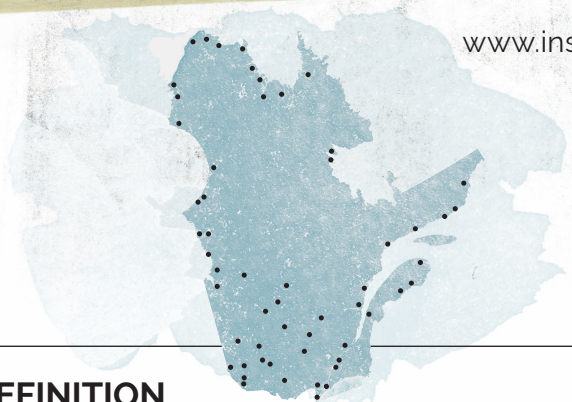


Violence in **INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

www.inspq.qc.ca/rapport-quebecois-sur-la-violence-et-la-sante



DEFINITION

In Québec, the term "Indigenous" is generally used to refer to the 10 First Nations and the Inuit, most of whom live in one of the 55 First Nations and Inuit communities in Québec. However, more and more Indigenous people now live in urban settings.



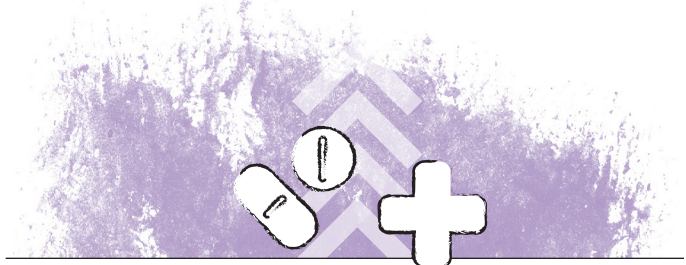
THE TRACES LEFT BY HISTORY

Violence in Indigenous communities is not only interpersonal but also **collective**. In fact, Indigenous people differ from the rest of the population in that their collective history is marked by colonialist policies aimed at their assimilation and social exclusion.



SCOPE

The prevalence of violence in Indigenous communities is very worrisome. These communities face inequalities that reflect a highly unfavourable historic and socioeconomic context. Such **inequalities**, which are well documented, have not decreased in recent years; on the contrary, they have become **much worse than those encountered in the non-Indigenous population**.



CONSEQUENCES

The consequences of violence on health in Indigenous communities **add to the burden imposed by the population's already unfavourable health status**. Moreover, frequent violence, mistrust of non-Indigenous authorities and institutions, inadequate remedial measures and, in some cases, precarious family and social support contribute to the normalization of violence and increase the risk of its transmission.

PREVENTION

The **historic causes** of the situations that exist today must be **recognized** if we are to develop interventions likely to be effective in the long term. Various initiatives must be continued in order to provide children and their families with a safe living environment. Such initiatives must be based on the resilience of Indigenous cultures and the mobilization of Indigenous communities in order to foster their active participation in the development of innovative solutions.

