### Youth wellbeing and resilience in pandemic times

Eva Oberle, PhD

Assistant Professor, The University of British Columbia

The Human Early Learning Partnership, School of Population and Public Health

Presentation prepared for a webinar organized by the Tamarack Institute, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 2022



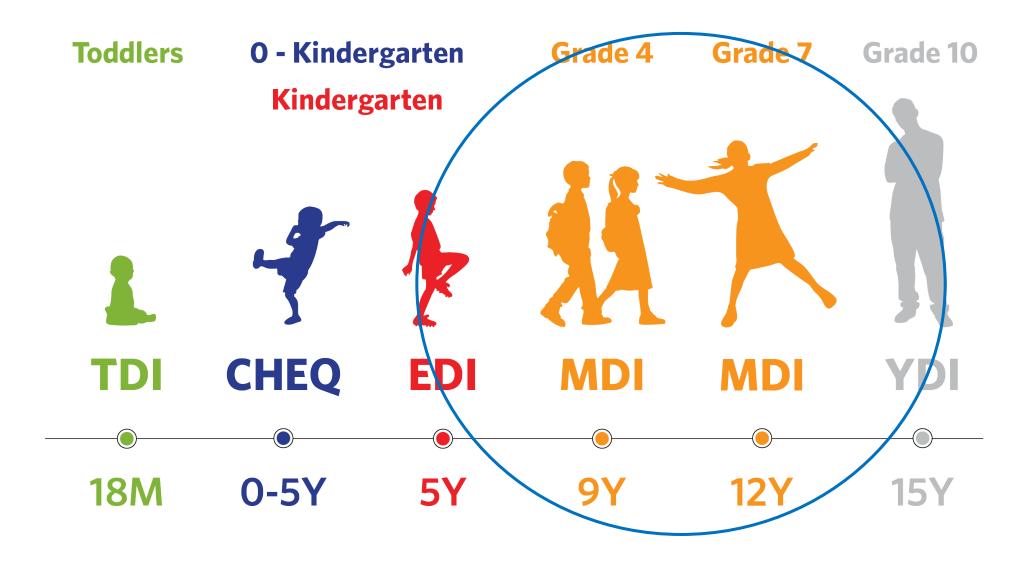




## Acknowledgments

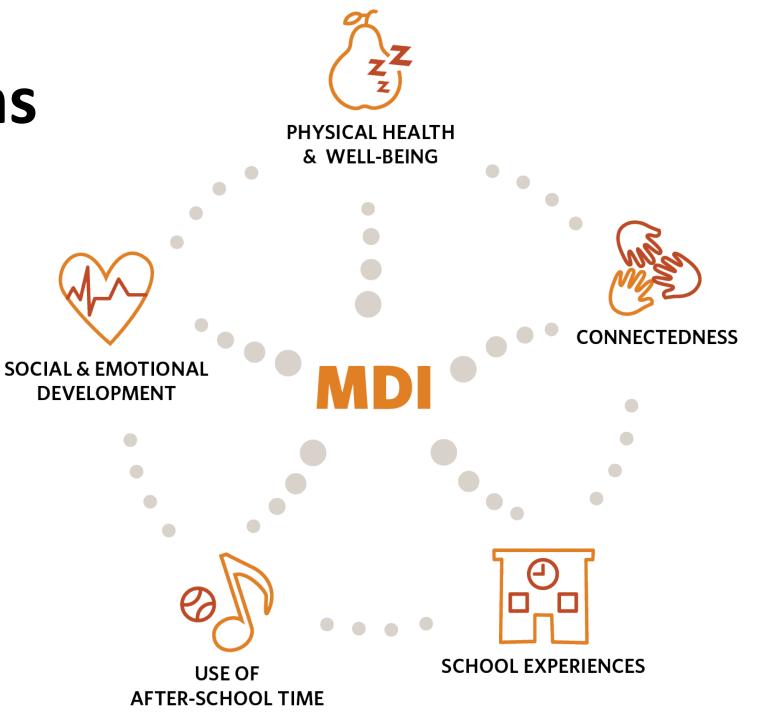
- Research was conducted on the land of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwəta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations
- This presentation includes research supported by a SSHRC engagement grant awarded to a group of researchers at HELP (PI: Anne Gadermann) in partnership with the Ministry of Education BC

### **HELP's CHILD MONITORING SYSTEM**



# **MDI Dimensions**

Measures areas of development strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement



# Changes over time in

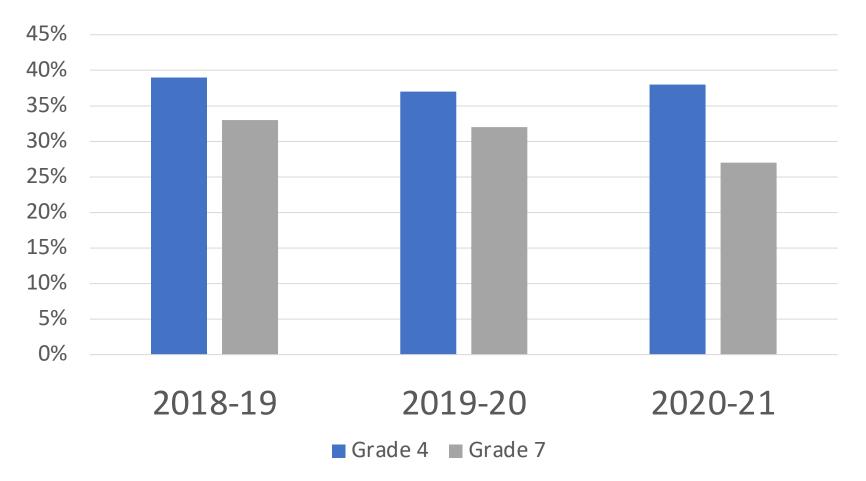
# districts that participated in 2018-2019, 2019-2020 & 2020-2021

Grade	Number of Districts	Number of Students
4	9	7,499 across 3 years
7	10	9,313 across 3 years





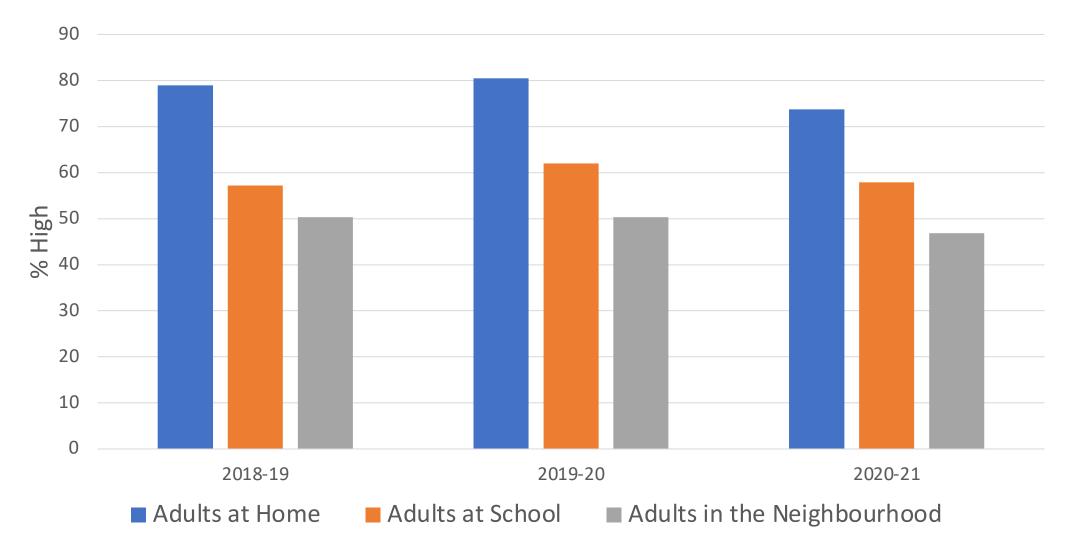
## Wellbeing - % thriving, three-year trend



The well-being of Grade 4 children has remained stable over the past two years whereas the well-being of Grade 7 children has declined.



#### **Connectedness to Adults, Grade 7**



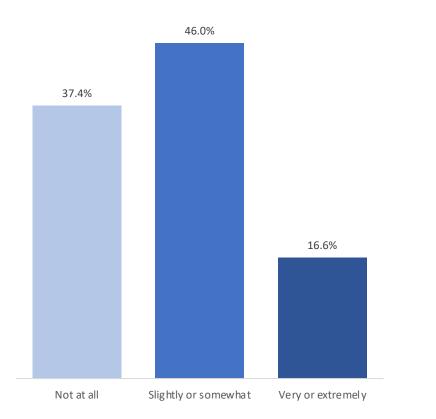
#### Covid-specific experiences

- MDI
  - COVID Module: Survey questions regarding experiences during pandemic as part of the MDI survey
  - Questions were adapted from existing validated surveys, students and stakeholders provided input
  - Responses collected in January-March 2021 (approx. 10-12 months after pandemic was declared)
  - Online surveys completed by students at school during school hours and administered by classroom teachers
  - Final COVID Module Items <u>http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi/mdi-questionnaires/</u>
  - Sample
    - N = 2038 youth, Mean age = 14 years
    - 47% identified as female, 51% identified as male, 2% identified in another way
    - Large urban school district

#### Mental health and coping during the COVID-19 pandemic (1)

MDI

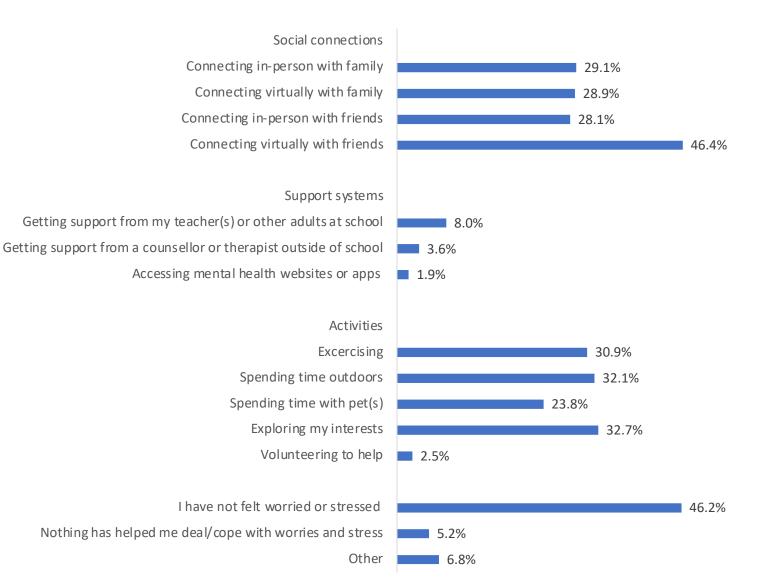
(a) During the past 2 weeks, how worried have you been about your mental/emotional health being influence by the pandemic?



Most students were concerned about their own mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Mental health and coping during the COVID-19 pandemic (2)

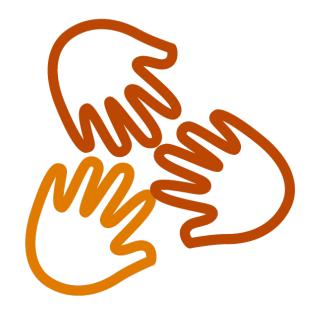
MDI

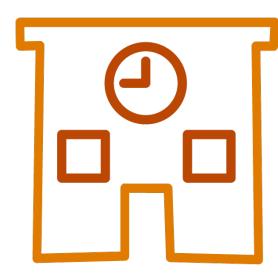


What strategies help students to cope with worries during the pandemic?

#### Key resilience factors for children during the COVID-19 pandemic (1)

MDI







Social connections

Supportive systems

Activities

## Teacher mental health in BC

- Study with 1,232 public school teachers in BC (79% female)
- 40% of teachers said they are now more likely to leave the profession than before Covid
- Clinical mental distress levels higher than in general population
  - 23% reported serious mental distress
  - 46% reported moderate mental distress
- Feeling supported by school district, Ministry, principal, colleagues and community significantly predicted better mental health, wellbeing and job satisfaction

http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/help-covid-19\_teacher\_survey-final\_infographic\_062821.pdf http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/bcteachersandcovid-19surveyreport\_062821\_final.pdf

#### **Dr. Eva Oberle** MDI Principal Investigator eva.oberle@ubc.ca





# THANK YOU