

# **Assessing the Acceptability of Genomic Profiling in Newborn Screening for Childhood Cancer: A Scoping Review Focused on French-Speaking Minority Populations in Canada**

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Newborn screening (NBS) programs are quintessential public health developing into childhood and later years. With the rise of genomic technologies, there is a vested interest in expanding its scope to include screening for predispositions to childhood cancers. While this is promising from a scientific standpoint, it is essential to consider its public acceptability—particularly among minority groups such as Francophone minorities outside Quebec.

This project explores the attitudes towards newborn screening for cancer among reproductive-age individuals, with a focus on the Francophone minority community in Ontario. A mixed methods approach is used across two phases. Phase one consists of a scoping review to synthesize current evidence on public perspectives towards genomic screening for childhood cancer. The second phase involves a cross-sectional survey of Francophone individuals of reproductive age to identify cultural and linguistic factors that shape perceptions of risk and benefit, trust in the healthcare system, and preferences surrounding consent and result disclosure.

Canada's diverse population underscores the importance of understanding cultural insights that could cause minority communities to differ in their views towards emerging public health technologies. This project aims to find culturally grounded insights to support equitable policy development for the future expansion of NBS programs, especially in cancer research. Furthermore, it contributes to a broader understanding of how language and identity influence engagement with genomics in healthcare.

This project is conducted in collaboration with a parallel initiative at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), though both projects remain distinct. This work aligns with both national and international efforts to ensure screening programs are inclusive, ethical, and responsive to the needs of diverse populations.