

10 Research Priorities in Child Maltreatment – The Better Together Project

1. Which Indigenous Ways of Being and Knowing can be included in systems like healthcare, education, mental health, and justice to create safer and more supportive environments for Indigenous youth who have experienced trauma?
2. How can systems such as the justice system, legal proceedings, healthcare, and child protective services sometimes cause harm or make things worse for youth who have experienced maltreatment? What steps can be taken to prevent these harms?
3. What are the gaps in the systems that support children and youth who have experienced maltreatment, and how can these systems be improved?
4. How can we address intergenerational trauma and support the whole family during treatment?
5. In Black communities, how do socioeconomic challenges (e.g., poverty) and related mental health issues (e.g., depression) contribute to unintentional or system-driven neglect (e.g., when a caregiver must work multiple jobs and has limited time for their child)?
6. What are the most effective ways to prevent child maltreatment, and how can these strategies be applied in Canada?
7. How effective are specific therapies—like positive psychology, trauma-focused cognitive behavioural therapy (TF-CBT), play therapy, mindfulness-based therapies, EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing), internal family systems (IFS), emotional freedom techniques, emotion-focused therapy (EFT), group therapy, and parenting interventions—in treating youth who have experienced child maltreatment?
8. How can we improve education about child maltreatment and trauma-informed practices in services that support youth who have experienced maltreatment (e.g., healthcare, schools, child welfare, and mental health)?

9. How does child maltreatment happen alongside, contribute to, or lead to the development and diagnosis of mental health disorders (like eating disorders), and neurodevelopmental disorders, like Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)?
10. How does child maltreatment impact brain development, and how the brain works? (For example, memory, attention, language processing, critical thinking, decision-making, creative thinking, and problem-solving, etc.)