

Housing and Injury

“In creating healthy communities, our aim is not to change the people
but to change the settings”

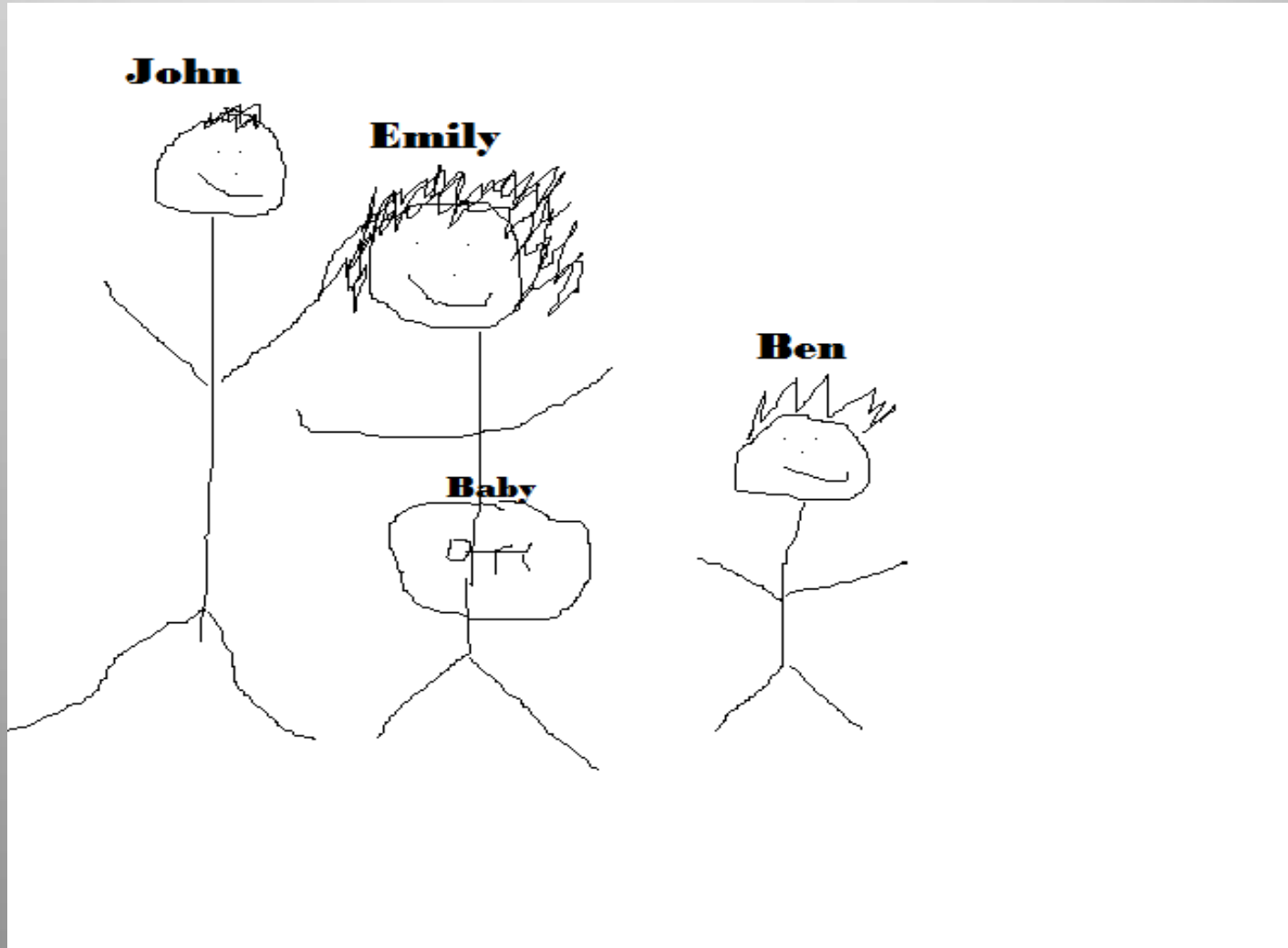
Dr. Trevor Hancock, University of Victoria

ACIP Injury Prevention Conference
October 16-17 2012

Why We have a Problem

- Nova Scotia public housing program has a 2 year waiting list.
- Women are being denied the possibility of renting a safe home because they have children and/or are living in poverty.
- Other “affordable” housing presents unfavorable living conditions.
- Challenging landlords through the Tenancy Board costs money

Let Me Tell You A Story







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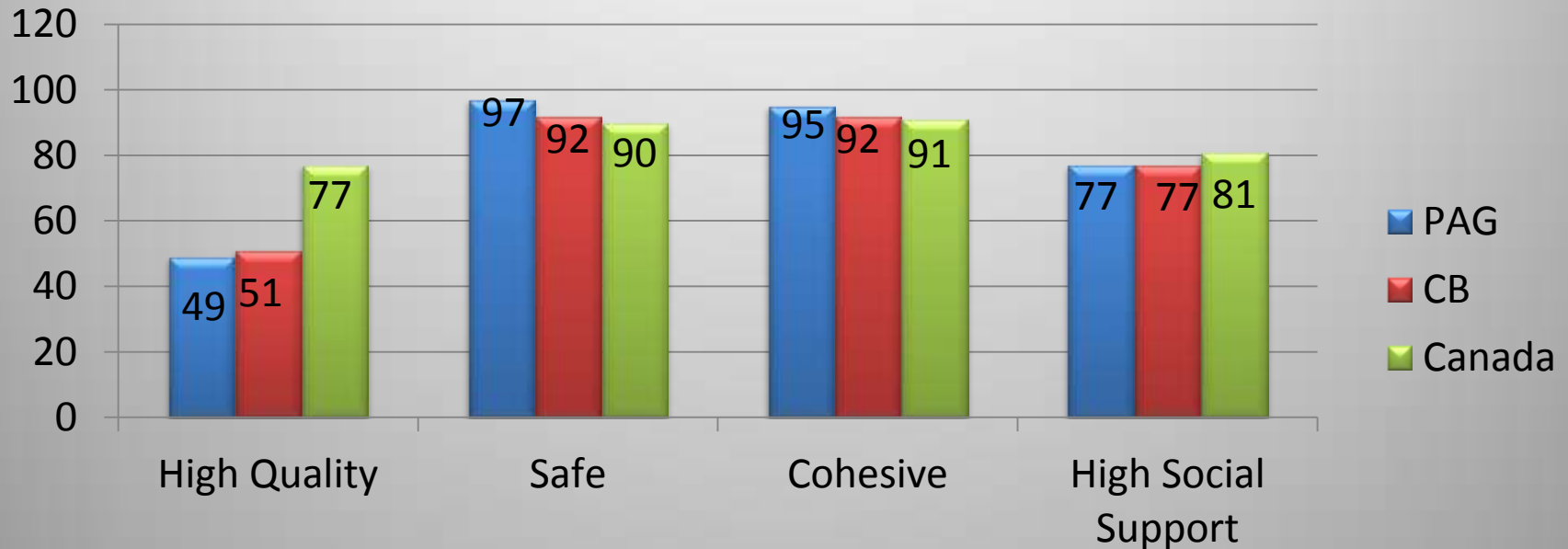
Parent Inventory

A parent interview of about one hour in length, covering family, social and economic circumstances; children's activities at home, community involvement and child behaviour and health. Measures parents' perspective on family circumstances and children's experiences.

1125 parents/guardians were interviewed in PAG and CB

Assessments by parents of grade primary children of neighbourhood characteristics and social support

Percentage of Families



High quality refers to good schools/pre schools, adequate facilities for children such as playgrounds and pools, conditions of our homes, good health facilities. Parents in families which the mother was unemployed or the father had not completed secondary school were less likely to rate their neighbourhoods as having high quality.

What can we do?

- Eliminate slum housing?
 - Where will families live?
- Focus on guaranteed income?
 - Will not prevent landlords from raising rents and providing unsafe living conditions.
- Pass legislation to ensure certain safety regulations are guaranteed before renting?
 - What government department will take on this responsibility and how will the costs be covered?

University of Otago, Wellington study

- The 'Taranaki Home Injury Hazards Study' (2008) found that three common home injury hazards could be fixed at very low cost.
 - Firstly, most houses studied did not have working smoke alarms;
 - secondly, the hot water was turned up dangerously high in nearly 50% of homes, which could be changed by simply turning down the thermostat;
 - thirdly, 20% of homes had a ranch slider or low windows without a safety mechanisms to prevent falls and serious injury.

We need to start with asking ourselves?

- WHY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Why are we not outraged
that gender and poverty
are acceptable reasons for
denying families safe
housing?**