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
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.
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.

Source: Statistics Canada (2017)
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.

Source: Statistics Canada (2017)
## Rate of Children in Foster Care (per 1,000 children) aged 0 - 14 in Canada on Census Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>4.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince Edward Island</td>
<td>7.74</td>
<td>7.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>4.86</td>
<td>4.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>4.31</td>
<td>5.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>21.12</td>
<td>19.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>8.37</td>
<td>8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Columbia</td>
<td>6.01</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukon</td>
<td>14.45</td>
<td>7.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Territories</td>
<td>11.93</td>
<td>12.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nunavut</td>
<td>8.59</td>
<td>9.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black, Fallon, Trocmé & Houston (2022)
Statistics Canada (2017, 2022)
## Number of children in out-of-home care in Canada

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

Families living on reserve: 28%
Families living off reserve: 72%
FN/CIS 2019 Findings

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

3.6x higher

151 investigations per 1000

First Nations children

42 investigations per 1000

Non-Indigenous children
FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Overrepresentation Builds Across Service Dispositions Made During Investigation

Formal Out-of Home Care

17.2x higher

Court Application

10.5x higher

Transferred to Ongoing Services

6.6x higher

Substantiation

4.7x higher

Investigation

3.6x higher

Findings

Substantiation 4.7x higher

Investigation 3.6x higher

Transferred to Ongoing Services 6.6x higher

Court Application 10.5x higher

Formal Out-of Home Care 17.2x higher
Disparities in Different Forms of Substantiated Neglect Investigations Involving First Nations Children

FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Substantiated neglect sub-types
- Abandonment
- Failure to supervise
- Educational neglect
- Physical neglect
- Failure to provide psych tx
- Medical neglect

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

Equally likely

3.6 times as likely
Summary of Findings: Disparities in Investigations Involving First Nations Children in Canada in 2019

 FN/CIS 2019 Findings

Difference in rates per 1,000 between First Nations and non-Indigenous Children
First Nations
Ontario Incidence
Study -2018
Families Living On or Off Reserve in Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children

- 83% Family Living Off Reserve
- 17% Family Living On Reserve
Rates of First Nations and Non-Indigenous Child Investigations in Ontario in 2018

For every 1,000 First Nations children 15 years of age and under there were an estimated 174.4 investigations in 2018, which is 2.9 x greater than the rate per 1,000 Non-Indigenous children, which is 59.5.
Rates of First Nations and Non-Indigenous Child Investigations in Ontario in 2018

- **0-15 Year Old Children**: 174.4 rate per 1,000 children, 2.9 times greater for First Nations compared to Non-Indigenous
- **16-17 Year Old Children**: 80.6 rate per 1,000 children, 2.7 times greater for First Nations compared to Non-Indigenous

Bar chart showing the rates per 1,000 children for First Nations and Non-Indigenous groups in different age groups.
Overrepresentation Builds Across the Investigation Cycle

Rate of First Nations child investigations involving:

- 3 x more investigations
- Transferred
  - 6 x higher
- Court application
  - 3 x higher
- Kinship out of care
  - 7 x higher
- Formal out of home care
  - 7 x higher

than the rate of child investigations involving non-First Nations children
Caregiver Functioning Concerns Among Investigated Families

- Cognitive impairment: 3% Non-Indigenous, 8% First Nations
- Perpetrator of intimate partner violence: 7% Non-Indigenous, 11% First Nations
- History of foster care/group home: 4% Non-Indigenous, 14% First Nations
- Drug/solvent abuse: 7% Non-Indigenous, 15% First Nations
- Alcohol abuse: 6% Non-Indigenous, 22% First Nations
- Physical health issues: 6% Non-Indigenous, 9% First Nations
- Mental health issues: 6% Non-Indigenous, 22% First Nations
- Victim of intimate partner violence: 2% Non-Indigenous, 27% First Nations
- Few social supports: 21% Non-Indigenous, 26% First Nations
- At least one functioning issue: 53% Non-Indigenous, 70% First Nations
Child Functioning Concerns Among Investigated Families

- Depression/anxiety/withdrawal
- Failure to meet developmental milestones: Non-Indigenous 5%, First Nations 10%
- Positive toxicology at birth: Non-Indigenous 1%, First Nations 4%
- Youth Criminal Justice Act: Non-Indigenous 1%, First Nations 2%
- Self-harming behaviour: Non-Indigenous 3%, First Nations 5%
- Running (multiple incidents): Non-Indigenous 4%, First Nations 5%
- FASD: Non-Indigenous 4%, First Nations 5%
- Attachment issues: Non-Indigenous 5%, First Nations 9%
- Intellectual/developmental disability: Non-Indigenous 9%, First Nations 9%
- Academic/learning difficulties: Non-Indigenous 12%, First Nations 14%

Graph shows comparisons between Non-Indigenous and First Nations in various child functioning concerns.
Socio-demographic Risk Factors

- Unsafe housing conditions: 3% (Non-Indigenous), 4% (First Nations)
- Ran out of money for transportation: 3% (Non-Indigenous), 8% (First Nations)
- Ran out of money for phone: 4% (Non-Indigenous), 6% (First Nations)
- Ran out of money for utilities: 2% (Non-Indigenous), 4% (First Nations)
- Ran out of money for housing: 3% (Non-Indigenous), 7% (First Nations)
- Ran out of money for food: 4% (Non-Indigenous), 10% (First Nations)
- Two or more moves in the last year: 5% (Non-Indigenous), 11% (First Nations)
- Overcrowded housing: 6% (Non-Indigenous), 11% (First Nations)
- Public/Band housing: 9% (Non-Indigenous), 24% (First Nations)
- Rental: 43% (First Nations)
- Social assistance: 23% (First Nations)
- Own home: 36% (First Nations)
- Full-time employment: 32% (First Nations)

Non-Indigenous: 46% 36% 24% 23% 11% 7% 4% 8% 6% 3%
First Nations: 53% 48% 43% 46% 32% 36% 30% 24% 11% 3%
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.”


• 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)

- 0%
- 2%
- 4%
- 6%
- 8%
- 10%
- 12%
- 14%

2010 2011 2012 2013

Urgent
Chronic

Univ of Toronto
FACTOR-INWENTASH
Faculty of Social Work
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

- Family moves
- Parenting
- Ethno cultural placement matching
- Placements
- Moves in care
- Time in care
- School performance
- Child behaviour
- Recurrence
- Safety

- Family and Community Support
- Permanency
- Well-being
- Safety
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
Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations Children in Canadian Child Welfare

Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) in Canada in 2019 were 3.6 times as likely to be investigated for child abuse and neglect compared to non-Indigenous children. Seventy-nine percent of these investigations were non-Indigenous children in which the household was noted to have run out of basic necessities in the past six months. These disparities are available in Section 1 of the FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report.

Primary Caregiver Risk Factors

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

Involving First Nations Children Aged Eight to Eleven Years Old in Canada in 2019

Involving First Nations Children Aged Twelve to Sixteen Years Old in Canada in 2019

Involving First Nations Children Living On Reserve and Off Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving First Nations Children Living On Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving First Nations Children Living Off Reserve and Non-First Nations Children Living Off Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving First Nations Children Living Off Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving Non-Indigenous Children Living On Reserve and Off Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving Non-Indigenous Children Living On Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving Non-Indigenous Children Living Off Reserve and Non-First Nations Children Living Off Reserve in Canada in 2019

Involving Non-Indigenous Children Living Off Reserve in Canada in 2019

Please refer to other information sheets available on Canada’s Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca) which examine investigations involving children of different ages. This information sheet looks specifically at the developmental stages and examine disparities profile of child maltreatment-related investigations, service dispositions for different age groups.
Denouncing the Continued Overrepresentation of First Nations Children in Canadian Child Welfare

The data presented in this information sheet were collected as part of the First Nations/Canada Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect - 2019 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of child welfare service continuum for different age groups. The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Yukon) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of child welfare agencies and First Nations, agencies were selected from the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca), which is an investigation involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet is now available on the portal, summaries disparities in the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca), which is an investigation involving children of different age groups.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions, excluding Yukon) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of child welfare agencies and First Nations, agencies were selected from the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca), which is an investigation involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet is now available on the portal, summaries disparities in the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca), which is an investigation involving children of different age groups.

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 the functioning concern that was either confirmed, suspected, not present, or noted when the investigating worker at the time of the investigation was focus on alleged maltreatment. An additional 13 percent of the investigations were focused on exposure to intimate partner violence, at least one child functioning issue was identified in 76 percent of the investigations in which there was no specific concern. It should be noted that investigations involving First Nations infants in Canada in 2019 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 the methodology used in the data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of child welfare service continuum for different age groups.

Investigation Type

Physical abuse 4%
Sexual abuse <1%
Emotional maltreatment 6%
Neglect 7%
Attachment issues 13%
Failure to meet developmental milestones 21%
Positive toxicology at birth 5%
At least one child functioning issue was identified in 76 percent of the investigations in which there was no specific concern. It should be noted that investigations involving First Nations infants in Canada in 2019 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 the methodology used in the data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of child welfare service continuum for different age groups.

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 the functioning concern that was either confirmed, suspected, not present, or noted when the investigating worker at the time of the investigation was focus on alleged maltreatment. An additional 13 percent of the investigations were focused on exposure to intimate partner violence, at least one child functioning issue was identified in 76 percent of the investigations in which there was no specific concern. It should be noted that investigations involving First Nations infants in Canada in 2019 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 the methodology used in the data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of child welfare service continuum for different age groups.

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 the functioning concern that was either confirmed, suspected, not present, or noted when the investigating worker at the time of the investigation was focus on alleged maltreatment. An additional 13 percent of the investigations were focused on exposure to intimate partner violence, at least one child functioning issue was identified in 76 percent of the investigations in which there was no specific concern. It should be noted that investigations involving First Nations infants in Canada in 2019 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 the methodology used in the data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of child welfare service continuum for different age groups.
FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report

Children One to Three Years Old

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 (FN/CIS-2019), a data collection effort to produce estimates of the incidence of one to three years old child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations children in Canada in 2019. 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 involving First Nations children aged one to three years old in Canada. The information series was developed by the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (canwrp.ca) to support investigations involving children of different age groups. An additional information sheet is also available on the portal, summarizing disparities in the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations children aged one to three 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 to December 2019) was used to select cases within these sites. The final stage included interviews with all agencies that met the sampling criteria. Complex survey weights were used to allow an estimate of the Canadian incidence of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019 from these sampled sites. In Quebec, data were collected between October and December 2019. The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of the investigating child welfare worker and do not reflect the overall profile of the first incidence of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations children aged one to three years old in Canada in 2019.

Please refer to other information sheets available on Canada in 2019.

Involving First Nations Children Aged One to Three Years Old in Canada in 2019

FNCIS-2019 Major Findings Report

Investigation Type

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children aged one to three years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of investigation type was based on investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there were no specific concerns of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where there was an alleged incident of maltreatment (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 intimate partner violence, 26 percent were focused on assessing allegations of neglect, seven percent were focused on physical abuse, six percent of investigations were focused on emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involved children aged one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.

Child Functioning Concerns

Children One to Three Years Old

Children One to Three Years Old Involving First Nations Children Aged One to Three Years Old

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 focused on emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involved children aged one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.

Investigation Type

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children aged one to three years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of investigation type was based on investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there were no specific concerns of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where there was an alleged incident of maltreatment (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 intimate partner violence, 26 percent were focused on assessing allegations of neglect, seven percent were focused on physical abuse, six percent of investigations were focused on emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involved children aged one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.

Child Functioning Concerns

Children One to Three Years Old

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 focused on emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involved children aged one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.

Investigation Type

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children aged one to three years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of investigation type was based on investigations in which there was no specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) and investigations in which there were no specific concerns of an alleged incident of maltreatment but where there was an alleged incident of maltreatment (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 intimate partner violence, 26 percent were focused on assessing allegations of neglect, seven percent were focused on physical abuse, six percent of investigations were focused on emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involved children aged one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.

Child Functioning Concerns

Children One to Three Years Old

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 focused on emotional maltreatment, and one percent of investigations involved children aged one to three years old assessed concerns of sexual abuse. See Figure 1.
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 Maltreatment (FN/CIS-2019), a collaborative effort to produce estimates of the incidence of child maltreatment-related investigations conducted in Canada in 2019. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets and represents different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children, in comparison to the study conducted in 2012 and released in 2013.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions and represented 24 percent of investigations, and the presence of the investigation of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 was noted for the age of four to seven years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations is the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada that involved an incident of child maltreatment or confirmed, suspected, or other concern that would be possible to assess in the preliminary investigation. These concerns included: failure to meet developmental milestones; aggression/conduct issues; Agression/conduct issues exposure to intimate partner violence; sexual abuse; physical abuse; emotional maltreatment; neglect; and other concern.

In this information sheet, workers could indicate one of five categories of child functioning concern: physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional maltreatment; neglect; and other concern. See Figure 1.

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 19 percent of investigations, and the remaining 44 percent were investigations that included a specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment. Workers could indicate one of five categories of the primary category of maltreatment - physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence. See Figure 2.

Children Aged Four to Seven Years Old

Children four to seven years old were 3.2 times as likely to be reported and investigated child maltreatment in the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada as 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.

Figure 1 describes the primary concern of investigations involving First Nations children aged four to seven years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations is the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada that involved an incident of child maltreatment or confirmed, suspected, or other concern that would be possible to assess in the preliminary investigation. These concerns included: failure to meet developmental milestones; aggression/conduct issues; exposure to intimate partner violence; physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional maltreatment; neglect; and other concern. See Figure 1.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failure to meet developmental milestones</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggression/conduct issues</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to intimate partner violence</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional maltreatment</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other concern</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Failure to meet developmental milestones was the most commonly noted concern in investigations involving First Nations children aged four to seven years old in Canada in 2019. Aggression/conduct issues, exposure to intimate partner violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, neglect, and other concern were also noted. See Figure 2.

Conclusion

Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) reported and investigated child maltreatment in the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five informationsheets which represent different age. This informationsheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations aged four to seven years old in Canada in 2019.

Further reading


The data presented in this informationsheet were Overall, First Nations children (aged 0-15 years old) reported and investigated child maltreatment in the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of five information sheets and represents different developmental stages and examine disparities between First Nations and non-Indigenous children, in comparison to the study conducted in 2012 and released in 2013.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions and represented 24 percent of investigations, and the presence of the investigation of child maltreatment-related investigations in the FN/CIS-2019 was noted for the age of four to seven years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment-related investigations is the subject of a child welfare investigation in Canada that involved an incident of child maltreatment or confirmed, suspected, or other concern that would be possible to assess in the preliminary investigation. These concerns included: failure to meet developmental milestones; aggression/conduct issues; exposure to intimate partner violence; physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional maltreatment; neglect; and other concern. See Figure 1.

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 19 percent of investigations, and the remaining 44 percent were investigations that included a specific concern of an alleged incident of maltreatment. Workers could indicate one of five categories of the primary category of maltreatment - physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence. See Figure 1.

Failure to meet developmental milestones was the most commonly noted concern in investigations involving First Nations children aged four to seven years old in Canada in 2019. Aggression/conduct issues, exposure to intimate partner violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional maltreatment, neglect, and other concern were also noted. See Figure 2.

https://cwrp.ca/publications/child-maltreatment-related-investigations-involving-first-nations-children-aged-four
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 used for the FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report 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 the focus of the investigation was the primary concern of the investigation (socially focused investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on an alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subcategories as the primary category of maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, or other.

Approximately one third of investigations (32 percent) were sexual abuse investigations, and risk-only investigations represented one percent of investigations. The most common first concern of investigations involving First Nations children aged eight to 11 years old involved child welfare worker assessment of physical abuse and neglect concerns. Sexual abuse investigation was assessed in 13 percent of investigations, emotional maltreatment was assessed in six percent of investigations, and physical abuse was assessed in 28 percent of investigations, followed by neglect at 32 percent of investigations.

Among the risk-only investigations focused on maltreatment, 17 percent indicated the focus of the investigation was an alleged incident of physical abuse, 13 percent indicated sexual abuse, and six percent indicated emotional maltreatment. Overall, about 23 percent of investigations focused on an alleged incident of maltreatment 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 the focus of the investigation was the primary concern of the investigation (socially focused investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on an alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subcategories as the primary category of maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, or other.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample for all regions excluding Quebec was based on this stage. First, a sample of 157 mainframes and 19 First Nations agencies were selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A four-month sampling period was then used to select cases within these sites. The first stage ensured that children’s investigations meeting the study criteria. Canadian survey weights were used to allow an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations in Canada in 2019.

Children 8-11 Years Old

Overall, First Nations children (aged 8–11 years old) were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the concern was considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "not present." Figure 2. Most frequently noted child functioning concerns in Canada in 2019.

The incidence sheet includes 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 the focus of the investigation was the primary concern of the investigation (socially focused investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on an alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subcategories as the primary category of maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, or other.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample for all regions excluding Quebec was based on this stage. First, a sample of 157 mainframes and 19 First Nations agencies were selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A four-month sampling period was then used to select cases within these sites. The first stage ensured that children’s investigations meeting the study criteria. Canadian survey weights were used to allow an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations in Canada in 2019.

Children 8-11 Years Old

Overall, First Nations children (aged 8–11 years old) were confirmed, suspected, not present, or if the concern was considered to be noted when the investigating worker indicated that the concern was either "suspected" or "not present." Figure 2. Most frequently noted child functioning concerns in Canada in 2019.

The incidence sheet includes 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 the focus of the investigation was the primary concern of the investigation (socially focused investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on an alleged maltreatment, they could indicate one of five subcategories as the primary category of maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, or other.

The FN/CIS-2019 sample for all regions excluding Quebec was based on this stage. First, a sample of 157 mainframes and 19 First Nations agencies were selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canadian jurisdictions outside of Quebec. A four-month sampling period was then used to select cases within these sites. The first stage ensured that children’s investigations meeting the study criteria. Canadian survey weights were used to allow an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations in Canada in 2019.
**FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products**

### 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 Child Welfare (FN/CIS) in Canada in 2019. The aim of this study was to produce estimates of the incidence of substantiated and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet is a part of a series of studies which assess differences between First Nations and non-Indigenous children in the incidence of maltreatment and investigations involving children. Please refer to other information sheets available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal for more details on the FN/CIS-2019 Major Findings Report.

The data presented reflect the clinical judgement of workers. Workers were asked to indicate if maltreatment would be considered the primary category of maltreatment including: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional maltreatment, and exposure to intimate partner violence.

### Data Collection

The FN/CIS-2019 sample (for all regions excluding Quebec) was drawn in three stages. First, a sample of 169 mainstream and 54 First Nations agencies was selected from a sampling frame that included all child welfare agencies in Canada. A three-month sampling period (October 1 - December 31, 2018) was used to assess in the initial period of participation and intervention. The final stage involved identifying participating workers in those agencies. Complex survey weights were used to derive an estimate of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old in Canada in 2019.

### Major Findings

#### Investigation Type

- **Overall:** 31% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated investigations (investigations involving children of the same age). This information sheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old in Canada in 2019.

- **Risk-only investigations:** 29% of investigations involved First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old in Canada in 2019. The definition of child maltreatment (maltreatment investigations) includes both investigations, focused on an alleged or substantiated case of maltreatment, and investigations in which there was no specific concern of child maltreatment but where assessing the risk of future maltreatment for the child was the primary concern of the investigation. In this information sheet, investigations focused on an alleged or substantiated case of maltreatment have been combined with investigations focused on the risk of child maltreatment.

- **Physical abuse:** 20% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were focused on alleged or substantiated physical abuse. Thirty-one percent of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment, respectively.

- **Neglect:** Twenty-nine percent of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were focused on alleged or substantiated neglect. Twenty-nine percent of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – neglect.

- **Emotional maltreatment:** Thirty-one percent of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – emotional maltreatment.

### Child Functioning Concerns

Functioning concerns were confirmed, suspected, not present, unknown, or other (risk only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged or substantiated maltreatment, they could indicate if these concerns were noted when the investigating worker at the time of the investigation. These concerns were coded as: Academic/learning difficulties, Aggression/conduct issues, Self-harming behaviour, Suicidal thoughts, Exposure to intimate partner violence.

### Figure 1: Primary investigation type in investigations involving First Nations children aged 12-15 years old in Canada in 2019

- **Substantiated investigations:** 31% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated investigations (investigations involving children of the same age). This information sheet looks specifically at the profile of child maltreatment-related investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old in Canada in 2019.

- **Risk-only investigations:** 29% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were risk-only investigations (risk-only investigations). When workers indicated that their investigation was focused on alleged or substantiated maltreatment, they could indicate if these concerns were noted when the investigating worker at the time of the investigation. These concerns were coded as: Academic/learning difficulties, Aggression/conduct issues, Self-harming behaviour, Suicidal thoughts, Exposure to intimate partner violence.

### Figure 2: Child functioning concerns in investigations involving First Nations children aged 12-15 years old in Canada in 2019

- **Academic/learning difficulties:** 29% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment, respectively.

- **Exposure to intimate partner violence:** 20% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were investigated on allegations of intimate partner violence.

### Figure 3: Child functioning concerns in investigations involving First Nations children aged 12-15 years old in Canada in 2019

- **Suicidal thoughts:** 19% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – emotional maltreatment.

- **Self-harming behaviour:** 12% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – neglect.

- **Agression/conduct issues:** 12% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment, respectively.

- **Academic/learning difficulties:** 58% of investigations involving First Nations children aged 12 to 15 years old were substantiated as the primary category of maltreatment – neglect.

---

Visit the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca) for a full description of study methodology.1

---


---

https://cwrp.ca/publications/child-maltreatment-related-investigations-involving-first-nations-children-aged-12-15
Disparities in Investigation Characteristics by Age in Maltreatment-Related Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

Disparity Index = Disparities in Investigation by Age

Consider the child's age as well as ethno-racial background (i.e., First Nations or non-Indigenous). It should be noted that incidence rate calculations in Canada in 2019 for investigations, dividing by the child population, and rates in the FN/CIS-2019 are calculated by taking the child population in Canada in 2019 information sheet describes disparities in rates of investigation characteristics for First Nations children and investigated child maltreatment in Canada. This information sheet describes disparities in rates of investigations, including First Nations and non-Indigenous children.

Abuse and Neglect -2019.

The definition of child 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 informationsheets summarizing investigation profiles by childage are available on the Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal (cwrp.ca) as part of a focus report on developmental stages.


Figure 3 describes the disparity indices in neglect investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children in Canada in 2019. Disparities in investigation characteristics for investigations involving First Nations and non-Indigenous children.

Figure 3 shows that the disparity indices in neglected 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 neglected investigations involving infants, with First Nations children 9.4 times as likely to be investigated compared to non-Indigenous infants (see Figure 2).

To request a PDF copy of this information sheet, please send an email to info@cwrp.ca.
FN/CIS 2019 Knowledge Dissemination Products


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 at least one of these basic necessities (excluding Quebec). The proportion of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve and non-Indigenous children in which the household was noted to have run out of money for basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 2: 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). The 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 at the conclusion of the child welfare investigation. Shown in Figure 4, workers noted that two or more family moves were made in 12 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve and off reserve, five percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, and six percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children in which the investigated family moved two or more times in the past year (excluding Quebec).

Figure 3: 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). The presence of unsafe housing conditions was noted in six percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, five percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, and nine percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children in which the investigated family moved two or more times in the past year. Two or more family moves were made in 12 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve and off reserve, five percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, and six percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children in which overcrowded housing was noted.

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 household was noted to have run out of money for at least one of these basic necessities. In 28 percent of investigations involving non-Indigenous children living off reserve, 15 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living off reserve, and 13 percent of investigations involving First Nations children living on reserve, the household was noted to have run out of money for at least one of these basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 5: 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 at least one of these basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 6: 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 at least one of these basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 7: 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 at least one of these basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 8: 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 at least one of these basic necessities in the past six months.

Figure 9: 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 at least one of these basic necessities in the past six months.
Primary Caregiver Risk Factors in Investigations Involving First Nations and Non-Indigenous Children in Canada in 2019

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>First Nations</th>
<th>Non-Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol abuse</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug/Solvent abuse</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive impairment</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Issues</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Health Issues</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Few Social Supports</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim of Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetrator of Domestic Violence</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Foster Care/Group Home</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Least One Primary Caregiver Risk Factor</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Primary Caregiver Risk Factors</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>6,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Investigations</td>
<td>43,666</td>
<td>211,892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2018 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 living 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 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

• Barbara Fallon: barbara.fallon@utoronto.ca
• Nico Trocmé: nico.trocmé@mcgill.ca

• Alberta
• Bruce MacLaurin: bmaclaur@ucalgary.ca