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EXECUT VE SUMMARY

At present, t ere re no compre ensive C n di n st tistics on t e incidence of c ild buse nd ne lect de t s. In conductin rese rc into c ild buse nd ne lect f t lities, it bec me obvious t t definition is bot critic l f ctor for success nd current b rrier to ccur te countin of c ild m ltre tment de t s in C n d . Efforts in t e USA ve d simil r results s t ere re 50 st tes countin f t lities in w ys t t re sufficiently different to m ke n tion l count difficult t sk.

C n d 's twelve C ief Coroners nd C ief Medic l Ex miners meet ye rly to consider t ese nd ot er issues wit respect to t eir own work. T e twelve Directors of C ild Welf re in C n d lso ve re ul r meetin s to discuss issues of common interest. T e provinci l C ild Advoc tes in C n d lso ve re ul r cont ct round issues of policy nd pr ctice. T ese systems, plus t e existence of n tion l or niz tion of C iefs of Police, offers ope t t C n di ns m y be ble to work to et er to rrive t n ccur te count of t e number of C n di n c ildren w o die e c ye r from cts of commission or omission by t ose dults responsiB4UVC n Vfor N3B4 Vt eir N3B4 Vwell-bein . N3B4 V N3B4 VT is N3B4 VrN. 4 Vese rc N3B4 V

NTRODUCT ON

The Pr●ble

The death ●f *a* child fr● *a* preve table cause is *a* tragic eve t. Whe that cause is child *a*buse ●r eglect, the public expects that eff●rts will be ade t● reduce such deaths. G●ver e ts*a* d*l*awe f●rce e t *a*ge cies ●fte receive uch ●f the pressure t● reduce child altreat e t fata*l*ities. H●wever, preve ti● eff●rts

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CHIRPP provides reports on v riety of injuries, includin pl y round equipment, b by w lkers, cribs, cr dles nd b ssinets, f lls from or by s oppin c rts, r e doors, strollers nd c rri es. Alt ou t is system w s desi ned to protect c ildren from unnecess ry debilit tin injuries nd prem ture de t , it s m jor s ortcomin rel ted to identifyin buse nd ne lect rel ted injuries. Durin ospit l dmission, t e ccomp nyin dult

T e Annu l Fifty St te Survey

T e N tion l Committee for Prevention of C ild Abuse (NCPCA, 1992) ttempts to collect det iled inform tion from t e fifty st tes nd t e District of Columbi on t e number nd c r cteristics of c ild buse reports, t e number of c ild buse f t lities nd c n es in t e fundin nd scope of c ild welf re services. Since 19 6, NCPCA s publis ed n nnu l report providin n n lysis of t eir results includin n estim te of t e number of c ild buse reports nd c ild buse f t lities

mentioned below in t e discussion of d t collection systems, some provinces re in t e process of developin systems or ve just implemented processes for retrievin inform tion on t is type of de t . For ex mple, for is eeief eoroner's offics in nt rio c n retrieve inform tion on ll c ses of c ild de t for i t re 'undetermined'. T e new system for i t is bein developed will cont in sub-c te ories for 'undetermined' to distin uis between possible c ild buse nd ne lect de t s vs. o for isr m nners of de t . T e eeief eoroner's offics in Britis Columbi ives e c de t

of possible or ob ble omicides.

tec nic l speci lists) could "query t e d t b se to produce reports nd n lysis. Not surprisin ly, Coroners nd C ief Medic l Ex miners experienced few of t ese b rriers s t eir systems were desi ned to tr ck nd n lyze inform tion rel ted to de t s, includin c ild de t s. T e Britis Columbi C ildren's Commission is currently "buildin

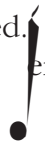
Wit t e exception of one province, inform tion w s obt ined from e c province or territory t rou survey or semi-structured interviews (or bot). Differences in emp sis between descriptions of jurisdictions do not su est t t one re s "better process t n not er. It reflects w ic systems responded to requests for interviews s well s t e det il t t w s provided durin t ose interviews. A furt er cl riUjB2tion

utopsy nd Sudden Inf nt De t protocols. Sudden or unexpected de t s of c ildren re investi ted; s re ll Sudden Inf nt De t Syndrome de t s, ll omicides nd suicides in ddition to some n tur l de t s t t ve not been issued de t certific tes by p ysici n. A unique investi tive fe ture is t e cre tion of psyc olo ic l profiles of e c c ild w re

investi tion. T e C ildren's Commissioner nd t e Deputy Commissioner present dr ft to t e Commission's donsult tive dommittee w ic meets five times ye r nd reviews 20 to 40 d ses t e c meetin . At t e meetin s, donsult tive dommittee members d n pose

If t e dece sed w s under t e e of 21 ye rs, t e Coroner's ffice notifies t e Dep rtment of Soci l Services (DSS). T e DSS determines if t ere s been c ild welf re involvement. In investi tin t e de t s of youn c ildren, t e C ief Coroner orders full

in t e recommend tions nd to t e f milies of
t e c ild or c ildren concerned. nce t e
f milies, t e dep rtments nd encies ve



C ild nd F mily Services ve been ddressed

needs to develop Terms of Reference nd consider ddition l members from t e ment l e lt nd public e lt systems.

M nitob 's C ild Advoc te s no

m nd ted role in c ild de t s unless f mily

member or t e medi requests t e Advoc te's

T e nt rio Associ tion of C ildren's Aid Societies is members ip or niz tion represent in 52 of 55 C ildren's Aid Societies

QUEBEC

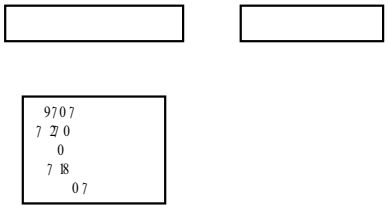
De t s of C ildren

T e current Coroner system in Quebec
w s implemented in B2r 6B fPjfedrB25Bye r iofiteudyXQt.X .P4P2UfGXdVDofN P4fViexitein N P4fVistem s.N P4fVi

t t m de t e committee une sy. Furt er investi tion w s requested nd eventu lly, one of t e p rents dmitted to sp yxi tin t e b by.

T e two committees re set up lon simil r models; bot re c ired by pedi trici ns wit expertise in c ild m ltre tment, bot pr ctice t m jor C ildren's Hospit l; t e St. Justin C ildren's Hospit l in Montre l nd t e University Hospit l in Quebec. T e Deputy Coroner sits on t e Quebec City committee nd full time coroner sits on t e one in Montre l. E c committee s member from t e Surêté de Quebec, t e provinci l police force, nd t e one in Montre l s member from t e SPCUM, t e urb n police force in t t city. Bot committees ve members from t e c ild welf re service; t e one in Montre l lso s represent tive from B ts w, t e En lis GXdVC ildrN.34UVo N P46V s re N3B4 V ency. N3B4 VT e N3 Minister of Justice t t t e committees be m de perm nent p rt of t e coroner service in Quebec. T is recommend tion s been ccepted by t e overnment of Quebec.

T e Coroner's office s lso m de ot er c n es in recent ye rs to improve t e



QUÉBEC

Child Welfare	Coroner	

C ild De t Reviews

New Brunswick's Minister of He lt nd Community Services instituted c ild de t review committee in 199 . A retired jud e of t e Provinci l Court serves s C irperson nd members include police officer, pedi trici n, University soci l work professor nd represent tive from t e ffice of t e C ief Coroner. T e C ild De t Review Committee

YUKON TERR TORY

De t s of C ildren

In t e Yukon Territory, t e C ief Coroner

report ble. T e police nd ospit ls (or Nursin
St tions) notify t e C ief Coroner of de t s.

c ronic lly unsupervised c ild is struck by c r w ile crossin busy street lone. For codin purposes, t e m nner nd c use of de t re t e s me but t e circumst nces re quite different.

Durin interviews wit survey respondents, t e rese rc ers sked bout "wis list for n tion l d t b se of inform tion b sed on reviews of c ild de t s. Ev lu tion of t e imp ct of specific risk f ctors, includin subst nce buse, domestic violence nd previous c ild buse would m ke it possible to compile profile of f milies t risk for f t l or severe buse or ne lect. (Durfee et l, 1992) T ere would lso be t e benefits derived from identifyin trends, comp rin d t cross t e country by eo r p y; suc d t b se could be more t n "d t recept cle . Common definitions of terms nd common d t b se were frequent su estions. T e issue of common definition s istory in t e c ild welf re liter ture s b rrier to d t collection nd to me nin ful comp rison

ENDNOTES

1 A full total of 90 surveys were mailed out; some were duplicated in provinces and sys-

APPEND X A

Pr●ject Advis●r¡y C●● ittee

T e Advisory Committee to t e C ild Mort lity An lysis Project is multi-disciplin ry committee of profession ls involved in c ild de t reviews. T e members ip includes (in lp betic l order):

Mr. L rry C mpbell, C ief Coroner, Province of Britis Columbi

Dr. Gr eme Dowlin , tVMrN,lPedPjfic MrMrProvince of

Mitc ell, L. (19 7). C ild Abuse nd
Ne lect F t lities: A Review of t e
Problem nd Str te ies for Reform.
C ic o, IL: T e N tion l Committee