

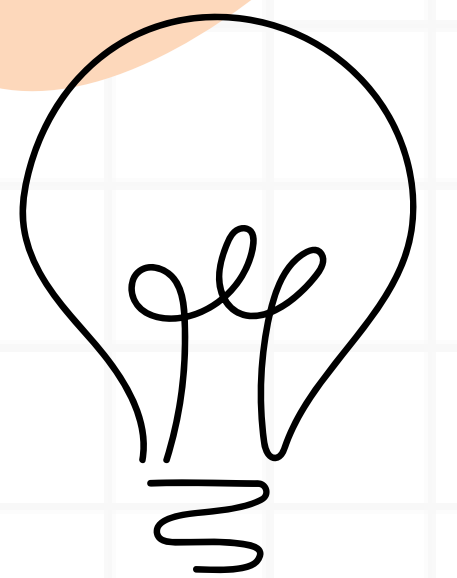
Insights from Registered Nurses in General settings : EXPLORING THE NEEDS OF ADOPTIVE FAMILIES AND INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

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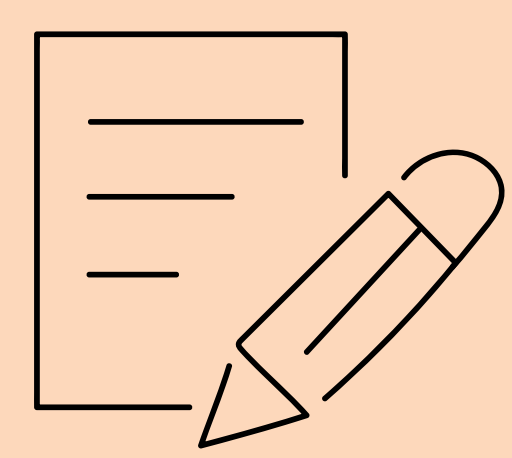


INTRODUCTION

The needs of adoptive families, particularly in terms of health, are increasingly recognized, especially with changes in the profiles of internationally adopted children (Germain & Esquivel, 2019). Despite this, in Quebec, there's a notable absence of health follow-up post-adoption, leading many families to seek care in the emergency room (ER) or in other first line services. In Canada, studies have shown that in ER, 40% of the children do not receive adequate treatment for their conditions (Knisley & al., 2022). Literature also reported a lack of resources related to knowledge on adoption and children needs among health professionals (Roach & al., 2023).



RESEARCH OBJECTIVE



This descriptive qualitative study aims to explore the perceptions of registered nurses regarding the needs of Quebec families who adopted children internationally. Also, the present study is part of the programming of the Experiences Adoptions project carried out at the University of Quebec in Trois-Rivières (UQTR). The mandate for this project has been granted by the Ministère de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec. This study is a gateway to different areas of research with health care professional, the tools available to them and how they interact with these families.

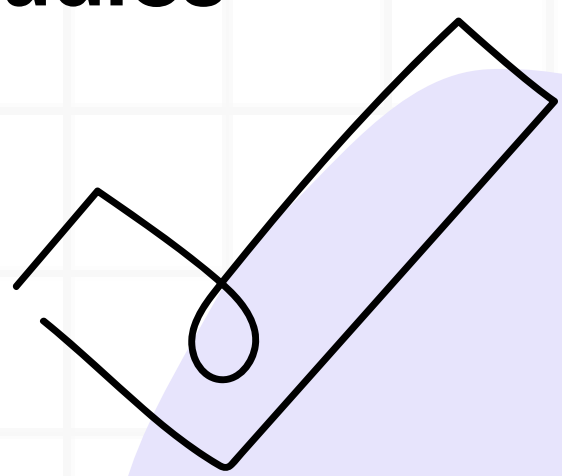
METHOD

Group of registered nurses (RN) who have had contact with adoptive families in a professional setting.

Group of RN who have never had contact with adoptive families in a professional setting.

- Member of the Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ)
- Over a 1680h of experience
- Speak and read French

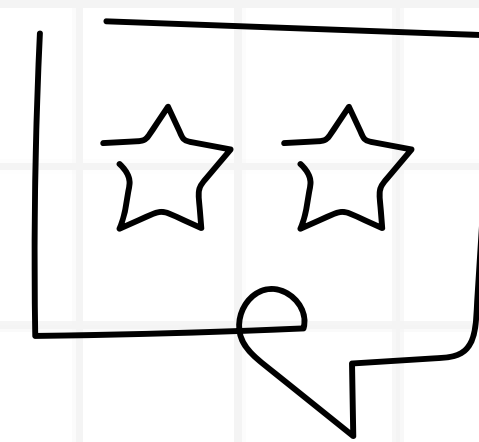
1. Sociodemographic questionnaires
2. Semi-structured interviews
3. Cases studies



ANALYSIS

The analysis of the data collected from the semi-structured interviews and the case studies was made using the qualitative analysis method of Paillé and Mucchielli (2016).

Bronfenbrenner's ecosystem model (1986) was also used as a reference framework to analyze the different systems surrounding the adopted child and the adoptive family. This model's definition of the different systems allowed us to explore direct and indirect influences of these systems forming the environment as well as their impact on the perception of professionals regarding the needs of families.



KEY FINDINGS

1- THE PLACE OF FAMILY IN PRIMARY CARE NURSING

2- THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NURSING ROLE IN ADDRESSING ADOPTIVE FAMILY NEEDS

3- THOUGHT PROCESSES INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES FACED BY ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

4- THE IMPORTANCE OF PEDIATRIC AND ADOPTION-SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE AMONG NURSES

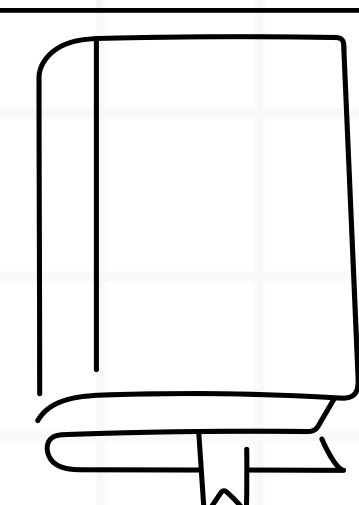
IMPLICATIONS

The study underscores the critical need to raise awareness of adoptive family experience's and to enhance nursing education with a focus on pediatric and adoption specific considerations.

Additionally, the findings highlight the necessity for further research to explore how nurse can better support adoptive families and internationally adopted children, particularly in the ER and in the different services of the first line services.



CONCLUSION



As advocate for the well-being of all children and families, it's imperative for nurses to have knowledge and access to resources necessary to efficiently support adoptive families. By addressing the unique needs of these families, we can work towards ensuring better outcomes for internationally adopted children and reduce the risk of adoptive dissolution.

Bronfenbrenner, U. (1986). Ecology of the family as a context for human development: Research perspectives. *American Psychological Association*, 22(6), 723-742.

Germain, P., & Esquivel, A. (2019). The importance of nursing support for families with international adoptees. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 46(1), 124-125.

Knisley, L., Hartling, L., Jabbour, M., Johnson, D. W., Lang, E. S., MacPhee, S., Reid, S., Scott, S. D., Sinclair, D., Stang, A. S., Vincent, M., & Klassen, T. P. (2022). Translating Emergency Knowledge for Kids (TREKK): using research evidence to improve outcomes for children and families in emergency departments across Canada. *CJEM*, 24(1), 12-15.

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Roach, A., Sherburne, E., & Sneath, J. (2023). Intercountry adoption of children with complex health conditions and disabilities: A systematic review. *Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing*, 28(1), e12398.