

CANADIAN INCIDENCE STUDY OF REPORTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

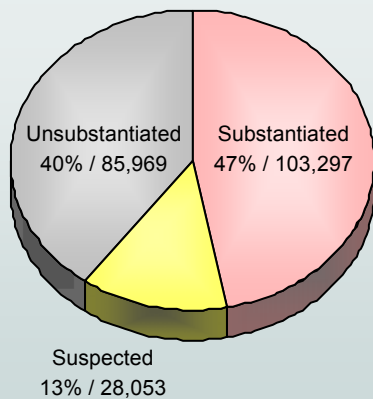
CHILD MALTREATMENT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

Child maltreatment can result in immediate physical or emotional harm, and damage a child's behavioural, social, emotional and cognitive development. The **Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS)** is a national child health surveillance activity which examines child maltreatment reported to, and investigated by, child welfare agencies.

CIS-2003 is the second cycle of the study; the first was in 1998. CIS-2003 gathered information on child maltreatment investigations opened over a 3 month period in a representative sample of 63 Child Welfare Service Areas. Estimates derived from the sample are weighted national annual estimates. In all jurisdictions except Quebec, child welfare workers provided information by completing a data collection instrument. In Quebec, the information was extracted directly from an administrative information system. The different collection methods in Quebec limited the inclusion of those data in the national analyses.

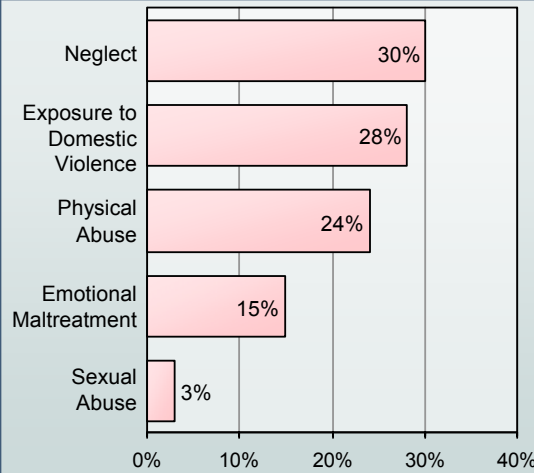
CHILD MALTREATMENT INVESTIGATIONS 2003

Child Maltreatment Investigations in Canada, excluding Quebec



These are weighted national estimates

Primary Category of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec



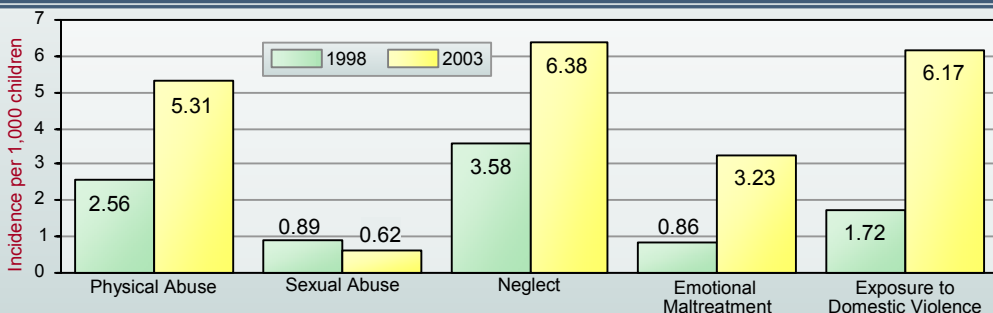
These are weighted national estimates

NOTABLE

- The study population was children **under 16**.
- **Girls**, 49% of total, were more often victims of sexual abuse (63%) & emotional maltreatment (54%). **Boys** were more often victims of physical abuse (54%).
- More of the cases of physical & sexual abuse were in **older** children, and more exposure to domestic violence was in **younger** children.
- **Physical harm** was identified in 10% of cases while **emotional harm** was noted in 20% of cases.

CATEGORIES OF SUBSTANTIATED CHILD MALTREATMENT 1998 and 2003

Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec



From 1998 to 2003 the estimated incidence of substantiated child maltreatment increased from 9.64 to 21.71 cases per 1,000 children.

CIS-2003 findings suggest that this increase reflects **improved** and **expanded reporting** and **investigation**.

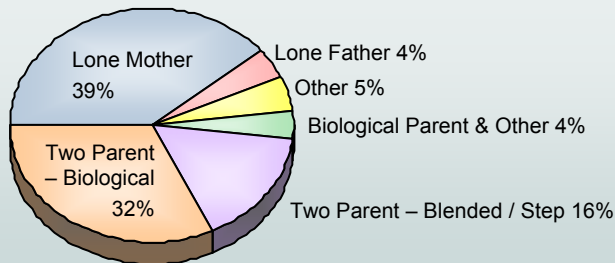
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A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

The CIS is a collaborative effort of the federal, provincial and territorial governments, child welfare service providers, researchers, the corporate sector and child advocates.

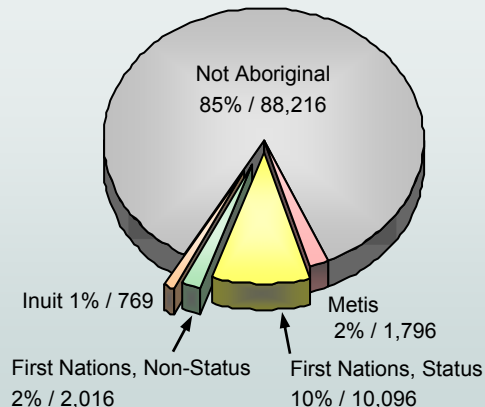
HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE

Parents / Caregivers of Victims of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec, in 2003



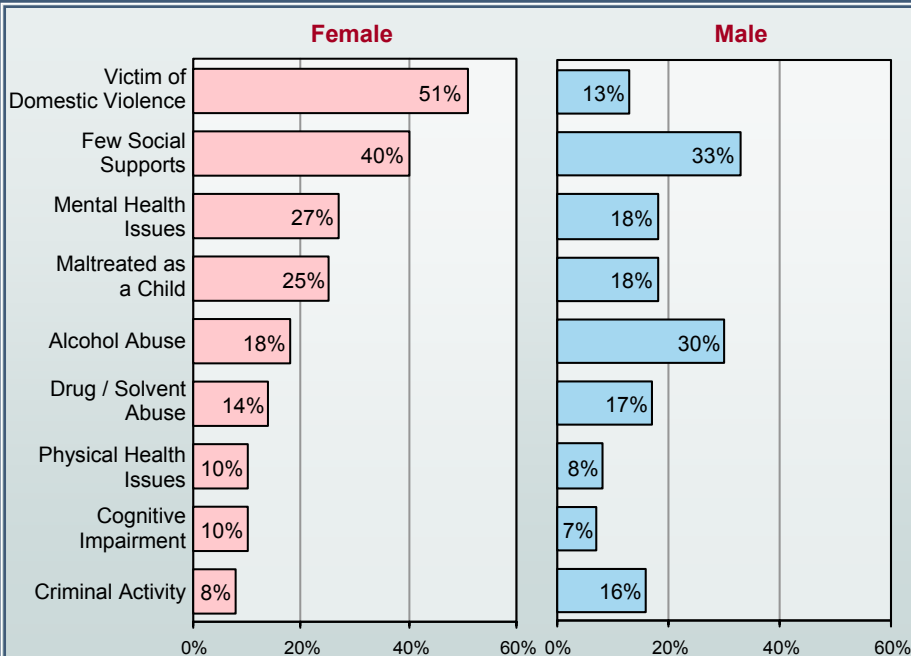
ABORIGINAL STATUS OF CHILDREN

Aboriginal Status of Victims of Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec, in 2003



PARENT / CAREGIVER PROBLEMS

Female and Male Parent / Caregiver Risk Factors in Substantiated Child Maltreatment in Canada, excluding Quebec, in 2003



NEXT STEPS

The CIS partners will disseminate the study results, including reporting back to child welfare agencies.

Researchers will further analyze the 1998 and 2003 datasets to examine in more detail the factors underlying the changes over time.

Child maltreatment surveillance remains a key component of national child health surveillance.

This is public health at work: collaboration across jurisdictions, sectors and disciplines to improve the lives of children in Canada.