

Navigating the Child Welfare System

What happens when someone reports possible child abuse or maltreatment?



Allegation Referral

A report of possible child maltreatment is made to the Child Welfare Agency. If the allegation is screened in*, an investigation commences.

*No information is included here about the initial screening process.



Investigation

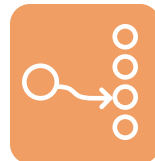
45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency.

Social worker will work with the family:

- Family & community interviews
- Home visits

Allegation Outcome

- Unfounded**
Report of maltreatment deemed **untrue**
- Suspected**
Report of maltreatment **suspected true**
- Substantiated**
Report of maltreatment deemed **true**
- Risk of Maltreatment**
Possible **risk of future maltreatment**



Investigation Outcome

After the investigation, the Child Welfare Agency may close the case and/or offer different support to the child and family.



Case Open for Ongoing Agency Support



Case Closed



External Service Referral

Child Welfare Agency may recommend **services to support the family** (e.g., counselling, workshops).



Placement in Out-of-Home Care

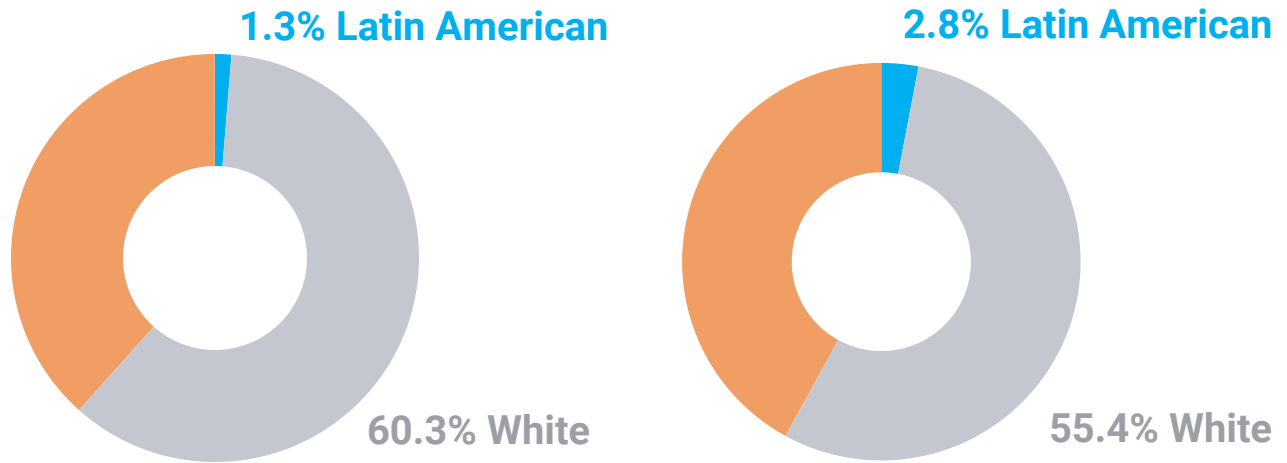
For the safety of the child, the **child may be moved to a different household** such as with family, a foster family or group home. It is the hope that the family can reunite after additional steps.

Latin American Children in Investigations

Latin American children and families are over-represented in the Child Welfare System in Ontario



"Over-represented" means that the **proportion** of Latin American children aged 0-15 that were involved in Child Welfare Investigations in Ontario in 2018 (2.8%) is **higher than** the **proportion** of Latin American children aged 0-15 living in Ontario in 2018 (1.3%).



Ontario Child Population 2018 (0-15 Years)

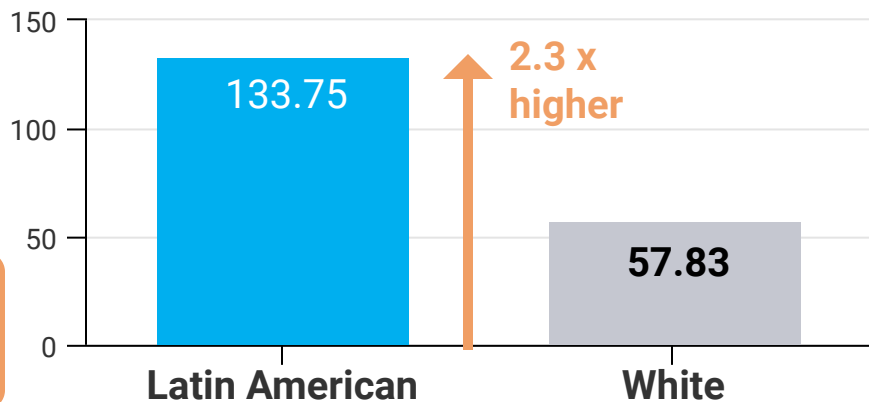
Child Welfare Investigations in Ontario in 2018 (0-15 Years)

133.75

the estimated # of child welfare investigations involving Latin American children per 1000 Latin American children in Ontario in 2018

The rate of investigations involving Latin American children is **2.3x higher** than that for white children.

Estimated Rate of Investigations per 1000 Children (0-15 Years) in Ontario in 2018



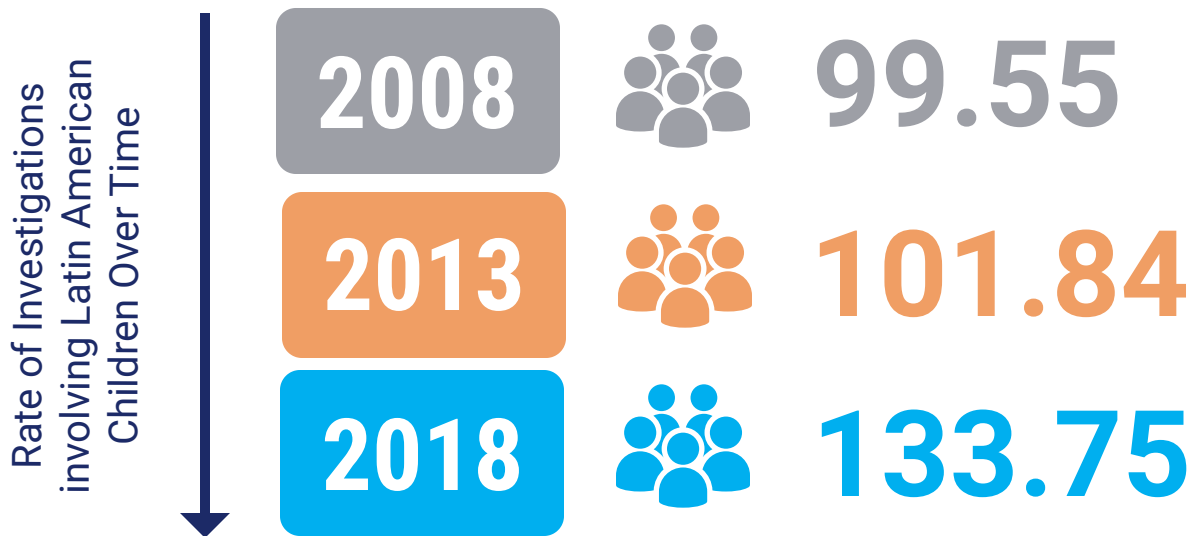
Latin American Children in Investigations

The rate of child welfare investigations involving Latin American children & families is increasing over time.

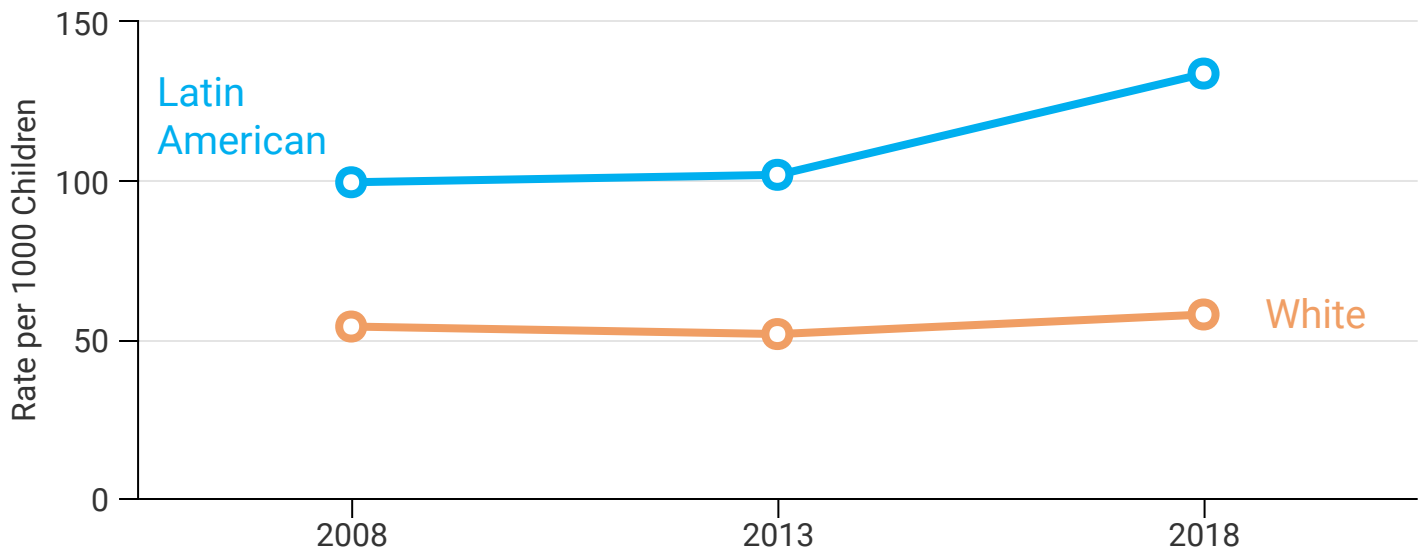


Estimated rate of investigations:

of child maltreatment-related investigations by child welfare agencies in Ontario in a given year, per 1000 children in a population living in Ontario in that year.



Investigations Involving Latin American and White Children in Ontario: 2008-2018



Referral Source

Allegations* of child maltreatment were most often made by police in investigations involving Latin American children.

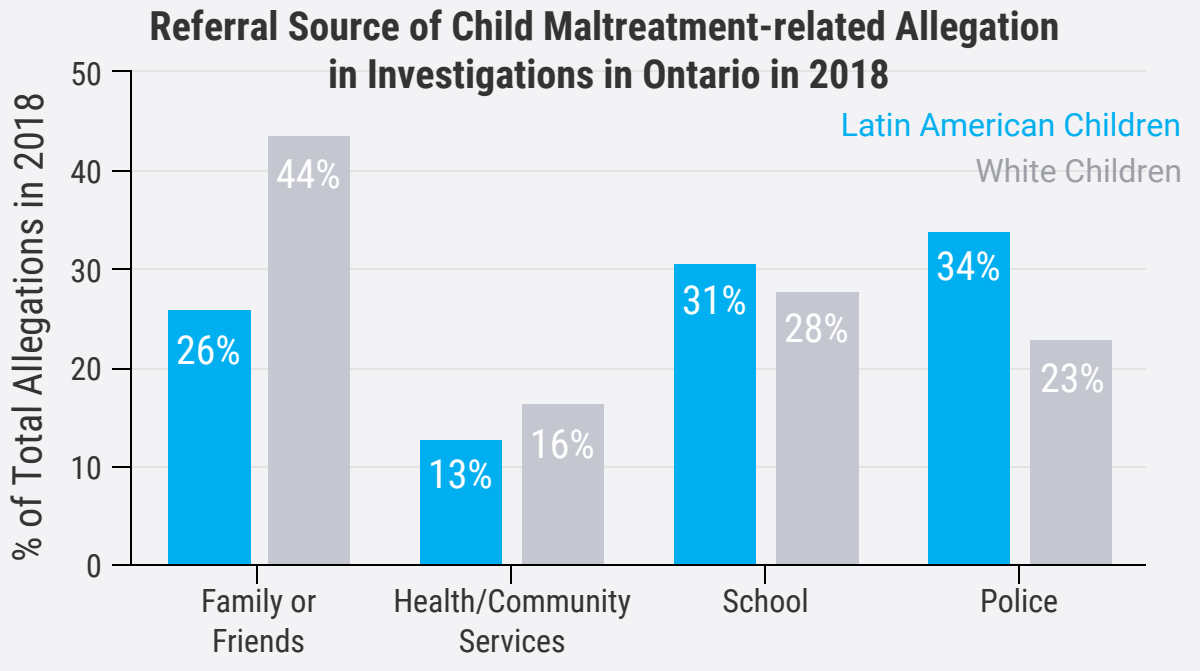


Allegation Referral

A report of possible child maltreatment is made to the Child Welfare Agency*.

4,369

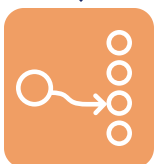
The **total** # of child maltreatment-related investigations involving Latin American children in Ontario in 2018



Investigation by Child Welfare Agency

45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency. Social worker will work with the family:

- Family & community interviews
- Home visits



Investigation Outcomes

After the investigation, the Child Welfare Agency may offer different support to the child and family

*No information is included here about the screening process following a report of possible child maltreatment.

Type of Maltreatment

Family violence was a concern in 44% of investigations by child welfare agencies involving Latin American children.



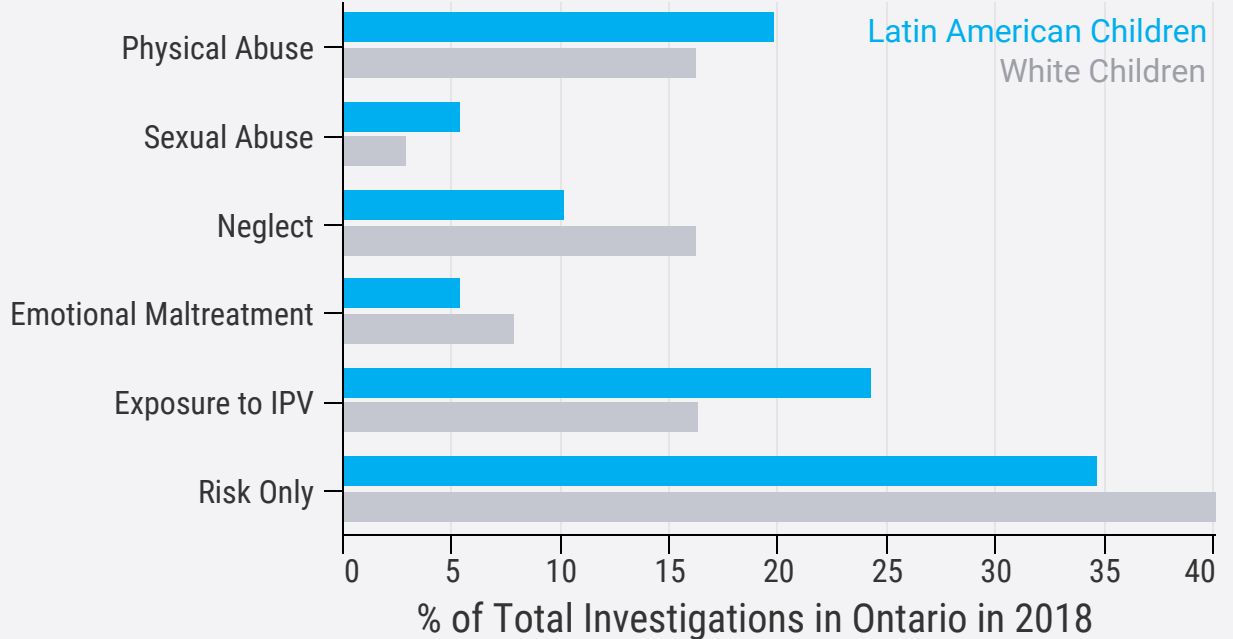
Allegation Referral

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The **total** # of child maltreatment-related investigations involving Latin American children in Ontario in 2018

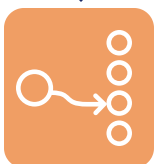
Type of Child Maltreatment in Investigations in Ontario in 2018



Investigation by Child Welfare Agency

45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency. Social worker will work with the family:

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Investigation Outcomes

After the investigation, the Child Welfare Agency may offer different support to the child and family

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Allegation Outcomes

Investigations involving Latin American children were more likely to be substantiated than those involving white children.



Allegation Referral

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4,369

The **total #** of child maltreatment-related investigations involving Latin American children in Ontario in 2018



Child maltreatment-related Investigation

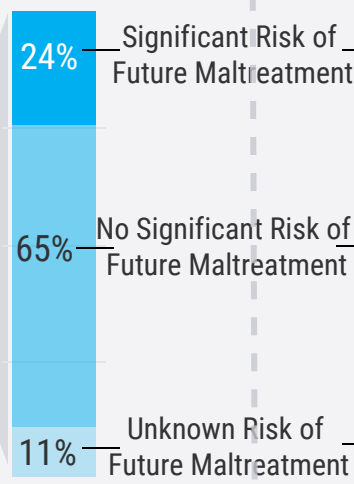
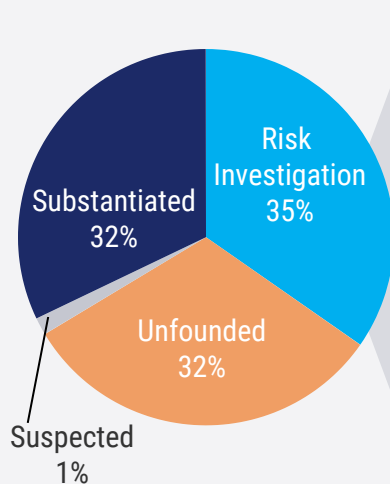
45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency.

Social worker will work with the family:

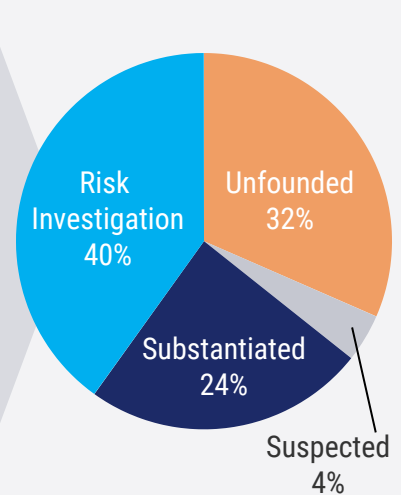
- Family & community interviews
- Home visits

Allegation Outcomes

Investigations involving Latin American Children in Ontario in 2018



Investigations involving White Children in Ontario in 2018



Unfounded

Report of maltreatment deemed untrue



Suspected

Report of maltreatment suspected true



Substantiated

Report of maltreatment deemed true



Risk of Maltreatment

Possible risk of future maltreatment

Ongoing Services

One in four cases involving Latin American children is opened for continued ongoing services.



Allegation Referral

A report of possible child maltreatment is made to the Child Welfare Agency*.

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4,369

The total # of child maltreatment-related investigations involving Latin American children in Ontario in 2018



Child Maltreatment-related Investigation

45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency. Social worker will work with the family:

- Family & community interviews
- Home visits



Investigation Outcome

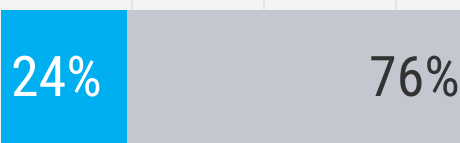
After the investigation, the Child Welfare Agency may close the case and/or offer different support to the child and family.



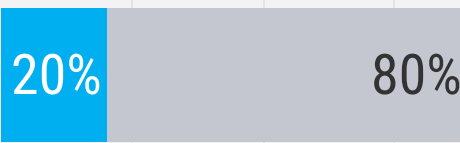
Case Open for Ongoing Support



Case Closed



Investigations involving Latin American Children in Ontario in 2018



Investigations involving White Children in Ontario in 2018



External Service Referral

Child Welfare Agency may recommend services to support the family (e.g., counselling, workshops)



Placement in Out-of-Home Care

For the safety of the child, the child may be moved to a different household such as with family, a foster family or group home.

External Service Referrals

Latin American children and families received more external service referrals.



Allegation Referral

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4,369

The total # of child maltreatment-related investigations involving Latin American children in Ontario in 2018



Child Maltreatment-related Investigation

45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency.



Investigation Outcome

After the investigation, the Child Welfare Agency may close the case and/or offer different support to the child and family (e.g., service referrals, placement in out-of-home care).



Case Open for Ongoing Support



Case Closed



External Service Referral(s)

Child Welfare Agency may recommend services to support the family. Service referrals can be made regardless of whether a case is closed or ongoing.

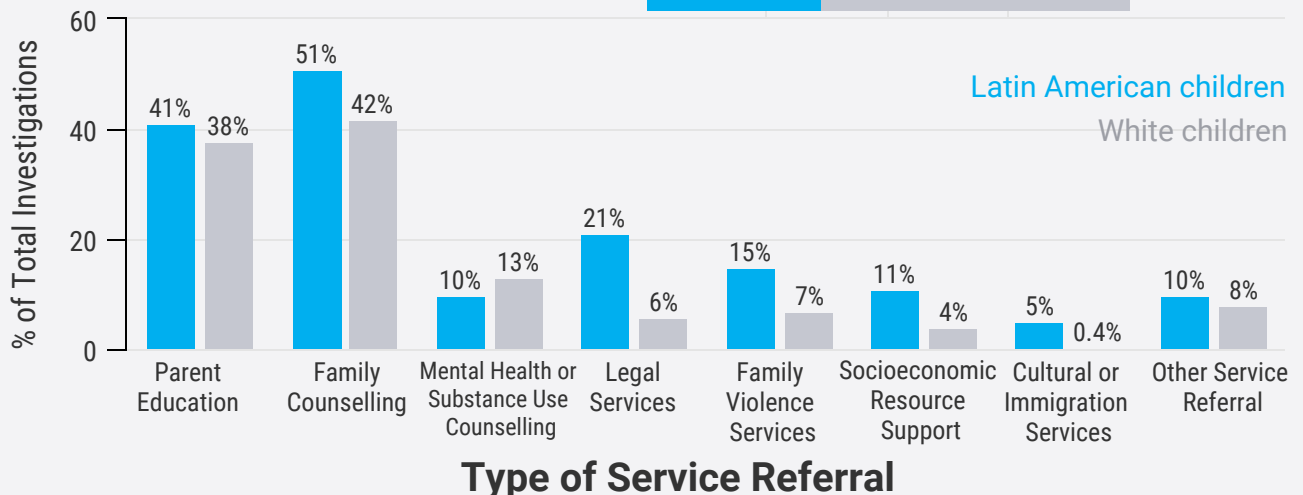
Were any service referrals made for the family?

43% Yes

Latin American children

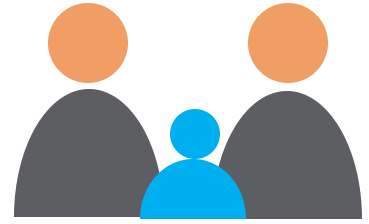
37% Yes

White children



Placement in Out-of-Home Care

Latin American children and families were three times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care.



Allegation Referral

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Child Maltreatment-related Investigation

45-day long investigation of the allegation circumstances by the Child Welfare Agency.



Investigation Outcome

After the investigation, the Child Welfare Agency may keep the file open for ongoing support.



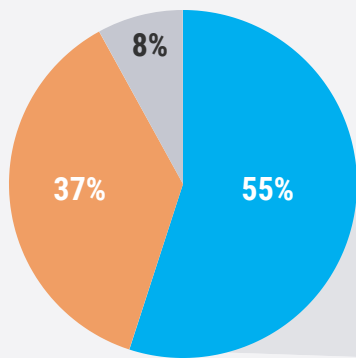
Case Open for Ongoing Support



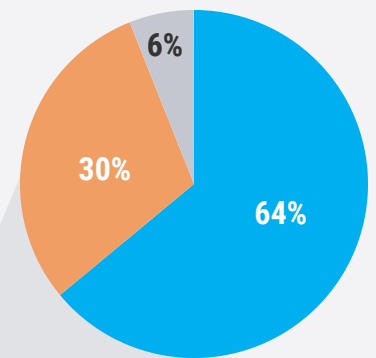
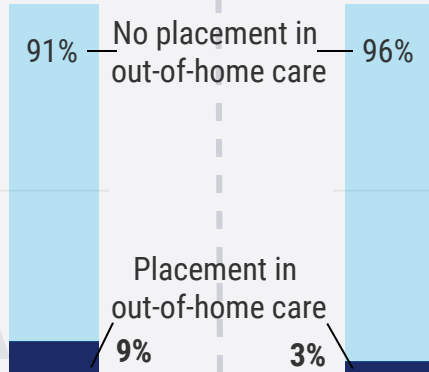
Placement in Out-of-Home Care

For the safety of the child, the child may be moved to a different household such as with family, a foster family or group home.

Investigations involving Latin American Children in Ontario in 2018



Investigations involving White Children in Ontario in 2018



Informal Placement
Placement within family support network

Kinship or Foster Care
Formal placement in family-based care arranged by agency

Residential or Group Home
Formal placement with group support or therapeutic treatment environment.

Latin American Child Characteristics

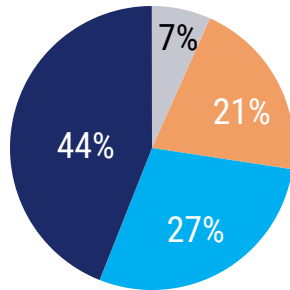
Latin American children involved in investigations were older and had fewer functioning concerns.



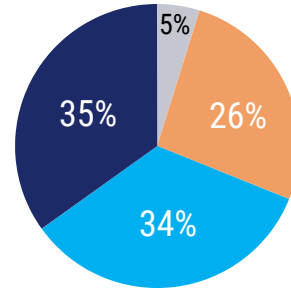
Child Age Category



Investigations involving Latin American Children in Ontario in 2018



Investigations involving White Children in Ontario in 2018

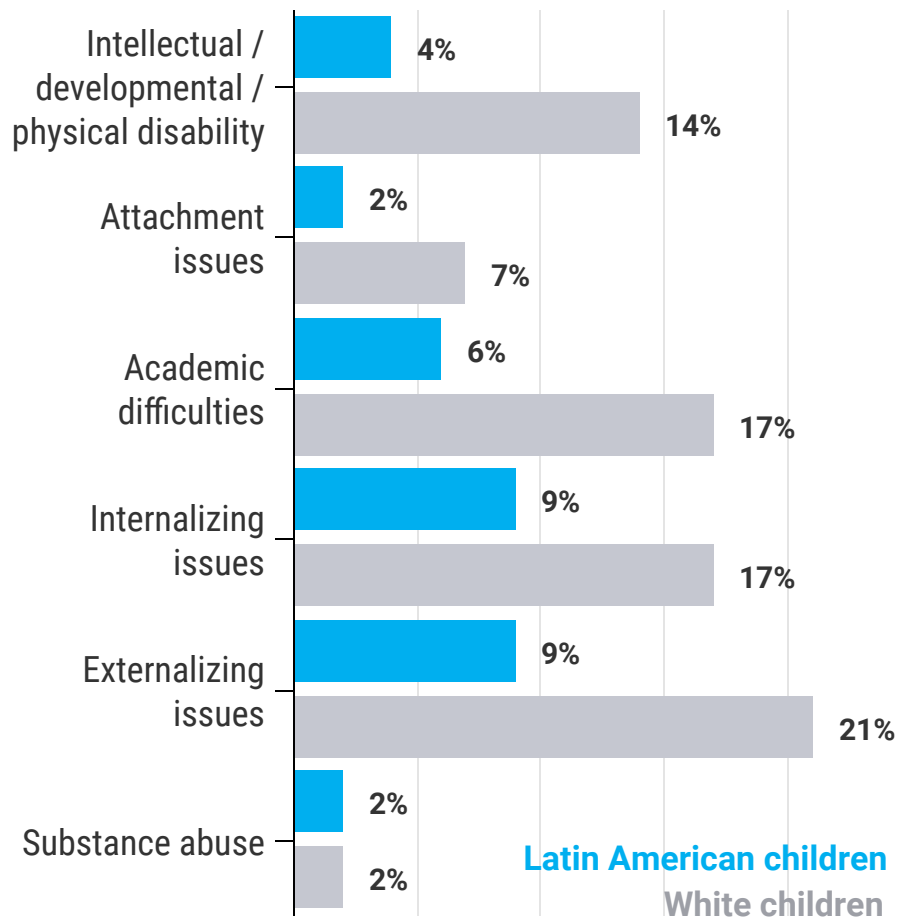
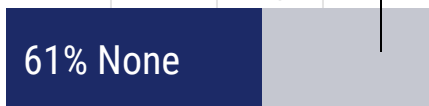


Child Functioning Concerns

21% of Investigations in Latin American children involved at least one child functioning concern.



39% of Investigations in White children involved at least one child functioning concern.



Caregiver Characteristics

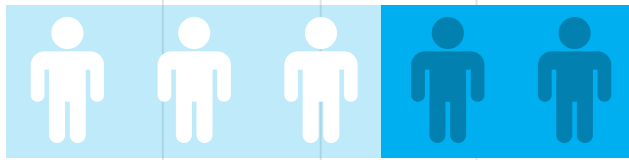
Caregivers in Latin American families were less likely to have risk factors than caregivers in White families.



Caregiver Characteristics



1 in 5 caregivers moved to Canada in the last 5 years in investigations involving Latin American children



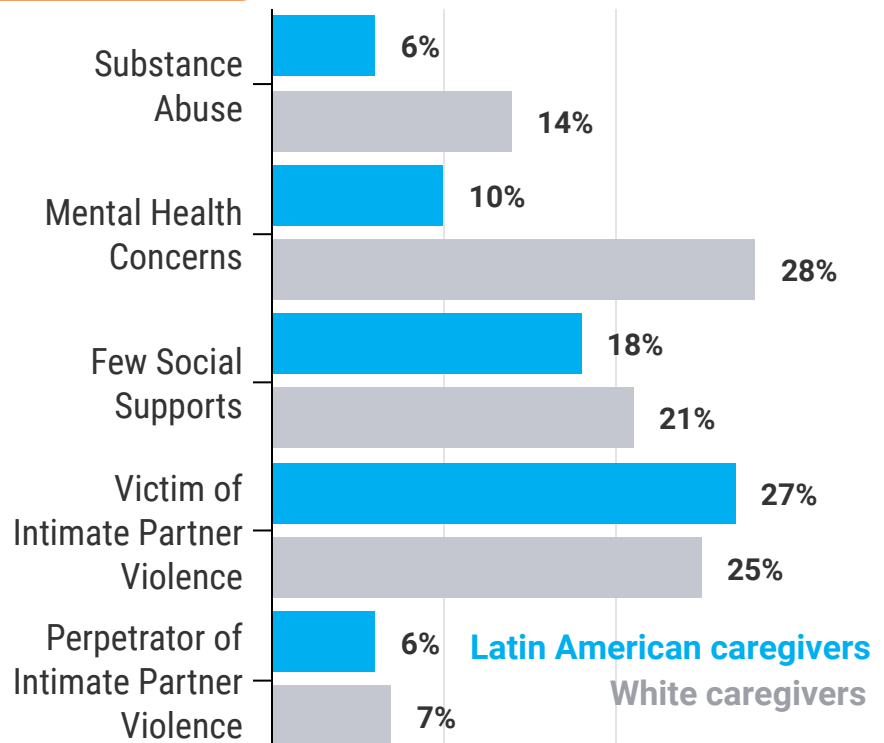
2 in 5 households had a single caregiver in investigations involving Latin American children

Caregiver Risk Factors

46% of Investigations in Latin American children involved at least one child functioning concern.



55% of Investigations in White children involved at least one child functioning concern.



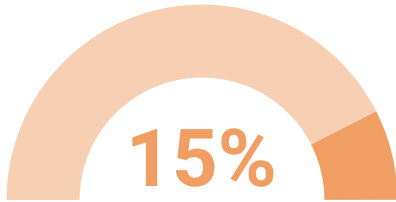
Socioeconomic Characteristics

Latin American families had fewer socioeconomic concerns than White families involved in investigations

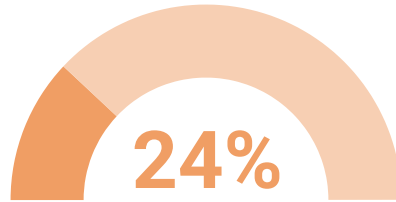


Proportion of Households with Housing Issues

Frequent moves | Home overcrowded | Unsafe Housing



Investigations involving Latin American Children in Ontario in 2018

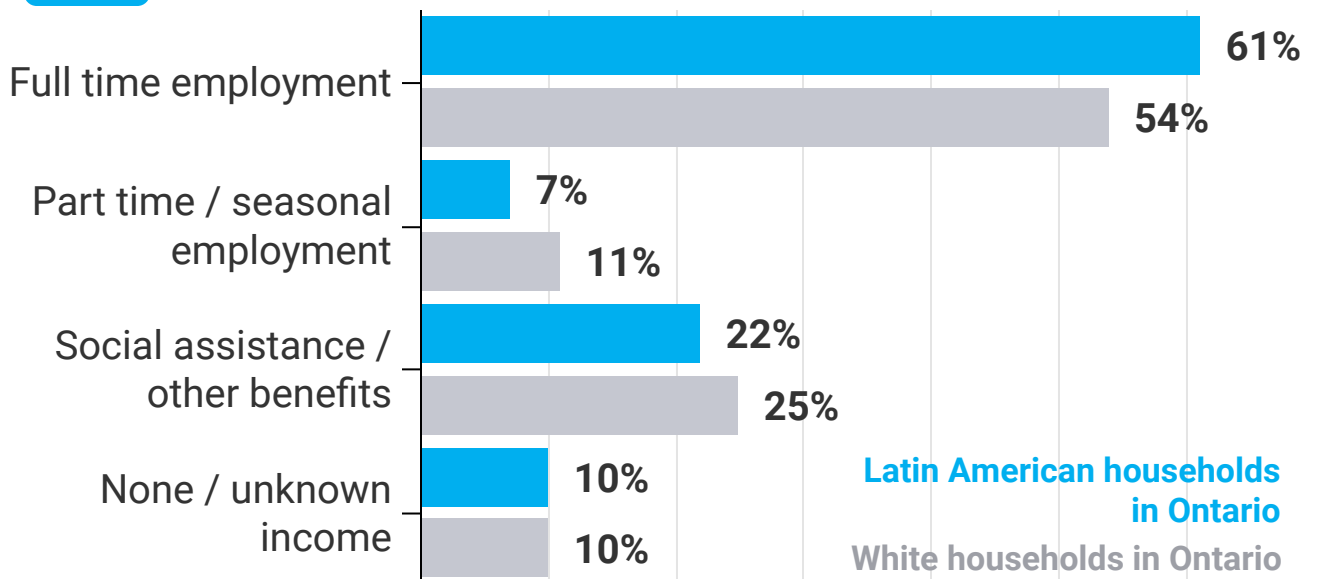


Investigations involving White Children in Ontario in 2018

47%
of households with Latin American children spoke a language other than English or French



Household Income in Child Maltreatment Investigations involving Latin American and White Children in 2018



1 in 10 households ran out of money for necessities in the past 3 months in investigations involving Latin American and White children