CIHR IRSC | Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health
Institut du développement et de la santé des enfants et des adolescents

Better Beginnings
Vibrant Childhoods
Empowered Youth



2026 Highlights

Making a Difference

Convene

We facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and enable purposeful partnerships to strengthen research, mobilize knowledge and shape policy.

Build and sustain purposeful partnerships

Connecting researchers and fostering collaboration across Canada's human development, child and youth health research communities

OBJECTIVE: Partner with research communities and organizations across Canada to support locally driven dialogue and knowledge sharing events that reflect their priorities and perspectives.

OUTCOME: Since 2022, IHDCYH has integrated 8 partner-led community events into its Institute Advisory Board meetings, collaborating with research institutes, hospitals, and Indigenous health organizations to engage more than 500 participants in discussions on a range of topics including health equity, learning health systems, precision health, and clinical trials.

Champion

We fuel existing strengths, catalyze emerging areas and embrace a lifecycle approach to advance knowledge, address health inequities and inspire support for science.

Advance research in areas of need and strength

Fostering global health research for children and families through international collaboration

OBJECTIVE: Steward the Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative (HeLTI), supporting international partnerships and advancing collaborative research through a $56.7M partnered investment focused on early-life interventions to prevent childhood obesity, reducing the risk of chronic disease, and improving health outcomes across the lifespan.

OUTCOME: Strengthened international collaboration and advanced shared research priorities through engagement with international funding agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), and research teams in China, India, South Africa, and Canada, reinforcing partnerships and a shared commitment to advancing research that promotes healthier life trajectories for children and families.

Capacity Build

We support diverse career pathways and strengthen key infrastructure to improve efficiency, amplify impact and nurture a thriving health research environment.

Shape a comprehensive data strategy

Leveraging existing data to generate new insights and inform research, policy, and practice

OBJECTIVE: Fund secondary data analysis projects to utilize existing Canadian cohorts, databases and data platforms to address new research questions, advance knowledge, and improve patient, population and health system outcomes.

OUTCOME: Invested $7.1M since 2020 to support 94 projects in collaboration with 12 CIHR Institutes and federal partners, maximizing the value of existing Canadian research data assets and expanding the evidence base in human development, child and youth health.

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