



This info sheet is one of 12 two-pagers that highlights key findings and promising practices from the **Co-Creating Evidence** (CCE) study.

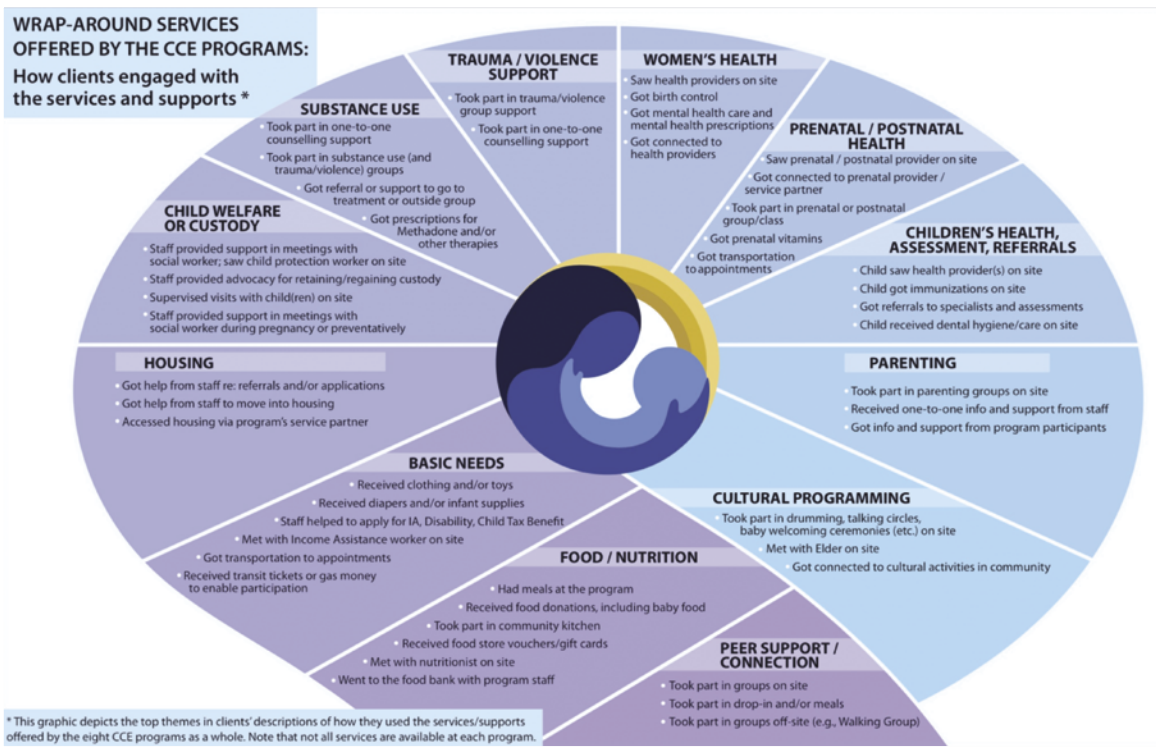
**Co-Creating Evidence** was an evaluation of eight different Canadian programs serving women at risk of having an infant with prenatal exposure to alcohol or other substances.

# What is a Wraparound Program for Pregnant or Parenting Women?

The **Co-Creating Evidence** study found that programs' use of a **wraparound, one-stop model**, along with best practice approaches such as being trauma-informed, relationship-based, culturally-grounded, and harm-reducing were effective in helping clients to achieve important outcomes for themselves and their children.

**So, what is a 'wraparound' program for pregnant or parenting women?** The term "wraparound" has both practical and symbolic meanings.

In the practical sense, **wraparound means that multiple services are offered at one location**, so that instead of a client having to make trips to multiple services for various needs – such as primary and prenatal care, trauma and substance use recovery counselling, well baby checks, housing advocacy, parenting groups – they are offered from one location. The various services are in essence "wrapped around" clients in ways that support them in many aspects of life.



# What is a 'wraparound' program for pregnant or parenting women?

Wraparound service providers do not expect that women will choose to access all the service options made available. Each woman will have differing needs for support and differing readiness to accept services. The wraparound approach can be instrumental in engaging women to access a range of services, often starting with developing trusting relationships with service providers and addressing material needs, which opens the possibility of accessing additional services.



**In the symbolic sense, wraparound programs for pregnant or parenting women “wrap care” around the mother-child unit.** This challenges how services for mothers have often been offered (and funded) separately from children’s services. For some wraparound programs, the linkage of services for mothers’ health with those for infant/child health is a core philosophy of service; these programs speak of having three clients: the mother, the child, and the mother-child unit. This philosophy is aligned with the important goal of early and ongoing mother-child attachment.



**Wraparound programs also focus on clients' involvement in their service planning.** Given that many women have experienced powerlessness in the face of violence and other coercive life situations, choice in personal planning is key to the empowering approach used by wraparound programs.



**Lastly, another important aspect of wraparound programs are partnerships** with other organizations that serve pregnant and parenting women and/or that play a crucial role in their lives and can contribute to their well-being, i.e., child welfare, primary health care, mental health, and specialized services. Partnerships with other services employing trauma-informed, harm reducing, and culturally safe approaches can help round out the net of support available to women, their children, partners, and others in their support networks.