



# What Gets Measured Gets Done (Sort Of): Compliance versus Meaning

Amber Crowe & Barbara Fallon

CIAJ's 46th Annual Conference:  
The Right to Dignity in Canadian Law

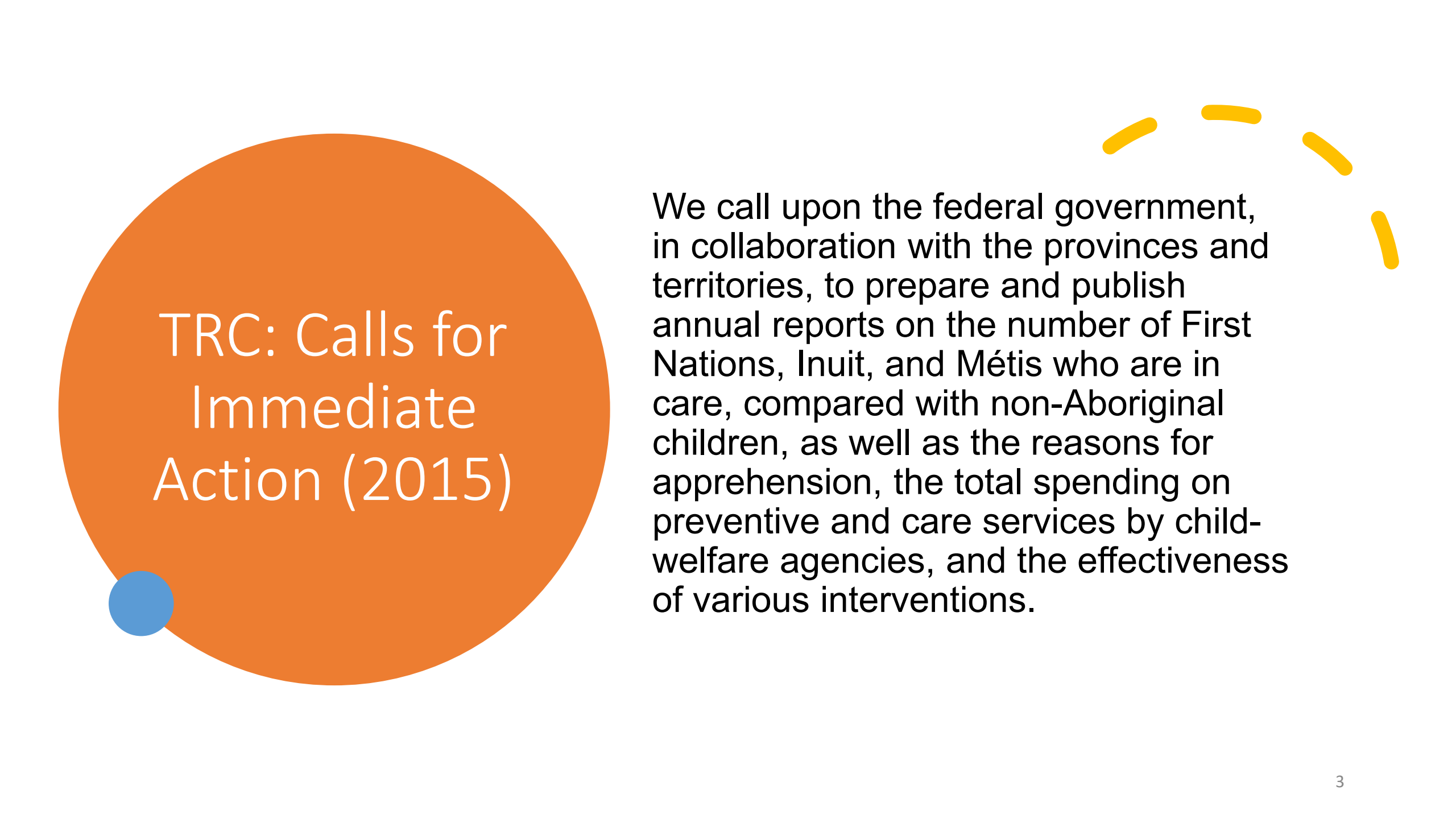


# Objectives

1) Review of current available data on child welfare systems


2) Limitations of existing measures

3) Discussion of meaning outcomes and innovation in measurement



## TRC: Calls for Immediate Action (2015)

We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.

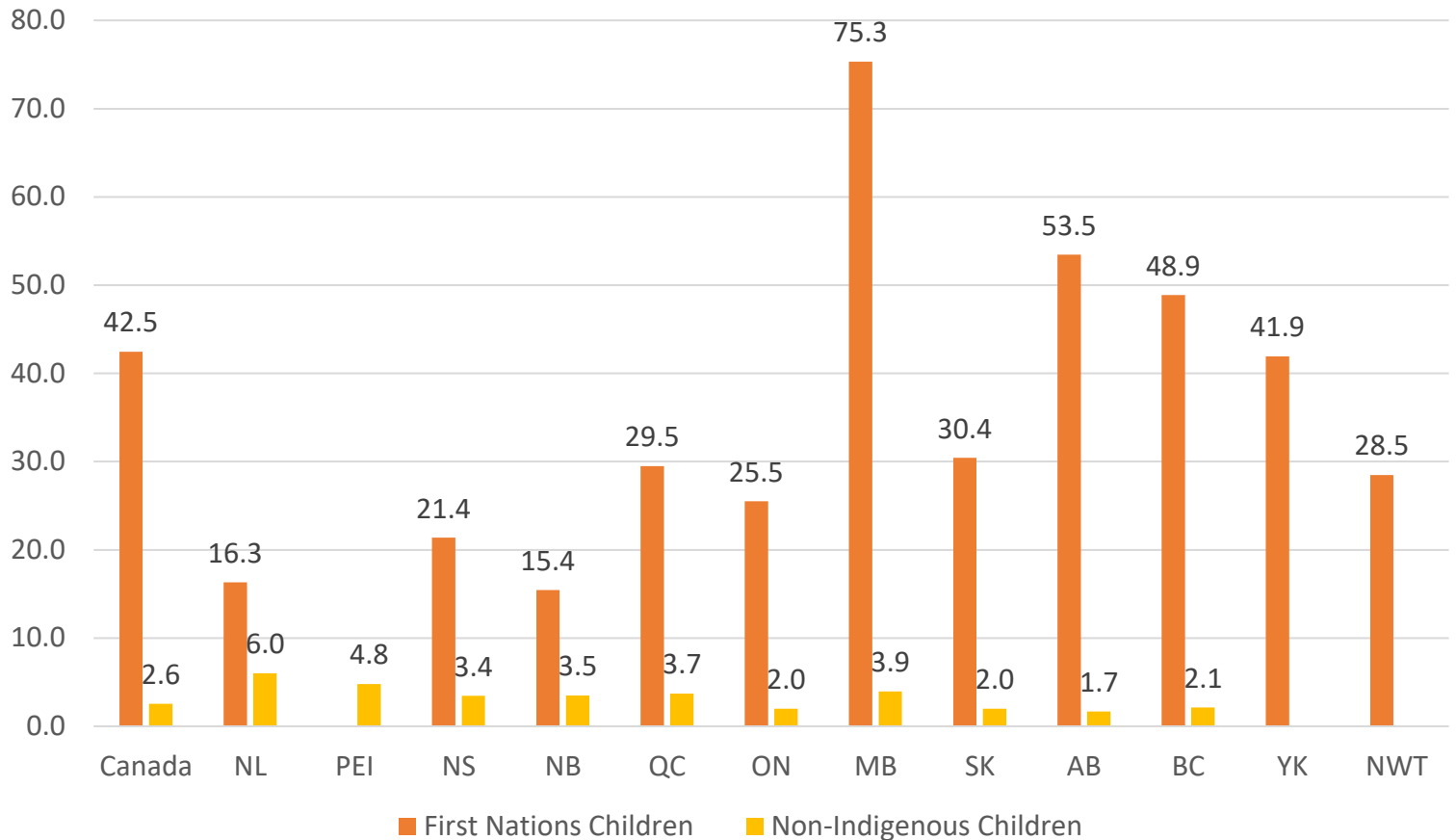


## TRC: Calls for Immediate Action (2015)

We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and First Nations, Metis, Inuit governments to commit to reducing the number of First Nations, Metis, Inuit children in care by:

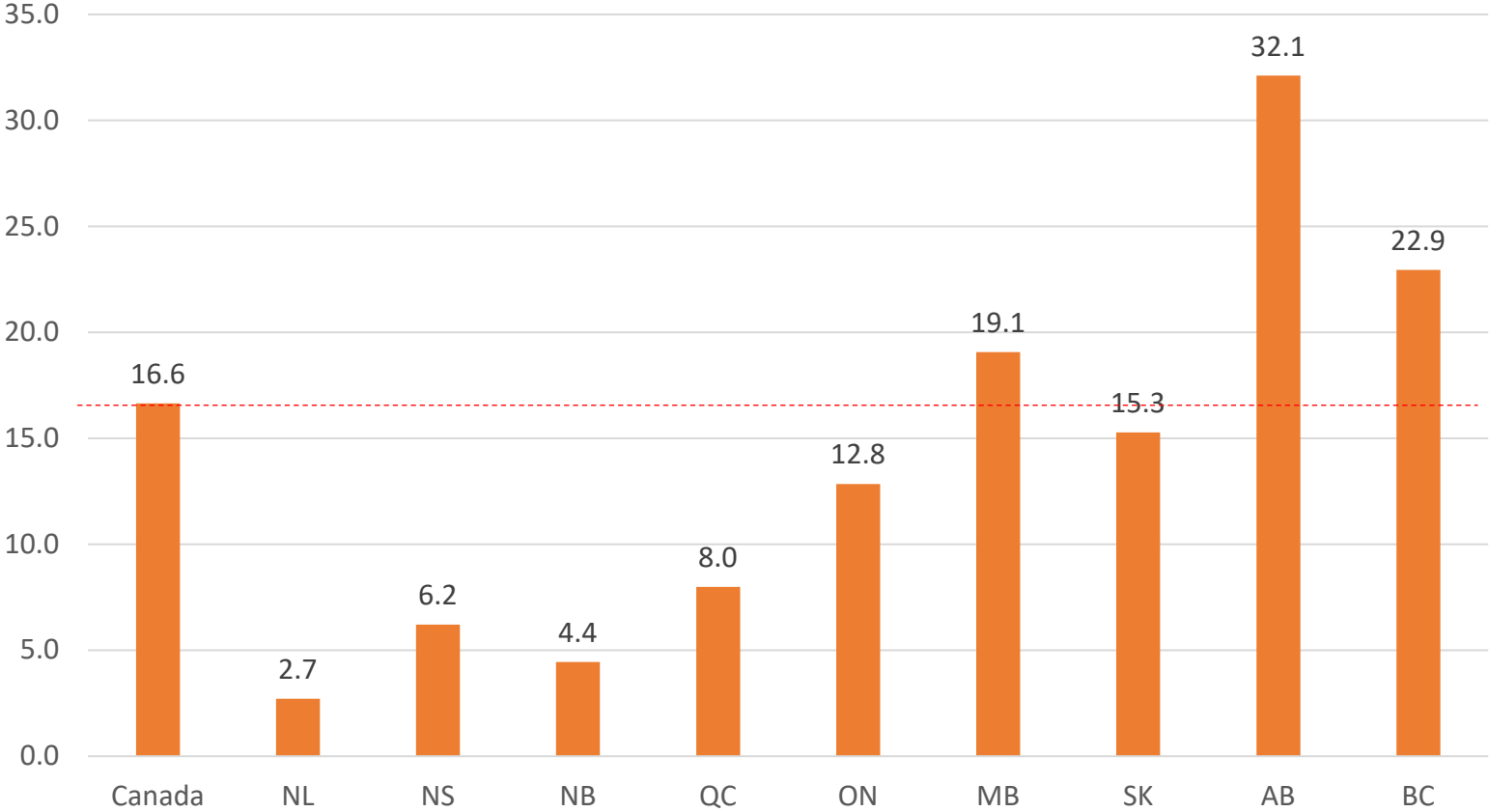
- Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
- Providing adequate resources to enable First Nations, Metis, Inuit communities and child-welfare organizations to keep First Nations, Metis, Inuit families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.

# First Nations and non-Indigenous children 0-14 in foster care on Census day across Canada per 1,000 children (2016)



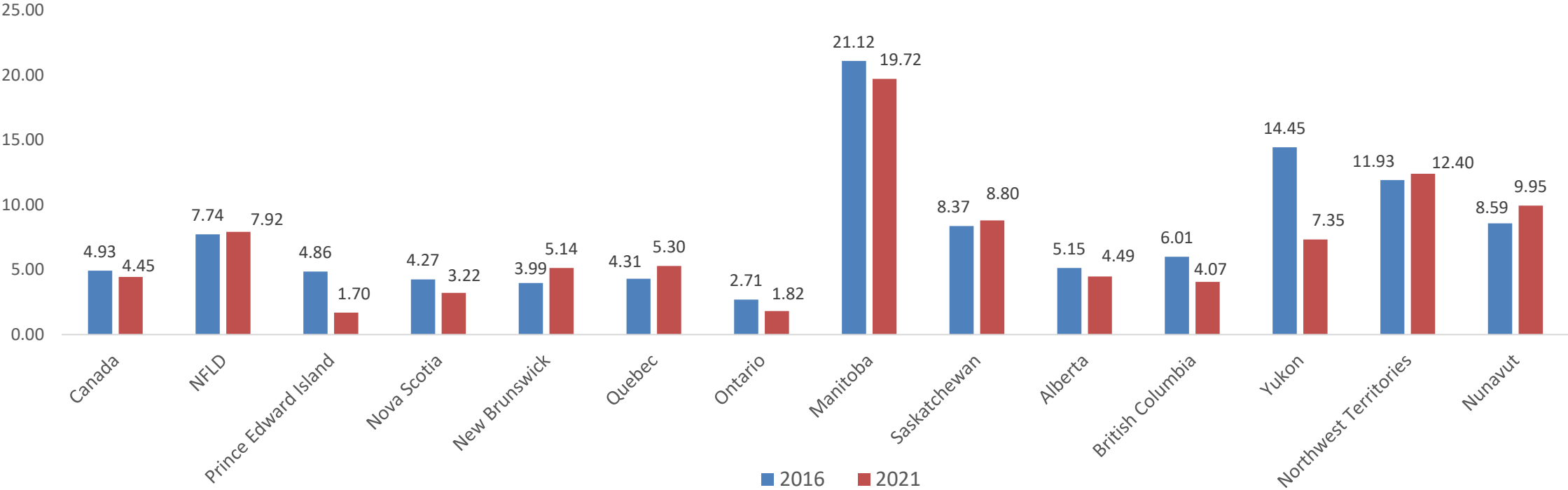
*Note:* Data were not available regarding the number of First Nations children in care in PEI or Nunavut or the number of non-Indigenous children in Care in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut.

# Disparity index between rates of First Nations and non-Indigenous children 0-14 in foster care on Census day across Canada per 1,000 children (2016)



*Note:* Data were not available regarding the number of First Nations children in care in PEI or Nunavut or the number of non-Indigenous children in Care in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, or Nunavut.

# Rate of Children in Foster Care (per 1,000 children) aged 0 - 14 in Canada on Census Day



# Number of children in out-of-home care in Canada

Province/ Territory	Reference Year	Age of Protection	Child Population	Includes informal kinship service	Children in out-of-home care (point- in-time)
Alberta	2019	0 to 17 years	970,452	No	7,757
BC	2019	0 to 18 years	926,072	No	6,263
Manitoba	2019	0 to 17 years	308,969	No	10,258
New Brunswick	2019	0 to 18 years	144,301	Unknown	983
Newfoundland & Labrador	2019	0 to 15 years	76,450	No	985
				Yes: 'Kinship Services'	1,545
Nova Scotia	2019	0 to 18 years	176,458	No	995
Northwest Territories	2014	0 to 18 years	11,343	No	229
Nunavut	2019	0 to 18 years	14,943	No	358
Ontario	2019	0 to 17 years	2,765,376	Unknown	12,385
Prince Edward Island	2018	0 to 17 years	29,226	No	111
Quebec	2019	0 to 17 years	1,584,856	No	9,174
				Yes: 'Confié à un tiers significatif'	11,539
Saskatchewan	2019	0 to 15 years	244,476	No	4,546
				Yes: 'Person of sufficient interest'	6,620
Yukon	2019	0 to 18 years	8,517	No	95
				Yes: 'Extended Family Care'	240
Total	2019	N/A	7,261,439	No	54,139
				When reported	59,283





Denouncing the Continued  
**Overrepresentation of  
First Nations  
Children  
in Canadian Child Welfare**

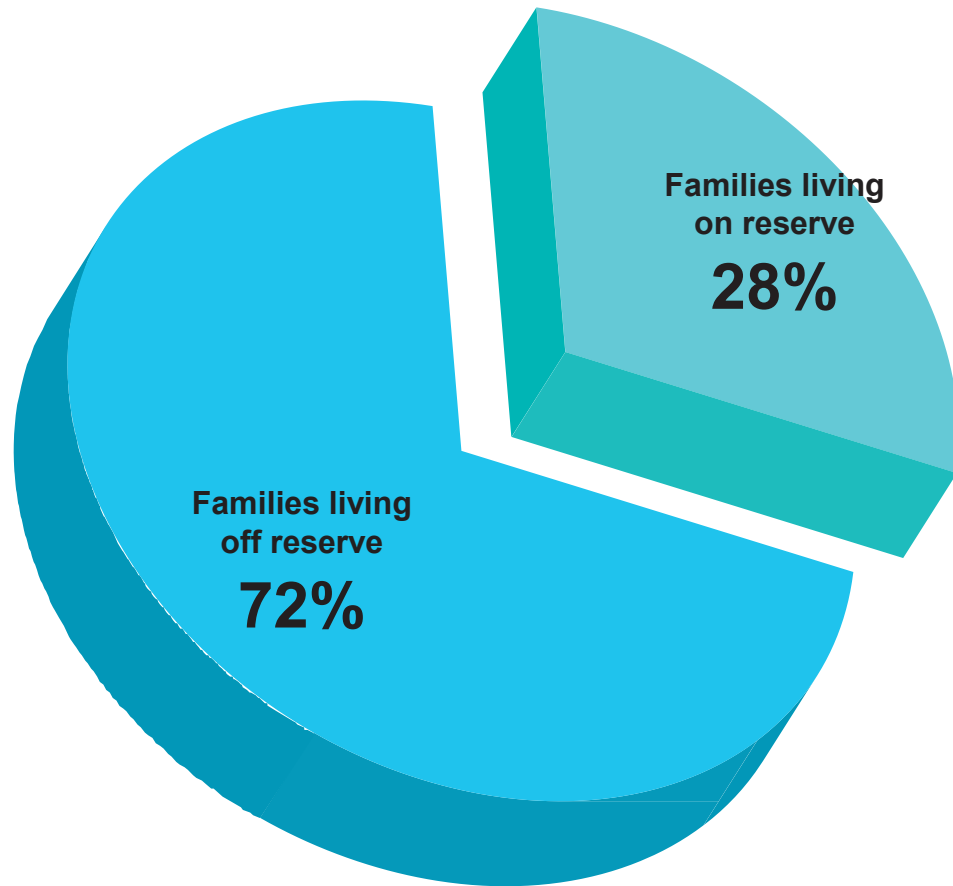


**Collaborative effort by FN/CIS research team and First Nations Advisory Committee to:**

- Continue to monitor national-level data on investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children as intended by the Truth & Reconciliation's Calls to Action
- Ensure appropriate contextualization of findings
- Disseminate research results to First Nations communities
- Affirm and promote capacity for First Nations child welfare research in accordance with OCAP® Principles

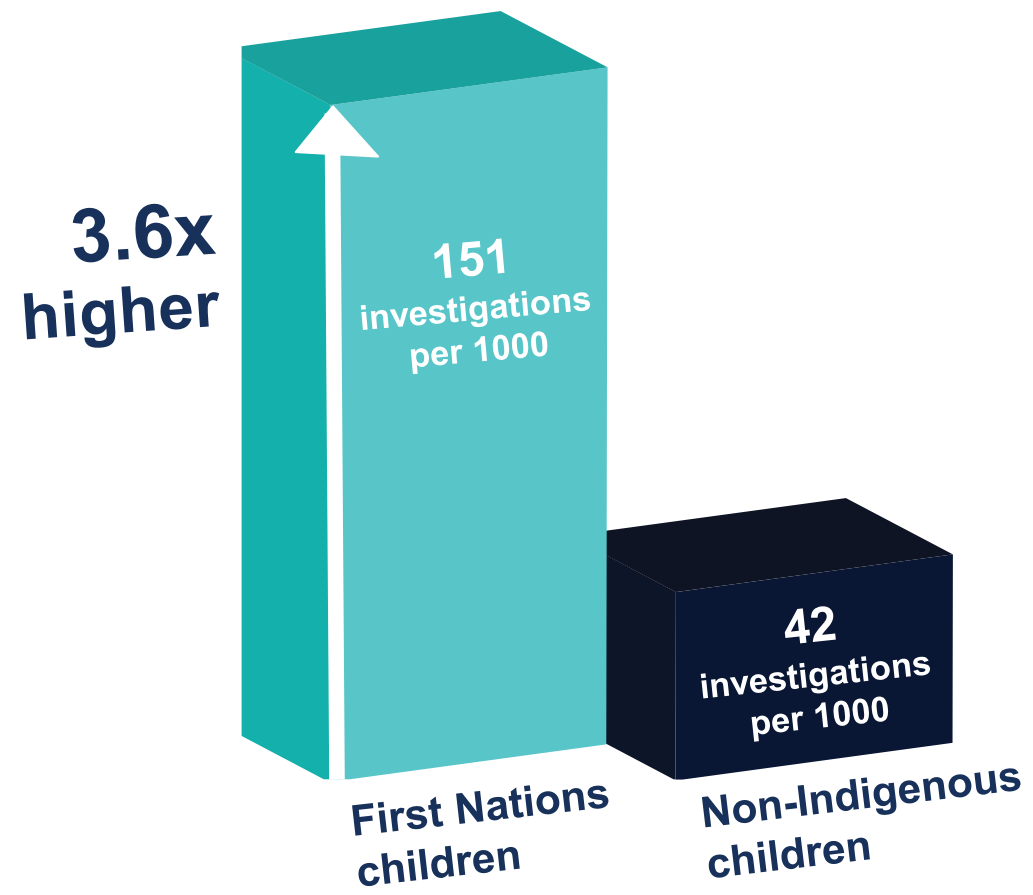
# FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Families living On and Off Reserve in Investigations Involving First Nations Children



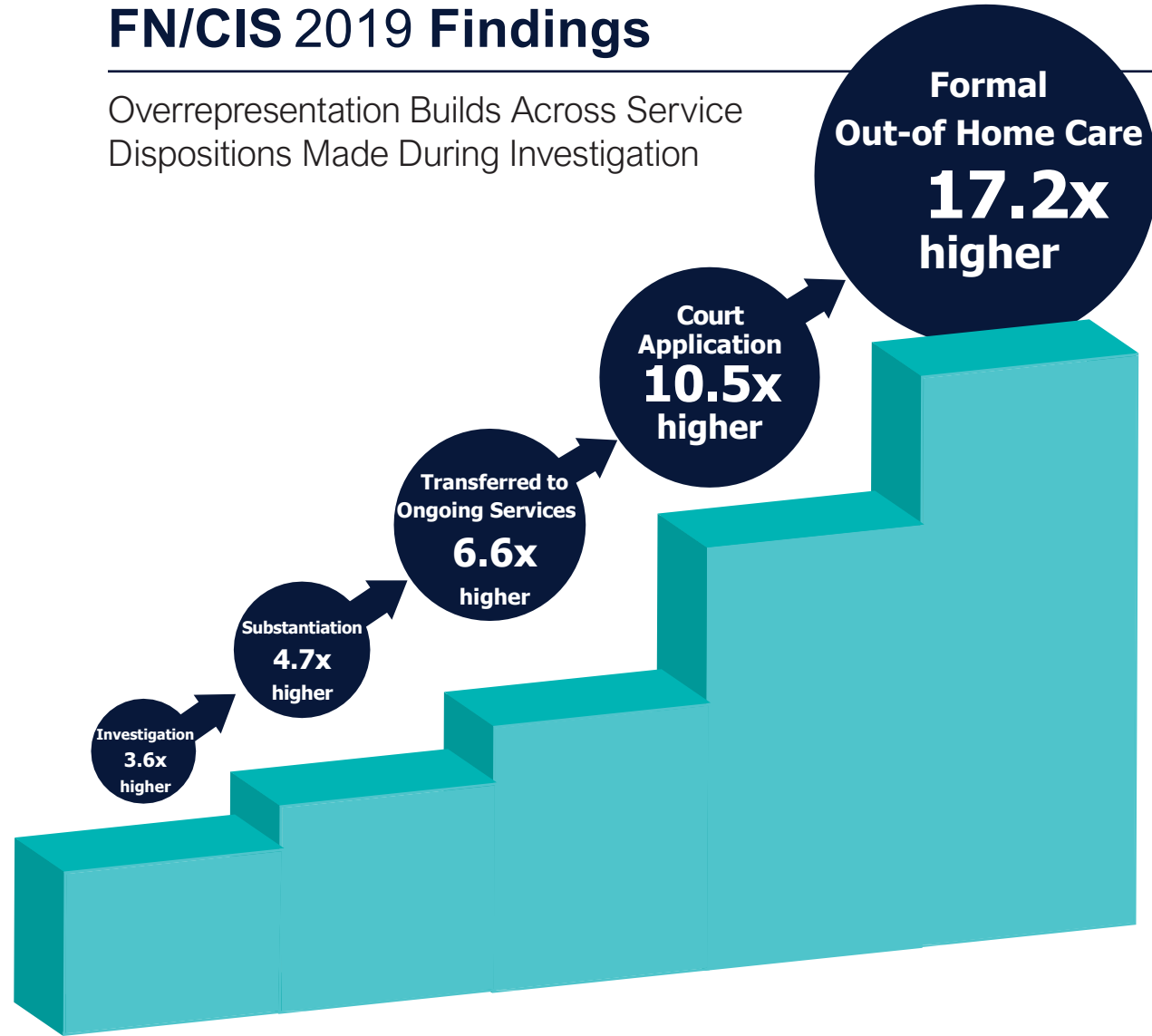
# FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Rates of First Nations and Non-Indigenous Child Investigations in Canada in 2019



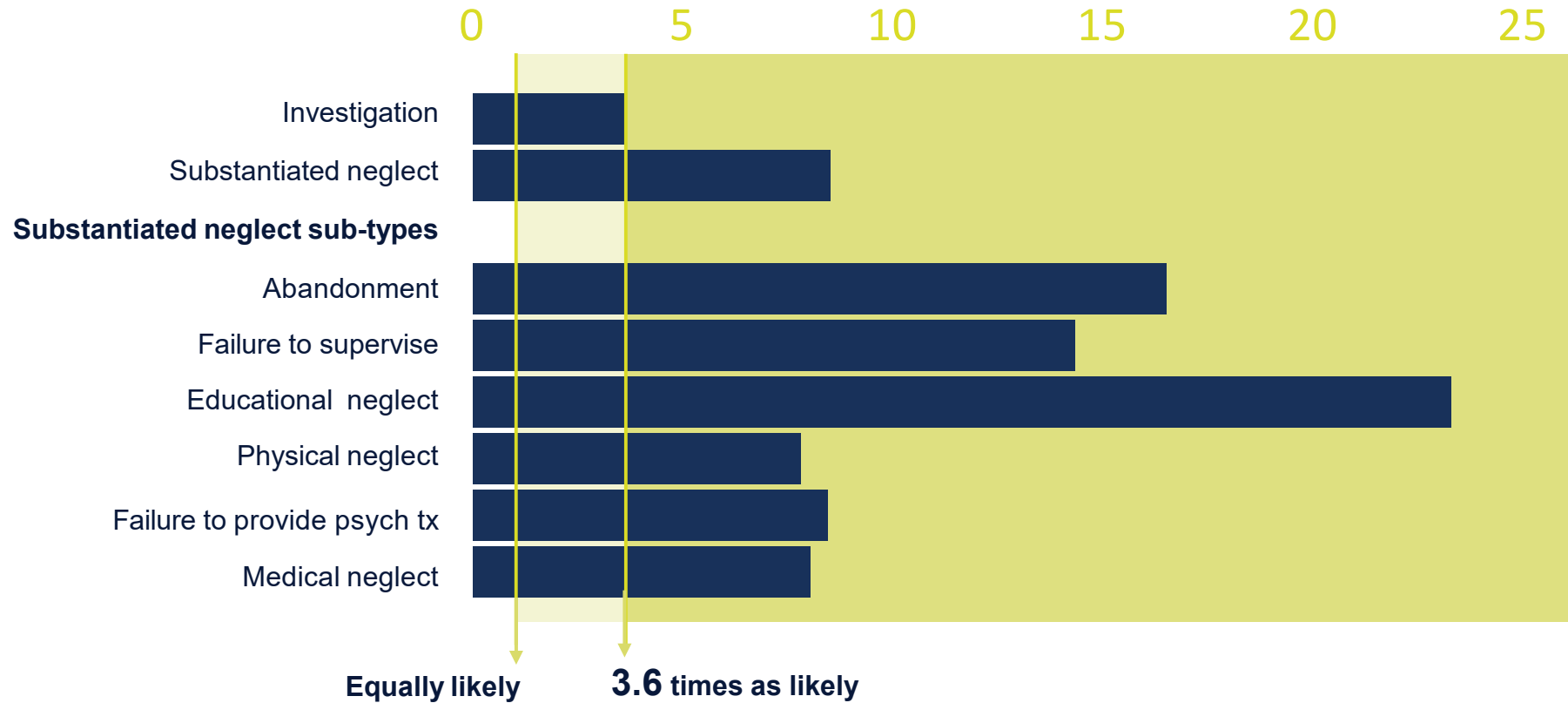
# FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Overrepresentation Builds Across Service Dispositions Made During Investigation



# FN/CIS 2019 Findings

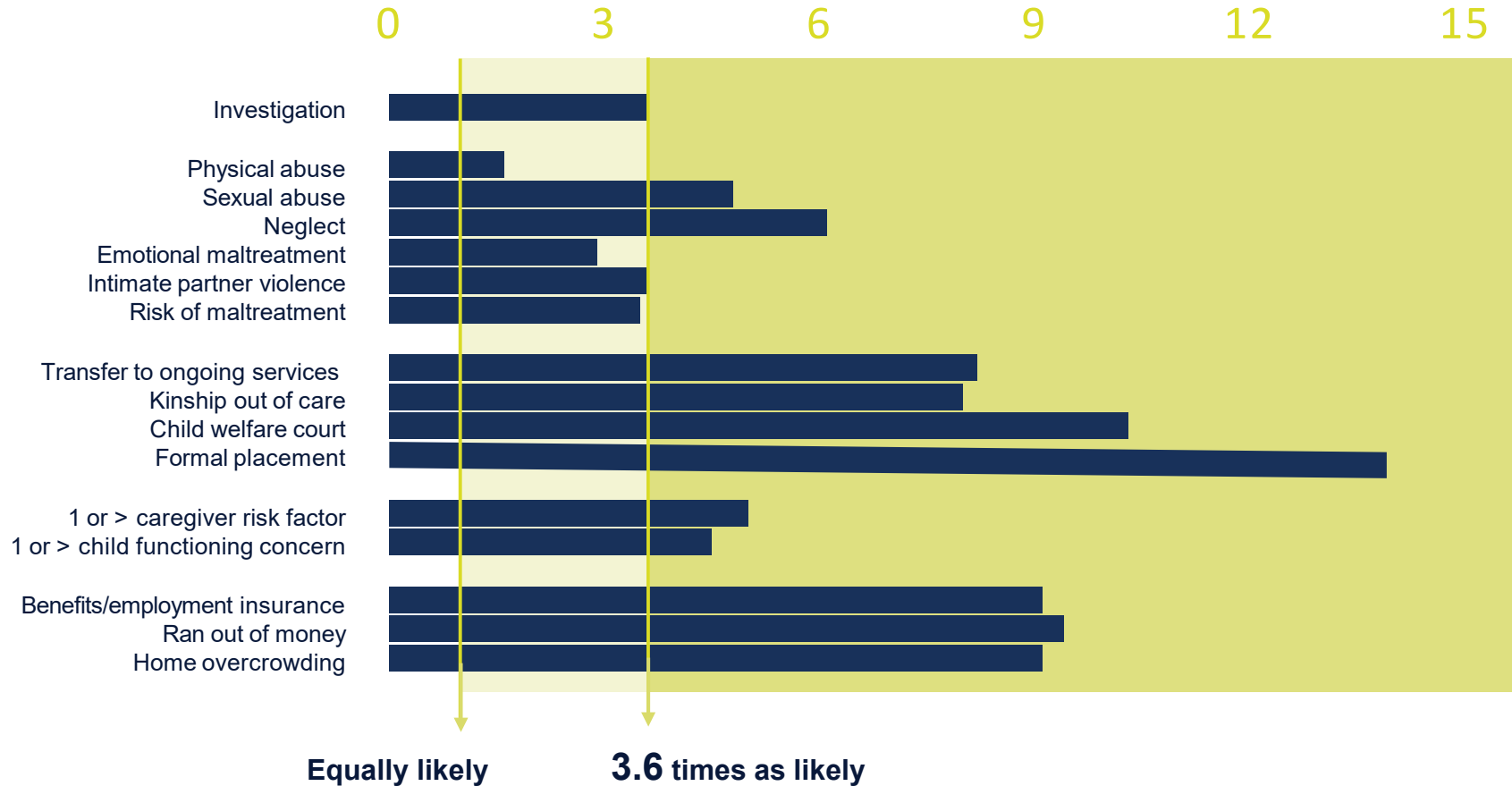
Disparities in Different Forms of Substantiated Neglect Investigations Involving First Nations Children



Difference in rates per 1,000 between First Nations and non-Indigenous children

# FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Summary of Findings: Disparities in Investigations Involving First Nations Children in Canada in 2019



Difference in rates per 1,000 between First Nations and non-Indigenous Children

# First Nations Ontario Incidence Study -2018

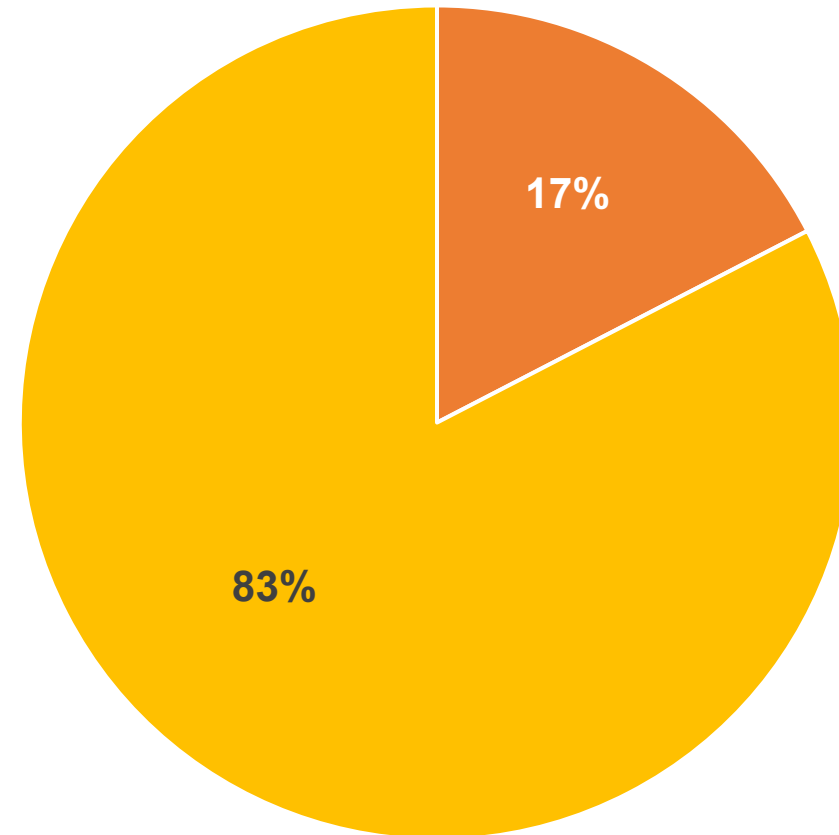


**Mashkiwenmi-daa Noojimowin:  
Let's Have Strong Minds for the Healing**

By: Amber Crowe, MSW, J.D. and Jeffrey Schiffer, Ph.D

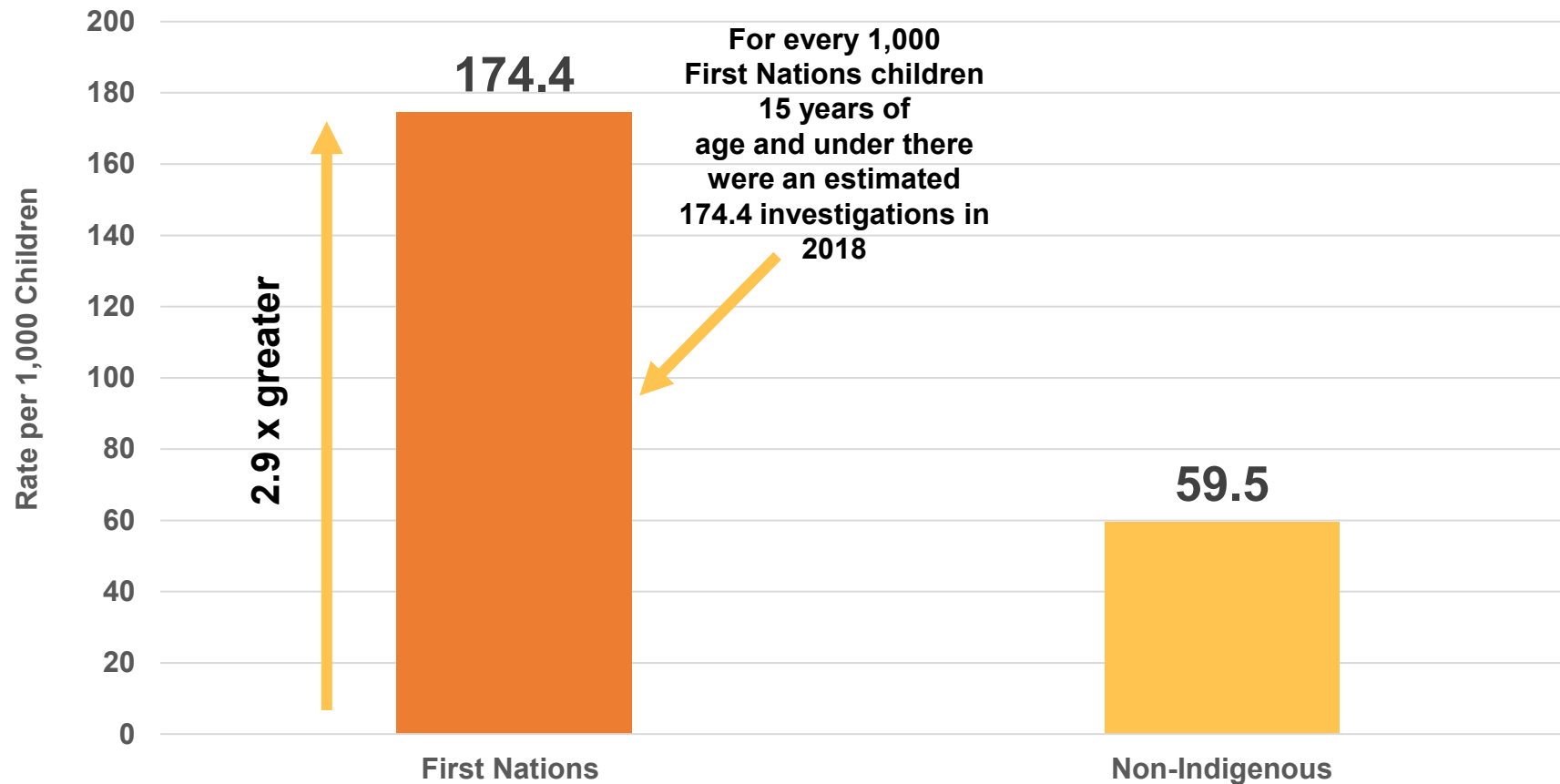


# Families Living On or Off Reserve in Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children

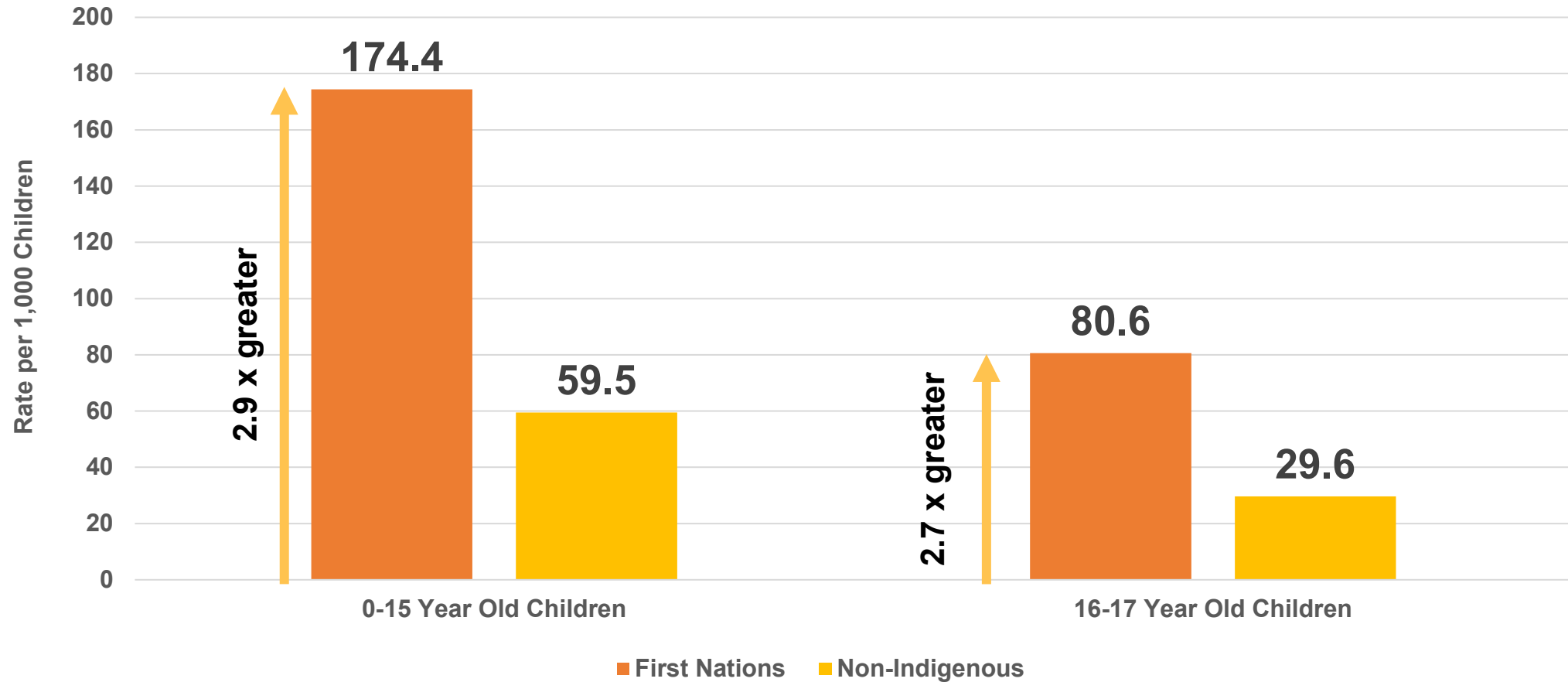


■ Family Living On Reserve    ■ Family Living Off Reserve

# Rates of First Nations and Non-Indigenous Child Investigations in Ontario in 2018

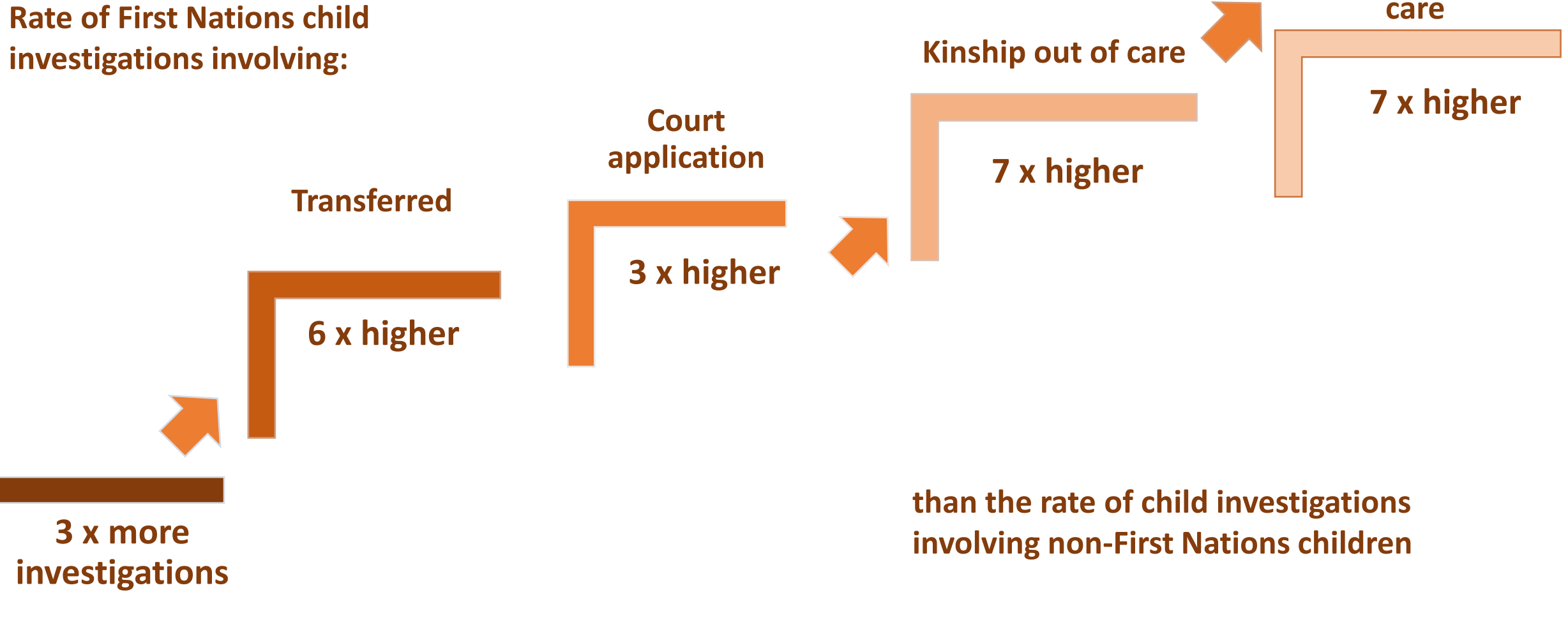


# Rates of First Nations and Non-Indigenous Child Investigations in Ontario in 2018



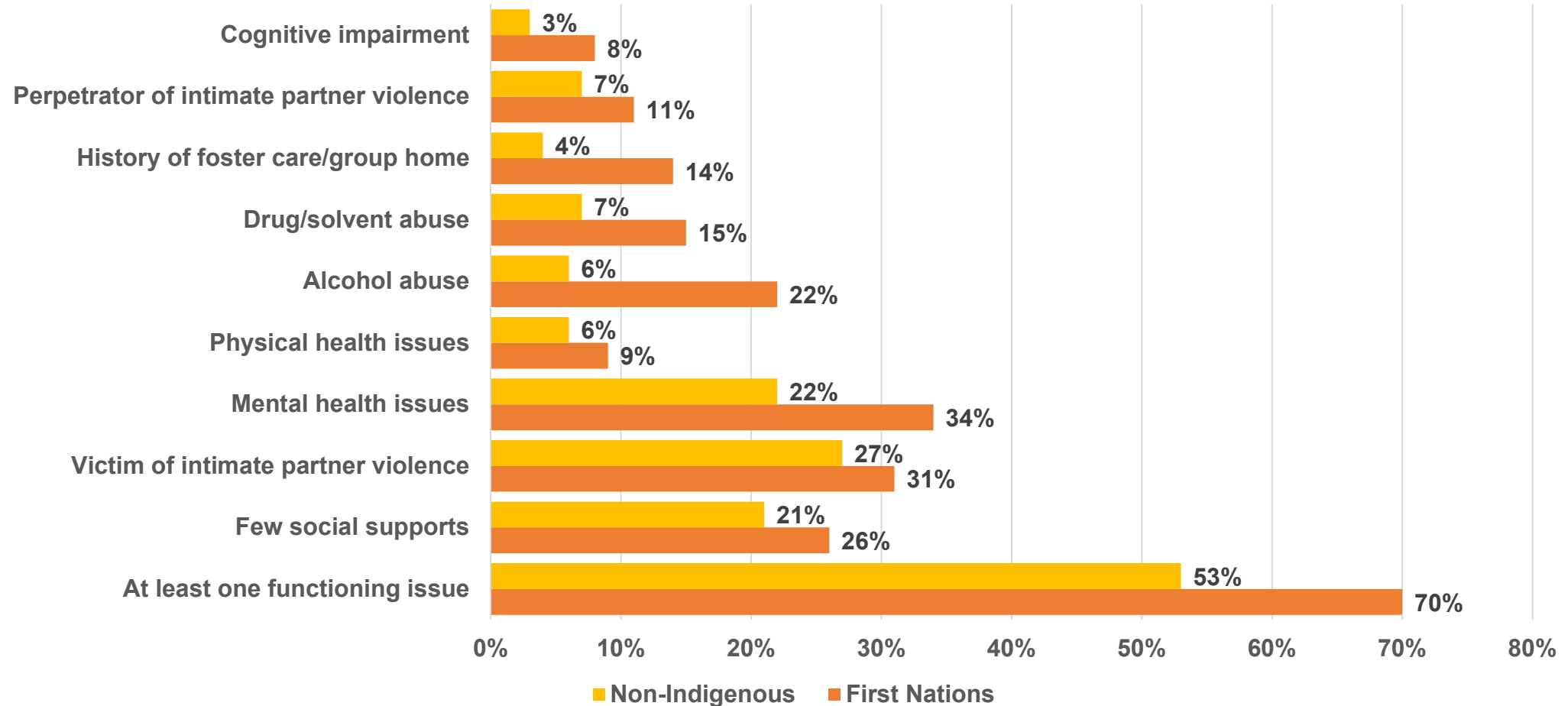
# Overrepresentation Builds Across the Investigation Cycle

Rate of First Nations child investigations involving:

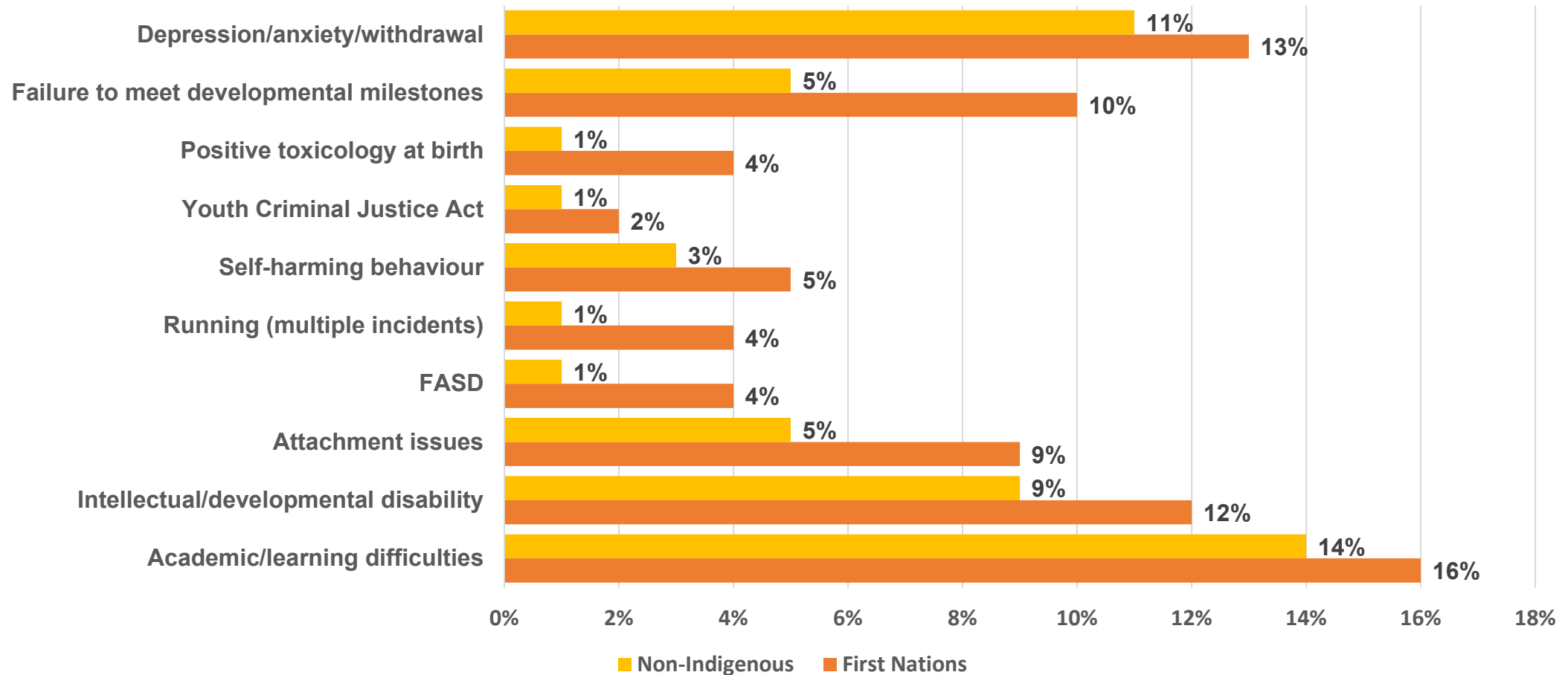


than the rate of child investigations involving non-First Nations children

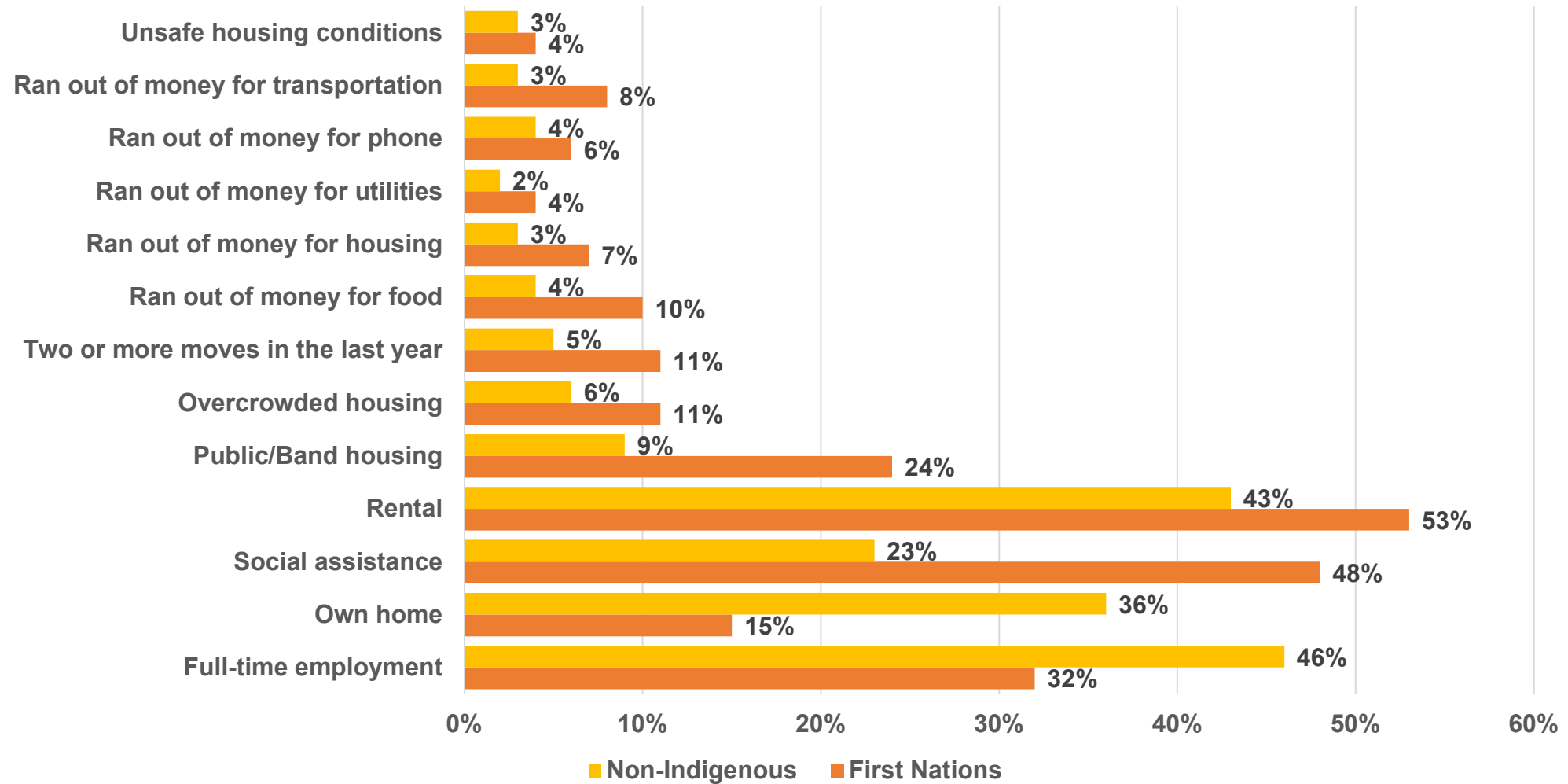
# Caregiver Functioning Concerns Among Investigated Families



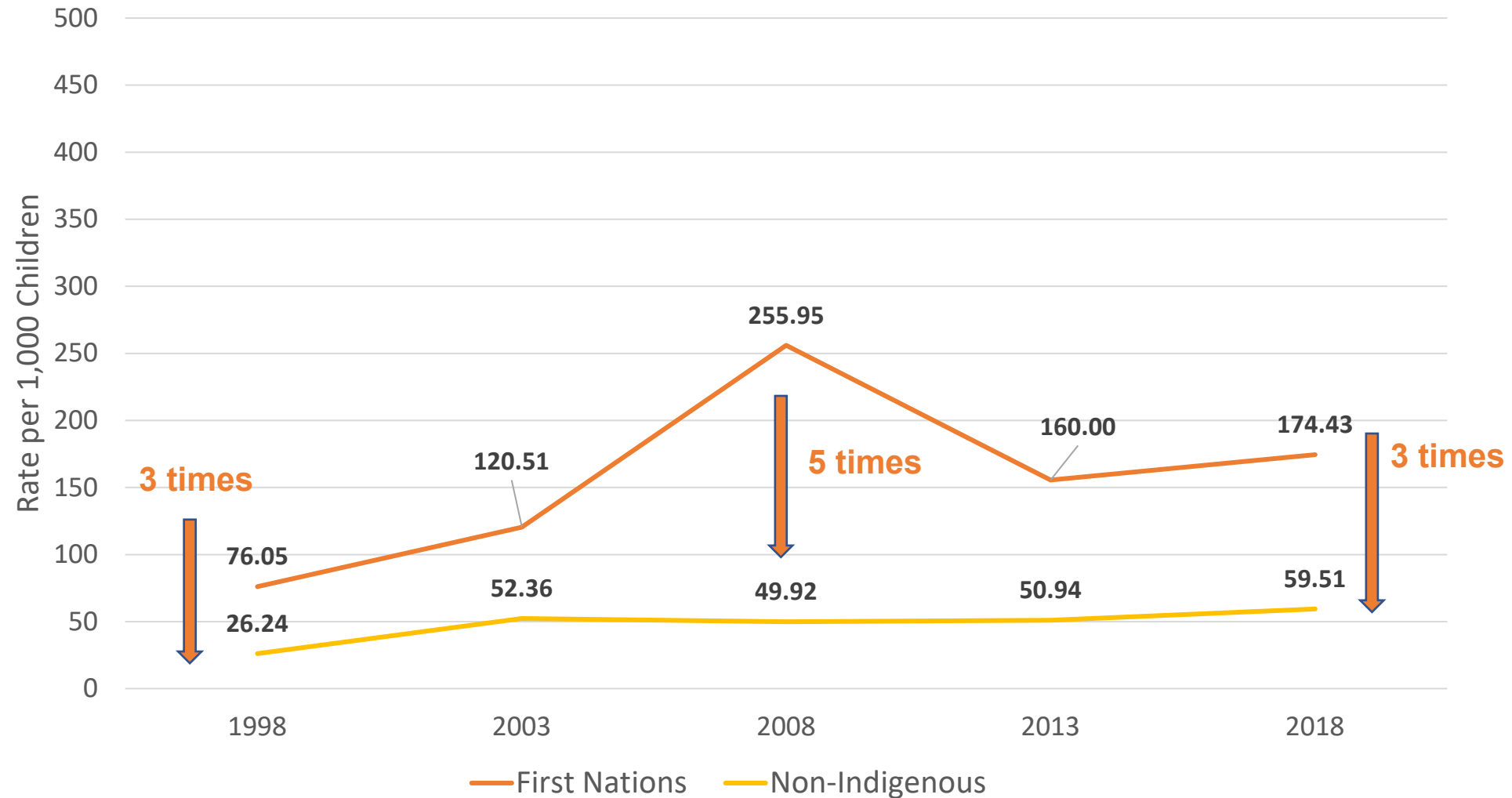
# Child Functioning Concerns Among Investigated Families



# Socio-demographic Risk Factors

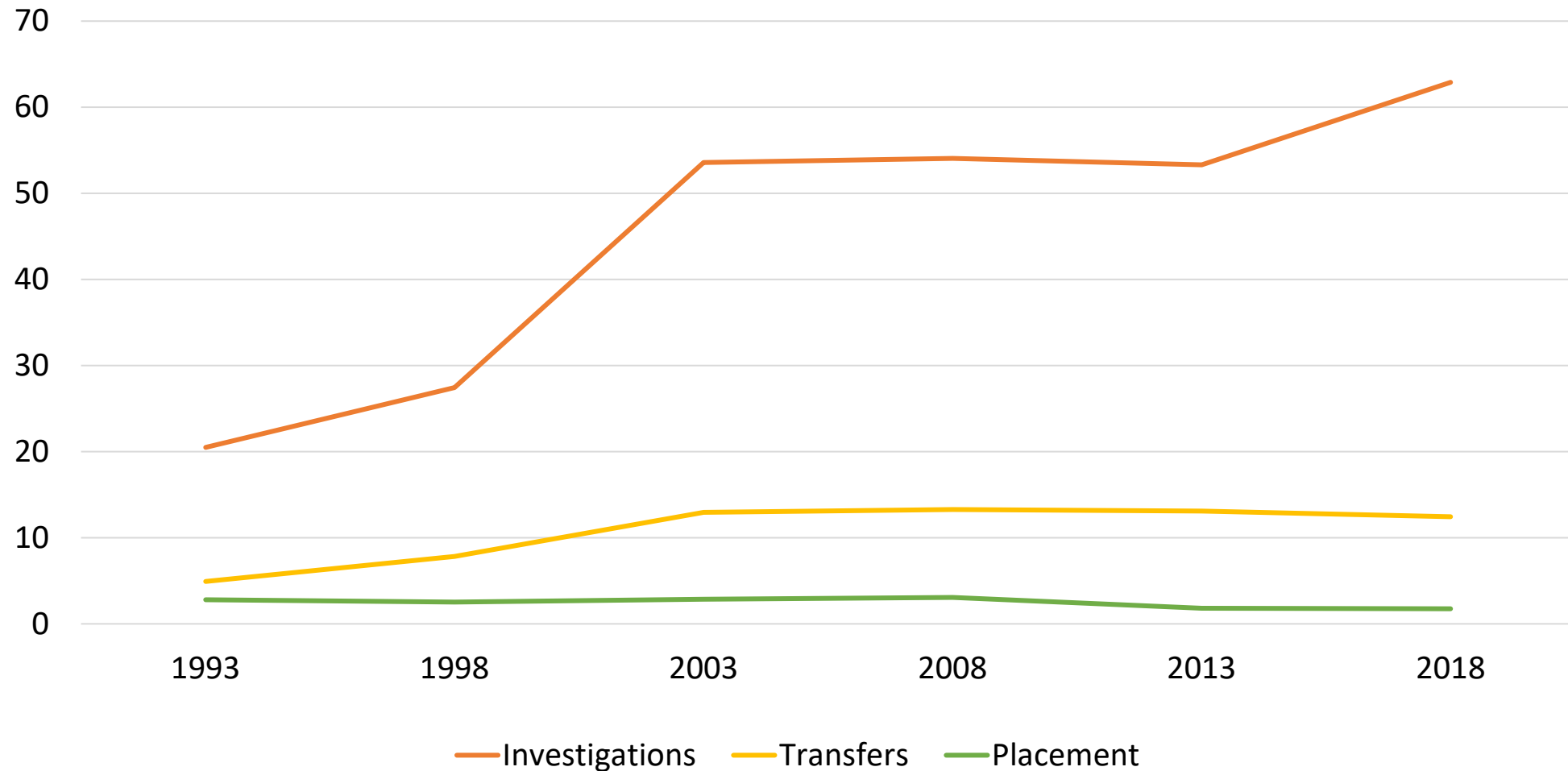


# Investigation Rates Over Time: First Nations vs. Non-Indigenous

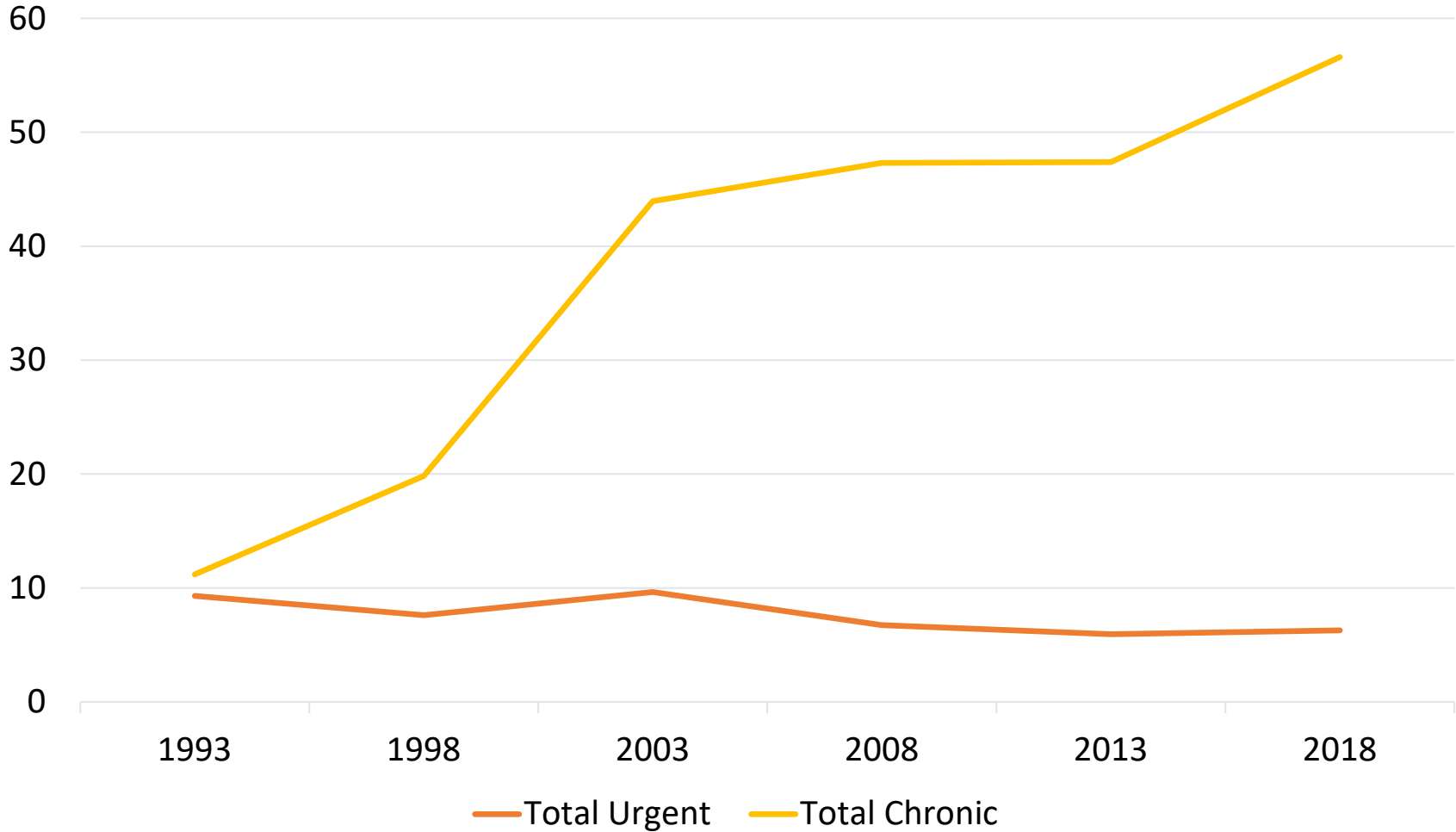




# Incidence of Investigations, Transfers to Ongoing Services & Placement



# Total Incidence of Urgent Protection and Chronic Need Investigations in Ontario 1993-2018



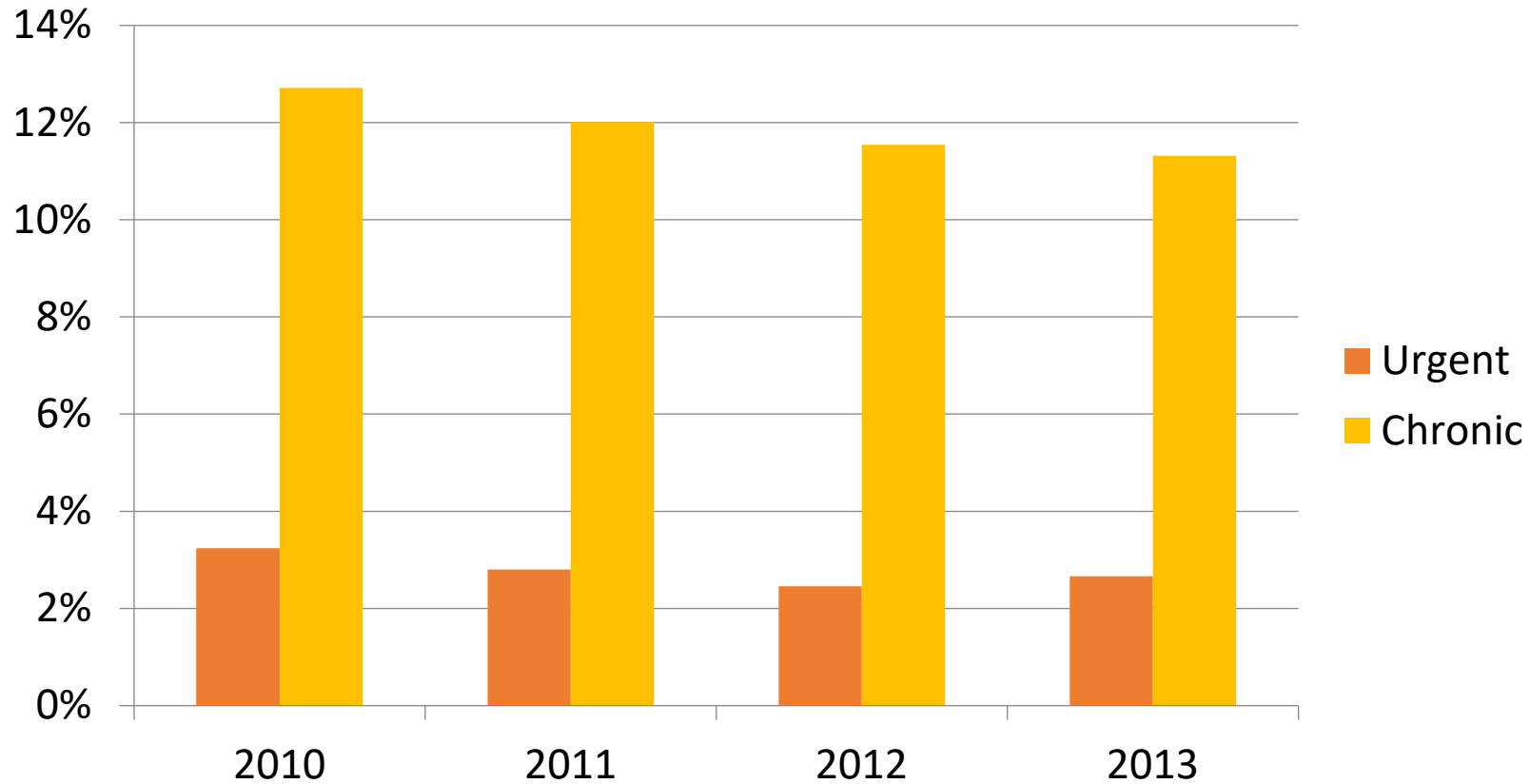
# Dual Mandate of Child Welfare

- The dual mandate of child welfare to **address acute safety risks** and **long-term well-being** is recognized in legislation:
- According to the *Child, Youth, and Family Services Act, 2017*: “The paramount purpose of this Act is to promote the **best interests, protection** and **well-being** of children.”

*(Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, SO 2017, c. 14, Sched. 1, Part I, 1(1))*

- This takes into consideration: the child’s physical, spiritual, mental and developmental needs of the child; their race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, family diversity, disability, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples are entitled to provide their own services, and all services to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in a manner that recognizes their cultures, heritages, traditions, connection to their communities, and concept of extended family. These are in addition to other child-oriented considerations. *(CYFSA, 1(2).)*

# Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns for Cases Closed at Investigation - 7 Agencies (OCANDS)



# Where in the World is Well-Being?

- Measures are compliance focused
- Tools and measurement are not reliable and valid even using euro-centric standards
- Do not measure child outcomes
- experience of the system not systematically collected
- Child measures are limited to children who have been in care > 1 year

# What do we know about outcomes of child protection services?

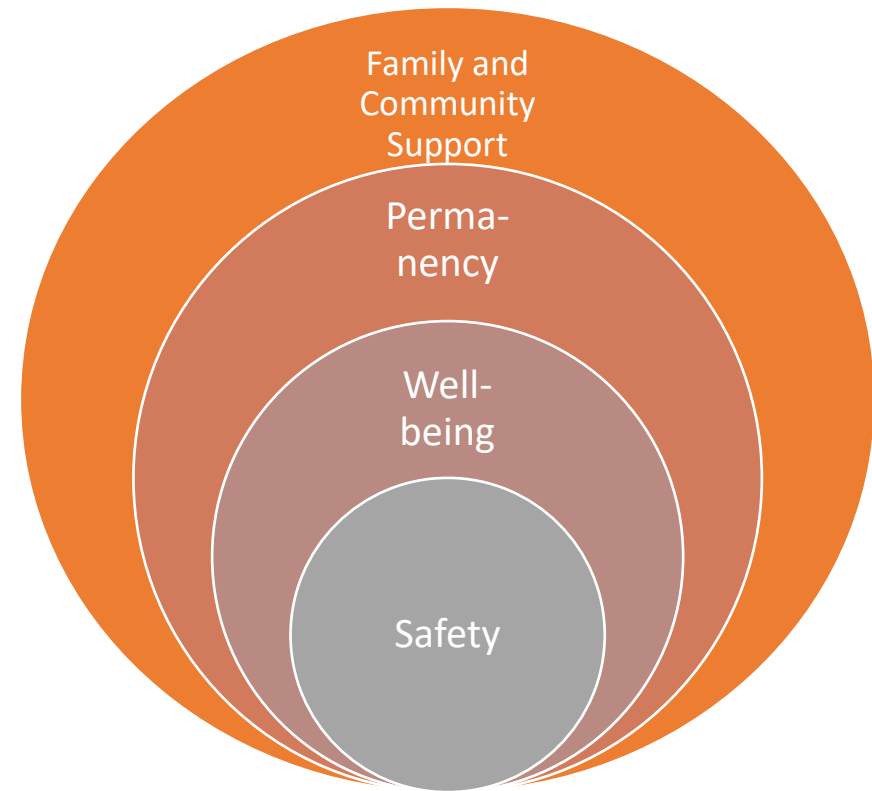
- **Lancet** (MacMillan et al. 2009): “lack of evidence for effective interventions in the area of child maltreatment compared with other paediatric public-health problems”
- **Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation** (Flynn & Bouchard, 2005) Review of all Canadian child protection outcome studies published between 1995 and 2005 found only 10 studies using comparison groups, 4 with randomization.
- **Royal Society of Canada Review** (Boivin et al. 2012): “Despite consistent evidence of the severe and long-lasting effects of child maltreatment, research on how best to intervene to prevent maltreatment and its recurrence is surprisingly limited”.
- **Child Abuse Review** (Jones et al 2017): “A substantial proportion of empirical research focuses on child maltreatment (...) More robust evidence is particularly needed concerning the effectiveness of interventions (...). Cross-sectional designs far outweigh cohort or experimental designs”
- **Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal** (Thyer et al 2017): “The field of child welfare involves the delivery of a wide array of programs, services, and interventions to children and their families. Many of these services are not well supported by credible research evidence...”
- **Predominance of US studies and datasets (NCANDS, NIS, AFCARS, LONGSCAN, NSCAW)**

# Worst Parenting Moment or Tuesday Morning?

- Acts occur in the context of parent-child interactions and are influenced by many factors (Wolfe, 2012).
- Childrearing is a difficult and aversive event that can escalate unpredictably into a sudden abusive incident, or more gradually turn into avoidance and neglect.
- Lacking experience in childrearing and development parents might overreact to a child's action or misbehaviour.
- Some parental actions could be harmful if they occurred frequently, even though they may be innocuous if they occur rarely.

# Four nested domains reflecting the complex balance between:

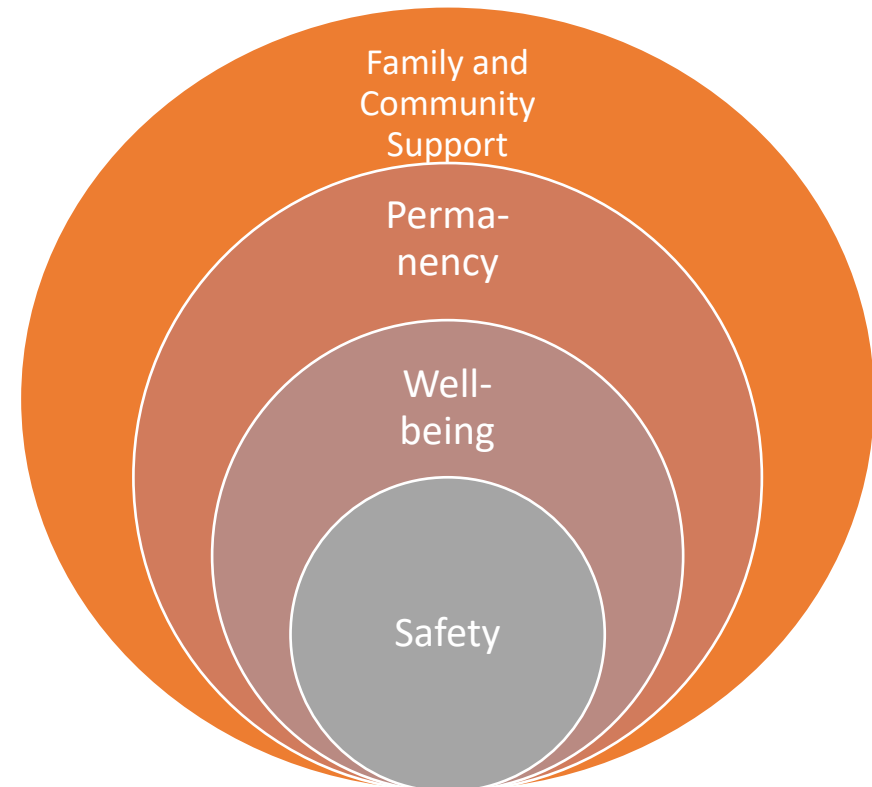
- a child's immediate need for protection;
- a child's long-term requirement for a nurturing and stable home;
- a family's potential for growth, and;
- the community's capacity to meet a child's needs.



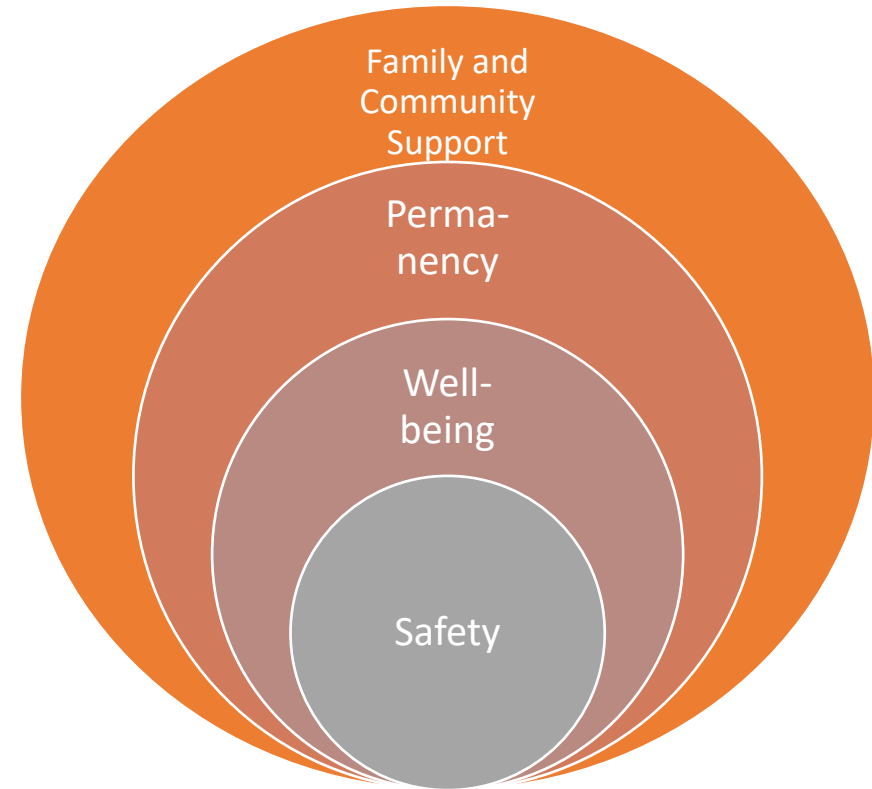
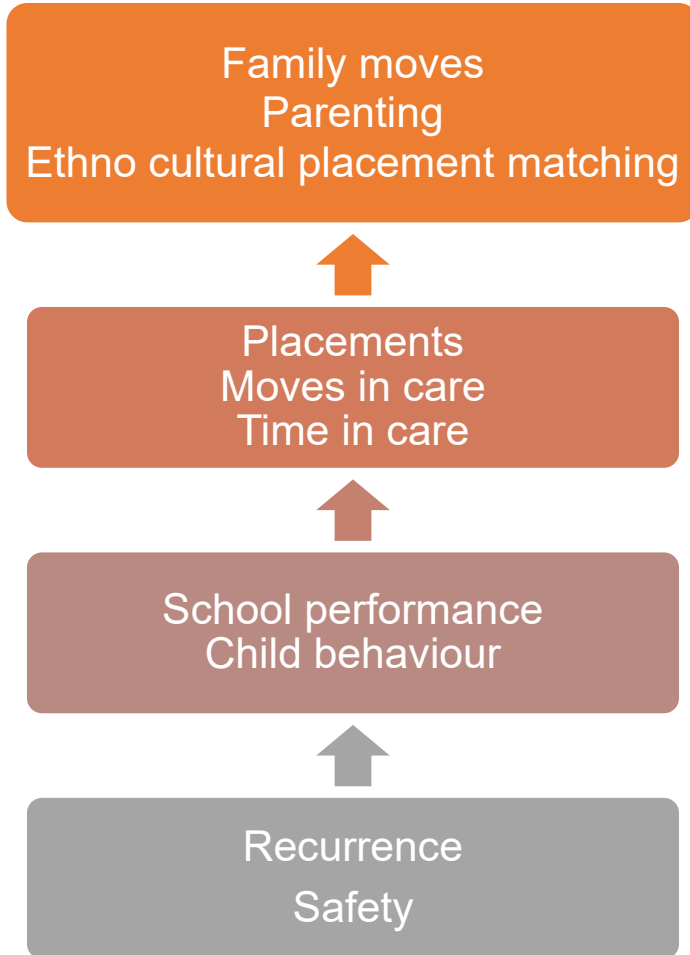


# Criteria for selecting NOM indicators

- Linked to service objectives
- Easily understood
- Measurable using administrative data



# NOM: Four domains and ten indicators



**The report is available online at:** <https://cwrp.ca/publications/denouncing-continued-overrepresentation-first-nations-children-canadian-child-welfare>

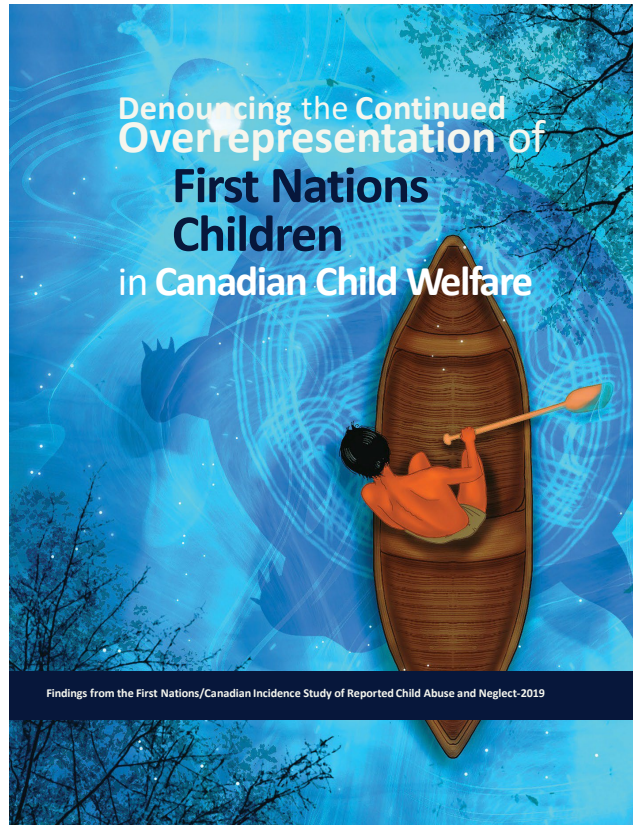
**Information sheets are available online at:** <https://cwrp.ca/infosheets/provincial-territorial>



# **FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products**

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Denouncing the Continued Overrepresentation  
of **First Nations Children** in Canadian Child Welfare



<https://cwrp.ca/publications/denouncing-continued-overrepresentation-first-nations-children-canadian-child-welfare>

# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products

## Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Infants in Canada in 2019

FN/CIS-2019 - focus on developmental stages series

1  
Infants

### Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Infants in Canada in 2019



**Introduction**

The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FNCIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets which represent different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children. Please refer to other information sheets available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca) which examine investigations involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet, also available on the portal, summarizes disparities in service dispositions for different age groups.

The FNCIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of 47 mainstream and 16 First Nations agencies was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A three-month sampling period (October 1 – December 31, 2019) was then used to select cases within these sites. The final stage involved identifying child-level investigations meeting the study criteria. Complex survey weights were used to derive an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019 from these sampled cases. In Quebec, data were extracted from information systems from all agencies able to participate (this included data from six First Nations agencies). The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of the investigating child welfare worker and are point-in-time estimates of the front-end of the child welfare service continuum. Please see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a full description of study methodology.

**Infants**

Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) in Canada were 3.6 times as likely to be investigated for maltreatment-related concerns compared to non-Indigenous children in 2019. First Nations infants (children less than one year of age) were 5.3 times as likely to be the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada compared to non-Indigenous infants, and this disparity is greater than for any other child age group. Infants are a particularly vulnerable group with respect to child welfare involvement and potential negative implications of maltreatment.<sup>2</sup> This information sheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations infants in Canada in 2019.

FIGURE 1. Fallon, E., Falar-Thompson, E., Trochim, N. (2017). Infants investigated by the child welfare system: Exploring a diverse profile of risks, service needs, and outcomes for support in Ontario. *Brain Sciences*, 7(8), 161.

FIGURE 2. Fallon, E., Lefebvre, R., Trochim, N., Richard, K., Hella, S., Montgomery, H., St. Bernard, M., Jan-Czekajka, M., Gauthier, M., Fitzpatrick, J., MacLaurin, B., Black, T., Espinosa, T., Ross, B., Colton-Walker, C., Doherty, R., Gray, R., Lane, J., Orr, M., & Sney, S. (2021). Demystifying the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019. Ontario Assembly of First Nations.

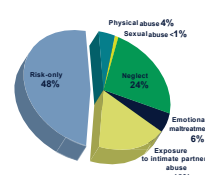
FN/CIS-2019 - focus on developmental stages series

2  
Infants

**Investigation Type**

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations infants in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FNCIS-2019 included both investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subtypes as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence.

Nearly half (48 percent) of investigations involving First Nations infants were focused on assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child. An additional 24 percent of the investigations were assessing allegations of neglect. The remaining investigations were focused on exposure to intimate partner violence (18 percent), emotional maltreatment (six percent), physical abuse (four percent), and sexual abuse (less than one percent).



**Child Functioning Concerns**

Participating workers were asked to indicate the investigated child's functioning on the basis of 18 concerns that would be possible to assess in the initial investigation period (see the *FNCIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a complete list of the functioning concerns that were captured as part of the study).<sup>3</sup> Based on their clinical judgement, workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown by the investigating worker at the time of the child welfare investigation. Functioning concerns were considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "confirmed."

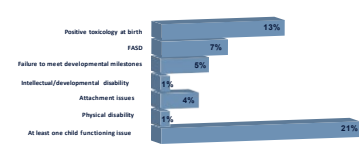


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# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products

## Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged One to Three Years Old in Canada in 2019

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on developmental stages series

Children 1-3 years old

### Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged One to Three Years Old in Canada in 2019



**Introduction**  
The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets which represent different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children. Please refer to other information sheets available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca) which examine investigations involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet, also available on the portal, summarizes disparities in service dispositions for different age groups.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of 47 mainstream and 16 First Nations agencies was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A three-month sampling period (October 1 – December 31, 2019) was then used to select cases within these sites. The final stage involved identifying child-level investigations meeting the study criteria. Complex survey weights were used to derive an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019 from these sampled cases. In Quebec, data were extracted from information systems from all agencies able to participate (this included data from six First Nations agencies). The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of the investigating child welfare worker and are point-in-time estimates of the front-end of the child welfare service continuum. Please see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a full description of study methodology.<sup>1</sup>

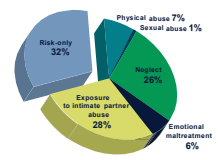
<sup>1</sup> Fallon B., LeBlanc R., Toomey N., Richard K., Hilde S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, M., King B., Collins-Welsh D., Dabwala R., Gray R., Levi J., Orr M., ... Soop, S. (2021). *Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019*. Ottawa: Assembly of First Nations.

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on developmental stages series

Children 1-3 years old

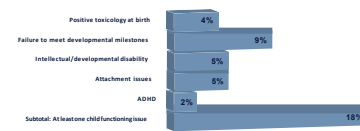
**Investigation Type**  
Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children one to three years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 included both investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subtypes as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence.

Approximately one third (32 percent) of investigations involving First Nations children aged one to three years old were focused on assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child. Twenty-eight percent of investigations were focused on exposure to intimate partner violence, 26 percent were focused on assessing allegations of neglect, seven percent were focused on physical abuse, six percent of investigations were for emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involving First Nations children one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.



**Child Functioning Concerns**  
Participating workers were asked to indicate the investigated child's functioning on the basis of 18 concerns that would be possible to assess in the initial investigation period (see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a complete list of the functioning concerns that were captured as part of the study).<sup>2</sup> Based on their clinical judgement, workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown by the investigating worker at the time of the child welfare investigation. Functioning concerns were considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "confirmed."

The most frequently noted child functioning concerns in investigations involving First Nations children one to three years old in Canada (excluding Quebec) in 2019 are:



<sup>2</sup> Fallon B., LeBlanc R., Toomey N., Richard K., Hilde S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, M., King B., Collins-Welsh D., Dabwala R., Gray R., Levi J., Orr M., ... Soop, S. (2021). *Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare*.



# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products

## Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations

## Involving First Nations Children Aged Four to Seven Years Old in Canada in 2019

FN/CIS-2019 - focus on developmental stages series

Children 4-7 years old


### Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged Four to Seven Years Old in Canada in 2019

**Introduction**

The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets which represent different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children. Please refer to other information sheets available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwpr.ca) which examine investigations involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet, also available on the portal, summarizes disparities in service dispositions for different age groups.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of 47 mainstream and 16 First Nations agencies was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A three-month sampling period (October 1 – December 31, 2019) was then used to select cases within these sites. The final stage involved identifying child-level investigations meeting the study criteria. Complex survey weights were used to derive an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019 from these sampled cases. In Quebec, data were extracted from information systems from all agencies able to participate (this included data from six First Nations agencies). The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of the investigating child welfare worker and are point-in-time estimates of the front-end of the child welfare service continuum. Please see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a full description of study methodology.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fallon, B., LaBrière, R., Toomey, N., Richard, K., Hillis, S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, M., Joch-Camacho, N., Saint-Girons, M., Filippelli, J., MacLaurin, B., Black, T., Espósito, T., King, B., Collin-Vézina, D., Dasthheer, R., Gray, R., Lee, J., Orr, M., ... (2021). Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019. Ontario: Assembly of First Nations.



**Children Four to Seven Years Old**

Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) in Canada were 3.6 times as likely to be investigated for maltreatment-related concerns compared to non-Indigenous children in 2019. First Nations children four to seven years old were 3.2 times as likely to be the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada compared to non-Indigenous children of the same age. This information sheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations aged four to seven years old in Canada in 2019.

FN/CIS-2019 - focus on developmental stages series

Children 4-7 years old

**Investigation Type**

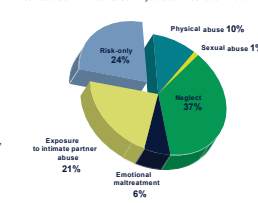
Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children four to seven years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 included both investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subtypes as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence.

Thirty-seven percent of investigations involving First Nations children aged four to seven years old were based on allegations of neglect. Risk-only investigations represented 24 percent of investigations, and the remainder of investigations were focused on exposure to intimate partner violence (21 percent), physical abuse (10 percent), emotional maltreatment (six percent), and sexual abuse (one percent). See Figure 1.

**Child Functioning Concerns**

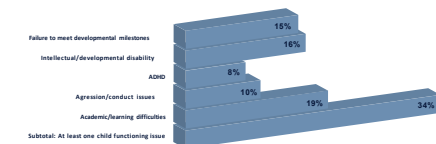
Participating workers were asked to indicate the investigated child's functioning on the basis of 18 concerns that would be possible to assess in the initial investigation period (see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a complete list of the functioning concerns that were captured as part of the study).<sup>2</sup> Based on their clinical judgement, workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown by the investigating worker at the time of the child welfare investigation. Functioning concerns were considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "confirmed."

<sup>2</sup>Fallon, B., LaBrière, R., Toomey, N., Richard, K., Hillis, S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, M., Joch-Camacho, N., Saint-Girons, M., Filippelli, J., MacLaurin, B., Black, T., Espósito, T., King, B., Collin-Vézina, D., Dasthheer, R., Gray, R., Lee, J., Orr, M., ... (2021). Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019. Ontario: Assembly of First Nations.



**Figure 1. Primary investigation type in investigations involving First Nations children four to seven years old in Canada in 2019**

Investigation Type	Percentage
Risk-only	24%
Exposure to intimate partner abuse	21%
Neglect	37%
Emotional maltreatment	6%
Physical abuse	10%
Sexual abuse	1%

**Figure 2. Most frequently noted child functioning concerns in investigations involving First Nations children four to seven years old in Canada (excluding Quebec) in 2019**

Concern	Percentage
At least one child functioning issue	34%
Academic/learning difficulties	19%
Aggression/conduct issues	10%
Intellectual/developmental disability	8%
Failure to meet developmental milestones	15%



# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products


## Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged 8-11 Years Old in Canada in 2019

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on developmental stages series

Children 8-11 years old

1

### Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged 8-11 Years Old in Canada in 2019



**Introduction**  
The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets which represent different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children. Please refer to other information sheets available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwpr.ca) which examine investigations involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet, also available on the portal, summarizes disparities in service dispositions for different age groups.

**Children 8-11 Years Old**  
Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) in Canada were 3.6 times as likely to be investigated for maltreatment-related concerns compared to non-Indigenous children in 2019. First Nations children eight to 11 years old were 3.1 times as likely to be the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada compared to non-Indigenous children of the same age. This information sheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations aged eight to 11 years old in Canada in 2019.

**The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of 47 mainstream and 16 First Nations agencies was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A three-month sampling period (October 1 – December 31, 2019) was then used to select cases within these sites. The final stage involved identifying child-level investigations meeting the study criteria. Complex survey weights were used to derive an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019 from these sampled cases. In Quebec, data were extracted from information systems from all agencies able to participate (this included data from six First Nations agencies). The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of the investigating child welfare worker and are point-in-time estimates of the front-end of the child welfare service continuum. Please see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a full description of study methodology.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Fallon, B., Lalonde, R., Toomey, N., Richard, K., Hilda, S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, M., John-Camille, M., Sain-Claude, M., Filipek, J., MacLaurin, B., Black, T., Espinola, T., King, B., Collins-Walker, D., Daniels, R., Gray, R., Lee, J., Orr, M., ... (2021). *Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019*. Ontario: Assembly of First Nations.

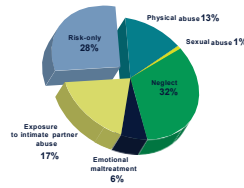
FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on developmental stages series

Children 8-11 years old

2

### Investigation Type

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children eight to 11 years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 included both investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subtypes as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence.

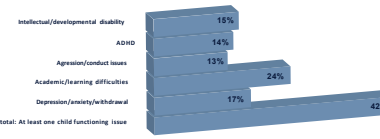


**Figure 1. Primary investigation type in investigations involving First Nations children eight to 11 years old in Canada in 2019**

Approximately one third of investigations (32 percent) were for neglect, and risk-only investigations represented an additional 28 percent of investigations involving First Nations children aged eight to 11 years old. Exposure to intimate partner violence was the focus of 17 percent of investigations, physical abuse was assessed in 13 percent of investigations, emotional maltreatment was assessed in six percent of investigations, and sexual abuse investigations represented one percent of investigations involving First Nations children eight to 11 years old.

### Child Functioning Concerns

Participating workers were asked to indicate the investigated child's functioning on the basis of 18 concerns that would be possible to assess in the initial investigation period (see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a complete list of the functioning concerns that were captured as part of the study).<sup>2</sup> Based on their clinical judgement, workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown by the investigating worker at the time of the child welfare investigation. Functioning concerns were considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "confirmed."



**Figure 2. Most frequently noted child functioning concerns in investigations involving First Nations children eight to 11 years old in Canada (excluding Quebec) in 2019**

<sup>2</sup>Fallon, B., Lalonde, R., Toomey, N., Richard, K., Hilda, S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, M., John-Camille, M., Sain-Claude, M., Filipek, J., MacLaurin, B., Black, T., Espinola, T., King, B., Collins-Walker, D., Daniels, R., Gray, R., Lee, J., Orr, M., ... (2021). *Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019*. Ontario: Assembly of First Nations.

# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products


## Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged 12-15 Years Old in Canada in 2019

Children 12-15 years old

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on developmental stages series

1

### Child Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations Children Aged 12-15 Years Old in Canada in 2019



**Introduction**  
The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets which represent different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children. Please refer to other information sheets available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwpr.ca) which examine investigations involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet, also available on the portal, summarizes disparities in service dispositions for different age groups.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of 47 mainstream and 16 First Nations agencies was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A three-month sampling period (October 1 – December 31, 2019) was then used to select cases within these sites. The final stage involved identifying child-level investigations meeting the study criteria. Complex survey weights were used to derive an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019 from these sampled cases. In Quebec, data were extracted from information systems from all agencies able to participate (this included data from six First Nations agencies). The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of the investigating child welfare worker and are point-in-time estimates of the front-end of the child welfare service continuum. Please see the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report* for a full description of study methodology.<sup>1</sup>

**Children 12-15 Years Old**  
Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) in Canada were 3.6 times as likely to be investigated for maltreatment-related concerns compared to non-Indigenous children in 2019. Child welfare-involved adolescents are likely facing multiple, complex needs,<sup>2</sup> and First Nations children 12 to 15 years old were 3.5 times as likely to be the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada compared to non-Indigenous children of the same age. This information sheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations aged 12 to 15 years old in Canada in 2019.

<sup>1</sup> Flisher, S., Fergusson, E., Fitzgerald, J., Black, T., & O'Connor, C. (2019). TraubalD issues and challenges regarding characteristics associated with the Ontario Aboriginal child welfare services to adolescents in Ontario, Canada. *Children and Youth Services, 37*, 202-215.

<sup>2</sup> Flisher, S., Fergusson, E., Fitzgerald, J., Black, T., & O'Connor, C. (2019). TraubalD issues and challenges regarding characteristics associated with the Ontario Aboriginal child welfare services to adolescents in Ontario, Canada. *Children and Youth Services, 37*, 202-215.

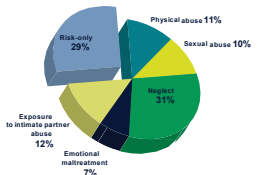
Children 12-15 years old

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on developmental stages series

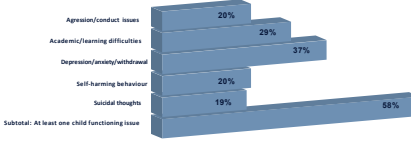
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### Investigation Type

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children 12-15 years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 included both investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subtypes as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence.



**Child Functioning Concerns**  
Participating workers were asked to indicate the investigated child's functioning on the basis of 16 concerns that would be possible to assess in the initial investigation period (see the FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report for a complete list of the functioning concerns that were captured as part of the study).<sup>3</sup> Based on their clinical judgement, workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown by the investigating worker at the time of the child welfare investigation. Functioning concerns were considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "confirmed."



<sup>1</sup> Flisher, S., Fergusson, E., Fitzgerald, J., Black, T., & O'Connor, C. (2019). TraubalD issues and challenges regarding characteristics associated with the Ontario Aboriginal child welfare services to adolescents in Ontario, Canada. *Children and Youth Services, 37*, 202-215.

<sup>2</sup> Flisher, S., Fergusson, E., Fitzgerald, J., Black, T., & O'Connor, C. (2019). TraubalD issues and challenges regarding characteristics associated with the Ontario Aboriginal child welfare services to adolescents in Ontario, Canada. *Children and Youth Services, 37*, 202-215.

<sup>3</sup> Flisher, S., Fergusson, E., Fitzgerald, J., Black, T., & O'Connor, C. (2019). TraubalD issues and challenges regarding characteristics associated with the Ontario Aboriginal child welfare services to adolescents in Ontario, Canada. *Children and Youth Services, 37*, 202-215.

# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products

## Disparities in Investigation Characteristics by Age in Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

FN/CIS-2019 – Focus on developmental stages series

1

Disparities in Service Dispositions

### Disparities in Investigation Characteristics by Age in Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

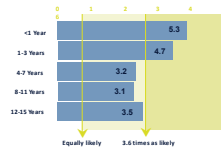


**Introduction**  
The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet describes disparities in rates of various investigation characteristics by age. Incidence rates in the FN/CIS-2019 are calculated by taking the estimated number of child maltreatment-related investigations, dividing by the child population, and multiplying by 1,000 to get a rate per 1,000 children. It should be noted that incidence rate calculations consider the child's age as well as ethno-racial background (i.e., First Nations or non-Indigenous). Disparity indices presented in this information sheet were calculated by taking the incidence rate of various investigation characteristics for First Nations children and dividing by the incidence rate for non-Indigenous children. The disparities presented in this information sheet must be understood within the context of the ongoing legacy of colonialism, discrimination, and poverty that First Nations communities in Canada continue to face. Further information on the colonial practices that drive these disparities is available in Section 1 of the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report*.<sup>1</sup>

$$\text{Disparity Index} = \frac{\text{Incidence rate for investigations involving First Nations children}}{\text{Incidence rate for investigations involving non-Indigenous children}}$$

**Investigations**  
Figure 1 describes the disparity indices between rates of investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children by child age category. Overall, First Nations children (0-15 years old) were 3.6 times as likely to be investigated for a child maltreatment-related concern compared to non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019. The disparity changes depending on the developmental period examined. First Nations infants were 5.3 times as likely to be investigated for maltreatment-related concerns compared to non-Indigenous infants while First Nations children eight to 11 years old were 3.1 times as likely to be investigated compared to their non-Indigenous peers. Additional information sheets summarizing investigation profiles by child age are available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal ([cwrp.ca](http://cwrp.ca)) as part of a focus on developmental stages series.

Figure 1. Disparity indices by child age group for investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019



<sup>1</sup> The figures presented throughout this information sheet indicate this initial investigation. M. level of overrepresentation by noting that First Nations children were 3.6 times as likely to be the subject of a child welfare investigation compared to non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019.

<sup>1</sup> Fallon, B., Lettavin, R., Toomey, N., Richard, K., Hobb, S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, J., King, S., Collin-Vallina, D., Dallaire, R., Gray, R., Levi, J., Dr. M., ... Stoop, S. (2021). Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019. Ottawa: Assembly of First Nations.

FN/CIS-2019 – Focus on developmental stages series

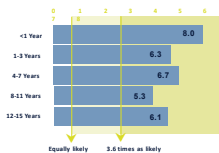
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Disparities in Service Dispositions

### Neglect Investigations

The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 included both investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subtypes as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence. Figure 2 describes the disparity indices in neglect investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019. Disparity indices for neglect investigations are presented because neglect investigations have been shown to be a significant driver of the overrepresentation of First Nations children in the Canadian child welfare system and because monitoring and assessing neglect investigations are part of the calls to action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in 2015.<sup>1,2</sup>

Figure 2. Disparity indices by child age group in neglect investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019



<sup>1</sup> Smith, V., Toomey, N., Fallon, B., MacLaurin, B., Fast, E., Thomas-Petko, S., Pett, T., Kozowski, A., Black, T., Wegman, P., Bennett, M., Formosa, J., Blaisseau, P., O'Brien, S., Fother, E., Gray, R., Luczak, L., Hobb, S., Levi, J., ... Richard, K. (2019). *Kiwiskiw: Remember the Children: Understanding the Overrepresentation of First Nations Children in the Child Welfare System*. Ontario Assembly of First Nations.

<sup>2</sup> Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* (2015). <http://www25.international.gc.ca/indigenous-peoples/indigenous-peoples-documentaire/indigenous-peoples-documentaire-eng2015-eng2015.pdf>

Figure 2 shows that the disparity indices in neglect investigations between First Nations and non-Indigenous children were higher than the overall disparity indices in rates of investigations (see Figure 1). The greatest disparity index was for neglect investigations involving infants, with First Nations infants in Canada being eight times as likely to be involved in neglect investigations compared to non-Indigenous infants (see Figure 2).

### Child Functioning Concerns

Participating workers were asked to indicate the child's functioning on the basis of 18 concerns that would be possible to assess in the initial investigation period (see the FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report for a complete list of the functioning concerns that were captured as part of the study).<sup>3</sup> Workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown at the time of the child welfare investigation. Functioning concerns were considered noted when the worker endorsed the concern was "suspected" or "confirmed." Figure 3 describes the disparity in rates of investigations where at least one child functioning concern was noted for First Nations and non-Indigenous children. The greatest disparity in investigations with at least one functioning concern noted for the investigated child was in investigations involving children eight to 11 years old (disparity index of 3.8).

Figure 3. Disparity indices by child age group for investigations with at least one noted child functioning concern involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019 (excluding Quebec)



<sup>3</sup> Fallon, B., Lettavin, R., Toomey, N., Richard, K., Hobb, S., Montgomery, H. M., Bennett, J., King, S., Collin-Vallina, D., Dallaire, R., Gray, R., Levi, J., Dr. M., ... Stoop, S. (2021). Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019. Ottawa: Assembly of First Nations.

# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products


## Household Risk Factors in Investigations Involving First Nations Children Living On Reserve and Off Reserve and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

Household Risk Factors

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on risk factors

1

### Household Risk Factors in Investigations Involving First Nations Children Living On Reserve and Off Reserve and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019



**Introduction**

The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet describes noted household risk factors in child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019. These household risk factors were analyzed by comparing the proportions of investigations that noted these risk factors involving First Nations children living on reserve, First Nations children living off reserve, and non-Indigenous children. The information presented must be understood within the context of the ongoing legacy of colonialism, discrimination, and poverty that First Nations communities in Canada continue to face. Further information on the colonial practices that drive these disparities is available in Section 1 of the *FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report*.<sup>1</sup>

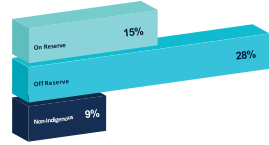
**Household Ran Out of Money for Basic Necessities**

Investigating workers were asked to indicate whether the investigated household had run out of money in the past six months for food, utilities, telephone/cell phone, transportation, or medical care.

<sup>1</sup> https://www150.communext.gc.ca/first-nations-canadian-incidence-study-of-reported-child-abuse-and-neglect-2019. Ontario: Assembly of First Nations.

Figure 1 describes the proportion of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, First Nations children living off reserve, and non-Indigenous children in which the investigating worker indicated that the household had run out of money for at least one of these basic necessities. In 28 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, 15 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, and nine percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children the household was noted to have run out of money for basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 1. Proportion of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, First Nations children living off reserve, and non-Indigenous children in which the household was noted to have run out of money for basic necessities in Canada in 2019 (excluding Quebec)



Group	Percentage
On Reserve	15%
Off Reserve	28%
Non-Indigenous	9%

Household Risk Factors

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on risk factors

2

**Unsafe Housing Conditions**

The presence of unsafe housing conditions was noted based on the investigating workers' assessment at the conclusion of the child welfare investigation. Unsafe housing conditions were noted in six percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, five percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, and four percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Proportion of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, First Nations children living off reserve, and non-Indigenous children in which unsafe housing conditions were noted in Canada in 2019 (excluding Quebec)



Group	Percentage
On Reserve	5%
Off Reserve	6%
Non-Indigenous	4%

**Overcrowded Housing**

As with unsafe housing conditions, participating workers indicated the presence of overcrowding in the home based on their clinical judgement at the end of the initial investigation. Sixteen percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, 13 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, and six percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children involved homes that were noted to be overcrowded by the investigating worker (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Proportion of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, First Nations children living off reserve, and non-Indigenous children in which overcrowded housing was noted in Canada in 2019 (excluding Quebec)



Group	Percentage
On Reserve	16%
Off Reserve	13%
Non-Indigenous	6%

**Two or More Moves in the Past Year**

The FN/CIS-2019 asked workers to indicate the number of moves the family had made in the past year. As shown in Figure 4, workers noted that two or more family moves were made in 12 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve and off reserve, five percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, and four percent of children living on reserve and non-Indigenous children. Investigations involving non-Indigenous children (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Proportion of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, First Nations children living off reserve, and non-Indigenous children in which the investigated family moved two or more times in the past year (excluding Quebec)



Group	Percentage
On Reserve	6%
Off Reserve	12%
Non-Indigenous	6%

# FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products

## Primary Caregiver Risk-Factors in Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

Primary Caregiver Risk Factors

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on risk factors

1

### Primary Caregiver Risk Factors in Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

**Introduction**  
The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of reported and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet describes noted primary caregiver risk factors in child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019. Workers participating in the FN/CIS-2019 were asked to consider nine risk factors based on their clinical judgement/assessment at the conclusion of the investigation. Workers could indicate if these concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the presence of the functioning concern was unknown at the time of the child welfare investigation. Risk factors were considered noted when the worker endorsed the concern was "suspected" or "confirmed." The disparities presented in this information sheet must be understood within the context of the ongoing legacy of colonialism, discrimination,

**Primary Caregiver Risk Factors**  
Table 1 describes the estimated number of investigations involving primary caregivers with at least one risk factor noted by the investigating worker in investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children. All of the primary caregiver risk factors captured in the FN/CIS-2019 were more likely to be noted in investigations involving First Nations compared to non-Indigenous children. Seventy-four percent of investigations involving First Nations children involved a primary caregiver with at least one risk factor noted, compared to 57 percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children. Alcohol abuse, victim of intimate partner violence, mental health issues, and few social supports were the most frequently noted concerns in investigations involving First Nations children and were each noted in 34 percent of these investigations.

Primary Caregiver Risk Factors

FN/CIS-2019 - Focus on risk factors

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Table 1. Noted primary caregiver risk factors in investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019 (excluding Quebec)

Primary Caregiver Risk Factors	First Nations Child Investigations		Non-Indigenous Child Investigations	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol Abuse	15,023	34%	18,290	9%
Drug/Solvent Abuse	10,213	23%	17,566	8%
Cognitive Impairment	4,149	10%	6,864	3%
Mental Health Issues	14,780	34%	53,506	25%
Physical Health Issues	3,771	9%	13,509	6%
Few Social Supports	14,710	34%	51,234	24%
Victim of Intimate Partner Violence	14,977	34%	58,465	28%
Perpetrator of Domestic Violence	5,027	12%	16,864	8%
History of Foster Care/Group Home	8,322	19%	8,614	4%
At Least One Primary Caregiver Risk Factor	32,159	74%	120,954	57%
No Primary Caregiver Risk Factors	11,507	26%	90,938	43%
Total Investigations	43,666	100%	211,892	100%

Percentages do not add up to 100% because investigating workers could identify more than one primary caregiver risk factor.  
Based on a sample of 6,905 investigations in Ontario in 2019 and 6,354 investigations in the rest of Canada in 2019. Information on caregiver risk factors was not available in situations where the case was opened under a community caregiver, the youth was being independently, or the case was extracted from the Quebec administrative system. A community caregiver is defined as anyone providing care to a child in an out-of-home setting (e.g., institutional setting).  
The differences in rates between First Nations and non-Indigenous child investigations must be understood in the context of the ongoing impact of colonialism, discrimination, and poverty.

The report is available online at: <https://cwrp.ca/publications/denouncing-continued-overrepresentation-first-nations-children-canadian-child-welfare>

Information sheets are available online at: <https://cwrp.ca/infosheets/provincial-territorial>

#### Questions

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