

Child Maltreatment in Canada

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence

Introduction

Types of Child Maltreatment

Incidence of Child Maltreatment

In the child welfare field, *incidence rates* are defined as the number of child maltreatment investigations conducted in a given year by child welfare agencies per 1,000 children under age 16 years. The *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect* (CIS), conducted for five-year cycles of surveillance by the Public Health Agency of Canada, provides data on Canadian incidence rates of abuse and neglect as reported to child welfare authorities. In 20e3, an estimated 235,315 child maltreatment investigations were conducted in Canada (a rate of 38.33 investigations per 1,000 children aged 0-15 years).³ In approximately half of these investigations (49%, or an estimated 114,607 investigations), the child protection worker examining the case found maltreatment claims to be substantiated (18.67 investigations per 1,000 children).⁴ Definitions of the different levels of substantiation used by child protection workers are provided in 4heexte

There are many reasons for which all cases of maltreatment are not reported to the authorities, including⁷

- the stigma associated with abuse;
- maltreated children's fears of consequences of their disclosure of abuse to the authorities;

Victims of Child Maltreatment

Among substantiated cases of child maltreatment, the numbers are almost

Some Children Are At

Type of
Maltreatment

Child
Factors

Parental Factors

Social Factors

Child Welfare League of Canada

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCSC)

<http://www.fncfcs.com>

1001-75 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7
Tel.: (613) 230-5885
Fax: (613) 230-3080

The purpose of the Caring Society is to promote the well-being of all First Nations children, youth, families and communities, with a particular focus on the prevention of, and response to, child maltreatment. The Society's Web site provides an inventory of First Nations research and many downloadable documents about aspects of Aboriginal child welfare in Canada, as well as access to the on-line journal *First Peoples Child & Family Review*. The site also provides contact information for all First Nations and other Aboriginal child and family service agencies in Canada.

Injury and Child Maltreatment Section

Reporting Child Maltreatment

5. H. L. MacMillan, E. Jamieson, & C. Walsh, "Reported contact with child protection services among those reporting child physical and sexual abuse: Results from a community survey," *Child Abuse & Neglect* 27, 12 (2003): 1397-1408.
6. Trocmé et al., *Canadian Incidence Study of...* see note 1.
7. Justice Canada, *Child Abuse...* see note 1; J.J. e"Advaces

Endnotes/References

1. Canada. Dept. of Justice Canada, *Child Abuse: A Fact Sheet* [Online] (Ottawa: The Department, 2003) [cited Feb 2006]. Available: <http://www.justice.gc.ca/en/ps/fm/childafs.html>; N. Trocmé et al., *Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect - 2003: Major Findings* (Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada, 2005).
2. Trocmé et al., *Canadian Incidence Study of...* see note 1.
3. Trocmé et al., *Canadian Incidence Study of...* see note 1.
4. Trocmé et al., *Canadian Incidence Study of...* see note 1.

Published by authority of the Minister of Health 2006.

Child Maltreatment in Canada: Overview Paper was prepared by Susan Jack, RN, PhD, Catharine Munn, MD, FRCP(C), Chiachen Cheng, MD, MPH, FRCP(C), and Harriet MacMillan, MD, MSc, FRCP(C), for the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence.

Également disponible en français sous le titre : *Les mauvais traitements infligés aux enfants au Canada : Aperçu*