

**CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY**

**Understanding Families with  
Complex Needs: Intergenerational  
Violence and Homelessness**

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# Agenda

1. Project development
2. Project design/methods
3. Analysis
4. Preliminary findings
5. Implications for policy and practice
6. Questions/comments

1. Funder meeting
2. Community meeting
3. Grant application and funding  
ACCFCR and COH
4. Advisory committee  
Calgary Homeless Foundation, Inn From the Cold,  
YWCA, Alberta Human Services
5. Community meeting

Primarily Participatory approach

Community partners

Students

Engaging mothers as RA's

Qualitative one-on-one interviews

Qualitative group interview

Member check

Data

1. Individual review of transcripts
2. Written review of key themes
3. Team meetings
4. Member check
5. Advisory committee

## Data - 2012-2015 overall family shelter usage

1. 91% of head of households are lone parent mothers
2. Most use only one shelter
3. Families stay longer than adult singles in shelter
4. Families have very different cultural backgrounds than adult singles

## Data

1. 45% Indigenous
2. 38% other cultures
3. 17% Caucasian (compares with 59% adult singles)

## Barriers

### 1. Structural

immigration policies, jurisdictional issues, eligibility, childcare, housing

### 2. Social

interference, lack of 'healthy, reliable social supports

### 3. Emotional

embarrassment, shame, fear,

### 4. Informational

lack of awareness, inconsistency of information



## Themes

1. Conceptualizations of Violence (all women)  
IPV, structural, familial, multiple
2. Cultural complexities  
loss of papers, change in status,  
complex systems, lack of appropriate  
supports
3. Children  
sickness, safety, identity, normalization
4. Systems (child welfare, income support, housing )  
complete distrust and fear, punitive
5. Resiliency/hope  
hopes and dreams, kids needs come first, kids  
as motivators for change,

## Interviews with staff

1. Interagency collaboration and timing
2. Short-term housing for stabilization (as part of a continuum)
3. Flexible and mobile funding
4. Increased stock of affordable housing
5. Review of agency eligibility particularly for housing

# Questions?