

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Child and Youth Data Laboratory (CYDL)

Report for *Experiences of Albertan Youth Project*

Key findings

This report provides a profile of 6,400 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 17 years) who received intervention services in 2008/09 as a result of maltreatment. Depending on the situation, intervention services may be provided while the youth remains in the home (*out of care services*), or the youth may have to be removed from the home and placed *in care* because of ongoing and serious safety concerns.

Youth are described in terms of the type of intervention services they received and their Aboriginal status, by age, gender, region of residence, socio-economic status, educational achievement, mental health status and health service use. They are compared with youth not receiving intervention services. The report also provides an overview of cross-ministry service use for youth receiving intervention services.

- 2.1% of Albertan youth received intervention services; of these 62% were *in care*, and almost half were Aboriginal.
- Compared to youth not receiving intervention services, youth who received intervention services were more likely to live in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, to perform below educational expectations, to have a mental health condition (particularly mood or behavioural conditions), or to have five or more physician visits, an emergency room visit, or a hospitalization.
- Compared to youth not receiving interventions, youth receiving intervention services for maltreatment were over-represented in Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) and the justice and correctional systems, and were slightly more likely to be in the K-12 education system.
- Among youth receiving intervention services, Aboriginal youth were more likely to be *in care*, living in rural settings or the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, or performing below educational expectations compared to non-Aboriginal youth. Aboriginal youth were also less likely to have received services for a mental health condition, to have had five or more physician visits, and were slightly less likely to be hospitalized.
- Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services were less likely to be receiving FSCD services or to be registered in the K-12 education system than non-Aboriginal youth.



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Context

Rates of maltreatment of children and youth in Canada are not minimal. Canadian data indicate a rate of 14.2 substantiated cases of maltreatment for every 1,000 children and youth. Rates are higher for infants and young children than for adolescents.¹ Aboriginal children and youth are over-represented in child intervention systems.²

Maltreatment stems from a complex interplay of individual, relationship, society and community factors.³ Factors associated with maltreatment include recent life stressors, family conflict, substance abuse, low maternal education level, low socio-economic status and maternal mental health problems.⁴ Neglect is the main reason Aboriginal children enter the child protection system and this can be linked to conditions of poverty, inadequate housing and substance abuse.²

Maltreated youth's physical and mental well-being can be affected, often in the long-term. There is increased risk for "violent victimization and the perpetration of violence, depression, smoking, obesity, high-risk sexual behaviours, unintended pregnancy, and alcohol and drug use"⁵ among those who have been maltreated.

Societal costs associated with maltreatment-related interventions are high, including provision of related services, health care costs, lost earnings and productivity, costs of criminal actions, and incarceration.³ Rates of children and youth who are taken into care and who have complex needs resulting from circumstances such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, exposure to parental substance abuse, substantial health needs, or involvement in the justice system, have been increasing. Some estimates suggest 50-60% of children and youth taken into care require additional resources to deal with issues such as these.⁶

The project

The current project, **Experiences of Albertan Youth**, is focused on basic understanding of the experiences of Albertan youth within and across ministries, as they relate to key indicators (age, gender, socio-economic status, educational achievement, and mental health status). It is the first project in a planned series that will link and analyze administrative data on children and youth in Alberta to inform policy, programs, and research.

List of reports for the project

Socio-economic status of Albertan youth
Educational experiences of Albertan youth
Mental health status of Albertan youth
Family Support for Children with Disabilities services received by Albertan youth
Maltreatment-related investigations among Albertan youth
Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth
Physician visits by Albertan youth

Emergency room visits by Albertan youth
Hospitalizations of Albertan youth
Offence charges among Albertan youth
Corrections involvement among Albertan youth
Post-secondary students in Alberta
Income support among Albertan youth
Educational experiences of Albertan youth with income support activity
Least advantaged and most advantaged Albertan youth

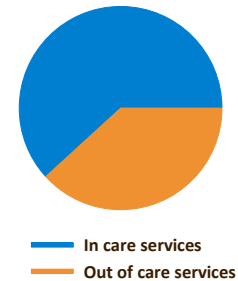
Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Type of intervention (Table 1)

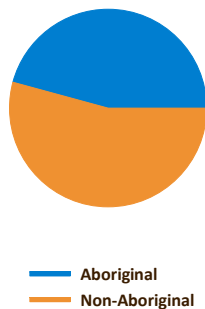
These analyses look at Albertan youth (aged 12 to 17 years) who were receiving intervention services in 2008/09 as a result of maltreatment by type of intervention service.

- 6,400 youth were receiving intervention services as a result of maltreatment, representing 2.1% of 307,703 Albertan youth (aged 12 to 17 years).
- 62% of youth receiving intervention services were receiving *in care services* and 38% were receiving services while at home with their parents or guardians (*out of care services*).

Type of intervention services
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Aboriginal status
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 receiving intervention services



Aboriginal status of youth receiving intervention services (Table 2)

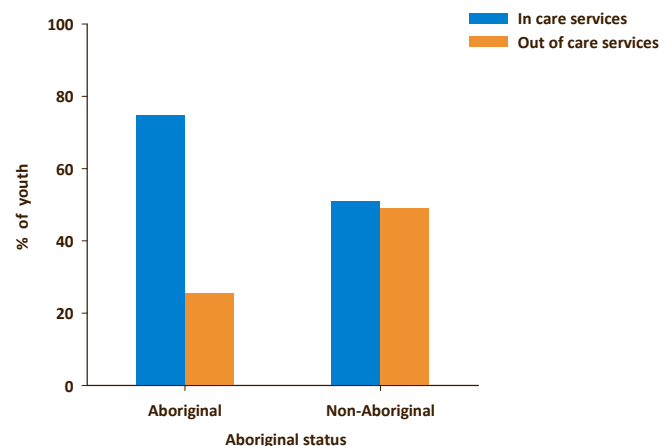
The Aboriginal status of youth in the general population not receiving intervention services in 2008/09 was not available for this project.

- 46% of youth who were receiving intervention services as a result of maltreatment were Aboriginal. The remainder, 54%, were non-Aboriginal.

Aboriginal status by type of intervention (Table 3)

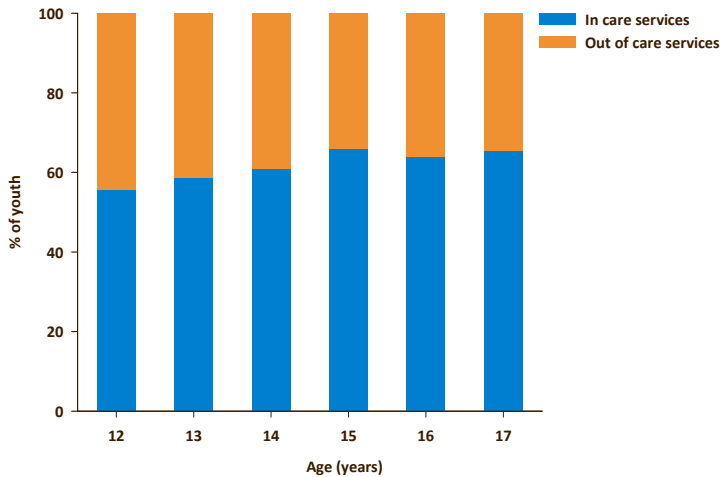
- Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services were more likely to be receiving *in care services* (75%) than non-Aboriginal youth (51%) receiving intervention services.

Aboriginal status by type of intervention service
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Type of intervention service by age
Alberta youth aged 12 to 17



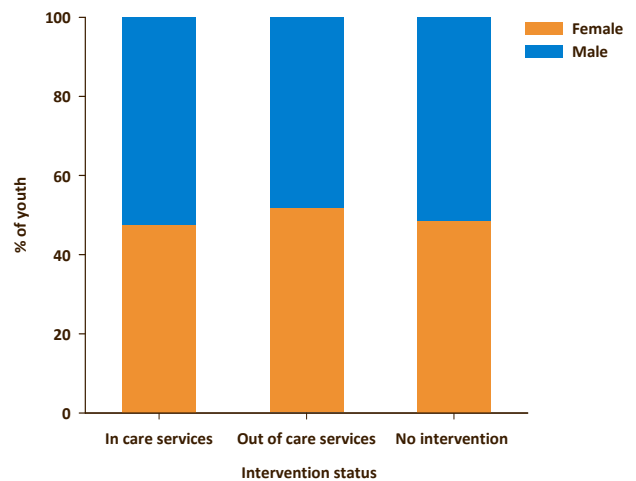
Type of intervention by age (Table 4 and 5)

- Among those receiving intervention services *in care services* were slightly more common than *out of care services* (range 55-65%).
- The percentage of youth receiving intervention services who were Aboriginal varied from 43% to 49%, with younger youth being slightly more likely to be Aboriginal (graph not shown).

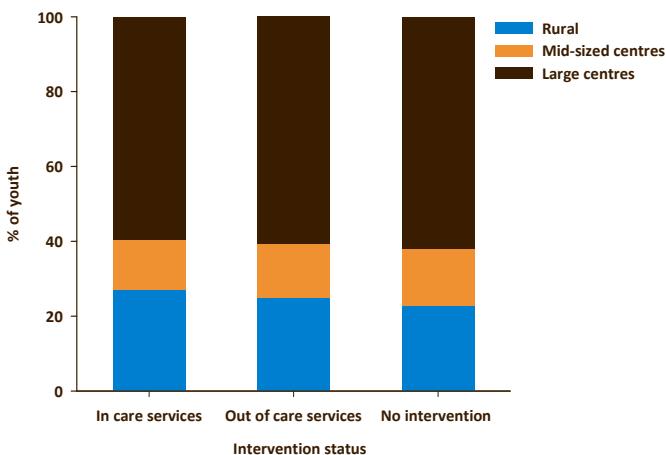
Intervention status by gender (Table 6 and 7)

- Females were slightly more likely (52%) than males to receive *out of care services*, but there were slightly fewer females (48%) than males among youth receiving *in care services*.
- Among those receiving intervention services, there was no difference in the ratio of males to females for Aboriginals compared to non-Aboriginals (graph not shown).

Intervention status by gender
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Intervention status by region of residence
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Intervention status by region of residence (Table 8 and 9)

- Region of residence varied little across type of intervention service.
- Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services were more likely to live in rural areas (36%) compared to non-Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services (18%) (graph not shown).

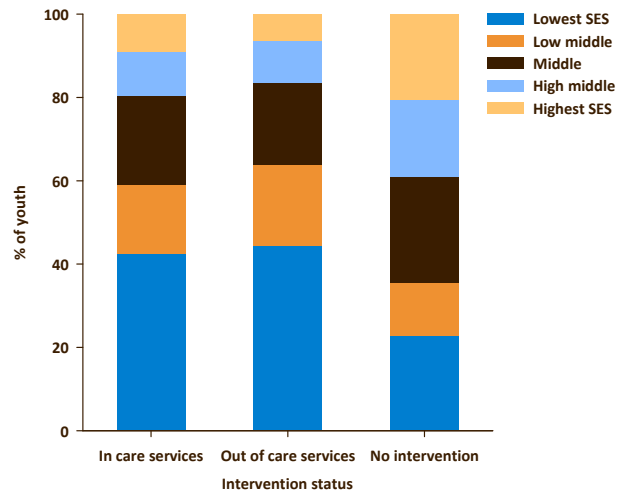
Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Intervention status by socio-economic status (Table 10)

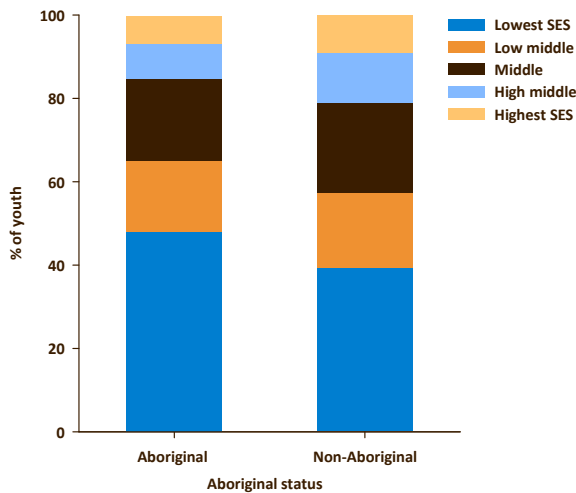
Socio-economic status captures the social and material environments in which youth live. See *Definitions and Notes* (p.26).

- 23% of youth not receiving intervention services lived in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, compared with 43% of youth *in care* and 44% of those receiving *out of care* services.
- 9% of youth *in care* and 6% of youth receiving *out of care* services lived in the highest socio-economic neighbourhoods, compared with 21% of youth not receiving interventions.

Intervention status by socio-economic status (SES)
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Aboriginal status by socio-economic status (SES)
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 receiving intervention services



Aboriginal status by socio-economic status (Table 11)

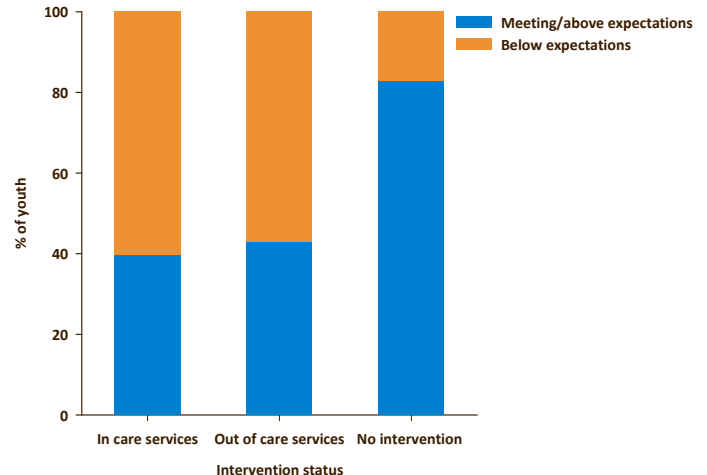
- Of youth receiving intervention services, 48% of Aboriginal youth and 40% of non-Aboriginal youth lived in the lowest socio-economic status neighbourhoods.

Intervention status by educational achievement (Table 12 and 13)

This and the following analysis are limited to youth who received maltreatment-related intervention services and were registered in the K-12 education system in 2008/09.

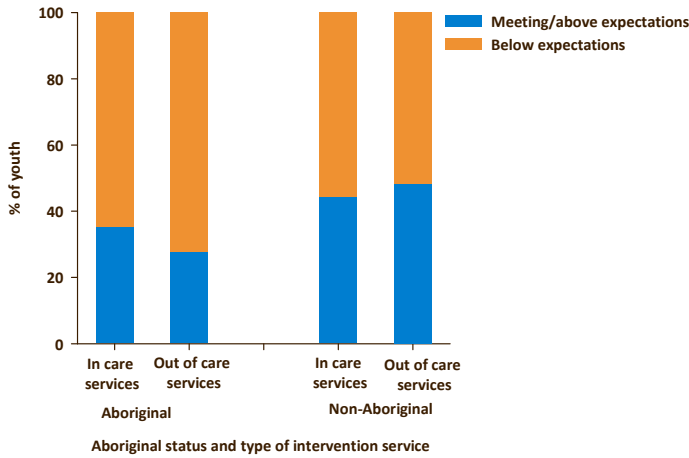
- Youth receiving intervention services were less likely to meet or exceed expectations in school.
- 41% of youth receiving intervention services (40% of those receiving *in care services* and 43% of those receiving *out of care services*) met or exceeded educational expectations, in contrast to 83% of youth not receiving intervention services.

Intervention status by educational achievement
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Aboriginal status by type of intervention service and educational achievement
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



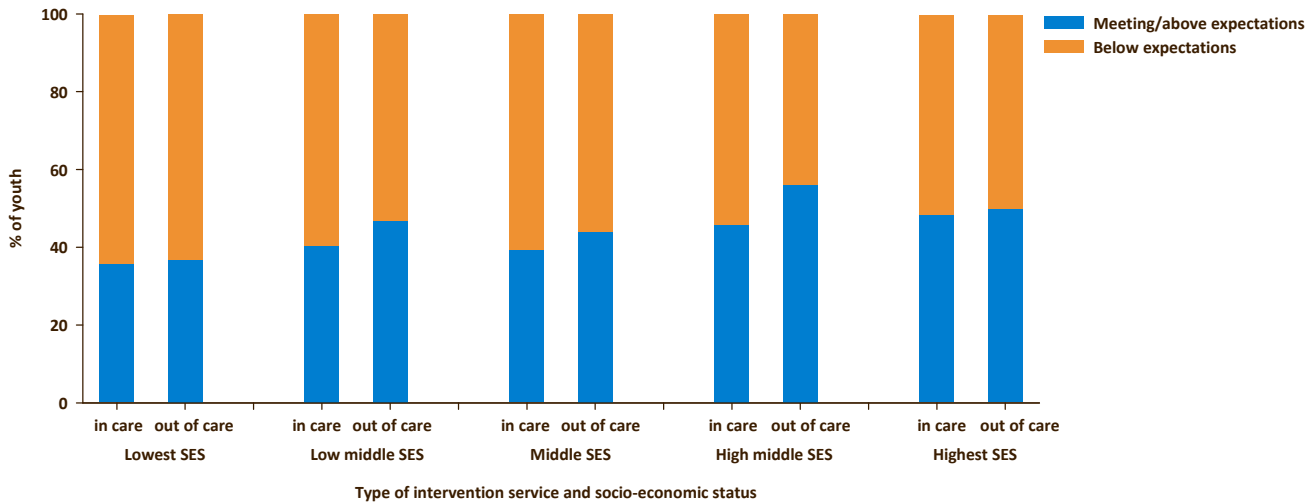
Aboriginal status by type of intervention service and educational achievement (Table 14)

Aboriginal status was determined by Human Services records only. Comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students should be interpreted with caution, because no data were available for students who attended schools on First Nations reserves.

- Aboriginal youth who received *in care* services were more likely to meet or exceed educational expectations (35%) than Aboriginal youth who received *out of care* services (28%). The reverse was observed for non-Aboriginal youth.

Intervention type by socio-economic status and educational achievement (Table 15)

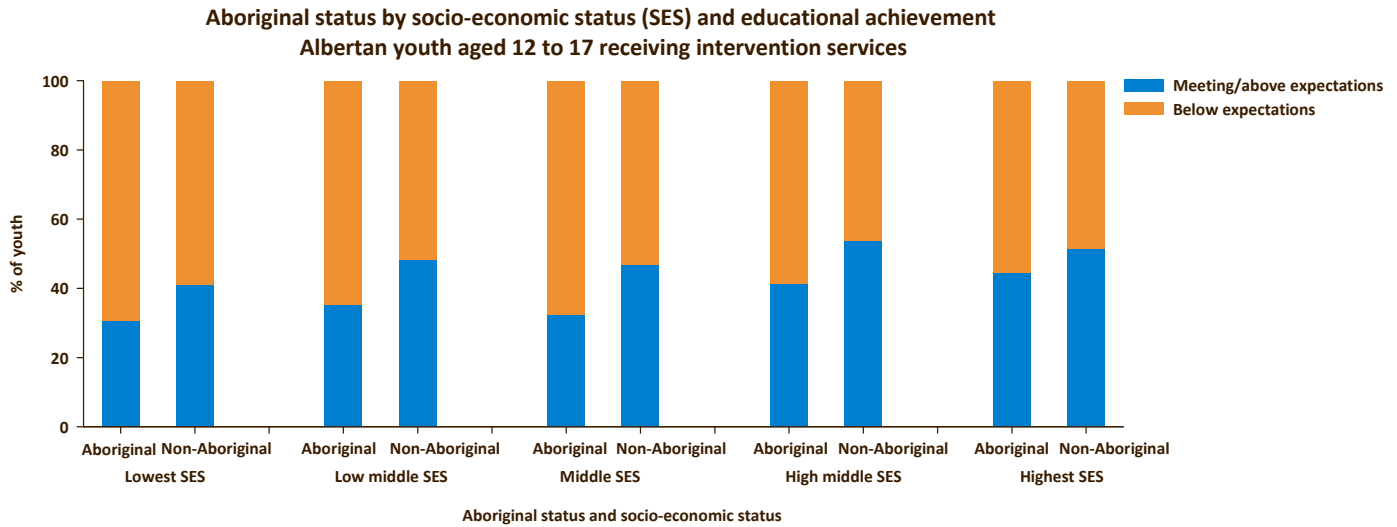
Type of intervention service by socio-economic status (SES) and educational achievement
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



- Youth receiving *out of care services* were more likely to have met or exceeded educational expectations than youth receiving *in care services*, among youth who lived in low middle, middle and high middle socio-economic neighbourhoods.
- No difference in educational achievement was observed between youth receiving *in care* and *out of care services* if they lived in the lowest or the highest socio-economic status neighbourhoods.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Aboriginal status by socio-economic status and educational achievement (Table 16)



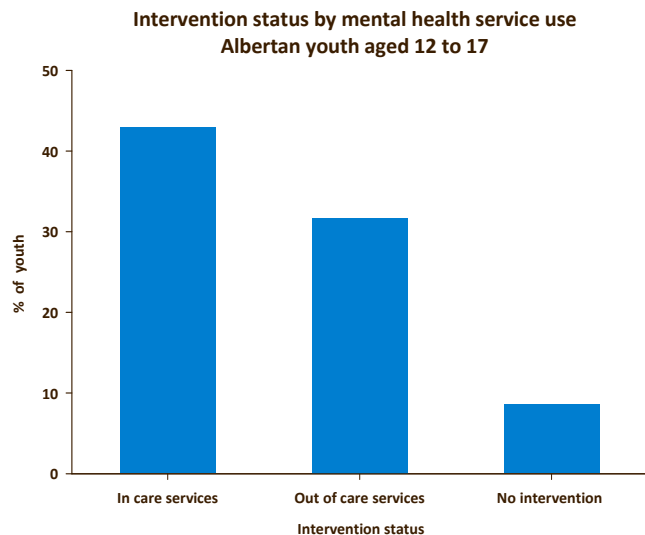
Aboriginal status was determined by Human Services records only. Comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students should be interpreted with caution, because no data were available for students who attended schools on First Nations reserves.

- Across all socio-economic groups, Aboriginal youth attending off-reserve schools were less likely to meet or exceed educational expectations than non-Aboriginal youth in the same socio-economic group.
- The difference between Aboriginal youth and non-Aboriginal youth in the percentage of youth who met or exceeded educational expectations was greater than 10% across all socio-economic status groups, except among those who lived in the highest socio-economic status neighbourhoods, where the difference was 7%.

Intervention status by mental health status (Table 17)

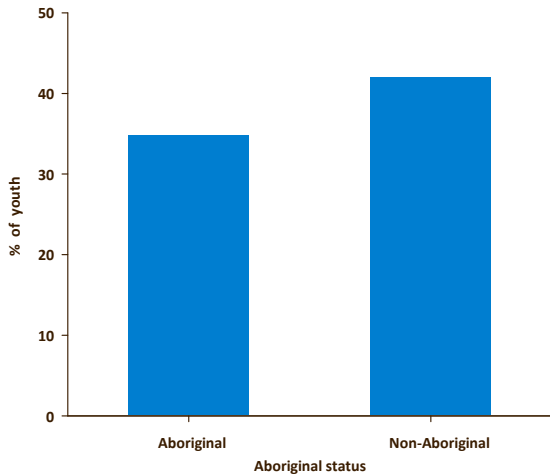
Mental health status refers to presence or absence of a mental health condition. Mental health conditions are defined as receipt of services related to mental health conditions; that is, receipt of services is used here as a proxy for confirmed presence of a mental health condition. See *Definitions and Notes (p.27)*.

- Service use for mental health conditions was far more common among youth receiving intervention services than youth not receiving intervention. This may be partially due to increased access to mental health services for youth receiving intervention services.



Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Aboriginal status by mental health service use
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 receiving intervention services



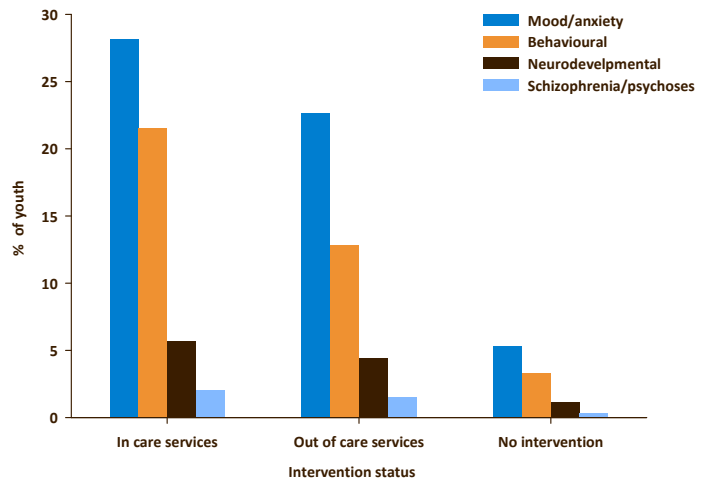
Aboriginal status by mental health status
(Table 18)

- Non-Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services had higher service use for mental health conditions (41%) compared to Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services (35%).

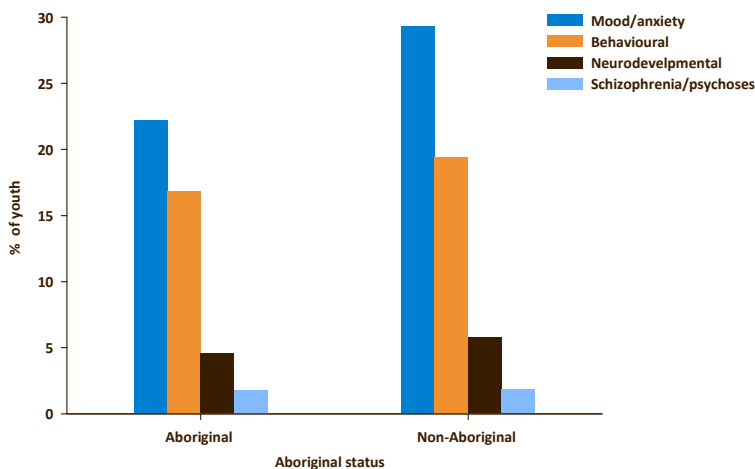
Intervention status by mental health condition (Table 19)

- Service use for all types of mental health conditions was most common among youth who were *in care*, followed by youth receiving *out of care services*. Rates were much lower in youth with no interventions.
- Among youth *in care* and those receiving *out of care services*, *mood/anxiety* (28% and 23%, respectively) and *behavioural* (22% and 13%, respectively) conditions were most common. The rates for *mood/anxiety* and *behavioural* conditions were 5% and 3%, respectively, among youth not receiving intervention.

Intervention status by mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



Aboriginal status by mental health condition
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 receiving intervention services

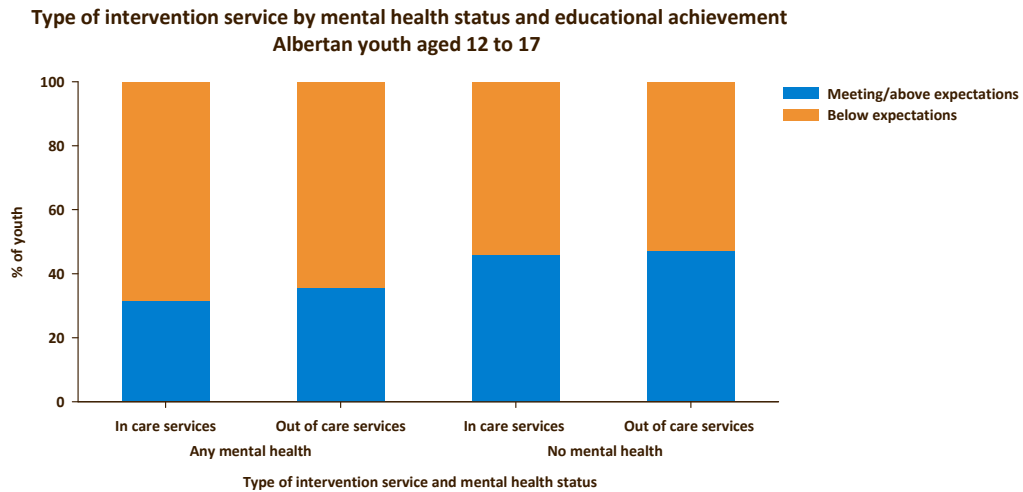


Aboriginal status by mental health condition (Table 20)

- *Mood and/or anxiety* conditions were more common among non-Aboriginal youth (29%) than Aboriginal youth (22%) receiving intervention services.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

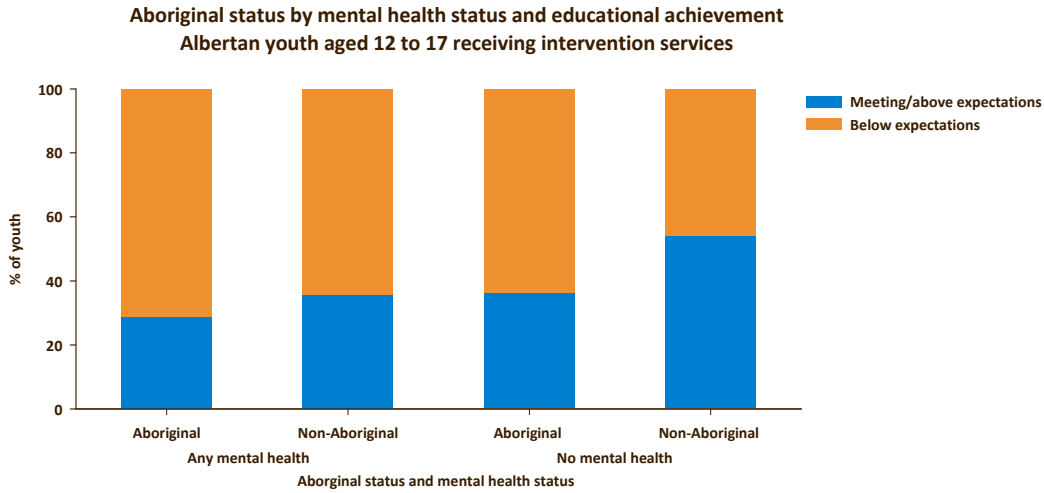
Intervention type by mental health status and educational achievement (Table 21)



- Youth who accessed services for a mental health condition were less likely to meet or exceed educational expectations, regardless of the type of intervention service they received, than those who had not accessed services for any mental health condition.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

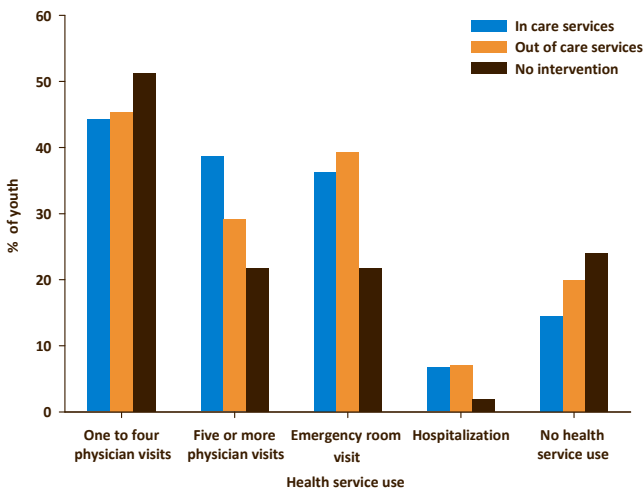
Aboriginal status by mental health status and educational achievement (Table 22)



Aboriginal status was determined by Human Services records only. Comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students should be interpreted with caution, because no data were available for students who attended schools on First Nations reserves.

- Aboriginal youth accessing services for a mental health condition were less likely to have met or exceeded educational expectations (29%) than non-Aboriginal youth (36%).
- Over half (53%) of non-Aboriginal youth with no service use for a mental health condition met or exceeded educational expectations.

Intervention status by health service use
Albertan youth aged 12 to 17



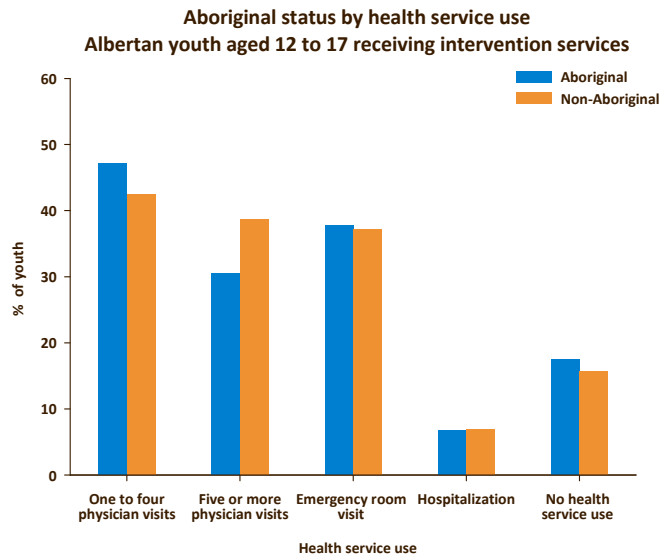
Intervention status by health service use
(Table 23)

- Five or more physician visits were more common among youth who received *in care services* (39%).
- Youth who received *out of care services* were slightly more likely to have had an emergency room visit or been hospitalized than youth who received *in care services*.
- Youth who had not received intervention services were more likely to have one to four physician visits.

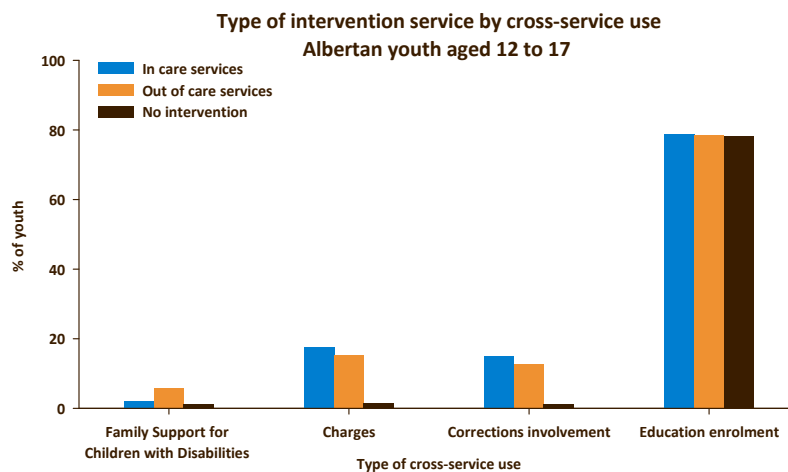
Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Aboriginal status by health service use (Table 24)

- Among youth receiving intervention services, Aboriginal youth were more likely than non-Aboriginal youth to have one to four physician visits, whereas non-Aboriginal youth were more likely to have five or more physician visits.
- Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services were more likely to have no health service use than non-Aboriginal youth.



Intervention status by cross-service use (Table 25)

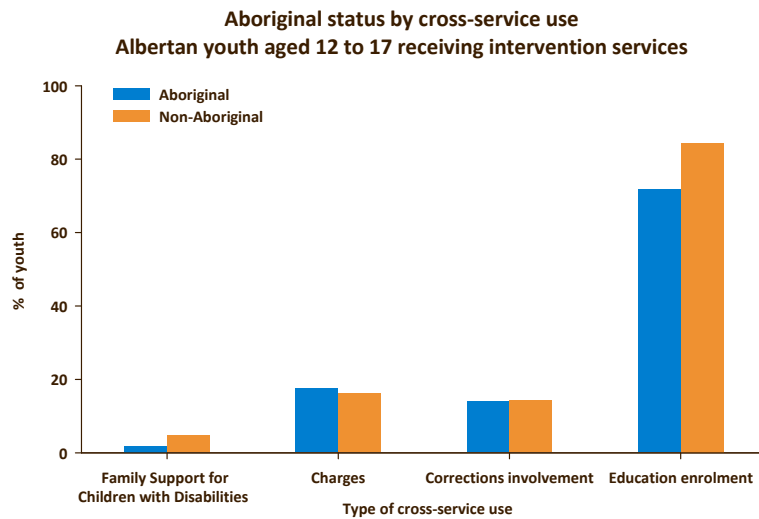


This analysis looks at the cross-ministry service use of youth (aged 12 to 17 years) by type of maltreatment intervention service received. Youth were considered in this and the following analysis if they were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP; see *Definitions and Notes*, p.28). The effects should be interpreted with caution; they cannot be generalized to youth not registered with AHCIP. 7% of youth who received maltreatment-related intervention services were not registered with AHCIP.

- Youth receiving intervention services were more likely to have offence charges or involvement with correctional services or with Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) in 2008/09 than those who did not receive intervention services.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Aboriginal status by cross-service use (Table 26)



- 85% of non-Aboriginal youth and 72% of Aboriginal youth receiving intervention services were registered in Alberta’s K-12 education system (off-reserve schools only), compared with 78% of youth not receiving interventions.
- There were minimal differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth in terms of having offence charges or being involved with correctional services.
- 5% of non-Aboriginal youth were receiving services from FSCD, compared to 2% of Aboriginal youth.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables

Table 1. Number and percent of youth by maltreatment intervention status, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Maltreatment intervention status	Total
Number of youth	In care services	3,956
	Out of care services	2,444
	Any maltreatment intervention services	6,400
	No maltreatment intervention services	301,303
	Total Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years	307,703
Percent of Alberta youth	In care services	1.3
	Out of care services	0.8
	Any maltreatment intervention services	2.1
Percent of youth receiving intervention	In care services	61.8
	Out of care services	38.2
	Total	100.0

Table 2. Number and percent of youth by Aboriginal status of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Aboriginal status	Total
Number of youth	Aboriginal receiving maltreatment intervention services	2,930
	Non-Aboriginal receiving maltreatment intervention services	3,470
	Any maltreatment intervention services	6,400
	No maltreatment intervention services	301,303
	Total Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years	307,703
Percent of Alberta youth	Aboriginal receiving maltreatment intervention services	1.0
	Non-Aboriginal receiving maltreatment intervention services	1.1
	Any maltreatment intervention services	2.1
Percent of youth receiving intervention	Aboriginal	45.8
	Non-Aboriginal	54.2
	Total	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 3. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and Aboriginal status, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Maltreatment intervention type	Aboriginal Status		
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Number of youth	In care services	2,187	1,769	3,956
	Out of care services	743	1,701	2,444
	Total	2,930	3,470	6,400
Percent of youth	In care services	74.6	51.0	61.8
	Out of care services	25.4	49.0	38.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and age, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Maltreatment intervention type	Age (years)						Total
		12	13	14	15	16	17	
Number of youth	In care services	553	604	676	743	710	670	3,956
	Out of care services	440	427	436	385	402	354	2,444
	Total	993	1,031	1,112	1,128	1,112	1,024	6,400
Percent of youth	In care services	55.7	58.6	60.8	65.9	63.8	65.4	61.8
	Out of care services	44.3	41.4	39.2	34.1	36.2	34.6	38.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 5. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and age, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Maltreatment intervention type	Age (years)						Total
		12	13	14	15	16	17	
Number of youth	Aboriginal	490	507	492	501	483	457	2,930
	Non-Aboriginal	503	524	620	627	629	567	3,470
	Total	993	1,031	1,112	1,128	1,112	1,024	6,400
Percent of youth	Aboriginal	49.3	49.2	44.2	44.4	43.4	44.6	45.8
	Non-Aboriginal	50.7	50.8	55.8	55.6	56.6	55.4	54.2
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 6. Number and percent youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and gender, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Gender	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	Female	1,878	1,269	3,147	146,067
	Male	2,078	1,175	3,253	155,235
	Total	3,956	2,444	6,400	301,302
Percent of youth	Female	47.5	51.9	49.2	48.5
	Male	52.5	48.1	50.8	51.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 7. Number and percent youth by type of maltreatment intervention service, Aboriginal status and gender, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Gender	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	Female	1,454	1,693	3,147	146,067
	Male	1,476	1,777	3,253	155,235
	Total	2,930	3,470	6,400	301,302
Percent of youth	Female	49.6	48.8	49.2	48.5
	Male	50.4	51.2	50.8	51.5
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 8. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Region of residence	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	Rural	1,065	609	1,674	68,108
	Mid-sized centres	529	351	880	46,072
	Large centres	2,342	1,481	3,823	185,987
	Total	3,936	2,441	6,377	300,167
Percent of youth	Rural	27.1	24.9	26.3	22.7
	Mid-sized centres	13.4	14.4	13.8	15.3
	Large centres	59.5	60.7	59.9	62.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 9. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and region of residence, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Region of residence	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	Rural	1,039	635	1,674	68,108
	Mid-sized centres	345	535	880	46,072
	Large centres	1,528	2,295	3,823	185,987
	Total	2,912	3,465	6,377	300,167
Percent of youth	Rural	35.7	18.3	26.3	22.7
	Mid-sized centres	11.8	15.4	13.8	15.3
	Large centres	52.5	66.2	59.9	62.0
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 10. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Socio-economic status	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	Lowest SES	1,659	1,078	2,737	67,327
	Low middle	641	470	1,111	37,486
	Middle	834	477	1,311	75,115
	High middle	411	245	656	54,330
	Highest SES	354	156	510	60,726
	Total	3,899	2,426	6,325	294,984
Percent of youth	Lowest SES	42.5	44.4	43.3	22.8
	Low middle	16.4	19.4	17.6	12.7
	Middle	21.4	19.7	20.7	25.5
	High middle	10.5	10.1	10.4	18.4
	Highest SES	9.1	6.4	8.1	20.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 11. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and socio-economic status (SES), Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years,

	Socio-economic status	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	Lowest SES	1,373	1,364	2,737	67,327
	Low middle	486	625	1,111	37,486
	Middle	569	742	1,311	75,115
	High middle	241	415	656	54,330
	Highest SES	195	315	510	60,726
	Total	2,864	3,461	6,325	294,984
Percent of youth	Lowest SES	47.9	39.4	43.3	22.8
	Low middle	17.0	18.1	17.6	12.7
	Middle	19.9	21.4	20.7	25.5
	High middle	8.4	12.0	10.4	18.4
	Highest SES	6.8	9.1	8.1	20.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 12. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	Below expectations	1,782	1,014	2,796	39,916
	Meeting/above expectations	1,171	762	1,933	192,231
	Total	2,953	1,776	4,729	232,147
Percent of youth	Below expectations	60.3	57.1	59.1	17.2
	Meeting/above expectations	39.7	42.9	40.9	82.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 13. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	Below expectations	1,307	1,489	2,796	39,916
	Meeting/above expectations	659	1,274	1,933	192,231
	Total	1,966	2,763	4,729	232,147
Percent of youth	Below expectations	66.5	53.9	59.1	17.2
	Meeting/above expectations	33.5	46.1	40.9	82.8
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 14. Number and percent of youth by Aboriginal status, type of intervention service and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Aboriginal status		
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
In care services				
Number of youth	Below expectations	976	806	1,782
	Meeting/above expectations	533	638	1,171
	Total	1,509	1,444	2,953
Percent of youth	Below expectations	64.7	55.8	60.3
	Meeting/above expectations	35.3	44.2	39.7
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Out of care services				
Number of youth	Below expectations	331	683	1,014
	Meeting/above expectations	126	636	762
	Total	457	1,319	1,776
Percent of youth	Below expectations	72.4	51.8	57.1
	Meeting/above expectations	27.6	48.2	42.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 15. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service, socio-economic status and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Socio-economic status					Total
		Lowest	Low middle	Middle	High middle	Highest	
In care services							
Number of youth	Below expectations	799	269	386	178	147	1,779
	Meeting/above expectations	446	182	251	150	138	1,167
	Total	1,245	451	637	328	285	2,946
Percent of youth	Below expectations	64.2	59.6	60.6	54.3	51.6	60.4
	Meeting/above expectations	35.8	40.4	39.4	45.7	48.4	39.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Out of care services							
Number of youth	Below expectations	485	182	195	83	61	1,006
	Meeting/above expectations	282	160	153	106	61	762
	Total	767	342	348	189	122	1,768
Percent of youth	Below expectations	63.2	53.2	56.0	43.9	50.0	56.9
	Meeting/above expectations	36.8	46.8	44.0	56.1	50.0	43.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 16. Number and percent of youth receiving intervention services by Aboriginal status, socio-economic status and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Socio-economic status					Total
		Lowest	Low middle	Middle	High middle	Highest	
Aboriginal							
Number of youth	Below expectations	649	201	263	104	80	1,297
	Meeting/above expectations	284	109	125	73	64	655
	Total	933	310	388	177	144	1,952
Percent of youth	Below expectations	69.6	64.8	67.8	58.8	55.6	66.4
	Meeting/above expectations	30.4	35.2	32.2	41.2	44.4	33.6
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non-Aboriginal							
Number of youth	Below expectations	635	250	318	157	128	1,488
	Meeting/above expectations	444	233	279	183	135	1,274
	Total	1,079	483	597	340	263	2,762
Percent of youth	Below expectations	58.9	51.8	53.3	46.2	48.7	53.9
	Meeting/above expectations	41.1	48.2	46.7	53.8	51.3	46.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 17. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	1,570	694	2,264	23,178
	No mental health condition	2,093	1,496	3,589	247,819
	Total	3,663	2,190	5,853	270,997
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	42.9	31.7	38.7	8.6
	No mental health condition	57.1	68.3	61.3	91.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 18. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and mental health status, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Mental health status	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	Any mental health condition	932	1,332	2,264	23,178
	No mental health condition	1,747	1,842	3,589	247,819
	Total	2,679	3,174	5,853	270,997
Percent of youth	Any mental health condition	34.8	42.0	38.7	8.6
	No mental health condition	65.2	58.0	61.3	91.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 19. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention services and mental health conditions, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Mental health condition*	Maltreatment intervention type			
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	No intervention
Number of youth	Mood/anxiety	1,030	496	1,526	14,251
	Behavioural	789	280	1,069	8,898
	Neurodevelopmental	208	97	305	3,006
	Schizophrenia/psychoses	74	33	107	797
	Total in maltreatment intervention category	3,663	2,190	5,853	270,997
Percent of youth	Mood/anxiety	28.1	22.6	26.1	5.3
	Behavioural	21.5	12.8	18.3	3.3
	Neurodevelopmental	5.7	4.4	5.2	1.1
	Schizophrenia/psychoses	2.0	1.5	1.8	0.3

* Mental health condition categories were not mutually exclusive

Table 20. Number and percent of youth receiving intervention services by Aboriginal status and mental health conditions, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Mental health condition*	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	Mood/anxiety	595	931	1,526	14,251
	Behavioural	452	617	1,069	8,898
	Neurodevelopmental	122	183	305	3,006
	Schizophrenia/psychoses	48	59	107	797
	Total in Aboriginal status category	2,679	3,174	5,853	270,997
Percent of youth	Mood/anxiety	22.2	29.3	26.1	5.3
	Behavioural	16.9	19.4	18.3	3.3
	Neurodevelopmental	4.6	5.8	5.2	1.1
	Schizophrenia/psychoses	1.8	1.9	1.8	0.3

* Mental health condition categories were not mutually exclusive

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 21. Number and percent of youth by type of maltreatment intervention service, mental health status and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Maltreatment intervention type		
		In care services	Out of care services	Total
No mental health condition				
Number of youth	Below expectations	834	588	1,422
	Meeting/above expectations	706	527	1,233
	Total	1,540	1,115	2,655
Percent of youth	Below expectations	54.2	52.7	53.6
	Meeting/above expectations	45.8	47.3	46.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Any mental health condition				
Number of youth	Below expectations	884	363	1,247
	Meeting/above expectations	411	200	611
	Total	1,295	563	1,858
Percent of youth	Below expectations	68.3	64.5	67.1
	Meeting/above expectations	31.7	35.5	32.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 22. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status, mental health status and educational achievement, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Educational achievement	Aboriginal status		
		Aboriginal status	Non-Aboriginal	Total
No mental health condition				
Number of youth	Below expectations	738	684	1,422
	Meeting/above expectations	423	810	1,233
	Total	1,161	1,494	2,655
Percent of youth	Below expectations	63.6	45.8	53.6
	Meeting/above expectations	36.4	54.2	46.4
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Any mental health condition				
Number of youth	Below expectations	514	733	1,247
	Meeting/above expectations	206	405	611
	Total	720	1,138	1,858
Percent of youth	Below expectations	71.4	64.4	67.1
	Meeting/above expectations	28.6	35.6	32.9
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 23. Number and percent of youth by maltreatment intervention status and health service use, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Health service use	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	1,751	1,110	2,861	154,605
	Five or more physician visits	1,529	712	2,241	65,620
	Emergency room visit	1,438	962	2,400	65,591
	Hospitalization	267	174	441	5,735
	Any health service use	3,382	1,957	5,339	228,938
	No health service use	574	487	1,061	72,365
	Total	3,956	2,444	6,400	301,303
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	44.3	45.4	44.7	51.3
	Five or more physician visits	38.7	29.1	35.0	21.8
	Emergency room visit	36.3	39.4	37.5	21.8
	Hospitalization	6.7	7.1	6.9	1.9
	Any health service use	85.5	80.1	83.4	76.0
	No health service use	14.5	19.9	16.6	24.0

* Health service use categories were not mutually exclusive

Table 24. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and health service use, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09

	Health service use	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	One to four physician visits	1,385	1,476	2,861	154,605
	Five or more physician visits	895	1,346	2,241	65,620
	Emergency room visit	1,107	1,293	2,400	65,591
	Hospitalization	198	243	441	5,735
	Any health service use	2,414	2,925	5,339	228,938
	No health service use	516	545	1,061	72,365
	Total	2,930	3,470	6,400	301,303
Percent of youth	One to four physician visits	47.3	42.5	44.7	51.3
	Five or more physician visits	30.5	38.8	35.0	21.8
	Emergency room visit	37.8	37.3	37.5	21.8
	Hospitalization	6.8	7.0	6.9	1.9
	Any health service use	82.4	84.3	83.4	76.0
	No health service use	17.6	15.7	16.6	24.0

* Health service use categories were not mutually exclusive

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Tables (continued)

Table 25. Number and percent of youth by maltreatment intervention status and type of cross-service use, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09*

	Type of cross-service use	Maltreatment intervention type			No intervention
		In care services	Out of care services	Total	
Number of youth	FSCD**	71	129	200	3,034
	Charges	656	341	997	4,269
	Corrections involvement	559	283	842	3,599
	Education enrolment	2,929	1,754	4,683	217,800
	Health registry	3,716	2,236	5,952	279,179
	Percent of youth	FSCD**	1.9	5.8	3.4
	Charges	17.7	15.3	16.8	1.5
	Corrections involvement	15.0	12.7	14.1	1.3
	Education enrolment	78.8	78.4	78.7	78.0
	Health registry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Only youth registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan were included in this analysis

**FSCD = Family Support for Children with Disabilities

Table 26. Number and percent of youth receiving maltreatment intervention services by Aboriginal status and type of cross-service use, Albertan youth aged 12 to 17 years, 2008/09*

	Type of cross-service use	Aboriginal status			No intervention
		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total	
Number of youth	FSCD**	49	151	200	3,034
	Charges	473	524	997	4,269
	Corrections involvement	379	463	842	3,599
	Education enrolment	1,944	2,739	4,683	217,800
	Health registry	2,709	3,243	5,952	279,179
	Percent of youth	FSCD**	1.8	4.7	3.4
	Charges	17.5	16.2	16.8	1.5
	Corrections involvement	14.0	14.3	14.1	1.3
	Education enrolment	71.8	84.5	78.7	78.0
	Health registry	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Only youth registered in the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan were included in this analysis

**FSCD = Family Support for Children with Disabilities

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Definitions and notes

- The study population for this project consisted of all Albertan youth who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan in 2008/09 or who received selected services from one or more of the participating ministries in 2008/09. “All Albertan youth” refers to this study population.
- The study year was fiscal year 2008/09. With the exception of Education and Enterprise and Advanced Education data, all data were for services provided between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, with age determined on March 31, 2009.
 - Data for Enterprise and Advanced Education were for services provided between September 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009, with age determined on March 31, 2009.
 - Data for Education were for services provided to youth who were 12 to 19 years old on September 30, 2008. As a result, youth turning 12 between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 *were not* included in the Education data but were included in other ministries’ data. This resulted in the number of 12 year olds in the Education data being lower (approximately 50% lower) than that of 13 to 17 year olds.
 - Furthermore, although Education only provides services to youth who are under 20, the provision of services is defined by age at September 30. Youth who turned 20 between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 *were* included in the Education data, resulting in the inclusion of 20 year olds in some analyses of Education data.
- **Cross-ministry analyses included only youth that were linked across the relevant ministries.** This means that not all youth in the project were represented in every analysis. As well, only youth with a value for a given indicator were included in analyses involving that indicator (i.e., **missing values** were excluded).
- Age, gender, and postal code (translated into Statistics Canada dissemination areas) were provided for each individual by each participating ministry. In the case of discrepancies between ministries, the most common value for an indicator was chosen. In the event of two or more most common values, the value for the indicator was chosen randomly from the most common values.
- Dissemination areas of residence were used by CYDL to determine **region of residence**. Urban areas included large centres with urban core populations greater than 100,000 (i.e., Edmonton and Calgary metropolitan areas) and mid-sized centres with urban cores greater than 10,000; all other areas were categorized as rural.
- **Socio-economic status (SES)** captures the social and material environments in which youth live. A youth was assigned a socio-economic status via an index based on the Statistics Canada dissemination area in which he or she resided⁷. Six indicators were included in the index: percent without a high school diploma, the employment ratio, average income, percent of single families, percent of persons living alone, and percent of persons separated, divorced, or widowed. Socio-economic status values fell into five quintiles.
- **Educational achievement** was computed by Alberta Education using age, grade, school type, special education codes, provincial achievement test scores, home education status, number of high school credits earned, number of higher level courses taken, average grade in higher level courses, possession of an Alberta Education certificate or diploma, and Alexander Rutherford scholarship eligibility. Educational achievement was categorized as *above, meeting, or below expectations* for a student’s age and grade. An educational achievement rating was not available for 12 to 14 year old youth without scores on provincial achievement tests, for youth in ‘other’ schools (accredited post-secondary institutions offering high school courses for credit to adults; most youth in these schools were between 18 and 20 years), and for home-schooled high school youth with no credits.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Definitions and notes (continued)

Mental health status was defined by the presence or absence of mental health diagnosis codes in Health's databases (Inpatient—Discharge Abstract Database, Ambulatory Care, and Practitioner Payments), or in the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Information System. Only youth who were registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan for the full fiscal year were included in the mental health analyses. **Mental health service use is a proxy for presence of a mental health condition:** Some youth with mental health conditions may not have accessed mental health services in Alberta during the year, and some mental health service use may have occurred for youth who did not in fact have mental health conditions.

- **Mental health conditions** were grouped based on The Johns Hopkins ACG® Case-Mix System (version 8.2)⁸. Mental health conditions were *mood/anxiety* (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.), *behavioural* (attention-deficit disorder, regulatory disorder, mental or behavioural problems due to substance use, etc.), *neurodevelopmental* (autism, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, etc.), or *schizophrenia/psychoses* (schizophrenia, psychosis, delusional disorder, etc.). Conditions were not mutually exclusive; a youth could have a diagnosis in more than one category.
- **Maltreatment-related interventions** occur when the safety or well-being of a youth is threatened. Categories of intervention include *in care services* (the youth is taken into care, and placed in a foster home, with family, in a group home, etc.), and *out of care services* (the youth remains in the home and the family receives support services). Youth self-identified or were identified by a parent or guardian as Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.
- **Physician visits** reflect fee claims made by physicians when patients visit their offices. In this report, multiple claims by a given physician for a given patient on the same day were counted as a single visit. Reasons for physician visits were not available for this project.
- **Emergency room visits** refer to visits to emergency departments for assessment or treatment.
- **Hospitalizations** refer to admissions to hospital for assessment or treatment.
- Participation in **education** refers to enrolment in the kindergarten to grade 12 education system in Alberta. No data were available for students who attended schools on First Nations reserves or in Lloydminster.
- **Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)** is a ministry of Human Services program that provides a range of supports and services to families that strengthen their ability to support and care for their child with a disability based on their needs.
- Youth with **offence charges** include those charged with criminal offences or administrative offences related to criminal offences (e.g., failure to appear in court, breach of probation, etc.).
- Youth with **corrections involvement** have appeared before the Court or a Justice of the Peace for an offence charge and have been remanded in custody or placed under pre-trial supervision in the community awaiting further court dates, or have been found guilty and sentenced to a community disposition (i.e. Fine, Probation, Community Service Work, Deferred Custody) and/or custody (in which the sentence is served in a young offender facility).

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Definitions and Notes (continued)

- New and returning Alberta residents, if they are eligible, must register for **Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan** coverage to receive insured health services. Youth in the “**health registry**” refers to all youth who are insured in Alberta. This includes any eligible youth who is a permanent resident of Alberta, living at least 183 days per year in the province. Members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and federal penitentiary inmates are not eligible (they receive coverage from the federal government), but dependents of these non-eligible residents, who reside in Alberta, are eligible.

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Data sources

Ministry	Database	Use in this report
Education	Corporate Data Warehouse (CDW)	Primary and secondary education achievement data
Health	Inpatient – Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)	Hospitalization data
Health	Ambulatory Care (ACCS)	Emergency room visit data
Health	Practitioner Payments (SESE)	Physician visit data
Health	Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan Population Registry (AHCIP registry)	Population registry
Human Services	Child Youth Information Module (CYIM)	Maltreatment and intervention data
Human Services	Family Support for Children with Disabilities Information System (FSCDIS)	Family Supports for Children with Disabilities data
Human Services	Central Client Directory (CCD)	Income support data
Justice and Solicitor General	Justice Online Information Network (JOIN)	Offence data
Justice and Solicitor General	Alberta Community Offender Management System (ACOM)	Corrections data (community)
Justice and Solicitor General	Correctional Offender Management Information System (CoMIS)	Corrections data (custody)

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Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

Maltreatment-related intervention services received by Albertan youth

The Child and Youth Data Laboratory

The **Child and Youth Data Laboratory** (CYDL) links and analyzes administrative data from child- and youth-serving ministries in the Government of Alberta. The ministries participate in research design and provide data elements that contribute to answering research questions.

The CYDL's research provides groundbreaking opportunities to understand relationships between critical factors in the lives of children and youth in Alberta. The research results can be used to inform policy and program development and evaluation, both within and across ministries, and to inspire further research.

The CYDL is managed by the **Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research** (ACCFRC). The Centre has evolved over its eight year history as a public-sector, innovative resource for evidence. The Centre develops, supports and integrates research across sectors and disciplines to provide a strong, evidence-based foundation for identifying and promoting effective public policy and service delivery to improve the well-being of children, families, and communities in Alberta, Canada, and internationally.

Our partners

This project was carried out on behalf of six ministries of the Government of Alberta. Each ministry collaborated extensively with the CYDL on this project, and their dedication to the project is gratefully acknowledged:

Enterprise and Advanced Education
Education
Health
Human Services
Aboriginal Relations
Justice and Solicitor General

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