

# 1998 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (OIS 1998)

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## ■ ABSTRACT

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The *1998 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (OIS 1998)* is the second Ontario study to examine the incidence of reported child maltreatment and the characteristics of children and families investigated by the province's children's aid societies. The study used a multistage sampling design to select a representative sample of 13 child welfare service areas across Ontario and track maltreatment investigations conducted by the selected sites from October to December 1998. The final sample of 3,053 investigations was used to derive province-wide estimates of the scope and characteristics of child maltreatment investigations. The *OIS 1998* was conducted in conjunction with the *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS 1998)*, with funding from the provincial government to collect information from a larger Ontario sample. The *OIS 1998* includes contextual information about factors associated with key child welfare service decisions and provides the basis for comparison with the 1993 Ontario Incidence Study. The *OIS 1998* describes the study methodology and results, and presents major findings with regard to the incidence of abuse and neglect, characteristics of maltreatment, investigation outcomes, child and household characteristics, referral and agency characteristics, and recommendations for further research.

## ■ RÉSUMÉ

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Le *1998 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (OIS 1998)* est la deuxième étude ontarienne qui examine l'incidence des mauvais traitements envers les enfants et les caractéristiques des enfants et des familles qui font l'objet d'enquêtes de la part des sociétés de l'aide à l'enfance provinciales. L'étude a utilisé un échantillonnage à plusieurs étapes pour sélectionner un échantillon représentatif de 13 régions de services de protection de l'enfance à travers l'Ontario et de faire le suivi des enquêtes pour mauvais traitements menées par les sites sélectionnés, et ce entre octobre et décembre 1998. L'échantillon final comprenant 3 053 enquêtes a été utilisé pour extraire des estimés provinciaux sur l'ampleur et les caractéristiques des enquêtes pour mauvais traitements envers les enfants. Le *OIS 1998* a été menée conjointement avec le *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS 1998)*, avec un financement du gouvernement provincial afin de recueillir des informations à partir d'un échantillon ontarien plus vaste. Le *OIS 1998* contient des informations contextuelles sur les facteurs associés aux décisions clés des services de protection de l'enfance et se prête à la comparaison avec l'étude ontarienne sur l'incidence de 1993. Le *OIS 1998* décrit la méthodologie ainsi que les résultats de l'étude et présente données sur l'incidence des mauvais traitements, les caractéristiques des mauvais traitements, les résultats des enquêtes, les caractéristiques des enfants et des foyers, les caractéristiques des signalements et des agences ainsi que des recommandations pour des recherches futures.

## ■ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The *Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: 1998 (OIS 1998)* is the result of a collaborative effort involving a province-wide team of child welfare workers, managers, and researchers. In order to ensure coordination with its parent study, the *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS 1998)*, data collection for the *OIS 1998* began in September 1998 just as the province's new Risk Assessment Model was being implemented. Despite the fact that workers were having to adjust to a new assessment model and new forms, front-line workers from across the province – with strong support from supervisors, clerical staff, and managers – rose to the challenge of completing the yellow OIS forms. The *OIS 1998* response rate was well over 90%. Forms were completed with diligence and thoughtfulness. The *OIS 1998* is first and foremost a study conducted for and by front-line child welfare workers from across the province.

The *OIS 1998* was conducted by a dedicated team of researchers led by Bruce MacLaurin, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary and by Barbara Fallon, currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto Faculty of Social Work. The research team included Jairo Ortiz, Warren Helfrich, and Julie Thompson, MSW students at the Faculty of Social Work, and Sharon Batholomew, Health Canada, Child Maltreatment Division. Fighting sleet and snow and ever-changing agency statistics, the *OIS* researchers used enthusiasm and gentle persuasion skills to train staff, support data collection, and monitor information quality in 15 agencies and 39 teams across the province. I thank you all for your help, and in particular Barb and Bruce for bringing their high standards to this study.

Financial support for the *OIS 1998* was provided by a combination of federal, provincial and private sector funds from Health Canada through the Child Maltreatment Division of the Bureau of Reproductive Child Health, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, and Bell Canada, through the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit.

## ■ DEDICATION

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This report is dedicated to the children and families who are served by Ontario child welfare workers. It is our sincere hope that the study contributes to improving their well-being.

## ■ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### Introduction

*The Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (OIS 1998)* is the second Ontario study to examine the incidence of reported child maltreatment and the characteristics of children and families investigated by the Ontario children's aid societies (CASs). The primary objective of the study was to provide reliable estimates of the scope and characteristics of reported child abuse and neglect across Ontario. The study was also designed to:

- examine the rates of reported physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment, as well as multiple forms of maltreatment;
- examine the severity of maltreatment as measured by forms of maltreatment, duration, and physical and emotional harm;
- examine selected determinants of health for investigated children and their families;
- monitor short-term investigation outcomes, including substantiation rates, placement in care, use of child welfare court, and criminal prosecution; and
- provide a basis for comparison with the *1993 Ontario Incidence Study (OIS 1993)*.

This report is limited to a presentation of the 1998 findings. Comparative analyses will be published in subsequent reports.

### Methodology

The *OIS 1998* collected information directly from CAS workers about children and their families investigated because of reported child maltreatment. A multi-stage sampling design was used, first to select a representative sample of 13 child welfare service areas across Ontario, and then to track child maltreatment investigations conducted by the selected sites during the months of October to December 1998. The final sample of 3,053 child maltreatment investigations was used to derive provincial estimates of the annual incidence rate and characteristics of investigated child maltreatment in Ontario.

Information was collected using a three-page Maltreatment Assessment form designed to be completed with the first written assessment by the investigating worker. The instrument collected information on the investigated child's family, child functioning, up to three different forms of maltreatment (including the levels of substantiation, alleged perpetrator(s), and duration of maltreatment) physical and emotional harm, the provision of ongoing child welfare services, out-of-home placement, court activity, and police involvement.

The *OIS 1998* provides an estimate of the number of child-based investigations of suspected child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment) investigated by Ontario CASs in 1998. Incidents of suspected maltreatment that were investigated more than once during the year were counted as separate investigations; thus, the unit of analysis in the report is the child maltreatment investigation.<sup>1</sup> The estimates are presented in terms of three levels of substantiation, according to the following definitions:

- A case is considered **substantiated** if the balance of evidence indicates that abuse or neglect has occurred. The term is synonymous with the terms “verified” or “confirmed,” which are used in some jurisdictions.
- A case is **suspected** if there is not enough evidence to substantiate maltreatment, but there nevertheless remains a suspicion that maltreatment has occurred.
- A case is **unsubstantiated** if there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the child has not been maltreated.

The figures presented in this report are weighted estimates derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of children’s aid societies. The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to CASs, (2) reported cases that were screened out by CASs before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by CASs and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police.

This Executive Summary highlights some of the major findings from the *OIS 1998*. Corresponding tables, definitions, and interpretive notes in the main body of the report should be consulted in order to accurately interpret the statistics and figures highlighted in the Executive Summary.

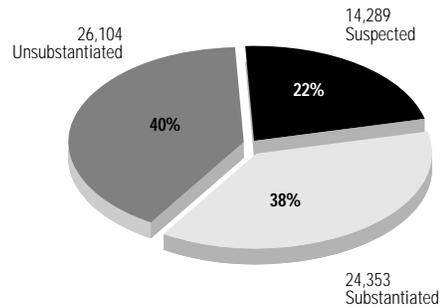
## Incidence of Abuse and Neglect

An estimated 64,746 child maltreatment investigations were reported in Ontario in 1998, an annual incidence rate of 27.47 investigations per 1,000 children. An estimated 24,353 child maltreatment investigations (38 per cent) were substantiated, while an estimated 14,289 child investigations remained suspected (22 per cent), and an estimated 26,104 child investigations (40 per cent) were unsubstantiated (Figure 1).

---

<sup>1</sup> Because children who were reported and investigated more than once in a year were counted as separate incidents, the unit of analysis is the investigation, not the investigated child.

**Figure 1**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998 (Weighted Estimates)**



Source: OIS 1998, Table 3-1

Although the relatively large proportion of unsubstantiated cases may surprise some readers, it is consistent with substantiation rates documented in most jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup> Unsubstantiated cases stem from reports made in good faith by referral sources who are required by law to report suspected maltreatment. In the OIS 1998, approximately five per cent of these cases were considered by the investigating workers to have been knowingly false and malicious in intent (see Table 8-2(a)).

## Categories of Maltreatment

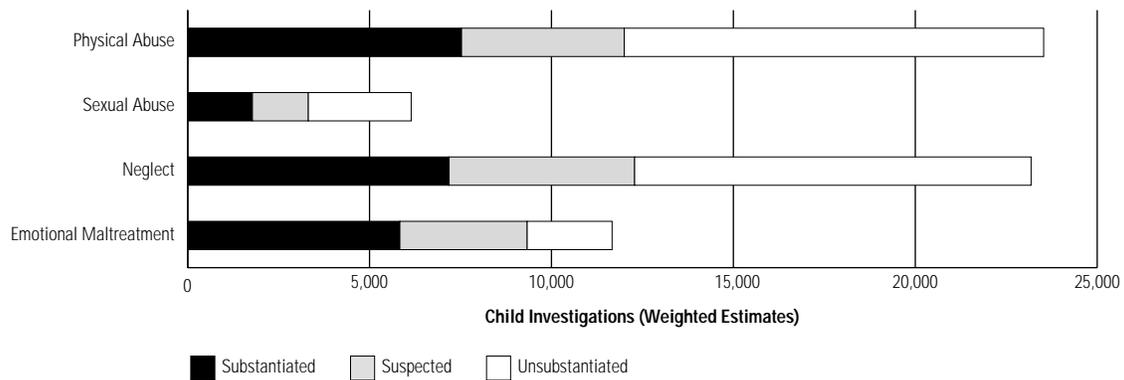
An estimated 23,610 child investigations involved alleged **physical abuse** as the primary reason for investigation (Figure 2). Of this number, 32 per cent were substantiated, while 19 per cent remained suspected, and 49 per cent were unsubstantiated.

An estimated 6,166 child investigations involved **sexual abuse** as the primary reason for investigation. Twenty-nine per cent of these cases were substantiated, while maltreatment remained suspected in a further 25 per cent, and was unsubstantiated in 46 per cent. An estimated 23,263 child investigations involved allegations of **neglect** as the primary reason for investigation. Thirty-one per cent of these cases were substantiated, 22 per cent remained suspected, and 47 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Emotional maltreatment** was the primary reason for investigation in an estimated 11,707 child investigations. Fifty per cent of these cases were substantiated, 30 per cent remained suspected, and 20 per cent were unsubstantiated.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Health and Human Services, Administration of Children, Youth and Families (1999). *Child Maltreatment 1997: Reports from the states to the national child abuse and neglect data system* (p. 4). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

**Figure 2**  
**Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



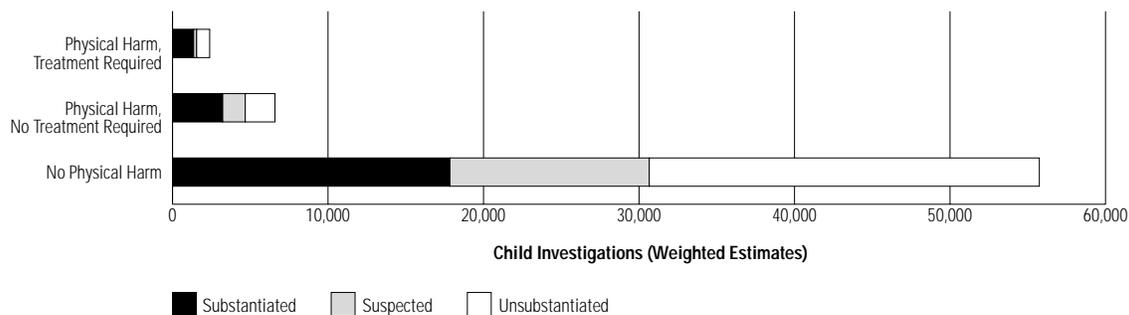
Source: OIS 1998, Table 3.3

## Physical Harm

Some form of physical harm was documented in an estimated 8,979 child maltreatment investigations (Figure 3). In an estimated 2,390 child investigations, physical harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment. In a further estimated 6,589 child investigations, harm was noted but no treatment was considered to be required. Fifty-seven per cent of cases in which treatment was required for physical harm were substantiated, while eight per cent remained suspected, and 35 per cent were unsubstantiated.

Documented harm primarily involved bruises, cuts, and scrapes (70 per cent of harm situations) and other health conditions (23 per cent of harm situations). Four per cent of child investigations reporting physical harm involved head trauma, while six per cent involved burns and scalds, and three per cent involved broken bones (see Table 4-1(b)).

**Figure 3**  
**Physical Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**

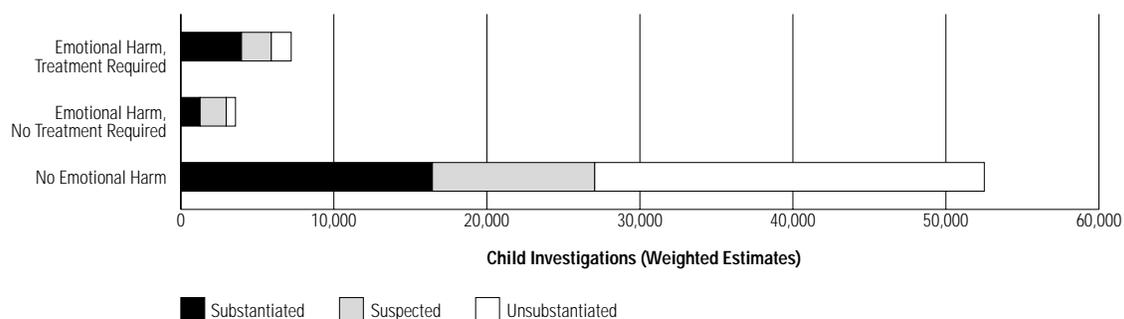


Source: OIS 1998, Table 4-1(a)

## Emotional Harm

Emotional harm was noted in an estimated 11,273 child maltreatment investigations (Figure 4). In an estimated 7,213 child investigations, emotional harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment. In a further estimated 12,746 child investigations, harm was noted but no treatment was considered to be required. Fifty-five per cent of cases in which treatment was required for emotional harm were substantiated, while 27 per cent remained suspected and 18 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Figure 4**  
**Emotional Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



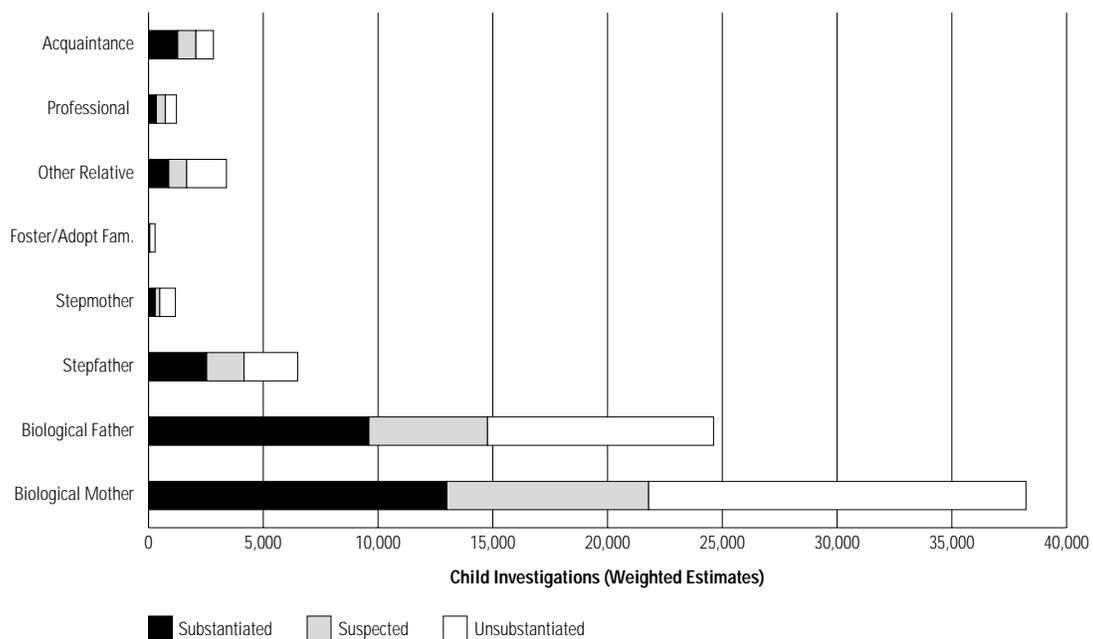
Source: OIS 1998, Table 4-2

## Alleged Perpetrators

Most child investigations involved allegations against parents: biological mothers (an estimated 38,228 child investigations), biological fathers (an estimated 24,617 child investigations), stepfathers/common-law partners (an estimated 6,498 child investigations), or stepmothers/common-law partners (an estimated 1,172 child investigations (see Figure 5). It should be noted many non-familial allegations of abuse are investigated by the police, not by children's aid societies.

Furthermore, there is a significant overlap between alleged perpetrator classifications, as multiple perpetrators were identified for the primary category of maltreatment in 22 per cent of child investigations. Other than parents, relatives were the most frequently suspected perpetrators (an estimated 3,395 child investigations). Substantiation rates for alleged perpetrators ranged from 27 per cent for acquaintances to 51 per cent for other relatives and 58 per cent for stepmothers.

**Figure 5**  
**Alleged Perpetrator in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



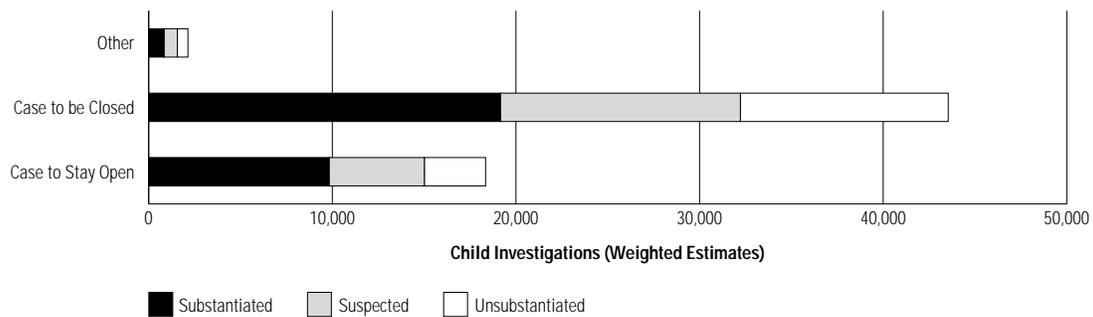
Source: OIS 1998, Table 4-4

## Ongoing Child Welfare Services

Following the initial investigation, an estimated 18,533 child maltreatment investigations remained open for ongoing services, while an estimated 43,543 were to be closed (Figure 6). In a further estimated 2,136 child investigations, ongoing case status could not be determined because decisions

were pending due to ongoing court involvement, active police investigations, or incomplete assessments. Fifty-three per cent of child investigations identified to stay open were substantiated, while 28 per cent remained suspected, and 18 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Figure 6**  
**On-Going Child Welfare Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



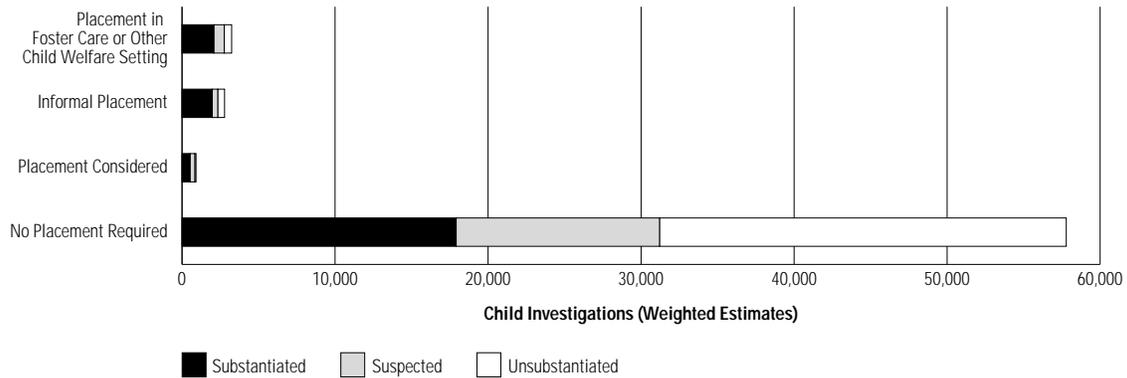
Source: OIS 1998, Table 5-1

At least one referral to a program designed to offer services beyond the parameters of ongoing child welfare services was made in 51 per cent of investigations (see Table 5-2(b)). Twenty-one per cent of investigations were referred for other family/parent counseling, 12 per cent for a parent support program, five per cent for parental drug/alcohol counseling, and seven per cent for domestic violence counseling (see Table 5-2(a)). Child-focused referrals were made most frequently for other child counseling (13 per cent), psychiatric or psychological services (seven per cent), and medical/dental services (ten per cent) (see Table 5-2(b)).

## Out-of-Home Placement

An estimated 3,242 child maltreatment investigations led to a child being placed in CAS care (foster placement, group home, or residential/secure treatment) during the initial investigation (Figure 7). Sixty-four per cent of these cases were substantiated, while 21 per cent remained suspected, and 15 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Figure 7**  
**Out-of-Home Placement in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



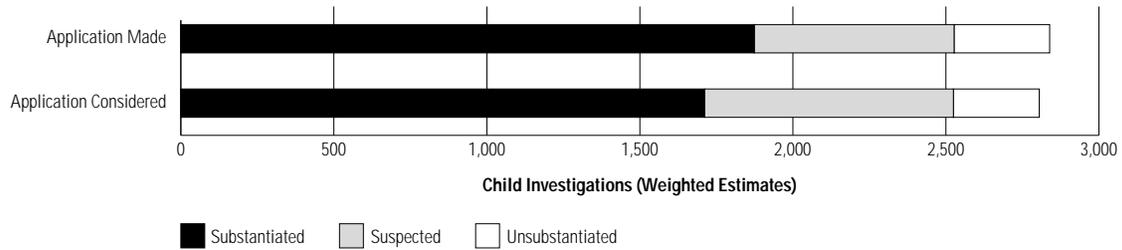
Source: OIS 1998, Table 5-3

Child welfare placement during the initial intake was considered in an additional estimated 914 child investigations. In an estimated 2,778 child maltreatment investigations, the investigated children were moved to an informal out-of-home care arrangement by the end of the investigation, staying either with relatives, neighbours, or another community care provider. In these circumstances, child welfare services do not assume formal care of the child. No placement was required for an estimated 57,786 child maltreatment investigations.

## Child Welfare Court

Applications to child welfare court were made in an estimated 2,839 child maltreatment investigations and were being considered in an additional estimated 2,805 child investigations (Figure 8). Sixty-six per cent of the investigations in which an application was made to child welfare court were substantiated, while 23 per cent remained suspected, and 11 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Figure 8**  
**Applications to Child Welfare Court in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**

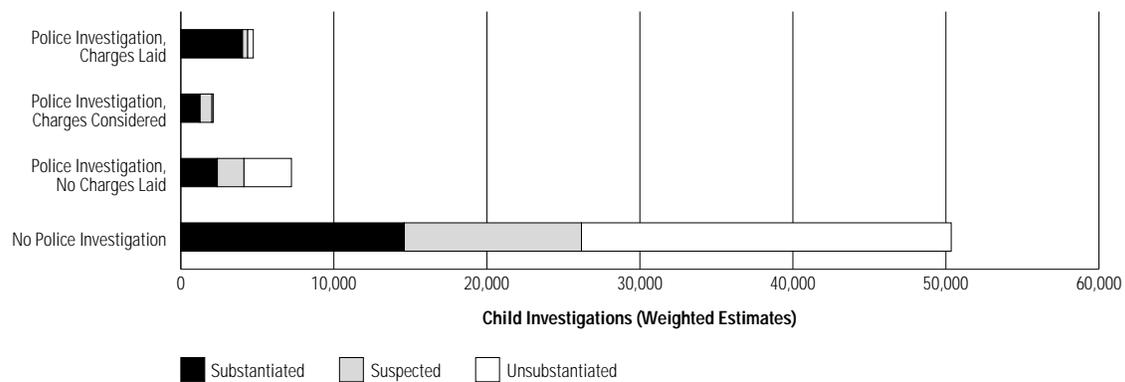


Source: OIS 1998, Table 5-4

## Police Investigations and Charges Laid

Police investigations occurred in an estimated 14,110 child maltreatment investigations, and charges were laid in an estimated 4,734 of these cases and considered in 2,149 (Figure 9). Eighty-five per cent of cases where charges were laid were substantiated, while seven per cent remained suspected, and eight per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Figure 9**  
**Police Investigations and Charges Laid by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



Source: OIS 1998, Table 5-5

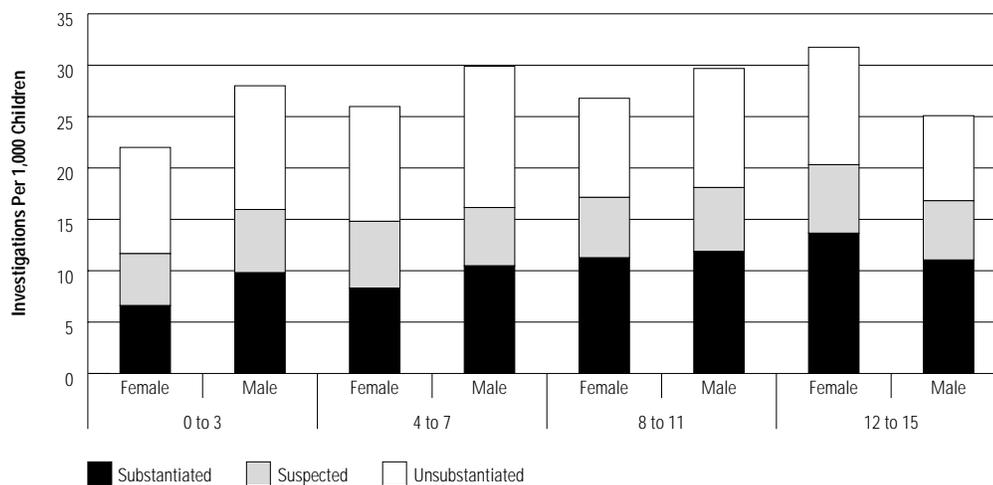
## Child Age and Sex

Ontario children's aid societies are legislated to conduct maltreatment investigations to children under the age of 16. The OIS 1998 data is consistent with provincial reporting requirements and collected data for children aged zero to 15 years.

The incidence of investigated maltreatment ranged from 22 per 1,000 children for females zero to three years old to 29.9 per 1,000 for males four to seven years old (Figure 10). The overall incidence rate per 1,000 children was similar for females (26.68 investigations per 1,000 children) and males (28.20 investigations per 1,000 children (see Table 6-1). Comparisons between age and gender categories must be made with caution because investigations by category of maltreatment confound these comparisons (see Table 6-2).

Substantiation rates by age and gender ranged from 30 per cent for females between zero and three years old to 44 per cent for adolescent males 12 to 15 years old.

**Figure 10**  
**Child Age and Sex in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Incidence of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998 (Weighted Estimates)**

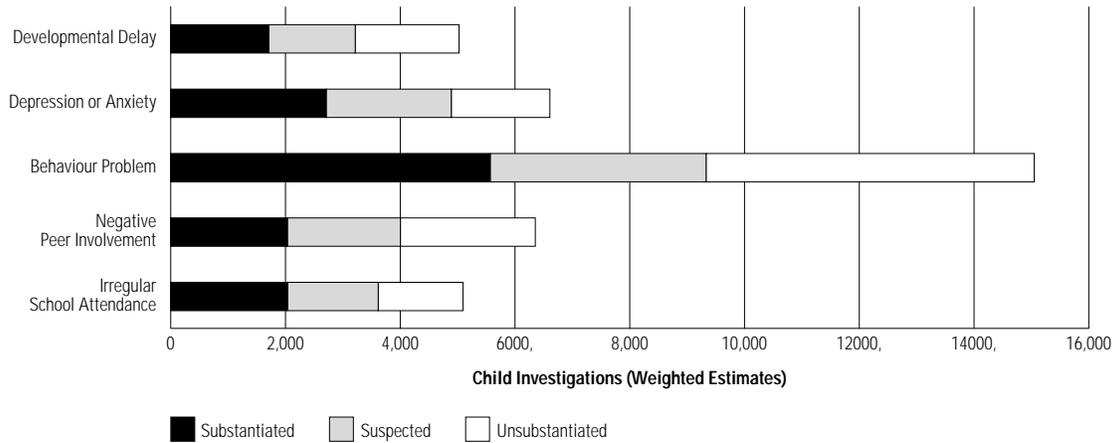


Source: OIS 1998, Table 6-1

## Child Functioning

In 41 per cent of child investigations, at least one child-functioning issue was indicated by the investigating worker (see Table 6-3). The five most often indicated child-functioning issues in child maltreatment investigations are detailed in Figure 11. A behaviour problem in the home or community was indicated in an estimated 15,049 child investigations, depression or anxiety in an estimated 6,608 child investigations, negative peer involvement in an estimated 6,354 child investigations, irregular school attendance in an estimated 5,093 child investigations, and developmental delay in an estimated 5,025 child investigations. Substantiation rates for cases involving these child functioning problems ranged from 32 per cent for negative peer involvement, to 41 per cent for depression or anxiety.

**Figure 11**  
**Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



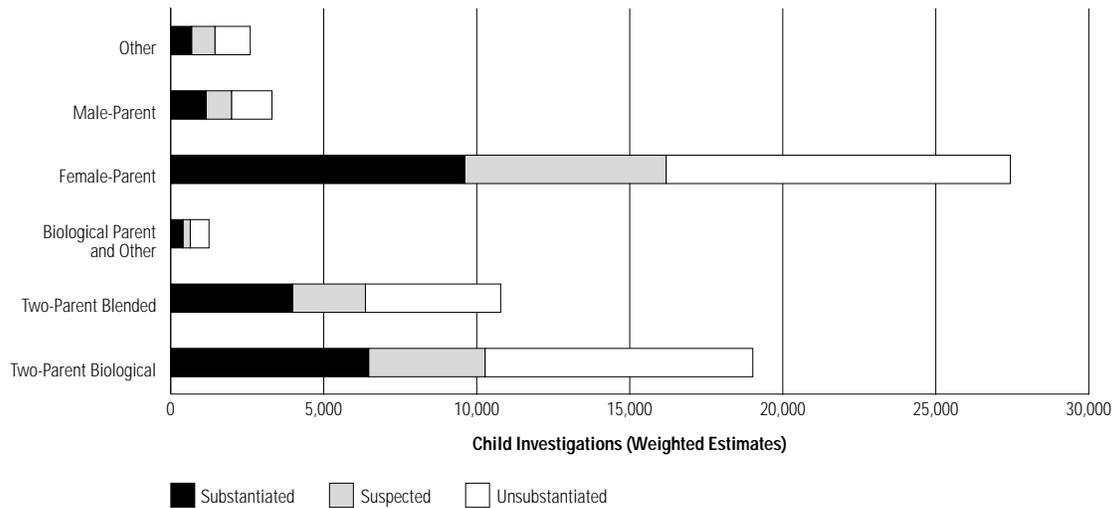
Source: OIS 1998, Table 6-3

## Household Structure

An estimated 19,022 child maltreatment investigations involved children who lived with their two biological parents, and an estimated 10,783 investigations involved children who lived in a two-parent blended family (Figure 12). An estimated 30,746 investigated children lived in a family led by a lone parent: an estimated 27,437 in a female-parent household, and an estimated 3,309 in a male-parent household. Rates of substantiation ranged from 32 per cent (biological parent and other) to 37 per cent (two-parent blended).

Of those investigations involving children living with a mother, 60 per cent lived with a mother who was over 30 years old, and 18 per cent with a mother age 25 or under. Of investigations involving children living with a father, 74 per cent lived with a father who was over 30 years old, and 11 per cent with a father age 25 or under (see Table 7-2).

**Figure 12**  
**Household Structure in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**

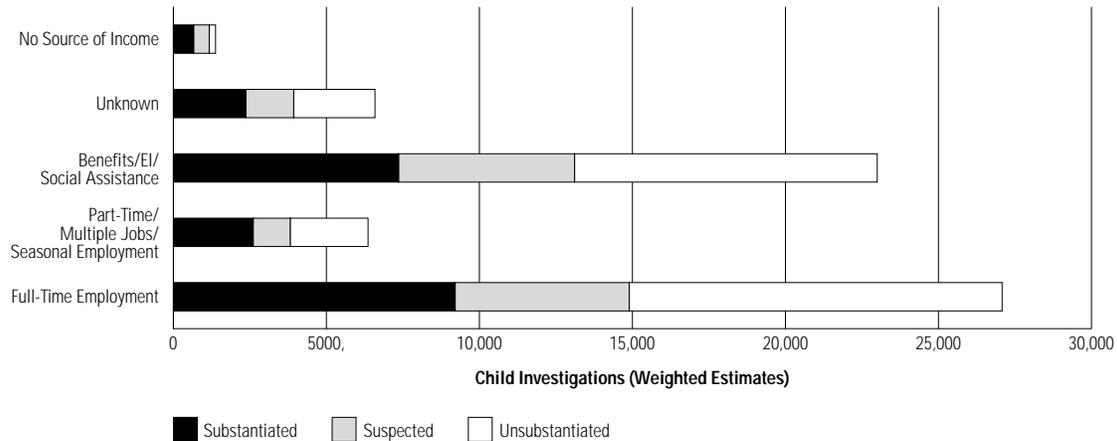


Source: OIS 1998, Table 7-1

## Source of Income

An estimated 27,081 child maltreatment investigations involved children in families that derived their primary income from full-time employment (Figure 13). An estimated 23,000 child investigations involved investigated children's families that received social assistance or some other form of benefits. An additional estimated 6,362 child investigations involved children who lived in families relying on part-time employment/multiple jobs or seasonal employment. In an estimated 6,588 child investigations, the source of income was unknown by the investigating worker, and in an estimated 1,378 cases no reliable source of income was reported. Substantiation rates ranged from 32 per cent for cases in which families received benefits/employment insurance/social assistance to 48 per cent in which no source of income was identified by the investigating worker.

**Figure 13**  
**Household Source of Income in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



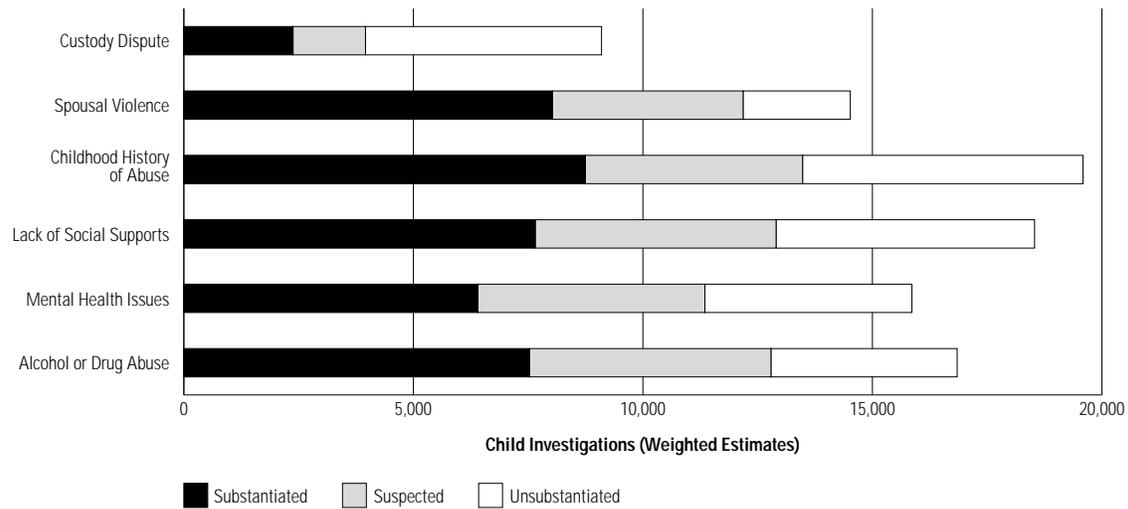
Source: OIS 1998, Table 7-5

Fifty-eight per cent of child investigations involved children living in rental accommodations (50 per cent in private market rentals, and eight per cent in rental unit in a public housing complex). Twenty-nine per cent of child investigations involved children living in purchased homes, three per cent in other accommodations, and two per cent in shelters or hostels (see Table 7-6).

## Parental Functioning and Family Stressors

At least one parental-functioning and/or other family stressors was identified in 70 per cent of child investigations (see Table 7-10). The six most frequently reported parental functioning and family stressor issues are detailed in Figure 14. Childhood history of abuse was reported in an estimated 19,587 child investigations that noted parental functioning or family stressor issues. Alcohol or drug abuse was reported in an estimated 16,844 child investigations, lack of social supports in an estimated 18,533, mental health issues in an estimated 15,859, spousal violence in an estimated 14,518, and custody dispute in an estimated 9,098 child investigations. Substantiation rates for the parental-functioning and family stressors ranged from 26 per cent for custody dispute to 55 per cent for spousal violence.

**Figure 14**  
**Parental Functioning and Other Family Stressors in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**

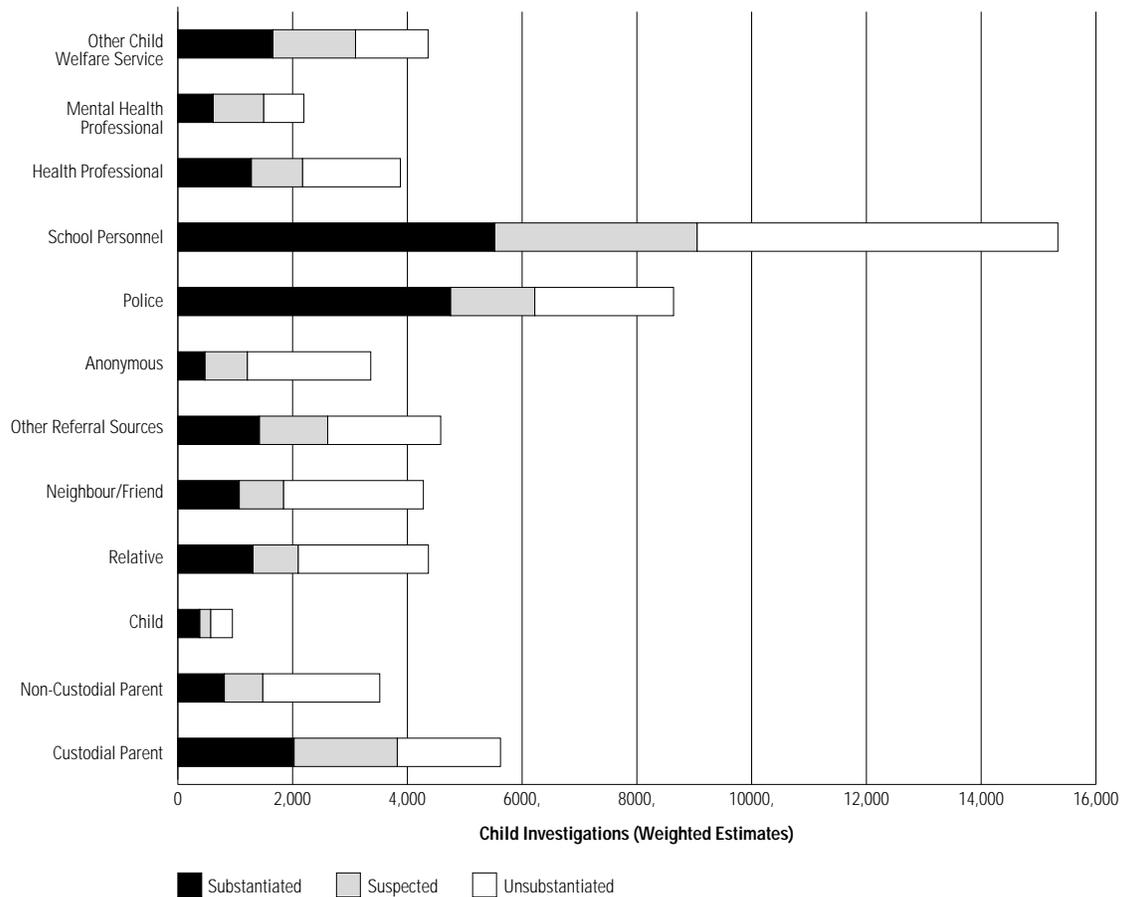


Source: OIS 1998, Table 7-10

## Referral Sources

In 61 per cent of child investigations the initial referral was made by a professional (see Table 8-1(b)). The largest source of referrals was school personnel, who made an estimated 15,337 child maltreatment investigation referrals to children’s aid societies (Figure 15). The second most common source of referral was police, totaling an estimated 8,639 child investigations. Substantiation rates ranged for referral sources from 14 per cent for anonymous referrals to 55 per cent for referrals from police.

**Figure 15**  
**Referral Sources in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario, 1998**



Source: OIS 1998, Table 8-1

Forty-four per cent of investigated children had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment. Another seven per cent of children lived in families that had previously received child welfare services. Only 40 per cent of children came from families for which no previous record of service was noted, and for an additional three per cent of children, child welfare service history could not be determined (see Table 8-3).

## Future Research

The OIS 1998 is a rich dataset of 3,053 child maltreatment investigations, with information on child and family characteristics, forms and severity of maltreatment, and outcomes of investigation. The OIS 1998 dataset lends itself particularly well to three major lines of inquiry: (1) exploring the

characteristics of different forms of reported maltreatment; (2) determining factors that influence outcomes of investigations (substantiation, child welfare court, criminal charges, placement in out-of-home care, and provision of services); and (3) comparing the *OIS 1998* to comparable provincial, national, and international statistics.

The *OIS 1998* is the second database on reported child maltreatment in Ontario and provides the opportunity to compare data between the 1993 and the 1998 data collection points. Future cycles of the study will establish a provincial surveillance system that will provide service providers, policy makers, researchers, and the general public with critical information for improving the well-being of children at risk of maltreatment.

## ■ 1. INTRODUCTION

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The following report presents the major descriptive findings from the *Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: 1998 (OIS 1998)*. The *OIS 1998* is the second provincial study to examine the incidence of reported child maltreatment and the characteristics of the children and families investigated by Ontario children's aid societies. This report is limited to a presentation of the 1998 findings. Comparative analyses will be published in subsequent reports. The incidence estimates presented in this report are based on a survey, completed by child welfare workers, of a representative sample of child maltreatment investigations conducted in Ontario in 1998. This introduction presents the rationale and objectives of the study, provides an overview of the child welfare system in Ontario, describes the definitional framework used for the study, and outlines the report.

### Background

There currently is no source of comprehensive, province-wide statistics on children and families investigated for alleged child abuse or neglect. In Ontario, child abuse and neglect statistics are kept by each children's aid society (CAS) and are not systematically aggregated and reported at the provincial level. Due to differences in information systems used by each agency and different procedures for counting cases, there has not been a history of aggregate provincial statistics. Furthermore, the amount of information collected is itself very limited, providing few details on children and families investigated by children's aid societies.<sup>1</sup> Similar problems are noted with child welfare statistics in other provincial and territorial child welfare jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>

The paucity of provincial and national data has hampered the ability of governments and social service providers to develop national and regional policies and programs that effectively address the needs of maltreated children. National data are also needed to provide a meaningful context for interpreting findings from Canadian and international child maltreatment research. Recognizing the need for better national child maltreatment information, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services provided funding to augment Health Canada funding for the Ontario sample of the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. This additional funding allowed an enhanced sample sufficient to develop provincial estimates of child abuse and neglect in Ontario.

The primary objective of the *OIS 1998* study was to provide reliable estimates of the scope and characteristics of reported child abuse and neglect in Ontario. As illustrated by Figure 1-1, the cases tracked

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<sup>1</sup> Many information systems lack the capacity to report the most basic information, such as rates of substantiation and rates injuries.

<sup>2</sup> Federal-Provincial Working Group on Child and Family Service Information (1994). *Child welfare in Canada: The role of provincial and territorial authorities in cases of child abuse*. Ottawa, ON: Supply and Services Canada.

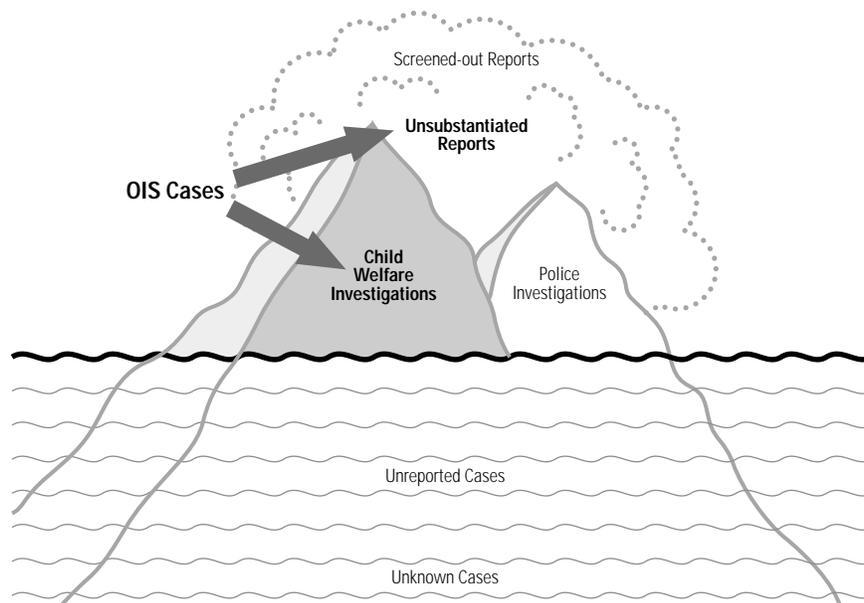
by the study include substantiated and unsubstantiated child welfare investigation, but do not include reports that are screened out before the investigation or cases that are investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is not designed to document unreported cases (See Table 1-2 Definitional Framework and Figure 1-2 Stages of Identification for a detailed presentation of the scope of the study.)

The study was specifically designed to

- examine the rates of reported physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment, as well as multiple forms of maltreatment;
- examine the severity of maltreatment as measured by forms of maltreatment, duration, and physical and emotional harm;
- examine selected determinants of health for investigated children and their families; and
- monitor short-term investigation outcomes, including substantiation rates, placement in care, use of child welfare court, and criminal prosecution;
- provide a basis for comparison with the *1993 Ontario Incidence Study (OIS 1993)*.

**Figure 1-1 Scope of OIS 1998\***

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\* Adapted from Trocmé, N., McPhee, D. et al. (1994). *Ontario incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect*. Toronto, ON: Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse, and Sedlak, A. J., & Broadhurst, D. D. (1996). Executive summary of the third national incidence study of child abuse and neglect. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Child Welfare Services in Ontario

In Ontario, the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA) is the primary piece of legislation promoting the best interests, protection, and well-being of children.<sup>3</sup> Alleged maltreatment is reported directly to a local children's aid society (CAS), a private non-profit organization funded by the provincial Ministry for Community and Social Services.<sup>4</sup> There are 54 agencies in Ontario that provide child protection services, and several of these agencies provide services to specific communities based on religious affiliation or aboriginal heritage. Children's aid societies are run and operated by a board of directors elected from the local community. The autonomous private service delivery supports the development of strong community links with innovative programs that reflect local interests and needs.

**Table 1-1**  
**Ontario Children's Aid Societies**

Abinoojii Family Services	Children's Aid Society of the Region of Peel
Algoma Children's Aid Society	Children's Aid Society of the Regional Municipality of Halton
Bruce Children's Aid Society	Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth	Dillico Ojibway Child and Family Services
Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto	Durham Children's Aid Society
Chatham-Kent Integrated Children's Services	Family and Children's Services of the County of Renfrew
Child and Family Services for Timmins and District	Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region
Children's Aid Society for the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound	Family Youth and Child Services of Muskoka
Children's Aid Society of Brant	Hastings Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of Brockville and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville	Jewish Family and Child Services of Toronto
Children's Aid Society of Haldimand-Norfolk	Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of Hamilton-Wentworth	Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services
Children's Aid Society of Huron County	Lennox-Addington Family and Children's Services
Children's Aid Society of Northumberland	London-Middlesex Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of Ottawa-Carleton	Oxford Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of Owen Sound and the County of Grey	Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services
Children's Aid Society of the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington	Perth Children's Aid Society
	Prescott-Russell Children's Aid Society

*continued*

<sup>3</sup> See Ontario Government (1996), *Child and Family Services Act* S.72(1).

<sup>4</sup> Prior to 1995 the municipal and provincial governments shared in the funding of child protection services (20/80 division). Through a restructuring of funding initiatives the province assumed full costs for the provision of child protection in Ontario.

**Table 1-1 (continued)**  
**Ontario Children's Aid Societies**

Children's Aid Society of the City of Kingston and County of Frontenac	Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of the City of St. Thomas and County of Elgin	Services à l'enfance et à la famille du Timiskaming Child and Family Services
Children's Aid Society of the County of Dufferin	Services Familiaux Jeanne Sauvé Family Services
Children's Aid Society of the County of Lanark and the Town of Smith Falls	Tikinagan North Child and Family Services
Children's Aid Society of the County of Prince Edward	Toronto Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of the County of Simcoe	Waterloo Family and Children's Services
Children's Aid Society of the District of Rainy River	Weechi-it-te-win Family Services
Children's Aid Society of the District of Sudbury and Manitoulin	Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay	York Region Children's Aid Society
Children's Aid Society of the Niagara Region	

Change in Ontario child welfare policy has been compared to the swing of a pendulum over time. Ontario's child welfare system was once described as a "legalistic and non-interventionist model" in which child welfare authorities had relatively little autonomy, and the family preservation perspective shaped policy and practice.<sup>5</sup> During the later 1990s the pendulum moved toward a more interventionist approach following a series of highly publicized child fatalities, inquests, and legislation review. This shift contributed to a number of changes in child welfare practice at the time the *OIS 1998* was conducted in Ontario.

The report of the Expert Panel on Child Protection was released to the Minister in early 1998 and recommended a series of amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* of 1984.<sup>6</sup> Recommendations included a clarification of the paramount purpose of the act to protect the safety, well being, and best interests of children, the inclusion of neglect, the establishment of a 12-month timeline for decisions for children under six, clarification of reporting guidelines for professionals, and a further review of the legislation within five years. This report reflected select recommendations from the previous review for *Bill 73* and the Child Mortality Task Force. *Bill 73* was passed during the spring of 1999. Other policy shifts that were initiated during this period include the announcement of the common eligibility and risk assessment model during the fall of 1996, and a new funding framework for child welfare announced in 1997.

<sup>5</sup> See Armitage, A., (1993). "The Policy and Legislative Context," in B. Wharf (Ed.) *Rethinking child welfare in Canada*, Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, Inc., or Barnhorst, R. F. (Ed.) (1986) *Child protective legislation: Recent Canadian reform*, Toronto: Carswell Publishing.

<sup>6</sup> Panel of Experts on Child Protection (1998). *Protecting vulnerable children*, Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The most profound change to child protection service delivery in Ontario was the enactment of amendments to the CFSA on March 31, 2000. The following eight key areas of the act were amended:

**Paramount purpose:** *The clause “least restrictive” has been removed allowing for “best interests” to be clearly read as the paramount purpose of the CFSA.*

**Grounds for finding a child in need of protection:** *There have been three areas of change in this section of the act.*

- a) *The phrase “substantial risk” has been replaced with “risk that the child is likely to be harmed” lowering the threshold for determining risk of harm;*
- b) *The phrase “pattern of neglect” has been added in relation to physical or emotional harm and risk of emotional harm;*
- c) *...emotional harm, demonstrated by severe harm ... has been replaced with “serious,” lowering the threshold of intervention based on emotional harm.*

**Evidence of past parenting:** *Evidence can now be submitted to court concerning the conduct toward any child in the care of the individual, not only the child in his/her care.*

**Duty to report:** *Clarifies that both professionals and the public are required to report suspected maltreatment and that the duty to report cannot be delegated to another individual.*

**Improved access to information:** *Agencies can ask the court for access to information when it is not an emergency situation.*

**Maximum time for society wardship:** *The maximum time for society wardship has been reduced to twelve months in total for children under the age of six. Time spent in the care of the society is calculated on a cumulative basis.*

**Access to Crown wards:** *Access to children who are Crown wards by relatives and other individuals will be granted only if “beneficial” to the child.*

**Regular review of the CFSA:** *A mandatory review of the act is required at least every five years.*

## Definitional Framework for the OIS 1998

Statistics on child abuse and neglect are collected and reported in very different ways.<sup>7</sup> Confusion can easily arise because of variations in the way a particular statistic is calculated. The following discussion and framework are provided to assist readers in interpreting the statistics included in this report.

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<sup>7</sup> Trocmé, N., McPhee, D. et al. (1994). *Ontario incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect*. Toronto, ON: Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Child abuse and neglect statistics can be misinterpreted because of two types of problems: confusion about the definitions of child abuse and neglect used, and misunderstanding of the data collection and reporting methods used. Definitional differences can have considerable impact on reported rates. For example, in the U.S. *National Incidence Study (1991)*, estimates of the annual rate of reported neglect were three times higher when the definition of physical neglect was expanded beyond the harm standard to include cases where there was substantial risk of harm.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, estimates of the prevalence of child sexual abuse doubled when acts of exposure were included in the cross-Canada sexual abuse survey conducted for the federal Committee on Sexual Offences against Children and Youths.<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, there is no consensus about definitions for child maltreatment. Definitions have been shown to vary on the basis of differences in legal mandates, professional practices, and social and cultural values. This lack of standards in defining child abuse and neglect has been repeatedly identified as a major obstacle in the development of child maltreatment research and practice.<sup>10</sup> Ontario has taken steps toward setting more explicit criteria for defining abuse and neglect, although the establishment of completely standardized definitions is constrained by the fact that in practice, judgements about child maltreatment are shaped by a complex array of changing community interests and values.

Beyond differences between research and legal definitions, child protection services and practitioners develop their own standards, which do not necessarily reflect governing legislation. Furthermore, even within agencies there is evidence that, in practice, standards are influenced by factors such as neighbourhood characteristics and caseload sizes.<sup>11</sup>

A second source of variation in maltreatment rates arises from differences in the way statistics are collected and reported. Child maltreatment statistics can end up measuring very different things, depending on who collects them and how they are collected. Some rates refer to the number of reported incidents; others refer only to allegations that have been substantiated by a thorough investigation. Some rates are based on annual incidence counts, while others measure childhood prevalence. These differences limit direct comparison of maltreatment statistics derived from different data sources. However, unlike the more intractable definitional problems, these issues can be resolved by clearly specifying data collection methods. The following framework provides a basis for comparing child maltreatment statistics by considering how they are affected by different data collection methods.

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<sup>8</sup> Sedlak, A. J. (1991). *National incidence and prevalence of child abuse and neglect: 1988* (Rev. ed.). Rockville, MD: Westat.

<sup>9</sup> Government of Canada (1984). *Sexual offences against children: Report of the committee on sexual offences against children and youths* (Vol. 1 & 2). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Government Publishing Centre.

<sup>10</sup> National Research Council (1993). *Understanding child abuse and neglect*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>11</sup> Wolock, I. (1982). Community characteristics and staff judgements in child abuse and neglect cases. *Social Work Research and Abstracts*, 18(2): 9–15.

**Table 1-2**  
**Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: Definitional Framework in 1998\***

	<b>Definitional Problem</b>	<b>Measures Taken by CIS-OIS 1998</b>
<b>Source of data</b>	Statistics are rarely presented with sufficient detail to allow one to consider all the data collection issues.	<i>OIS 1998</i> data were collected from child protection workers upon completion of their initial investigation (time depends on provincial, regional, and site practices).
<b>Forms of maltreatment</b>	Maltreatment statistics vary considerably with respect to the forms of maltreatment included.	The <i>OIS 1998</i> includes 22 defined forms of maltreatment under four main categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment.
<b>Multiple forms of maltreatment</b>	Failure to document multiple forms of maltreatment can lead to underestimating some forms of maltreatment.	The <i>OIS 1998</i> documents up to three forms of maltreatment.
<b>Level of harm</b>	Some statistics include only cases where children have been harmed; others include cases of harm and substantial risk of harm.	The <i>OIS 1998</i> includes cases where children were harmed as well as cases where children were at risk of harm. Physical harm and emotional harm were also documented.
<b>Time frame</b>	Research on child maltreatment can focus on the annual incidence for a given population, which is the number of cases in a single year; conversely, it can focus on childhood prevalence, which is the number of children maltreated during childhood.	The <i>OIS 1998</i> measures the annual incidence of investigated maltreatment
<b>Reporting year</b>	Rates of reported maltreatment have been increasing steadily as public awareness of child abuse increases. Rates from two different years must be compared accordingly.	The reporting year for the <i>OIS 1998</i> was January to December 1998.
<b>Unit of analysis</b>	Child welfare investigations can use either a child-based or family-based method for tracking cases. For child-based, each investigated child is counted as a separate investigation, while for family-based investigations, the unit of analysis is the investigated family, regardless of the number of children investigated.	The <i>OIS 1998</i> counts cases on the basis of child investigations
<b>Duplication</b>	Children investigated several times in a year are often counted as separate investigations. Approximately 20 per cent of investigations in a given year involve children investigated more than once.	Children who are investigated twice during a year are counted by the <i>OIS 1998</i> as two separate child investigations.
<b>Age group</b>	The age group of children investigated by child welfare services varies by province or territory.	<i>OIS 1998</i> estimates are presented for children under 16 (zero to 15 inclusive).
<b>Levels of identification/substantiation</b>	The point at which cases are being identified significantly affects child maltreatment estimates, given that many identified cases are not reported, many reported cases are not investigated, and many investigated cases are not substantiated.	The <i>OIS 1998</i> reports on cases investigated by child welfare authorities. A three-tiered definition of substantiation is used: (1) substantiated, (2) suspected, and (3) unsubstantiated. Screened-out or uninvestigated reports are not included.

\* Adapted from Trocmé, N., MacLaurin, B., Fallon, B., et al., (2001). *The Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect: Final report.*

### **Categories and Forms of Maltreatment**

A first area of potential confusion in interpreting child maltreatment statistics lies in inconsistencies in the categories of maltreatment included in different statistics. Most child maltreatment statistics

refer to both physical and sexual abuse, but other categories of maltreatment, such as neglect and emotional maltreatment, are not systematically included. There is even less consensus with respect to subtypes or forms of maltreatment. For instance, some child welfare statistics include only intra-familial sexual abuse, while extra-familial sexual abuse is dealt with by the criminal system.

The *OIS 1998* definition of child maltreatment includes **22 forms of maltreatment** subsumed under **four categories** of maltreatment: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment. This classification reflects a fairly broad definition of child maltreatment, and includes several forms of maltreatment that are not specifically included in some provincial and territorial child welfare statutes (e.g., educational neglect and exposure to family violence).

Documentation of **multiple forms** of maltreatment is also problematic. Many child welfare information systems have the capacity to classify cases only in terms of a single form of maltreatment. Systems that count only one form of maltreatment tend to under-count neglect and emotional maltreatment because these often appear in conjunction with abuse, but are generally considered less severe.

### ***Level of Harm***

There is some debate in the child maltreatment literature about defining maltreatment in terms of caregiver maltreating behaviours versus **actual harm** done to children as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>12</sup> Cases of maltreatment that draw public attention usually involve children who have been severely injured or, in the most tragic cases, have died as a result of maltreatment. In practice, child welfare agencies investigate and intervene in many situations where children have not yet been physically harmed, but are at risk of harm. Many of these children display cognitive and emotional difficulties that are associated with maltreatment, but not necessarily a specific injury that has led to a report. Provincial and territorial statutes cover both children who have suffered from a specific harm due to abuse or neglect and children at risk of harm. The level of harm or risk of harm required before an act is considered abusive varies on the basis of the severity of the act. In cases of sexual abuse, for instance, evidence of harm to the child is not considered to be relevant, whereas in cases of physical abuse, especially in cases involving corporal punishment, physical injury is more closely tied into the determination of abuse. The U.S. *National Incidence Study (1996)* includes two standards in calculating estimates of maltreatment: a narrow standard based on evidence of harm to the child, and a broader standard that includes cases where children are at risk of harm.<sup>13</sup> The *CIS* documents both physical and emotional harm; however, definitions of maltreatment used for the study do not require the occurrence of harm.

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<sup>12</sup> Zuravin, S. J. (1989, Oct.). *Suggestions for operationally defining child physical abuse and physical neglect*. Paper presented for meeting on Issues in the Longitudinal Study of Child Maltreatment.

<sup>13</sup> Sedlak, A. J., & Broadhurst, D. D. (1996). *Executive summary of the third national incidence study of child abuse and neglect*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### ***Time Frame***

Maltreatment statistics can also be misinterpreted because of confusion about the ***time frame*** to which statistics refer. The most serious source of misunderstanding is the difference between annual incidence and childhood prevalence. ***Childhood prevalence*** refers to the number of people maltreated at any point during their childhood, whereas ***annual incidence*** refers to the rate of child maltreatment investigations per 1,000 children in a year. The relationship between the two is complicated and is determined by the duration of maltreatment, the number of separate incidents, and the age at onset. While this use of the term incidence is common in child welfare, it is different from the way the term is used by epidemiologists, where incidence usually refers to the number of new cases of a disease or disorder.<sup>14</sup> The *OIS 1998* did not track new incidents of maltreatment on already open cases.

The ***reporting year*** can significantly affect documented rates of maltreatment, since reporting rates change over time. In Ontario, for example, the number of cases of reported maltreatment has steadily increased by a rate of between two and five per cent per year between 1971 and 1999.<sup>15</sup> The reporting year can also lead to confusion because some jurisdictions use the calendar year, whereas others refer to the fiscal year. *OIS 1998* estimates were calculated for the 1998 January 01 to December 31 calendar year.

### ***Unit of Analysis***

The ***unit of analysis*** determines the denominator used in calculating maltreatment rates. While some statistics refer to the number of child investigations, others refer to the number of family investigations. The relationship between the two is unclear in some instances because with ***family-based*** statistics, it is difficult to determine how many children have been maltreated, particularly for cases of neglect. The *OIS 1998* uses ***child-based*** statistics to be consistent with the way most child service statistics are kept (e.g., health, corrections, education, and foster care).

Some child welfare jurisdictions provide child welfare services to families where maltreatment has not been alleged. These are referred to as ***non-maltreatment*** cases in the *CIS* (e.g., services for prenatal counseling and child behaviour problems) and are tracked separately as non-maltreatment case openings.

Consideration should also be given to the ***age group*** included in the child welfare statistics. *OIS 1998* data are reported for children aged zero to 15 years as mandated by the *Child and Family Services Act*.

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<sup>14</sup> Last, J.M. (1995). *A dictionary of epidemiology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York: Oxford University, Press.

<sup>15</sup> Trocmé, N., Fallon, B. et al. (1999). *Outcomes for child welfare services in Ontario*. Toronto, ON: Ministry of Community and Social Services, Children's Services Branch.

## **Case Duplication**

Most annual child welfare statistics are reported on the basis of the number of investigations, as opposed to the number of investigated children. Some investigations involve children who were previously investigated in the same year. Therefore, statistics based on the number of investigations double-count children who are investigated twice in one year. While each investigation represents a new incident of maltreatment, confusion arises if these investigations are taken to represent an unduplicated count of children. To avoid such confusion, the *OIS 1998* uses the term “child investigations” rather than “investigated children,” since the unit of analysis is the child investigation, as opposed to a family investigation.

Currently most North American child welfare data systems report numbers of investigations as opposed to investigated children. The distinction, however, is not always explicitly stated. The U.S. *National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (1997)* report,<sup>16</sup> for instance, states that “In the data presented in this report, a child is counted *every time* he or she is the subject of a substantiated or indicated report” (emphasis added). While all duplicate reports were removed from the OIS sample,<sup>17</sup> it was not possible to develop unduplicated child estimates because the annual investigation statistics used to derive the OIS annualization weights were investigation-based counts, not unduplicated child-based counts.

Duplication estimates can be derived from those jurisdictions that maintain separate incident records and child-based counts. In the 12 states reporting duplicated and unduplicated data for the U.S. *National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (1996)*,<sup>18</sup> unduplicated child-based counts were 22 per cent lower than the incident-based counts. Comparison of child- versus investigation-based statistics in the eight Australian states and territories yields a similar rate: unduplicated child-based counts in 1997–98 were 21 per cent lower than the equivalent investigation-based count.<sup>19</sup>

## Level of Case Identification

A major source of variation in maltreatment statistics occurs with the **level of identification and substantiation** used. Figure 1-2 provides an illustration of four key stages in the case identification process: detection, reporting, investigation, and substantiation. There is considerable variation in child maltreatment statistics depending on the level of case identification.

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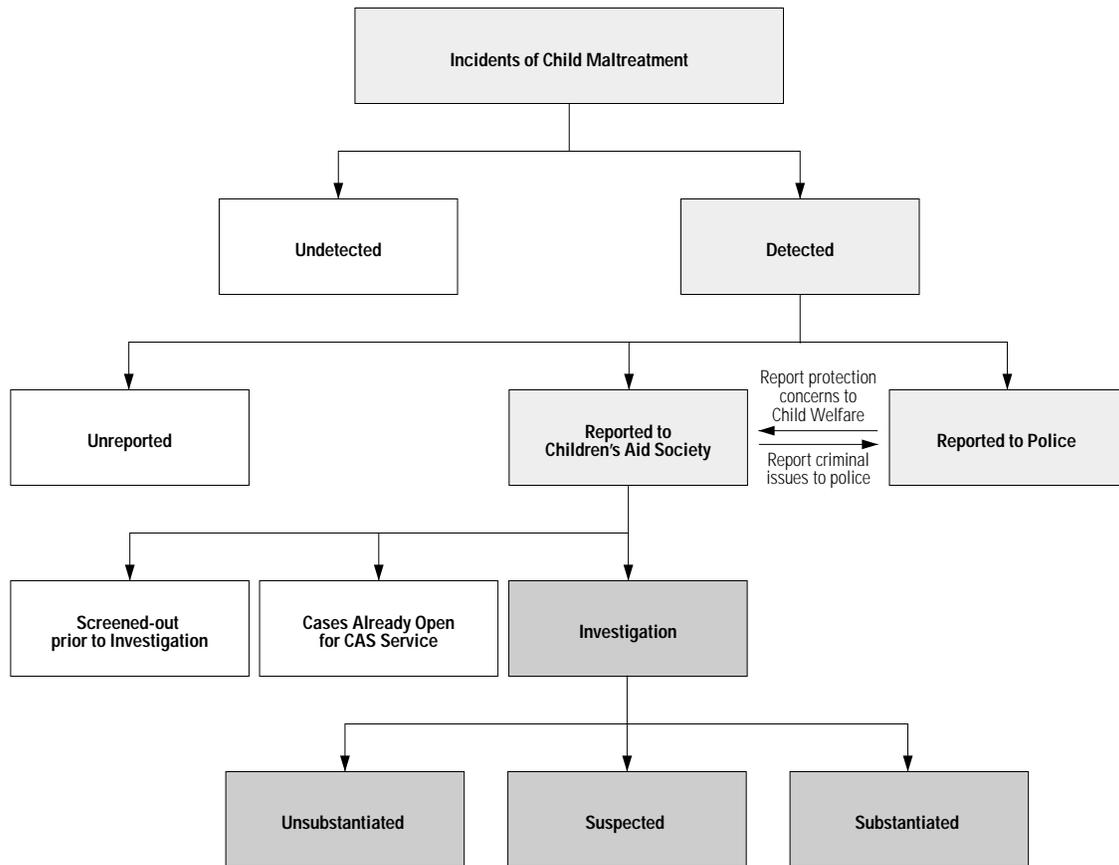
<sup>16</sup> U.S. Health and Human Services, Administration of Children, Youth and Families (1999). *Child maltreatment 1997: Reports from the states to the national child abuse and neglect data system* (p. 4). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>17</sup> Duplicate cases were screened for and deleted based on CIS identification numbers, family initials, and date of referral.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau (1998). *Child maltreatment 1996: Reports from the states to the national child abuse and neglect data system*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>19</sup> Australian Institute Health and Welfare (AIHW) (1999). *Child protection Australia: 1997–1998. AIHW Catalogue. No. CXS8*. Canberra: AIHW (Child Welfare Series).

**Figure 1-2**  
**Stages of Identification of Incidents of Child Maltreatment†**



- Sources of cases that are eligible for inclusion in the OIS
- Cases included in the OIS
- Cases not included in the OIS

† Figure 1-2 is adapted from the original version prepared for the CIS, Trocmé, N. MacLaurin, B., Fallon, B. et al., *Canadian incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect: Final report*. Ottawa, Ontario: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 2001.

**Detection** is the first stage in the case identification process. Little is known about the relationship between detected and undetected cases. Surveys of adult survivors indicate that some have never disclosed their childhood experiences of abuse.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Finkelhor, D., & Hotaling, G. et al. (1990). Sexual abuse in a national survey of adult men and women: Prevalence, characteristics, and risk factors. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 14(1): 19–28.

Anderson, J., & Martin, J. (1993). *Woman's health survey*. Dunedin: Dunedin Public Hospital, Department of Psychological Medicine.

**Reporting** suspected maltreatment is required by law in all provinces and territories in Canada, as well as in all states in the United States. A number of studies of reporting practices have been conducted in the United States and show that as many as half of the cases of suspected maltreatment detected by professionals working with children are not reported to child welfare services.<sup>21</sup> The *OIS 1998* does not document unreported cases.

It is also important to distinguish between cases reported to child welfare services and cases reported to the police. While there is some overlap between these two groups (22 per cent of *OIS 1998* cases were jointly investigated by child welfare services and the police), many cases involving alleged perpetrators outside the family – for example, a stranger exposing himself to a child – may involve only a police investigation and therefore not be counted in child welfare investigation statistics. The *OIS 1998* documents only cases reported to children’s aid societies.

**Investigation** is a third stage in the case identification process and can lead to confusion in comparing child maltreatment statistics. As noted earlier, all reports are not necessarily investigated. Some reports may be screened out because there is not enough information about the whereabouts of a child to launch an investigation; others may be screened out because they are not considered to be within the narrowly defined mandate of some child welfare services.

Screening practices can vary from an informal and undocumented process to a structured, formal telephone investigation. For example, some provinces screen out a significant number of reports before conducting investigations. In Quebec, for example, nearly half of all reports are screened out; thus the number of reports of suspected child maltreatment is twice as high as the number of investigations of maltreatment. The level of informal screening used in Ontario children’s aid societies is not known. While the province-wide use of provincial eligibility criteria has most likely helped to standardize screening, research specifically addressing this issue has not yet been done.

In addition to reports being screened out, reports received about cases already open for child welfare services are usually investigated by the ongoing worker and are not normally tracked as new investigations. The *OIS 1998* did not track new incidents of maltreatment on already open cases.

**Substantiation** distinguishes cases where maltreatment is confirmed following an investigation from cases where maltreatment is not confirmed. Some jurisdictions use a two-tiered substantiation classification system that distinguishes between substantiated and unsubstantiated cases, or verified and not-verified cases. The *OIS 1998* uses a three-tiered classification system, in which a “suspected” level provides an important clinical distinction between cases where there is not enough evidence to substantiate maltreatment but

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<sup>21</sup> Zellman, G. (1990). Report decision-making patterns among mandated child abuse reporters. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 14(3): 325–336.

Sedlak, A. J., & Broadhurst, D.D. (1996). *Executive summary of the third national incidence study of child abuse and neglect*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

maltreatment cannot be ruled out. In comparison to a two-tiered classification, the use of the middle “suspected” level will lead to fewer cases being classified as substantiated or unsubstantiated.<sup>22</sup>

## Summary of OIS Definitional Framework

The *OIS 1998* provides an estimate of the number of cases (child-based, children 0–15 years of age) of alleged child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment) reported to and investigated by Ontario children’s aid societies in 1998 (screened-out reports not included). The estimates are broken down to three levels of substantiation: substantiated, suspected, and unsubstantiated. Cases opened more than once during the year are counted as separate investigations (see Table 1-2).

## Organization of Report

The *OIS 1998* presents the major descriptive findings from the *OIS 1998* study. These statistics are provincial estimates based on a representative sample of child maltreatment investigations opened by child welfare services in 1998 (see Chapter 2 for details of sampling and estimation methods used). The descriptive findings do not include statistical analyses of differences between subgroups.

The main body of the report is divided into nine chapters and nine appendices. Chapter 2 describes the study’s methodology. Chapter 3 presents the estimates of the incidence of reported child maltreatment by category of maltreatment and level of substantiation. Chapter 4 examines the characteristics of these different categories of maltreatment in terms of the nature, severity, and duration of injury, and the identity of the alleged perpetrators. Outcomes of investigations, provision of services, placement, police involvement, and applications to court are presented in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 describes child characteristics, including categories of maltreatment by age and sex, and by child functioning. Chapter 7 describes household characteristics, including caregiver age and sex, income and income source, housing accommodations, and other selected determinants of health (e.g., caregiver functioning, risk factors, and coping practices). Referral and agency characteristics are described in Chapter 8. The final chapter summarizes the report’s key findings and outlines directions for further research.

The **Appendices** includes the following four sections: (1) list of *OIS 1998* research associates (Appendix A), and a Glossary of Terms (Appendix B); (2) copies of OIS research forms, including the Maltreatment Assessment Form (Appendix C), the *OIS 1998 CIS Guide Book* (Appendix D), case vignettes used during training (Appendix E), and worker information forms (Appendix F); (3) variance estimates and confidence intervals for all the study analysis (Appendix G); and (4) supporting data for additional report findings (Appendix H).

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<sup>22</sup> Because a two-tiered system forces classification of suspected cases into unsubstantiated or substantiated categories, cases involving very strong suspicions may end up being classified as substantiated, thereby artificially inflating substantiation rates.

## ■ 2. METHODOLOGY

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The *OIS 1998* is the second province-wide study examining the incidence of reported child abuse and neglect.<sup>23</sup> The study examined the circumstances of children and their families as they came into contact with children's aid societies over a three-month sampling period. Maltreated children who were not reported to child welfare services, screened-out uninvestigated reports, or new allegations on cases currently open at the time of data collection were not included in the study (see Chapter 1 for definitions of reported, non-reported, and screened-out cases). A multi-stage sampling design was used, first to select a representative sample of child welfare offices across Ontario, and then to sample cases within these offices. Information was collected directly from the investigating child welfare workers. The final sample of 3,053 child investigations was used to derive provincial estimates of the annual rate and characteristics of investigated child maltreatment in Ontario.

As with any sample survey, estimates must be understood within the constraints of the survey instruments, the sampling design, and the estimation procedures used. This chapter presents the *OIS 1998* methodology and discusses its strengths, limitations, and impact on interpreting the study estimates. The chapter describes the study's research network; its survey instruments; the sample selection and enlistment strategies; the data collection, entry, and verification procedures; and the statistical methods used for calculating national estimates.

### Study Organization

#### ***Funding***

The *OIS 1998* was conducted as part of the *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS)*, the first national maltreatment incidence study conducted in Canada (see Chapter 1). The study combines funds from the core study, funded by Health Canada, with a research grant provided by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. In addition to direct funds received from federal and provincial sources, all participating agencies and offices contributed significant in-kind support, which included not only the time required for child welfare workers to attend training sessions, complete forms, and respond to additional information requests, but also coordinating support from team secretaries, supervisors, and managers. The Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit provided supplementary infrastructure support.

#### ***Study Time Frame***

The *OIS 1998* was funded to begin in October 1997. The study was conducted in three phases. During the preparation phase (October 1997 to August 1998), the study instruments were designed

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<sup>23</sup> Trocmé, N., McPhee, D. et al. (1994). *Ontario incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect*. Toronto, ON: Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

and tested, and the study sites were selected and enlisted. During the data collection phase (September 1998 to May 1999), participating child welfare workers were trained, and survey instruments were completed, collected, and verified. The final phase of the study (June 1999 to 2001) involved entering the survey information into the study database, checking for inconsistent and missing information, conducting descriptive analyses, calculating the weighted estimates, and preparing reports.

### ***Project Management Structure***

The *OIS 1998* was conducted by a team of researchers from the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Social Work, including Nico Trocmé, Principal Investigator, and Barbara Fallon and Bruce MacLaurin, Project Co-managers (see Appendix A for a list of all research assistants). The University of Toronto team also directed the national component of the study in collaboration with four regionally based teams of researchers and in consultation with the Child Maltreatment Division at Health Canada's Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (see *CIS Final Report* for further details about the organization of the national component of the study).

## **Instruments**

The survey instruments used in the *OIS 1998* and the *CIS 1998* were designed to capture standardized information from child welfare workers conducting investigations. Because investigation procedures vary considerably across Canada (see Chapter 1), a key challenge in designing the study survey instruments was to identify the common elements across jurisdictions that could provide data in a standardized manner. Given the time constraints faced by child welfare workers, the instruments also had to be kept as short and simple as possible.

The instruments were developed through extensive consultation and pre-testing (January to July 1998). The Maltreatment Assessment Form was the core survey instrument of the study and was based on instruments used in the previous *Ontario Incidence Study (OIS 1993)*<sup>24</sup> and the U.S. *National Incidence Study (NIS-3 1996)*<sup>25</sup> in order to maximize the potential for comparing *OIS 1998* findings with findings from these studies. An initial draft of the main survey instrument was prepared in consultation with the CIS design team,<sup>26</sup> Child Maltreatment Division staff of Health Canada, and the National Advisory Committee. The Child Maltreatment Division conducted additional consultations with other federal departments and agencies about early drafts of the Maltreatment Assessment Form.

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<sup>24</sup>Trocmé, N., McPhee, D., et al. (1994). *Ontario incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect*. Toronto, ON: Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

<sup>25</sup>Sedlak, A. J., & Broadhurst, D. D. (1996). *Executive summary of the third national incidence study of child abuse and neglect*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>26</sup>The CIS design team included Nico Trocmé, Bruce MacLaurin, Joanne Daciuk, and Barbara Fallon (University of Toronto), Mike Boyle (McMaster University), Brad McKenzie (University of Manitoba), and Marc Tourigny (Université de Québec à Hull).

A draft of the Maltreatment Assessment Form was circulated to the offices of all provincial and territorial directors of child welfare, and pilot tested by the five CIS regional site offices. Modifications were on the basis of the pilot test data and feedback from the provincial and territorial directors (see “Pilot Testing,” later in this chapter). Additional modifications were made to ensure comparability with the instruments used in the Quebec portion of the national study.

### ***Maltreatment Assessment Form***

The Maltreatment Assessment Form was the core data collection instrument for the study. This form was completed by the primary investigating child welfare worker upon completion of a child protection investigation (see Appendix D). The Maltreatment Assessment Form consisted of an Intake Face Sheet, a Household Information Sheet, and a Child Information Sheet.

Workers completed the Intake Face Sheet for all cases opened during the study period, whether or not a specific allegation of maltreatment had been made. This initial review of all child protection case openings provided a consistent mechanism for differentiating between cases of suspected maltreatment and other types of child welfare services (e.g., preventive services).

The Intake Face Sheet collected basic information from the worker about the report or referral as well as partially identifying information about the child(ren) involved. The form collected information on the date of referral, source of referral, number of children in the home under the age of 19, age and sex of children, whether there was suspected or alleged maltreatment, whether the case was screened out, the family’s postal code, and the reason for the referral or screening out. No directly identifying information was collected. If abuse or neglect was suspected, either by the person(s) making the report or by the investigating worker at any point in the investigation, then the remainder of the form was completed.<sup>27</sup>

The Household Information Sheet was completed only when a minimum of one child in the family was investigated for maltreatment. The household was defined as all the adults living at the address of the investigation. The Household Information Sheet collected detailed information on up to two caregivers, including their relationship to the child, gender, age, income source and level, educational level, ethno-cultural origin, and information on selected determinants of health. Descriptive information was requested on the contact with the caregiver, the caregiver’s own history of abuse, other adults in the home, housing accommodations, caregiver functioning, case status, and referral(s) to other services.

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<sup>27</sup>The *CIS Guide Book* and training sessions emphasized that workers should base their responses to these questions on their clinical expertise rather than simply transposing information collected on the basis of provincial or local investigation standards. The *CIS Guide Book*, Appendix D, specifies the following: “Indicate those children who were a subject of child welfare investigation. Given the variety in definition and practice across Canada, rely on your clinical judgement to identify cases where maltreatment was actually suspected.”

The third page of the instrument, the Child Information Sheet, was completed for each child who was investigated for maltreatment.<sup>28</sup> The Child Information Sheet documented up to three different forms of maltreatment, and included levels of substantiation, alleged perpetrator(s), and duration of maltreatment. In addition, the Child Information Sheet collected information on child functioning, physical and emotional harm to the child attributable to the alleged child maltreatment, child welfare court activity, out-of-home placement, police involvement, and the caregiver's response to sexual abuse.

The Maltreatment Assessment Form also included an open comment section for situations in which the categories provided did not adequately describe a case, or where additional detail was of benefit.

A significant challenge for the study was to overcome the variations in the definitions of maltreatment used by different jurisdictions. Rather than anchor the definitions in specific legal or administrative definitions, a single set of definitions corresponding to standard research classification schemes was used. All items on the data collection forms were defined in an accompanying Study Guide Book (see Appendix D).

### ***Worker Information Form***

A Worker Information Form was used to collect information about the worker(s) completing the investigation. The one-page form included information about the worker's role and position, training, education, and experience (see Appendix F).

### ***Pilot Testing***

The Maltreatment Assessment Form was pilot-tested in five CIS regional offices: Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. The purpose of the pilot test was twofold: (1) to gain feedback on the instrument, in particular the level of clarity of the items, completion rates, and the relevance of the information requested; and (2) to examine data collection procedures. Site directors negotiated with their identified provincial/territorial child welfare contacts and selected the child welfare pilot sites based on convenience of location and availability.

A total of 97 complete Maltreatment Assessment Forms and 33 additional Child Sheets were compiled from the pilot test sites in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Newfoundland. Quebec pilot test results were separately analyzed. Workers reported that completion time for the instrument was generally less than ten minutes. Pilot-test feedback confirmed that the Maltreatment Assessment Form was compatible with provincial and territorial child welfare statutes and that the data collection procedures were compatible with the different investigation procedures. Modifications included changes to the structure of the Household Information Sheet, clearer descriptions of the child-functioning section on the Child Information Sheet, and a change in the family income estimate to reflect present economic levels in Canada.

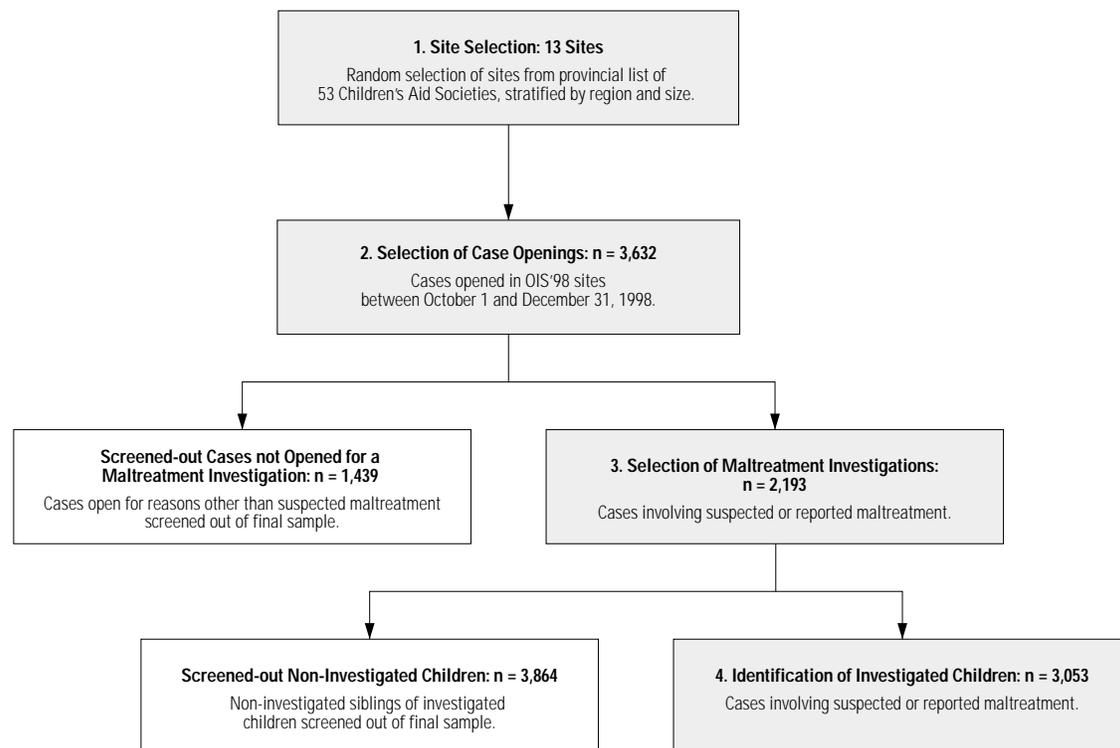
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<sup>28</sup> One Child Information Sheet was attached to the main Maltreatment Assessment Form, and pads of additional Child Sheets were available in every office.

## Sampling

A four-stage stratified cluster design was used to select maltreatment investigations for the *OIS 1998* (see Figure 2-1).

**Figure 2-1**  
**Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: Sampling Stages, 1998**



In the first stage, a sample of agencies was selected from five regional strata: North, East, West, Central, and Toronto region. In the Toronto region, all agencies that offered child protection services were involved in the study. In the four remaining regions, agencies were randomly sampled from three sub-strata based on agency size (small, medium, and large).<sup>29</sup> The final sample included 13 child welfare service areas that included a total of 16 children's aid societies.<sup>30</sup> Within each agency, child welfare workers responsible for conducting intake investigations participated in the study. A total of 335 workers from the participating children's aid societies were involved in data collection for the *OIS 1998*.

<sup>29</sup> Agency size was defined as small, medium, or large. In Ontario, an agency was defined as small if child population (age 0–15) was less than 18,499; medium if between 18,500 and 34,000; and large if child population was greater than 34,000 children.

<sup>30</sup> A child welfare service area is the geographic jurisdiction served either by a single CAS, or by several children's aid societies sharing the same geographic jurisdiction on the basis of different religious communities.

**Figure 2-2**  
**Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: Number of CWSA Sites**  
**by OIS Region in Ontario in 1998**



The second sampling stage involved selecting cases opened in each site over a three-month period between October and December 1998. Three months were considered to be the optimum period to ensure high participation rates and good compliance with study procedures. Consultation with service providers indicated that case activity from October to December is considered to be typical of the whole year. However, follow-up studies are needed to more systematically explore the extent to which seasonal variation in the types of cases referred to child welfare services may affect estimates that are based on a three-month sampling period.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Seasonal variations would not affect the overall estimates of the number of maltreatment investigations because such variants are adjusted for in the weighting, but they could affect the proportion of cases referred from some sources, such as schools.

**Table 2-1**  
**Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: Sample Size by Region**

Region	Child Population (0–15)*	Total Children's Aid Societies	Number of Selected Sites	Site Child Population (0–15)*	Annual Site Case Openings	Case Openings Sampled for OIS
East	497,065	13	3	70,270	3,587	621
Central	519,140	5	3	168,065	3,459	883
Toronto	452,100	3	1	452,100	7,869	658
West	693,850	16	3	132,555	6,447	717
North	195,110	16	3	87,450	2,965	768
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>2,357,265</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>910,440</b>	<b>24,327</b>	<b>3,647</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Statistics Canada (1996). Population by single years of age, showing sex, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions. Catalogue No. 95F0186XDB96001. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada.

The third sampling stage involved screening opened cases to identify those cases that met study definitions of suspected maltreatment (see Figure 2-1, Stage 3). While investigating suspected maltreatment is the core CAS mandate, situations that are considered to involve children at risk of maltreatment are also given service. These can include children with difficult behaviour problems, adolescent pregnant women seeking support counseling, or other service requests that do not involve a specific allegation of maltreatment. In order to maximize uniformity in case selection, the Intake Face Sheet of the Maltreatment Assessment Form was completed on all open cases – a total of 3,647 case openings in Ontario. Investigating workers then evaluated each case to determine if maltreatment was alleged by the referral source or suspected at any point in the investigation process. Workers were asked to use the *OIS 1998* definitions of maltreatment, which were generally more inclusive than provincial definitions. In 60 per cent ( $n = 2,193$ ) of cases the investigating worker identified specific concerns about suspected maltreatment; the remaining cases ( $n = 1,454$ ) involved situations with no specific allegations of maltreatment and were excluded from the main *OIS 1998* sample.

The final case selection stage involved identification of the specific children who had been investigated because of suspected maltreatment. While provincial abuse investigation standards require that all children are seen during the investigation, participating workers were asked to indicate which children were investigated because of specific concerns about suspected child maltreatment.<sup>32</sup> The final sample for the *OIS 1998* includes 3,053 investigated children.

<sup>32</sup> Risk Assessment #3 – Safety Assessment states that a safety assessment shall be completed for all children in the family including investigations initiated for a child already receiving service from the CAS. All children in the family, who on the basis of reasonable and probable grounds are suspected to be in need of protection, shall be seen by the child protection worker within the response time designated in Risk Decision # 2 – What is the Response Time? The Risk Assessment Ministry of Community and Social Services, (1999), *The Risk Assessment Model for Child Protection in Ontario*, Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

## Data Collection and Processing

The data collection phase began with agency-based training sessions designed to introduce participating child welfare workers to the study instruments and data collection procedures. Following a review of the forms and procedures, trainees completed the Maltreatment Assessment Form for selected case vignettes (see Appendix E for the case vignettes). The completed forms were then discussed and discrepancies in responses reviewed to ensure that items were being properly interpreted. Each worker was given a Study Guide Book, which includes definitions for all the items and a one-page summary sheet with key definitions and study procedures (see Appendix D).

Completion of the Maltreatment Assessment Form was anchored to the written assessments that workers recorded upon the completion of intake investigations. Acknowledging that some investigations can take many months to be completed, workers were asked to complete the Maltreatment Assessment Form at the same time as their first assessment report, regardless of whether the entire investigation was yet completed.<sup>33</sup>

Research assistants visited the study sites on a regular basis to collect forms, respond to questions, and monitor study progress. In most instances four to six visits were required. However, additional support was provided depending on the individual needs of workers at each site. Research assistants collected the completed Maltreatment Assessment Forms during each site visit and reviewed them for completeness and consistency. Every effort was made to contact workers if there was incomplete information on key variables (e.g., child age or category of maltreatment) or major inconsistencies. Identifying information (located on the bottom section of the Intake Face Sheet (see Appendix C) was stored on site, and non-identifying information was sent to the University of Toronto office.

### ***Data Verification and Data Entry***

Forms were verified twice for completeness and inconsistent responses: first on site by the site research assistants, and then a second time at the data entry locations. Consistency in form completion was examined by comparing the selected maltreatment codes to the brief case narratives provided by the investigating workers.

The reliability of the verification procedure was checked for the national study by comparing the project staff's ratings of case narratives on a sample of 220 cases (20 cases randomly selected from cases collected by the 11 site-based researchers). Percentage of agreement varied from a low of 82 per cent (Cohen's kappa = .58) between site-based research assistants and central office researchers

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<sup>33</sup> In most agencies, workers completed the Maltreatment Assessment Form individually following the completion of their investigation. In other agencies, workers would meet as a group with the Research Associate and complete the OIS forms each month. Questions or queries would be addressed at that time.

to a high of 94 per cent agreement (Cohen's kappa = .87) between central-office researchers.<sup>34</sup> The lower agreement between site-based researchers and central-office researchers may be explained in part by the fact that the site-based researchers had direct contact with the child welfare workers and may have had access to additional case information.

Data from Maltreatment Assessment Forms were entered by scanner using Teleform scanning software, 1998, V.5.4.1. Face Sheet information was entered manually using Microsoft Access, Version 97. Inconsistent responses, missing responses, and miscodes were systematically identified. Duplicate cases were screened for and deleted based on *OIS 1998* identification numbers, family initials, and date of referral.

Data entry error rates were examined by re-entering a random sample of forms from the national study. Five hundred Maltreatment Assessment Forms were re-scanned by Teleform, and 100 Face Sheets were re-entered manually to determine entry error. Error rates were three per cent for Teleform entry, and two per cent for manual data entry. The higher Teleform error rate was due to scanning errors in data fields that required a written number rather than a check box. All written fields in all forms were verified to correct for the scanning errors.

### ***Participation and Item Completion Rates***

The data collection form was kept as short and simple as possible to minimize the response burden and ensure a high completion rate. During pilot testing, workers estimated that the form took less than ten minutes to complete. Item completion rates were over 95 per cent on all items.<sup>35</sup>

The participation rate was estimated by comparing actual cases opened during the case selection period (October 1 to December 31, 1998) to the number of cases for which Maltreatment Assessment Forms were completed.<sup>36</sup> Unfortunately, in some sites differences in the way cases were tracked made it impossible to arrive at a count of case openings from October to December 1998 that corresponded to the cases tracked by the *OIS 1998*. The overall participation rate in sites where a participation rate could be estimated was 92 per cent, ranging from a low of 75 per cent to a high of 100 per cent. Participation rates below 95 per cent were discussed with the *OIS 1998* liaisons for each agency to examine the possibility of skewed sampling. Low participation could in all cases be attributed to external events (e.g., staff holidays, staff turnover), and no evidence of systematic bias was found.

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<sup>34</sup> Cohen's Kappa is a modified measure of percentage of agreement that factors in chance agreement.

<sup>35</sup> The high item completion rate can be attributed both to the design of the data collection instrument and to the verification procedures. In designing the form, careful attention was given to maintaining a logical and efficient ordering to questions. The use of check boxes minimized completion time. An "unknown" category was included for many questions to help distinguish between missed responses and unknown responses.

<sup>36</sup> Participation rate is the proportion of cases open between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 1998 for which the Maltreatment Assessment Form were completed.

## **Weighting**

The data collected for the *OIS 1998* was weighted in order to derive provincial incidence estimates for 1998. Two sets of weights were applied. First, results were annualized to estimate the annual volume of cases investigated by each study site. The annualization weights were derived by taking the ratio of cases sampled for the *OIS 1998* to the total number of cases opened by each site in 1998. For example, if 225 cases were sampled over three months in a site that opened 1,000 cases over the year, a weight of  $1,000/225$  or 4 was applied to all cases in the site. The average annualization weight was 4.07, reflecting the fact that cases had been collected over three months out of 12.<sup>37</sup> While this annualization method provides an accurate estimate of overall volume, it cannot account for qualitative differences in the types of cases referred at different times of the year (see chapter 1).

To account for the non-proportional sampling design, regional weights were applied to reflect the relative sizes of the selected sites. Each study site was assigned a weight reflecting the proportion of the child population of the site relative to the child population in the stratum or region that the site represents. For instance, if a site with a child population of 25,000 children (zero–15 years) was randomly sampled to represent a region or province/territory with a child population of 500,000, a regionalization weight of 20 ( $500,000/25,000$ ) would be applied to cases sampled from that site. Regionalization and annualization weights were combined so that each case was multiplied first by an annualization weight and then by a regionalization weight.

Provincial incidence estimates were calculated by dividing the weighted estimates by the child population (zero to 15 year olds). The child population figures for *OIS 1998* sites are based on 1996 Census data drawn from tabulations developed by Statistics Canada. Children's aid society catchment boundaries reflect Statistics Canada Census Divisions.

## **Duplication**

The *OIS 1998* estimates are reported on the basis of the number of child investigations conducted during 1998, as opposed to the number of investigated children. Some investigations involve children who were previously investigated in the same year. While each investigation represents a new incident of maltreatment, confusion arises if these investigations are taken to represent an unduplicated count of children. The study estimates cannot be unduplicated because the annualization weights are based on duplicated service statistics provided by the children's aid societies. To avoid confusion, the *OIS 1998* uses the term "child investigations" rather than "investigated children," since the unit of analysis is the child investigation (see Chapter 1).

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<sup>37</sup> The average annualization weight was calculated for ten Ontario agencies. For those sites, all cases opened during the three-month case selection period were eligible to be included in the CIS sample.

The *OIS 1998* had no precise method for identifying children who were investigated more than once during 1998. An outside estimate of this number can be derived by examining instances where children had been previously investigated. Nineteen per cent of children had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment and had had their case closed within six months of the current investigation. Because the *OIS 1998* did not document when re-opened cases had been previously opened, it was not possible to determine how many of these cases had been opened for an investigation twice within the same calendar year. The 19 per cent re-opening rate should therefore be treated as an outside estimate, with the true rate being under 19 per cent.

### Sampling Error Estimation<sup>38</sup>

Although the *OIS 1998* estimates are based on a relatively large sample of 3,053 investigations, sampling error is primarily driven by variability between the 13 sites. Sampling errors were calculated from the sample with reference to the fact that the survey population had been stratified and that primary sampling units (or sites) had been selected randomly from each stratum. To calculate the variance, the stratified design allowed the research team to assume the variability between strata was zero and that the total variance was the sum of the variance for each strata. Calculating the variance for each stratum was problematic because only one site had been chosen in each stratum. To overcome this problem the team used the approach recommended by Rust and Kalton (1987)<sup>39</sup> of collapsing strata into groups (collapsed strata); subsequently the variability among the primary sampling units within the group was used to derive a variance estimate. Collapsing of strata was done to maintain homogeneity as much as possible. However, because of differences between collapsed strata, this method yields relatively high estimates of standard errors, which should therefore be viewed as conservative estimates.

Standard errors were calculated at the  $p < 0.05$  level.<sup>40</sup> For most estimates standard errors were within an acceptable range, with coefficients of variation ranging between ten to 25.<sup>41</sup> Coefficients of Variation (see Appendix G) were above 25 per cent in instances involving low-frequency events (e.g., where the number of sampled cases was under 100) or in instances involving variables with unusually large variability (e.g., the classification of exposure to family violence as a form of

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<sup>38</sup> Statistical consultation and sampling error estimation were provided by Statistics Canada, Social Survey Methods Division, Senior Methodologist.

<sup>39</sup> Rust, K., & Kalton, G. (1987). Strategies for collapsing strata for variance estimation. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 3(1): 69–81.

<sup>40</sup> This means that 95 per cent of random samples will yield estimates that will lie within one standard error above or below the estimate. In other words, if the study were repeated 100 times, in 95 times the estimates would fall within one standard error of the estimate. For example, 95 out of 100 times the estimate for the number of children admitted to care would be between 8,548 and 13,562 (see Table 2-3).

<sup>41</sup> The coefficient of variation (CV) is the ratio of the standard error to its estimate. Statistics Canada considers CVs under 16 to be reliable, warns that CVs between 16 and 33.3 should be treated with caution, and recommends that CVs above 33.3 not be used.

emotional maltreatment). Estimates based on events that occurred in less than five cases are not included in this report and are marked as blanks in the accompanying tables.

**Table 2-2**  
**Standard Errors and Coefficients of Variation for Selected Variables ( $p < .05$ ) in 1998**

Variable	Sample Size	Estimated Count or Incidence Rate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation
Incidence of Investigated Physical Abuse (Table 3-5)	1,276	10.87	1.478 per 1,000 children	13.6
Count of Investigated Physical Abuse (Table 3-5)	1,276	25,634	17,079	13.6
Exposure to Family Violence (Table 3-8)	396	9,572	3,771	39.4
Minor Physical Harm (no treatment required) (Table 4-1(a))	304	6,625	682	10.3
Placement in Foster Care (Table 5-3)	160	3,242	884	27.3
Investigated child is a male 8–11 (Table 6-1)	439	9,031	1,677	18.6
Investigated child has 4 or more siblings under 16 (Table 7-3)	117	2,639	405	34.6
Investigated child lives with family in a shelter, hostel, or hotel (Table 7-6)	64	1,207	251	20.8
Alleged perpetrator is an adoptive parent, foster parent, or foster sibling (Table 4-4(a))	17	286	119	41.7

The error estimates do not account for any errors in determining the annual and regional weights. Nor do they account for any other non-sampling errors that may occur, such as inconsistency or inadequacies in administrative procedures from site to site. The error estimates also cannot account for any variations due to seasonal effects. The accuracy of these annual estimates depends on the extent to which the sampling period is representative of the whole year.

## Data Presentation Format

In reading the data tables in Chapters 3 to 8, the following points should be noted:

- Data tables in Chapter 3 present estimate counts and incidence rates by level of substantiation for each category of maltreatment and individual forms of investigated maltreatment.
- Tables in Chapters 4 through 8 primarily present estimate counts for the four primary categories of investigated maltreatment by the level of substantiation.
- Estimates are not presented in cases where an insufficient number of cases were sampled to provide a reliable estimate. In such instances a dash (—) appears in the cell.
- The overall sample used to derive data for each table is noted at the bottom of each table, along with the number of missing cases. Because of missing cases the case count totals at the bottom of each table will vary from one table to the next. Chapter 3 tables provide the full count of estimated child maltreatment investigations.
- Column percentages total 100 per cent for all tables, with the exception of tables where multiple responses were possible (e.g., referral source, child functioning).

### ■ 3. INCIDENCE OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT

This chapter presents estimates of the number of child maltreatment investigations conducted in Ontario during 1998. All data are presented in terms of the total number of estimated child investigations, as well as the estimated annual incidence of investigations per 1,000 children aged zero to 15.<sup>42</sup> These figures refer to the child investigations, not the number of investigated families. Thus, if several children in a family had each been reported as abused or neglected, each investigated child counted as a separate child investigation. For children investigated more than once in a year, each investigation is included in the estimates (see Chapter 1, Definitional Framework).<sup>43</sup>

The figures presented in this chapter are weighted figures derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of Ontario children's aid societies. The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to children's aid societies, (2) reported cases that were screened out by children's aid societies before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by children's aid societies, and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is designed to allow comparison to the *OIS 1993*; however, direct comparisons between the figures in the two reports should be made only after first taking into consideration the changes in definition and the effect of the sampling design on the final estimates.

#### Definition of Classifications of Maltreatment

The *OIS 1998* definition of child maltreatment includes 22 forms of maltreatment subsumed under four categories: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment (see Section 14, "Forms of Maltreatment," in Study Guide Book in Appendix E). The 22 forms of maltreatment tracked by the study are defined in the detailed sections on the four categories of maltreatment in this chapter.

Each investigation had a minimum of one and a maximum of three identified forms of maltreatment. In cases involving more than three forms of maltreatment, investigating workers were asked to select the three forms that best described the reason for investigation. More than one form of maltreatment was identified for 17 per cent of child investigations (see Table 3-4).

<sup>42</sup> All calculations were based on the child population estimates from the 1996 census. Statistics Canada (1996). Population by single years of age, showing sex, for Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions. *Catalogue No. 95F0186XDB96001*. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada

<sup>43</sup> Children investigated more than once during the data collection period (October to December 1998) were counted only as one investigation; however, children investigated more than once over the whole year (1998) were counted as separate cases because the CAS statistics used to annualize the *OIS 1998* estimates could not be unduplicated (see Chapter 1, Definitional Framework).

The classification of maltreatment that was determined by the investigating worker as best characterizing the investigated maltreatment was identified as the primary classification level. The second or third classifications of investigated maltreatment were categorized as the secondary classification level.

The ranking of primary and secondary classifications may be artificial for some cases. This can be illustrated with a case involving a physical abuse incident and chronic emotional maltreatment. The investigating worker might classify the primary classification of maltreatment as physical abuse and the secondary classification as emotional maltreatment, because the physical abuse incident best characterizes the primary investigation focus on the child's immediate safety – even though emotional maltreatment may be a more critical long-term concern. The classification of cases by the primary form of maltreatment tends, consequently, to put greater emphasis on physical and sexual abuse. Despite the fact that investigation protocols have recently been changed in Ontario to put greater emphasis on neglect, it is fair to assume that in practice in 1998 most child welfare workers had been trained to place priority on physical and sexual abuse cases for which specific investigation protocols had been well developed.

For the purpose of this report, the primary classification of maltreatment will generally be presented, in order to allow summary comparisons of the four categories of maltreatment tracked by the *OIS 1998* (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment). In this chapter, however, Tables 3-3, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, and 3-8 will present the primary and secondary forms of identified maltreatment in order to provide an exact estimate of the occurrence of the four categories and the 22 individual forms of maltreatment.

## Definition of Levels of Substantiation

The data in this chapter are all presented in terms of the three levels of substantiation specified by workers: unsubstantiated, suspected, and substantiated. The following definition of substantiation was used:

A case is considered **substantiated** if the balance of evidence indicates that abuse or neglect has occurred. The term is synonymous with the terms “verified” or “confirmed,” which are used in some jurisdictions.

A case is **suspected** if there is not enough evidence to substantiate maltreatment, but there nevertheless remains a suspicion that maltreatment has occurred.

A case is **unsubstantiated** if there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the child has not been maltreated.

Unsubstantiated does not mean that a referral was inappropriate or malicious; it simply indicates that the investigating worker determined that the child had not been maltreated (see *Malicious Referrals*, Chapter 8).

Some jurisdictions<sup>44</sup> make a distinction only between a case that was substantiated and a case that was unsubstantiated, or verified and not verified.<sup>45</sup> The addition of a “suspected” level provides an important clinical distinction between cases where there is enough conclusive evidence that a case can be deemed substantiated or unsubstantiated and cases where maltreatment remains suspected at the conclusion of the investigation. It should be noted, however, that the use of the suspected category leads to fewer cases being classified as substantiated or unsubstantiated. Comparisons with other statistics that use only two levels of substantiation should therefore be made with caution (see Chapter 1).

## Substantiation of Multiple and Primary Categories of Maltreatment

The substantiation decision is specific to the form of maltreatment being investigated. Given that investigations can involve up to three forms of maltreatment, some investigations can result in substantiation of one form but not of another. For example, an investigation may conclude that a particular child was not sexually abused, yet a severe lack of supervision took place, and therefore concerns about neglect were substantiated. In presenting substantiation rates for cases involving multiple forms of maltreatment, the *OIS 1998* uses the following procedure:

**Primary Category:** Tables presenting data on the primary category of investigated maltreatment use the level of substantiation specific to the primary category of maltreatment.

**Multiple Forms and Secondary Category:** Tables 3-3 to 3-8 present all forms of maltreatment that were investigated as the primary or secondary forms. If the information presented is maltreatment-form specific (e.g., “medical neglect”), then the corresponding level of substantiation for that form is used. If there are several forms under one category (e.g., “medical neglect” and “failure to supervise,” both of which fall under the neglect category), then the form with the highest level of substantiation determined the level of substantiation for that overall category.

**Multiple Categories:** Tables with data on multiple categories of maltreatment (either two or three categories of maltreatment) and multiple substantiation levels (different levels of substantiation for different categories of maltreatment) present the highest level of substantiation within the multiple categories. For example, an investigation was considered substantiated if there was a minimum of one category substantiated. The investigation was considered suspected if there were no substantiated categories, but a minimum of one suspected category. A child investigation was considered unsubstantiated if there were no categories judged as substantiated or suspected and all categories were rated as unsubstantiated.

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<sup>44</sup> U.S. Health and Human Services, Administration of Children, Youth and Families (1999). *Child Maltreatment 1997: Reports from the states to the national child abuse and neglect data system* (p. 4). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>45</sup> For the purpose of *OIS 1998*, all three levels of substantiation were used regardless of the jurisdiction.

**Family-Level Data:** In Table 3-2, which presents family-level data, the substantiation level is determined by the highest level of substantiation among all investigated children. For example, if one investigated child was unsubstantiated and the second was substantiated, then the family investigation was determined as substantiated (a minimum of one substantiated classification for the multiple investigated children within the family).

## Total Child Investigations and Overall Rates of Substantiation

Table 3-1 presents the estimated number of child investigations of reported maltreatment. The total number of child maltreatment investigations includes all child investigations, regardless of their substantiation level. An estimated 64,746 child investigations (27.47 investigations per 1,000 children in Ontario) were conducted in 1998. Thirty-eight per cent of the investigations (an estimated 24,353 child investigations) were substantiated by the investigating worker (10.33 investigations per 1,000 children). In a further 22 per cent of investigations (an estimated 14,289 child investigations, 6.06 investigations per 1,000 children) there was insufficient evidence to substantiate maltreatment; however, maltreatment remained suspected by the investigating worker. Forty per cent of investigations (an estimated 26,104 child investigations, 11.08 investigations per 1,000 children) were unsubstantiated.

**Table 3-1**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
Maltreatment Investigations				
Child Investigations*	24,353	14,289	26,104	<b>64,746</b>
Incidence per 1,000 Children	10.33	6.06	11.08	<b>27.47</b>
Row Percentage	38%	22%	40%	<b>100%</b>
<i>Row Percentages</i>				
Source: OIS 1998				
* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about maltreatment investigations. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-1. Ontario child population is 2,357,265.				

## Total Family Investigations and Overall Rates of Substantiation

Table 3-2 presents the estimated number of family investigations (family-based). Although the estimates presented in this report are child-based, the family-based data are presented in this table to provide a basis for comparing OIS 1998 data to the family-based child maltreatment statistics

routinely gathered in many jurisdictions. An estimated 47,581 family maltreatment reports were investigated because of alleged maltreatment. Of this number, 38 per cent were substantiated, 21 per cent remained suspected, and 41 per cent were unsubstantiated.

Children living in an investigated family were not all considered to be suspected victims of maltreatment. There was an average of 2.3 children under the age of 19 living in investigated families and an average of 1.38 children investigated for each investigated family (see Appendix H, Table 1). Children were investigated if they were reported for suspected maltreatment, or if concerns about possible maltreatment of that child arose during the investigation.

**Table 3-2**  
**Families Involved in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
Maltreatment Investigations				
Family Investigations*	18,120	10,192	19,269	<b>47,581</b>
Row Percentage	38%	21%	41%	<b>100%</b>
<i>Row Percentages</i>				
				<small>Source: OIS 1998</small>
<small>* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 2,193 family investigations with information about family maltreatment investigations. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-2.</small>				

## Categories of Maltreatment

Table 3-3 presents the four categories of maltreatment at the primary and secondary (second and third) investigation classification levels. The final column (“primary or secondary”) indicates the total number of times that a maltreatment category was identified for any of the three investigation classifications. Note that the primary category column reflects the maltreatment classifications used in all tables in subsequent chapters of this report.

**Physical Abuse:** An estimated 23,610 child investigations (36 per cent) had physical abuse as the primary reason for investigation. Of this number, 32 per cent were substantiated, while 19 per cent remained suspected, and 49 per cent were unsubstantiated. In an estimated 2,016 child investigations (13 per cent of investigations involving a second category), physical abuse was identified at the second classification level; 25 per cent of these cases were substantiated, 33 per cent suspected, and 42 per cent unsubstantiated. An estimated 381 child investigations (11 per cent) were completed for physical abuse as the third classification. The substantiation rate was 24 per cent, while 62 per cent of

investigations remained suspected and 14 per cent were unsubstantiated. In total, an estimated 25,634 child investigations involved physical abuse as the primary or secondary reason for the investigation.

**Sexual Abuse:** An estimated 6,166 child investigations (10 per cent) had sexual abuse as the primary investigation classification. Twenty-nine per cent were substantiated, maltreatment remained suspected in a further 25 per cent, and 46 per cent were unsubstantiated. Sexual abuse was the second maltreatment category for 981 child investigations (six per cent of investigations involving a second category). For this category, the substantiation rate was 56 per cent, while 21 per cent of these investigations remained suspected, and 23 per cent were unsubstantiated. Sexual abuse was the third classification for an estimated 292 child investigations. Of this number, 64 per cent were substantiated, while nine per cent were suspected, and 27 per cent unsubstantiated. In total, an estimated 6,541 child investigations involved sexual abuse as the primary or secondary reason for the investigation.

**Neglect:** Neglect was the most frequently investigated category of maltreatment. An estimated 23,263 child investigations (36 per cent of investigations) involved allegations of neglect as the primary reason for investigation. Thirty-one per cent of these cases were substantiated, while 22 per cent remained suspected, and 47 per cent were unsubstantiated. An estimated 6,711 child investigations involved neglect as the second reason for investigation. Of this group, 34 per cent were substantiated, while 24 per cent remained suspected, and 42 per cent were unsubstantiated. An estimated 1,256 child investigations identified neglect as the third classification. The substantiation rate was 58 per cent, while the suspected rate was 18 per cent, and the unsubstantiated rate was 24 per cent. In total, an estimated 26,869 child investigations involved neglect as the primary or secondary reason for investigation.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Emotional Maltreatment was the primary reason for investigation for an estimated 11,707 child investigations (18 per cent), the second reason for an estimated 6,130 child investigations (39 per cent), and the third reason for 1,420 child investigations (42 per cent). The substantiation rate for emotional maltreatment identified as the primary reason for investigation was 50 per cent, the highest of all categories of maltreatment, while 30 per cent of these cases remained suspected and 20 per cent were unsubstantiated. Forty-three per cent of cases involving emotional maltreatment investigated as a second category were substantiated, while 41 per cent of these investigations remained suspected, and 16 per cent were unsubstantiated. Fifty-nine per cent of cases involving emotional maltreatment investigated as a second category were substantiated, while 29 per cent remained suspected, and 12 per cent were unsubstantiated. In total, an estimated 17,820 child investigations involved emotional maltreatment as the primary or secondary reason for investigation.

**Table 3-3**  
**Categories of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Investigation Classification Level and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Substantiation of investigation	Investigation Classification Level							
	Primary	Secondary			Primary or Secondary			
		(second)	(third)					
<b>Physical Abuse</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>23,610</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25,634</b>
Substantiated	32%		25%		24%		31%	
Suspected	19%		33%		62%		21%	
Unsubstantiated	49%		42%		14%		48%	
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>6,166</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>6,541</b>
Substantiated	29%		56%		64%		29%	
Suspected	25%		21%		9%		25%	
Unsubstantiated	46%		23%		27%		46%	
<b>Neglect</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>23,263</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>6,711</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>26,869</b>
Substantiated	31%		34%		58%		33%	
Suspected	22%		24%		18%		21%	
Unsubstantiated	47%		42%		24%		46%	
<b>Emotional Maltreatment</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>11,707</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>6,130</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>17,820</b>
Substantiated	50%		43%		59%		49%	
Suspected	30%		41%		29%		33%	
Unsubstantiated	20%		16%		12%		18%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,746</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,838</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,349</b>		
Substantiated	35%		38%		55%			
Suspected	22%		31%		27%			
Unsubstantiated	43%		31%		18%			

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-3.

## Single and Multiple Categories of Maltreatment

Table 3-4 presents the number and substantiation level of cases involving single forms of maltreatment and multiple forms of maltreatment. Because Ontario children's aid societies have only recently moved to systematically tracking multiple forms of maltreatment, the *OIS 1998* figures may underestimate the actual incidence of multiple maltreatment.

**Single Categories of Maltreatment:** A single category of maltreatment was identified in over three-quarters of investigations (84 per cent), involving an estimated 53,775 child investigations. Physical abuse was identified as the single category of maltreatment in 29 per cent of investigations, while eight per cent of investigations involved sexual abuse only, 31 per cent neglect only, and 16 per cent emotional maltreatment cases.

Thirty-five per cent of single category maltreatment investigations were substantiated, while 21 per cent remained suspected, and 44 per cent were unsubstantiated. Single category physical abuse investigations had a substantiation rate of 30 per cent, sexual abuse 31 per cent, neglect 32 per cent, and emotional maltreatment 54 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** An estimated 10,970 child investigations involved more than one category of maltreatment (16 per cent of investigations). The most frequently identified combinations were physical abuse and emotional maltreatment (five per cent), physical abuse and neglect (four per cent), and neglect and emotional maltreatment (four per cent). A combination of physical abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment was reported in two per cent of maltreatment investigations.

Forty-eight per cent of investigations with multiple categories were substantiated, while 29 per cent remained suspected, and 23 per cent were unsubstantiated. Substantiation rates for specific combinations of maltreatment ranged from 40 per cent for sexual abuse and neglect to 59 per cent for physical abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment. Over two-thirds (70 per cent) of multiple maltreatment cases involved emotional maltreatment.

## Physical Abuse

For the purposes of the *OIS 1998*, cases of investigated maltreatment were classified as physical abuse if the investigated child was suspected to have suffered or to be at substantial risk of suffering physical harm at the hands of her or his caregiver. The physical abuse category includes three subtypes or forms of abuse:

**Table 3-4**  
**Single and Multiple Categories of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Number		Level of Substantiation**			Row Total
			Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
<b>Single Categories</b>						
Physical Abuse Only	18,482	29%	30%	17%	53%	100%
Sexual Abuse Only	5,251	8%	31%	26%	43%	100%
Neglect Only	19,886	31%	32%	20%	48%	100%
Emotional Maltreatment Only	10,156	16%	54%	27%	19%	100%
<b>Subtotal: Single Category</b>	<b>53,775</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Multiple Categories</b>						
Physical and Sexual	222	0%	—	—	—	100%
Physical and Neglect	2,389	4%	43%	18%	39%	100%
Physical and Emotional	3,503	5%	54%	34%	12%	100%
Sexual and Neglect	637	1%	40%	15%	45%	100%
Sexual and Emotional	211	0%	—	—	—	100%
Neglect and Emotional	2,861	4%	45%	33%	22%	100%
Physical, Sexual, and Neglect	—	0%	—	—	—	100%
Physical, Sexual, and Emotional	—	0%	—	—	—	100%
Physical, Neglect, Emotional	928	2%	59%	35%	6%	100%
Sexual, Neglect, and Emotional	110	0%	—	—	—	100%
<b>Subtotal: Multiple Categories</b>	<b>10,970</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Child Investigations*</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Row Percentage</i>						
Source: OIS 1998						
* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about single and multiple categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-4.						
** If cases of multiple maltreatment involved different levels of substantiation, then a case was classified as substantiated if there was a minimum of one category of maltreatment that had been substantiated. An investigation was considered suspected if there were no substantiated categories and a minimum of one suspected category. If there were no substantiated or suspected categories, then an investigation was determined to be unsubstantiated. This protocol is used for all cases of multiple maltreatment.						

**Shaken Baby Syndrome:** Brain or neck injuries have resulted from the infant being shaken.

**Inappropriate Punishment:** Child abuse has occurred as a result of inappropriate punishment (e.g., hitting with hand or object) that has led to physical harm, or put the child at substantial risk of harm. The judgement of appropriateness is based on many factors, including the severity of harm or potential harm, the amount of force used, the type of punishment relative to the age of the child, and the frequency of punishment.

The distinction between this category and “other physical abuse” is that in the former, the abusive act is performed within a context of punishment, while in the latter there is no clear punitive or corrective context.

**Other Physical Abuse:** Any other form of physical assault that is inflicted on a child, such as intentionally burning a child or hitting the child with a fist.

The incidence of reported physical abuse is presented in Table 3-5. An estimated 25,634 child investigations (10.87 investigations per 1,000 children), involved physical abuse as the primary or secondary (including both second and third) reason for investigation, while an estimated 23,610 child investigations involved physical abuse as the primary reason for investigation, with an incidence rate of 10.02 investigations per 1,000 children.

An estimated 16,941 child investigations (7.19 investigations per 1,000 children) involved concerns about inappropriate punishment. Thirty-four per cent of these were substantiated (2.41 investigations per 1,000 children), 22 per cent suspected, and 44 per cent unsubstantiated. For the estimated 8,733 child investigations (3.70 investigations per 1,000 children) reported for other forms of physical abuse, 26 per cent were substantiated, 19 per cent suspected, and 55 per cent unsubstantiated. Shaken Baby Syndrome was identified as a reason for investigation for an estimated 287 child investigations (0.12 investigations per 1,000 children). Of that number, 44 per cent were substantiated, 18 per cent suspected, and 38 per cent unsubstantiated.

## Sexual Abuse

The *OIS 1998* tracked seven forms or subtypes of sexual abuse, ranging from sexual activity to sexual harassment. If several forms of sexual activity were involved, investigating workers were instructed to identify the most intrusive form.<sup>46</sup> It should be noted that the study identified only cases reported to child welfare services: many cases of child sexual abuse that do not involve parents or relatives in the home are investigated only by the police, and child welfare services usually become involved in extra-familial sexual abuse cases only if there are concerns about the parents’ ability to protect the child.

The *OIS 1998* used seven forms to classify cases of sexual abuse:

**Sexual Activity Completed:** Included oral, vaginal, or anal sexual activities.

**Sexual Activity Attempted:** Included attempts to have oral, vaginal, or anal sex.

**Touching/Fondling Genitals:** Sexual activity involved touching/fondling genitals.

**Adult Exposing Genitals to Child:** Sexual activity consisted of exposure of genitals.

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<sup>46</sup> Workers were asked to identify the most severe form of sexual abuse for the investigation rather than reporting multiple forms for the same incident. For instance, if a child had been a victim of fondling and sexual activity by the same perpetrator, this was counted a single case of sexual activity. When multiple forms were identified, *OIS 1998* Research Associates would consult with workers and would recode when appropriate. If this consultation was not possible, the original response was maintained.

**Table 3-5**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Physical Abuse in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
<b>Primary or Secondary Forms of Physical Abuse</b>				
Shaken Baby Syndrome				
Number of Child Investigations	126	51	110	<b>287</b>
Row Percentage	44%	18%	38%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.05	0.02	0.05	<b>0.12</b>
Inappropriate Punishment				
Number of Child Investigations	5,672	3,765	7,504	<b>16,941</b>
Row Percentage	34%	22%	44%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	2.41	1.60	3.18	<b>7.19</b>
Other Physical Abuse				
Number of Child Investigations	2,271	1,618	4,844	<b>8,733</b>
Row Percentage	26%	19%	55%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.96	0.69	2.05	<b>3.70</b>
<b>Total Investigations Involving Physical Abuse as Primary or Secondary Category for Investigation**</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	7,961	5,324	12,349	<b>25,634</b>
Row Percentage	31%	21%	48%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	3.37	2.26	5.24	<b>10.87</b>
<b>Total Investigations Involving Physical Abuse as Primary Category for Investigation</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	7,466	4,546	11,598	<b>23,610</b>
Row Percentage	32%	19%	49%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	3.17	1.93	4.92	<b>10.02</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 1,276 child investigations with information about physical abuse investigations. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-5.

\*\* The total number of investigations involving primary or secondary physical abuse is not equal to the sum of the specific forms of physical abuse because some cases involved multiple forms of physical abuse (see Table 3-3).

**Sexual Exploitation: Involved in Prostitution or Pornography:** Included situations where an adult sexually exploited a child for purposes of financial gain or other profit.

**Sexual Harassment:** Included proposition, encouragement, or suggestion of a sexual nature.

**Voyeurism:** Included activities where a child was encouraged to exhibit himself/herself for the sexual gratification of the alleged perpetrator. The “Sexual Exploitation/Pornography” code was used if voyeurism included pornographic activities.

As shown in Table 3-6, an estimated 6,541 child investigations (2.77 investigations per 1,000 children) involved allegations of sexual abuse as either the primary or secondary category of maltreatment. Of this number 29 per cent were substantiated, while 25 per cent remained suspected, and 46 per cent were unsubstantiated. An estimated 6,166 child investigations (2.62 investigations per 1,000 children) involved sexual abuse as the primary reason for investigation.

An estimated 1,352 child investigations (0.57 investigations per 1,000 children) involved allegations of completed sexual activity (oral, vaginal or anal sexual activities), and 37 per cent of these investigations were substantiated, while 26 per cent remained suspected, and 37 per cent were unsubstantiated. An estimated 2,678 child investigations (1.14 investigations per 1,000 children) were for attempted sexual activity. Nineteen per cent were substantiated, 26 per cent suspected, and 55 per cent unsubstantiated. An estimated 2,396 child investigations (1.02 investigations per 1,000 children) of touching or fondling of genitals were investigated. Forty-five per cent of these investigations were substantiated, while 19 per cent remained suspected, and 36 per cent were unsubstantiated. An estimated 613 child investigations involved reported exposure of genitals (0.26 investigations per 1,000 children). Forty-five per cent of these cases were substantiated, while 36 per cent remained suspected, and 19 per cent were unsubstantiated. It should be noted that acts of exposure involving non-family members are usually directly reported to the police and do not involve child welfare services.

Exploitation, pornography, and prostitution were alleged for an estimated 231 child investigations (0.10 investigations per 1,000 children). Fifty-two per cent of these were substantiated, zero per cent were suspected, and 48 per cent unsubstantiated. One hundred and sixty investigations (0.07 investigations per 1,000 children) focused on sexual harassment; 36 per cent of these were substantiated, 37 per cent remained suspected, and 27 per cent were unsubstantiated. The estimated number of child investigations that identified voyeurism as a concern were too low for reliable estimates.

## Neglect

Child neglect includes situations in which a child has suffered harm or his/her safety or development has been endangered as a result of the caregiver's failure to provide for or protect him/her. Unlike abuse, which is usually incident-specific, neglect often involves chronic situations that are not as easily identified as specific incidents. Section 72(1) of the *Child and Family Services Act* was recently amended to include direct reference to neglect as a "pattern of neglect in caring for, providing for, supervising or protecting the child."<sup>47</sup> However, the concept of neglect has always been indirectly emphasized in the CFSA, which included failure to supervise or protect and failure to provide services as grounds for investigating maltreatment in all instances where children are harmed or are at considerable risk of harm. The *OIS 1998* includes eight subtypes or forms of neglect:

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<sup>47</sup> *Child and Family Services Act*, 2000, S.O. 1990 c. C.11, s.72.

**Table 3-6**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Sexual Abuse in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
<b>Primary or Secondary Forms of Sexual Abuse</b>				
Sexual Activity Completed				
Number of Child Investigations	505	355	492	<b>1,352</b>
Row Percentage	37%	26%	37%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.21	0.15	0.21	<b>0.57</b>
Sexual Activity Attempted				
Number of Child Investigations	495	704	1,479	<b>2,678</b>
Row Percentage	19%	26%	55%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.21	0.30	0.63	<b>1.14</b>
Touching/Fondling Genitals				
Number of Child Investigations	1,083	448	865	<b>2,396</b>
Row Percentage	45%	19%	36%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.46	0.19	0.37	<b>1.02</b>
Exposure of Genitals				
Number of Child Investigations	274	223	116	<b>613</b>
Row Percentage	45%	36%	19%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.12	0.09	0.05	<b>0.26</b>
Exploitation: Pornography/Prostitution				
Number of Child Investigations	120	0	111	<b>231</b>
Row Percentage	52%	0%	48%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.05	0.00	0.05	<b>0.10</b>
Sexual Harassment				
Number of Child Investigations	58	59	43	<b>160</b>
Row Percentage	36%	37%	27%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.02	0.03	0.02	<b>0.07</b>
Voyeurism				
Number of Child Investigations	—	—	—	—
Row Percentage	—	—	—	—
Incidence per 1,000 children	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Investigations Involving Sexual Abuse as Primary or Secondary Category for Investigation**</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	1,873	1,659	3,009	<b>6,541</b>
Row Percentage	29%	25%	46%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.79	0.70	1.28	<b>2.77</b>
<b>Total Investigations Involving Sexual Abuse as Primary Category for Investigation</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	1,802	1,553	2,811	<b>6,166</b>
Row Percentage	29%	25%	46%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.77	0.66	1.19	<b>2.62</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 341 child investigations with information about sexual abuse investigations. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-6.

\*\* The total number of investigations involving primary or secondary sexual abuse is not equal to the sum of the specific forms of sexual abuse because some cases involved multiple forms of sexual abuse (see Table 3-3).

**Failure to Supervise or Protect Leading to Physical Harm:** The child suffered or was at substantial risk of suffering physical harm because of the caregiver's failure to supervise and protect the child adequately. Failure to protect included situations where a child was harmed or endangered as a result of a caregiver's actions (e.g., drunk driving with a child, or engaging in dangerous criminal activities with a child).

**Failure to Supervise or Protect Leading to Sexual Abuse:** The child has been, or was at substantial risk of being, sexually molested or sexually exploited, and the caregiver knew or should have known of the possibility of sexual molestation and failed to protect the child adequately.

**Physical Neglect:** The child has suffered or was at substantial risk of suffering physical harm caused by the caregiver's failure to care and provide for the child adequately. This includes inadequate nutrition/clothing, and unhygienic and/or dangerous living conditions. There must be evidence or suspicion that the caregiver is at least partially responsible for the situation.

**Medical Neglect:** The child required medical treatment to cure, prevent, or alleviate physical harm or suffering, and the child's caregiver did not provide, refused, or was unavailable or unable to consent to the treatment.

**Failure to Provide Treatment for Mental, Emotional, or Developmental Problem:** The child was at substantial risk of suffering from emotional harm as demonstrated by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, self-destructive or aggressive behaviour, or suffering from a mental, emotional, or developmental condition that could seriously impair the child's development. The child's caregiver did not provide, or refused, or was unavailable or unable to consent to treatment to remedy or alleviate the harm. This category includes failing to provide treatment for school-related problems such as learning and behaviour problems, as well as treatment for infant development problems such as non-organic failure to thrive. This form does not include failure to provide treatment for criminal behaviour (see Permitting Maladaptive/Criminal Behaviour).

**Permitting Maladaptive/Criminal Behaviour:** A child has committed a criminal offence with the encouragement of the child's caregiver, or because of the caregiver's failure or inability to supervise the child adequately. Alternatively, services or treatment were necessary to prevent a recurrence and the child's caregiver did not provide, refused, or was unavailable or unable to consent to those services or treatment. There is some overlap between this form of neglect and both failure to supervise, and failure to provide treatment. If a situation involved both criminal

activity and some kind of harm or substantial risk of harm to the child, both forms of maltreatment were included.

**Abandonment/Refusal of Custody:** The child's caregiver has died or was unable to exercise custodial rights and did not make adequate provisions for care and custody, or the child was in a placement and the caregiver refused or was unable to take custody.

**Educational Neglect:** Caregivers knowingly allowed chronic truancy (five or more days a month), failed to enroll the child, or repeatedly kept the child at home. If the child had been experiencing mental, emotional, or developmental problems associated with school, and treatment had been offered but caregivers did not co-operate with treatment, the case was classified as failure to provide treatment.

Table 3-7 indicates that child neglect was the most frequently investigated category of maltreatment. An estimated 26,869 child investigations (11.40 investigations per 1,000 children) involved neglect as either the primary or secondary reason for investigation (see Table 3-7). Thirty-three per cent of investigations were substantiated; in a further 21 per cent of cases neglect remained suspected but could not be confirmed, and 46 per cent of investigated neglect was not substantiated. Neglect was the primary category of investigation in an estimated 23,263 child maltreatment cases (9.87 investigations per 1,000 children).

Table 3-7 shows that the most common form of investigated neglect was failure to supervise. An estimated 14,153 child investigations (6.00 investigations per 1,000 children) involved supervision issues where children had been harmed or were at risk of physical harm. Of these cases 33 per cent were substantiated, while 21 per cent were suspected, and 46 per cent unsubstantiated. Concerns about failure to protect children from sexual abuse were identified in another estimated 1,353 child investigations (0.57 investigations per 1,000 children), with 35 per cent of these substantiated, 25 per cent remaining suspected, and 40 per cent being unsubstantiated.

There were an estimated 7,504 child investigations (3.18 investigations per 1,000 children) with concerns about parents' reported failure to adequately meet the physical needs of children (physical neglect). Twenty-four per cent of these investigations were substantiated, while 22 per cent remained suspected, and 54 per cent were unsubstantiated. Medical neglect was a reason for investigation in 2,624 cases (1.11 investigations per 1,000 children). Over one-third of these investigations were substantiated (35 per cent); an additional ten per cent remained suspected, and 55 per cent were unsubstantiated. Permitting maladaptive and criminal behaviour was a form of maltreatment for an estimated 2,348 child investigations (1.00 investigations per 1,000 children). This form of neglect had a substantiation rate of 38 per cent, while 42 per cent of these cases were suspected, and 20 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Table 3-7**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Neglect in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
<b>Primary or Secondary Forms of Neglect</b>				
Failure to Supervise/Protect (Physical)				
Number of Child Investigations	4,657	2,976	6,520	<b>14,153</b>
Row Percentage	33%	21%	46%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	1.97	1.26	2.77	<b>6.00</b>
Failure to Supervise/Protect (Sexual)				
Number of Child Investigations	477	342	534	<b>1,353</b>
Row Percentage	35%	25%	40%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.20	0.14	0.23	<b>0.57</b>
Physical Neglect				
Number of Child Investigations	1,811	1,619	4,074	<b>7,504</b>
Row Percentage	24%	22%	54%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.77	0.68	1.73	<b>3.18</b>
Medical Neglect				
Number of Child Investigations	923	253	1,448	<b>2,624</b>
Row Percentage	35%	10%	55%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.39	0.11	0.61	<b>1.11</b>
Failure to Provide Treatment				
Number of Child Investigations	201	292	229	<b>722</b>
Row Percentage	28%	40%	32%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.09	0.12	0.10	<b>0.31</b>
Permitting Maladaptive/Criminal Behaviour				
Number of Child Investigations	880	991	477	<b>2,348</b>
Row Percentage	38%	42%	20%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.38	0.42	0.20	<b>1.00</b>
Abandonment				
Number of Child Investigations	887	122	694	<b>1,703</b>
Row Percentage	52%	7%	41%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.38	0.05	0.29	<b>0.72</b>
Educational Neglect				
Number of Child Investigations	431	298	93	<b>822</b>
Row Percentage	53%	36%	11%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.18	0.13	0.04	<b>0.35</b>
<b>Total Investigations Involving Neglect as Primary or Secondary Category for Investigation**</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	8,935	5,722	12,212	<b>26,869</b>
Row Percentage	33%	21%	46%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	3.79	2.43	5.18	<b>11.40</b>
<b>Total Investigations Involving Neglect as Primary Category for Investigation</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	7,282	5,049	10,932	<b>23,263</b>
Row Percentage	31%	22%	47%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	3.09	2.14	4.64	<b>9.87</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 1,252 child investigations with information about neglect investigations. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-7.

\*\* The total number of investigations involving primary or secondary neglect is not equal to the sum of the specific forms of neglect because some cases involved multiple forms of neglect (see Table 3-3).

An estimated 1,703 child investigations (0.72 investigations per 1,000 children) involved abandonment as a primary or secondary form of investigated maltreatment. Fifty-two per cent were substantiated, seven per cent remained suspected, and 41 per cent were unsubstantiated. Educational neglect was noted in an estimated 822 child investigations (0.35 investigations per 1,000 children). In 53 per cent of these investigations neglect was substantiated, in 36 per cent it remained suspected, and in 11 per cent neglect was unsubstantiated. Failure to provide treatment was the primary or secondary form of maltreatment for 722 cases (0.31 investigations per 1,000 children) with 28 per cent of these substantiated, 40 per cent suspected, and 32 per cent unsubstantiated.

## Emotional Maltreatment

Emotional maltreatment can be difficult to document because it does not usually involve a specific incident or visible injury, and the effects of emotional maltreatment, although often severe, tend to become apparent over time (e.g., impaired cognitive, social, and emotional development). Four forms of emotional maltreatment were tracked by the *OIS 1998*. Although several of these extend beyond the forms of maltreatment covered by the CFSA, they reflect well accepted clinical categories. For the purposes of the study, situations involving failure to provide treatment for children exhibiting emotional difficulties were not included as a category of emotional maltreatment, but as one of the forms of neglect.

**Emotional Abuse:** The child has suffered or was at substantial risk of suffering from mental, emotional, or developmental problems caused by overtly hostile, punitive treatment, or habitual or extreme verbal abuse (threatening, belittling, etc.).<sup>48</sup>

**Non-organic Failure to Thrive:** A child under three has suffered a marked retardation or cessation of growth for which no organic reason can be identified. Failure to thrive cases in which inadequate nutrition is the identified cause were classified as physical neglect. Non-organic failure to thrive is generally considered to be a form of emotional neglect; it has been classified as a separate form of emotional maltreatment because of its particular characteristics.

**Emotional Neglect:** The child has suffered or is at substantial risk of suffering from mental, emotional, or developmental problems caused by inadequate nurturance/affection.

**Exposed to Family Violence:** A child has been a witness to, or involved with family violence within his/her home environment. This includes situations where the child indirectly witnessed the violence (e.g., saw the physical injuries on his/her caregiver the next day).

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<sup>48</sup> Instances where children were displaying severe emotional problems requiring treatment and parents refused or did not cooperate with offered treatment were classified as neglect cases under failure to provide treatment.

**Table 3-8**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Emotional Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
<b>Primary or Secondary Forms of Emotional Maltreatment</b>				
Emotional Abuse				
Number of Child Investigations	2,352	2,476	1,599	<b>6,427</b>
Row Percentage	37%	38%	25%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	1.00	1.05	0.68	<b>2.73</b>
Non-organic Failure to Thrive				
Number of Child Investigations	—	—	—	—
Row Percentage	—	—	—	—
Incidence per 1,000 children	—	—	—	—
Emotional Neglect				
Number of Child Investigations	1,099	1,295	824	<b>3,218</b>
Row Percentage	34%	40%	26%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.47	0.55	0.35	<b>1.37</b>
Exposed to Family Violence				
Number of Child Investigations	5,903	2,633	1,036	<b>9,572</b>
Row Percentage	62%	27%	11%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	2.50	1.12	0.44	<b>4.06</b>
<b>Investigations Involving Emotional Maltreatment as Primary or Secondary Category for Investigation**</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	8,720	5,812	3,287	<b>17,819</b>
Row Percentage	49%	33%	18%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	3.70	2.47	1.39	<b>7.56</b>
<b>Investigations Involving Emotional Maltreatment as Primary Category for Investigation</b>				
Number of Child Investigations*	5,897	3,499	2,311	<b>11,707</b>
Row Percentage	50%	30%	20%	<b>100%</b>
Incidence per 1,000 children	2.50	1.49	0.98	<b>4.97</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 745 child investigations with information about emotional maltreatment investigations. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 3-8.

\*\* The total number of investigations involving primary or secondary emotional maltreatment is not equal to the sum of the specific forms of emotional maltreatment because some cases involved multiple forms of emotional maltreatment (see Table 3-3).

Table 3-8 illustrates that there were an estimated 17,819 child investigations (7.56 investigations per 1,000 children) in 1998 for alleged emotional maltreatment as the primary or secondary maltreatment classification. Forty-nine per cent of all investigations were substantiated, while 33 per

cent were suspected, and 18 per cent were unsubstantiated. Emotional maltreatment was the primary reason for investigation for an estimated 11,707 cases (4.97 investigations per 1,000 children).

As can be seen in Table 3-8, over half of the investigated emotional maltreatment cases involved exposure to family violence – an estimated 9,572 child investigations (4.06 investigations per 1,000 children). Sixty-two per cent of these cases were substantiated, 27 per cent remained suspected, and 11 per cent were unsubstantiated. An estimated 6,427 child investigations (2.73 investigations per 1,000 children) involved emotional abuse. This form had 37 per cent of investigations substantiated, 38 per cent suspected, and 25 per cent unsubstantiated.

Emotional neglect was the primary or secondary form of maltreatment for an estimated 3,218 child investigations (1.37 investigations per 1,000 children). Of this total, 34 per cent of investigations were substantiated, while 40 per cent remained suspected, and 26 per cent were unsubstantiated. Too few cases of non-organic failure to thrive were identified by the *OIS 1998* to provide a basis for estimating the annual national rate of investigation.

## ■ 4. CHARACTERISTICS OF MALTREATMENT

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Chapter 4 describes the characteristics of the major categories of maltreatment documented by the *OIS 1998*. The characteristics of maltreatment documented include physical and emotional harm associated with the investigated maltreatment, duration of maltreatment, and children's relationships to the alleged perpetrators. The findings are presented in terms of the four major categories of primary maltreatment tracked by the study (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment)<sup>49</sup> by level of substantiation. Each table also documents cases involving multiple categories of maltreatment.

The figures presented in this chapter are weighted figures derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of Ontario children's aid societies. The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to CASs, (2) reported cases that were screened out by CASs before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by CASs, and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is designed to allow comparison to the *OIS 1993*; however, direct comparisons between the figures in the two reports should be made only after first taking into consideration the changes in definition and the effect of the sampling design on the final estimates.

### Physical Harm

The Maltreatment Assessment Form tracked physical harm that was known or suspected to be caused by the investigated maltreatment. This included suspicious injuries that were subsequently found not to be due to maltreatment, as well as injuries sustained by maltreatment. The *OIS 1998* also tracked instances where physical harm had not yet occurred but a child was at imminent risk of severe harm, particularly in cases of neglect (e.g., a young child found wandering unsupervised in the street) and cases of sexual abuse.

Information on physical injury was collected using questions adapted from the nature and severity of injury scales developed for the U.S. *National Incidence Survey of Abuse and Neglect (1996)*<sup>50</sup> and used previously in the *1993 Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (1994)*.<sup>51</sup> The *OIS 1998* harm questions are non-standardized scales reflecting the investigating worker's assessment of the harm or potential harm to the child. These ratings are not necessarily equivalent to ratings that would be obtained following a comprehensive medical or psychological assessment.

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<sup>49</sup> Investigations can be classified under several forms of maltreatment, and characteristics are presented for all forms of maltreatment noted by investigating workers. The distinctions between the primary form, the secondary forms, and multiple forms are presented in chapter 3.

<sup>50</sup> Sedlak, A. J., & Broadhurst, D. D. (1996). *Executive summary of the third national incidence study of child abuse and neglect*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>51</sup> Trocmé, N., McPhee, D. et al. (1994). *Ontario incidence study of reported child abuse and neglect*. Toronto, ON: Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Table 4-1(a) describes physical harm reported during child maltreatment investigations. Physical harm was identified in 14 per cent of cases. In ten per cent of cases (an estimated 6,626 child investigations), harm was noted but no treatment was considered to be required. Forty-eight per cent of these situations were substantiated, 23 per cent were classified as suspected, and 29 per cent were unsubstantiated. In a further four per cent of cases (an estimated 2,401 child investigations), harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment. Fifty-six per cent of the physical harm situations requiring treatment were substantiated, while maltreatment remained suspected in eight per cent, and was unsubstantiated in the remaining 36 per cent.

**Physical Abuse:** Harm was indicated in 28 per cent of physical abuse investigations (24 per cent not requiring treatment and an additional four per cent requiring treatment (see Table 4-1(a)). Fifty-one per cent of physical abuse investigations in which harm was noted but treatment was not considered to be required were substantiated. In situations involving more severe harm (i.e., where harm required treatment), only 45 per cent of investigations were substantiated. The large proportion of unsubstantiated cases involving serious injuries is not surprising given that unexplained or suspicious injuries should be reported to children's aid societies for a full investigation.

**Sexual Abuse:** Physical harm was identified in four per cent of sexual abuse cases, with harm not requiring treatment reported for four per cent of child investigations (Table 4-1(a)). Sexual abuse cases involving physical harm requiring treatment were too low to produce reliable estimates.

**Neglect:** Physical harm was indicated in nine per cent of neglect investigations of which three per cent required no treatment and six per cent required treatment. Thirty-five per cent of cases involving physical harm requiring no treatment were substantiated, and 63 per cent of cases requiring treatment were substantiated.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** There were not enough cases involving physical harm in the *OIS 1998* sample for the calculation of a reliable provincial estimate.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Physical harm was identified in 19 per cent of investigations involving more than one category of maltreatment (15 per cent did not require treatment and four per cent required treatment). The substantiation rate was 74 per cent for cases where harm was indicated but did not require treatment, 23 per cent remained suspected, and three per cent were unsubstantiated. Eighty-six per cent of investigations that reported physical harm requiring treatment were substantiated, 13 per cent remained suspected, and one per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Table 4-1(a)**  
**Physical Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories	
	Primary Category					Total			
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment					
No Physical Harm	72% 17,042	95% 5,864	91% 21,133	100% 11,656	<b>86%</b> <b>55,695</b>	81%	8,831		
Substantiated	24%	29%	29%	50%	<b>32%</b>	41%			
Suspected	20%	25%	22%	30%	<b>23%</b>	31%			
Unsubstantiated	56%	46%	49%	20%	<b>45%</b>	28%			
Physical Harm, No Treatment Required	24% 5,564	4% 216	3% 808	— —	<b>10%</b> <b>6,626</b>	15%	1,662		
Substantiated	51%	—	35%	—	<b>48%</b>	74%			
Suspected	20%	—	39%	—	<b>23%</b>	23%			
Unsubstantiated	29%	—	26%	—	<b>29%</b>	3%			
Physical Harm, Treatment Required	4% 992	— —	6% 1,308	— —	<b>4%</b> <b>2,401</b>	4%	477		
Substantiated	45%	—	63%	—	<b>56%</b>	86%			
Suspected	6%	—	10%	—	<b>8%</b>	13%			
Unsubstantiated	49%	—	27%	—	<b>36%</b>	1%			
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b> <b>23,598</b>	<b>100%</b> <b>6,167</b>	<b>100%</b> <b>23,249</b>	<b>100%</b> <b>11,708</b>	<b>100%</b> <b>64,722</b>	<b>100%</b> <b>10,970</b>			

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,051 child investigations with information about presence of physical harm. Due to missing information on two cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-1(a).  
 — Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## Nature of Physical Harm

Investigating workers were asked to document the type of physical harm that was suspected to have been caused by the investigated maltreatment. The nature of physical harm was recorded for up to six types of injury or health conditions:

**Bruises/Cuts/Scrapes:** The child suffered various physical hurts visible for at least 48 hours.

**Burns and Scalds:** The child suffered burns and scalds visible for at least 48 hours.

**Broken Bones:** The child suffered fractured bones.

**Head Trauma:** The child was a victim of head trauma and required medical attention

(e.g., child pushed down a flight of stairs, causing broken teeth).

**Other Health Conditions:** The child suffered from other physical health conditions, such as complications from untreated asthma or a sexually transmitted disease.

**Death:** Child has died and maltreatment was suspected during the investigation as the cause of death.

Table 4-1(b) presents the six types of physical harm reported in the OIS. Physical harm primarily involved bruises, cuts, and scrapes (70 per cent of harm situations) and other health conditions (23 per cent of harm situations). Six per cent of physical harm situations involved burns and scalds, three per cent involved broken bones, and four per cent involved head trauma. Head trauma, an injury of grave concern for shaken infants or infants who fall on their heads, occurred in seven per cent of cases involving children under age one (see Appendix H, Table 2). Because the *OIS 1998* estimates are based on a very small number of cases involving burns and scalds, broken bones, and head trauma, the estimates presented in Table 4-2 should be interpreted with caution.

Cases reporting bruises, cuts, and scrapes were substantiated in 50 per cent of child investigations, remained suspected in 21 per cent, and were unsubstantiated in 29 per cent. Forty-one per cent of investigations noting burns and scalds were substantiated, while 20 per cent remained suspected, and 39 per cent were unsubstantiated. In contrast, cases of maltreatment involving broken bones and head trauma were more frequently reported as unsubstantiated. Investigations involving broken bones were substantiated in 23 per cent of cases, suspected in 16 per cent, and unsubstantiated in 61 per cent of investigations. Investigations involving head trauma were substantiated in 37 per cent of investigations, while 14 per cent remained suspected, and 49 per cent were unsubstantiated. Investigations noting other health conditions as physical harm were substantiated in 65 per cent of cases, while ten per cent of these investigations remained suspected, and 25 per cent were unsubstantiated.

During the three-month *OIS 1998* data collection period there were no investigations involving child fatalities in the participating *OIS 1998* sites. Because these tragic events occur relatively rarely, it is not surprising that none were captured by the *OIS 1998* sample. An average of about 100 child homicides are documented by the police every year across Canada, according to the Homicide Survey, which provides information on police-reported data characteristics of homicides as they become known to the police.<sup>52</sup>

**Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse investigations where harm was reported (88 per cent of harm situations) most often involved bruises, cuts, and scrapes. Fifty-one per cent of these cases were substantiated. Other health conditions were reported in eight per cent of physical abuse investigations involving harm, 70 per cent of which were substantiated. Cases involving more severe injuries were indicated less often: burns and scalds were indicated in four per cent of physical abuse investigations involving harm, broken bones in three per cent, and head trauma in two per cent. There were not enough cases involving these forms of physical harm for the calculation of reliable estimates of substantiation rates.

<sup>52</sup> Fitzgerald, R. (1996). Assaults against children and youth in the family, 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. *Catalogue No. 85-002-xpe*, 17: 1-13. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada.

**Table 4-1(b)**  
**Nature of Physical Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Bruises, Cuts, and Scrapes	88%	5,776	55%	165	18%	392	—	—	<b>70%</b>	<b>6,356</b>	81%	1,735
Substantiated	51%		—		35%		—		<b>50%</b>		77%	
Suspected	20%		—		44%		—		<b>21%</b>		22%	
Unsubstantiated	29%		—		21%		—		<b>29%</b>		1%	
Burns and Scalds	4%	235	—	—	13%	279	—	—	<b>6%</b>	<b>514</b>	5%	107
Substantiated	—		—		53%		—		<b>41%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—		37%		—		<b>20%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		10%		—		<b>39%</b>		—	
Broken Bones	3%	208	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>3%</b>	<b>284</b>	5%	107
Substantiated	—		—		—		—		<b>23%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—		—		—		<b>16%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		—		—		<b>61%</b>		—	
Head Trauma	2%	161	—	—	8%	179	—	—	<b>4%</b>	<b>340</b>	6%	134
Substantiated	—		—		—		—		<b>37%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—		—		—		<b>14%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		—		—		<b>49%</b>		—	
Other Health Conditions	8%	530	62%	187	64%	1,366	—	—	<b>23%</b>	<b>2,112</b>	14%	308
Substantiated	70%		—		64%		—		<b>65%</b>		68%	
Suspected	13%		—		10%		—		<b>10%</b>		23%	
Unsubstantiated	17%		—		26%		—		<b>25%</b>		9%	
Death	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substantiated	—		—		—		—		—		—	
Suspected	—		—		—		—		—		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		—		—		—		—	
<b>At Least One Type of Physical Harm*,**</b>		<b>6,568</b>		<b>302</b>		<b>2,130</b>		<b>51</b>		<b>9,051</b>		<b>2,139</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 1,017 child investigations with a minimum of one type of physical harm, and 6,655 child investigations had no physical harm. Therefore table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-1(b).

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse cases in which harm was noted involved either bruises, cuts, and scrapes (55 per cent) or other health conditions (62 per cent).<sup>53</sup> There were not enough cases involving these forms of physical harm for the calculation of reliable estimates of substantiation rates.

**Neglect:** Identified harm in cases of neglect predominantly involved other health conditions (64 per cent of harm situations). Almost two-thirds of these situations were substantiated. Eighteen per cent of neglect investigations where harm was identified involved bruises, cuts, and scrapes, and 35 per cent of these cases were substantiated. Thirteen per cent of harm situations involved burns and scalds and eight per cent involved head trauma.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** There were not enough cases involving these forms of physical harm for the calculation of reliable estimates for emotional maltreatment.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Identified harm in multiple maltreatment cases primarily involved bruises, cuts, and scrapes (81 per cent), with more than three-quarters of these cases being substantiated. Other health conditions were noted in 14 per cent of harm cases and substantiated in 68 per cent of these investigations. Burns and scalds were identified in five per cent of multiple maltreatment cases involving harm, broken bones in five per cent, and head trauma in six per cent.

## Medical Treatment for Physical Harm

Investigating workers were asked to indicate whether identified physical harm was severe enough to require medical treatment. Table 4-1(c) presents medical treatment ratings for the six *OIS 1998* harm categories. Fourteen per cent (an estimated 909 child investigations) of investigations involving bruises, cuts, and scrapes required medical treatment. Fifty-two per cent of cases involving burns and scalds, 100 per cent of cases involving broken bones, and 85 per cent of cases involving head trauma required medical attention. Medical treatment was needed in 52 per cent of cases where other health conditions were suspected to be caused by the investigated maltreatment.

## Emotional Harm

Information on mental/emotional harm was collected using a series of questions examining the mental/emotional harm or trauma that was suspected or known to have been caused by the investigated maltreatment. Workers were asked to include changes in the child's development (regression, withdrawal), self-regulation (sleep patterns, elimination), or emotions (child crying, clinging, or anxious) that were apparent for at least 48 hours.

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<sup>53</sup> Sexually transmitted diseases were the only specific type of health condition noted in the open-ended question that accompanied this category.

**Table 4-1(c)**  
**Medical Treatment Required in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Nature of Physical Harm in Ontario in 1998**

	Types of Physical Harm											
	Bruises, Cuts, and Scrapes		Burns and Scalds		Broken Bones		Head Trauma		Other Health Conditions		Death	
Medical Treatment not Required	86%	5,421	48%	247	—	—	—	—	48%	1,014	—	—
Medical Treatment Required	14%	909	52%	268	100%	284	85%	289	52%	1,098	—	—
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,112</b>	—	—

*Source: OIS 1998*

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 397 child investigations with a minimum of one type of physical harm. Therefore table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-1(c).  
 — Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

Table 4-2 presents emotional harm identified during the child maltreatment investigations. In order to rate the severity of mental/emotional harm, workers indicated whether therapeutic intervention (treatment) was required as a result of the mental or emotional distress shown by the child.

Unlike physical injuries, which can be usually linked to specific incidents of maltreatment, it is more difficult to link emotional harm to specific incidents of maltreatment. To account for this difficulty, investigating workers were asked to rate general child functioning in addition to documenting maltreatment-specific mental/emotional harm. The child-functioning ratings are presented in Chapter 6.

Table 4-2 shows that emotional harm was noted in 17 per cent of all maltreatment investigations, involving an estimated 11,273 child investigations. Symptoms were severe enough to require treatment in 11 per cent of investigations. Fifty-five per cent of cases requiring treatment were substantiated, with an additional 27 per cent remaining suspected, and 18 per cent unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Emotional harm was noted in 15 per cent of physical abuse cases; in ten per cent of cases harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment, while in five per cent symptoms were noted but treatment was not considered to be necessary (see Table 4-2). Forty-eight per cent of physical abuse investigations in which emotional harm required treatment were substantiated.

**Sexual Abuse:** Emotional harm was noted in 22 per cent of sexual abuse cases: in 14 per cent of these cases harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment, and in an additional eight per cent symptoms were noted but treatment was not considered to be necessary (see Table 4-2). Sixty-four per cent of sexual abuse investigations in which emotional harm required treatment were substantiated.

**Neglect:** Emotional harm was identified in 15 per cent of neglect cases; in ten per cent of these cases harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment, while in five per cent symptoms were noted but treatment was not considered to be necessary (see Table 4-2). Fifty-two per cent of neglect investigations in which emotional harm required treatment were substantiated.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Emotional harm was most often (23 per cent) identified in emotional maltreatment investigations; in 14 per cent of these cases harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment, while in nine per cent symptoms were noted but treatment was not considered to be necessary (see Table 4-2). Sixty-five per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations in which emotional harm required treatment were substantiated.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Emotional harm was identified in 31 per cent of investigations that involved more than one category of maltreatment; in 21 per cent of these cases harm was serious enough to necessitate treatment, while in ten per cent symptoms were noted but treatment was not considered to be necessary (see Table 4-2). Seventy-one per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment in which emotional harm required treatment were substantiated.

## Duration of Maltreatment

Duration of maltreatment was documented on a three-point scale as follows:

- 1) Single incident
- 2) Multiple incidents for less than six months
- 3) Multiple incidents for more than six months

Given the length restrictions for the study questionnaire, it was not possible to gather additional information on the frequency of maltreatment in order to distinguish between long-term situations with infrequent maltreatment and long-term situations with frequent maltreatment. Unlike most other items in this chapter, duration was documented only in cases of substantiated or suspected maltreatment.<sup>54</sup>

Table 4-3 shows that 33 per cent of substantiated or suspected investigations (an estimated 12,118 child investigations) involved situations of multiple incidents that had been ongoing for more than six months, while 30 per cent of investigations involved single incidents, and 20 per cent involved multiple incidents for less than six months in duration.

**Physical Abuse:** Maltreatment was indicated as a single incident in 46 per cent of substantiated or suspected physical abuse investigations, as multiple incidents over a period of less than six months in 13 per cent of these cases, and as multiple incidents over more than six months in 21 per cent of substantiated or suspected cases.

<sup>54</sup> While injuries or symptoms of emotional harm can be documented in unsubstantiated cases, it only makes sense to document duration in cases where maltreatment is indicated as substantiated or suspected.

**Table 4-2**  
**Emotional Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment			
No Emotional Harm	85% 19,740	78% 4,813	85% 19,567	77% 8,920	<b>83% 53,040</b>	69% 7,492	
Substantiated	28%	22%	28%	49%	<b>31%</b>	42%	
Suspected	18%	23%	19%	28%	<b>20%</b>	26%	
Unsubstantiated	54%	55%	53%	23%	<b>49%</b>	32%	
Emotional Harm, No Treatment Required	5% 1,231	8% 510	5% 1,259	9% 1,060	<b>6% 4,060</b>	10% 1,129	
Substantiated	48%	37%	48%	36%	<b>43%</b>	47%	
Suspected	31%	39%	43%	54%	<b>42%</b>	52%	
Unsubstantiated	21%	24%	9%	10%	<b>15%</b>	1%	
Emotional Harm, Treatment Required	10% 2,427	14% 837	10% 2,273	14% 1,676	<b>11% 7,213</b>	21% 2,246	
Substantiated	48%	64%	52%	65%	<b>55%</b>	71%	
Suspected	24%	30%	32%	24%	<b>27%</b>	24%	
Unsubstantiated	28%	6%	16%	11%	<b>18%</b>	5%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,398</b>	<b>100% 6,160</b>	<b>100% 23,099</b>	<b>100% 11,656</b>	<b>100% 64,313</b>	<b>100% 10,867</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,032 child investigations with information about emotional harm. Due to missing information on 21 cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-2.

**Sexual Abuse:** Maltreatment was documented as a single incident in 47 per cent of substantiated or suspected sexual abuse investigations, as multiple incidents over a period of less than six months in 26 per cent of these cases, and as multiple incidents over more than six months in 17 per cent of substantiated or suspected cases.

**Neglect:** In contrast to abuse, maltreatment was recorded as a single incident in only 20 per cent of substantiated or suspected neglect investigations. It was indicated as multiple incidents over a period of less than six months in 28 per cent of these cases, and as multiple incidents over more than six months in 35 per cent of substantiated or suspected cases.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** As with neglect, maltreatment was noted only as a single incident in 18 per cent of substantiated or suspected emotional maltreatment investigations, as multiple incidents over a period of less than six months in 15 per cent of these cases, and as multiple incidents over more than six months in 52 per cent of substantiated or suspected cases.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Maltreatment was indicated as a single incident in ten per cent of substantiated or suspected investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment, while it was indicated as multiple incidents over a period of less than six months in 17 per cent of these cases, and as multiple incidents over more than six months in 59 per cent of substantiated or suspected cases.

**Table 4-3**  
**Duration of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation (Substantiated and Suspected Only) in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
Single Incident	46%	5,383	47%	1,576	20%	2,336	18%	1,667	<b>30%</b>	<b>10,962</b>	10%	876
Substantiated	71%		53%		71%		68%		<b>68%</b>		60%	
Suspected	29%		47%		29%		32%		<b>32%</b>		40%	
Less Than Six Months	13%	1,567	26%	866	28%	3,354	15%	1,356	<b>20%</b>	<b>7,143</b>	17%	1,397
Substantiated	63%		54%		62%		74%		<b>64%</b>		65%	
Suspected	37%		46%		38%		26%		<b>36%</b>		35%	
More Than Six Months	21%	2,497	17%	558	35%	4,197	52%	4,866	<b>33%</b>	<b>12,118</b>	59%	4,884
Substantiated	57%		78%		55%		62%		<b>59%</b>		68%	
Suspected	43%		22%		45%		38%		<b>41%</b>		32%	
Unknown	20%	2,343	10%	349	17%	2,040	15%	1,399	<b>17%</b>	<b>6,131</b>	14%	1,163
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,790</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,349</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,927</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,288</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>36,354</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,320</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 1,617 child investigations with information about duration of maltreatment. Estimates include only substantiated and suspected cases. Due to missing information on 29 cases and a total of 1,407 unsubstantiated cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-3.

## Alleged Perpetrator

The alleged perpetrator refers to the person(s) who was suspected of having maltreated the investigated child. In cases where maltreatment was substantiated, the alleged perpetrator(s) was confirmed to have maltreated the child; in suspected cases, the role of the alleged perpetrator(s) remained unconfirmed, and in unsubstantiated cases the investigation determined that the alleged perpetrator(s) had not maltreated the child. The *OIS 1998* tracked seven pre-coded classifications of alleged perpetrators:

- Mother:** Biological parent  
**Father:** Biological parent  
**Stepfather:** Included common-law partner  
**Stepmother:** Included common-law partner  
**Sibling:** Sibling or half-sibling of the child  
**Stranger:** Unknown person to the child and family  
**Other:** Any other individual

Information on the approximate age and gender of perpetrators was also collected. Perpetrators classified under the “other” category were recoded under 22 additional categories, including adoptive or foster parents, grandparents, extended family, family acquaintances, and involved professionals. On the basis of the frequency of response, these were combined for the purpose of this report into the following nine classifications:

**Adoptive Parents/Foster Family:** Includes adoptive parents and foster family.

**Other Relative:** Any other relative, adult, or child, who had contact with the investigated child (e.g., grandparent, aunt/uncle, sibling).

**Family Friend:** Friend of the caregiver(s) living with the child.

**Parent’s Boyfriend/Girlfriend:** Parent’s partner not in a caregiving role.

**Child’s Friend (peer):** Another child considered a friend or peer.

**Babysitter:** An individual of any age in a babysitting role to the child.

**Teacher:** Includes teachers but not other school personnel (e.g., caretakers)

**Other Professional:** Includes recreation, health, and social service professionals.

**Other Acquaintance:** An individual known to the child’s family.

As shown in Table 4-4(a), most investigations involved allegations against parents: biological mothers (59 per cent), biological fathers (38 per cent), stepfathers/common-law partners (ten per cent), or stepmothers/common-law partners (two per cent). It should be noted that in many instances, non-familial allegations of abuse are investigated by the police, not by a children’s aid society.<sup>55</sup> Furthermore, there is a significant overlap between these classifications, as multiple perpetrators were identified for the primary category of maltreatment in 21 per cent of investigations (see Appendix H, Table 3). One or both parents were alleged perpetrators in 88 per cent of maltreatment investigations (see Appendix H, Table 4). Other than parents, relatives were the most frequently identified perpetrators (five per cent). Only six per cent of all maltreatment investigations involved a non-family individual as the alleged perpetrator, as shown in Table 4-4(b). One per cent of investigations involved allegations against a family friend, parent’s girlfriend or boyfriend, babysitter, another professional, other acquaintance or a stranger.

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<sup>55</sup> Trocmé, N., & Brison, R. (1998). Homicide and injuries due to assault and to abuse and neglect. In G. Beaulne (Ed.) *For the safety of Canadian children and youth: From data to preventive measures*. Ottawa, ON: Health Canada.

Thirty-four per cent of investigations identifying biological mothers as the alleged perpetrator were substantiated, while 23 per cent remained suspected, and 43 per cent were unsubstantiated. Similarly, cases involving biological fathers were substantiated in 39 per cent of the investigations, with 21 per cent remaining as suspected, and 40 per cent unsubstantiated. Thirty-nine per cent of investigations involving stepfathers as the alleged perpetrator were substantiated, 25 per cent remained suspected, and 36 per cent were unsubstantiated. Investigations identifying stepmothers as the alleged perpetrator for the primary category of maltreatment were most likely to be substantiated (25 per cent), while 17 per cent remained suspected, and 58 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Cases of physical abuse were fairly evenly split between mothers and fathers. Female parents were investigated in 49 per cent of cases (46 per cent biological mothers and three per cent stepmothers), while male parents were investigated in 54 per cent of cases (biological fathers in 42 per cent and stepfathers in 12 per cent of investigations). This distribution is somewhat biased by the fact that 43 per cent of investigated families were female-parent families (see Table 7-1). The alleged roles of mothers and fathers in two-parent families is somewhat different, with fathers being investigated in 69 per cent of physical abuse cases, and mothers in 41 per cent (see Appendix H, Table 5).

Five per cent of physical abuse investigations involved other relatives. Teacher, babysitter, and other professional were the non-familial members most frequently reported as the alleged perpetrators in physical abuse investigations. Substantiation rates for cases involving parent or relatives ranged from a low of 21 per cent for cases involving stepmothers to a high of 34 per cent for cases involving biological fathers.

**Sexual Abuse:** In contrast to physical abuse cases, non-parental figures were most often investigated in sexual abuse cases. Non-parental relatives represented the largest group of alleged perpetrators (19 per cent), followed by biological fathers (16 per cent) and stepfathers (15 per cent). In eight per cent of sexual abuse investigations the alleged perpetrator was identified as other acquaintance, while babysitters and teachers were each identified in seven per cent of investigations and a family friend was identified in four per cent of investigations. The investigated child's friend (peer) and other professionals were each investigated in three per cent. Four per cent of sexual abuse investigations involved biological mothers as the alleged perpetrator.

Substantiation rates varied from a low of zero per cent (biological mother) to a high of 58 per cent (other acquaintance). As with other low-frequency *OIS 1998* figures, the estimates for the lower frequency categories (i.e., less than 1,000) should be interpreted with caution. Furthermore, it is important to note that many sexual abuse cases involving non-family members are investigated by the police alone, and child welfare services are involved only if there are concerns about the ongoing protection of the child.

**Table 4-4(a)**  
**Alleged Perpetrator in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							
	Primary Category						Multiple Categories	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total			
<b>Relatives</b>								
Biological Mother	46% 10,855	4% 262	88% 20,397	57% 6,714	<b>59% 38,228</b>	63% 6,887		
Substantiated	31%	0%	31%	51%	<b>34%</b>	48%		
Suspected	21%	25%	21%	30%	<b>23%</b>	29%		
Unsubstantiated	48%	75%	48%	19%	<b>43%</b>	23%		
Biological Father	42% 9,857	16% 990	31% 7,170	56% 6,600	<b>38% 24,617</b>	38% 4,130		
Substantiated	34%	10%	31%	59%	<b>39%</b>	45%		
Suspected	18%	15%	22%	25%	<b>21%</b>	32%		
Unsubstantiated	48%	75%	47%	16%	<b>40%</b>	23%		
Stepfather	12% 2,725	15% 903	5% 1,112	15% 1,758	<b>10% 6,498</b>	9% 1,015		
Substantiated	30%	37%	43%	52%	<b>39%</b>	53%		
Suspected	28%	12%	14%	33%	<b>25%</b>	25%		
Unsubstantiated	42%	51%	43%	15%	<b>36%</b>	22%		
Stepmother	3% 606	— —	1% 298	2% 182	<b>2% 1,172</b>	2% 249		
Substantiated	21%	—	26%	—	<b>25%</b>	—		
Suspected	14%	—	34%	—	<b>17%</b>	—		
Unsubstantiated	65%	—	40%	—	<b>58%</b>	—		
Foster Family/ Adoptive Parents	1% 164	2% 112	— —	— —	<b>0% 286</b>	— —		
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	<b>18%</b>	—		
Suspected	—	—	—	—	<b>2%</b>	—		
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	<b>80%</b>	—		
Other Relative	6% 1,365	19% 1,145	3% 789	— —	<b>5% 3,395</b>	7% 814		
Substantiated	22%	36%	21%	—	<b>26%</b>	34%		
Suspected	17%	28%	24%	—	<b>23%</b>	46%		
Unsubstantiated	61%	36%	55%	—	<b>51%</b>	20%		
<b>Child Investigations with at Least One Relative Perpetrator</b>	<b>95% 22,329</b>	<b>56% 3,442</b>	<b>98% 22,753</b>	<b>98% 11,480</b>	<b>93% 60,004</b>	<b>96% 10,547</b>		
<b>Total Child Investigations**</b>	<b>23,609</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>64,746</b>	<b>10,971</b>		

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about alleged perpetrators. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-4.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Table 4-4(b)**  
***Alleged Perpetrator in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998***

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment				Total	
<b>Non-Relatives</b>												
Family Friend	—	—	4%	234	—	—	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>359</b>	1%	103
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>31%</b>		—	—
Suspected	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>28%</b>		—	—
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>41%</b>		—	—
Parent's Boyfriend/Girlfriend	—	—	—	—	1%	311	3%	302	<b>1%</b>	<b>736</b>	2%	257
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	36%		49%		<b>39%</b>		21%	
Suspected	—	—	—	—	51%		3%		<b>29%</b>		47%	
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	13%		48%		<b>32%</b>		32%	
Child's Friend (Peer)	—	—	3%	178	—	—	—	—	<b>0%</b>	<b>210</b>	—	—
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—
Suspected	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—	—
Babysitter	1%	348	7%	454	1%	121	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>957</b>	—	—
Substantiated	3%		42%		—		—		<b>34%</b>		—	
Suspected	60%		22%		—		—		<b>32%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	37%		36%		—		—		<b>34%</b>		—	
Teacher	2%	398	7%	413	—	—	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>874</b>	—	—
Substantiated	24%		47%		—		—		<b>36%</b>		—	
Suspected	14%		43%		—		—		<b>26%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	62%		10%		—		—		<b>38%</b>		—	
Other Professional	0%	114	3%	208	—	—	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>344</b>	—	—
Substantiated	—		—		—		—		<b>17%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—		—		—		<b>34%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		—		—		<b>49%</b>		—	
Other Acquaintance	—	—	8%	471	—	—	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>567</b>	1%	130
Substantiated	—	—	58%		—		—		<b>49%</b>		—	
Suspected	—	—	12%		—		—		<b>17%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—	—	30%		—		—		<b>34%</b>		—	

continued

**Table 4-4(b) (continued)**  
**Alleged Perpetrator in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Stranger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Suspected	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<b>Child Investigations With at Least One Non-Relative Perpetrator</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Total Child Investigations**</b>	<b>23,609</b>		<b>6,165</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>64,746</b>	<b>10,971</b>					

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about alleged perpetrators. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 4-4.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Neglect:** Biological mothers were investigated in 88 per cent of neglect cases, and biological fathers were investigated in 31 per cent of these cases. The over-representation of biological mothers in the neglect category should be interpreted with caution, given that 43 per cent of investigations involved female-parent families (see Table 7-1). In two-parent families, fathers/stepfathers were investigated in 68 per cent of neglect cases, and mothers/stepmothers in 91 per cent (see Appendix H, Table 6). Thirty-one per cent of cases involving biological mothers and biological fathers were substantiated respectively while 43 per cent of investigations for step fathers were substantiated.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Biological fathers/stepfathers were investigated in 71 per cent of cases of emotional maltreatment and biological mothers/stepmothers in 59 per cent of emotional maltreatment cases. Substantiation rates for parents were high-ranging from 51 per cent for biological mothers to 59 per cent for biological fathers.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Sixty-three per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment involved biological mothers, while 38 per cent involved biological fathers, nine per cent involved stepfathers, and two per cent stepmothers. In cases involving two-parent families, mothers were investigated in 56 per cent of cases and fathers in 71 per cent (see Appendix H, Table 7). Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 21 per cent for parent's boyfriend or girlfriend to a high of 53 per cent for stepfathers.

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## ■ 5. INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES

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Five interventions during investigation were documented by the Maltreatment Assessment Form: (1) provision of ongoing child welfare services; (2) referrals to other services; (3) placement of children in out-of-home care; (4) application to child welfare court; and (5) police involvement and criminal charges. The investigation outcome data presented in this chapter should be interpreted with care because they track only case events that occurred during the investigation. Additional referrals for services, admissions to out-of-home care, court applications, and criminal charges are likely to occur for cases kept open after the initial investigation. It should also be noted that investigation outcome statistics presented in this chapter apply only to child welfare cases open because of alleged maltreatment. Children referred to child welfare services for reasons other than child maltreatment (e.g., behavioural or emotional – see Chapter 2) may have been admitted to care or been subject to child welfare court proceedings, but were not tracked by the OIS.

The figures presented in this chapter are weighted figures derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of Ontario children's aid societies (CAS). The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to CASs, (2) reported cases that were screened out by children's aid societies before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by CASs, and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is designed to allow comparison to the *OIS 1993*; however, direct comparisons between the figures in the two reports should be made only after first taking into consideration the changes in definition and the effect of the sampling design on the final estimates.

The tables in this chapter present information for each of the specific interventions during investigation in terms of (1) the number of child investigations; (2) the primary forms of investigated maltreatment; (3) the proportion of investigations involving multiple forms of maltreatment; and (4) levels of substantiation (substantiated, suspected, and unsubstantiated).

### Ongoing Child Welfare Services

Investigating workers were asked if the investigated case would remain open for ongoing child welfare services following the initial investigation. Workers completed these questions based either on the information available at that time or upon completion of the intake investigation.

At the completion of the initial investigation, 29 per cent of child maltreatment investigations (involving an estimated 18,533 child maltreatment investigations) were identified as remaining open for ongoing services, while 68 per cent of investigations were to be closed. In a further three per cent

of investigations, the ongoing case status could not be determined because decisions were pending due to court involvement, active police investigations, or incomplete assessments (Table 5-1). Fifty-four per cent of cases remaining open were substantiated, while maltreatment remained suspected in 28 per cent and 18 per cent of maltreatment cases were unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Twenty-nine per cent (an estimated 6,687 child investigations) of physical abuse investigations were identified as remaining open, with 49 per cent of these cases being substantiated.

**Sexual Abuse:** An estimated 1,422 sexual abuse investigations (23 per cent) remained open at the completion of the initial investigation. Forty-one per cent of cases remaining open were substantiated.

**Neglect:** Twenty-nine per cent (an estimated 6,722 child investigations) of neglect investigations remained open following the initial investigation and, of this group, 55 per cent were substantiated.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** An estimated 3,702 emotional maltreatment investigations (32 per cent) were reported as remaining open. Emotional maltreatment was substantiated in 65 per cent of these investigations.

**Multiple Maltreatment:** Forty-two per cent (an estimated 4,591 child investigations) of child investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment remained open following the initial investigation; 68 per cent of these cases were substantiated.

## Child and Family Referrals

The OIS tracked referrals made to programs designed to offer services beyond the parameters of “ongoing child welfare services.” Workers were asked to indicate all applicable referral classifications identified for the family or child. This included referrals made internally to a specialized program provided by a child welfare agency/office, as well as referrals made externally to other agencies or services. A referral selection was meant to indicate whether a formal referral had been made, not whether the child or family had actually started to receive services.

Fifteen referral categories were tracked:

**Family Preservation/Reunification Program:** Family or home-based service designed to support families, reduce risk of out-of-home placement, or reunify children in care with their families (e.g., Family Preservation, Home Builders).

**Parent Support Program:** Any group program designed to offer support or education (e.g., Parents Anonymous, parenting instruction course, Parent Support Association).

**Table 5-1**  
**Ongoing Child Welfare Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category							
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total			
Case to Be Closed	68% 15,954	74% 4,526	67% 15,438	65% 7,625	<b>68% 43,543</b>	55% 5,935		
Substantiated	24%	49%	20%	44%	<b>44%</b>	33%		
Suspected	15%	26%	17%	30%	<b>30%</b>	30%		
Unsubstantiated	61%	25%	63%	26%	<b>26%</b>	37%		
Case to Stay Open	29% 6,687	23% 1,422	29% 6,722	32% 3,702	<b>29% 18,533</b>	42% 4,591		
Substantiated	49%	41%	55%	65%	<b>54%</b>	68%		
Suspected	27%	24%	31%	27%	<b>28%</b>	28%		
Unsubstantiated	24%	35%	14%	8%	<b>18%</b>	4%		
Other	3% 632	3% 179	4% 945	3% 380	<b>3% 2,136</b>	3% 333		
Substantiated	24%	—	50%	39%	<b>39%</b>	54%		
Suspected	40%	—	27%	44%	<b>34%</b>	19%		
Unsubstantiated	36%	—	23%	17%	<b>27%</b>	27%		
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,273</b>	<b>100% 6,127</b>	<b>100% 23,105</b>	<b>100% 11,707</b>	<b>100% 64,212</b>	<b>100% 10,859</b>		

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,035 child investigations with information about ongoing child welfare services. Due to missing information on 18 cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 5-1.  
— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Other Family/Parent Counseling:** Includes programs for family therapy/counseling or couple counseling (e.g., family service bureau, mental health centre).

**Drug/Alcohol Counseling:** Addiction programs (any substance) for caregiver(s).

**Welfare/Social Assistance:** Referral for social assistance to address financial concerns of the household.

**Food Bank:** Referral to any food bank.

**Shelter Services:** Regarding family violence or homelessness.

**Domestic Violence Counseling:** Regarding domestic violence, abusive relationships, or the effects of witnessing violence.

**Psychiatric/Psychological Services:** Child referral to psychological or psychiatric services (trauma, high-risk behaviour, or intervention).

**Special Education Referral:** Any specialized school program to meet a child's educational, emotional, or behavioural needs.

**Recreational Program:** Referral to a community recreational program (e.g., organized sports leagues, community recreation, Boys and Girls Clubs).

**Victim Support Program:** Child-focused support program related to victim support.

**Medical/Dental Services:** Any specialized service to address the child's immediate medical or dental health needs.

**Other Child Counseling:** Any other child-focused counseling service (e.g., counseling centre, mental health centre, family service bureaus, drug or alcohol counseling).

**Other Referral:** Any other form of child- or family-focused referral.

As shown in Table 5-2(b), a minimum of one child or family referral was made for 51 per cent of child maltreatment investigations, representing an estimated 32,710 child investigations. Forty-six per cent of these cases were substantiated, while 26 per cent remained suspected and 28 per cent were unsubstantiated. Twenty-six per cent of investigations had at least one child referral, and 47 per cent led to a family referral (see Table 5-2(a)). Forty-seven per cent of investigations with a minimum of one child referral were substantiated, with 27 per cent remaining suspected and 26 per cent unsubstantiated. Likewise, 48 per cent of investigations leading to a family referral were substantiated, with 26 per cent remaining suspected and 26 per cent being unsubstantiated.

Twenty-one per cent of investigations were referred for other family/parent counseling, while 13 per cent were referred for other child counseling, and 12 per cent for a parent support program. Seven per cent of investigations were referred for domestic violence counseling and psychiatric/psychological services respectively, five per cent for parental drug/alcohol counseling, and four per cent for medical/dental services. Rates of substantiation ranged from a high of 72 per cent for cases involving referrals to shelter services, to a low of 29 per cent for cases involving referrals to food banks.

**Physical Abuse:** Fifty-three per cent of physical abuse investigations led to at least one family or child referral. A minimum of one family referral was made in 40 per cent of physical abuse investigations, while at least one child referral was made in 26 per cent of cases.

Referrals for family and parent counseling were made in 27 per cent of the physical abuse investigations referred for non-child welfare services. Forty-two per cent of these investigations were substantiated. Referrals to parent support programs were made for an estimated 3,328 child investigations, 42 per cent of which were substantiated. Seven per cent were referred for domestic

violence counseling, four per cent for family preservation/reunification and three per cent for drug/alcohol counseling.

Child-focused referrals were primarily made for other child counseling services (12 per cent), and psychiatric or psychological services (9 per cent). Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 39 per cent for special education referrals, to a high of 52 per cent for recreational program referrals.

**Sexual Abuse:** At least one family or one child referral occurred for 52 per cent of sexual abuse investigations (19 per cent had family referrals, and 39 per cent had child referrals). Fifty-two per cent of sexual abuse cases involving at least one family or child referral were substantiated.

A referral to other family/parent counseling occurred for 16 per cent of sexual abuse investigations that were referred for other services. Of these cases, 48 per cent were substantiated. A referral was made to parent support programs for five per cent of child investigations with sexual abuse as the primary category of maltreatment; two-thirds of these cases were substantiated.

Twenty per cent of child-focused referrals for sexual abuse investigations were made for other child counseling; 54 per cent were substantiated. Seventeen per cent were referred to victim support programs; 70 per cent of these cases were substantiated. Sixteen per cent of sexual abuse investigations had a referral to other family or parent counseling, of which 48 per cent were substantiated. Six per cent of children investigated for sexual abuse were referred to psychiatric or psychological services.

**Neglect:** A minimum of one family or child referral was made for 42 per cent of neglect investigations (20 per cent had child referrals, and 32 per cent had family referrals). Forty per cent of neglect cases involving referrals were substantiated.

A referral to other family/parent counseling occurred for 17 per cent of neglect investigations. Of this number, 39 per cent were substantiated. A parent support referral was made for 11 per cent of child investigations that identified neglect as the primary category of maltreatment, 51 per cent of which were substantiated. Eight per cent of neglect cases were referred for other child counseling, of which 36 per cent were substantiated. An additional six per cent of neglect cases were referred for drug and alcohol counseling (59 per cent substantiated), and psychological or psychiatric services respectively (28 per cent substantiated). Five per cent of neglect investigations that had a referral were referred for medical/dental services (an estimated 1,236 child investigations), and 64 per cent of these investigations were substantiated.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** At least one family or child referral was reported for 62 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations (53 per cent had family referrals and 29 per cent had child referrals). Fifty-nine per cent of investigations with at least one child or family referral were substantiated.

Twenty-one per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations referred for other services were referred for domestic violence counseling, while 20 per cent were referred for family and parent counseling. Fourteen per cent were referred for a parent support program, nine per cent were referred for shelter services, and eight per cent for drug and alcohol counseling. The percentage of cases that were substantiated ranged from 39 per cent for food bank referrals to 85 per cent for drug/alcohol counseling.

Child-focused referrals for emotional maltreatment investigations were made primarily to other child counseling services (19 per cent). Referrals to psychiatric and psychological services were made in eight per cent of the cases. More than two-thirds (69 per cent) of investigations involving referrals to other child counseling services, and 54 per cent of those involving referrals to psychiatric or psychological services were substantiated.

**Multiple Categories:** At least one family or child referral was made for 59 per cent of these investigations, 58 per cent of which were substantiated. A minimum of one family referral was reported for 50 per cent of investigations with multiple categories of maltreatment, and at least one child referral was reported for 32 per cent.

Twenty-nine per cent of investigations with multiple categories of maltreatment reported a referral to other parent/family counseling; 62 per cent of these cases were substantiated. Nineteen per cent were referred to parent support programs, 12 per cent were referred to domestic violence counseling, and eight per cent to drug/alcohol counseling. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 51 per cent for welfare/social assistance to a high of 93 per cent for shelter services.

Child-focused referrals for investigations with multiple categories of maltreatment were reported for psychiatric and psychological services (12 per cent), other child counseling (12 per cent), medical and dental services (eight per cent), and recreational services or special education (three per cent).

Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 27 per cent for recreation program referral to 79 per cent for alcohol and drug counseling and 93 per cent for shelter services.

**Table 5-2(a)**  
**Referrals to Other Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
<b>Family-Focused Referrals</b>												
Family Preservation/ Reunification	4%	942	—	—	2%	552	3%	329	<b>3%</b>	<b>1,856</b>	4%	437
Substantiated	55%		—		33%		67%		<b>50%</b>		60%	
Suspected	25%		—		49%		33%		<b>34%</b>		40%	
Unsubstantiated	20%		—		18%		0%		<b>16%</b>		0%	
Parent Support Program	14%	3,328	5%	325	11%	2,452	14%	1,692	<b>12%</b>	<b>7,797</b>	19%	2,110
Substantiated	42%		67%		51%		60%		<b>50%</b>		57%	
Suspected	25%		17%		33%		29%		<b>28%</b>		39%	
Unsubstantiated	33%		16%		16%		11%		<b>22%</b>		4%	
Other Family/ Parent Counseling	27%	6,389	16%	976	17%	4,062	20%	2,396	<b>21%</b>	<b>13,823</b>	29%	3,220
Substantiated	42%		48%		39%		64%		<b>46%</b>		62%	
Suspected	22%		36%		31%		22%		<b>25%</b>		26%	
Unsubstantiated	36%		16%		30%		14%		<b>29%</b>		12%	
Drug/Alcohol Counseling	3%	658	—	—	6%	1,414	8%	949	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,067</b>	8%	875
Substantiated	41%		—		59%		85%		<b>62%</b>		79%	
Suspected	39%		—		29%		14%		<b>26%</b>		18%	
Unsubstantiated	20%		—		12%		1%		<b>12%</b>		3%	
Welfare/Social Assistance	1%	281	—	—	3%	698	3%	382	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,404</b>	4%	440
Substantiated	27%		—		48%		58%		<b>45%</b>		51%	
Suspected	46%		—		37%		42%		<b>39%</b>		49%	
Unsubstantiated	27%		—		15%		0%		<b>16%</b>		0%	
Food Bank	1%	205	—	—	2%	554	3%	301	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,060</b>	1%	117
Substantiated	—		—		22%		39%		<b>29%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—		52%		61%		<b>47%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		26%		0%		<b>24%</b>		—	
Shelter Services	1%	190	—	—	2%	397	9%	1,110	<b>3%</b>	<b>1,711</b>	3%	357
Substantiated	—		—		57%		80%		<b>72%</b>		93%	
Suspected	—		—		25%		12%		<b>17%</b>		4%	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		18%		8%		<b>11%</b>		3%	

continued

**Table 5-2(a) (continued)**  
**Referrals to Other Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment			
Domestic Violence Counseling	7% 1,646	— —	2% 553	21% 2,488	<b>7% 4,744</b>	12% 1,275	
Substantiated	55%	—	81%	66%	<b>64%</b>	87%	
Suspected	15%	—	11%	23%	<b>19%</b>	13%	
Unsubstantiated	30%	—	8%	11%	<b>17%</b>	0%	
<b>Investigations with Minimum of One Family Referral</b>	<b>40% 9,394</b>	<b>19% 1,188</b>	<b>32% 7,398</b>	<b>53% 6,167</b>	<b>47% 24,147</b>	<b>50% 5,431</b>	
Substantiated	41%	51%	41%	65%	<b>48%</b>	70%	
Suspected	23%	31%	32%	23%	<b>26%</b>	21%	
Unsubstantiated	36%	18%	27%	12%	<b>26%</b>	9%	
<b>Total Child Investigations*,**</b>	<b>23,609</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>64,746</b>	<b>10,971</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about referrals to other services. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 5-2.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## Out-of-Home Placement

Workers were asked to indicate the placement status of investigated children following the conclusion of the initial investigation. Admissions to out-of-home care at any time during the investigation were also tracked. The following placement classifications were used:

**No Placement Required:** No placement was required following the investigation.

**Placement Is Being Considered:** At the end of the initial investigation, out-of-home placement was still being considered.

**Informal Placement:** An informal placement was arranged within the family support network (kinship care, extended family).

**Placement in Child Welfare Care:** Includes foster care assessment and receiving, general and treatment foster care placements, structured group living setting, or therapeutic-residential or secure treatment centre.

**Table 5-2(b)**  
**Referrals to Other Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
<b>Child-Focused Referrals</b>												
Psychiatric/Psychological Services	9%	2,096	6%	394	6%	1,422	8%	919	<b>7%</b>	<b>4,831</b>	12%	1,328
Substantiated	42%		18%		28%		54%		<b>38%</b>		66%	
Suspected	28%		36%		38%		42%		<b>34%</b>		27%	
Unsubstantiated	30%		46%		34%		4%		<b>28%</b>		7%	
Special Education Referral	2%	408	—	—	3%	763	2%	188	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,367</b>	3%	383
Substantiated	39%		—		49%		—		<b>48%</b>		72%	
Suspected	22%		—		40%		—		<b>34%</b>		25%	
Unsubstantiated	39%		—		11%		—		<b>18%</b>		3%	
Recreational Program	2%	499	—	—	2%	483	1%	139	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,164</b>	3%	380
Substantiated	52%		—		24%		—		<b>38%</b>		27%	
Suspected	32%		—		48%		—		<b>35%</b>		73%	
Unsubstantiated	16%		—		28%		—		<b>26%</b>		0%	
Victim Support Program	1%	184	17%	1,052	—	—	1%	173	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,461</b>	2%	208
Substantiated	—		70%		—		—		<b>65%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		25%		—		—		<b>28%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		5%		—		—		<b>7%</b>		—	
Medical/Dental Services	4%	881	3%	193	5%	1,236	1%	122	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,432</b>	8%	860
Substantiated	50%		—		64%		—		<b>55%</b>		64%	
Suspected	27%		—		17%		—		<b>20%</b>		26%	
Unsubstantiated	23%		—		19%		—		<b>25%</b>		10%	
Other Child Counseling	12%	2,939	20%	1,248	8%	1,973	19%	2,222	<b>13%</b>	<b>8,382</b>	12%	1,271
Substantiated	41%		54%		36%		69%		<b>49%</b>		49%	
Suspected	16%		30%		36%		17%		<b>23%</b>		37%	
Unsubstantiated	43%		16%		28%		14%		<b>28%</b>		14%	
<b>Investigations with Minimum of One Child Referral</b>												
	26%	6,136	39%	2,395	20%	4,650	29%	3,357	<b>26%</b>	<b>16,538</b>	32%	3,500
Substantiated	41%		52%		42%		63%		<b>47%</b>		60%	
Suspected	23%		29%		32%		26%		<b>27%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	36%		19%		26%		11%		<b>26%</b>		7%	

continued

**Table 5-2(b) (continued)**  
**Referrals to Other Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment			
Other Referral (Child or Family)	11% 2,509	12% 760	10% 2,292	8% 918	<b>10% 6,479</b>	13% 1,424	
Substantiated	45%	54%	37%	33%	<b>42%</b>	60%	
Suspected	17%	7%	27%	37%	<b>22%</b>	27%	
Unsubstantiated	38%	39%	36%	30%	<b>36%</b>	13%	
<b>Investigations with Minimum of One Child or Family Referral</b>							
	53% 12,406	52% 3,176	42% 9,820	62% 7,308	<b>51% 32,710</b>	59% 6,495	
Substantiated	41%	52%	40%	59%	<b>46%</b>	58%	
Suspected	22%	25%	30%	27%	<b>26%</b>	31%	
Unsubstantiated	37%	23%	30%	14%	<b>28%</b>	11%	
<b>Total Child Investigations*,**</b>	<b>23,609</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>64,746</b>	<b>10,971</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about referrals to other services. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 5-2.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

In Table 5-3, five per cent (an estimated 3,242 child investigations) of all child investigations led to a child being placed in child welfare care (foster placement, group home, or residential/secure treatment) during the initial investigation. Sixty-four per cent of investigations in which the child was placed in a child welfare setting were substantiated, while 21 per cent remained suspected and 15 per cent were unsubstantiated cases of maltreatment. Placement in care was considered in an additional estimated 914 child investigations at the completion of the initial intake, but it is not known how many of these investigations eventually resulted in out-of-home placement.

In an estimated 2,778 child investigations (four per cent of investigations), the investigated children moved to an informal out-of-home care arrangement by the end of the investigation, staying either with relatives, neighbours, or another community care provider. While child welfare services do not assume formal care for children in informal placements, this figure, when combined with the findings on referrals to child welfare care above, means that nine per cent of investigated children experienced a change in their living arrangements following the completion of the initial investigation.

**Physical Abuse:** Placement in child welfare care occurred in four per cent (an estimated 960 child investigations) of physical abuse investigations, and of those investigations, 57 per cent were substantiated. An additional six per cent (an estimated 1,295 child investigations) led to children being placed in an informal community placement, and placement was considered for an additional one per cent.

**Sexual Abuse:** Three per cent or an estimated 216 child investigations for alleged sexual abuse placed children in foster care or other child welfare settings. Four per cent of investigated children were placed in informal placements, of which 71 per cent were substantiated.

**Neglect:** Placement in child welfare care occurred in an estimated 1,723 neglect investigations (seven per cent). Eighty per cent of these cases were substantiated. Placement was considered in two per cent of neglect investigations, and informal placements occurred in four per cent. The substantiation rate for investigations that considered placement was 49 per cent, and for investigations resulting in informal placement the substantiation rate was 81 per cent.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Three per cent or 343 estimated child investigations for alleged emotional maltreatment led to placement in child welfare care. Twenty-three per cent of investigations leading to placement were substantiated. Three per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations lead to informal placements (more than two-thirds substantiated), and placement was considered in an additional one per cent of child investigations.

**Multiple Categories:** In seven per cent of child investigations with multiple categories of maltreatment (an estimated 803 child investigations), child welfare care was indicated. Sixty-nine per cent of these investigations were substantiated. Eight per cent of child investigations with multiple categories of maltreatment led to placement in informal care (91 per cent substantiated), and placement was considered for two per cent.

## Child Welfare Court Involvement

Application to child welfare court can be made for an order of supervision (child remaining in the home), temporary wardship (for a set time period), or permanent wardship. The *OIS 1998* tracked the number of applications made or being considered during the initial investigation, but did not track the types of applications. Because applications may have been made at a point following the *OIS 1998* data collection period, the *OIS 1998* court involvement figures should be treated as underestimates of the true rate of court involvement. Court status was tracked in terms of three possible worker responses:

**Table 5-3**  
**Out-of-Home Placement in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
No Placement Required	89%	20,987	92%	5,656	87%	20,214	93%	10,929	<b>89%</b>	<b>57,786</b>	83%	9,109
Substantiated	28%		27%		25%		51%		<b>31%</b>		42%	
Suspected	20%		25%		22%		29%		<b>23%</b>		32%	
Unsubstantiated	52%		48%		53%		20%		<b>46%</b>		26%	
Placement Considered	1%	340	—	—	2%	431	1%	107	<b>2%</b>	<b>914</b>	2%	243
Substantiated	72%		—		49%		—		<b>57%</b>		—	
Suspected	22%		—		41%		—		<b>34%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	6%		—		10%		—		<b>9%</b>		—	
Informal Placement	6%	1,295	4%	257	4%	896	3%	330	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,778</b>	8%	811
Substantiated	65%		71%		81%		67%		<b>71%</b>		91%	
Suspected	13%		9%		10%		21%		<b>13%</b>		1%	
Unsubstantiated	22%		20%		9%		12%		<b>16%</b>		8%	
Placement in Foster Care or Other Child Welfare Setting	4%	960	3%	216	7%	1,723	3%	343	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,242</b>	7%	803
Substantiated	57%		—		80%		23%		<b>64%</b>		69%	
Suspected	16%		—		12%		66%		<b>21%</b>		27%	
Unsubstantiated	27%		—		8%		11%		<b>15%</b>		4%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,582</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,709</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,720</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,966</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,050 child investigations with information about out-of-home placement. Due to missing information on three cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 5-3.  
 — Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Application Made:** An application to child welfare court was submitted.

**Application Considered:** The child welfare worker considered whether or not to submit an application to child welfare court.

**No Application Considered:** Court involvement was not considered.

As seen in Table 5-4, applications to child welfare court were made in an estimated 2,839 child investigations (five per cent) and considered in an additional 2,805 estimated child investigations (four per cent). Sixty-six per cent of investigations involving a court application were substantiated, 23 per cent remained suspected, and 11 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Applications to child welfare court were made in three per cent of physical abuse investigations. Sixty per cent of these investigations were substantiated following the initial investigation. An application to child welfare court was considered for an additional four per cent of physical abuse investigations.

**Sexual Abuse:** Applications to child welfare court were made in six per cent of sexual abuse investigations. Maltreatment was substantiated for 44 per cent of these cases. In two per cent of sexual abuse investigations an application to child welfare court had been considered.

**Neglect:** Applications to child welfare court were made in five per cent of neglect investigations; of these investigations, 81 per cent were substantiated. Applications to court were considered in an additional four per cent of neglect investigations.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** An application to child welfare court was made in five per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations, and more than half (55 per cent) of these cases were substantiated. A child welfare court application was considered in seven per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations.

**Multiple Categories:** An application to child welfare court was made in 11 per cent of child investigations involving multiple categories of investigated maltreatment. Sixty-seven per cent of these cases were substantiated. In seven per cent of child investigations with multiple categories of maltreatment, an application to child welfare court was considered, of which 83 per cent were substantiated.

## Police Involvement and Criminal Charges

There has been a growing emphasis on involving police in all situations that could lead to criminal charges, particularly in cases of child sexual abuse and child physical abuse. Detailed protocols between child welfare and police services specify the points during an investigation when police should be contacted. The *OIS 1998* tracked whether a police investigation had been initiated during the child welfare investigation and, if so, whether criminal charges had been considered or laid. As with the other interventions during investigation described in this chapter, the *OIS 1998* tracked only events that occurred during the initial child welfare investigation; it is therefore possible that police decided to lay charges or became involved in some cases after the *OIS 1998* information forms had been completed. It should be noted further that the police also investigate many non-familial child maltreatment cases that do not involve child welfare services.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> See for example Trocmé, N., & Brison, R. (1998). Homicide and injuries due to assault and to abuse and neglect. In G. Beaulne (Ed.) *For the Safety of Canadian Children and Youth: From data to preventive measures*. Ottawa, ON: Health Canada.

**Table 5-4**  
**Applications to Child Welfare Court in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total		
No Court Considered	93% 21,913	92% 5,654	91% 21,153	88% 10,261	<b>91% 58,981</b>	82% 8,967	
Substantiated	30%	28%	28%	47%	<b>32%</b>	42%	
Suspected	19%	24%	21%	31%	<b>22%</b>	31%	
Unsubstantiated	51%	48%	51%	22%	<b>46%</b>	27%	
Application Considered	4% 844	2% 157	4% 928	7% 876	<b>4% 2,805</b>	7% 760	
Substantiated	57%	—	47%	86%	<b>61%</b>	83%	
Suspected	25%	—	39%	14%	<b>29%</b>	16%	
Unsubstantiated	18%	—	14%	0%	<b>10%</b>	1%	
Application Made	3% 781	6% 354	5% 1,175	5% 529	<b>5% 2,839</b>	11% 1,204	
Substantiated	60%	44%	81%	55%	<b>66%</b>	67%	
Suspected	20%	26%	18%	36%	<b>23%</b>	25%	
Unsubstantiated	20%	30%	1%	9%	<b>11%</b>	8%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,538</b>	<b>100% 6,165</b>	<b>100% 23,256</b>	<b>100% 11,666</b>	<b>100% 64,625</b>	<b>100% 10,931</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,048 child investigations with information about child welfare court. Due to missing information on five cases, and because information on child welfare court was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 5-4.  
 — Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

As illustrated in Table 5-5, an estimated 14,109 child investigations (22 per cent of child investigations) involved a police investigation in addition to a child welfare investigation. Criminal charges were laid following a police investigation for an estimated 6,882 child investigations while no charges were laid following a police investigation for 7,227 cases.

Seventy-seven per cent of child maltreatment investigations that involved a police investigation and charges laid were substantiated. Maltreatment remained suspected for 16 per cent of these cases, and seven per cent were unsubstantiated. Thirty-three per cent of the cases in which criminal charges were not laid following a police investigation were substantiated and 24 per cent remained suspected.

**Physical Abuse:** Police investigations occurred in 23 per cent of physical abuse investigations, and charges were laid in nine per cent of these cases and considered in 14 per cent. Eighty-two per cent of cases where charges were laid were substantiated.

**Sexual Abuse:** Police investigations occurred in 67 per cent of sexual abuse investigations, and charges were laid in 37 per cent of these cases and considered in 30 per cent. Sixty-one per cent of cases where charges were laid were substantiated.

**Neglect:** Police investigations occurred in seven per cent of neglect investigations, and charges were laid in three per cent of these cases and considered in four per cent. Eighty-six per cent of cases where charges were laid were substantiated.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Police investigations occurred in 26 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations. Criminal charges were laid in 16 per cent of these cases and considered in ten per cent. Eighty-seven per cent of cases where charges were laid were substantiated.<sup>57</sup>

**Multiple Categories:** Police investigations occurred in 28 per cent of investigations involving more than one category of maltreatment. Criminal charges were laid in 12 per cent of these cases and considered in a further 16 per cent. Eighty-eight per cent of cases where charges were laid were substantiated.

**Table 5-5**

**Police Investigations and Charges Laid in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment			
No Police Investigation	77% 18,011	33% 2,028	93% 21,670	74% 8,638	<b>78% 50,347</b>	72% 7,862	
Substantiated	26%	10%	29%	40%	<b>29%</b>	41%	
Suspected	18%	19%	23%	36%	<b>23%</b>	33%	
Unsubstantiated	56%	71%	48%	24%	<b>48%</b>	26%	
Police Investigation, No Charges Laid	14% 3,365	30% 1,831	4% 935	10% 1,096	<b>11% 7,227</b>	16% 1,801	
Substantiated	30%	12%	37%	74%	<b>33%</b>	52%	
Suspected	25%	33%	12%	18%	<b>24%</b>	24%	
Unsubstantiated	45%	55%	51%	8%	<b>43%</b>	24%	
Police Investigation, Charges Laid	9% 2,156	37% 2,241	3% 598	16% 1,887	<b>11% 6,882</b>	12% 1,277	
Substantiated	82%	61%	86%	87%	<b>77%</b>	88%	
Suspected	16%	25%	12%	8%	<b>16%</b>	12%	
Unsubstantiated	2%	14%	2%	5%	<b>7%</b>	0%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,532</b>	<b>100% 6,100</b>	<b>100% 23,203</b>	<b>100% 11,621</b>	<b>100% 64,456</b>	<b>100% 10,940</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,036 child investigations with information about police investigations. Due to missing information on 17 cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 5-5.

<sup>57</sup> The OIS 1998 did not distinguish between charges laid regarding assault against children and charges laid regarding spousal assault.

## ■ 6. CHILD CHARACTERISTICS

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This chapter provides a description of children investigated because of reported maltreatment with respect to their age, sex, and functioning, in terms of the four primary categories of maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment)<sup>58</sup> and by level of substantiation.

The figures presented in this chapter are weighted figures derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of Ontario children's aid societies (CASs). The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to CASs, (2) reported cases that were screened out by CASs before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by CASs, and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is designed to allow comparison to the *OIS 1993*; however, direct comparisons between the figures in the two reports should be made only after first taking into consideration the changes in definition and the effect of the sampling design on the final estimates.

### Age and Sex of Investigated Children

Table 6-1 presents the age and sex of investigated children, the incidence of investigations by age and sex, and levels of substantiation. The incidence of investigated maltreatment varied from a low of 17.02 investigations per 1,000 children (females one year old and under) to a high of 39.94 investigations per 1,000 children (15-year-old females).

Forty-nine per cent of child maltreatment investigations involved female children (an estimated 30,616 child investigations), and males were the subjects of 51 per cent of investigations (an estimated 34,124 child investigations). While the incidence rate was similar for females (26.68 investigations per 1,000 children) and males (28.20 investigations per 1,000 children), the sex distribution varied by age group. The incidence rate for males zero to three was 28.00 investigations per 1,000 children, while for females it was 22.00 investigations per 1,000 children. However, females aged 12 to 15 were more often (31.75 investigations per 1,000 children) investigated for maltreatment than their male peers (25.10 investigations per 1,000 children). Female adolescents who were 15 years of age (39.94 investigations per 1,000 children) or 14 years of age (35.76 investigations per 1,000 children) were most often subjects of maltreatment investigations.

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<sup>58</sup> Cases involving more than one category of maltreatment were classified under the primary category specified by the investigating worker (see Chapter 3).

**Table 6-1**  
**Child Age and Sex in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Incidence of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

		Investigated Children*		Ontario Child Population		Incidence per 1,000 Children	Level of Substantiation		
							Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated
<b>0-15 Years</b>	<b>All Children</b>	<b>64,740</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,357,265</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27.46</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>40%</b>
	Females	30,616	47%	1,147,395	49%	<b>26.68</b>	37%	23%	40%
	Males	34,124	53%	1,209,870	51%	<b>28.20</b>	38%	21%	41%
<b>0-3 Years</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>6,241</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>283,725</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>47%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>8,324</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>297,270</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>43%</b>
< 1 Year	Females	1,176	2%	69,110	3%	<b>17.02</b>	47%	22%	31%
	Males	1,770	3%	72,985	3%	<b>24.25</b>	29%	25%	46%
1 Year	Females	1,361	2%	70,260	3%	<b>19.37</b>	25%	29%	46%
	Males	1,848	3%	73,850	3%	<b>25.02</b>	41%	25%	34%
2 Years	Females	1,606	2%	71,895	3%	<b>22.34</b>	29%	18%	53%
	Males	2,142	3%	74,700	3%	<b>28.67</b>	39%	19%	42%
3 Years	Females	2,099	3%	72,460	3%	<b>28.97</b>	24%	25%	51%
	Males	2,566	4%	75,735	3%	<b>33.88</b>	30%	21%	49%
<b>4-7 Years</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>7,679</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>295,550</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>25.98</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>43%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>9,337</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>312,225</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>29.90</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>46%</b>
4 Years	Females	1,834	3%	75,000	3%	<b>24.45</b>	34%	22%	44%
	Males	2,332	4%	78,205	3%	<b>29.82</b>	35%	20%	45%
5 Years	Females	2,277	4%	74,415	3%	<b>30.60</b>	22%	30%	48%
	Males	2,494	4%	78,500	3%	<b>31.77</b>	34%	18%	48%
6 Years	Females	1,728	3%	74,380	3%	<b>23.23</b>	39%	25%	36%
	Males	2,294	4%	78,720	3%	<b>29.14</b>	30%	18%	52%
7 Years	Females	1,841	3%	71,755	3%	<b>25.66</b>	35%	24%	41%
	Males	2,218	3%	76,800	3%	<b>28.88</b>	43%	18%	39%
<b>8-11 Years</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>7,705</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>287,665</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>26.78</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>36%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>304,355</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>29.68</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>39%</b>
8 Years	Females	2,318	4%	69,710	3%	<b>33.25</b>	38%	16%	46%
	Males	1,833	3%	74,875	3%	<b>24.48</b>	39%	18%	43%
9 Years	Females	2,229	3%	72,260	3%	<b>30.85</b>	39%	28%	33%
	Males	2,583	4%	76,710	3%	<b>33.67</b>	44%	19%	37%
10 Years	Females	1,510	3%	73,725	3%	<b>20.48</b>	45%	20%	35%
	Males	2,417	4%	75,650	3%	<b>31.95</b>	41%	19%	40%
11 years	Females	1,648	3%	71,970	3%	<b>22.90</b>	46%	27%	27%
	Males	2,200	3%	77,120	3%	<b>28.53</b>	33%	29%	38%

continued

**Table 6-1 (continued)**  
**Child Age and Sex in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Incidence of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

		Investigated Children*		Ontario Child Population		Incidence per 1,000 Children	Level of Substantiation		
							Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated
12-15 Years	Females	8,903	14%	280,450	12%	31.75	43%	21%	36%
	Males	7,430	11%	296,005	13%	25.10	44%	23%	33%
12 Years	Females	1,705	3%	70,515	3%	24.18	41%	14%	45%
	Males	2,371	4%	74,885	3%	31.66	43%	22%	35%
13 Years	Females	1,925	3%	70,625	3%	27.26	40%	19%	41%
	Males	1,877	3%	74,760	3%	25.11	51%	16%	33%
14 Years	Females	2,490	4%	69,625	3%	35.76	42%	30%	28%
	Males	1,470	2%	72,360	3%	20.32	42%	32%	26%
15 Years	Females	2,783	4%	69,685	3%	39.94	46%	20%	34%
	Males	1,712	3%	74,000	3%	23.14	39%	24%	37%

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,049 child investigations with information about child age and sex. Due to missing information for sex on four cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 6-1.

Rates of substantiation ranged from a low of 22 per cent for five-year-old females to a high of 51 per cent for 13-year-old males. Comparisons between age and sex categories must be made with caution because investigations by category of maltreatment confound these comparisons (see Table 6-2).

**Physical Abuse:** Fifty-seven per cent of physical abuse investigations involved boys, while 43 per cent involved girls (Table 6-2). The larger proportion of boys is particularly noteworthy in the four-to 11-year-old group, in which an estimated 8,063 child investigations involved boys, while an estimated 4,760 involved girls. By adolescence, male and female youth were equally represented.

Substantiation rates in physical abuse cases increased dramatically with age. Only 15 per cent of investigations involving girls under four and 24 per cent of investigations involving boys under four were substantiated, while 39 per cent of physical abuse investigations involving adolescent females and 46 per cent involving adolescent males were substantiated.

**Sexual Abuse:** Seventy-one per cent (an estimated 4,369 child investigations) of sexual abuse investigations involved female children, while only 29 per cent (an estimated 1,795 child investigations) involved males. Adolescent females aged 12 to 15 accounted for 29 per cent of all sexual abuse investigations, and girls in the four-to-seven age group accounted for a further 18 per cent of investigations. Twelve per cent of investigations involved boys in the four-to-seven age group, whereas boys represented only four to seven per cent of investigations in all other age categories.

The substantiation rate for sexual abuse of children ranged from zero per cent (males zero to three) to 61 per cent (males 12 to 15). However, over two-thirds of the investigations involving adolescent females were substantiated (37 per cent) or suspected (32 per cent).

**Neglect:** Investigations of neglect were evenly distributed across age and sex groups. The lowest proportion (11 per cent) of investigations involved either female children aged zero to three, female children aged four to seven, or males and females between 12 and 15 years of age. Boys zero to three accounted for most (17 per cent) neglect investigations. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 23 per cent for females between zero and three to a high of 43 per cent for girls eight to 11 years old.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** There was a fairly even distribution between boys (54 per cent) and girls (46 per cent) in cases involving emotional maltreatment as the primary reason for investigation, although there was a higher proportion of boys under four (17 per cent), than girls of that age (10 per cent). Children zero to 12 were fairly evenly represented (27 per cent for ages zero to three, 28 per cent for ages four to seven, and 26 per cent for ages eight to 11), while these investigations did not involve adolescents as frequently (19 per cent). Substantiation rates were higher for emotional maltreatment than for other forms of maltreatment, ranging from 42 per cent to 57 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Forty-seven per cent of investigations of more than one category of maltreatment involved female children or adolescents and 53 per cent involved males. Males aged eight to 11 (17 per cent) and adolescent females (15 per cent) were more likely to be investigated than their peers. Substantiation ranged from 43 per cent (children aged zero to three, and females aged four to seven) to 58 per cent (female children aged eight to 11).

## Child Functioning

Child functioning was documented on the basis of a short checklist of problems that child welfare workers were likely to be aware of as a result of their investigation. The child functioning checklist (see Appendix C, Maltreatment Assessment Form) was developed in consultation with child welfare workers and researchers to reflect the types of concerns that may be identified during an investigation. The checklist is not a validated measurement instrument for which population norms have been established.<sup>59</sup> The checklist documents only problems that child welfare workers became aware of during their investigation – and therefore undercounts the occurrence of child functioning problems.<sup>60</sup> It nevertheless provides a first estimate of the types of concerns that are identified during child maltreatment investigations.

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<sup>59</sup> A number of child functioning measures with established norms exist; however, these are not currently used in child welfare settings and could not be feasibly used in the context of the *OIS 1998*.

<sup>60</sup> Although child welfare workers assess the safety of children, they do not routinely conduct a detailed assessment of child functioning. Items on the checklist included only issues that workers happened to become aware of during their investigation. A more systematic assessment would therefore likely lead to the identification of more issues than noted by workers during the *OIS 1998*.

**Table 6-2**  
**Age and Sex of Children Investigated in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
<b>0-3 Years</b>								
Males	9% 2,028	4% 275	17% 4,011	17% 2,010	<b>13% 8,324</b>	12% 1,277		
Substantiated	24%	0%	33%	42%	<b>32%</b>	43%		
Suspected	21%	16%	19%	31%	<b>22%</b>	31%		
Unsubstantiated	55%	84%	48%	27%	<b>46%</b>	26%		
Females	8% 1,864	10% 586	11% 2,572	10% 1,220	<b>10% 6,242</b>	12% 1,357		
Substantiated	15%	22%	23%	48%	<b>25%</b>	43%		
Suspected	20%	21%	24%	31%	<b>24%</b>	31%		
Unsubstantiated	65%	57%	53%	20%	<b>51%</b>	26%		
<b>4-7 Years</b>								
Males	16% 3,834	12% 722	14% 3,099	14% 1,683	<b>14% 9,338</b>	14% 1,546		
Substantiated	27%	17%	29%	50%	<b>31%</b>	48%		
Suspected	17%	32%	19%	24%	<b>20%</b>	14%		
Unsubstantiated	56%	51%	52%	26%	<b>49%</b>	38%		
Females	11% 2,535	18% 1,132	11% 2,421	14% 1,593	<b>12% 7,681</b>	11% 1,200		
Substantiated	19%	28%	29%	49%	<b>30%</b>	43%		
Suspected	17%	22%	25%	39%	<b>25%</b>	37%		
Unsubstantiated	64%	50%	46%	12%	<b>45%</b>	20%		
<b>8-11 Years</b>								
Males	18% 4,229	7% 431	12% 2,838	13% 1,533	<b>14% 9,031</b>	17% 1,854		
Substantiated	38%	25%	27%	53%	<b>36%</b>	45%		
Suspected	20%	14%	26%	22%	<b>22%</b>	31%		
Unsubstantiated	42%	61%	47%	25%	<b>42%</b>	24%		
Females	9% 2,225	14% 883	13% 3,063	13% 1,533	<b>12% 7,704</b>	9% 1,029		
Substantiated	28%	27%	43%	57%	<b>39%</b>	58%		
Suspected	28%	26%	17%	28%	<b>24%</b>	24%		
Unsubstantiated	44%	47%	40%	15%	<b>37%</b>	18%		

*continued*

**Table 6-2 (continued)**  
**Age and Sex of Children Investigated in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
<b>12-15 Years</b>								
Males	14% 3,381	6% 367	11% 2,569	10% 1,111	<b>11% 7,428</b>	10% 1,066		
Substantiated	46%	61%	30%	55%	<b>42%</b>	56%		
Suspected	16%	14%	25%	34%	<b>22%</b>	38%		
Unsubstantiated	38%	25%	45%	11%	<b>36%</b>	6%		
Females	15% 3,506	29% 1,768	11% 2,603	9% 1,025	<b>14% 8,902</b>	15% 1,642		
Substantiated	39%	37%	33%	54%	<b>39%</b>	52%		
Suspected	19%	32%	23%	30%	<b>24%</b>	21%		
Unsubstantiated	42%	31%	44%	15%	<b>37%</b>	17%		
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,602</b>	<b>100% 6,164</b>	<b>100% 23,176</b>	<b>100% 11,708</b>	<b>100% 64,650</b>	<b>100% 10,971</b>		

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,049 child investigations with information about child age and sex. Due to missing information on gender for four cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H –Table 6-2.

Investigating workers were asked to indicate problems that had been confirmed by a formal diagnosis and/or directly observed, as well as issues that they suspected were problems but could not fully verify at the time of the investigation.<sup>61</sup> The six-month period prior to the investigation was used as a reference point where applicable. Child functioning classifications that reflect physical, emotional, cognitive, and behavioural issues were documented with a checklist that included the following categories:

**Developmental Delay:** Child has been diagnosed with a developmental delay, or developmental delay was clearly indicated by the child's appearance or behaviour.

**Physical/Developmental Disability:** Child has a diagnosis or indication of physical/developmental disabilities (e.g., autism, paralysis, cerebral palsy, or learning disability).

**Substance Abuse-Related Birth Defect:** Child has a diagnosis or indication of birth defect(s) related to substance abuse by the biological mother (e.g., Fetal Alcohol

<sup>61</sup> This report refers to both confirmed and suspected problems as "indicated" because this distinction was not documented in all jurisdictions.

Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect).

**Other Health Condition:** Child has ongoing physical health condition (e.g., chronic disease, and frequent hospitalization).

**Specialized Education Class:** Child has been involved in special education program for learning disability, special needs, or behaviour problems.

**Depression or Anxiety:** Child has a diagnosis or indication of being extremely anxious or depressed.

**Self-harming Behaviour:** Child has engaged in high-risk or life-threatening behaviour, suicide attempts, and physical mutilation or cutting.

**Psychiatric Disorder:** Child has diagnosis of psychiatric disorder by a psychiatrist (e.g., conduct disorder, anxiety disorder).

**Behaviour Problem in the Home/Community:** Child has displayed significant behavioural problem(s) in the home or the community (e.g., school refusal, aggression, violence, and gang involvement).

**Negative Peer Involvement:** Child has been involved in high-risk peer activities, such as gang activities or vandalism.

**Substance Abuse:** Child has abused any type of substance, including prescription drugs, alcohol, illegal drugs, and solvents.

**Violence to Others:** Child has displayed aggression and violence toward other children, adults, or property in the home, school, or community.

**Running:** Child has run away from home (or other residence) on at least one occasion, for at least one overnight period.

**Irregular School Attendance:** Child irregular attendance and truancy (over five days/month).

**Involvement in Prostitution:** Child has been involved in prostitution or sex trades in any way.

**Age-inappropriate Sexual Behaviour:** Child has been involved in age-inappropriate sexual behaviour with friends or with family members.

**Criminal/YO Involvement:** Child has been involved in charges, incarceration, or alternative measures with the Young Offenders system.

Tables 6-3(a) and 6-3(b) have been organized to reflect the types of problems associated with either physical, emotional and/or cognitive health, or behaviour. In 41 per cent of child investigations (an

estimated 26,238 child investigations), at least one child functioning issue was indicated by the investigating worker. Thirty-nine per cent of these cases were substantiated; maltreatment remained suspected in a further 26 per cent, and was unsubstantiated in 35 per cent of cases.

Table 6-3(a) presents child functioning characteristics that affect the physical, emotional, and cognitive health of children. In 24 per cent of investigations (an estimated 15,507 child investigations) at least one child functioning issue regarding the physical, emotional, and/or cognitive health of the child was recorded. Thirty-nine per cent of these investigations were substantiated, while 29 per cent remained suspected, and 32 per cent were unsubstantiated. Depression was the most frequently reported category (ten per cent of investigations), with developmental delays being the second most frequently noted problem (eight per cent of investigations). Six per cent of the investigations involved children placed in a special education program and four per cent reported other health conditions. A physical or developmental disability or self-harming behaviours were each reported in three per cent of cases. A psychiatric disorder was noted in two per cent of cases while substance abuse-related birth defects were reported in one per cent of cases.

The behavioural functioning classifications are presented in Table 6-3(b) by primary category of maltreatment and level of substantiation. In 31 per cent of the investigations (an estimated 19,878 child investigations) at least one behavioural functioning issue was reported. In 41 per cent of these cases maltreatment was substantiated; in an additional 25 per cent maltreatment remained suspected, and in 34 per cent it was unsubstantiated. The most frequent type of issue noted fell in the general category of behaviour problems in the home or the community: a behaviour problem was indicated in 23 per cent of cases, involving an estimated 15,049 child investigations. Negative peer involvement was noted in ten per cent of investigations, while irregular school attendance was identified in eight per cent of investigations. Violence toward others was reported in six per cent of investigations and running away was noted in five per cent of investigations. Substance abuse and age-inappropriate sexual behaviour were each reported in three per cent of investigations, while criminal/YO involvement was reported in two per cent of investigations. There were not enough cases documenting prostitution to provide a reliable estimate.

Substantiation rates for cases where a child functioning issue was noted ranged from a low of 27 per cent for cases identifying a substance abuse-related birth defect to a high of 43 per cent for cases where a child was reported to have a psychiatric disorder.

**Physical Abuse:** The five most often indicated child functioning issues in cases of investigated physical abuse were general behaviour problems (32 per cent), negative peer involvement (13 per cent), depression or anxiety (11 per cent), violence toward others (nine per cent), and developmental delay (eight per cent). Overall, a physical, emotional, or cognitive health issue was reported in 25 per cent of physical abuse investigations, involving 6,016 estimated child investigations, and a behavioural issue was indicated in 39 per cent of investigations (an estimated 9,284 child investigations). Rates of substantiation ranged from a low of 13 per cent for criminal/YOA involvement to a high of 42 per cent for depression or anxiety.

**Sexual Abuse:** The five most often reported child functioning issues indicated in cases of investigated sexual abuse were depression (13 per cent), behaviour problem (13 per cent), age-inappropriate sexual behaviour (10 per cent), negative peer involvement (nine per cent), and developmental delay (nine per cent). Thirty-seven per cent of sexual abuse investigations where depression was noted were substantiated, while 35 per cent of cases involving a behaviour problem were substantiated. Somewhat surprisingly, running away from home was noted in only five per cent of sexual abuse cases. It is important to note that these ratings are based on the initial intake investigation, and do not capture behaviours that may become concerns after the initial investigation. Overall, a physical, emotional, or cognitive health issue was reported in 24 per cent of sexual abuse investigations, involving an estimated 1,460 child investigations, and a behavioural issue was indicated in 26 per cent of investigations (an estimated 1,632 child investigations).

**Neglect:** The five most often indicated child functioning issues in cases of investigated neglect were general behaviour problems (21 per cent), irregular school attendance (11 per cent), negative peer involvement (10 per cent), developmental delay (nine per cent), and running (seven per cent). Overall, a physical, emotional, and/or cognitive health issue was reported in 23 per cent of neglect investigations, involving an estimated 5,434 estimated child investigations, and a behavioural issue was indicated in 27 per cent of investigations (an estimated 6,274 child investigations). Rates of substantiation for cases of neglect involving any child functioning issue ranged from 21 per cent for age-inappropriate sexual behaviour to 62 per cent for criminal/YO involvement.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Surprisingly, child functioning issues were least often noted in cases of emotional maltreatment. Overall, a physical, emotional, or cognitive health issue was reported in 22 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations, involving an estimated 2,597 child investigations, and a behavioural issue was indicated in only 23 per cent of these investigations, involving an estimated 2,688 child investigations. The two child functioning issues that are most often indicated in these cases are depression or anxiety (16 per cent) and behaviour problems (16 per cent). Forty-seven per cent of cases where depression was indicated were substantiated, as were 55 per cent of cases where behaviour problems were indicated.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** In contrast to emotional maltreatment cases, child functioning issues were most often indicated in cases involving multiple categories of maltreatment. The six most often indicated child functioning issues were general behaviour problems (33 per cent), depression or anxiety (18 per cent), negative peer involvement (15 per cent), developmental delay (13 per cent), violence toward others (ten per cent), and irregular school attendance (nine per cent). Overall, a physical, emotional, and/or cognitive health issue was reported in 33 per cent of investigations involving more than one category of maltreatment (3,662 child investigations) and a behavioural issue was also indicated in 42 per cent of investigations (an estimated 4,609 child investigations). Rates of substantiation for multiple maltreatment cases involving child functioning issues ranged from 50 per cent for behaviour problem, to 77 per cent for both self-harming behaviour and psychiatric disorder.

**Table 6-3(a)**  
**Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
<b>Physical, Emotional, and Cognitive Health</b>												
Developmental Delay	8%	1,981	9%	561	9%	1,992	4%	491	<b>8%</b>	<b>5,025</b>	13%	1,413
Substantiated	29%		39%		36%		43%		<b>34%</b>		51%	
Suspected	33%		15%		25%		51%		<b>30%</b>		39%	
Unsubstantiated	38%		46%		39%		6%		<b>36%</b>		10%	
Physical/Developmental Disability	3%	766	2%	147	3%	733	2%	188	<b>3%</b>	<b>1,834</b>	3%	378
Substantiated	33%		—		24%		—		<b>31%</b>		53%	
Suspected	19%		—		24%		—		<b>23%</b>		30%	
Unsubstantiated	48%		—		52%		—		<b>46%</b>		17%	
Substance Abuse–Related												
Birth Defect	1%	256	—	—	1%	209	1%	135	<b>1%</b>	<b>606</b>	2%	178
Substantiated	26%		—		—		—		<b>27%</b>		—	
Suspected	22%		—		—		—		<b>41%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	52%		—		—		—		<b>32%</b>		—	
Other Health Condition	3%	785	3%	169	5%	1,191	1%	167	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,312</b>	4%	445
Substantiated	34%		—		45%		—		<b>38%</b>		69%	
Suspected	22%		—		14%		—		<b>19%</b>		20%	
Unsubstantiated	44%		—		41%		—		<b>43%</b>		11%	
Specialized Education Class	7%	1,609	5%	279	6%	1,505	3%	372	<b>6%</b>	<b>3,765</b>	7%	818
Substantiated	27%		41%		25%		49%		<b>29%</b>		54%	
Suspected	23%		26%		40%		29%		<b>31%</b>		28%	
Unsubstantiated	50%		33%		35%		22%		<b>40%</b>		18%	
Depression or Anxiety	11%	2,602	13%	777	6%	1,369	16%	1,860	<b>10%</b>	<b>6,608</b>	18%	1,961
Substantiated	42%		37%		31%		47%		<b>41%</b>		62%	
Suspected	24%		38%		45%		36%		<b>33%</b>		35%	
Unsubstantiated	34%		25%		24%		17%		<b>26%</b>		3%	
Self-harming Behaviour	4%	925	3%	165	2%	570	3%	361	<b>3%</b>	<b>2,021</b>	4%	458
Substantiated	31%		—		43%		29%		<b>38%</b>		77%	
Suspected	25%		—		35%		51%		<b>32%</b>		20%	
Unsubstantiated	44%		—		22%		20%		<b>30%</b>		3%	

continued

**Table 6-3(a) (continued)**  
**Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Psychiatric Disorder	2%	487	—	—	2%	530	1%	139	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,222</b>	3%	327
Substantiated	33%		—		45%		—		<b>43%</b>		77%	
Suspected	38%		—		39%		—		<b>37%</b>		20%	
Unsubstantiated	29%		—		16%		—		<b>20%</b>		3%	
<b>Any Physical, Emotional, or Cognitive Health Issue</b>												
	25%	6,016	24%	1,460	23%	5,434	22%	2,597	<b>24%</b>	<b>15,507</b>	33%	3,662
Substantiated	37%		40%		37%		47%		<b>39%</b>		61%	
Suspected	24%		26%		31%		37%		<b>29%</b>		30%	
Unsubstantiated	39%		34%		32%		16%		<b>32%</b>		9%	
<b>Total Child Investigations*,**</b>												
	<b>23,609</b>		<b>6,165</b>		<b>23,264</b>		<b>11,708</b>		<b>64,746</b>		<b>10,971</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about child functioning. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 6-3.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Table 6-3(b)**  
**Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
<b>Behavioural Functioning</b>												
Behaviour Problem	32%	7,519	13%	829	21%	4,857	16%	1,844	<b>23%</b>	<b>15,049</b>	33%	3,600
Substantiated	38%		35%		29%		55%		<b>37%</b>		50%	
Suspected	20%		27%		34%		24%		<b>25%</b>		38%	
Unsubstantiated	42%		38%		37%		21%		<b>38%</b>		12%	
Negative Peer Involvement	13%	3,016	9%	563	10%	2,235	5%	540	<b>10%</b>	<b>6,354</b>	15%	1,619
Substantiated	31%		45%		30%		37%		<b>32%</b>		55%	
Suspected	28%		18%		38%		33%		<b>31%</b>		37%	
Unsubstantiated	41%		37%		32%		30%		<b>37%</b>		8%	
Substance Abuse	2%	571	4%	271	5%	1,157	—	—	<b>3%</b>	<b>2,061</b>	5%	530
Substantiated	40%		63%		29%		—		<b>36%</b>		51%	
Suspected	3%		3%		47%		—		<b>30%</b>		47%	
Unsubstantiated	57%		34%		24%		—		<b>34%</b>		2%	
Violence to Others	9%	2,077	4%	265	5%	1,195	5%	586	<b>6%</b>	<b>4,123</b>	10%	1,125
Substantiated	35%		34%		40%		73%		<b>42%</b>		57%	
Suspected	25%		6%		44%		12%		<b>27%</b>		42%	
Unsubstantiated	40%		60%		16%		15%		<b>31%</b>		1%	
Running	5%	1,293	5%	305	7%	1,534	1%	130	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,262</b>	6%	631
Substantiated	37%		34%		40%		—		<b>39%</b>		51%	
Suspected	24%		25%		38%		—		<b>31%</b>		39%	
Unsubstantiated	39%		41%		22%		—		<b>30%</b>		10%	
Irregular School Attendance	7%	1,594	8%	519	11%	2,514	4%	466	<b>8%</b>	<b>5,093</b>	9%	1,007
Substantiated	38%		49%		40%		41%		<b>40%</b>		52%	
Suspected	18%		30%		37%		39%		<b>31%</b>		40%	
Unsubstantiated	44%		21%		23%		20%		<b>29%</b>		8%	
Involvement in Prostitution	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Substantiated	—		—		—		—		—		—	
Suspected	—		—		—		—		—		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		—		—		—		—	

continued

**Table 6-3(b) (continued)**  
**Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Age-inappropriate Sexual Behaviour	1%	285	10%	597	4%	1,043	—	—	<b>3%</b>	<b>1,980</b>	5%	504
Substantiated	35%		43%		21%		—		<b>30%</b>		54%	
Suspected	1%		29%		59%		—		<b>42%</b>		46%	
Unsubstantiated	64%		28%		20%		—		<b>28%</b>		0%	
Criminal/YO Involvement	3%	705	4%	218	2%	576	—	—	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,540</b>	2%	183
Substantiated	13%		—		62%		—		<b>36%</b>		—	
Suspected	18%		—		20%		—		<b>20%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	69%		—		18%		—		<b>44%</b>		—	
Any Behavioural Issue	39%	9,284	26%	1,632	27%	6,274	23%	2,688	<b>31%</b>	<b>19,878</b>	42%	4,609
Substantiated	38%		41%		37%		56%		<b>41%</b>		55%	
Suspected	22%		27%		29%		24%		<b>25%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	40%		32%		34%		20%		<b>34%</b>		12%	
Any Child Functioning Issue	48%	11,215	37%	2,273	38%	8,830	33%	3,920	<b>41%</b>	<b>26,238</b>	53%	5,862
Substantiated	36%		38%		39%		50%		<b>39%</b>		56%	
Suspected	24%		26%		25%		33%		<b>26%</b>		31%	
Unsubstantiated	40%		36%		36%		17%		<b>35%</b>		13%	
<b>Total Child Investigations*,**</b>		<b>23,609</b>		<b>6,165</b>		<b>23,264</b>		<b>11,708</b>		<b>64,746</b>		<b>10,971</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about child functioning. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 6-3.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## ■ 7. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Chapter 7 provides an overview of the characteristics of the households of investigated children tracked by the *OIS 1998*. Household characteristics include household composition, sibling information, housing information, aboriginal heritage, source of household income, and parental functioning and family stressors. For the purpose of the study, a household was defined as the primary residence of the child when the investigation was launched. The findings are presented by the primary category of maltreatment and the level of substantiation. Each table also documents cases involving multiple categories of maltreatment.

The figures presented in this chapter are weighted figures derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of Ontario children's aid societies (CASs). The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to CASs, (2) reported cases that were screened out by children's aid societies before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by CASs, and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is designed to allow comparison to the *OIS 1993*; however, direct comparisons between the figures in the two reports should be made only after first taking into consideration the changes in definition and the effect of the sampling design on the final estimates.

### Parents and Caregivers in the Home

The *OIS 1998* gathered information on up to two of the child's parents or other caregivers.<sup>62</sup> For each listed caregiver, investigating workers were asked to choose the category that best described the relationship between the caregiver and the children in the home. If a caregiver was a biological parent to one child and a stepparent to another child in the family, workers were asked to use "stepparent" to describe that caregiver.<sup>63</sup> If recent household changes had occurred, investigating workers were asked to describe the situation at the time the referral was made.

Table 7-1 describes the parents and other caregivers looking after investigated children by primary category of maltreatment and level of substantiation in the *OIS 1998*.<sup>64</sup> Thirty per cent of investigations involved children who lived with their two biological parents, and 17 per cent lived in

<sup>62</sup> The two-caregiver limit was required to accommodate the form length restrictions set for the Household Information Sheet. The caregiver information usually corresponded to the parents and/or stepparent living in the home; if there was only one caregiver living in the home and a second living outside the home, information was gathered on both of these, but is not reported here.

<sup>63</sup> This compromise was needed because the Household Information Sheet served as a common information source for all the children in the family. A much more extensive set of questions would have been required had the *OIS 1998* gathered child-specific caregiver information, leading to a significantly longer form. Child-specific information on the caregiver-child relationship is available for caregivers who were investigated as alleged perpetrators (see Chapter 4).

<sup>64</sup> Household structure categories in Table 7-1 are consistent with Statistics Canada, 1996 Census categories.

a two-parent blended family where one of the caregivers was a stepparent, a common-law partner, or an adoptive parent who was not the biological parent of at least one of the children in the family. Two per cent of all child investigations involved a biological parent living with another adult who also acted as a caregiver to the child(ren) (i.e., grandparent, aunt/uncle). Forty-eight per cent of all investigations involved children who lived in a family led by a lone parent: 43 per cent by a female parent and five per cent by a male parent. Rates of substantiation ranged from 26 per cent (other) to 37 per cent (two-parent blended) of the investigations.

**Physical Abuse:** Over half of all physical abuse investigations involved children who lived in two-parent households: 33 per cent with two biological parents and 20 per cent with a two-parent blended family. Thirty-three per cent of investigations involved children in a female-parent household, and seven per cent in a male-parent household. Substantiation rates ranged from 21 per cent for investigations of children in male-parent households to 35 per cent for children in both two-parent blended families and female-parent families.

**Sexual Abuse:** Fifty-one per cent of sexual abuse investigations involved children who lived in two-parent households: 27 per cent with two biological parents and 24 per cent with a two-parent blended family. Thirty-seven per cent of investigations involved children in a female-parent household, and five per cent in a male-parent household. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 13 per cent for households classified as “other” to a high of 51 per cent for investigations of children living in male-parent-led families.

**Neglect:** Unlike children investigated because of abuse, over half of all neglect investigations involved lone-parent families<sup>65</sup> – 53 per cent female-parent households and four per cent male-parent households – while only 27 per cent of investigations involved children from households with two biological parents, and 12 per cent involved two-parent blended families. Rates of substantiation ranged from 27 per cent for children in households led by a biological parent and another caregiver to 49 per cent for investigations of children living in male-parent-led households.

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<sup>65</sup> It should be noted, however, that lone-parent families are also at higher risk of living in poverty, and that poverty, as opposed to family structure, could be the factor placing these families at such high risk of being reported for alleged maltreatment. See Source of Income section of this chapter; also see:

Chamberland, C., Bouchard, C. et al. (1986). Conduites abusives envers les enfants: Réalités canadienne et américaine. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 8(4): 391–412.

Drake, B., & Pandey, S. (1996). Understanding the relationship between neighbourhood poverty and specific types of child maltreatment. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 20(11): 1003–1018.

Garbarino, J., & Sherman, D. (1980). High-risk neighbourhoods and high-risk families: The human ecology of child maltreatment. *Child Development*, 51(1): 188–198.

Mayer, M. (1995). *Contextes écologiques d'incidence de trois types de mauvais traitements à l'égard des enfants signalés dans la région de Montréal*. Montréal, PQ: Université de Montréal, Sciences humaines appliquées.

**Table 7-1**  
**Household Structure in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							
	Primary Category							Multiple Categories
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total			
Two-Parent Biological	33% 7,647	27% 1,670	27% 6,143	31% 3,562	<b>30% 19,022</b>	25% 2,713		
Substantiated	30%	27%	28%	58%	<b>34%</b>	43%		
Suspected	15%	24%	20%	26%	<b>20%</b>	33%		
Unsubstantiated	55%	49%	52%	16%	<b>46%</b>	24%		
Two-Parent Blended	20% 4,668	24% 1,464	12% 2,860	15% 1,791	<b>17% 10,783</b>	20% 2,211		
Substantiated	35%	26%	37%	52%	<b>37%</b>	50%		
Suspected	19%	22%	21%	29%	<b>22%</b>	29%		
Unsubstantiated	46%	52%	42%	19%	<b>41%</b>	21%		
Biological Parent and Other	2% 431	— —	2% 556	1% 168	<b>2% 1,251</b>	1% 119		
Substantiated	33%	—	27%	—	<b>32%</b>	—		
Suspected	29%	—	19%	—	<b>19%</b>	—		
Unsubstantiated	38%	—	54%	—	<b>49%</b>	—		
Female-Parent	33% 7,771	37% 2,298	53% 12,247	44% 5,121	<b>43% 27,437</b>	46% 5,013		
Substantiated	35%	32%	31%	46%	<b>35%</b>	51%		
Suspected	19%	31%	23%	34%	<b>24%</b>	26%		
Unsubstantiated	46%	37%	46%	20%	<b>41%</b>	23%		
Male-Parent	7% 1,542	5% 282	4% 849	5% 636	<b>5% 3,309</b>	6% 602		
Substantiated	21%	51%	49%	43%	<b>35%</b>	51%		
Suspected	39%	17%	9%	16%	<b>25%</b>	41%		
Unsubstantiated	40%	32%	42%	41%	<b>40%</b>	8%		
Other	6% 1,383	6% 342	2% 508	3% 392	<b>4% 2,625</b>	2% 252		
Substantiated	22%	13%	32%	45%	<b>26%</b>	42%		
Suspected	22%	21%	40%	50%	<b>29%</b>	23%		
Unsubstantiated	56%	66%	28%	5%	<b>44%</b>	35%		
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,442</b>	<b>100% 6,152</b>	<b>100% 23,163</b>	<b>100% 11,670</b>	<b>100% 64,427</b>	<b>100% 10,910</b>		

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,035 investigations with information about household structure. Due to missing information on 18 cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-1.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Forty-six per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involved children who lived in two-parent households: 31 per cent with two biological parents and 15 per cent with a two-parent blended family. Forty-four per cent of investigations involved children in a female-parent household, and five per cent in a male-parent household. Rates of substantiation ranged from 36 per cent for families with a biological parent and other caregiver to 58 per cent for families with two biological parents.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Forty-six per cent of multiple maltreatment investigations occurred in female-parent households, and six per cent in male-parent households. In almost half of investigations involving more than one category of maltreatment, two caregivers resided with the child (25 per cent with both biological parents and 20 per cent in two-parent blended families). Substantiation ranged from a low of 12 per cent for households with a biological parent and another caregiver to 51 per cent for households led by a male or female lone parent.

## Age of Primary Caregiver(s)

Investigating workers were asked to indicate the age of each caregiver living in the investigated household. Ten age groups were captured on the Household Information sheet, enabling the workers to provide estimation of the caregiver's age (see Appendix B, Maltreatment Assessment Form). Table 7-2 has been subdivided showing the age distribution of mothers and fathers. The categories of mother and father include biological parents, common-law partners, stepparents, and adoptive parents. It is important to note that the Table 7-2(a) applies only to the estimated 59,320 child investigations involving children living with a mother and Table 7-2(b) applies only to the estimated 33,703 child investigations involving children living with a father.

Of those investigations involving children living with a mother, 60 per cent lived with a mother who was over 30, and 18 per cent with a mother aged 25 and under. Of investigations involving children living with a father, 74 per cent lived with a father who was over 30, and 11 per cent with a father aged 25 and under. Substantiation levels varied with the age of mothers, from a low of 29 per cent for mothers less than 19 years old to 38 per cent for mothers between 19 and 21 years of age (Table 7-2(a)). Substantiation levels varied with the age of fathers, from a low of 11 per cent for fathers less than 19 years old to 40 per cent for fathers over 40 years old (Table 7-2(b)).

According to the 1996 Census, three per cent of primary maintainers with the youngest child under the age of 14 years old were aged 25 and under, while 28 per cent were 26 to 34 years old, and 69 per cent were over 35 years old (See Appendix H, Table 8).<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Statistics Canada (1996). Private households by household type, showing age groups of primary household maintainer. *Catalogue No. 93F0030XDB96009*. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada.

**Physical Abuse:** In two-thirds (67 per cent) of physical abuse investigations involving children living with their mothers, the mothers were over 30, while in 13 per cent of cases the mothers were aged 25 and under. In 79 per cent of physical abuse investigations involving children living with their fathers, the fathers were over 30, while in nine per cent of cases the fathers were aged 25 and under. Substantiation rates for children living with mothers ranged from a low of 15 per cent for children whose mothers were between 22 and 25 to a high of 35 per cent for children whose mothers were over 40. For children living with fathers, substantiation rates increased with the father's age, from under 14 per cent in situations where fathers were between 22 and 25 to 37 per cent in situations where fathers were over 40.

**Sexual Abuse:** In 77 per cent of sexual abuse investigations involving children living with their mothers, the mothers were over 30, while in only six per cent of cases the mothers were aged 25 and under. In 86 per cent of sexual abuse investigations involving children living with their fathers, the fathers were over 30. Substantiation rates were generally between 28 and 30 per cent for child investigations for mothers in the three age categories between 26 and over 40 years of age. For children living with fathers, substantiation rates ranged from 26 to 38 per cent.

**Neglect:** Cases of neglect more often involved younger parents than did cases of abuse. In 23 per cent of neglect investigations involving children living with their mothers, the mothers were aged 25 and under, while a little more than half (52 per cent) were over 30. In 16 per cent of neglect investigations involving children living with their fathers, the fathers were age 25 and under, and in 60 per cent of cases involving fathers, the fathers were over 30. Neglect substantiation rates for children living with mothers ranged from 23 per cent for children whose mothers were under 19 to 34 per cent for children whose mothers were over 40. For children living with fathers, substantiation rates ranged from 11 to 42 per cent.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** In 54 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involving children living with their mothers, the mothers were over 30, while in 20 per cent of cases the mothers were aged 25 and under. In 76 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involving children living with their fathers, the fathers were over 30, and in 12 per cent of these cases they were aged 25 and under. Substantiation rates in cases of emotional maltreatment were generally high, ranging from 21 per cent to 91 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** In 57 per cent of investigations for more than one form of maltreatment involving children living with their mothers, the mothers were over 30, while in 21 per cent of cases the mothers were aged 25 and under. In 68 per cent of multiple maltreatment cases involving children living with their fathers, the fathers were over 30, and in 15 per cent of these cases the fathers were aged 25 and under. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 35 per cent to a high of 73 per cent.

**Table 7-2(a)**  
**Age of Mothers\*\* in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Less than 19	1%	224	—	—	3%	674	2%	172	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,070</b>	2%	153
Substantiated	—		—	—	23%		—		<b>29%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—	—	27%		—		<b>26%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—	—	50%		—		<b>45%</b>		—	
19–21	3%	717	3%	161	6%	1,244	7%	782	<b>5%</b>	<b>2,904</b>	8%	773
Substantiated	29%		—	—	32%		63%		<b>38%</b>		63%	
Suspected	19%		—	—	19%		20%		<b>21%</b>		28%	
Unsubstantiated	52%		—	—	49%		17%		<b>41%</b>		9%	
22–25	9%	1,812	3%	181	14%	3,110	11%	1,231	<b>11%</b>	<b>6,334</b>	11%	1,089
Substantiated	15%		—	—	33%		48%		<b>30%</b>		35%	
Suspected	28%		—	—	13%		29%		<b>22%</b>		45%	
Unsubstantiated	57%		—	—	54%		23%		<b>48%</b>		20%	
26–30	20%	4,131	17%	987	25%	5,457	26%	2,760	<b>22%</b>	<b>13,335</b>	23%	2,301
Substantiated	31%		29%		30%		47%		<b>34%</b>		43%	
Suspected	17%		27%		29%		33%		<b>26%</b>		22%	
Unsubstantiated	52%		44%		41%		20%		<b>40%</b>		35%	
31–40	53%	11,157	56%	3,264	41%	8,860	43%	4,683	<b>47%</b>	<b>27,964</b>	45%	4,480
Substantiated	34%		30%		30%		49%		<b>35%</b>		49%	
Suspected	19%		23%		20%		31%		<b>22%</b>		28%	
Unsubstantiated	46%		47%		50%		20%		<b>43%</b>		23%	
Over 40	14%	2,936	21%	1,198	11%	2,415	11%	1,164	<b>13%</b>	<b>7,713</b>	12%	1,202
Substantiated	35%		28%		34%		56%		<b>37%</b>		49%	
Suspected	10%		26%		26%		34%		<b>21%</b>		27%	
Unsubstantiated	55%		46%		40%		10%		<b>42%</b>		24%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20,977</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,791</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21,760</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,792</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>59,320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,998</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 2797 child investigations with information about age of mothers. Due to 256 child investigations that did not have a mother living in the home, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-2.

\*\* Includes stepmothers, female common-law partners, foster and adoptive mothers living with the investigated child.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Table 7-2(b)**  
**Age of Fathers\*\* in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Less than 19	1%	102	—	—	1%	144	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>246</b>	—	—
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>11%</b>	—	—	—
Suspected	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>33%</b>	—	—	—
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>56%</b>	—	—	—
19–21	1%	121	3%	106	2%	210	3%	153	<b>2%</b>	<b>590</b>	2%	127
Substantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>38%</b>	—	—	—
Suspected	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>15%</b>	—	—	—
Unsubstantiated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>47%</b>	—	—	—
22–25	7%	915	—	—	13%	1,310	9%	579	<b>8%</b>	<b>2,808</b>	12%	652
Substantiated	14%	—	—	—	11%	—	53%	—	<b>21%</b>	—	45%	—
Suspected	14%	—	—	—	21%	—	11%	—	<b>17%</b>	—	25%	—
Unsubstantiated	72%	—	—	—	68%	—	36%	—	<b>62%</b>	—	30%	—
26–30	13%	1,834	12%	430	23%	2,274	12%	727	<b>16%</b>	<b>5,265</b>	17%	963
Substantiated	31%	—	38%	—	42%	—	37%	—	<b>38%</b>	—	47%	—
Suspected	26%	—	37%	—	14%	—	32%	—	<b>22%</b>	—	26%	—
Unsubstantiated	43%	—	25%	—	44%	—	31%	—	<b>40%</b>	—	27%	—
31–40	57%	7,895	60%	2,172	40%	4,048	54%	3,319	<b>52%</b>	<b>17,434</b>	44%	2,511
Substantiated	30%	—	26%	—	29%	—	52%	—	<b>34%</b>	—	35%	—
Suspected	17%	—	22%	—	21%	—	27%	—	<b>20%</b>	—	20%	—
Unsubstantiated	53%	—	52%	—	50%	—	21%	—	<b>46%</b>	—	45%	—
Over 40	22%	3,077	26%	933	20%	2,023	22%	1,327	<b>22%</b>	<b>7,360</b>	24%	1,357
Substantiated	37%	—	27%	—	42%	—	53%	—	<b>40%</b>	—	43%	—
Suspected	22%	—	18%	—	18%	—	39%	—	<b>23%</b>	—	23%	—
Unsubstantiated	41%	—	55%	—	40%	—	8%	—	<b>37%</b>	—	34%	—
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,944</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,009</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>33,703</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,645</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 1,574 child investigations with information about age of fathers. Due to 1,479 child investigations that did not have a father in the home, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-2.

\*\* Includes stepfathers, male common-law partners, foster and adoptive fathers living with the investigated child.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## Number of Siblings in the Household

Investigating workers were asked to provide non-identifying information on all children under the age of 19 who were living in the home at the time of the investigation. As shown in Table 7-3, 27 per cent of investigated children had no siblings under 19 living at home, 37 per cent had one sibling, 23 per cent had two siblings (i.e., three children in the family), and 12 per cent had three or more siblings (i.e., four or more children in the family). The more children in the household, the more often maltreatment was substantiated: 41 per cent for children with three siblings and 40 per cent for children with four or more.

**Physical Abuse:** Twenty-two per cent of children investigated for physical abuse had no siblings under the age of 19 living with them at the time of the investigation. Forty-one per cent had one sibling, 25 per cent two, and 12 per cent three or more. Substantiation rates ranged from 22 per cent for child investigations with four or more siblings to a high of 41 per cent for three siblings.

**Sexual Abuse:** Forty per cent of children investigated for sexual abuse had no siblings under the age of 19 living in the home. Thirty-seven per cent had one sibling, while 15 per cent had two, and eight per cent had three or more. Substantiation rates ranged from 11 per cent for child investigations with three siblings to 32 per cent for child investigations with one sibling.

**Neglect:** Thirty-one per cent of children investigated for neglect had no siblings under the age of 19 living in the home, while 34 per cent had one sibling, 22 per cent two, and 13 per cent three or more. Substantiation rates in cases of neglect ranged from 25 per cent to 41 per cent.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Twenty-five per cent of children investigated for emotional maltreatment had no siblings under the age of 19 living in the home, while 36 per cent had one sibling, 25 per cent two, and 14 per cent three or more. Substantiation rates in cases of emotional maltreatment were generally high, ranging from 41 per cent to 79 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Twenty-seven per cent of children investigated because of several types of maltreatment had no siblings under the age of 19 living in the home, while 37 per cent had one sibling, 24 per cent two, and 12 per cent three or more. Substantiation rates in cases involving multiple forms of maltreatment ranged from 20 per cent to 59 per cent.

## Number of Siblings Investigated

In addition to identifying all the children under the age of 19 in the household, investigating workers were asked to indicate all children who were also subject to investigation. Forty-five per cent of investigations involved children with at least one additional sibling who was also the subject of investigation, while 28 per cent had siblings who were not investigated, and 28 per cent had no siblings (see Table 7-4). There was little variation in the substantiation levels when other siblings were also being investigated for maltreatment, with rates ranging from 32 per cent to 37 per cent.

**Table 7-3**  
**Siblings of Children in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
No Sibling	22%	5,253	40%	2,460	31%	7,201	25%	2,870	<b>27%</b>	<b>17,784</b>	27%	2,964
Substantiated	35%		31%		32%		41%		<b>34%</b>		50%	
Suspected	16%		30%		23%		31%		<b>23%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	49%		39%		45%		28%		<b>43%</b>		17%	
One Sibling	41%	9,772	37%	2,257	34%	7,933	36%	4,265	<b>37%</b>	<b>24,227</b>	37%	4,083
Substantiated	28%		32%		34%		52%		<b>34%</b>		44%	
Suspected	18%		23%		17%		32%		<b>21%</b>		31%	
Unsubstantiated	54%		45%		49%		16%		<b>45%</b>		25%	
Two Siblings	25%	5,871	15%	921	22%	5,125	25%	2,946	<b>23%</b>	<b>14,863</b>	24%	2,633
Substantiated	34%		25%		27%		44%		<b>33%</b>		59%	
Suspected	21%		16%		22%		39%		<b>25%</b>		17%	
Unsubstantiated	45%		59%		51%		17%		<b>42%</b>		24%	
Three Siblings	8%	1,826	7%	441	8%	1,890	9%	1,075	<b>8%</b>	<b>5,232</b>	9%	978
Substantiated	41%		11%		25%		79%		<b>41%</b>		39%	
Suspected	18%		30%		34%		8%		<b>23%</b>		43%	
Unsubstantiated	41%		59%		41%		13%		<b>36%</b>		18%	
Four or More Siblings	4%	887	—	—	5%	1,114	5%	553	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,639</b>	3%	313
Substantiated	22%		—		41%		64%		<b>40%</b>		20%	
Suspected	39%		—		20%		8%		<b>24%</b>		30%	
Unsubstantiated	39%		—		39%		28%		<b>36%</b>		50%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,609</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,164</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,263</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,709</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,971</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about the number of siblings in the home. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-3.

**Physical Abuse:** Thirty-seven per cent of physical abuse investigations involved children with at least one additional sibling who was also the subject of investigation. Forty-one per cent had siblings who were not investigated, and 22 per cent had no siblings. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 26 per cent for cases involving children who had a single sibling who was investigated to 35 per cent for cases where investigated children had two or more siblings who were not investigated or where there were no siblings.

**Sexual Abuse:** Twenty-four per cent of sexual abuse investigations involved children with at least one additional sibling who was also the subject of investigation, while 35 per cent had siblings who were not investigated, and 40 per cent had no siblings. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 13 per cent for cases involving children with multiple siblings who were investigated to 45 per cent for cases where investigated children had one sibling who was not investigated.

**Neglect:** Forty-nine per cent of neglect investigations involved children with at least one additional sibling who was also the subject of investigation. Twenty per cent had siblings who were not investigated, and 31 per cent had no siblings. Substantiation rates ranged from 28 per cent to 39 per cent.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Sixty-two per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involved children with at least one additional sibling who was also the subject of investigation. Thirteen per cent had siblings who were not investigated, and 25 per cent had no siblings. Substantiation rates in cases of emotional maltreatment ranged from 28 to 60 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Forty-nine per cent of investigations of multiple maltreatment involved children with at least one additional sibling who was also the subject of investigation, while 24 per cent had siblings who were not investigated, and 27 per cent had no siblings. As with emotional maltreatment, substantiation rates in multiple maltreatment cases were generally high regardless of the involvement of siblings, ranging from 43 to 54 per cent.

## Source of Income

Investigating workers were requested to choose the income source that best described the primary source of the household income. Income source was designated by investigating workers in terms of five possible classifications:

**Full Time:** At least one caregiver is employed in a permanent, full-time position.

**Part Time/Seasonal Employment/ Multiple Jobs:** Family income is derived primarily from part-time employment (less than 30 hours/week), full-time or part-time positions for temporary periods of the year, or several part-time temporary jobs. Neither caregiver is employed in a permanent, full-time position.

**Benefits/Employment Insurance (EI)/Social Assistance:** Family income is derived primarily from benefits (e.g., long-term disability, pension, or child support), employment insurance benefits, or social assistance (e.g., general welfare or family assistance).

**Unknown:** Source of income was not known.

**No Reliable Source:** There is no reliable source of income for the family. Caregiver(s) may work at temporary jobs, but these are not predictable and cannot be relied on for financial budgeting.

**Table 7-4**  
**Investigated Siblings in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
No Sibling	22%	5,253	40%	2,460	31%	7,201	25%	2,870	<b>28%</b>	<b>17,784</b>	27%	2,964
Substantiated	35%		31%		32%		41%		<b>34%</b>		50%	
Suspected	16%		30%		23%		31%		<b>23%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	49%		39%		45%		28%		<b>43%</b>		17%	
One Sibling, Not Investigated	24%	5,626	20%	1,239	12%	2,804	6%	654	<b>16%</b>	<b>10,323</b>	13%	1,449
Substantiated	29%		45%		39%		48%		<b>35%</b>		46%	
Suspected	20%		18%		18%		31%		<b>20%</b>		31%	
Unsubstantiated	51%		37%		43%		21%		<b>45%</b>		23%	
One Sibling, Investigated	18%	4,146	16%	1,017	22%	5,131	29%	3,282	<b>21%</b>	<b>13,576</b>	24%	2,634
Substantiated	26%		15%		30%		48%		<b>32%</b>		43%	
Suspected	15%		28%		17%		35%		<b>22%</b>		31%	
Unsubstantiated	59%		57%		53%		17%		<b>46%</b>		26%	
Two or More Siblings, None Investigated	17%	4,005	15%	928	8%	1,754	7%	798	<b>12%</b>	<b>7,485</b>	11%	1,180
Substantiated	35%		28%		29%		28%		<b>32%</b>		44%	
Suspected	15%		23%		24%		36%		<b>20%</b>		34%	
Unsubstantiated	50%		49%		47%		36%		<b>48%</b>		22%	
Two or More Siblings, At Least One Investigated	19%	4,580	8%	521	27%	6,377	33%	3,775	<b>24%</b>	<b>15,253</b>	25%	2,745
Substantiated	33%		13%		28%		60%		<b>37%</b>		54%	
Suspected	29%		15%		25%		26%		<b>26%</b>		20%	
Unsubstantiated	38%		72%		47%		14%		<b>37%</b>		26%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,610</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,267</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,379</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,421</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,972</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about the number of siblings investigated for maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-4.

Table 7-5 shows the source of income for the households of children investigated for maltreatment as tracked by the OIS 1998. Forty-two per cent of investigations involved children in families that derived their primary income from full-time employment. Thirty-six per cent of investigations involved children whose families received benefits/EI/social assistance as the primary source of income. An

additional ten per cent of investigations involved children living in families relying on part-time/seasonal employment/multiple jobs. In ten per cent of the investigations the source of income was unknown by the workers, and in two per cent of cases no reliable source of income was reported.

Thirty-four per cent of investigations involving households with full-time employment were substantiated, with 21 per cent remaining suspected, and 45 per cent being unsubstantiated. Thirty-two per cent of investigations involving families receiving benefits/EI or social assistance were substantiated, while 25 per cent remained suspected, and 43 per cent were unsubstantiated. In contrast, 41 per cent of investigations involving families relying on part-time/seasonal employment or multiple jobs were substantiated, with 19 per cent remaining suspected, and 40 per cent being unsubstantiated. Forty-eight per cent of investigations were substantiated in cases where families had no reliable source of income, while 37 per cent remained suspected, and 15 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Fifty-five per cent of physical abuse investigations involved children from families with full-time employment, and 26 per cent involved families receiving benefits/EI or social assistance as the primary source of income. Thirty-five per cent of investigations involving families with full-time employment were substantiated, while 27 per cent of investigations involving families relying on some form of benefits/EI or social assistance were substantiated.

**Sexual Abuse:** Full-time employment was reported as the primary source of income in 43 per cent of all sexual abuse investigations. Benefits/EI or social assistance was reported as the source of income in 29 per cent of cases, and part-time/seasonal employment or multiple jobs was the indicated source of income in nine per cent of investigations. Thirty-five per cent of investigations reporting full-time employment families were substantiated.

**Neglect:** In contrast to abuse cases, only 30 per cent of neglect investigations involved families that relied on full-time employment as their primary source of income, while 47 per cent involved families that were receiving some form of benefits/EI or social assistance, and a further eight per cent involved families relying on part-time/seasonal employment or multiple jobs. Rates of substantiation were lowest in cases involving families dependent on full-time employment (26 per cent) and highest in cases involving families relying on part-time/seasonal employment or multiple jobs (52 per cent).

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Thirty-nine per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involved families dependent on full-time employment, while 37 per cent involved families receiving benefits/EI or social assistance, and 11 per cent involved families relying primarily on part-time/seasonal employment or multiple jobs. Substantiation rates in cases of emotional maltreatment ranged from 46 per cent to 68 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Thirty-seven per cent of investigations of multiple maltreatment involved families dependent on full-time employment, while 42 per cent involved families receiving

benefits/EI or social assistance, and 11 per cent involved families relying primarily on part-time/seasonal employment or multiple jobs. Substantiation rates in cases involving multiple categories of maltreatment were consistently high regardless of families' source of income, ranging from 26 per cent to 52 per cent.

**Table 7-5**  
**Household Source of Income in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
Full-Time Employment	55% 12,946	43% 2,654	30% 6,941	39% 4,540	<b>42%</b>	<b>27,081</b>	37% 3,971	
Substantiated	35%	35%	26%	46%	<b>34%</b>		52%	
Suspected	16%	21%	18%	35%	<b>21%</b>		27%	
Unsubstantiated	49%	44%	56%	19%	<b>45%</b>		21%	
Part-Time/Multiple Jobs/ Seasonal Employment	11% 2,635	9% 550	8% 1,946	11% 1,231	<b>10%</b>	<b>6,362</b>	11% 1,228	
Substantiated	24%	25%	52%	68%	<b>41%</b>		47%	
Suspected	27%	21%	12%	11%	<b>19%</b>		35%	
Unsubstantiated	49%	54%	36%	21%	<b>40%</b>		18%	
Benefits/Employment Insurance/ Social Assistance	26% 6,009	29% 1,777	47% 10,883	37% 4,331	<b>36%</b>	<b>23,000</b>	42% 4,517	
Substantiated	27%	28%	29%	48%	<b>32%</b>		47%	
Suspected	21%	29%	25%	31%	<b>25%</b>		35%	
Unsubstantiated	52%	43%	46%	21%	<b>43%</b>		18%	
Unknown	7% 1,676	18% 1,112	12% 2,805	9% 995	<b>10%</b>	<b>6,588</b>	7% 797	
Substantiated	32%	23%	35%	60%	<b>36%</b>		26%	
Suspected	23%	31%	21%	23%	<b>24%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	45%	46%	44%	17%	<b>40%</b>		41%	
No Reliable Source of Income	1% 268	— —	2% 481	5% 557	<b>2%</b>	<b>1,378</b>	2% 223	
Substantiated	77%	—	29%	56%	<b>48%</b>		—	
Suspected	11%	—	58%	33%	<b>37%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	12%	—	13%	11%	<b>15%</b>		—	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,534</b>	<b>100% 6,165</b>	<b>100% 23,056</b>	<b>100% 11,654</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,409</b>	<b>100% 10,736</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 7,672 child investigations with information about household source of income. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-5.  
— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## Housing

Investigating workers were asked to select the housing accommodation category that best described the investigated child's household living situation. The types of housing included

**Private Rental Accommodation:** A private rental unit, including an apartment unit, a house, or a townhouse.

**Rental Unit in a Public Housing Complex:** A rental unit in a public housing complex (i.e., rent-subsidized, government-owned housing).

**Purchased Home:** A purchased house, condominium, or townhouse.

**Shelter/Hotel:** A homeless or family shelter, SRO hotel (single room occupancy), or temporary motel accommodation.

**Unknown:** Housing accommodation was unknown.

**Other:** Any other form of shelter (Armed Forces barracks or housing, trailers, mobile homes, etc.).

In addition to housing type, investigating workers were asked to indicate whether the investigated child lived in unsafe housing conditions where children were at risk for injury or impairment from their living situation (e.g., broken windows, insufficient heat, parents and children sharing single room). Workers also noted the number of family moves in the six months prior to the investigation.

At the time of the study, 58 per cent of all investigations involved children living in rental accommodations (50 per cent private rentals and eight per cent public housing), 29 per cent involved children living in purchased homes, three per cent in other accommodations, and two per cent in shelters or hotels. In nine per cent of cases, investigating workers did not have enough information to describe the housing type (Table 7-6). In Canada, according to the 1996 census, 27 per cent of families with never-married children living at home rented their home, while 73 per cent owned their home (See Appendix H – Table 9).<sup>67</sup>

Housing conditions were described as safe in 81 per cent of investigations and unsafe in five per cent of cases (Table 7-7). Fifty-three per cent of investigations involved families that had not moved in the last six months, while 25 per cent had moved at least once (Table 7-8).

There is a marked difference in substantiation rates by type of housing. Substantiation rates ranged from 32 per cent for investigations involving children living in private rental units, 36 per cent for children living in a public housing complex, 38 per cent for children living in purchased homes, and 46 per cent

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<sup>67</sup> Statistics Canada (1996). Census families in private households by selected household and dwelling characteristics showing family structure. *Catalogue No. 93F0030XDB96002*. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada.

for children living in shelters/hotels (Table 7-6). Sixty-four per cent of investigations were substantiated if the child was living in unsafe housing conditions, compared to only 33 per cent for children living in an adequately safe home (Table 7-7). The rate of substantiation was 33 per cent for investigations involving children from families with one move, 37 per cent for two moves, and 33 per cent for children from families who had not experienced a move in the six months prior to the investigation (Table 7-8).

**Physical Abuse:** Thirty-seven per cent of physical abuse investigations involved children who were living in purchased homes, while 43 per cent were living in private market rentals, and seven per cent in public housing complexes. The rate of substantiation was 36 per cent for investigations involving children in purchased homes and 26 per cent for children living in a public housing complex.

Three per cent of physical abuse investigations involved children living in unsafe housing conditions, and 47 per cent of these investigations were substantiated (Table 7-7). Fifty-eight per cent of investigations involved children who had not moved in the last six months, while at least 21 per cent of investigated children had moved (Table 7-8).

**Sexual Abuse:** Thirty-three per cent of sexual abuse investigations involved children who were living in purchased homes, while 39 per cent were living in private market rentals, and eight per cent in public housing complexes. As with cases of physical abuse, substantiation rates were highest (33 per cent) for investigations involving children in purchased homes, and lower for children living in private or public housing complexes.

Too few sexual abuse investigations involving children living in unsafe housing conditions and family moves within the last six months were identified by the *OIS 1998* to provide a reliable estimate.

**Neglect:** Only 18 per cent of neglect investigations involved children living in purchased homes. Fifty-eight per cent of investigations involved children living in private market rentals, and nine per cent involved children living in public housing complexes. Substantiation rates were higher for investigations involving children living in public housing or shelters and lower for children living in private rental units or purchased homes.

Eight per cent of neglect investigations involved children living in unsafe housing conditions, and 70 per cent of these investigations were substantiated (Table 7-7). Forty-six per cent of investigations involved children who had not moved in the last six months, while at least 32 per cent of investigated children had moved at least once (Table 7-8).

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Thirty per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involved children living in purchased homes, while 51 per cent were living in private market rentals, and eight per cent in public housing complexes. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 29 per cent for “other” housing, to a high of 85 per cent for investigations in which the children were residing in a shelter/hotel.

Four per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations involved children living in unsafe housing conditions, and 70 per cent of these cases were substantiated (Table 7-7). Fifty-three per cent of investigations involved children who had not moved in the last six months, while at least 25 per cent of investigated children had moved at least once (Table 7-8).

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Only 23 per cent of multiple maltreatment investigations involved children living in purchased homes. Fifty-six per cent involved children living in private market rentals, and nine per cent involved children living in public housing complexes. Substantiation rates ranged from 45 per cent to 74 per cent.

Nine per cent of multiple maltreatment investigations involved children living in unsafe housing conditions, and 88 per cent of these cases were substantiated (Table 7-7). Fifty-three per cent of investigations involved children who had not moved in the last six months, while at least 30 per cent of investigated children had moved at least once (Table 7-8).

## Aboriginal Heritage of Parents

Aboriginal heritage was documented by the *OIS 1998* in an effort to better understand some of the factors that bring children from these communities into contact with the child welfare system.<sup>68</sup> Aboriginal children and families were identified as a key group to examine because of concerns about overrepresentation of children from these communities in the foster care system.<sup>69</sup> The study tracked the aboriginal status of biological parents living with the children involved in maltreatment investigations, but not of biological parents who were residing elsewhere. The study also documented whether the children with one or more biological parents were living on- or off-reserve.

At least one parent was of aboriginal heritage in six per cent of child maltreatment investigations in Ontario.<sup>70</sup> Of these 4,159 child investigations, 64 per cent reported neither parent living on a reserve, while 23 per cent had at least one parent living on a reserve. For 13 per cent, the caregiver living location was unknown. Forty-five per cent of investigations involving children with at least one parent of aboriginal heritage living off reserve were substantiated cases of maltreatment, with 27 per cent remaining suspected, and 28 per cent being unsubstantiated. Twenty-seven per cent of child investigations were substantiated when the family was of aboriginal heritage and lived on a reserve, with 30 per cent remaining suspected, and 43 per cent being unsubstantiated.

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<sup>68</sup> The *OIS 1998* collected information about a dozen other ethno-cultural groups, but the number of cases sampled for most groups was too low to allow for inclusion in this report.

<sup>69</sup> See Armitage, A. (1993). Family and child welfare in First Nation communities. In B. Wharf (Ed.) *Rethinking child welfare in Canada* (pp. 131–170). Toronto, ON: McClelland & Stewart.

McKenzie, B., Seidl, E. et al. (1995). Child welfare standards in First Nations. In I. B. Galaway and J. Hudson (Eds.) *Child welfare in Canada: Research and policy implications* (pp. 54–65). Toronto, ON: Thompson Educational Press.

<sup>70</sup> 4,159 child investigations (6 per cent) had at least one parent who was of aboriginal heritage while 60,587 investigations (94 per cent) identified that neither parent was of aboriginal heritage.

**Table 7-6**  
**Housing Type in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
Private Rental Accommodation	43% 10,080	39% 2,401	58% 13,607	51% 6,002	<b>50% 32,090</b>	56% 6,171		
Substantiated	29%	30%	28%	44%	<b>32%</b>	45%		
Suspected	21%	26%	23%	33%	<b>24%</b>	33%		
Unsubstantiated	50%	44%	49%	23%	<b>44%</b>	22%		
Rental Unit in a Public Housing Complex	7% 1,597	8% 492	9% 2,062	7% 829	<b>8% 4,980</b>	9% 1,037		
Substantiated	26%	31%	32%	68%	<b>36%</b>	68%		
Suspected	15%	42%	11%	11%	<b>15%</b>	12%		
Unsubstantiated	59%	27%	57%	21%	<b>49%</b>	21%		
Purchased Home	37% 8,791	33% 2,028	18% 4,146	30% 3,492	<b>29% 18,457</b>	23% 2,508		
Substantiated	36%	33%	28%	56%	<b>38%</b>	53%		
Suspected	17%	17%	24%	28%	<b>21%</b>	27%		
Unsubstantiated	46%	50%	48%	16%	<b>41%</b>	21%		
Shelter/Hotel	1% 343	— —	3% 603	2% 207	<b>2% 1,207</b>	4% 399		
Substantiated	43%	—	38%	85%	<b>46%</b>	51%		
Suspected	34%	—	22%	15%	<b>25%</b>	33%		
Unsubstantiated	23%	—	40%	0%	<b>30%</b>	16%		
Other	2% 440	4% 227	4% 825	4% 428	<b>3% 1,920</b>	2% 266		
Substantiated	21%	—	56%	29%	<b>36%</b>	74%		
Suspected	6%	—	8%	54%	<b>21%</b>	22%		
Unsubstantiated	73%	—	36%	17%	<b>43%</b>	4%		
Unknown	10% 2,322	16% 963	9% 2,021	6% 751	<b>9% 6,057</b>	5% 587		
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,573</b>	<b>100% 6,165</b>	<b>100% 23,264</b>	<b>100% 11,709</b>	<b>100% 64,711</b>	<b>100% 10,968</b>		

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,052 child investigations with information about housing type. Due to missing information on one case, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-6.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, so estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Table 7-7**  
**Housing Conditions in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
Safe Conditions	83% 19,474	80% 4,927	77% 17,799	85% 9,835	<b>81%</b>	<b>52,035</b>	78% 8,504	
Substantiated	31%	32%	25%	51%	<b>33%</b>		45%	
Suspected	18%	22%	23%	29%	<b>22%</b>		29%	
Unsubstantiated	51%	46%	52%	20%	<b>45%</b>		26%	
Unsafe Conditions	3% 716	— —	8% 1,889	4% 519	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,198</b>	9% 945	
Substantiated	47%	—	70%	70%	<b>64%</b>		88%	
Suspected	29%	—	14%	20%	<b>18%</b>		8%	
Unsubstantiated	24%	—	16%	10%	<b>18%</b>		4%	
Unknown	14% 3,369	19% 1,166	15% 3,462	11% 1,235	<b>14%</b>	<b>9,232</b>	13% 1,460	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,559</b>	<b>100% 6,167</b>	<b>100% 23,150</b>	<b>100% 11,589</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,465</b>	<b>100% 10,909</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,038 child investigations with information about housing conditions. Due to missing information on 15 cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-7.

**Physical Abuse:** Of the 1,317 physical abuse cases that identified at least one caregiver of aboriginal heritage, 53 per cent of the child investigation reported that neither aboriginal caregiver lived on a reserve, while 29 per cent lived on a reserve. Substantiation rates ranged between 23 and 24 per cent for the two categories of physical abuse investigation.

**Sexual Abuse:** An estimated 223 sexual abuse investigations were completed on children who had at least one parent of aboriginal heritage. Of these child investigations, 51 per cent indicated that the household did not live on a reserve. The number of children who lived on a reserve was too low to generate reliable estimates. The substantiation rate was 38 per cent for households that did not live on a reserve.

**Neglect:** A total of 2,020 neglect investigations involved children who had at least one parent who was of aboriginal heritage. Of this number, 20 per cent involved children who lived on a reserve, while 70 per cent did not live on a reserve. Substantiation rates ranged from 34 per cent in cases involving children living on a reserve to 43 per cent for children who did not live on a reserve.

**Table 7-8**  
**Family Moves Within the Last Six Months in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment			
No Moves in Last Six Months	58% 13,680	63% 3,867	46% 10,537	53% 6,177	<b>53% 34,261</b>	53% 5,855	
Substantiated	30%	29%	28%	49%	<b>33%</b>	45%	
Suspected	18%	25%	19%	31%	<b>21%</b>	28%	
Unsubstantiated	52%	46%	53%	20%	<b>46%</b>	27%	
One Move	15% 3,404	13% 811	21% 4,851	19% 2,234	<b>18% 11,300</b>	22% 2,375	
Substantiated	36%	22%	29%	42%	<b>33%</b>	54%	
Suspected	16%	31%	25%	37%	<b>25%</b>	28%	
Unsubstantiated	48%	47%	46%	21%	<b>42%</b>	17%	
Two or More Moves	6% 1,341	— —	11% 2,460	6% 684	<b>7% 4,530</b>	8% 855	
Substantiated	33%	—	36%	51%	<b>37%</b>	49%	
Suspected	22%	—	32%	41%	<b>31%</b>	42%	
Unsubstantiated	45%	—	32%	8%	<b>32%</b>	9%	
Unknown	21% 5,003	23% 1,429	23% 5,196	22% 2,563	<b>22% 14,191</b>	17% 1,877	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,428</b>	<b>100% 6,152</b>	<b>100% 23,044</b>	<b>100% 11,658</b>	<b>100% 64,282</b>	<b>100% 10,962</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 5,328 child investigations with information about family moves in the past six months. Due to missing information on 35 cases and because information on family moves in past six months was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-8.

\*\* Excluding jurisdictions where information about the number of family moves in last six months could not be collected in a comparable manner. The remaining subsample represents at least 80 per cent of child welfare investigations in Canada.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Almost 600 emotional maltreatment investigations involved children with at least one parent of aboriginal heritage. Seventy-six per cent of these child investigations indicated that the household did not live on a reserve, of which 85 per cent were substantiated. Numbers for those households who lived on a reserve were too low to provide reliable estimates.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** An estimated 1,087 investigations for multiple categories of maltreatment involved children with at least one parent of aboriginal heritage. Seventy-two per cent of these child investigations indicated that the household did not live on a reserve while 17 per cent did. Fifty-four per cent of child investigations where the household did not live on a reserve were substantiated.

**Table 7-9**  
**Aboriginal Heritage of Parents in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment										Multiple Categories	
	Primary Category								Total			
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment								
Neither Aboriginal Caregiver												
Living On-Reserve	53%	696	51%	114	70%	1,415	76%	457	<b>64%</b>	<b>2,682</b>	72%	784
Substantiated	24%		—		43%		85%		<b>45%</b>		54%	
Suspected	49%		—		21%		15%		<b>27%</b>		11%	
Unsubstantiated	27%		—		36%		0%		<b>28%</b>		35%	
At Least One Aboriginal Caregiver												
Living On-Reserve	29%	385	—	—	20%	398	—	—	<b>23%</b>	<b>943</b>	17%	189
Substantiated	23%		—		34%		—		<b>27%</b>		—	
Suspected	56%		—		12%		—		<b>30%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	21%		—		54%		—		<b>43%</b>		—	
Aboriginal Caregiver Living Location Unknown												
	18%	236	—	—	10%	207	—	—	<b>13%</b>	<b>534</b>	10%	114
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,087</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about the aboriginal heritage of parents. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-9.

\*\* At least one parent is aboriginal.

## Caregiver Functioning and Family Stressors

Concerns related to family stressors and caregiver functioning were examined by investigating workers using a checklist of ten items that could apply to either caregiver. Where applicable, the reference point for identifying concerns about caregiver functioning was the past six months.<sup>71</sup> The checklist included

**Alcohol or Drug Abuse:** Use of alcohol is known or suspected to pose a problem for the family, or at least one caregiver is known or suspected to abuse prescription drugs, illegal drugs, or other substances.

<sup>71</sup> Most items were rated on a two-point scale differentiating “confirmed” and “suspected” caregiver functioning issues. A caregiver functioning or family stressor was classified as confirmed if a problem had been diagnosed, observed by the investigating worker or another worker, or disclosed by the caregiver. An issue was classified as suspected if the investigating worker’s suspicions were sufficient to include the concern in the written assessment of the family. For the purposes of the present report, the two categories have been collapsed. A comparison of the ratings will be completed in subsequent analyses.

**Criminal Activity:** At least one caregiver is known or suspected to allow criminal acts to be committed with the children's knowledge, or is absent due to incarceration.

**Cognitive Impairment:** Cognitive ability of at least one caregiver is known to or suspected to have an impact on the quality of care provided in the family.

**Mental Health Problems:** At least one caregiver is known or suspected to have mental health problems.

**Physical Health Issues:** At least one caregiver is known or suspected to have a chronic illness, frequent hospitalizations, or physical disability.

**Lack of Social Supports:** At least one caregiver is known or suspected to be socially isolated or lacking in social supports.

**Childhood History of Abuse:** Either caregiver is known or suspected to have a history of childhood maltreatment.

**Spousal Violence:** Either caregiver is known or suspected to be in a violent relationship.

**Custody Dispute:** Ongoing child custody dispute before the courts is known to the investigating worker.

**Other Concerns:** Any other issue/concern that described caregiver functioning.

Tables 7-10(a) and 7-10(b) present caregiver functioning and family stressor concerns that were noted by investigating workers. A caregiver/family stressor concern was identified in 70 per cent of investigations (an estimated 45,518 child investigations). Concerns noted most frequently included a history of childhood abuse (30 per cent), lack of social support (29 per cent), alcohol or drug abuse (26 per cent), mental health problems (24 per cent), and spousal violence (22 per cent). Other items noted were ongoing custody disputes (14 per cent), criminal activity (eight per cent), physical health issues (eight per cent), and cognitive impairment (five per cent). Rates of substantiation in cases involving a parental stressor or functioning issue ranged from a low of 26 per cent for cases in which ongoing child custody disputes were noted, to a high of 55 per cent involving cases reporting either criminal activity or spousal violence.

**Physical Abuse:** At least one caregiver functioning/family stressor issue was identified in 63 per cent of physical abuse investigations. Twenty-eight per cent of physical abuse investigations involved a caregiver reporting a history of child abuse; 25 per cent of child investigations noted a lack of social supports; and a further 22 per cent of cases indicated a mental health problem. Spousal violence or alcohol or drug abuse was reported in 16 per cent of physical abuse investigations respectively; and custody disputes were ongoing in 13 per cent. Physical health issues were noted in six per cent of the investigations, while criminal activity and cognitive impairment were both reported in five per cent of investigations. The substantiation level ranged from a low of 24 per cent for cases reporting ongoing child custody dispute to 49 per cent for cases in which spousal violence was noted.

**Sexual Abuse:** A caregiver functioning/family stressor issue was noted in 54 per cent of sexual abuse investigations. Twenty-two per cent of sexual abuse investigations indicated a childhood history of abuse, while for 17 per cent an ongoing child custody dispute was identified. A mental health problem or a lack of social supports was noted in 13 per cent, while alcohol or drug abuse was a concern in 12 per cent of investigations. Spousal violence was reported in ten per cent, while criminal activity, cognitive impairment, physical health issues, and “other” concerns were each reported for less than ten per cent of sexual abuse investigations.

The substantiation level ranged from a low of five per cent in cases where a custody dispute was identified to a high of 65 per cent when a caregiver was identified as participating in criminal activity.

**Neglect:** In 73 per cent of neglect investigations, workers indicated at least one caregiver functioning/family stressor issue. Concerns included lack of social supports (34 per cent), alcohol/drug abuse (32 per cent), a history of childhood abuse (32 per cent), mental health problems (25 per cent), spousal violence (17 per cent), custody disputes (13 per cent), criminal activity (nine per cent), physical health issues (eight per cent), and cognitive impairment (five per cent).

Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 21 per cent for investigations with an ongoing custody dispute to a high of 51 per cent for presence of spousal violence.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** At least one caregiver functioning/family stressor issue was identified in 88 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations. Spousal violence was noted in 54 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations, an expected finding given that the emotional maltreatment classification includes exposure to family violence. Other concerns included alcohol or drug abuse (40 per cent), history of childhood abuse (36 per cent), mental health problems (35 per cent), lack of social supports (33 per cent), custody dispute (17 per cent), criminal activity (14 per cent), and physical health issues (11 per cent).

The substantiation level for emotional maltreatment ranged from 31 per cent in cases identifying “other” concerns to 65 per cent when criminal activity was reported. Sixty-two per cent of investigations indicating spousal violence or a childhood history of abuse were substantiated, while investigations identifying alcohol/drug abuse were substantiated at 59 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Eighty-four per cent of investigations into more than one category of maltreatment reported at least one caregiver functioning/family stressor issue. Forty-eight per cent of investigations involved a caregiver with a childhood history of abuse, while 41 per cent noted lack of social supports, 37 per cent reported spousal violence, 36 per cent reported a caregiver abusing alcohol or drugs, and 34 per cent identified mental health problems. The substantiation level of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment was generally high, ranging from 43 per cent to 68 per cent.

**Table 7-10(a)**  
**Caregiver\*\*\* Functioning and Other Family Stressors in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							
	Primary Category						Multiple Categories	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total			
Alcohol or Drug Abuse	16% 3,867	12% 764	32% 7,542	40% 4,671	<b>26% 16,844</b>	36%	3,987	
Substantiated	44%	50%	35%	59%	<b>45%</b>	63%		
Suspected	31%	14%	35%	28%	<b>31%</b>	32%		
Unsubstantiated	25%	36%	30%	13%	<b>24%</b>	5%		
Criminal Activity	5% 1,092	8% 472	9% 2,122	14% 1,624	<b>8% 5,310</b>	14%	1,588	
Substantiated	48%	65%	50%	65%	<b>55%</b>	64%		
Suspected	22%	10%	31%	24%	<b>25%</b>	32%		
Unsubstantiated	30%	25%	19%	11%	<b>20%</b>	4%		
Cognitive Impairment	5% 1,197	7% 449	5% 1,266	2% 237	<b>5% 3,149</b>	5%	603	
Substantiated	27%	47%	49%	—	<b>40%</b>	62%		
Suspected	26%	9%	23%	—	<b>22%</b>	17%		
Unsubstantiated	47%	44%	28%	—	<b>38%</b>	21%		
Mental Health Problems	22% 5,146	13% 771	25% 5,806	35% 4,136	<b>24% 15,859</b>	34%	3,772	
Substantiated	42%	37%	37%	45%	<b>40%</b>	68%		
Suspected	24%	27%	32%	39%	<b>31%</b>	24%		
Unsubstantiated	34%	36%	31%	16%	<b>29%</b>	8%		
Physical Health Issues	6% 1,487	7% 407	8% 1,836	11% 1,327	<b>8% 5,057</b>	9%	977	
Substantiated	40%	38%	36%	53%	<b>42%</b>	65%		
Suspected	21%	29%	30%	37%	<b>29%</b>	21%		
Unsubstantiated	39%	33%	34%	10%	<b>29%</b>	14%		
<b>Total Investigated Children*,**</b>	<b>23,609</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>64,746</b>		<b>10,971</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about caregiver functioning and other family stressors. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-10.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

\*\*\* Includes all issues noted for any parent or caregiver.

**Table 7-10(b)**  
**Caregiver\*\*\* Functioning and Other Family Stressors in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Lack of Social Supports	25%	5,907	13%	825	34%	7,911	33%	3,890	<b>29%</b>	<b>18,533</b>	41%	4,463
Substantiated	35%		26%		41%		55%		<b>41%</b>		58%	
Suspected	27%		32%		29%		28%		<b>28%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	38%		42%		30%		17%		<b>31%</b>		9%	
Childhood History of Abuse	28%	6,546	22%	1,386	32%	7,416	36%	4,239	<b>30%</b>	<b>19,587</b>	48%	5,302
Substantiated	40%		20%		43%		62%		<b>45%</b>		58%	
Suspected	20%		34%		25%		26%		<b>24%</b>		32%	
Unsubstantiated	40%		46%		32%		12%		<b>31%</b>		10%	
Spousal Violence	16%	3,675	10%	637	17%	3,847	54%	6,359	<b>22%</b>	<b>14,518</b>	37%	4,058
Substantiated	49%		43%		51%		62%		<b>55%</b>		65%	
Suspected	22%		15%		33%		31%		<b>29%</b>		28%	
Unsubstantiated	29%		42%		16%		7%		<b>16%</b>		7%	
Custody Dispute	13%	3,023	17%	1,029	13%	3,100	17%	1,946	<b>14%</b>	<b>9,098</b>	17%	1,829
Substantiated	24%		5%		21%		49%		<b>26%</b>		43%	
Suspected	12%		21%		15%		26%		<b>17%</b>		23%	
Unsubstantiated	64%		74%		64%		25%		<b>56%</b>		34%	
Other Concerns	4%	1,025	—	—	3%	626	5%	572	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,280</b>	7%	726
Substantiated	32%		—		38%		31%		<b>33%</b>		47%	
Suspected	42%		—		47%		53%		<b>46%</b>		46%	
Unsubstantiated	26%		—		15%		16%		<b>21%</b>		7%	
Investigations Where at Least One Caregiver/Family Stressor Was Noted	63%	14,848	54%	3,304	73%	17,012	88%	10,354	<b>70%</b>	<b>45,518</b>	84%	9,194
<b>Total Investigated Children*,**</b>		<b>23,609</b>		<b>6,165</b>		<b>23,264</b>		<b>11,708</b>		<b>64,746</b>		<b>10,971</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates are based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about caregiver functioning and other family stressors. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 7-10.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

\*\*\* Includes all issues noted for any parent or caregiver.

## ■ 8. REFERRAL AND AGENCY CHARACTERISTICS

Chapter 8 describes referral and agency characteristics, including referral sources, malicious and unsubstantiated referrals, previous investigations, agency size and structure, and investigating workers' professional training and years of experience. As with the previous chapters, the tables are presented in terms of the estimated number of child maltreatment investigations in Ontario in 1998, by primary category of maltreatment and level of substantiation.

The figures presented in this chapter are weighted figures derived from child maltreatment investigations conducted in 1998 in a sample of Ontario children's aid societies (CASs). The sampling design and weighting procedures specific to the study should be considered before drawing inferences from these estimates. These estimates **do not include** (1) incidents that were not reported to CASs, (2) reported cases that were screened out by children's aid societies before being fully investigated, (3) new reports on cases already open by CASs, and (4) cases that were investigated only by the police. The *OIS 1998* is designed to allow comparison to the *OIS 1993*; however, direct comparisons between the figures in the two reports should be made only after first taking into consideration the changes in definition and the effect of the sampling design on the final estimates.

### Source of Referral

Table 8-1 describes the different sources of referral that led to investigations of child maltreatment. The *OIS 1998* tracked up to three separate sources of referral. Each independent contact with the CAS regarding a child(ren) or family was counted as a separate referral. The person who actually contacted the child welfare agency/office was identified as the referral source. For example, if a child disclosed an incident of abuse to a schoolteacher, who then told the school principal of the disclosure, and the principal then made a report to child welfare services, only the principal was counted as a referral source. However, if both the principal and the child's parent independently called, both would be counted as separate referral sources.

The Maltreatment Assessment Form included 18 pre-coded referral source categories and an open "other" category. These are combined in Tables 8-1(a) and 8-1(b) in the following categories:

**Parent:** This includes parents involved as a caregiver to the reported child, as well as non-custodial parents.

**Child:** A self-referral by any child identified as a subject of referral on the Intake Face Sheet.

**Relative:** Any relative of the child in question. Workers were asked to code "other" for situations where a child was living with a foster parent and a relative of the foster parent reported maltreatment.

**Neighbour/Friend:** This category includes any neighbour or friend of the child(ren), or of the family.

**Anonymous:** Any unidentified caller.

**Police:** Any member of police services, including municipal forces and the RCMP.

**School Personnel:** Any school personnel (teacher, principal, teacher's aide, school psychologist, etc.).

**Health Professional:** Includes hospital- and clinic-based physicians and nurses and public health nurses.

**Mental Health Professional:** Includes family service agencies, mental health centres (other than hospital psychiatric wards), and private mental health practitioners (psychologists, social workers, other therapists) working outside a school/hospital/child welfare/*Young Offenders Act* setting.

**Other Child Welfare Service:** Includes referrals from mandated child welfare service providers from other jurisdictions or provinces.

**Community Agency:** Includes agencies running any form of recreation and community activity program (e.g., organized sports leagues, Boys and Girls Club); shelter or crisis service for family violence or homelessness; social assistance workers; child care or day care services; or any other community agency or service

**Other Referral Source:** Any other source of referral.

Over 61 per cent (an estimated 39,575 child investigations) of all referrals were made by professionals through their contact with children. The largest source of referrals was school personnel, who referred an estimated 15,337 child investigations to child welfare services, representing 24 per cent of all investigations. Police referred 13 per cent of child investigations, and health personnel (hospitals or physicians) referred another six per cent. Non-professional community sources referred an estimated 18,570 child investigations (29 per cent).<sup>72</sup> Referrals from parents were the second most common source of referral, totaling an estimated 9,142 child investigations (nine per cent for custodial parents and five per cent for non-custodial parents). Relatives accounted for seven per cent of referrals, neighbours/family friends seven per cent, and children themselves one per cent. Other referral sources were responsible for seven per cent of all child investigations, and anonymous sources referred an additional five per cent of investigations.

Police referrals had the highest substantiation rate at 55 per cent, with maltreatment remaining suspected in an additional 17 per cent of investigations and being unsubstantiated in 28 per cent.

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<sup>72</sup> Because Table 8-1 documents up to three sources of referral per investigation, categories will add up to more than 100 per cent.

Thirty-eight per cent of referrals from other child welfare services and thirty-six per cent of referrals from school personnel were substantiated, while only 28 per cent of referrals from mental health professionals were substantiated. Referrals from non-professional sources were substantiated at a lower rate: non-custodial (23 per cent); relative (30 per cent); and neighbour/friend (25 per cent). Fourteen per cent of child investigations referred by an anonymous source were substantiated, while 22 per cent remained suspected, and 64 per cent were unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** School personnel referred over one-third (38 per cent) of all of physical abuse investigations. Parents referred the second-largest number (seven per cent for custodial and for non-custodial parents) of physical abuse cases, followed by police and community agencies, which each referred seven per cent of investigations. Substantiation rates in cases of physical abuse ranged from a low of ten per cent for anonymous referrals to 51 per cent for cases referred by custodial parents.

**Sexual Abuse:** Parents were the most common (25 per cent for custodial parent and three per cent of non-custodial parents) source of referral for sexual abuse cases, involving an estimated 1,704 child investigations. Police and school personnel accounted for most of the other sexual abuse referrals (20 per cent and 13 per cent of referrals respectively). Substantiation rates ranged from a low of three per cent for community agencies to a high of 47 for school personnel.

**Neglect:** School personnel referred 17 per cent of neglect investigations, and police and relatives each referred ten per cent of cases. Seven per cent of neglect investigations were referred by custodial parents, while an additional five per cent were referred by a non-custodial parent. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 15 per cent for anonymous referrals to 78 per cent for referrals made by the investigated child.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Police referrals accounted for nearly one-third of emotional maltreatment investigations. The role of the police in these cases can be accounted for by the fact that many emotional maltreatment cases are identified following incidents of spouse abuse, where police are often the first to intervene. School personnel referred 14 per cent and parents referred ten per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations (custodial parents six per cent, non-custodial parents four per cent). Rates of substantiation ranged from a low of 14 per cent for health professional to a high of 72 per cent for referrals from the police.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Twenty-two per cent of investigations that examined multiple categories of maltreatment were referred by school personnel. Custodial parents referred ten per cent of child investigations, while non-custodial parents referred another eight per cent. Relatives referred ten per cent of cases, neighbours and friends referred nine per cent, and the police referred an additional nine per cent. Substantiation rates for investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment were generally high, ranging from a low of 35 per cent for referrals by relatives to a high of 77 per cent for health professional referrals.

**Table 8-1(a)**  
**All Referral Sources in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment							Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
Custodial Parent	7% 1,759	25% 1,513	7% 1,628	6% 723	<b>9% 5,623</b>	10% 1,115		
Substantiated	51%	23%	24%	49%	<b>36%</b>	64%		
Suspected	20%	33%	39%	44%	<b>32%</b>	26%		
Unsubstantiated	29%	44%	37%	7%	<b>32%</b>	10%		
Non-Custodial Parent	7% 1,672	3% 191	5% 1,188	4% 468	<b>5% 3,519</b>	8% 844		
Substantiated	16%	—	39%	18%	<b>23%</b>	42%		
Suspected	24%	—	14%	14%	<b>19%</b>	26%		
Unsubstantiated	60%	—	47%	68%	<b>58%</b>	32%		
Child	2% 522	— —	1% 265	1% 154	<b>1% 951</b>	3% 333		
Substantiated	29%	—	78%	11%	<b>40%</b>	54%		
Suspected	24%	—	0%	40%	<b>20%</b>	26%		
Unsubstantiated	47%	—	22%	49%	<b>40%</b>	20%		
Relative	5% 1,176	4% 248	10% 2,330	5% 613	<b>7% 4,367</b>	10% 1,135		
Substantiated	11%	—	30%	56%	<b>30%</b>	35%		
Suspected	25%	—	12%	23%	<b>18%</b>	34%		
Unsubstantiated	64%	—	58%	21%	<b>52%</b>	31%		
Neighbour/Friend	5% 1,100	7% 407	8% 1,935	7% 837	<b>7% 4,279</b>	9% 984		
Substantiated	23%	20%	20%	40%	<b>25%</b>	37%		
Suspected	13%	12%	21%	19%	<b>18%</b>	23%		
Unsubstantiated	64%	68%	59%	41%	<b>57%</b>	40%		
Any Non-Professional Referral Source	26% 6,157	38% 2,368	32% 7,331	23% 2,714	<b>29% 18,570</b>	39% 4,333		
Substantiated	28%	24%	30%	42%	<b>30%</b>	46%		
Suspected	21%	27%	20%	26%	<b>22%</b>	26%		
Unsubstantiated	51%	49%	50%	32%	<b>48%</b>	27%		
Other Referral Source	4% 885	7% 450	8% 1,764	13% 1,482	<b>7% 4,581</b>	9% 987		
Substantiated	35%	38%	23%	38%	<b>31%</b>	49%		
Suspected	20%	9%	19%	42%	<b>26%</b>	34%		
Unsubstantiated	45%	53%	58%	20%	<b>43%</b>	17%		

*continued*

**Table 8-1(a) (continued)**  
**All Referral Sources in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Anonymous	3%	804	—	—	9%	2,136	3%	338	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,362</b>	5%	594
Substantiated	10%		—		15%		16%		<b>14%</b>		35%	
Suspected	21%		—		21%		42%		<b>22%</b>		8%	
Unsubstantiated	69%		—		64%		42%		<b>64%</b>		57%	
<b>Total Investigated Children*,**</b>		<b>23,609</b>		<b>6,165</b>		<b>23,264</b>		<b>11,708</b>		<b>64,746</b>		<b>10,971</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about source of referral. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-1.

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## Malicious Referrals

The CFSA requires that professionals and members of the public report suspected maltreatment. To ensure that investigations are carried out by trained child welfare professionals in a thorough yet minimally intrusive manner, reporters are not expected to attempt to verify their suspicions prior to reporting. Following an investigation, 33 per cent of investigations tracked by the *OIS 1998* were found to be unsubstantiated; while most of these unsubstantiated reports were made in good faith (see Table 3-1), in some instances, some allegations appeared to have been made with malicious intent by a reporter who knew that the allegation was false. Investigating workers classified such referrals as “malicious.”

Table 8-2(a) describes unsubstantiated and malicious reports for investigated children by primary category of maltreatment and by level of substantiation, and Table 8-2(b) provides a breakdown of malicious referrals by source of referral. While most unsubstantiated reports were considered to have been made in good faith, five per cent of all allegations of maltreatment, involving an estimated 3,118 child investigations, were judged to have been intentionally false. In another five per cent of cases the investigating worker was unable to determine whether or not an unsubstantiated report had been made in good faith.

**Table 8-1(b)**  
**All Referral Sources in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories	
	Primary Category					Total		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment				
Police	7% 1,572	20% 1,240	10% 2,313	30% 3,514	<b>13%</b>	<b>8,639</b>	9%	936
Substantiated	46%	28%	52%	72%	<b>55%</b>		68%	
Suspected	15%	17%	18%	17%	<b>17%</b>		15%	
Unsubstantiated	39%	55%	30%	11%	<b>28%</b>		17%	
School Personnel	38% 9,045	13% 790	17% 3,909	14% 1,593	<b>24%</b>	<b>15,337</b>	22%	2,437
Substantiated	36%	47%	32%	40%	<b>36%</b>		44%	
Suspected	20%	39%	20%	43%	<b>23%</b>		34%	
Unsubstantiated	44%	14%	48%	17%	<b>41%</b>		22%	
Health Professional	6% 1,348	5% 282	8% 1,757	4% 491	<b>6%</b>	<b>3,878</b>	4%	414
Substantiated	28%	34%	40%	14%	<b>33%</b>		77%	
Suspected	12%	40%	19%	62%	<b>23%</b>		16%	
Unsubstantiated	60%	26%	41%	24%	<b>44%</b>		7%	
Mental Health Professional	5% 1,181	5% 287	1% 348	3% 381	<b>3%</b>	<b>2,197</b>	4%	482
Substantiated	31%	32%	18%	26%	<b>28%</b>		53%	
Suspected	32%	37%	56%	50%	<b>40%</b>		40%	
Unsubstantiated	37%	31%	26%	24%	<b>32%</b>		7%	
Other Child Welfare Service	4% 1,050	7% 432	8% 1,866	9% 1,013	<b>7%</b>	<b>4,361</b>	3%	376
Substantiated	27%	22%	33%	65%	<b>38%</b>		51%	
Suspected	26%	13%	42%	34%	<b>33%</b>		48%	
Unsubstantiated	47%	65%	25%	1%	<b>29%</b>		1%	
Community Agency	7% 1,568	5% 305	6% 1,438	5% 609	<b>6%</b>	<b>3,920</b>	7%	753
Substantiated	26%	3%	37%	64%	<b>34%</b>		53%	
Suspected	9%	20%	17%	19%	<b>14%</b>		45%	
Unsubstantiated	65%	77%	45%	16%	<b>51%</b>		2%	
Any Professional Referral	68% 15,938	56% 3,447	53% 12,400	67% 7,790	<b>61%</b>	<b>39,575</b>	49%	5,425
Substantiated	34%	31%	37%	56%	<b>39%</b>		52%	
Suspected	18%	25%	23%	30%	<b>23%</b>		32%	
Unsubstantiated	48%	44%	40%	14%	<b>38%</b>		16%	
<b>Total Investigated Children*,**</b>	<b>23,609</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>23,264</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>64,746</b>		<b>10,971</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about source of referral. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-1(b).

\*\* The rows in this table are not additive: child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.

**Primary Categories of Maltreatment:** Most of the reports that were judged to be malicious involved allegations of neglect: an estimated 1,735 child investigations, as compared to an estimated 897 physical abuse investigations, an estimated 276 sexual abuse investigations, and an estimated 210 emotional maltreatment investigations.

**Source of Referral:** Table 8-2(b) describes unsubstantiated and malicious referrals for investigated children by referral source. Relatives/neighbours and parents were considered to be responsible for an estimated 41 per cent of all malicious referrals, with approximately 1,268 children subjected to unnecessary maltreatment investigations as a result of referrals from these two sources.<sup>73</sup> Anonymous reports constituted the largest group of malicious referrals, involving an estimated 830 child investigations or 27 per cent of all anonymous reports. While reports from professionals were rarely judged to have been intentionally false (an estimated two per cent of false reports), these reports nevertheless account for the third-largest group of malicious referrals, involving an estimated 737 child investigations. Child self-referrals represent a small proportion of all malicious referrals, but this number represents six per cent of all child referrals.

**Table 8-2(a)**

**Unsubstantiated and Malicious Reports of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
Substantiated Reports	32%	7,466	29%	1,802	31%	7,282	50%	5,897	<b>35%</b>	<b>22,447</b>	36%	3,984
Suspected Reports	19%	4,546	25%	1,553	22%	5,049	30%	3,499	<b>23%</b>	<b>14,647</b>	29%	3,169
Unsubstantiated Non-Malicious Reports	40%	9,468	37%	2,309	33%	7,562	16%	1,898	<b>33%</b>	<b>21,237</b>	25%	2,769
Unsubstantiated Malicious Reports	4%	897	4%	276	7%	1,735	2%	210	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,118</b>	4%	414
Unsubstantiated Reports, Malicious Intent Undetermined	5%	1,233	4%	227	7%	1,635	2%	203	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,298</b>	6%	635
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,610</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,167</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,263</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,707</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,747</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,971</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about malicious reports. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-2(a).

<sup>73</sup> Percentage is derived by dividing number of unsubstantiated malicious report of referral source by total number of unsubstantiated malicious reports (3,118 – see Table 8-2(a)).

**Table 8-2(b)**  
**Unsubstantiated and Malicious Reports of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Referral Source Category in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category										Multiple Categories	
	Physical Abuse		Sexual Abuse		Neglect		Emotional Maltreatment		Total			
Substantiated Reports	31%	2,823	40%	381	27%	2,366	39%	15,457	<b>38%</b>	<b>1,756</b>	19%	638
Suspected Reports	27%	2,458	20%	189	18%	1,533	23%	9,010	<b>26%</b>	<b>1,179</b>	18%	590
Unsubstantiated Non-Malicious Reports	32%	2,923	25%	235	39%	3,357	32%	12,635	<b>25%</b>	<b>1,151</b>	36%	1,199
Unsubstantiated Malicious Reports	6%	573	—	—	9%	763	2%	737	<b>5%</b>	<b>218</b>	25%	830
Unsubstantiated Reports, Malicious Intent Undetermined	4%	360	—	—	7%	628	4%	1,737	<b>6%</b>	<b>280</b>	3%	103
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,137</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,647</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39,576</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,584</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,360</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,023 child investigations with information about malicious reports for referral source. Due to missing information on 30 cases, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-2(b).  
 — Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates, estimates are too unreliable to be given.

## Previous Case Openings

Previous involvement with children's aid societies was tracked in two ways: (1) workers noted if the investigated child had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment and (2) workers noted if the child's family had previous files with child welfare services, for reasons other than suspected maltreatment. Unfortunately there was not sufficient consistency in the service history information available to investigating workers to warrant collecting additional information on previous alleged incidents of maltreatment, nor even on the outcomes of previous investigations. OIS 1998 information about previous case openings is also limited by the fact that there is no Ontario-wide method for tracking child welfare case openings. Thus the study's service history statistics should be interpreted as underestimates of the actual rates of previous service contact.

Table 8-3 shows the following case information: children who had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment; children who had not been previously investigated, but whose family had received services once; children who had not been previously investigated, but whose family had received services more than once; children with no record of previous service; and children whose service history was unknown. The data are presented by primary category of maltreatment and by level of substantiation.

Forty-four per cent (28,432 estimated child investigations) of investigated children had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment. Another 12 per cent of children lived in families that had previously received child welfare services at least once. Only 40 per cent of children came from families for which no previous record of service had been noted, and for an additional three per cent of children, child welfare service history could not be determined. The substantiation rates ranged from 32 per cent for child investigations with no previous child investigation, but multiple family services to 37 per cent for child investigations with no previous child investigation, but a single family service.

**Physical Abuse:** In 37 percent of physical abuse investigations the child had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment, and an additional 17 per cent lived in families that had previously received child welfare services. Forty-four per cent of children came from families for which no previous record of service had been noted. Substantiation rates varied from a high of 36 per cent for children whose families had received services once to only 29 per cent for families who had received services more than once.

**Sexual Abuse:** Although sexual abuse investigations involved the greatest proportion of cases with no previous child welfare history (45 per cent), an estimated 2,459 child investigations (40 per cent of sexual abuse investigations) had nevertheless been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment. Thirty-three per cent of sexual abuse investigations involving children who had been previously investigated were substantiated, and only 20 per cent of sexual abuse investigations involving children from families who had previously received child welfare services more than once were substantiated.

**Neglect:** In 49 per cent of neglect investigations the child had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment. Eleven per cent of child investigations involved children who lived in families who had received family services on either one or multiple occasions. Thirty-six per cent of investigations involved children who lived in families that had no previous record of services. As opposed to abuse investigations, neglect investigations involving previously investigated children were more often substantiated (34 per cent).

**Emotional Maltreatment:** As with neglect cases, almost 51 per cent of children investigated because of emotional maltreatment had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment, with another seven per cent living in families that had previously received child welfare services. Regardless of service history, substantiation rates were generally high in cases of emotional maltreatment, ranging from 48 per cent for children who had been previously investigated to 53 per cent for cases with no previous record of service.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Half of child investigations for multiple categories of maltreatment were on children who had been previously investigated. Another 12 per cent of investigations indicated previous family contact on either a single or multiple occasions. No previous history of child welfare service was noted in 36 per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment. Regardless of service history, substantiation rates were generally high in cases involving multiple categories of maltreatment, ranging from 46 per cent for cases with no previous record of service to 75 per cent for children from families with a single previous contact with child welfare services.

**Table 8-3**  
**Previous Investigations in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category**  
**of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
Child Previously Investigated Because of Suspected Maltreatment	37%	8,753	40%	2,459	49%	11,321	51%	5,899	<b>44%</b>	<b>28,432</b>	50%	5,523
Substantiated	30%		33%		34%		48%		<b>36%</b>		48%	
Suspected	23%		26%		28%		32%		<b>27%</b>		34%	
Unsubstantiated	47%		41%		38%		20%		<b>37%</b>		18%	
Child Not Previously Investigated but Child's Family Previously Received Services Once**	11%	2,536	7%	414	6%	1,469	3%	389	<b>7%</b>	<b>4,808</b>	5%	518
Substantiated	36%		50%		33%		50%		<b>37%</b>		75%	
Suspected	17%		10%		12%		19%		<b>15%</b>		7%	
Unsubstantiated	47%		40%		55%		31%		<b>48%</b>		18%	
Child Not Previously Investigated but Child's Family Previously Received Services More than Once**	6%	1,357	8%	468	5%	1,139	4%	522	<b>5%</b>	<b>3,486</b>	7%	717
Substantiated	29%		20%		33%		50%		<b>32%</b>		50%	
Suspected	30%		32%		12%		45%		<b>27%</b>		37%	
Unsubstantiated	41%		48%		55%		5%		<b>41%</b>		13%	
No Previous Record of Service	44%	10,363	45%	2,746	36%	8,169	39%	4,501	<b>40%</b>	<b>25,779</b>	36%	3,946
Substantiated	32%		25%		26%		53%		<b>33%</b>		46%	
Suspected	15%		25%		17%		27%		<b>19%</b>		22%	
Unsubstantiated	53%		50%		57%		20%		<b>48%</b>		32%	
Unknown	2%	496	—	—	4%	862	3%	342	<b>3%</b>	<b>1,750</b>	2%	248
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23,505</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>22,960</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,653</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64,255</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,952</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,033 child investigations with information about previous child investigations. Due to missing information on 20 cases and because information on previous child investigations was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-3.

\*\* Cases previously opened for a reason other than suspected maltreatment of the child. This could include situations where another child in the same family had been investigated because of previous maltreatment, or cases opened for another service.

**Time Since Last Closing:** For cases with a previous child welfare service history, Table 8-4 describes the time elapsed from when the case was last closed. While 44 per cent of investigations had no previous case history, another 33 per cent had previous histories that had been closed within 12 months of the *OIS 1998* investigation, and another 21 per cent had been closed for more than 12 months.

Thirty-eight per cent of neglect investigations and 35 per cent emotional maltreatment investigations had previous histories and had been closed within 12 months. In contrast, only 28 per cent of sexual abuse and 30 per cent of physical abuse cases had been closed within 12 months of the current opening.

## Agency Size

The *OIS 1998* sampled investigations from 13 sites across Ontario. The following two tables provide a description of the types of child maltreatment investigations by agency size and level of urbanization.

Agency size is categorized in terms of the 1998 annual case openings:

**Small agencies:** Less than 350 case openings per year.

**Medium agencies:** Between 350 and 950 annual case openings.

**Large agencies:** More than 950 annual case openings.

Size classification is agency specific rather than site specific. Two sites included more than one agency covering the same geographic area.<sup>74</sup> In total, the CAS agencies include nine large agencies that process 950 to 5,000 investigations per year, four medium-sized agencies, and three small agencies.

Table 8-5 describes child maltreatment investigations in terms of the size of the agencies where the investigations were conducted. More than three-quarters (77 per cent) of all investigations were conducted by large agencies, while 18 per cent of investigations were conducted by medium agencies, and five per cent by small agencies. In small agencies maltreatment was substantiated in 38 per cent of child investigations, while 23 per cent remained suspected, and 39 per cent were unsubstantiated. Thirty per cent of child maltreatment investigations conducted in medium agencies were substantiated, 27 per cent remained suspected, and 43 per cent were unsubstantiated. Thirty-six per cent of investigations conducted in large agencies were substantiated, with 21 per cent remaining suspected, and 43 per cent being unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Seventy-nine per cent of physical abuse investigations were conducted by large agencies. Thirty-one per cent of these cases were substantiated. Sixteen per cent of physical abuse investigations were conducted by medium agencies and in 29 per cent of these were substantiated. Small agencies investigated five per cent of physical abuse allegations and had the highest substantiation rate, at 42 per cent.

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<sup>74</sup> These were faith-specific agencies.

**Table 8-4**  
**Time Since Case Was Last Closed in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total		
Case Not Previously Opened	47%	46%	40%	42%	<b>44%</b>	39%	
Substantiated	11,189	2,857	9,293	4,954	<b>28,293</b>	4,301	
Suspected	31%	24%	26%	51%	<b>32%</b>	43%	
Unsubstantiated	15%	25%	19%	29%	<b>20%</b>	25%	
Unsubstantiated	54%	51%	55%	20%	<b>48%</b>	32%	
Case Previously Closed Less than 3 Months Before							
Current Investigation	11%	12%	16%	8%	<b>12%</b>	16%	
Substantiated	2,514	756	3,668	967	<b>7,905</b>	1,756	
Suspected	34%	34%	36%	27%	<b>34%</b>	68%	
Unsubstantiated	12%	20%	28%	42%	<b>24%</b>	21%	
Unsubstantiated	54%	46%	36%	31%	<b>42%</b>	11%	
Case Previously Closed 3 to 6 Months Before							
Current Investigation	10%	10%	12%	16%	<b>12%</b>	15%	
Substantiated	2,437	596	2,784	1,921	<b>7,738</b>	1,626	
Suspected	26%	24%	43%	61%	<b>41%</b>	54%	
Unsubstantiated	34%	25%	30%	28%	<b>30%</b>	35%	
Unsubstantiated	40%	51%	27%	11%	<b>29%</b>	11%	
Case Previously Closed 7 to 12 Months Before							
Current Investigation	9%	6%	10%	11%	<b>9%</b>	11%	
Substantiated	2,011	392	2,367	1,318	<b>6,088</b>	1,183	
Suspected	23%	27%	35%	55%	<b>35%</b>	43%	
Unsubstantiated	16%	30%	25%	17%	<b>21%</b>	30%	
Unsubstantiated	61%	43%	40%	28%	<b>44%</b>	27%	
Case Previously Closed 13 to 24 Months Before							
Current Investigation	9%	8%	9%	9%	<b>9%</b>	5%	
Substantiated	2,024	511	2,078	1,110	<b>5,723</b>	494	
Suspected	34%	48%	32%	47%	<b>37%</b>	19%	
Unsubstantiated	25%	26%	25%	39%	<b>28%</b>	63%	
Unsubstantiated	41%	26%	43%	14%	<b>35%</b>	18%	
Case Previously Closed More than 24 Months Before							
Current Investigation	13%	14%	11%	10%	<b>12%</b>	14%	
Substantiated	3,121	858	2,669	1,211	<b>7,859</b>	1,546	
Suspected	37%	42%	26%	48%	<b>36%</b>	47%	
Unsubstantiated	29%	15%	12%	36%	<b>23%</b>	33%	
Unsubstantiated	34%	43%	62%	16%	<b>41%</b>	20%	
Unknown	1%	3%	2%	2%	<b>2%</b>	—	
	312	196	403	226	<b>1,137</b>	—	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
	<b>23,608</b>	<b>6,166</b>	<b>23,262</b>	<b>11,707</b>	<b>64,743</b>	<b>10,970</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about time since case was last closed. Due to information on time since case was last closed was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-4.

**Sexual Abuse:** Seventy-eight per cent of sexual abuse investigations were conducted by large agencies. Thirty per cent of these investigations were substantiated. Medium agencies conducted 18 per cent of sexual abuse investigations, and small agencies conducted four per cent of investigations. Medium agencies substantiated 27 per cent of sexual abuse investigations, and small agencies had the lowest sexual abuse substantiation rate, at 25 per cent.

**Neglect:** Seventy-five per cent of neglect cases were investigated by large agencies/offices, 18 per cent by medium agencies/offices and seven per cent by small agency/offices. Small agencies/offices had the highest substantiation rate, at 40 per cent, while medium agencies/offices had a 22 per cent substantiation rate and large agencies/offices had a 33 per cent substantiation rate.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Seventy-eight per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations were conducted by large agencies, which substantiated emotional maltreatment in 52 per cent of those investigations. Twenty per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations were conducted by medium sized agencies, and two per cent were conducted by small agencies. Medium agencies substantiated 46 per cent of investigations, while estimates for small agencies were too low to release.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Large agencies investigated 76 per cent of cases involving more than one category of maltreatment. Medium agencies conducted 18 per cent of multiple maltreatment allegations, and small agencies conducted six per cent. The substantiation rates for all categories were high, ranging from 47 to 55 per cent.

## Urban and Rural Service Area

The 13 *OIS 1998* sites represented the levels of population density across Ontario. The *OIS 1998* sites fell into one of three service area classifications:

**Large Metropolitan Service Area:** Providing child welfare services to densely populated urban settings, including suburban sites within a metropolitan site.

**Mixed Urban/Rural Service Area:** Providing child welfare services to sites with a wide population density range.

**Primarily Rural Service Area:** Providing child welfare services primarily to sparsely populated areas.

Table 8-6 describes child investigations by child welfare services based on population density. Large metropolitan service area conducted 44 per cent of investigations, while mixed urban/rural service area investigated 27 per cent of cases, and primarily rural child welfare services conducted 29 per cent of investigations. Overall substantiation rates ranged from 29 per cent for mixed urban and rural service to 38 per cent for primarily rural service area.

**Table 8-5**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Relative Size of Child Welfare Agency/Office by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment									
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total					
Less than 350 Investigations Per Year	5% 1,248	4% 253	7% 1,553	2% 200	<b>5% 3,254</b>	6% 672				
Substantiated	42%	25%	40%	—	<b>38%</b>	55%				
Suspected	23%	30%	19%	—	<b>23%</b>	15%				
Unsubstantiated	35%	45%	41%	—	<b>39%</b>	30%				
350–950 Investigations Per Year	16% 3,710	18% 1,106	18% 4,221	20% 2,366	<b>18% 11,403</b>	18% 2,010				
Substantiated	29%	27%	22%	46%	<b>30%</b>	49%				
Suspected	22%	25%	31%	31%	<b>27%</b>	30%				
Unsubstantiated	49%	48%	47%	23%	<b>43%</b>	21%				
More than 950 Investigations Per Year	79% 18,650	78% 4,805	75% 17,490	78% 9,140	<b>77% 50,085</b>	76% 8,289				
Substantiated	31%	30%	33%	52%	<b>36%</b>	47%				
Suspected	18%	25%	20%	29%	<b>21%</b>	30%				
Unsubstantiated	51%	45%	47%	19%	<b>43%</b>	22%				
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,608</b>	<b>100% 6,164</b>	<b>100% 23,264</b>	<b>100% 11,706</b>	<b>100% 64,742</b>	<b>100% 10,971</b>				

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about the size of the CAS agency. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-5.

**Physical Abuse:** Agencies in large metropolitan service areas conducted 43 per cent of physical abuse investigations, with abuse being substantiated in 28 per cent of cases. Mixed urban and rural service area investigated 28 per cent of physical abuse cases and substantiated 27 per cent of physical abuse cases. Primarily rural services investigated 28 per cent of physical abuse cases, with 43 per cent of these being substantiated.

**Sexual Abuse:** Forty-five per cent of sexual abuse investigations were conducted by large metropolitan services, 35 per cent were conducted by mixed urban/rural services, and 20 per cent of sexual abuse investigations were conducted by primarily rural services. Substantiation rates were 29 per cent for large metropolitan services, 28 per cent for mixed urban and rural services, and 31 per cent for primarily rural services.

**Neglect:** Forty-one per cent of neglect investigations were conducted by large metropolitan services, 26 per cent by mixed urban/rural services, and 32 per cent by primarily rural services. Twenty-nine

per cent of neglect investigations conducted by primarily rural services were substantiated, while 30 per cent of neglect investigations conducted by mixed urban and rural services were substantiated, and 34 per cent were substantiated by large metropolitan services.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Large metropolitan services conducted 51 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations and substantiated 57 per cent of these cases. Mixed-urban/rural services conducted 22 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations, and of these cases 36 per cent were substantiated. Twenty-six per cent of emotional maltreatment cases were investigated by primarily rural services, with a substantiation rate of 51 per cent.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Thirty-nine per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment were conducted by primarily rural service areas. Substantiation rates ranged from 52 per cent for mixed urban/rural service areas to 43 per cent for large metropolitan service areas.

**Table 8-6**

**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Urban/Rural Location of Child Welfare Agency/Office by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment						Multiple Categories
	Primary Category					Total	
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total		
Large Metropolitan Service Area	43% 10,224	45% 2,754	41% 9,588	51% 6,016	<b>44% 28,582</b>	34% 3,721	
Substantiated	28%	29%	34%	57%	<b>36%</b>	43%	
Suspected	18%	24%	18%	25%	<b>20%</b>	30%	
Unsubstantiated	54%	47%	48%	18%	<b>44%</b>	27%	
Mixed Urban and Rural Service Area	28% 6,702	35% 2,177	26% 6,126	22% 2,591	<b>27% 17,596</b>	27% 3,009	
Substantiated	27%	28%	30%	36%	<b>29%</b>	52%	
Suspected	19%	26%	22%	36%	<b>24%</b>	25%	
Unsubstantiated	54%	46%	48%	28%	<b>47%</b>	23%	
Primarily Rural Service Area	28% 6,684	20% 1,234	32% 7,549	26% 3,100	<b>29% 18,567</b>	39% 4,241	
Substantiated	43%	31%	29%	51%	<b>38%</b>	49%	
Suspected	21%	26%	26%	33%	<b>25%</b>	32%	
Unsubstantiated	36%	43%	45%	16%	<b>37%</b>	19%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100% 23,610</b>	<b>100% 6,165</b>	<b>100% 23,263</b>	<b>100% 11,707</b>	<b>100% 64,745</b>	<b>100% 10,971</b>	

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 3,053 child investigations with information about urban/rural location of CAS agency. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-6.

## Worker Position, Experience, and Education

Professional background information was collected from 268 of the 335 child welfare workers who completed CIS-OIS 1998 Maltreatment Assessments. The information collected from workers included their position at the agency, educational experience, and their number of years of experience as child welfare workers.

Table 8-7 describes the position of workers investigating reported maltreatment by primary category of maltreatment and by level of substantiation. Almost three-quarters (71 per cent) of investigations were conducted by intake workers with specialized investigation caseloads, while 27 per cent were conducted by generalists with a mixed caseload of investigations, including cases where they were providing ongoing services such as counseling, case management, and monitoring. Workers in other positions, such as supervisors and night-duty workers, conducted two per cent of investigations. Thirty-nine per cent of cases investigated by generalists were substantiated, while maltreatment remained suspected in another 21 per cent of cases, and was unsubstantiated in 40 per cent. Specialists substantiated only 33 per cent of cases, and classified another 22 per cent as suspected and 45 per cent unsubstantiated.

**Physical Abuse:** Intake specialists investigated 71 per cent of physical abuse cases, generalists 28 per cent, and other workers only two per cent. The substantiation rate for these cases was lowest for intake workers, at 28 per cent, in comparison with both generalists at 47 per cent and other workers at 32 per cent.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse investigations were conducted primarily (74 per cent) by intake and investigation specialists, with 27 per cent of these cases being substantiated. Twenty-six per cent were conducted by generalists, and 22 per cent of these investigations were substantiated.

**Neglect:** Intake specialists investigated 68 per cent of neglect cases, 33 per cent of which were substantiated. Generalists conducted 31 per cent of investigations and substantiated 32 per cent of these cases.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Intake workers conducted the majority of emotional maltreatment investigations (75 per cent) and substantiated maltreatment in 48 per cent of cases. Generalists conducted 21 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations and substantiated 50 per cent of these cases.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Intake workers conducted 58 per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment, substantiating maltreatment in 45 per cent of these cases. Generalists conducted 40 per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment, substantiating maltreatment in 49 per cent of cases.

**Table 8-7**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Job Position of Investigating Worker by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
Intake and Investigation Specialists	71%	13,293	74%	3,572	68%	12,362	75%	6,934	<b>71%</b>	<b>36,161</b>	58%	4,825
Substantiated	28%		27%		33%		48%		<b>33%</b>		45%	
Suspected	20%		29%		18%		31%		<b>22%</b>		29%	
Unsubstantiated	52%		44%		49%		21%		<b>45%</b>		26%	
Generalists with Mixed Intake and Ongoing Service Caseloads	28%	5,260	26%	1,261	31%	5,542	21%	1,927	<b>27%</b>	<b>13,990</b>	40%	3,343
Substantiated	47%		22%		32%		50%		<b>39%</b>		49%	
Suspected	16%		21%		23%		28%		<b>21%</b>		29%	
Unsubstantiated	37%		57%		45%		22%		<b>40%</b>		22%	
Other	2%	288	—	—	1%	196	4%	358	<b>2%</b>	<b>867</b>	2%	129
Substantiated	32%		—		—		57%		<b>39%</b>		—	
Suspected	39%		—		—		13%		<b>21%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	29%		—		—		30%		<b>40%</b>		—	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,841</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,858</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,219</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51,018</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,297</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 2,428 child investigations with information about job position of investigating workers. Due to missing information on 625 cases and because information on job position of investigating worker was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-7.  
— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates; estimates are too unreliable to be given.

Table 8-8 describes child maltreatment investigations in terms of the investigator's years of child welfare experience. Forty-two per cent of investigations, involving an estimated 20,446 child investigations, were conducted by workers who had more than four years of child welfare experience, with 31 per cent having more than six years of experience. Workers with less than six months of experience investigated 20 per cent of cases, involving 9,968 child investigations. Substantiation rates varied, from a low of 30 per cent for workers with four to six years of experience to a high of 37 per cent for workers with either six months to one year or one to two years of experience.

**Physical Abuse:** Forty-one per cent of physical abuse investigations were conducted by workers with over four years experience, and 33 per cent of child investigations were investigated by workers with

less than 12 months of experience. Rates of substantiation ranged from 22 per cent for workers with four to six years of experience to 44 per cent for workers with one to two years of experience.

**Sexual Abuse:** Fifty-five per cent of sexual abuse investigations were conducted by workers with over four years' experience. In contrast with other forms of maltreatment, only 17 per cent of sexual abuse investigations were conducted by workers with less than 12 months of experience. Rates of substantiation ranged from a low of 14 per cent for workers with one to two years of experience to a high of 39 per cent for workers with less than six months of experience.

**Neglect:** Forty-one per cent of neglect investigations were conducted by workers with over four years' experience, and 35 per cent were investigated by workers with less than 12 months of experience. The rates of substantiation ranged from a low of 24 per cent for workers with two to four years of experience to a high of 37 per cent for workers with over six years of experience.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Workers with more than four years of experience conducted 37 per cent of investigations, while workers with less than 12 months of experience conducted 39 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 40 per cent for workers with less than six months of experience to a high of 62 per cent for workers with between six months and one year of experience.

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Thirty-five per cent of cases involving multiple categories were investigated by workers with less than a year of experience, while workers with more than four years of experience conducted 38 per cent of these investigations. Substantiation rates ranged from a low of 42 per cent for workers with six to 12 months of experience to a high of 53 per cent for workers with one to under two years' experience.

Table 8-9 describes child maltreatment investigations in terms of the investigator's highest completed professional degree. Sixty-one per cent of cases were investigated by workers with a Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW), 18 per cent by workers with a Masters of Social Work (MSW), and 14 per cent by workers with an "other" bachelor's degree. Less than ten per cent of investigations were conducted by workers with "other" Masters degree, "other" College Diploma or Certificate, or "other" education. Substantiation rates were highest for cases investigated by workers with a college diploma or certificate (38 per cent), followed by cases investigated by workers with either a BSW, "other" Masters degree, and "other Bachelor's degree (39 per cent respectively). Substantiation rates were lowest in cases investigated by workers with an MSW (30 per cent).

**Physical Abuse:** Workers with a BSW conducted 59 per cent of physical abuse investigations, workers with an MSW conducted 18 per cent of investigations, and workers with a bachelor's degree conducted 17 per cent of investigations. The substantiation rate was 23 per cent for cases investigated by workers with a MSW and 31 per cent for workers with a BSW.

**Table 8-8**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Years of Child Welfare Experience for Investigating Worker**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category									Multiple Categories		
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
Less Than 6 Months	22%	4,037	7%	341	21%	3,533	22%	2,057	<b>20%</b>	<b>9,968</b>	20%	1,580
Substantiated	33%		39%		25%		40%		<b>32%</b>		48%	
Suspected	28%		20%		18%		37%		<b>26%</b>		23%	
Unsubstantiated	39%		41%		57%		23%		<b>42%</b>		29%	
6 Months to 12 Months	11%	1,954	10%	473	14%	2,424	17%	1,529	<b>13%</b>	<b>6,380</b>	15%	1,201
Substantiated	23%		27%		35%		62%		<b>37%</b>		42%	
Suspected	20%		27%		14%		15%		<b>17%</b>		25%	
Unsubstantiated	57%		46%		51%		23%		<b>46%</b>		33%	
1 Year to under 2 Years	9%	1,616	11%	519	7%	1,168	6%	587	<b>8%</b>	<b>3,890</b>	9%	719
Substantiated	44%		14%		31%		50%		<b>37%</b>		53%	
Suspected	16%		30%		21%		34%		<b>22%</b>		27%	
Unsubstantiated	40%		56%		48%		16%		<b>41%</b>		20%	
2 Years to under 4 Years	17%	3,100	17%	795	16%	2,754	17%	1,535	<b>17%</b>	<b>8,184</b>	17%	1,391
Substantiated	34%		22%		24%		47%		<b>32%</b>		50%	
Suspected	18%		26%		23%		40%		<b>24%</b>		26%	
Unsubstantiated	48%		52%		53%		13%		<b>44%</b>		24%	
4 Years to 6 Years	10%	1,903	27%	1,265	7%	1,241	10%	927	<b>11%</b>	<b>5,336</b>	8%	675
Substantiated	22%		31%		33%		43%		<b>30%</b>		51%	
Suspected	12%		25%		7%		19%		<b>15%</b>		29%	
Unsubstantiated	66%		44%		60%		38%		<b>55%</b>		20%	
Over 6 Years	31%	5,650	28%	1,346	34%	5,606	27%	2,508	<b>31%</b>	<b>15,110</b>	30%	2,408
Substantiated	32%		21%		37%		53%		<b>36%</b>		46%	
Suspected	18%		34%		24%		27%		<b>23%</b>		33%	
Unsubstantiated	50%		45%		39%		20%		<b>41%</b>		21%	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,260</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,739</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16,726</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,143</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>48,868</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,974</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 2,347 child investigations with information about years of child welfare experience for investigating worker. Due to missing information on 706 cases and because information on years of child welfare experience for investigating worker was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-8.

**Table 8-9**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Highest Completed University Degree for Investigating Worker**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

	Investigated Maltreatment											
	Primary Category								Multiple Categories			
	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Neglect	Emotional Maltreatment	Total							
MSW	18%	3,359	18%	896	18%	3,249	18%	1,689	<b>18%</b>	<b>9,193</b>	19%	1,605
Substantiated	23%		20%		28%		50%		<b>30%</b>		35%	
Suspected	22%		37%		22%		31%		<b>25%</b>		36%	
Unsubstantiated	55%		43%		50%		19%		<b>45%</b>		29%	
BSW	59%	11,107	62%	3,014	61%	11,004	68%	6,284	<b>61%</b>	<b>31,409</b>	60%	4,961
Substantiated	31%		26%		34%		52%		<b>36%</b>		51%	
Suspected	20%		22%		19%		30%		<b>22%</b>		24%	
Unsubstantiated	49%		52%		47%		18%		<b>42%</b>		25%	
Other Master's Degree	2%	302	3%	161	1%	133	2%	182	<b>2%</b>	<b>778</b>	3%	217
Substantiated	50%		—		—		—		<b>36%</b>		—	
Suspected	0%		—		—		—		<b>19%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	50%		—		—		—		<b>45%</b>		—	
Other Bachelor's Degree	17%	3,154	13%	613	13%	2,345	9%	795	<b>14%</b>	<b>6,907</b>	15%	1,225
Substantiated	42%		22%		28%		29%		<b>34%</b>		38%	
Suspected	19%		31%		17%		33%		<b>21%</b>		47%	
Unsubstantiated	39%		47%		55%		38%		<b>45%</b>		14%	
Other College Diploma or Certificate	4%	771	4%	189	5%	989	3%	294	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,223</b>	4%	301
Substantiated	41%		—		34%		56%		<b>38%</b>		80%	
Suspected	6%		—		22%		3%		<b>16%</b>		11%	
Unsubstantiated	53%		—		44%		41%		<b>46%</b>		9%	
Other	1%	180	—	—	2%	382	—	—	<b>1%</b>	<b>562</b>	—	—
Substantiated	—		—		61%		—		<b>62%</b>		—	
Suspected	—		—		0%		—		<b>0%</b>		—	
Unsubstantiated	—		—		39%		—		<b>38%</b>		—	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,873</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,873</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,102</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>51,072</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,309</b>

Source: OIS 1998

\* Weighted estimates based on a sample of 2,431 child investigations with information about highest completed university degree. Due to missing information on 622 cases and because information on highest completed university degree was not collected in some Canadian jurisdictions, the table totals are less than the totals in Table 3-3 and Table 3-4. Refer to Tables 3-3 and 3-4 for overall estimates of investigated maltreatment and investigated categories of maltreatment. Standard errors and confidence intervals are presented in Appendix H – Table 8-9.

— Fewer than five cases with which to calculate estimates; estimates are too unreliable to be given.

**Sexual Abuse:** Over three-quarters (80 per cent) of sexual abuse investigations were conducted by workers with a BSW or an MSW. Sexual abuse cases investigated by workers with professional social work degrees were substantiated less than 26 per cent of the time (26 per cent of sexual abuse cases were investigated by workers with a BSW and 20 per cent by workers with a MSW).

**Neglect:** Workers with a BSW conducted 61 per cent of neglect investigations, while workers without a professional social work degree conducted 21 per cent of neglect investigations. Substantiation rates varied from a high of 61 per cent for investigations conducted by workers with an “other” education to 28 per cent for investigations conducted by workers with an “other” bachelor’s degree or a MSW.

**Emotional Maltreatment:** Workers with a BSW conducted 68 per cent of emotional maltreatment investigations followed by workers with an MSW (18 per cent) and related bachelor’s degree (nine per cent). Substantiation rates were highest for cases investigated by workers with “other” college diplomas (56 per cent) and lowest for investigations conducted by workers with an “other” bachelor’s degree (29 per cent).

**Multiple Categories of Maltreatment:** Workers with a BSW conducted 60 per cent of investigations involving multiple categories of maltreatment, followed by workers with an MSW (19 per cent) and “other” bachelor’s degree (15 per cent). Substantiation rates were highest for cases investigated by workers with an “other” college diploma or certificate (80 per cent), while they were lowest for cases investigated by workers with an MSW (35 per cent).

## ■ 9. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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The *Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: 1998 (OIS 1998)* presents the study's methodology, the incidence estimates for all forms of reported maltreatment, and descriptions of key case characteristics. This concluding chapter summarizes the report's major findings, discusses the comparative context for interpreting these results, and examines future directions for research.

### Summary of Major Findings

The results presented in this report are based on information collected directly from child welfare workers during the months of October to December 1998 in 13 randomly selected sites across Ontario. The findings are summarized in six chapters: (1) estimates of the incidence of reported child maltreatment by category of maltreatment and level of substantiation; (2) characteristics of maltreatment, including evidence of physical or emotional harm, duration of maltreatment, and the identity of the alleged perpetrators; (3) investigation outcomes, provision of child welfare services, referrals for other services, placement, applications to child welfare court, and police involvement; (4) child characteristics, including forms of maltreatment by age and sex, and child functioning; (5) household characteristics, including household composition, sibling information, source of household income, and caregiver functioning and family stressors; and (6) child welfare referral and agency characteristics.

### ***Incidence of Abuse and Neglect***

- An estimated 64,746 child investigations involving children under 16 were conducted in Ontario in 1998, a rate of 27.47 investigations per 1,000 children (see Table 3-1).
- Thirty-eight per cent of child maltreatment investigations, or an estimated 24,353 child investigations, were substantiated by the investigating worker (10.33 investigations per 1,000 children). In a further 22 per cent of investigations (14,289 estimated child investigations, 6.06 investigations per 1,000 children), there was insufficient evidence to substantiate maltreatment; however, maltreatment remained suspected by the investigating worker. Forty per cent of investigations (an estimated 26,104 child investigations, 11.08 investigations per 1,000 children) were unsubstantiated (see Table 3-1).
- An estimated 23,610 child investigations (36 per cent of investigations) involved alleged physical abuse as the primary reason for investigation. Of these cases, 32 per cent were substantiated, 19 per cent remained suspected, and 49 per cent were unsubstantiated (see Table 3-3).

- An estimated 6,166 child investigations (10 per cent of all investigations) involved sexual abuse as the primary reason for investigation. Twenty-nine per cent of these were substantiated, maltreatment remained suspected in a further 25 per cent, and 46 per cent were unsubstantiated (see Table 3-3).
- Neglect was the most frequently investigated category of maltreatment. An estimated 23,263 child investigations (36 per cent of investigations) involved allegations of neglect as the primary reason for investigation. Thirty-one per cent of these cases were substantiated, 22 per cent remained suspected, and 47 per cent were unsubstantiated (see Table 3-3).
- Emotional maltreatment was the primary reason for investigation in an estimated 11,707 child investigations (18 per cent of investigations). Fifty per cent of these cases were substantiated, while in 30 per cent maltreatment remained suspected, and in 20 per cent was unsubstantiated (see Table 3-3).

### ***Characteristics of Maltreatment***

- Some form of physical harm was identified in 14 per cent of child maltreatment investigations. In four per cent of investigations (2,401 estimated child investigations), harm was sufficiently severe to require treatment, and 56 per cent of these cases were substantiated. In a further ten per cent of investigations (6,626 estimated child investigations), harm was noted but no treatment was considered to be required; 48 per cent of these investigations were substantiated (Table 4-1(a)).
- Physical harm primarily involved bruises, cuts, and scrapes (70 per cent of harm situations), or other health conditions (23 per cent of harm situations). Rates of substantiation for physical harm investigations ranged from a low of 23 per cent for broken bones to a high of 65 per cent for other health conditions (Table 4-1(b)).
- Thirty-three per cent of investigations (an estimated 12,118 child investigations) involved situations that had been ongoing for more than six months (59 per cent substantiated), while 20 per cent involved situations that had been ongoing for less than six months (64 per cent substantiated), and 30 per cent involved single incidents (68 per cent substantiated – see Table 4-3).
- Most investigations involved allegations against parents:<sup>75</sup> mothers (59 per cent), fathers (38 per cent), and stepfathers/common-law partners (10 per cent) or stepmothers/common-law partners (two per cent). Other than parents, relatives were the most frequently identified perpetrators (seven per cent – Table 4-4(a)). Substantiation rates for investigations with at least one relative as the alleged perpetrator ranged from 18 per cent (foster family/adoptive parents) to 39 per cent (biological father and stepfather respectively). Only six per cent of all maltreatment investigations involved non-familial members as the alleged perpetrator: one per cent of investigations focused

on a family friend, a parent's boyfriend/girlfriend, babysitter, teacher, other professional, or other acquaintance. Less than one per cent involved allegations against the child's peer or friend, or a stranger (Table 4-4(b)). Substantiation rates for investigations with at least one non-relative as the alleged perpetrator ranged from 17 per cent (other professional) to 49 per cent (other acquaintance). It should be noted that in many instances, non-familial allegations of abuse are investigated by the police, not by a child welfare authority.

### ***Investigation Outcome***

- Following the initial investigation, 29 per cent of child maltreatment investigations, 54 per cent of which were substantiated, were to remain open for ongoing services. Sixty-eight per cent of child investigations, 44 per cent of which were substantiated, were to be closed. In a further three per cent of investigations, ongoing case status could not be determined because decisions were pending due to ongoing court involvement, active police investigations, or incomplete assessments. In 39 per cent of these cases maltreatment was substantiated (see Table 5-1).
- At least one referral to a program designed to offer services beyond the parameters of ongoing child welfare services was made in 51 per cent of investigations, involving an estimated 32,710 child investigations. Of these cases 46 per cent were substantiated. Twelve per cent of investigations involved a referral to a parent support program, and 21 per cent of cases involved a referral to some form of family/parent counseling (Table 5-2(a)). Drug/alcohol counseling referrals were made in five per cent of all investigations, and seven per cent of cases were referred for domestic violence counseling. Child-focused referrals were made most frequently for child counseling services (13 per cent), psychiatric or psychological services (seven per cent), and medical/dental services (four per cent). An additional ten per cent of investigated cases involved a referral for some other type of child or family service (see Table 5-2(b)).
- In an estimated 3,242 investigations (five per cent of investigations) children were placed in out-of-home care (foster placement, group home, or residential/secure treatment) during the initial intake investigation. Sixty-four per cent of these cases were substantiated cases of maltreatment. For an estimated additional 2,778 child investigations (four per cent of investigations), placement in care was being considered (71 per cent were substantiated). In an additional 914 estimated child investigations (two per cent of investigations) who had moved to an informal out-of-home care arrangement prior to the investigation, either with a relative, neighbours, or some other community care provider (57 per cent of these cases were substantiated). In these circumstances, child welfare services do not assume formal care of the child (see Table 5-3).
- Applications to child welfare court were made in an estimated 2,839 child investigations (five per

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<sup>75</sup> It should be noted that many cases of non-familial abuse are not included in the *OIS 1998* because they are investigated only by the police. It should also be noted that there is a significant overlap between these classifications, as multiple perpetrators were identified in 24 per cent of cases.

cent of investigations) and were being considered in an additional estimated 2,805 child investigations (four per cent of investigations – see Table 5-4). Sixty-six per cent of child investigations in which an application to child welfare court was made were substantiated.

- An estimated 14,109 child investigations (22 per cent of investigations) involved a police investigation along with a child welfare investigation. Criminal charges were laid in investigations involving an estimated 6,682 child investigations, 77 per cent of which were substantiated. In a further 7,229 child investigations (eleven per cent) criminal charges were considered but not laid at the time of the initial investigation (see Table 5-5).

### ***Child Characteristics***

- The overall incidence rate (27.46 investigations per 1,000 children) for investigations per 1,000 children was similar for females (26.68 investigations per 1,000 children) and males (28.20 investigations per 1,000 children), but the sex distribution varied by age group and category of investigated maltreatment (see Table 6-1).
- The incidence rate of investigation ranged from a low of 17.02 per 1,000 for female children under one to a high of 39.94 per 1,000 for female adolescents 15 years of age (Table 6-1).
- In 41 per cent of child investigations (an estimated 26,238 child investigations), at least one child functioning issue was indicated by the investigating worker (Table 6-3(b)). A physical, emotional, or cognitive health issue was noted for 24 per cent of all child investigations of which 39 per cent were substantiated (Table 6-3(a)). Similarly, a behavioural problem was noted for 31 per cent of investigations, of which 41 per cent were substantiated (Table 6-3(b)). Child functioning issues identified most frequently include behavioural problem in the home or the community (23 per cent), depression (10 per cent), negative peer interaction (10 per cent), developmental delay (eight per cent), irregular school attendance (eight per cent), special education class (six per cent), violence toward others (six per cent), and running away (five per cent).

### ***Household Characteristics***

- Thirty per cent of investigations involved children who lived with their two biological parents, and 17 per cent lived in a two-parent blended family. Forty-five per cent of all investigations involved children living in a family led by a lone parent: 43 per cent by a female parent and two per cent by a male parent. Substantiation rates varied between 26 per cent for other households to 37 per cent for two-parent blended households when household structure was considered.
- Of those investigations involving children living with a mother, 60 per cent lived with a mother who was over 30 and 18 per cent with a mother age 25 or under (Table 7-2(a)). Of investigations involving children living with a father, 74 per cent lived with a father who was over 30 and 11 per cent with a father age 25 or under (Table 7-2(b)).

- Fifty-eight per cent of investigations involved children living in rental accommodations (50 per cent private market rentals and eight per cent public housing), while 29 per cent involved children living in purchased homes, and two per cent lived in shelters or hostels. Substantiation rates ranged from 32 per cent (private rental accommodation) to 46 per cent (shelter/hotel – see Table 7-6).
- A caregiver functioning and/or family stressor was identified in 70 per cent of investigations (an estimated 45,518 child investigations). The most frequently noted concerns were childhood history of abuse (30 per cent), lack of social supports (29 per cent), alcohol/drug abuse (26 per cent), mental health problem (24 per cent), and spousal violence (22 per cent). Substantiation rates ranged from 26 per cent (custody dispute) to 55 per cent (criminal activity and spousal violence respectively – see Table 7-10).

### ***Referral and Agency Characteristics***

- Sixty-one per cent of all referrals were made by professionals, and 39 per cent of these cases were substantiated. The largest source of referrals was school personnel, who referred an estimated 15,337 child investigations to children's aid societies, representing 24 per cent of all referrals (see Table 8-1(b)).
- Non-professional sources referred 29 per cent of investigations, 18,570 per cent of which were substantiated. Referrals from parents were the second most common source of referral, totaling an estimated 9,142 child investigations (nine per cent of investigations by custodial parents and five per cent by non-custodial parents – see Table 8-1(a)).
- While most unsubstantiated reports were considered to have been made in good faith, five per cent of all allegations of maltreatment, involving an estimated 3,118 child investigations, were judged to have been intentionally false (Table 8-2(a)).
- Forty-four per cent of investigated children (an estimated 28,432 child investigations) had been previously investigated because of suspected maltreatment, with 36 per cent of these investigations being substantiated. Another seven per cent of children lived in families that had previously received child welfare services on one occasion, and maltreatment was substantiated in 37 per cent of these cases. Five per cent of child investigations involved families who had received services on more than one occasion (32 per cent of these cases were substantiated). Forty per cent of children came from families for which no previous record of service had been noted (33 per cent of these cases were substantiated). For an additional three per cent of cases, child welfare service history had not been determined (Table 8-3).
- Large metropolitan service areas conducted 44 per cent of investigations, while mixed urban/rural service areas investigated 27 per cent of cases, and primarily rural children's aid societies conducted 29 per cent of investigations (Table 8-6). Thirty-six per cent of investigations

conducted in large metropolitan service areas were substantiated. Twenty-nine per cent of investigations conducted by mixed urban/rural service areas and 38 per cent of investigations conducted by primarily rural service areas were substantiated.

- Forty-two per cent of investigations, involving over 20,446 estimated child investigations, were conducted by workers who had more than four years of child welfare experience, with 31 per cent having more than six years of experience. While overall an experienced group, workers with less than six months of experience investigated 20 per cent of cases, involving approximately 9,968 child investigations. Rates of substantiation ranged from 30 per cent for workers with four to six years of experience to 37 per cent for workers with one year to under two years of experience (see Table 8-8).

## Further Research

This first report presents the major descriptive findings from the *OIS 1998*. As shown in the tables in Chapters 3 to 8, there are many noteworthy differences between subgroups. For example, a larger proportion of neglected children than physically abused children are placed in care. Sexual abuse investigations involving younger children are not substantiated as often as investigations involving adolescents. Further analysis of these tables is needed to examine the extent to which these differences are statistically significant and may be explained by other factors.<sup>76</sup>

The *OIS 1998* is a rich dataset of 3,053 child maltreatment investigations, with information on child and family characteristics, forms and severity of maltreatment, and outcomes of investigations. The OIS dataset lends itself particularly well to three major lines of inquiry: (1) exploring the characteristics of different forms of reported maltreatment; (2) determining factors that influence outcomes of investigations (substantiation, child welfare court, criminal charges, placement in out-of-home care, and provision of services); and (3) comparing the *OIS 1998* to the *OIS 1993*.

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<sup>76</sup> For example, the information presented in Chapter 4 on the relative role of mothers and fathers as perpetrators varies considerably if it is examined in the context of two-parent families, as opposed to simply considering the overall rate.

## APPENDIX A

### OIS 1998 Research Associates

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OIS 1998 Research Associates provided training and data collection support at the 13 OIS sites. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the study were critical in ensuring its success.

The following is a list of Research Associates who participated in the OIS.

**Sharon Bartholomew**

Health Canada,  
Government of Canada

**Jairo Ortiz**

Faculty of Social Work,  
University of Toronto

**Barbara Fallon (Project Manager)**

Faculty of Social Work,  
University of Toronto

**Julie Thompson**

Faculty of Social Work,  
University of Toronto

**Warren Helfrich**

Faculty of Social Work,  
University of Toronto

**Nico Trocmé (Principal Investigator)**

Faculty of Social Work,  
University of Toronto

**Bruce MacLaurin (Project Manager)**

Faculty of Social Work,  
University of Calgary

### Data Entry

Data entry of the OIS 1998 Face Sheet was completed by Cita de los Santos in Toronto.

### Data Analysis

Assistance in developing the sampling design, custom area files, weights, and confidence intervals was provided by Statistics Canada. We would particularly like to thank Andrea Durning and Jane Mulvihill from Statistics Canada for their assistance.

Special thanks to Tim Daciuk for his statistical support throughout the project.

## APPENDIX B

### Glossary of Terms

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The following is an explanatory list of terms used throughout the *Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: 1998* (OIS 1998).

**Age group:** The age range of children included in the OIS sample. All data are presented for children between zero and 15 years of age.

**Annual Incidence:** The number of child maltreatment investigations per 1000 children in a given year.

**CAS:** Children's aid societies are non-profit agencies legislated under the *Child and Family Services Act* to protect children.

**Case Duplication:** Children who are subject of an investigation more than once in a calendar year are counted in most child welfare statistics as separate "cases" or "investigations." As a count of children, these statistics are therefore duplicated.

**Case Openings:** Cases that appear on agency/office statistics as openings. These may be counted on a family basis or a child basis. Openings do not include referrals that have been screened out.

**Categories of Maltreatment:** The four key classification categories under which the 22 forms of maltreatment were subsumed: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment.

**Child Maltreatment Investigations:** Case openings that meet the OIS 1998 criteria for investigated maltreatment (see Figure 1-1).

**Childhood Prevalence:** The proportion of people maltreated at any point during their childhood.

**OIS:** *Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect.*

**CWSA:** A child welfare service area defined as a geographic area served by a distinct child welfare office. In Ontario a CWSA corresponds to the catchment area of a local children's aid society. There are some cases in which several CASs serve the same geographic area on the basis of children's religious or aboriginal status. In such instances, all child welfare agencies sharing the same geographic boundaries are counted as a single child welfare service area.

**Definitional Framework:** The *OIS 1998* provides an estimate of the number of cases (child-based, age under 16) of alleged child maltreatment (physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment) reported to and investigated by Ontario children's aid societies in 1998 (screened-out reports not included). The estimates are broken down by three levels of substantiation (substantiated, suspected, unsubstantiated). Cases opened more than once during the year are counted as separate investigations.

**EIQ:** Étude sur l'incidence et les caractéristiques des situations d'abus, de négligence, d'abandon et de troubles de comportement sérieux signalées à la direction de la protection de la jeunesse du Québec.

**Forms of Maltreatment:** Specific types of maltreatment (e.g., inappropriate punishment, sexual exploitation, or exposure to family violence) that are classified under the four *OIS 1998* categories of maltreatment. The *OIS 1998* captured 22 forms of maltreatment.

**Level of Identification and Substantiation:** There are four key levels in the case identification process: detection, reporting, investigation, and substantiation (see Figure 1-1). *Detection* is the first stage in the case identification process. Little is known about the relationship between detected and undetected cases. *Reporting* suspected child maltreatment is required by law in Ontario. The *OIS 1998* does not document unreported cases. *Investigated* cases are subject to standardized screening practices, using the Eligibility Spectrum. The *OIS 1998* did not track screened-out cases, nor did it track new incidents of maltreatment on already opened cases. *Substantiation* distinguishes between cases where maltreatment is confirmed following an investigation and cases where maltreatment is not confirmed. The *OIS 1998* uses a three-tiered classification system, in which a *suspected* level provides an important clinical distinction

for cases where maltreatment is suspected to have occurred by the investigating worker but cannot be substantiated.

**NIS:** U.S. *National Incidence Study of Report Child Abuse and Neglect*.

**Non-maltreatment cases:** Cases open for child welfare services for reasons other than suspected maltreatment (e.g., prevention services, parent-child conflict, services for young pregnant women, etc.).

**OIS:** *Ontario Incidence Study of reported Child Abuse and Neglect*.

**Reporting year:** The year in which child maltreatment cases were opened. The reporting year for the *OIS* is 1998.

**Screened-out:** Referrals that are not opened for an investigation.

**Two-Parent Blended Family:** A family in which one of the caregivers was identified as a stepparent, a common-law partner, or an adoptive parent who was not the biological parent of at least one of the children in the family.

**Unit of Analysis:** The denominator used in calculating maltreatment rates. In the case of the *OIS 1998*, the unit of analysis is the child investigation.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Maltreatment Assessment Form**

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The Maltreatment Assessment Form consists of three pages:

- Intake Face Sheet;
- Household Information Sheet; and
- Child Information Sheet

**CANADIAN**

**INCIDENCE**



Funded by Health Canada Child Maltreatment Division, Bureau of Reproductive and Child Health and supported by the Provincial and Territorial Governments of Canada  
 Funding for Oversampling was provided by the Provincial Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia  
 Additional Funding was provided by the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit, University of Toronto

**Child Maltreatment**  
**DIVISION**  
 de la violence  
 envers les enfants

## CIS Maltreatment Assessment

INTAKE FACE SHEET (Please complete this face sheet for all cases)

Date referral was received:

Was case opened at this time? yes  no   
 if no, date case was opened:

Source of allegation/referral (if more than one source of referral, assign number "1" to first source, "2" to second, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Assistance Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> School	<input type="checkbox"/> Police
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-custodial Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Service/Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Community/Recreation Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Child (subject of referral)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Relative	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health Nurse	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Child Welfare Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Neighbour/Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician	<input type="checkbox"/> Day Care Centre	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)			

CIS OFFICE USE ONLY	List all children in the home (first name only - 18 years and under)	Date of Birth	Gender of child	Children subject of referral
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> referral <input type="radio"/> investigation
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> referral <input type="radio"/> investigation
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> referral <input type="radio"/> investigation
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> referral <input type="radio"/> investigation
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> referral <input type="radio"/> investigation
		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/> referral <input type="radio"/> investigation

Was child maltreatment alleged by the referral or suspected at any point during this assessment period? no  yes

If yes, was case:

**A) screened out:**

why? <input type="radio"/> Alleged perpetrator not a caregiver	<input type="radio"/> Child over age covered by legislation
<input type="radio"/> Form of maltreatment not covered in legislation	<input type="radio"/> Referral known to be malicious
<input type="radio"/> Incomplete identifying information	<input type="radio"/> Other (please elaborate under section: Please describe reason for referral/screening out)

**OR**

**B) open for assessment/investigation**  
 If open for assessment/investigation, **complete the remainder** of the CIS Maltreatment Assessment.

ASSESSMENT WORKER'S NAME:

Family code: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (First two letters of surname)	Postal code: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> (Other surname, if applicable)	or address: <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>

Case number:

Please describe reason for referral/screening out for all cases:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If anyone other than the Assessor/Worker has completed demographic information on the Maltreatment Assessment, please identify name and position:

NAME:  POSITION:

This information will remain totally confidential, and no identifying information will be used outside of your own agency. This Intake Face Sheet will be destroyed at this location following the coded entry of this data by one of our researchers.

**The Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto**  
 246 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1 • tel: (416) 978-2527 • fax: (416) 978-7872

**CIS Maltreatment Assessment: Household Information**

*CIS Office Use Only:*

--	--	--	--	--	--

<p><b>1. Caregiver A:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Biological Parent    <input type="radio"/> Foster Parent    <input type="radio"/> Common-Law Partner</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Adoptive Parent    <input type="radio"/> Step-parent    <input type="radio"/> Grandparent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other (Specify): _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Gender:</b></p> <p>Age: <input type="radio"/> &lt;16    <input type="radio"/> 16-18    <input type="radio"/> 19-21    <input type="radio"/> 22-25    <input type="radio"/> 26-30    <input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="radio"/> &gt;70    <input type="radio"/> Female</p> <p><b>2. Primary Income Source:</b> <i>(Fill in only one)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Full Time    <input type="radio"/> Seasonal    <input type="radio"/> Other Benefits</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Part Time &lt;30 hrs    <input type="radio"/> Unemployment    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Multiple Jobs    <input type="radio"/> Social Assistance    <input type="radio"/> None</p> <p><b>3. Educational Level:</b> <input type="radio"/> Elementary or less    <input type="radio"/> College/University</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="radio"/> Secondary or less    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p> <p><b>4. Ethno-Racial Group:</b> <i>Based on Statistics Canada 1996 Census</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> White    <input type="radio"/> Arab/West Asian <i>(e.g. Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Aboriginal    <input type="radio"/> South Asian <i>(e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chinese    <input type="radio"/> Southeast Asian <i>(e.g. Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Latin American    <input type="radio"/> Black <i>(e.g. African, Haitian, Jamaican)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Filipino    <input type="radio"/> Japanese</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Korean    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>If Aboriginal, please check all that apply:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> On Reservation    <input type="radio"/> Non-Status    <input type="radio"/> Métis    <input type="radio"/> Inuit</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Off Reservation    <input type="radio"/> Status    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>Primary Language:</b> <input type="radio"/> English    <input type="radio"/> French    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>5. Contact with Caregiver:</b> <input type="radio"/> Co-operative    <input type="radio"/> Not co-operative    <input type="radio"/> Not contacted</p> <p><b>6. Was Caregiver maltreated as a child?</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Confirmed    <input type="radio"/> Suspected    <input type="radio"/> No/Unknown</p> <p><b>Is Caregiver in a violent relationship?</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Confirmed    <input type="radio"/> Suspected    <input type="radio"/> No/Unknown</p> <p><b>Was this Caregiver the:</b> <input type="radio"/> Victim    <input type="radio"/> Perpetrator</p>	<p><b>1. Caregiver B:</b> <input type="radio"/> No Other Caregiver    <input type="radio"/> Caregiver in Home</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="radio"/> Other Adult (not in household)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Biological Parent    <input type="radio"/> Foster Parent    <input type="radio"/> Common-Law Partner</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Adoptive Parent    <input type="radio"/> Step-parent    <input type="radio"/> Grandparent</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other (Specify): _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Gender:</b></p> <p>Age: <input type="radio"/> &lt;16    <input type="radio"/> 16-18    <input type="radio"/> 19-21    <input type="radio"/> 22-25    <input type="radio"/> 26-30    <input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="radio"/> &gt;70    <input type="radio"/> Female</p> <p><b>2. Primary Income Source:</b> <i>(Fill in only one)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Full Time    <input type="radio"/> Seasonal    <input type="radio"/> Other Benefits</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Part Time &lt;30 hrs    <input type="radio"/> Unemployment    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Multiple Jobs    <input type="radio"/> Social Assistance    <input type="radio"/> None</p> <p><b>3. Educational Level:</b> <input type="radio"/> Elementary or less    <input type="radio"/> College/University</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="radio"/> Secondary or less    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p> <p><b>4. Ethno-Racial Group:</b> <i>Based on Statistics Canada 1996 Census</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> White    <input type="radio"/> Arab/West Asian <i>(e.g. Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Aboriginal    <input type="radio"/> South Asian <i>(e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Chinese    <input type="radio"/> Southeast Asian <i>(e.g. Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Latin American    <input type="radio"/> Black <i>(e.g. African, Haitian, Jamaican)</i></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Filipino    <input type="radio"/> Japanese</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Korean    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>If Aboriginal, please check all that apply:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> On Reservation    <input type="radio"/> Non-Status    <input type="radio"/> Métis    <input type="radio"/> Inuit</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Off Reservation    <input type="radio"/> Status    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>Primary Language:</b> <input type="radio"/> English    <input type="radio"/> French    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>5. 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<p><b>7. Other adults in the home:</b> <input type="radio"/> None    <input type="radio"/> Grandparent    <input type="radio"/> Children &gt; 19 yrs    <input type="radio"/> Other Relative    <input type="radio"/> Boy/Girl-friend    <input type="radio"/> Boarder    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>a) Are you aware of a Caregiver outside of the home involved with any of the children?</b>    <b>b) Is there an ongoing child custody dispute at this time?</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> None    <input type="radio"/> Mother    <input type="radio"/> Father    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____    <input type="radio"/> Yes    <input type="radio"/> No    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p>																									
<p><b>8. Family Income Estimate:</b> <input type="radio"/> &lt; \$15,000    <input type="radio"/> \$15-24,999    <input type="radio"/> \$25-40,999    <input type="radio"/> \$41-57,999    <input type="radio"/> \$58-80,000    <input type="radio"/> &gt; \$80,000    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p>																									
<p><b>9. Housing Accommodations:</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Public Housing    <input type="radio"/> Rental Apartment    <input type="radio"/> Rental Townhouse    <input type="radio"/> Rental House    <input type="radio"/> Purchased Home    <input type="radio"/> Shelter/Hotel    <input type="radio"/> Unknown    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p> <p><b>Unsafe housing conditions?</b>    <b>Does family share a home?</b>    <b>Approximate number of moves in past 6 months?</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes    <input type="radio"/> No    <input type="radio"/> Unknown    <input type="radio"/> Yes    <input type="radio"/> No    <input type="radio"/> Unknown    <input type="radio"/> 0    <input type="radio"/> 1    <input type="radio"/> 2    <input type="radio"/> 3 or more    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p>																									
<p><b>10. Caregiver Functioning</b> <i>(Do any of the following apply to Caregivers in this household?)</i>    <input type="radio"/> No caregiver concerns for the household</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Confirmed    Suspected</td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Confirmed    Suspected</td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Confirmed    Suspected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alcohol Abuse</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> <td>Cognitive Impairment</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> <td>Few Social Supports</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drug Abuse</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> <td>Mental Health Issues</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> <td>Other:</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Criminal Activity</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> <td>Physical Health Issues</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="radio"/>    <input type="radio"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Confirmed    Suspected		Confirmed    Suspected		Confirmed    Suspected	Alcohol Abuse	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Cognitive Impairment	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Few Social Supports	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Drug Abuse	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Mental Health Issues	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Other:	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Criminal Activity	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Physical Health Issues	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>		
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Criminal Activity	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Physical Health Issues	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>																						
<p><b>11. Case Status:</b> <b>a) Was this case previously open?</b>    <input type="radio"/> Never    <input type="radio"/> 1 time    <input type="radio"/> 2-3 times    <input type="radio"/> &gt; 3 times    <input type="radio"/> Unknown</p> <p><b>b) If case was previously open, how long was it closed before current opening?</b>    <input type="radio"/> &lt; 3 mo    <input type="radio"/> 3-6 mo    <input type="radio"/> 7-12 mo    <input type="radio"/> 13-24 mo    <input type="radio"/> &gt;24 mo</p> <p><b>c) Will case stay open for ongoing child welfare services?</b>    <input type="radio"/> Yes    <input type="radio"/> No    <input type="radio"/> Other: _____</p>																									
<p><b>12. Referral(s) for any family member:</b> <i>(Fill in all that apply)</i>    <input type="radio"/> No referral made</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(CHILD FOCUSED REFERRALS)</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="radio"/> Family Preservation/Reunification</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="radio"/> Welfare/Social Assistance</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="radio"/> Psychiatric/Psychological Services</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="radio"/> Victim Support Program</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Parent Support Program</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Food Bank</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Special Education Placement</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Medical/Dental Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Other Family/Parent Counseling</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Shelter Services</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Recreational Services</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Other Child Counseling</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> Drug/Alcohol Counseling</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Domestic Violence Counseling</td> <td><input type="radio"/> Other Child/Family Referral: _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="radio"/> Family Preservation/Reunification	<input type="radio"/> Welfare/Social Assistance	<input type="radio"/> Psychiatric/Psychological Services	<input type="radio"/> Victim Support Program	<input type="radio"/> Parent Support Program	<input type="radio"/> Food Bank	<input type="radio"/> Special Education Placement	<input type="radio"/> Medical/Dental Services	<input type="radio"/> Other Family/Parent Counseling	<input type="radio"/> Shelter Services	<input type="radio"/> Recreational Services	<input type="radio"/> Other Child Counseling	<input type="radio"/> Drug/Alcohol Counseling	<input type="radio"/> Domestic Violence Counseling	<input type="radio"/> Other Child/Family Referral: _____									
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### CIS Maltreatment Assessment: Child

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Age:    -  -   -

CIS Office Use Only:

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**13. Child Functioning:** (Are you aware if any of the following apply to this child at this point in time?)  No child functioning issues at this time

	Confirmed	Suspected		Confirmed	Suspected
Developmental Delay	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Running (One incident)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical/Developmental Disability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Running (Multiple incidents)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Health Condition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Involvement in Prostitution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse Related Birth Defects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Age-inappropriate Sexual Behaviour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Depression/Anxiety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Psychiatric Disorder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Self-harming Behaviour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Criminal/YOA Involvement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Negative Peer Involvement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Special Education Class	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Substance Abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Irregular School Attendance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Behaviour Problem (Home/Community)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Other (Specify): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Violence Towards Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			

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**14. Maltreatment Codes:** (Enter primary form of maltreatment first)

	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>Physical Abuse</b> (1) Shaken Baby Syndrome (2) Inappropriate Punishment (3) Other Physical Abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Sexual Abuse</b> (4) Sexual Activity Completed (5) Sexual Activity Attempted (6) Touching/Fondling Genitals (7) Exposure of Genitals (8) Exploitation: Pornography/Prostitution (9) Sexual Harassment (10) Voyeurism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Neglect: (Failure to Provide)</b> (11) Failure to Supervise/Protect (12) Failure to Supervise/Protect: Sexual (13) Physical Neglect (14) Medical Neglect (15) Failure to Provide Treatment: Psych. (16) Maladaptive Behaviour (17) Abandonment (18) Educational Neglect	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Emotional Maltreatment</b> (19) Emotional Abuse (20) Non-organic Failure to Thrive (21) Emotional Neglect (22) Exposed to Family Violence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Other Abuse</b> (23) Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CIS Office Use Only:

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**15. Alleged Perpetrator:** (Fill in all those that apply)

	1st	2nd	3rd
<input type="radio"/> Mother (biological)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Father (biological)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Stepfather/Common-law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Stepmother/Common-law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Sibling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Stranger	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Unknown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CIS Office Use Only:

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**16. Substantiation:** (Fill in only one per column)

	1st	2nd	3rd
<input type="radio"/> Unfounded	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Suspected: Insufficient Evidence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Substantiated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If unfounded, was report a malicious referral?  
 Yes  No  Unknown

---

**17. Duration of Maltreatment:** (Fill in only one per column)

	1st	2nd	3rd
<input type="radio"/> Not Applicable (Maltreatment Unfounded)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Single Incident	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Less than Six Months	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> More than Six Months	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Unknown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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**Describe harm suspected or known to be caused by investigated maltreatment.**

**18. Physical Harm:** (Fill in all that apply)

No Harm  Bruises/Cuts/Scrapes  Burns and Scalds  
 Broken Bones  Head Trauma  Fatal  
 Other Health Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

a) Medical treatment required for injury.  Yes  No  
 b) Health or safety seriously endangered by suspected or substantiated maltreatment.  Yes  No  
 c) History of undetected or misdiagnosed injuries.  Yes  No

**19. Mental or Emotional Harm:**

a) Child exhibits signs of mental or emotional harm.  Yes  No  
 b) Exhibited harm requires therapeutic treatment.  Yes  No  
 c) If maltreatment suspected/substantiated, is it probable that the child's mental or emotional health or capabilities have been significantly impaired?  Yes  No

**20. Out of Home Placement:** (Fill in only one)

No Placement Required  Foster Placement  
 Placement to be Considered  Group Home Placement  
 Informal Placement  Residential/Secure Treatment

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If this sheet is for an additional child, check here to indicate Sections 21 to 25 are the same as for the 1st child recorded in the family.

**21. Child Welfare Court:**  
 Application Made  Application Considered  No Court Considered

**22. Previous Reports to Child Welfare:** (For this child)  
 Was child previously reported to Child Welfare for suspected maltreatment?  Yes  No  Unknown

**23. Criminal Court:** (Regarding the child maltreatment)  
 Was there a Police Investigation?  Yes  No  
 If yes, were criminal charges:  Laid  Considered  Not Laid

**24. Alleged Perpetrator Description:** (If not, caregiver A or B)

Age: <input type="radio"/> < 12 <input type="radio"/> 13-15 <input type="radio"/> 16-20 <input type="radio"/> 21-30 <input type="radio"/> 31-40 <input type="radio"/> 41-50 <input type="radio"/> 51-60 <input type="radio"/> > 60	Gender: <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
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**25. Response to Sexual Abuse:**

a) Non-offending caregiver(s) believes the child.  Yes  No  Unknown  
 b) Caregiver(s) provide emotional support.  Yes  No  Unknown  
 c) Caregiver(s) protect child from further incidents of sexual abuse.  Yes  No  Unknown  
 d) Alleged perpetrator is a known offender.  Yes  No  Unknown  
 e) Did he/she live in same home as child?  Yes  No  Unknown  
 f) Is he/she still living in same home as child?  Yes  No  Unknown

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## **APPENDIX D**

### **Study Guide Book**

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The following is the *CIS Guide Book* used by child welfare workers to assist them in completing the Maltreatment Assessment Form.

## CIS GUIDE BOOK

September, 1998

**Principal Investigator**

**Nico Trocmé, Ph.D.**  
University of Toronto

**Site Directors:**

**Gale Burford, Ph.D.**  
Memorial University

**Marc Tourigny, Ph.D.**  
Université du Québec à Hull

**Joe Hornick, Ph.D.**  
Canadian Research Institute  
for Law And the Family

**Richard Sullivan, Ph.D.**  
University of British Columbia

**Design Team:**

**Mike Boyle, Ph.D.**  
McMaster University

**Brad McKenzie, Ph.D.**  
University of Manitoba

**John Wright, Ph.D.**  
Université de Montréal

**Lynn McDonald, Ph.D.**  
University of Toronto

**Project Managers:**

**Barbara Fallon, M.S.W.**  
**Bruce MacLaurin, M.S.W.**  
University of Toronto

The Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit, Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto  
246 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1 • tel: (416) 978-2527 • fax: (416) 978-7072

**THE CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY  
OF REPORTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Site Agency/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Cases Selection Starts \_\_\_\_\_

Case Selection Ends \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions regarding the CIS Project, please contact:

\_\_\_\_\_ Research Associate at the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Regional Site Office for the  
Canadian Incidence Studio of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS).

Contact your Research Associate by:

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Return all completed forms to your local Agency/Office Contact Person:

\_\_\_\_\_, located at  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**If your Research Associate is not available, and you need immediate assistance,  
please contact the CIS Central Office in Toronto,  
at (416) 978-2527, and ask for Barbara Fallon or Bruce MacLaurin.**

## THE CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY OF REPORTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Incidence Study (CIS) is funded by the Child Maltreatment Division, Bureau of Reproductive and Child Health of Health Canada. Additional funding has been provided by the provinces of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and British Columbia, in addition to the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit at the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Toronto.

The CIS Research Team represents researchers from across Canada who have expertise in the areas of child maltreatment, child health and family violence, and have collaborated with provincial child welfare authorities. The project is centrally directed and managed by the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto. Agency/office enlistment and data collection is being conducted through five university-based site offices across Canada (Maritime and Atlantic Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies Provinces and Northern Territories, and British Columbia).

### RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

There are no Canadian data to describe the scope of reported child abuse and neglect in this country. As a result, Child Welfare administrators must rely heavily on U.S. data, anecdotal information, and press reports to guide Canadian policy and practice decisions. The development of a consistent data collection system is challenged by several factors.

- Each province and territory collects different service statistics.
- Statistics on critical issues (maltreatment substantiation rates, rates of injuries) are not collected on a systematic basis.
- Some provinces and territories do not track cases of child neglect.
- Information on the use of, and/or involvement with related services (i.e. health and judicial services), is often not collected.

The ideal strategy for the collection of Canadian national data would be a uniform national case recording system, however it is unlikely that such a system could be developed in Canada during the next five to ten years. A sample survey method was deemed the most feasible approach for data collection during this interim period.

### OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the CIS is to provide reliable estimates of the scope and characteristics of reported child abuse and neglect in Canada. Specifically, the study is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- examine rates of reported physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and emotional maltreatment, as well as multiple forms of maltreatment;
- monitor forms of reported maltreatment;

**CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY 1**

- examine severity of maltreatment in terms of chronicity and evidence of harm/risk;
- examine determinants of health for reported children and their families;
- monitor short-term investigation outcomes, including substantiation rates, placement in care, use of child welfare court and criminal prosecution.

#### **SAMPLE**

Thirty Child Welfare Service Areas (CWSA) across Canada were randomly selected from the total number of child welfare offices and agencies offering services. A minimum of one CWSA was chosen from each province and territory. Provinces were allocated additional CWSAs based on the provincial proportion of the Canadian child population. Four provinces provided funds for enriched samples, which will yield provincial estimates of maltreatment. Two agencies were selected from a list of offices or agencies offering mandated child welfare services to families with an aboriginal heritage.

Information will be collected on all cases opened during a three-month period between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> 1998 (This date will vary slightly in some provinces).

#### **CIS MALTREATMENT ASSESSMENT**

The **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** was designed to collect essential information on child maltreatment. It consists of three yellow legal sized pages with the "Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect: CIS Maltreatment Assessment" clearly marked on the front sheet.

The **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** is made up of: an **Intake Face Sheet**, a **Household Information** sheet and a **Child Information** sheet (Please refer to **Frequently Asked Question # 2**). The form was designed to be completed in five to ten minutes and a brief guide is available to provide definitions and concise explanations (see **Quick Definitions and Procedures**).

The **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** examines a wide range of family, child, and case status variables. This includes household demographics, caregiver profile, source of referral, health determinants, outcome of the investigation on a child-specific basis (including up to three forms of maltreatment), nature of harm, duration of maltreatment, identity of alleged perpetrator, placement in care, child welfare and criminal court involvement, and response to sexual abuse.

#### **TRAINING**

Training sessions will be held during September and early October, 1998 for all workers involved in the study. Your Research Associate will visit your agency/office regularly during the data collection period. These on-site visits will allow the Research Associate to collect forms, enter data, answer questions, and resolve any instrumental problems that may arise. If you have any questions about the study, please contact your Research Associate (see contact information on the inside of the front cover of the **CIS Guide Book**).

#### **2 CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY**

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Confidentiality will be maintained at all times during data collection and analysis. To guarantee client confidentiality, all near identifying information (located on the bottom portion of the **Intake Face Sheet**) will be coded at your agency/office. This portion of the **Intake Face Sheet** will be stored in a locked area at your agency/office until the study is completed, and then it will be destroyed.

Near identifying information is data which could potentially identify a family (e.g. agency/office case file number; the first two letters of the family name; and the first names of the children). The data will be kept in a separate database accessible only to Health Canada. This information is required to allow cross-referencing for cases, and potential follow-up research.

All forms will be kept under double lock (a locked RCMP approved filing cabinet in a locked office at the University of Toronto). Access to the forms will be restricted to select research team members authorized by Health Canada.

Published analyses will be conducted at the national level only. If requested by a site, specific data will be made available for an internal summary report; however, this information will not be shared externally. Worker specific data will not be made available to anyone, under any circumstances.

### **COMPLETING THE CIS MALTREATMENT ASSESSMENT**

It is essential that all items on the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** be completed. Use the "Unknown" response if you are unsure, or if a question is not applicable to the case situation. Please be sure that all items are completed. If the categories provided do not adequately describe a case, indicate the specific nature of the case in the available space, or use the additional information section on the **Comments** section located on the back of the **Intake Face Sheet**. If you have any questions during the study you are encouraged to contact your Research Associate. The number is listed on the inside cover of **CIS Guide Book**.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### ***#1 What cases should I complete a CIS Maltreatment Assessment on?***

You should complete a **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** for all cases opened during the case selection period (October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1998 in most jurisdictions).

#### ***#2 Should I complete a form on only those cases where abuse is suspected?***

You should complete an **Intake Face Sheet** of the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** for all cases investigated for any suspected abuse or neglect, as well as any other opened cases for service (e.g. pre-natal counseling, child/youth behaviour problems, request for services from another office or agency, and where applicable, screened out cases).

If maltreatment was suspected at any point during the investigation, and the case was opened for assessment investigation (not screened out) then you should complete the remainder of the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** (both **Household Information** and

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**Child Information** sheets). Maltreatment may be alleged by the person(s) making the report, or by any other person(s), including yourself, during the investigation. For example, complete a **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** if a case was initially referred for parent/adolescent conflict, but later had suspicions regarding abuse and maltreatment during the investigation.

**#3 Should I complete a CIS Maltreatment Assessment on screened out cases?**

The procedures for screening cases vary considerably across Canada. While the CIS will not try to capture informally screened out cases, we will gather face sheet information on screened out cases that are formally counted as case openings by your agency/office. If in doubt, please contact your Research Associate.

**#4 When should I complete the CIS Maltreatment Assessment?**

You should complete the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** at the same time that you prepare the assessment/investigation report for your agency or office (usually within the first two months of a case being opened). For some cases, you may find that this does not allow enough time to document the outcome of the full assessment, however, please complete the form to the best of your abilities.

**#5 Who should complete the CIS Maltreatment Assessment if more than one person works on the investigation?**

The **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** should be completed by the worker who conducts the intake assessment and prepares the assessment or investigation report. The worker with primary responsibility for the case should complete the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment**, if several workers investigate a case.

**#6 What should I do if more than one child is investigated?**

The **CIS Maltreatment Assessment** primarily focuses on the household however, the **Child Information** sheet is specific to the individual child being investigated. Complete one child sheet for each investigated child. In jurisdictions where all children are automatically investigated, only include those children for whom maltreatment was actually suspected. Additional pads of Child Information sheets are available in your training package.

**#7 Will I receive training for the CIS Maltreatment Assessment?**

All workers who complete investigations in your agency/office will receive training prior to the start of the data collection period. If a worker is unable to attend the training session or is hired after the start of the Canadian Incidence Study, he/she should contact the Research Associate regarding any specific questions about the form. Your Research Associate's name and contact number are on the inside cover of the **CIS Guide Book**.

**#8 What should I do with the completed forms?**

Give the completed **CIS Maltreatment Investigation Form** to your local Agency/Office Contact Person. All forms will be reviewed by the Research Associate during a site visit.

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Your Agency/Office Contact Person is listed inside the CIS Guide Book cover.

***#9 Is this information confidential?***

The information you provide is confidential, and no identifying information will leave your agency/office. Your Research Associate will code and enter any near identifying information from the bottom portion of the ***Intake Face Sheet*** of the ***CIS Maltreatment Assessment***, and then destroy that portion of the sheet when the CIS concludes. Please refer to the section on Confidentiality.

## **DEFINITIONS: INTAKE FACE SHEET**

Sections that are shaded (and indicated by an arrow) require the clinical judgement of the investigating worker. Other information may be completed by an agency/office clerical staff or Research Associate if required.

### **DATE THAT REFERRAL WAS RECEIVED**

This date refers to the day that the referral source made initial contact with your agency or office. Check "Yes" or "No" if the case was opened at that time. If case was not opened at that time, please provide the date the case was opened.

### **SOURCE OF ALLEGATION/REFERRAL**

Please check off all sources of referral that are applicable for each case. This refers to separate and independent contacts with the Child Welfare agency or office. For example, when a young person tells a school principal of abuse and the school principal reports this to Child Welfare, this would be coded as a "1" beside "School" only. There was only one contact and referral in this case. If a second source (neighbour) contacted Child Welfare and also reported a form of maltreatment, then this would be coded as "2" beside "Neighbour/friend." Use numbers to indicate primary and secondary referral sources.

- Custodial Parent***: Includes parent identified in Section (1) of "Caregiver A or B".
- Non-Custodial Parent***: Contact from an estranged spouse (e.g. individual reporting the parenting practices of her/his spouse).
- Child***: A self-referral by any child listed on the ***Intake Face Sheet*** of the ***CIS Maltreatment Assessment***.
- Relative***: Any relative of the child in question. If child lives with foster parents, and relative of the foster parents report maltreatment, please specify under "Other".
- Neighbour/Friend***: Includes any neighbour or friend of the children or his/her family.
- Social Assistance Worker***: Refers to a Social Assistance Worker involved with the household.
- Crisis Service/Shelter***: Includes any shelter or crisis service for family violence or homelessness.
- Hospital***: Refers primarily to an emergency room visit or examination, rather than a family physician, or nurse.

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- Public Health Nurse:** Includes nurses involved in services such as family support, family visitation programs and community medical outreach.
- Physician:** A report from any family physician with a single or ongoing contact with the child and/or family.
- School:** Any school personnel, (teacher, principal, teacher's aide, etc.).
- Community/Recreation Centre:** Refers to any form of recreation and community activity programs (e.g. organized sports leagues or Boys and Girls Clubs).
- Mental Health Professional/Agency:** Includes family service agencies, mental health centres (other than hospital psychiatric wards), and private mental health practitioners (psychologists, social workers, other therapists) working outside of a school/hospital/Child Welfare/YOA setting.
- Other Child Welfare Services:** Includes referrals from mandated Child Welfare service providers from other jurisdictions or provinces.
- Day Care Centre:** Refers to a child care or day care provider.
- Police:** Any member of Police Services.
- Community Agency:** Any other community agency or service.
- Anonymous:** A caller who is not identified.
- Other:** Please specify the source of referral in the section provided.

#### LIST ALL CHILDREN IN THE HOME

List the first names of all children who are currently living in the home. Include their date of birth, and gender.

#### SUBJECT OF REFERRAL

Indicate those children who were a subject of the referral - were they mentioned in the initial referral?

#### SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION

Indicate those children who were a subject of child welfare investigation. Given the variety in definition and practice across Canada, rely on your clinical judgement to identify cases where maltreatment was actually suspected.

#### WAS CHILD MALTREATMENT ALLEGED

If you or a co-investigating worker suspected child maltreatment at any point during the referral or the investigation please check "Yes." If yes, was the case screened out, or was the case opened for assessment and investigation?

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**IF YES, WAS CASE SCREENED OUT**

Jurisdictions use differing protocols and procedures in order to determine if a case is to be screened in or out of child welfare services. If the case was screened out, identify one of the coded reasons for screening out, and complete the remainder of the **Intake Face Sheet** only, and submit this form to your Agency/Office Contact Person for storage.

**IF YES, WAS CASE OPENED FOR ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION**

Indicate if the case was opened for assessment/investigation as a result of the alleged child maltreatment. If case was opened for assessment/investigation, please complete the remainder of the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment**. Use a separate Child Information page for each child for whom maltreatment was suspected. Please refer to Frequently Asked Question # 2.

**ASSESSMENT WORKER'S NAME**

This refers to the person completing the form. When more than one individual is involved in the investigation, the individual with overall case responsibility should complete the **CIS Maltreatment Assessment**.

**FAMILY CODE**

Use the reference name used for your agency/office filing system. In most cases this will be the primary caretaker's last name. If another name is used in the agency/office, please include it under "Alternate Surname." For example, if a parent's surname is "Thompson," and the two children have the surname of "Smith," then put "TH" and "SM". Use the first two letters of the family name only. Never fill in the complete name.

**CASE NUMBER**

This refers to the case number used by your agency/office.

**POSTAL CODE OR ADDRESS**

Although this information may be difficult to find, this is vital information as it allows us to examine critical community level characteristics. If it is not available, please provide the current address for the family. The Research Associate will look up the postal code, and will then destroy the address. The address will not leave your office/agency.

**REASON FOR REFERRAL/SCREENING OUT**

Provide a short description of the events that led up to the referral for this family (presenting concerns, environmental factors, past involvement with Child Welfare, etc.). If this case was screened out prior to opening, please indicate other reasons in this space.

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**NAME AND POSITION OF OTHER WRITERS**

If any other individual(s) completed demographic information on the *Intake Face Sheet*, please identify name and position.

**DEFINITIONS: HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION SHEET****SECTION (1) IDENTITY OF CAREGIVER (A) AND CAREGIVER (B)**

For the purpose of brevity, the *Household Information* sheet will focus on the immediate household of the child(ren) who have been referred to child welfare. This household is made up of all adults and children living at the address of the investigation. Provide information for Caregiver (A) and Caregiver (B) for sections 1-5 if there are two adults/caregivers living in the household. Complete information on Caregiver (A) if there is only one caregiver in the household.

In the event that there is only one caregiver residing in the household, and there is another significant caregiver residing outside of the home, then check "Other Adult (not in household)" and complete Caregiver (B) information on that individual.

If you have a unique circumstance that does not seem to fit the categories provided, please write a note in the Comment section on the back of the *Intake Face Sheet*.

- Relationship to Child:** Choose one category only. Identify the relationship between the caregiver and the children in the home. If a caregiver is both a biological and step-parent for different children in the household, please check "Step-Parent" only.
- Gender:** Identify gender for each caregiver in the household.
- Age:** Indicate the caregiver's approximate age. If you are not certain of an individual's age, please provide your best estimate.

**SECTION (2) PRIMARY INCOME SOURCE**

We are interested in estimating the primary source of the caregiver's income. Please choose the category that best describes the caregiver's source of income.

- Full Time:** Individual is employed in a permanent, full-time position.
- Part Time (Less than 30 hours/week):** Refers to a single part time position.
- Multiple Jobs:** Caregiver has more than one part-time or temporary position.
- Seasonal:** This indicates that the caregiver works at either full or part time positions for temporary periods of the year.
- Unemployment Insurance:** Caregiver is temporarily unemployed and receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits.
- Social Assistance:** Caregiver receives Social Assistance benefits at this point in time.
- Other Benefits or Pensions:** Refers to other forms of benefits or pensions (e.g., family benefits, long term disability insurance, child support payments).
- No Reliable Source:** Caregiver works at temporary jobs that are not predictable and cannot be relied on for financial budgeting.

### SECTION (3) EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

Select the category that best describes the caregiver's education level. Use provincial or territorial definitions for elementary and secondary levels.

- Elementary or Less:** Caregiver attended some or all of Elementary School.
- Secondary or Less:** Please check this category if caregiver attended or completed high school.
- College/University:** Caregiver attended College or University, and has partially or totally completed a degree or diploma.
- Unknown:** Check if you cannot estimate the educational level of the caregiver.

### SECTION (4) ETHNO-RACIAL GROUP

Examining the ethno-racial background can provide valuable information regarding differential access to child welfare services. Given the sensitivity of this question, this information will not be published out of context. This section uses a checklist of ethno-racial categories used by Statistics Canada in the 1996 Census (Long Questionnaire).

Please check the ethno-racial category that best describes the Caregiver and identify the primary language spoken at home by that individual. Select "Other" if you wish to identify two ethno-racial groups, and specify. If caregiver is of aboriginal heritage, please note the categories that best describe the caregiver.

### SECTION (5) CONTACT WITH CAREGIVER

Would you describe the caregiver as being cooperative or non-cooperative with the child welfare investigation? Please check "No Contact" in the case that you had no contact with the caregiver.

### SECTION (6) HISTORY OF ABUSE

Indicate whether the caregiver suffered maltreatment as a child. Please check "Confirmed" if a history of abuse was disclosed by the caregiver, or known to your agency/office. Use the "Suspected" category if you suspect a history of abuse but are not able to confirm. Check "No/Unknown" if you are unsure, or unaware of history of abuse.

Indicate whether the caregiver is in a violent relationship, and whether this individual was the victim or perpetrator of violence. Please check "Confirmed" if violence was disclosed by the caregiver, or known to your agency/office. Use "Suspected" if you suspect a violent relationship, but cannot verify this information. Check "No/Unknown" if you are not sure, or are not aware of a violent relationship.

### SECTION (7) OTHER ADULTS

Please check all categories that describe individuals (excluding caregivers described in Section 1-6) who lived in the house at the time of the referral to child welfare. If recent changes in household, describe the situation at the time of the referral.

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Also identify any other caregivers living outside of the home who are involved with any of the children in the household.

Specify if there is an ongoing child custody dispute at this time.

#### **SECTION (8) FAMILY INCOME**

Please provide an estimate of the family income. This is critical information to examine the effects of child poverty. Use the "Unknown" category only if you cannot provide any estimate of this figure.

#### **SECTION (9) HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS**

These questions address the housing accommodations and conditions related to household (e.g. safety of housing and frequency of moves).

- Type of Housing:** Indicate the housing category that best describes the living situation of this household.

**Public Housing:** A public rental housing complex (i.e. rent subsidized, government owned housing).

**Rental Apartment:** A private rental apartment.

**Rental Townhouse:** A private rental townhouse.

**Rental House:** A private rental house.

**Purchased Home:** A purchased house, condominium, or townhouse.

**Shelter/Hotel:** A homeless or family shelter, SRO hotel (single room occupancy), or motel accommodations.

**Unknown:** Housing accommodation is unknown.

**Other:** Specify any other form of shelter.

- Unsafe Housing:** In your opinion, are children at risk for injury or impairment in this living situation (e.g. broken windows, insufficient heat, parents and children sharing single room)? Please check "Unknown" only if you have not been to the home or residence.
- Does Family Share a Home:** Indicate if household is made up of multiple families.
- Moved Within Last 6 Months:** Indicate the number of family moves within the past six months.

#### **SECTION (10) CAREGIVER FUNCTIONING**

These questions pertain to the caregivers identified in Section 1, and are to be rated as "Confirmed" or "Suspected." Please check "Confirmed" if problem has been diagnosed, observed by you or another worker, or disclosed by the caregiver. Use the "Suspected" category if your suspicions are sufficient to include in a written assessment of the household or a transfer summary to a colleague. Where applicable, use the past six months as a reference point.

Check the "No Issues" box if you have no concerns about caregiver functioning at this time.

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- Alcohol Abuse:** Use of alcohol poses a problem for household.
- Drug Abuse:** Abuse of prescription drugs, illegal drugs, or other substances.
- Criminal Activity:** Absent due to incarceration, or caregivers allow or condone criminal acts to be committed with the children's knowledge?
- Cognitive Impairment:** Cognitive ability of caregiver(s) has an impact on the quality of care giving provided in the household.
- Mental Health Problems:** Any mental health diagnosis or problem.
- Physical Health Issues:** Chronic illness, frequent hospitalizations, or physical disability.
- Few Social Supports:** Social isolation or lack of social supports.
- Other:** Identify other issues/concerns that describe caregiver functioning.

#### SECTION (11) CASE STATUS INFORMATION

Describe case status at the time that you are completing the form.

- Will the Case Stay Open for Ongoing Child Welfare Services:** At the time you are completing the *CIS Maltreatment Investigation Form*, do you intend to keep the case open to allow ongoing child welfare services?
- Was the Case Previously Opened?** Has this family previously had an open file with Child Welfare? Please respond if there is documentation, or if you are aware that there have been previous openings. Please estimate the number of previous openings. This would relate to case openings for any of the children identified as living in the home (listed on the *Intake Face Sheet*).
- If Case Previously Opened, How Long Was It Closed Prior to Current Opening?** How many months between the time the case was last closed and this current opening?

#### SECTION (12) REFERRAL TO ANOTHER AGENCY OR SERVICE

Indicate formal referrals that have been made to programs designed to offer services beyond the parameters of "ongoing child welfare services." Choose all that apply under the "Family Focus" and "Child Focus" columns. Include referrals made internally to a special program provided by your agency/office as well as referrals made externally to other agencies/services. Note whether a referral was made, not whether the young person or family has actually started to receive services. Specify other child or family referrals in the "Other Child/Family Referral" box.

- Family Preservation/Reunification Program:** Family or home based support services designed to support families, reduce risk of out-of-home placement, or reunify children in care with their family (e.g. Family Preservation, Home Builders).
- Parent Support Program:** Any group program designed to offer support or education (e.g. Parent's Anonymous, Parenting Instruction Course, Parent Support Association).
- Other Family Counseling:** Include programs for family therapy/counseling or couple counseling (e.g. family service bureau, mental health centre).

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- Drug/Alcohol Counseling:** Addiction program (any substance) for caregiver(s).
- Welfare/Social Assistance:** Referral for social assistance to address financial concerns of the household.
- Food Bank:** Referral to any food bank.
- Shelter Services:** Regarding family violence or homelessness.
- Domestic Violence Counseling:** Referral for counseling regarding domestic violence, abusive relationships, or the effects of witnessing violence.
- Psychiatric/Psychological Services:** Child referral to psychological or psychiatric services (trauma, high risk behaviour, or intervention).
- Special Education Referral:** Any specialized school program to meet a child's educational, emotional, or behavioural needs.
- Recreational Program:** Referral to a community recreational program (e.g. organized sports leagues, community recreation, Boy's and Girl's Club).
- Victim Support Program:** Child focused support program related to victim support.
- Medical/Dental Services:** Any specialized service to address the child's immediate medical or dental health needs.
- Other Child Counseling:** Any other child focused counseling service (e.g. counseling centre, mental health centre, family service bureaus, drug or alcohol counseling).
- Other Child/Family Referral:** Please indicate and specify any other child or family focused referral.

## DEFINITIONS: CHILD INFORMATION SHEET

### SECTION (13) CHILD FUNCTIONING

This section focuses on issues related to a child's level of functioning. Please check "Confirmed" if problem has been diagnosed, observed by you or another worker, or disclosed by the parent or child. Suspected means that, in your clinical opinion, there is reason to suspect that the conditions may be present, but they have not been diagnosed, observed or disclosed. Where appropriate, use the past six months as a reference point. Please remember to check the "no issues" box if you have no concerns about the child's functioning at this time.

- Developmental Delay**
- Physical/Developmental Disability**
- Other Health Condition:** Ongoing physical health condition (e.g. chronic disease, frequent hospitalizations).
- Substance Abuse Related Birth Defects:** Birth defects related to substance abuse of the biological parent (e.g. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)/Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE), cocaine addiction, solvent use).
- Depression or Anxiety**

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- Self-Harming Behaviour:** Include high risk or life threatening behaviour, suicide attempts, and physical mutilation or cutting.
- Negative Peer Involvement:** High risk peer activities (gang activities, graffiti vandalism).
- Substance Abuse:** Any form of substance (prescription drugs, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents).
- Behaviour Problems in the Home/Community:** Significant behavioural problems in the home/community (e.g. school refusal, aggression, violence, gang involvement).
- Violence to Others:** Aggression and violence to other children, adults or property in the home, school, or community.
- Running (one incident):** Has run away from home (or other residence) on one occasion, for at least one overnight period.
- Running (multiple incidents):** Has run away from home (or other residence) on multiple occasions for at least one overnight period.
- Involvement in Prostitution:** Any involvement in prostitution or sex trades.
- Age-Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour:** Child involved in age-inappropriate sexual behaviour with friends, or with family members.
- Psychiatric Disorder:** Diagnosed with psychiatric disorder by a Psychiatrist (e.g. conduct disorder, anxiety disorder).
- Criminal/YOA Involvement:** Charges, incarceration or alternative measures with the Young Offenders system.
- Specialized Education Class:** Any special education program for learning disability, special needs, or behaviour problems.
- Irregular School Attendance:** Irregular attendance and truancy (+5 days/month).
- Other:** Specify any other conditions related to child functioning.

#### SECTION (14) FORMS OF MALTREATMENT

Select the applicable maltreatment codes from the list provided (1-23), and write these numbers clearly in the boxes beside Section (14) Maltreatment Codes. The primary form of maltreatment is entered first.

The maltreatment typology developed here uses four key categories of child abuse and neglect: **Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Neglect/Failure to Provide, and Emotional Maltreatment.** These categories are comparable those used in the Ontario Incidence Study, and the U.S. National Incidence Study.

Because there is significant variation in provincial and territorial child welfare statutes, we are using a broad typology. Please rate cases on the basis of your clinical opinion, not on provincial, territorial or agency/office specific definitions.

When considering forms of maltreatment, it is critical that you consider the major categories of maltreatment, rather than focus on multiple sub-types of one category. Please code the most acute sub-type of a maltreatment category, rather than repeated multiple sub-types, as sub-types may occur simultaneously. For example, identifying a

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“sexual abuse” code in addition to “failure to supervise” (leading to sexual abuse), and “emotional abuse” would provide further clarity and context than using three sub-types of sexual abuse (touching/fondling genitals; exposure of genitals; and sexual activity attempted or completed”).

All major forms of alleged, suspected or investigated maltreatment should be noted in the maltreatment code box regardless of the outcome of the investigation, and regardless of the actual harm done to the child. For example, a three year old repeatedly found playing on a busy street is considered to be neglected even if harm has not yet occurred. The “first form” or “major form” in the first column should be the form that best characterizes the investigation (e.g. a physical abuse complaint which reveals sexual abuse should be coded as a sexual abuse investigation first, and a physical abuse investigation second).

#### A. PHYSICAL ABUSE

The child has suffered, or is at substantial risk of suffering physical harm, at the hands of the child’s caretaker, by shaken baby syndrome, inappropriate punishment, or other forms of physical abuse.

- Physical Abuse: Shaken Baby Syndrome:** Brain or neck injuries resulting from the infant being shaken.
- Physical Abuse: Inappropriate Punishment:** Child abuse has occurred as a result of inappropriate punishment. Include inappropriate use of corporal punishment, as well as other forms of punishment that have led to physical harm, or put the child at substantial risk of harm.
- Physical Abuse: Other Physical Abuse:** Include any other form of physical abuse.

#### B. SEXUAL ABUSE

The child has been, or is at substantial risk of being sexually molested or sexually exploited. This includes oral, vaginal or anal sexual activity, attempted sexual activity, sexual touching/fondling, exposure of genitals, voyeurism, involvement in prostitution or pornography, and sexual harassment. If several types of sexual activity are involved, please identify the most intrusive code. Include both intra-familial and extra-familial sexual abuse, as well as sexual abuse involving an older child or youth perpetrator.

- Sexual Activity Completed:** Include oral, vaginal or anal sexual activities.
- Sexual Activity Attempted:** Include attempts to have oral, vaginal or anal sex.
- Touching/Fondling Genitals**
- Adult Exposing Genitals To Child**
- Voyeurism:** Includes activities where a child is encouraged to exhibit himself/herself for the sexual gratification of the alleged perpetrator. Use the “Pornography” code if voyeurism includes pornographic activities.
- Sexual Exploitation: Involved in Prostitution or Pornography:** Include situations where an adult sexually exploits a child for purposes of financial gain or other profit.
- Sexual Harassment:** Include proposition, encouragement, or suggestion of a sexual nature.

### C. NEGLECT/FAILURE TO PROTECT

The child has suffered harm or the child's safety or development has been endangered as a result of the caregiver(s)' failure to provide for or protect the child. Please note that the term "neglect" is not used in some provincial/territorial statutes, but interchangeable concepts include: failure to care and provide or supervise and protect; does not provide, refuses or is unavailable or unable to consent to treatment.

- Failure to Supervise or Protect Leading to Physical Harm:** The child suffered or is at substantial risk of suffering physical harm because of the caretaker's failure to supervise and protect child adequately. Failure to protect includes situations where a child is harmed or endangered as a result of a caregiver's actions (e.g. drunk driving with a child, or engaging in dangerous criminal activities with a child).
- Failure to Supervise or Protect Leading to Sexual Abuse:** The child has been, or is at substantial risk of being sexually molested or sexually exploited, and the caretaker knows or should have known of the possibility of sexual molestation and failed to protect the child adequately.
- Physical Neglect:** The child has suffered or is at substantial risk of suffering physical harm caused by the caretaker(s)' failure to care and provide for the child adequately. This includes inadequate nutrition/clothing, and unhygienic dangerous living conditions. There must be evidence or suspicion that the caretaker is at least partially responsible for the situation.
- Medical Neglect:** The child requires medical treatment to cure, prevent or alleviate physical harm or suffering and the child's caretaker does not provide, or refuses, or is unavailable, or unable to consent to the treatment.
- Failure to Provide Treatment for Mental or Emotional or Developmental Problem:** The child is at substantial risk of suffering from either emotional harm demonstrated by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or self-destructive or aggressive behaviour; or a mental emotional or developmental condition that could seriously impair the child's development. The child's caretaker does not provide, or refuses, or is unavailable, or unable to consent to treatment to remedy or alleviate the harm. This category includes failing to provide treatment for school related problems such as learning and behaviour problems, as well as treatment for infant development problems such as non-organic failure to thrive. This category does not include failure to provide treatment for criminal behaviour (see Permitting Maladaptive/Criminal Behaviour).
- Permitting Maladaptive/Criminal Behaviour:** A child has committed a criminal offence with the encouragement of the child's caretaker, or because of the caretaker's failure or inability to supervise the child adequately. Alternatively, services or treatment are necessary to prevent a recurrence and the child's caretaker does not provide, or refuses or is unavailable or unable to consent to those services or treatment. There is some overlap between this category and the failure to supervise as well as the failure to provide treatment category, if a situation involves both criminal activity as well as some form of harm or substantial risk of harm to the child include both forms of maltreatment.
- Abandonment/Refusal of Custody:** The child's parent has died or is unable to exercise custodial rights and has not made adequate provisions for care and custody, or child is in a placement and parent refuses/unable to take custody. .

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- Educational Neglect.** Caretakers knowingly permit chronic truancy (5+ days a month), or fail to enroll the child, or repeatedly keep the child at home. If child is experiencing mental, emotional, or developmental problems associated with school, and treatment is offered but caretakers do not cooperate with treatment, classify the case under failure to provide treatment as well.

#### D. EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

- Emotional Abuse:** The child has suffered or is at substantial risk of suffering from mental, emotional or developmental problems caused by overtly hostile or punitive treatment, or habitual or extreme verbal abuse (e.g. threatening, belittling). If treatment is offered but caretakers do not cooperate, classify case under failure to provide treatment as well.
- Emotional Neglect:** The child has suffered or is at substantial risk of suffering from mental, emotional or developmental problems caused by inadequate nurturing or affection. If treatment is being offered but caretakers are not cooperating, classify case under failure to provide treatment as well.
- Non-organic Failure to Thrive:** A child under three, who has suffered a marked retardation or cessation of growth for which no organic reasons can be identified. Failure to thrive cases where inadequate nutrition is the identified cause should be classified as physical neglect. Non-organic Failure to Thrive is generally considered to be a form of psychological maltreatment, however it has been classified as a separate category because of its particular characteristics.
- Exposed to Family Violence:** A child has been a witness to, or involved with family violence within his/her home environment. This would include situations where the child indirectly witnessed the violence (e.g. saw the physical injuries on his/her parent/caregiver the next day).

#### E. OTHER MALTREATMENT

- Specify any other form of maltreatment (Physical, Sexual, Neglect, or Emotional).

#### SECTION (15) ALLEGED PERPETRATOR

This section relates to the individual who is alleged, suspected or guilty of maltreatment towards the young person in question. Adoptive or foster parents and common-law partners should be listed under "Other" and be specified. For each form of maltreatment indicate the person(s) responsible for maltreatment. Note that different people can be responsible for different forms of maltreatment (e.g. common-law partner abuses child, but other parent could possibly have prevented the abuse). If you responded with "Other," please specify relationship to child (e.g. brother, uncle, grandmother, teacher, doctor, stranger, classmate, neighbour, family friend). Identify the alleged perpetrator regardless of the level of substantiation at this point of the investigation.

#### SECTION (16) SUBSTANTIATION

Indicate the level of substantiation at this point in your investigation.

- Unfounded:** A case is “Unfounded” if you are convinced that the child has not been maltreated.
- Suspected:** A case is “Suspected” if you do not have enough evidence to substantiate maltreatment, but you also are not sure that maltreatment can be ruled out.
- Substantiated:** A case is considered “Substantiated” if the balance of evidence indicates that abuse or neglect has occurred.
- If Unfounded, Was Report a Malicious Referral?** Identify if this case was intentionally reported while knowing the allegation was unfounded. This could apply to conflictual relationships (e.g. custody dispute between parents, disagreements between relatives, disputes between neighbours).

#### SECTION (17) DURATION OF MALTREATMENT

Check the duration of maltreatment, as it is known at this point of time in your investigation. This can include a single incident, multiple incidents for less than six months in duration, or multiple incidents longer than six months in duration. If this case is unsubstantiated, then the duration needs to be listed as “Not Applicable (Maltreatment Unfounded).”

#### SECTION (18) PHYSICAL HARM

Describe the physical harm suspected, or known to have been caused by the investigated maltreatment. Please include harm ratings even in accidental injury cases where maltreatment is unfounded, but the injury triggered the investigation.

- No Harm:** There is no apparent evidence of physical harm to the child as a result of maltreatment.
- Bruises/Cuts/Scrapes:** The child suffered various physical hurts visible for at least 48 hours.
- Burns and Scalds:** The child suffered burns and scalds visible for at least 48 hours.
- Broken Bones:** The child suffered fractured bones.
- Head Trauma:** The child was a victim of head trauma.
- Other Health Conditions:** Other physical health conditions, such as untreated asthma or failure to thrive.
- Death:** Child has died, maltreatment was suspected during the investigation as the cause of death. Include cases where maltreatment was eventually unfounded.

In order to help us rate the severity of any documented physical harm, please indicate whether medical treatment was required as a result of the injury or harm.

In cases of “suspected” or “substantiated” maltreatment indicate whether the child’s health or safety were endangered to the extent that the child could have suffered life

CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY 17

threatening or permanent harm (e.g.: three year old child wandering on busy street, child found playing with dangerous chemicals or drugs).

Indicate whether the investigation revealed a history of previously undetected or misdiagnosed injuries.

#### **SECTION (19) MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL HARM**

Describe the mental or emotional harm or trauma that was suspected or known to have been caused by the investigated maltreatment. This question requires evidence that the harm was likely caused by the suspected or substantiated maltreatment, as opposed to questions in Section 13 (Child Functioning). Include changes in the child's development (regression, withdrawal), self-regulation (sleep patterns, elimination); or emotions (child is crying, clinging, or anxious), that are apparent for at least 48 hours and are suspected to have been caused by the investigated maltreatment.

In order to help us rate the severity of mental emotional harm, please indicate whether therapeutic intervention is required as a result of the mental or emotional distress shown by the child.

In cases of suspected or substantiated maltreatment, indicate whether, given the severe nature of the maltreatment, it is probable that the child's mental or emotional health or capabilities have been significantly impaired. Evidence or current harm is not required in order to give a rating of probable future harm.

#### **SECTION (20) OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT**

Check one category related to the placement of the child. If the child is already living in an alternative living situation (emergency foster home, receiving home), please indicate the setting status at this time.

- No Placement Required:** No placement is required following the investigation.
- Placement Is Being Considered:** At this point of the investigation, an out-of-home placement is still being considered.
- Informal Placement:** An informal placement has been arranged within the family support network (kinship care, extended family).
- Foster Placement:** Include foster care assessment and receiving, general, and treatment foster care placements. Select this category if family member has been made a provisional foster parent.
- Group Home Placement:** Out of home placement required in a structured group living setting.
- Residential/Secure Treatment Centre:** Placement required in a therapeutic residential treatment centre to address the needs of the child.

#### **SECTION (21) CHILD WELFARE COURT**

There are three categories to describe the current status of child welfare court at this time in the investigation. Select one category. If investigation is not completed, please answer to the best of your knowledge at this time.

**SECTION (22) PREVIOUS REPORTS**

This section collects information on previous reports to Child Welfare for the individual child in question. Please report if the child has been previously reported to Child Welfare authorities for maltreatment. Please use "Unknown" if you are aware of information but cannot confirm this report.

**SECTION (23) CRIMINAL COURT**

Was there a Police Investigation regarding the alleged child maltreatment? If yes, indicate if criminal charges were laid, considered, or not laid.

**SECTION (24) ALLEGED PERPETRATOR DESCRIPTION**

If the alleged perpetrator is not described as either Caregiver (A) or Caregiver (B) in Sections 1-5 of this instrument, please describe the gender and age of this individual. Age is essential information used to distinguish between child, youth and adult perpetrators. If there are multiple alleged perpetrators, please describe the perpetrator associated with the primary form of maltreatment.

**SECTION (25) RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ABUSE**

For cases of suspected or substantiated sexual abuse, please describe the response of the non-offending caregiver/caregivers to the allegations of abuse.

- Indicate if the non-offending caregiver believed the report of the child's sexual abuse, or was the allegation discounted.
- Indicate if the non-offending caregiver provide emotional support to the child following the report and during the investigation.
- Identify if the non-offending caregiver demonstrated the ability to prevent further incidents of sexual abuse.

For cases of suspected or substantiated sexual abuse, please describe the response to the alleged perpetrator.

- Is alleged perpetrator a known offender? Has this individual been previously reported to Child Welfare or to the Police for sexual abuse in the past?
- Was the alleged perpetrator living in the child's home prior to the report to Child Welfare? If he/she was a common-law partner who spent several nights in the home each week, then mark "Yes." If the alleged perpetrator was a parent who had access to the child, mark "No" and provide details on this in the "Comments" section on the back of the **Intake Face Sheet**.
- Is the alleged perpetrator still living in the child's home? If there is a question that the perpetrator may be spending some days or nights there against the direction of Child Welfare, please respond "Yes."

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND INTEREST  
IN THE CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY

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**CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY 21**

## APPENDIX E

### Case Vignettes

The following are the case vignettes used during training sessions to ensure that workers understood how to complete the Maltreatment Assessment Form.

#### Intake Assessment: Vignette – Rebecca

<b><u>File Number:</u></b> 2345-234 G	
<b><u>Referring Source:</u></b> School Vice-Principal	<b><u>Date of Referral:</u></b> October 6
<b><u>Family Name:</u></b> Smith	
<b><u>Mother's Name:</u></b> Betsy Smith	<b><u>Father's Name:</u></b> Barry Smith
<b><u>Children in the Family Home:</u></b> Rebecca Sarah	<b><u>Date of Birth:</u></b> 02/02/87 03/27/89
<b><u>Address at Time of Referral:</u></b>	222 Apple Street Vancouver, Ontario D3E F4G

#### ***Referral Summary:***

**Date: 06/10/98** Vice-Principal Q called the office about an alleged sexual abuse involving a student at his school, Rebecca. Rebecca had disclosed to her mother that her father had inappropriately touched her and requested her to touch him. Upon calling the mother the vice-principal learned that there were two alleged incidents of sexual abuse.

The parents are separated. The two girls live with their mother in the family home. Mother, age 28, works full time as a grocery store clerk; father, age 32, is currently unemployed but has worked as a computer software salesperson in the past. The girls visit their father every other weekend, Friday to Sunday at his apartment. There is also a Thursday evening visit.

***Action Taken:***

**Date: 06/10/98** The police and Mrs Smith (Betsy) were contacted and arrangements were made to interview Rebecca in the CAS office on Friday, October 7.

**Date: 07/10/98** Constable J. of the Youth Bureau, Mrs Smith, Rebecca and Sarah were seen. The mother explained the custody arrangement that she has with the girl's father. The father has been in Toronto only one year; prior to that he was living in Calgary. Betsy has recently disclosed in regards to her own childhood abuse, by her father, and is seeing a therapist in regards to her own abuse.

During Rebecca's interview both the police and I were present. The interview was videotaped. Rebecca stated that the first incident occurred a few months ago when she and her sister were sleeping over at their father's. When visiting Mr Smith the girls share the same bed. Rebecca reported that her father came into the bedroom, bent over the bed and touched her breasts under her pyjamas, rubbing them with his fingers. Her father didn't say anything.

Rebecca reported that the second incident occurred on the next visit. Her father came into her bedroom, reached for her hand, and had her touch his penis. Both times Sarah was asleep and not aware of what was happening. Rebecca stated that she is scared and afraid that something else will happen. Rebecca was very clear in reporting that what was reported was credible. Sarah was also interviewed and stated that nothing had happened between her and her father.

The police officer discussed with Rebecca and her mother re: charging her father. Both were in favour of this. The officer also advised that access between the girls and their father be stopped and that Betsy should tell Barry why. (Worker to do abuse report after the police charge the father). Both Rebecca and her mother are accepting the referral to a crisis group.

**Date: 10/11/98:** A message was left for Betsy Smith's therapist to call me.

A referral was made to the Disclosure Group. Contact person for the Disclosure Group is M.

***Investigation Conclusions:***

**Date: 11/11/98** This case involves the sexual abuse of Rebecca by her father, Barry, who is currently separated from her mother, Betsy. The mother presents as a concerned and supportive parent. Rebecca was very clear and credible when she was interviewed and the police are likely to lay charges. Rebecca felt relieved after she made the disclosure.

***Investigation Recommendations:***

- Ongoing support to both mother and father
- To support and encourage both mother and daughter to attend the Disclosure Group
- Preparation for court as may be required

**Outcome: Case to be transferred to Family Services**

## Intake Assessment: Vignette – Peter

<b><u>File Number:</u></b> 1234-567A	
<b><u>Referring Source:</u></b> Tom B - School Principal	<b><u>Date of Referral:</u></b> September 21
<b><u>Family Name:</u></b> Nyugen	
<b><u>Mother's Name:</u></b> Marla Nyugen	<b><u>Father's Name:</u></b> Martin Nyugen
<b><u>Children in the Family Home:</u></b> Peter Sean	<b><u>Date of Birth:</u></b> 28/02/93 5/03/95
<b><u>Address at Time of Referral:</u></b>	111 Anystreet, Apartment #1 Barrie, Ontario A1B C2D
<b><u>Language Spoken:</u></b> Chinese/Vietnamese (limited English)	

***Referral Summary:***

**Date: 21/09/98** Peter (five years) came to school complaining that his father hit him with a shoe. He pointed to his groin area. The school principal said that Peter stated earlier in the year that his father hits him on the bottom. School stated Peter goes home from school with grade 5 and 6 students; D and N. D and N reported having seen Peter's father hit him outside the family's store.

D and N say Peter is hard to control on the daily walk home from school and see him as aggressive with his peers. Peter's teacher (L) reports that Peter regularly displays behaviour problems and that he misses approximately three days of school each month.

***Action Taken:***

**Date: 22/09/98** Peter was in attendance at school, and in the presence of his teacher, L, was interviewed in regards to the above referral report. Peter spoke with ease and explained that his father hit him with a shoe when he ran out of the family's store. Peter indicated that the shoe hit him on his right inner thigh near the groin. Peter openly stated that his father hits him with his hand and a stick. The child did not appear to be saddened or feel it was out of the norm. He did not appear frightened by his parents and was willing to have us talk with his father. The boy jumped around much in the conversation and had a difficult time concentrating on the questions he was asked.

Upon examination there was no bruising on the child's body.

Peter told us that his father had been in jail for fighting with some neighbourhood youth. He went into much detail about the fighting.

I called Peter's father and requested an interview. Mr Nyugen agreed and directed me to the family's apartment. He said that his wife would also be available to talk with me.

I contacted the 1001 Division Youth Bureau to consult regarding this case. The possibility of overdiscipline, possibly cultural, was discussed. During this consultation the police verified that Mr Nyugen had recently been jailed on a warrant, which originated from a charge of "uttering death threats." The details of the charge were not available.

**Date: 23/09/98:** Mother and father appeared calm and pleasant. Mother is in her early thirties, father is approximately ten years older. The apartment appeared neat and orderly. Mr Nyugen described Peter as hard to manage and as a result he was primarily responsible for the child care for Peter. Peter is always asking for money from the till. I believe this may be attention seeking and parents might not have much time to spend with the boy if they are running the store. The store is not doing very well, which is an added stressor on the family. The father says he has never hit the boy and explains how much he values him, especially being the oldest male.

Father was willing for ongoing support from the agency and assured me he does not use physical discipline. Peter and his father appeared to have a warm relationship.

***Investigation Conclusions:***

**Date: 24/09/98** The Nyugen family uses physical discipline in my opinion, and I have difficulty with the father's denial in this regard. I do not believe it is abusive but could lean toward overdiscipline. The father's recent charge of "Uttering Death Threats" is concerning.

Further assessment needs to be done around gathering information on family history, family dynamics, etc. These assessments should be completed in the family's primary language.

I believe that this family could benefit from some child management training. Supervision of both children should also be explored.

***Investigation Recommendations:***

Further assessment

Child management

***Protection Concerns:***

Child's behaviour

Parent's disciplinary measures  
Possible supervision difficulties  
Cultural differences

**Outcome: Case to be transferred to Family Services**

## APPENDIX F

### Worker Information Form

The following is the information form completed by the investigating workers.

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**WORKER INFORMATION FORM**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Worker Information Form for the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect. This information is confidential and will not be identified in the report, or within your work place. If you have any questions about completing this form, please contact your assigned Research Associate: \_\_\_\_\_, Tel: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION** Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
dy mo yr

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ |\_\_|\_\_| CIS OFFICE USE ONLY

2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Gender:  Male  Female

4. Ethno-racial Group (*Based on Statistics Canada 1996 Census*)

<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Latin American
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Arab/West Asian (e.g. Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan)
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> South Asian (e.g. East Indian, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan)
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> South East Asian (e.g. Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese)
<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Black (e.g. African, Haitian, Jamaican)
<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

5. Primary Language  French  English  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ |\_\_|\_\_| CIS OFFICE USE ONLY

7. Team/Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Which category best describes your current position?

<input type="checkbox"/> Intake Worker ( <i>primarily investigations &amp; referrals</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Combination of Intake & Ongoing Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Service Worker ( <i>primarily ongoing cases</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

---

**B. CASELOAD INFORMATION**

9. What is your current caseload? (# of open cases at this time) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the average size of your caseload? \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. EDUCATION**

11. Please check all diplomas or degrees that you have obtained:

<input type="checkbox"/> College Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> BA/BSc	<input type="checkbox"/> BSW <input type="checkbox"/> MSc
<input type="checkbox"/> MSW	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

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**D. EXPERIENCE**

12. Total years you have worked as a social worker? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many years of this total were spent in child protection? \_\_\_\_\_

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**E. CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING**

14. Please check off all specific training that you have received:

<input type="checkbox"/> General child abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Child development
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse training	<input type="checkbox"/> Solution focused interventions	<input type="checkbox"/> Family preservation intervention
<input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse training	<input type="checkbox"/> Neglect assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural sensitivity training
<input type="checkbox"/> Crisis intervention	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	

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## APPENDIX G

### Variance Estimates and Confidence Intervals

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The following is a description of the method employed to develop the sampling error estimation for the *OIS 1998* as well as the variance estimates and confidence intervals for the *OIS 1998* estimates. Variance estimates are provided for the statistics in the “total” column for each table in the report.

#### Sampling Error Estimation<sup>1</sup>

The *OIS 1998* uses a random sample survey method to estimate the incidence and characteristics of cases of reported child abuse and neglect across the province. The study estimates are based on the *OIS 1998* sample of 3,053 child investigations drawn from a total population of 2,193 family cases open for services in Ontario.

The size of this sample ensures that estimates for figures such as the overall rate of reported maltreatment, substantiation rate, and major categories of maltreatment have a reasonable margin of error. However, the margin of error increases for estimates involving less frequent events, such as the number of reported cases of medical neglect or the number of children under four placed in the care of child welfare services. For extremely rare events, such as Shaken Baby Syndrome, the margin of error is very large, and such estimates should be interpreted as providing a rough idea of the relative scope of the problem rather than a precise number of cases.

The error estimates do not account for any errors in determining the annual and regional weights. Nor do they account for any other non-sampling errors that may occur, such as inconsistency or inadequacies in administrative procedures from site to site. The error estimates also cannot account for any variations due to seasonal effects. The accuracy of these annual estimates depends on the extent to which the sampling period is representative of the whole year.

To assess the precision of the *OIS 1998* estimates, sampling errors were calculated from the sample with reference to the fact that the survey population had been stratified and that a single cluster (or site) had been selected randomly from each stratum. From the selected cluster all cases in the three-month period were sampled. In a few situations, a shorter period of time was sampled or every second case was sampled. An annualization weight was used to weight the survey data to represent annual cases. A regionalization weight was used to weight the survey data so that data from sites represented regions or strata.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical consultation and sampling error estimation were provided by Statistics Canada, Social Survey Method Division, Jane Mulvihill, Senior Methodologist.

Sampling errors were calculated by determining the sampling variance and then taking the square root of this variance. The sampling variability that was calculated was the variability due to the randomness of the cluster selected. Had a different cluster been selected, then a different estimate would have been obtained. The sampling variance and sampling error calculated are an attempt to measure this variability. Thus, the measured variability is due to the cluster. We did not measure the variability, however, because only three months were sampled, not a full year, and in some situations only every second case was sampled.

To calculate the variance, the stratified design allowed us to assume that the variability between strata was zero and that the total variance at the Ontario level was the sum of the variance for each strata.

Calculating the variance for each strata was a problem, because only one cluster had been chosen in each strata. To overcome this problem we used the approach given in Rust and Kalton (1987).<sup>2</sup>

This approach involved collapsing stratum into groups (collapsed strata); the variability among the clusters within the group was then used to derive a variance estimate. Collapsing of strata was done to maintain homogeneity as much as possible.

The estimated population of incidences ( $\hat{\tau}$ ) with the characteristic of interest is:

$$\hat{\tau} = \sum_{b=1}^H \hat{\tau}_b$$

where  $\hat{\tau}_b$  is the population of incidences with the characteristic of interest for the  $b^{\text{th}}$  stratum.

where:

$$\hat{\tau} = \sum_{b=1}^H w_b y_{bi}$$

$w_b$  is the weight for the  $b^{\text{th}}$  stratum

$y_{bi}$  is 1 if the  $i^{\text{th}}$  unit (case) in stratum  $b$  has the characteristic of interest, is 0 if the  $i^{\text{th}}$  unit (case) in stratum  $b$  does not have the characteristic of interest, and we sum over all the  $i$  units (cases) in the  $b^{\text{th}}$  stratum.

For our study the H strata were partitioned into  $J$  groups of strata, known as collapsed strata, and there were  $H_j \exists 2$  strata in the collapsed stratum  $j$ . Stratum  $b$  within collapsed stratum  $j$  is denoted by  $b(j)$ . The collapsed strata estimator of the variance  $\hat{\tau}$  is

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<sup>2</sup> Rust, K., & Kalton, G. (1987). Strategies for collapsing strata for variance estimation. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 3 (1): 69-81.

$$\text{var}(\hat{\tau}) = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{H_j}{(H_j - 1)} \sum_b^{H_j} \left[ \hat{\tau}_{b(j)} - \frac{\hat{\tau}_j}{H_j} \right]^2$$

where  $\hat{\tau}_{b(j)}$  denotes the unbiased estimator of  $\hat{\tau}_{b(j)}$ , the parameter value for stratum  $h$  in collapsed stratum  $j$ , and

$$\hat{\tau}_j = \sum_{b=1}^H \hat{\tau}_{b(j)}$$

The following are the variance estimates and confidence intervals for CIS variables of interest. The tables are presented to correspond with the tables in the chapters of the Scientific Report. Each table reports the estimate, standard error, coefficient of variation, lower and upper confidence interval.

**Appendix G, Table 3-1**  
**Estimate of Child Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Child Investigations	64,746	12,282	18.97%	34,692	94,799
Incidence Per Thousand	27.47	5.21	18.97%	17.25	37.68

**Appendix G, Table 3-2**  
**Estimate of Family Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Family Investigations	47,581	10,114	21.30%	—	—

**Appendix G, Table 3-3**  
**Estimates of Categories of Maltreatment in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Physical Abuse: Primary or Secondary	25,634	3,496	13.6%	17,079	34,190
Incidence per Thousand	10.87	1.48	13.6%	7.97	13.78
Sexual Abuse: Primary or Secondary	6,541	1,316	20.1%	3,321	9,762
Incidence per Thousand	2.77	0.56	20.1%	1.68	3.87
Neglect: Primary or Secondary	26,869	4,418	16.4%	16,059	37,679
Incidence per Thousand	11.40	1.87	16.4%	7.73	15.07
Emotional Maltreatment: Primary or Secondary	17,820	4,062	22.8%	7,881	27,759
Incidence per Thousand	7.56	1.72	22.8%	4.18	10.94

**Appendix G, Table 3-4**  
**Single and Multiple Categories of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Physical Abuse Only	18,482	2,912	15.8%	11,356	25,608
Incidence per Thousand	7.84	1.24	15.8%	5.42	10.26
Sexual Abuse Only	5,251	1,373	26.1%	1,892	8,610
Incidence per Thousand	2.23	0.58	26.1%	1.09	3.37
Neglect Only	19,886	3,977	20.0%	10,155	29,617
Incidence per Thousand	8.44	1.69	20.0%	5.13	11.74
Emotional Maltreatment Only	10,156	3,829	37.7%	786	19,525
Incidence per Thousand	4.31	1.62	37.7%	1.12	7.49
Physical and Sexual	223	93	41.8%	-5	450
Incidence per Thousand	0.09	0.04	41.8%	0.02	0.17
Physical and Neglect	2,389	292	12.2%	1,676	3,103
Incidence per Thousand	1.01	0.12	12.2%	0.77	1.26
Physical and Emotional	3,503	538	15.4%	2,186	4,820
Incidence per Thousand	1.49	0.23	15.4%	1.04	1.93
Sexual and Neglect	637	190	29.9%	171	1,102
Incidence per Thousand	0.27	0.08	29.9%	0.11	0.43
Sexual and Emotional	211	64	30.4%	54	368
Incidence per Thousand	0.09	0.03	30.4%	0.04	0.14
Neglect and Emotional	2,861	501	17.5%	1,633	4,087
Incidence per Thousand	1.21	0.21	17.5%	0.80	1.63
Physical, Sexual and Neglect	58	58	100.0%	-84	200
Incidence per Thousand	0.02	0.02	100.0%	-0.02	0.07
Physical, Sexual and Emotional	51	51	100	-74	177
Incidence per Thousand	0.02	0.02	100	-0.02	0.06
Physical, Neglect and Emotional	928	161	17.3	535	1,321
Incidence per Thousand	0.39	0.07	17.3	0.26	0.53
Sexual, Neglect and Emotional	110	47	42.7	-5	226
Incidence per Thousand	0.05	0.02	42.7	0.01	0.09

**Appendix G, Table 3-5**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Physical Abuse in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Shaken Baby Syndrome	287	127	44.0%	-22	597
Incidence per Thousand	0.12	0.05	44.0%	0.02	0.23
Inappropriate Punishment	16,941	2,175	12.8%	11,618	22,263
Incidence per Thousand	7.19	0.92	12.8%	5.38	9.00
Other Physical Abuse	8,733	1,455	16.7%	5,173	12,292
Incidence per Thousand	3.70	0.62	16.7%	2.50	4.91
Physical Abuse: Primary or Secondary	25,634	3,496	13.6%	17,079	34,190
Incidence per Thousand	10.87	1.48	13.6%	7.97	13.78
Physical Abuse: Primary	23,610	3,144	13.3%	15,916	31,302
Incidence per Thousand	10.02	1.33	13.3%	7.40	12.63

**Appendix G, Table 3-6**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Sexual Abuse in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Sexual Activity Completed	1,352	291	21.5%	641	2,064
Incidence per Thousand	0.57	0.12	21.5%	0.33	0.82
Sexual Activity Attempted	2,678	580	21.7%	1,259	4,097
Incidence per Thousand	1.14	0.25	21.7%	0.65	1.62
Touching/Fondling Genitals	2,396	565	23.6%	1,012	3,779
Incidence per Thousand	1.02	0.24	23.6%	0.55	1.49
Exposure of Genitals	613	161	26.2%	220	1,006
Incidence per Thousand	0.26	0.07	26.2%	0.13	0.39
Exploitation/Pornography	231	111	48.0%	-40	501
Incidence per Thousand	0.10	0.05	48.0%	0.01	0.19
Sexual Harassment	160	127	79.9%	-152	470
Incidence per Thousand	0.07	0.05	79.9%	-0.04	0.17
Voyeurism	11	11	100.0%	-16	37
Incidence per Thousand	0.00	0.00	100.0%	0.00	0.01
Sexual Abuse: Primary or Secondary	6,541	1,316	20.1%	3,321	9,762
Incidence per Thousand	2.77	0.56	20.1%	1.68	3.87
Sexual Abuse: Primary	6,166	1,299	21.1%	2,987	9,344
Incidence per Thousand	2.62	0.55	21.1%	1.54	3.70

**Appendix G, Table 3-7**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Neglect in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Failure to Supervise or Protect From Physical Abuse	14,153	2,826	20.0%	7,238	21,069
Incidence per Thousand	6.00	1.2.00	20.0%	3.65	8.35
Failure to Supervise or Protect From Sexual Abuse	1,353	343	25.3%	514	2,191
Incidence per Thousand	0.57	0.15	25.3%	0.29	0.86
Physical Neglect	7,504	1,144	15.2%	4,706	10,303
Incidence per Thousand	3.18	0.49	15.2%	2.23	4.13
Medical Neglect	2,624	542	20.7%	1,298	3,949
Incidence per Thousand	1.11	0.23	20.7%	0.66	1.56
Failure to Provide Treatment	722	201	27.8%	230	1,215
Incidence per Thousand	0.31	0.09	27.8%	0.14	0.47
Permitting Maladaptive or Criminal Behaviour	2,348	954	40.6%	14	4,681
Incidence per Thousand	1.00	0.40	40.6%	0.20	1.79
Abandonment	1,703	400	23.5%	724	2,683
Incidence per Thousand	0.72	0.17	23.5%	0.39	1.06
Educational Neglect	822	126	15.3%	514	1,131
Incidence per Thousand	0.35	0.05	15.3%	0.24	0.45
Neglect: Primary or Secondary	26,869	4,418	16.4%	16,059	37,679
Incidence per Thousand	11.40	1.87	16.4%	7.73	15.07
Neglect: Primary	23,263	4,162	17.9%	13,079	33,448
Incidence per Thousand	9.87	1.77	17.9%	6.41	13.33

**Appendix G, Table 3-8**  
**Primary or Secondary Forms of Emotional Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Emotional Abuse	6,427	1,288	20.0%	3,276	9,579
Incidence per Thousand	2.73	0.55	20.0%	1.66	3.80
Non-organic Failure to Thrive	40	11	28.8%	12	68
Incidence per Thousand	0.02	0.00	28.8%	0.01	0.03
Emotional Neglect	3,218	406	12.6%	2,224	4,213
Incidence per Thousand	1.37	0.17	12.6%	1.03	1.70
Exposure to Family Violence	9,572	3,771	39.4%	344	18,799
Incidence per Thousand	4.06	1.60	39.4%	0.93	7.20
Emotional Maltreatment: Primary or Secondary	17,819	4,062	22.8%	7,881	27,759
Incidence per Thousand	7.56	1.72	22.8%	4.18	10.94
Emotional Maltreatment: Primary	11,707	4,005	34.2%	1,907	21,508
Incidence per Thousand	4.97	1.70	34.2%	1.64	8.30

**Appendix G, Table 4-1**  
**Physical Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment**  
**by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Physical Harm	55,695	11,062	19.9%	28,626	82,763
Physical Harm: No Treatment Required	6,625	682	10.3%	4,957	8,294
Physical Harm: Treatment Required	2,401	738	30.8%	594	4,207

**Appendix G, Table 4-2**  
**Nature of Physical Harm in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Bruises, Cuts, or Scrapes	6,356	752	11.8%	4,515	8,195
Burns or Scalds	514	128	24.8%	202	826
Broken Bones	284	106	37.1%	26	543
Head Trauma	340	112	32.8%	67	613
Other Health Conditions	2,112	426	20.2%	1,069	3,155
Child Fatality	—	—	—	—	—

**Appendix G, Table 4-3**  
**Medical Treatment Required in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Nature of Physical Harm in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Medical Treatment Not Required: Bruises, Cuts, or Scrapes	5,421	632	11.7%	3,874	6,967
Medical Treatment Required: Bruises, Cuts, or Scrapes	909	254	27.9%	288	1,530
Medical Treatment Not Required: Burns or Scalds	247	18	7.4%	202	291
Medical Treatment Required: Burns or Scalds	268	117	43.6%	-18	553
Medical Treatment Not Required: Broken Bones	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Treatment Required: Broken Bones	284	106	37.1%	26	543
Medical Treatment Not Required: Head Trauma	51	51	100.0%	-74	177
Medical Treatment Required: Head Trauma	289	68	23.3%	124	454
Medical Treatment Not Required: Other Health	1,014	144	14.3%	660	1,367
Medical Treatment Required: Other Health	1,098	421	38.3%	68	2,128

**Appendix G, Table 4-4**  
**Emotional Harm in Child Maltreatment by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Emotional Harm	53,040	11,858	22.4%	24,025	82,054
Emotional Harm: No Treatment Required	4,060	685	16.9%	2,384	5,737
Emotional Harm: Treatment Required	7,213	1,217	16.9%	4,234	10,191

**Appendix G, Table 4-5**  
**Duration of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigation by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation (Substantiated and Suspected Only) in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Single Incident	10,962	2,003	18.3%	6,059	15,863
Less than 6 Months	7,143	1,527	21.4%	3,408	10,879
Greater than 6 Months	12,118	2,959	24.4%	4,878	19,359
Unknown	6,131	1,113	18.2%	3,408	8,854

**Appendix G, Table 4-6**  
***Alleged Perpetrator in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998***

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Biological Mother	38,228	6,693	17.5%	21,850	54,604
Biological Father	24,617	6,598	26.8%	8,472	40,761
Stepfather	6,498	1,078	16.6%	3,860	9,137
Stepmother	1,172	232	19.8%	606	1,740
Foster Family or Adoptive Parents	286	119	41.7%	-6	578
Other Relatives	3,395	900	26.5%	1,195	5,598
At Least One Relative Perpetrator	60,004	11,339	18.9%	32,258	87,749
Family Friend	359	133	37.0%	34	687
Parent's Boyfriend or Girlfriend	736	186	25.2%	281	1,190
Child's Friend (Peer)	210	68	32.3%	44	375
Babysitter	957	257	26.9%	328	1,586
Teacher	874	539	61.7%	-446	2,193
Other Professional	344	143	41.7%	-7	692
Other Acquaintance	567	142	25.0%	219	913
Stranger	85	52	61.5%	-43	213
At Least One Non-Relative Perpetrator	4,132	1,006	24.4%	1,668	6,593

**Appendix G, Table 5-1**  
***Ongoing Child Welfare Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998***

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Case to be Closed	43,543	10,365	23.8%	18,180	68,904
Case to Stay Open	18,533	1,762	9.5%	14,221	22,844
Other	2,136	1,005	47.0%	-322	4,597

**Appendix G, Table 5-2**  
**Referrals to Other Services in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Family Preservation/Reunification	1,856	502	27.0%	628	3,083
Parent Support Program	7,797	1,098	14.1%	5,109	10,482
Other Family/Parent Counseling	13,823	1,416	10.2%	10,360	17,289
Drug/Alcohol Counseling	3,067	821	26.8%	1,057	5,075
Welfare/Social Assistance	1,404	278	19.8%	725	2,085
Food Bank	1,060	206	19.4%	555	1,562
Shelter Services	1,711	792	46.3%	-228	3,650
Domestic Violence Counseling	4,744	1,301	27.4%	1,562	7,929
Minimum of One Family Referral	24,147	4,266	17.7%	13,709	34,583
Psychiatric/Psychological	4,831	266	5.5%	4,180	5,482
Special Education Referral	1,367	351	25.7%	509	2,225
Recreational Program	1,164	107	9.2%	901	1,425
Victim Support Program	1,461	679	46.5%	-202	3,122
Medical/Dental Services	2,432	398	16.4%	1,458	3,408
Other Child Counseling	8,382	1,234	14.7%	5,361	11,402
Minimum of One Child Referral	16,538	2,050	12.4%	11,521	21,554
Any Other Child or Family Referral	6,479	1,587	24.5%	2,595	10,362
Minimum of One Child or Family Referral	32,710	5,563	17.0%	19,098	46,322

**Appendix G, Table 5-3**  
**Out-of-Home Placement in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Placement Required	57,786	11,230	19.4%	30,306	85,265
Placement Considered	914	213	23.3%	393	1,434
Informal Placement	2,778	344	12.4%	1,937	3,621
Placement in Foster Care or Other Child Welfare Setting	3,242	884	27.3%	1,077	5,404

**Appendix G, Table 5-4**  
**Applications to Child Welfare Court in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Court Considered	58,981	11,531	19.6%	30,767	87,198
Application Considered	2,805	435	15.5%	1,741	3,868
Application Made	2,839	584	20.6%	1,410	4,267

**Appendix G, Table 5-5**  
**Police Investigations and Charges Laid in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Police Investigation	50,347	9,877	19.6%	26,177	74,513
Police Investigation: No Charges Laid	7,227	890	12.3%	5,050	9,404
Police Investigation: Charges Laid	6,882	1,680	24.4%	2,773	10,992

**Appendix G, Table 6-1**  
**Child Age and Sex in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
0–15 years Male	30,616	5,492	17.9%	17,177	44,055
0–15 years Females	34,124	6,870	20.1%	17,313	50,934
0–3 years Males	8,324	1,920	23.1%	3,626	13,024
0–3 years Females	6,241	608	9.7%	4,753	7,729
4–7 years Males	9,338	2,136	22.9%	4,111	14,564
4–7 years Females	7,679	2,073	27.0%	2,607	12,752
8–11 years Males	9,033	1,677	18.6%	4,928	13,135
8–11 years Females	7,705	1,147	14.9%	4,898	10,512
12–15 years Males	7,430	1,315	17.7%	4,212	10,647
12–15 years Females	8,903	1,851	20.8%	4,374	13,433

**Appendix G, Table 6-2**  
**Age and Sex of Children in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
0-3 years Males	8,324	1,920	23.1%	3,626	13,024
0-3 years Females	6,242	608	9.7%	4,753	7,729
4-7 years Males	9,338	2,136	22.9%	4,111	14,564
4-7 years Females	7,681	2,073	27.0%	2,607	12,752
8-11 years Males	9,031	1,677	18.6%	4,928	13,135
8-11 years Females	7,704	1,147	14.9%	4,898	10,512
12-15 years Males	7,428	1,315	17.7%	4,212	10,647
12-15 years Females	8,902	1,851	20.8%	4,374	13,433

**Appendix G, Table 6-3**  
**Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Developmental Delay	5,025	571	11.4%	3,629	6,422
Physical or Developmental Disability	1,834	275	15.0%	1,157	2,505
Substance Abuse–Related Birth Defect	606	83	13.7%	403	809
Other Health Condition	2,312	459	19.8%	1,190	3,434
Specialized Education Class	3,765	699	18.6%	2,054	5,476
Depression or Anxiety	6,608	1,368	20.7%	3,260	9,956
Self-Harming Behaviour	2,021	424	21.0%	983	3,060
Psychiatric Disorder	1,222	119	9.7%	930	1,511
Any Physical, Emotional, or Cognitive Health Issue	15,507	1,902	12.3%	10,854	20,161
Behaviour Problem	15,049	2,650	17.6%	8,567	21,534
Negative Peer Involvement	6,354	896	14.1%	4,163	8,548
Substance Abuse	2,061	744	36.1%	242	3,883
Violence Toward Others	4,123	866	21.0%	2,002	6,242
Running Away	3,262	671	20.6%	1,617	4,903
Irregular School Attendance	5,093	795	15.6%	3,147	7,039
Involvement in Prostitution	92	52	56.8%	-36	220
Age-Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour	1,980	624	31.6%	450	3,506
Criminal/YO Involvement	1,540	366	23.7%	646	2,436
Any Behavioural Problems	19,878	3,202	16.1%	12,043	27,713
Any Physical, Emotional, Cognitive Health or Behavioural Problem	26,237	3,874	14.8%	16,757	35,716

**Appendix G, Table 7-1**  
**Household Structure in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Categories of Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Two-Parent Biological	19,022	4,850	25.5%	7,157	30,889
Two-Parent Blended	10,783	1,629	15.1%	6,795	14,769
Biological Parent and Other Caregiver	1,251	274	21.9%	582	1,921
Female Parent	27,437	4,536	16.5%	16,337	38,536
Male Parent	3,309	755	22.8%	1,461	5,158
Other	2,625	747	28.5%	797	4,452

**Appendix G, Table 7-2**  
**Age of Mothers and Age of Fathers in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Mother less than 19	1,070	224	20.9%	524	1,618
19–21	2,904	580	20.0%	1,484	4,323
22–25	6,334	1,199	18.9%	3,401	9,268
26–30	13,335	2,146	16.1%	8,085	18,588
31–40	27,964	6,082	21.8%	13,082	42,848
Over 40	7,713	1,693	22.0%	3,571	11,857
Father less than 19	246	33	13.4%	165	326
19–21	590	93	15.8%	362	818
22–25	2,808	568	20.2%	1,419	4,199
26–30	5,265	888	16.9%	3,093	7,438
31–40	17,434	4,211	24.2%	7,130	27,740
Over 40	7,360	1,711	23.2%	3,174	11,546

**Appendix G, Table 7-3**  
**Siblings of Children in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Sibling	17,784	3,599	20.2%	8,977	26,591
One Sibling	24,227	4,923	20.3%	12,182	36,272
Two Siblings	14,863	2,071	13.9%	9,796	19,929
Three Siblings	5,233	920	17.6%	2,982	7,484
Four or More Siblings	2,639	913	34.6%	405	4,873

**Appendix G, Table 7-4**  
**Investigated Siblings in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Siblings	17,784	3,599	20.2%	8,977	26,591
One Sibling, Not Investigated	10,323	1,978	19.2%	5,483	15,162
One Sibling, Investigated	13,576	2,686	19.8%	7,003	20,149
Two Siblings, None Investigated	7,485	1,162	15.5%	4,639	10,327
Two Siblings, at Least One Investigated	15,253	2,697	17.7%	8,651	21,852

**Appendix G, Table 7-5**  
**Household Source of Income in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Full-Time Employment	27,081	5,569	20.6%	13,454	40,708
Part-Time/Multiple Jobs/Seasonal Employment	6,362	1,127	17.7%	3,605	9,118
Benefits/Employment Insurance/Social Assistance	23,000	3,401	14.8%	14,678	31,323
Unknown	6,588	2,423	36.8%	658	12,517
No Reliable Source of Income	1,378	190	13.8%	914	1,842

**Appendix G, Table 7-6**  
**Housing Type in Child Maltreatment by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Private Rental Accommodation	32,090	5,864	18.3%	17,740	46,439
Rental Unit in Public Housing Complex	4,980	1,157	23.2%	2,149	7,812
Purchased Home	18,457	3,975	21.5%	8,731	28,184
Shelter/Hotel	1,207	251	20.8%	593	1,821
Other	1,920	370	19.3%	1,015	2,823
Unknown	6,057	1,878	31.0%	1,463	10,653

**Appendix G, Table 7-7**  
**Housing Conditions in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation (Substantiated and Suspected Only) in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Safe Condition	52,035	11,261	21.6%	24,479	79,590
Unsafe Condition	3,198	773	24.2%	1,306	5,087
Unknown	9,232	1,543	16.7%	5,455	13,005

**Appendix G, Table 7-8**  
**Family Moves within the Last Six Months in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
No Moves	34,261	6,458	18.9%	18,459	50,062
One Move	11,300	2,151	19.0%	6,036	16,562
Two or More Moves	4,530	978	21.6%	2,138	6,922
Unknown	14,191	3,153	22.2%	6,474	21,906

**Appendix G, Table 7-9****Aboriginal Heritage of Parents in Child Maltreatment by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Neither Aboriginal Parent Living On-Reserve	2,682	651	24.3%	1,088	4,276
At Least One Aboriginal Parent Living On-Reserve	943	145	15.4%	589	1,296
Aboriginal Caregiver Living Location Unknown	534	91	17.1%	309	756

**Appendix G, Table 7-10****Parental Functioning and Other Family Stressors in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Alcohol or Drug Use	16,844	2,671	15.9%	10,307	23,380
Criminal Activity	5,310	859	16.2%	3,209	7,412
Cognitive Impairment	3,149	532	16.9%	1,847	4,451
Mental Health Issues	15,859	1,880	11.9%	11,260	20,460
Physical Health Issues	5,057	895	17.7%	2,866	7,247
Lack of Social Support	18,533	3,838	20.7%	9,142	27,923
Childhood History of Abuse	19,587	3,149	16.1%	11,882	27,291
Spousal Violence	14,518	3,816	26.3%	5,180	23,855
Custody Dispute	9,098	2,168	23.8%	3,794	14,404
Other Concerns	2,280	577	25.3%	868	3,691

**Appendix G, Table 8-1****All Referral Sources in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Canada in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Custodial Parent	5,623	878	15.6%	3,476	7,771
Non-Custodial Parent	3,519	788	22.4%	1,591	5,447
Child	951	243	25.5%	357	1,546
Relative	4,367	413	9.5%	3,358	5,377
Neighbour/Friend	4,279	427	10.0%	3,236	5,324
Anonymous	3,362	1,243	37.0%	319	6,403
Police	8,639	3,000	34.7%	1,299	15,983
School Personnel	15,337	2,833	18.5%	8,405	22,268
Health Professional	3,878	925	23.8%	1,616	6,143
Mental Health Professional	2,197	336	15.3%	1,376	3,020
Other Child Welfare Professional	4,361	1,869	42.9%	-213	8,936
Community Agency	3,920	507	12.9%	2,680	5,162
Other Referral Sources	4,581	729	15.9%	2,799	6,367

**Appendix G, Table 8-2****Unsubstantiated and Malicious Reports of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Primary Category Substantiated	22,447	4,862	21.7%	10,549	34,344
Primary Category Suspected	14,647	2,553	17.4%	8,400	20,894
Primary Category Unsubstantiated, Not Malicious or Unknown	21,237	5,012	23.6%	8,973	33,502
Primary Category Unsubstantiated and Malicious	3,118	748	24.0%	1,287	4,946
Primary Category Unsubstantiated and Missing	3,298	553	16.8%	1,944	4,650

**Appendix G, Table 8-3**  
**Previous Investigations in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Child Previously Investigated	28,432	6,991	24.6%	11,326	45,538
Child Not Previously Investigated, Family Served Once	4,808	297	6.2%	4,081	5,536
Child Not Investigated, Family Served More Than Once	3,486	557	16.0%	2,123	4,847
No Previous Record of Service	25,779	4,532	17.6%	14,691	36,869
Unknown	1,750	477	27.3%	582	2,917

**Appendix G, Table 8-4**  
**Time Since Case Was Last Closed in Child Maltreatment Investigations by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Care Not Opened	28,293	4,735	16.7%	16,705	39,877
Case Previously Opened/Closed < 3 months	7,905	1,541	19.5%	4,135	11,676
Case Previously Opened/Closed 3–6 months	7,738	1,148	14.8%	4,929	10,547
Case Previously Opened/Closed 7–12 months	6,088	1,690	27.8%	1,954	10,225
Case Previously Opened/Closed 13–24 months	5,723	1,823	31.9%	1,263	10,186
Case Closed > 24 months	7,859	1,682	21.4%	3,745	11,975
Unknown	1,137	421	37.0%	107	2,166

**Appendix G, Table 8-5**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Relative Size of Child Welfare Agency/Office by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Less than 350 Openings/Year	3,254	2,322	71.3%	-2,427	8,938
350–950 Per Year	11,403	2,717	23.8%	4,756	18,053
> 950 Per Year	50,085	11,924	23.8%	20,908	79,263

**Appendix G, Table 8-6****Child Maltreatment Investigations by Urban/Rural Location of Child Welfare Agency/Office by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Large Metro	28,582	19,728	69.0%	-19,689	76,854
Mixed Urban and Rural	17,596	8,707	49.5%	-3,709	38,901
Rural Area	18,567	10,189	54.9%	-6,364	43,498

**Appendix G, Table 8-7****Child Maltreatment Investigations by Job Position of Investigating Workers by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
Intake and Investigation Specialists	36,161	16,805	46.5%	-4,958	77,280
Generalists, Mixed	13,990	6,985	49.9%	-3,102	31,083
Other	867	342	39.5%	30	1,705

**Appendix G, Table 8-8****Child Maltreatment Investigations by Years of Child Welfare Experience for Investigating Workers by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
< 6 Months	9,966	3,818	38.3%	624	19,308
6–12 Months	6,380	3,392	53.2%	-1,920	14,679
1–2 Years	3,890	455	11.7%	2,776	5,004
2–4 Years	8,184	1,861	22.7%	3,632	12,738
4–6 Years	5,336	2,280	42.7%	-243	10,917
> 6 Years	15,110	3,769	24.9%	5,889	24,332

**Appendix G, Table 8-9**  
**Child Maltreatment Investigations by Highest Completed University Degree for Investigating Workers**  
**by Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment and by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 1998**

Variable	Estimate	Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation	Confidence Interval	
				Lower	Upper
MSW	9,193	1,354	14.7%	5,878	12,505
BSW	31,409	13,614	43.3%	-1,902	64,720
Related Master's	778	442	56.8%	-304	1,858
Related Bachelor's	6,907	2,425	35.1%	974	12,841
Related College Diploma/Certificate	2,223	783	35.2%	308	4,139
Other	562	519	92.4%	-708	1,832

## APPENDIX H

### Supplementary Tables

**Appendix H, Table 1(a)**  
**Mean Number of Children under 19 per Household in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

Children under 19 Per Household Per Child Investigation	Child Investigations
One Child	17,784
Two Children	23,899
Three Children	14,863
Four Children	5,233
Five Children	1,761
Six Children	878
Seven Children	329
<b>Total Child Investigations</b>	<b>64,747</b>
<b>Mean Number of Children under 19 Per Household in Child Maltreatment Investigations</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Source: OIS 1998	
* The mean number of children calculated by dividing the number of children under 19 living in the households of the total child investigations by the number of total number of child investigations (64,746).	

**Appendix H, Table 1(b)**  
**Mean Number of Investigated Children per Household in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

Children under 19 Per Household Per Child Investigation	Child Investigations
One Child	47,471
Two Children	12,091
Three Children	3,829
Four Children	929
Five Children	242
Six Children	102
Seven Children	41
Eight Children	41
<b>Total Child Investigations</b>	<b>64,746</b>
<b>Mean Number of Investigated Children Per Household in Child Maltreatment Investigations</b>	<b>1.38</b>
Source: OIS 1998	
* The mean number of investigated children calculated by dividing the total number of children investigated in the total child investigations by the total number of child investigations.	

**Appendix H, Table 2 Investigated Children under One Year of Age by Head Trauma Injuries in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

	Head Trauma	No Head Trauma	Total
Number of Children Less Than One	196	2,750	2,946
Percentage	7%	93%	100%

Source: OIS 1998

**Appendix H, Table 3 Single and Multiple Alleged Perpetrators by Primary Category of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

	Child Investigations	Percentage
Multiple Perpetrators	13,791	21%
Two Biological Parents	10,108	16%
Biological Parent and Stepparent	3,065	5%
Biological Parent and Other	575	1%
Other Multiple Perpetrators	43	0%
Single Perpetrators	50,955	79%
<b>Total Child Investigations</b>	<b>64,746</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: OIS 1998

**Appendix H, Table 4 Parents Involved as Alleged Perpetrators by Primary Category of Maltreatment in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

	Child Investigations	Percentage
Either Parent Involved as Alleged Perpetrator	57,155	88%
Neither Parent Involved as Alleged Perpetrator	7,590	12%
<b>Total Child Investigations</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: OIS 1998

**Appendix H, Table 5****Parents as Alleged Perpetrators of Physical Abuse for Two-Parent Families in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

	Physical Abuse Investigations	Percentage
Mother as Alleged Perpetrator in Two-Parent Families	4,996	41%
Father as Alleged Perpetrator in Two-Parent Families	8,521	69%
<b>Total Two-Parent Families*</b>	<b>13,517</b>	
Source: OIS 1998		
* The rows in this table are not additive; child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.		

**Appendix H, Table 6****Parents as Alleged Perpetrators of Neglect for Two-Parent Families in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

	Neglect Investigations	Percentage
Mother as Alleged Perpetrator in Two-Parent Families	8,206	91%
Father as Alleged Perpetrator in Two-Parent Families	6,112	68%
<b>Total Two-Parent Families*</b>	<b>14,318</b>	
Source: OIS 1998		
* The rows in this table are not additive; child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.		

**Appendix H, Table 7****Parents as Alleged Perpetrators of Multiple Categories of Maltreatment for Two-Parent Families in Child Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario in 1998**

	Multiple Category Investigations	Percentage
Mother as Alleged Perpetrator in Two-Parent Families	2,772	56%
Father as Alleged Perpetrator in Two-Parent Families	3,482	71%
<b>Total Two-Parent Families*</b>	<b>14,521</b>	
Source: OIS 1998		
* The rows in this table are not additive; child investigations were classified in each category that was applicable to them, so attempts to add the rows will double count some child investigations.		

**Appendix H, Table 8 Age Groups of Primary Household Maintainer with the Youngest Child 14 Years Old and under for Ontario in 1996 Census**

Age Group of Household Maintainer	Number	Percentage of Family Households
Under 25 Years	116,720	3%
25–34 Years	976,365	28%
35–44 Years	1,569,995	45%
45–54 Years	607,430	17%
55–64 Years	125,195	4%
65–74 Years	72,755	2%
75 Years and Over	46,560	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,515,020</b>	<b>100%</b>
Source: OIS 1998		

**Appendix H, Table 9 Housing Accommodation for Census Families for Ontario in 1996 Census**

Type of Housing Accommodation	Number	Percentage
Purchased Dwelling	3,838,040	73%
Rented Dwelling	1,414,740	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,252,780</b>	<b>100%</b>
Source: OIS 1998		

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