Project Structure

Funders:
Public Health Agency of Canada

Oversampling Funds
Governments of: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan
Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare

Significant in-kind support
Provided by every province/territory

First Nations Advisory Committee & National Advisory Committee
University Sites & Institutions:
• McGill University’s Centre for Research on Children and Families
• University of Toronto’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
• University of Calgary’s Faculty of Social Work
• Université de Laval’s École de service social
• Centre Jeunesse de Montréal-Institut Universitaire
• First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.

Child Maltreatment & Children’s Mental Health

• Effects of child maltreatment on children’s well-being and mental health
• Child maltreatment has implications for children’s mental health
• Surveillance is the foundation for intervention and prevention of child maltreatment

Children’s Well-being Paramount Principles in Child Welfare Legislation Across Canada

• For example, Ontario’s Child and Family Services Act

“The paramount purpose of this Act is to promote the best interests, protection and well being of children.”

www.cecw-cepb.ca/legislation

Survey Research

1. Large # respondents chosen through probability sampling procedures to represent the population of interest
   • Large samples to ensure precise estimates
     – Vary in sample size, sampling design & unit of analysis

2. Systematic questionnaire or interview procedures are used to ask prescribed questions of respondents and record their answers
   • Unstructured vs. structured interview
   • Descriptive vs. explanatory surveys

3. Answers are numerically coded and analyzed

Objectives of the CIS

✓ produce national estimates of the incidence of investigated maltreatment in Canada;
✓ document changes & explore reasons for the change;
✓ examine variations in types and severity of maltreatment;
✓ explore the role of selected child and family characteristics on the incidence of maltreatment and on key service outcomes,
Total: 112
Mainstream: 89
Aboriginal: 23

Sampling-CIS-2008

411 Child Welfare Service Areas
85 Child Welfare Service Areas
~2,000 Child Welfare Workers
~18,000 Case Openings,
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2008

Tip of the Iceberg

Unsubstantiated Reports
Substantiated MalTreatment or risk of harm
Police Investigations
Unsubstantiated Cases
Unknown Cases

Rates and numbers of reported & substantiated investigations (CIS 2003, excluding Quebec)

1998
2003

Increasing rates of reports & substantiated investigations (CIS 98-03, excluding Quebec)

Differential trends by form of substantiated maltreatment: CIS 98/03 (excluding Quebec)
CIS-2008: Risk of Maltreatment Included

- Most provinces and territories moved towards a formalized risk assessment model in the late 1990s
- CIS-1998 and CIS-2003 did not formally measure only risk investigations
- Risk investigations were likely represented in these data and may account for part of the increase in investigations from 1998 to 2003
- CIS-2008 data collection instrument allowed workers to describe both investigated maltreatment and risk investigations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substantiated</td>
<td>9.82</td>
<td>24.44</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspected</td>
<td>6.06</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubstantiated</td>
<td>11.55</td>
<td>23.70</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Maltreatment</td>
<td>27.43</td>
<td>53.59</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub risk</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown risk</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No risk</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total risk</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Maltreatment &amp; Risk</td>
<td>27.43</td>
<td>53.59</td>
<td>Oct 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child Maltreatment Investigations in Canada

Child Maltreatment & Mental Health: Next Steps

- Secondary data analysis: CIS data can be used to analyze the relationship between mental health and child welfare intervention
  - Limitations of caregiver and child functioning issues
  - Directionality cannot be determined
- Collaboration!
- CIS-2008 to be released in October 2010

Public Health Agency of Canada
Injury and Child Maltreatment Section
Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division

tara.black@utoronto.ca  www.cecw-cepb.ca