

Factors Influencing Vision Care Access Amongst Aboriginal Children in Canada: A Conceptual Framework

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Objectives 50 words (50)

Fifty-five percent of First Nations children with a health condition have vision problems. Service support for childhood vision problems is one of the most important concerns for Aboriginal communities. A conceptual framework was developed to aid the understanding of inherent issues on vision care access for researchers and policy makers.

Approach 100-word limit (58)

Relevant articles on the topic were generated from a literature search of five electronic databases: MEDLINE, SCOPUS, PAIS index, CINAHL, and the grey literature. Reference lists of key articles were also searched. A total of 21 articles and two reports were deemed relevant by the author and concepts were used to develop an explanatory and interactive conceptual framework.

Results 125-word limit (123)

The conceptual framework was developed using specific concepts informed by the literature including four existing conceptual frameworks. These frameworks were: The Theory of Planned

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Behaviour, the Behavioural Model of Health Services Use, the First Nations Wholistic Policy and Planning Model and the Integrated Life Course and Social Determinants Model of Aboriginal Health. The Framework developed on Vision Care Access focuses on vision care issues influencing both potential and realized access in vulnerable children living on Aboriginal reserves. It embraces community, the important holistic perspective of health (physical, spiritual, emotional and mental) and health over the life course (child, youth, adult, and elders) in Aboriginal populations. Self-determination, the most important determinant of health among Aboriginal people (as cited in the literature) was also incorporated.

Conclusions 50-word limit (49)

The Framework on Vision Care Access provides an explanatory and interactive framework to enhance understanding and aid the development of policy and research in Canada. Importance of relationship in community, holistic perspectives of health, the effects of colonialization and health over a life course were incorporated into the model.