

**Title:** Exploring The Experiences and Perspectives of Service Providers Involved in Child  
Apprehensions on Mothers with Problematic Substance Use in Saskatchewan.

**Name:** Ghazal Mousavian

**Academic institution:** University of Saskatchewan

**Program:** Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies

**Stage doctoral program:** First year and Coursework

**Introduction:** The 2012 Saskatchewan Prevention Institute report showed an increase in women using substances during pregnancy. Indigenous people are disproportionately impacted by substance abuse disorders which increase the risk of losing custody of their children to child protection services compared to non-Indigenous women. Child apprehension harms the well-being of both the mother and the child. Past child apprehension practices involving Indigenous children, such as Sixties Scoop, have a demonstrable negative impact on mental health and addiction. Working alongside service providers involved in Child Apprehension against Indigenous women with problematic substance use in Saskatchewan can shed light on current practices and explore how they are responsive to the needs of the mother and the child.

**Research questions:**

1. What are the experiences and perspectives of Child Welfare Services workers involved with Indigenous mothers with problematic substance use in Saskatchewan?
2. What considerations do Child Welfare Services workers make to commence child apprehension procedures against Indigenous mothers with problematic substance use?
3. What policy imperatives guide the involvement of child protection services on Indigenous women with problematic substance use?

**Method:** This study will utilize an ethnography design to articulate a coherent and meaningful account of the experiential knowledge of providers involved in child protection services caring for mothers with problematic substance use in Saskatchewan. Approximately 10-15 service providers with at least one year of experience providing services and care to these women will be invited to share their experiences. Various data collection methods, including a) Structured in-depth interviews with the service providers; b) Document analysis of legal, policy, and practice guidelines that providers use to inform their child apprehension decisions, will be utilized for this study.