INTRODUCTION
The Family & Child Health Initiative (FCHI) is a community-based research and innovation program at the Institute for Better Health, Trillium Health Partners, Mississauga, ON. FCHI’s work is carried out within the Peel Region of southwestern Ontario. We partner with local organizations and groups on the design and implementation of research and innovation programs.

METHODS
- **Stakeholder Identification**: Conducted environmental scan and used snowball sampling to identify relevant local organizations.
- **Data Collection**: Contacted representatives at each organization to introduce FCHI and schedule an interview or focus group. Obtained consent to audio record discussions and professionally transcribe for analysis.
- **Analysis**: Conducted mixed-methods content analysis. Shared draft of findings with all participants for validation and feedback.
- **Dissemination**: Report made available to stakeholders. All participants invited to 1-day event to discuss report findings in an interactive forum. Peer-review publication co-authored with community partners.

RESULTS
We identified 87 organizations and conducted interviews and focus groups with n=155 representatives from 61 (70.1%) organizations across the Peel Region.

Participants by Organization Type
- 10% Arts/Culture/Diversity
- 10% Health Care
- 10% Mental Health & Counselling
- 13% Parenting Support
- 19% Child & Youth Services
- 5% Social Services & Supports
- 5% Food Security
- 4% Immigration and Settlement
- 6% Education
- 11% Government
- 7% Other

Key Findings
- **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**: Mental health and well-being was identified as the top issue facing families.
- **STIGMATIZATION**: Stigma and biases are prevalent and multi-dimensional barriers to health (e.g., in relation to mental health, poverty, and weight).
- **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**: There is an unmet need locally for more diverse, inclusive, and equitable health resources, guidelines, and practices.
- **COLLABORATION & INTEGRATION**: Participants wanted more cross-organization and cross-sector collaboration and system integration to support families.
- **SOCIAL DETERMINANTS**: Participants highlighted poverty, insecurity, systemic racism, social isolation, built environment, heritage, and culture as key factors needing attention.
- **FAMILY-CENTERED SUPPORT**: Participants wanted family-centered support with focus on emotional and relational health instead of individual behavior change in children.

**What does health mean to you?**
- Holistic quality of life involving physical, mental, emotional, and social health
- Secure child and caregiver relationships
- Health equity

**DISCUSSION**
- A vision for local health emerged that was holistic, equitable, and family-centered.
- There is need to support mental health as a major health issue facing families locally.
- DEI lens is needed in the design of resources, programming, and overall strategies to support health and wellbeing in the region.
- Participants shared an interest in collaboration and working towards system-level integration.

**NEXT STEPS**
- Joining community response tables (CRT) and networks in Peel to participate in ongoing engagement, dialogue and work (e.g. Regional Diversity Roundtable, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy, COVID-19 CRT, Equity and Systemic Discrimination, Parent/Family Support Team).
- Applying for grants and conducting community-based research studies in partnership with local organizations.
- Co-designing and implementing programming with local community organizations and members.

**CONCLUSION**
This early engagement was crucial to identifying local priorities, challenges, assets, and aspirations; it will continue as part of FCHI’s community-based approach to research and innovation in Peel.

**CONTACTS**
Sara Martel, Science Associate, IBH - Sara.Martel@thp.ca

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
This work is funded through support from an anonymous donor, Trillium Health Partners Foundation, and grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).