^[4]

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