Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2023 (OIS-2023)

OACAS Webinar

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Canada Research Chair in Child welfare
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introduction and overview of the OIS-2023
3. Contributions of the OIS
4. OIS-2023 sampling and recruitment
5. Discussion
Introduction and Overview of the OIS-2023

• The OIS-2023 is a province-wide research study

• The OIS-2023 is the seventh in a series of incidence studies that have run in five-year cycles since 1993

• The OIS-2023 is designed to:
  ◦ Determine rates of investigated and substantiated maltreatment and rates of investigations involving risk of maltreatment
  ◦ Document forms and severity of maltreatment
  ◦ Examine selected health determinants
  ◦ Monitor short-term investigation outcomes
Introduction and Overview of the OIS

• Reflective of provincial effort and commitment by child welfare service providers, researchers and policy makers to improve services through research

• Funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

• In-kind support of:
  ◦ Child welfare workers, managers, administrative staff
  ◦ Researchers from Universities, Governments and Agencies

• Only source of provincially aggregated child welfare data

• Critical to advancing the child welfare knowledge base, building capacity and informing practice and policy efforts
OIS Contributions: Advancing Knowledge


No significant difference over time

Rate per 1,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate (per 1,000)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIS 1993</td>
<td>20.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIS 1998</td>
<td>27.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIS 2003</td>
<td>53.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIS 2008</td>
<td>54.05</td>
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<td>OIS 2013</td>
<td>53.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIS 2018</td>
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2x

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Comparison of Total Incidences of Urgent Protection Investigations and Other Investigations in Ontario
OIS Contributions: Open Access Publications

- Since the OIS-2018, 30+ peer-reviewed journals; 45+ information Sheets published on the CWRP Information Sheets
  - Areas of focus: Ethno-racial comparisons, agency-university partnerships, risk, neglect, child welfare worker qualifications, infants, custody disputes, poverty and food insecurity, intimate partner violence, police involvement, organizations, urgent-chronic taxonomy, education

- Sample of peer-reviewed journal publications:
Overrepresentation Builds Across the Service Dispositions made during the investigation: FN/OIS-2018

Rate of First Nations child investigations involving:

- 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

3 x more investigations
“So often in child welfare, we codify the wrongdoing at the level of the parent,” says Blackstock, who is also now a professor at McGill’s School of Social Work. “And I will hold parents’ feet to the fire for things they can change. But in so many of these cases, it’s actually things beyond their control. This type of data allows us to push for change at those systemic levels often held within government policies and legislation.”

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

11.5x higher
3.6x higher
2019 Findings

Investigation...
UNDERSTANDING THE OVER-REPRESENTATION OF BLACK CHILDREN IN ONTARIO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

By: Nicole Bonnie, MSW, RSW and Keisha Facey, MA

Research Team: Bryn King, Barbara Fallin, Nololeto Joh-Cornell, Travonne Edwards, Miya Kegan-Cossidy, Tora Black, Kineesha Willian, Vania Patrick-Drakos & Chizara Akucha
Disproportional Representation: 2018

- **Child Population (0-15)**
  - White: 60.3%
  - Black: 7.0%

- **Investigations (0-15)**
  - White: 55.4%
  - Black: 13.9%

Resource: Statistics Canada, Special tabulation, based on 2016 Census of Population. Reproduced and distributed on an "as is" basis with the permission of Statistics Canada.
Compared to white children, Black children in Ontario were:

- 2.2 times more likely to be investigated
- 2.5 times more likely to be substantiated
- 1.7 times more likely to be transferred to ongoing services
- 2.5 times more likely to be placed during the investigation
The Overrepresentation of Latin American Children in Canada’s Child Welfare System

Findings from the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect-2019
Rate of Latin American and White Child Investigations in Canada in 2019

For every 1,000 Latin American children 15 years of age and under, there were an estimated 76.98 investigations in Canada in 2019.

2.0 X greater

76.98

38.17

Latin American

White
Rates of **Substantiated** Maltreatment Investigations involving Latin American and White Children in Canada in 2019

- **Sexual Abuse**: 8.5x higher for Latin American children
- **Physical Abuse**: 4.0x higher for Latin American children
- **Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence**: 2.6x higher for Latin American children
- **Neglect**: 4x higher for Latin American children
- **Emotional Maltreatment**: 4x higher for Latin American children

Rates of substantiated maltreatment investigations involving Latin American and White children in Canada in 2019.
OIS Contributions: Practice and Policy Implications and Considerations

Informed differential response strategies:

• Numerous child welfare agencies implementing specialized teams at intake, including intimate partner violence teams

Applied the urgent-chronic taxonomy of child welfare investigations to explore six OIS cycles:


Disproportionality and disparity specific analyses

• [Denouncing the continued overrepresentation of First Nations children in Canadian child welfare: Findings from the First Nations/Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect-2019](#)

• [Understanding the Over-Representation of Black children in Ontario Child Welfare Services](#)
OIS Contributions: Building Capacity

Integral to building and enhancing research capacity in Ontario child welfare organizations and academia

• Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario

• Martin Foundation Initiative – Early Years Program

• Canadian Foundation for Innovation

• Indigenous Services Canada

• Current partnerships: Durham Children’s Aid Society, Dnaagdawenmag Binnooijiyag Child & Family Services

• Past partnerships: Family & Children's Services of the Waterloo Region, Peel Children's Aid Society, Children's Aid Society of Algoma, Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, Highland Shores Children’s Aid Society, Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Toronto
OIS 2023: Sampling and Recruitment

• 18 Mainstream agencies and 5 Indigenous Child and Well-being Agencies were sampled for inclusion in the OIS-2023 and will be contacted shortly.

• Investigations opened between October 1st and December 31st, 2023, will be sampled up to a maximum of 85 investigations per month for large agencies.

• OIS-2023 Site Researchers will complete data collection instruments with investigating workers over the phone at the conclusion of the investigation:
  • Collects a range of clinical information routinely collected during the investigation (e.g., caregiver, child, case characteristics and investigation outcomes).
Discussion