**Example Abstract**

**BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL CORRELATES OF HEALTH IN CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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**Objectives:** There is a growing body of knowledge highlighting higher levels of physical and mental health problems in children with developmental disabilities (DD) compared to typically developing children, related partly to inequities in health care provision. While children with severe DD often struggle with known biological risk factors that contribute to physical and mental ill-health, less is known about how psychological or social factors, such as socioeconomic status, parent health, or service use, contributes to health. The current study examines the biopsychosocial correlates of health in children with severe DD across Canada.

**Methods:** Great Outcomes for Kids Impacted by Severe Developmental Disabilities (GO4KIDDS) is an ongoing research project examining the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of children with severe DD. The current study used information from GO4KIDDS’ Basic Survey. Data collection is ongoing. Thus far, data has been collected on 83 children 5-19 years of age (M = 11.33, SD = 3.81).

**Results:** According to parents, 42% of children were rated as ‘healthy’ or ‘very healthy’ compared to other children of the same age. Parent rating of health was correlated with the average number of monthly medical appointments, r(83) = -.43, p < .001, and the number of times children went to the emergency room in the last year, r(83) = -.33, p = .002. Common health problems included seizures (28%), feeding or eating difficulties (gastro-intestinal problems, feeding tubes, major allergies and sensitivities, et.; 31%), and asthma (12%). Severity of parent mental health problems was correlated with frequency of child mental health problems, r(83) = .49, p < .001, but not related to the child’s physical health rating. Child happiness was related to specific medical conditions, such as the presence of seizures, p = .03.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** The poster will elaborate on these preliminary results using multiple regression, and will discuss how biological, psychological, and social factors work together to predict child physical and mental health.

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