



The RESPCCT Study (Research Examining Stories of Pregnancy and Childbearing in Canada Today)

The goal of this community-led research project is to examine quality of pregnancy and childbirth care in Canada, including experiences of respect, support, discrimination, and/or mistreatment across populations. We will try to understand factors that may affect quality of care for pregnant persons from different identities, circumstances, or backgrounds including those living with disabilities, health challenges, or have been pregnant while homeless, imprisoned, low income, or because they live in rural/remote areas.

Mothers and babies who come from communities of color, who are Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit), who are recent immigrants, or who have been in prison, homeless, or lower incomes, are at risk for poor health outcomes. Some researchers have suggested that this may be because they are not able to access care or because they are treated differently.

Very little is known about how the experience of care during pregnancy and childbirth links to health and well-being. This is the first study that has asked community members to decide on what is most important to study and understand to improve quality of care for childbearing families in Canada.

RESEARCH GOALS

1. Develop a person-centered survey that measures the quality of maternity care in Canada
2. Describe the pregnant people, families and communities who report respectful care in Canada
3. Explore factors that link to experiences of respect, support, disrespect, and/or mistreatment.
4. Examine the links between respectful care during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum well-being of the family
5. Help the community develop and execute a plan for sharing and using the knowledge gained in the study

We are the first national research team in Canada to use a community-based process to:

- Design questions that measure the most important things that affect their experiences of pregnancy, birth, and newborn care.
- Lead the interpretation of the results of the study.
- Decide how to tell their stories to the public, law makers, care providers, and health systems.