



**A Novel Process
for Identifying At-Risk Youth
through School-based Screening
on a First Nation Reserve**

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CO-LEAD



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The Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-being Measure (ACHWM)



- Purpose:
 - to track and improve health outcomes
 - to advocate for services to meet children's health needs
- Built within a community-university collaboration
 - between Wikwemikong and Laurentian University
- Measures health and well-being from the perspectives of Aboriginal children
 - ages 8 to 18 years
- Developed in Wikwemikong
 - via 6 full-day focus groups

Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-Being Measure (ACHWM)

would like to know how you are feeling. The questions below were developed by a group of First Nations children and youth to assess physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

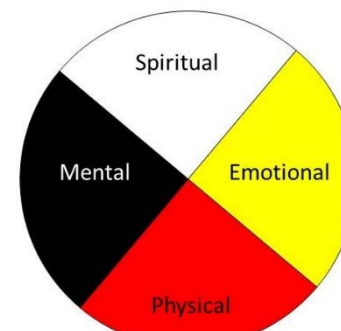
Mark the circle under the answer that describes you best.	Never	Hardly Ever	Sometimes	Often	Always
laugh and have fun ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
feel physically fit (I feel that my body is in good shape) ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
feel afraid or scared ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
feel bullied ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
make healthy choices ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
enjoy exercise...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
is hard to keep my mind on my school work during class ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
have enough energy ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
forget things ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Completed by Children Using Computer Tablets



- The Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-being Measure (ACHWM) is a tablet-based self-report measure.

- It is based on the Medicine Wheel framework:
 - 4 quadrant scores
 - 1 summary score



PSYCHOMETRICALLY SOUND



Psychometrics:

- Validity $(r=0.52$ vs PedsQL)
 $(r=0.63$ vs KIDSCREEN)
- Reliability (ICC=0.94)

Screening Function:

- Sensitivity (0.75)
- Specificity (0.97)

Objective of this presentation:



To describe a novel screening mechanism that identifies children in need of health care support within Aboriginal communities or agencies.



Methods

Details on the Screening Process



Created by the Nadmadwin Mental Health Clinic staff,
in Wikwemikong.

- They asked that we flag questions which suggest that the participant may be at-risk
 - ❖ Programmed into the tablet application
- Children are referred to a local mental health worker:
 - 1 or more red flags
 - 2 or more yellow flags

Triage component ensures their safety by connecting them to appropriate services



Health and Wellness Assessment

Date: _____

Code: _____

The following answers were given during the completion of *Aaniish Naa Gegii (ANG) survey*. The research team would appreciate your expert assessment. Please provide services based on your assessment and contact parents if appropriate. Please return this form with your decision about the appropriateness of this referral. We will use the results to improve our screening tool.

	Never	Hardly Ever	Some-times	Often	Always
3. I feel afraid or scared ...					<input type="radio"/>
4. I feel bullied ...					<input type="radio"/>
18. I hurt other people when I am upset or angry ...				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. I do things to keep myself safe ...	<input type="radio"/>				
21. I feel lonely ...					<input type="radio"/>
23. I break things when I am upset or angry ...				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. I feel safe at home ...	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
26. When I get sad or upset I get over it quickly ...	<input type="radio"/>				
28. I stay home from school ...					<input type="radio"/>
31. I get mad or cry when something small goes wrong ...					<input type="radio"/>
33. I feel like hurting myself ...			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Data Gathering



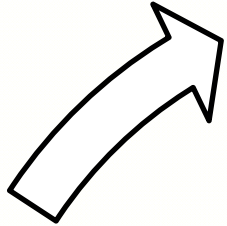
Children were recruited through schools and events within Wikwemikong

Children completed the ACHWM on tablets.

Children whose answers raised two or more flags met with a mental health team member

- immediately after the survey
- for an individual brief assessment to assess their need for further support.

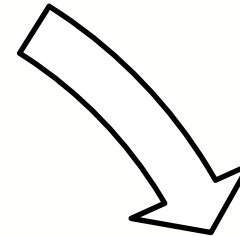
Low screening & triage works



Triage



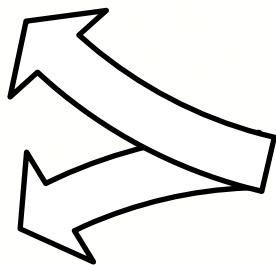
10' at school



Password Protected



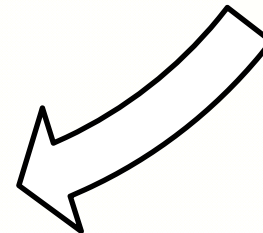
indicator of risk



Mental Health Support



reasons for risk





Results

Sample:



- ▶ A total of **130** children completed the survey in Wikwemikong and are reported here.
 - Their ages ranged from 8.1 to 21.8 years
 - mean age of 13.2 (SD=3.44) years
 - 47.8% were girls
 - All participants were members of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve

ACHWM was completed at:

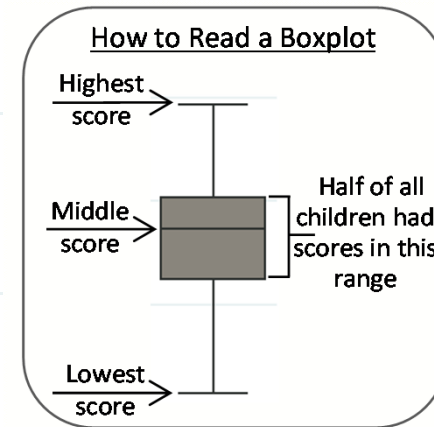
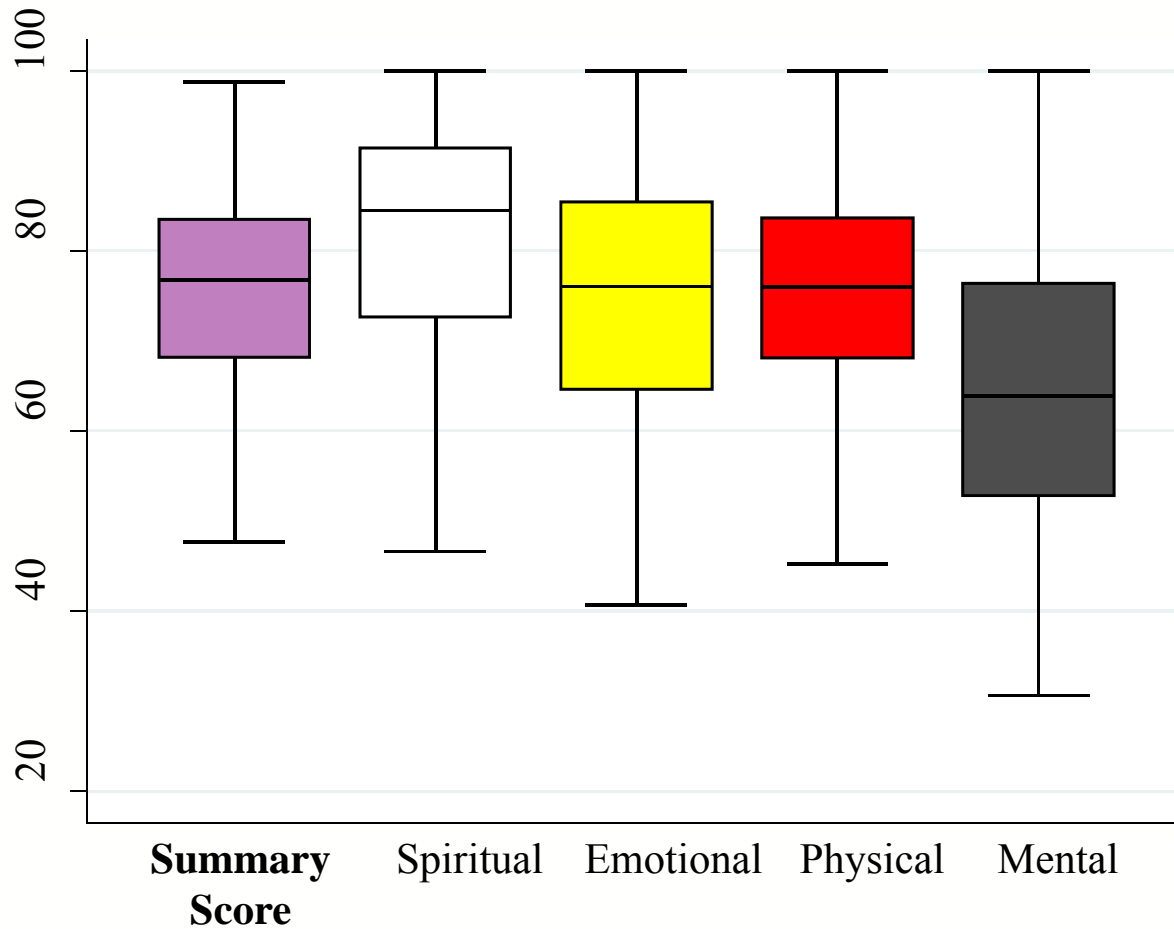


Date	Location	Surveys
Youth Centre (OALE)	July 23, 2014	13
Junior School	Feb 19 & Mar 12 2015	21
Pontiac School	Feb 18 & Mar 10 2015	47
High School	March 12 2015	12
Hockey Banquet	April 18 2015	6
After School Events	April 23 2015	27
Youth Centre	June 9, 16 & 23 2015	4
Total		130

ACHWM Distributions



- From 130 children in Wikwemikong



Screening Results



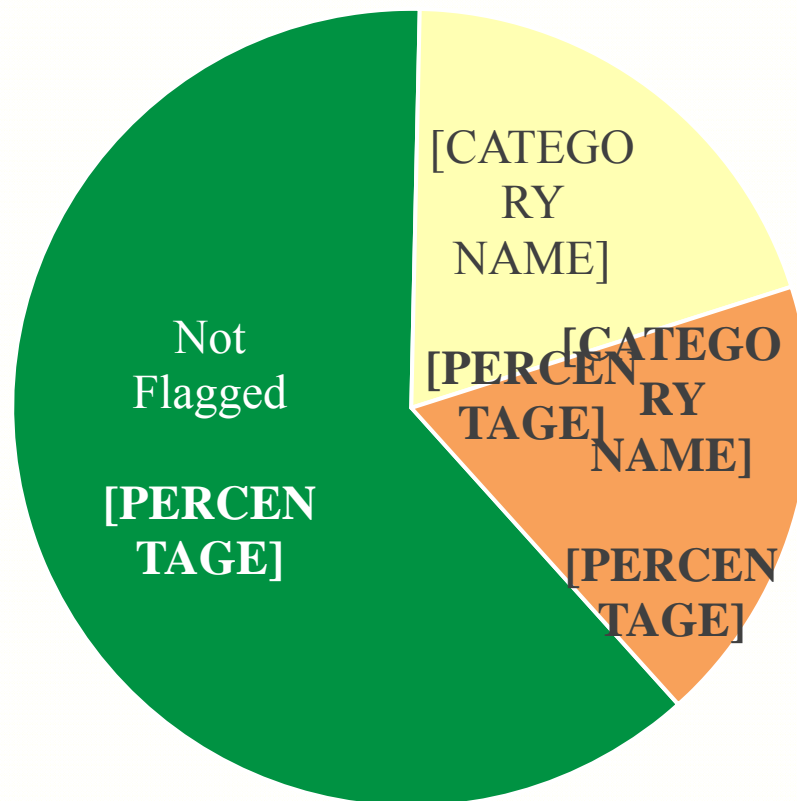
Of the **130** children who completed the survey:

→ **38%** required a brief mental health assessment

→ **48%** required further support
(18% of all participants)

→ **50%** were connected to support services
for the first time via the survey process
(9% of all participants)

Screening Results



50% of this group were new referrals (had not previously been seen by the mental health team)

Relevance



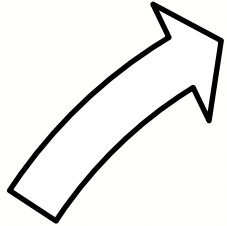
The brief assessment process ensured that the community survey was responsive to the needs of the children

- Because same-day support was provided to at-risk participants
- Ensuring the safety of all participants

This was made possible through:

- the wisdom of the children
- coupled with the wisdom of the mental health team
- and the use of technology

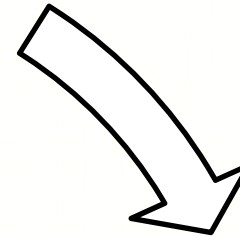
Key Impact



Triage



10' at school

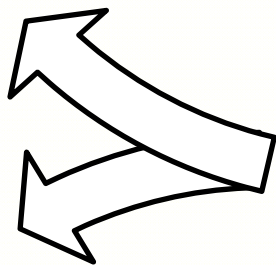


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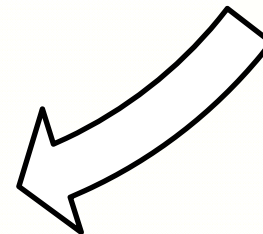


indicator of risk

Catalyst for honest dialogue that leads to immediate support



reasons for risk



Mental Health Support



Changing the Conversation



- ✓ The children relate to the tablets quickly and easily.
- ✓ This provides a way to ask about a broad range of feelings and experiences.
- ✓ The results help to start the conversation with children.
- ✓ The children are able to continue the conversation, once it has started.
- ✓ This may augment traditional ways of knowing

Implications



Health centres on First Nations reserves have the capacity to deliver health promotion, prevention and early intervention.

The ACHWM enables early identification and facilitates earlier intervention

- enhances the fit between children's needs and local resources.

This process has the potential to reduce the number of Aboriginal children forced to leave their communities for more intensive treatment in cities.



A SCREENING MECHANISM TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AT-RISK

- Currently under revision for the
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