

10 Answers Every Child Welfare Agency Should Provide

Kartusch, Fallon, Trocmé, Black, Chan & Sawh (stats extracted by SD&G)

The mandate of a child welfare agency in Ontario is to ensure the safety and protection of children, to promote child well-being and to improve family functioning. Each day, child welfare workers assess any concerns expressed by professionals or non-professionals about the safety or well-being children, provide in-home services to children and their families and in very rare cases will place children in homes outside of their own.

The following descriptions of the services we provide are based on information that is readily available, non-identifying and is aggregate client data. These numbers are intended for use by child welfare managers and policy-makers to inform decisions about programming and policy development and also to provide basic information on a regular basis about work in the community.

Agency: Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

1. How many children are in our community?

There are just under **23,000** children 18 years of age and under in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry area. About **3,130*** of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry area are Aboriginal. The average income is **34,820*** and **5,005** are lone parents. These numbers were based on Census 2016.

Census Year	Child Population
2016	22,785
*2011 Census	

Why It's Important

You need to know the child population you are serving. It becomes the context for some of the other numbers and allows you to compare your agency to similar sized populations.

Methodology

Most recent census data for Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry area of CW agency: single year of age file for 16, 17 & 18 year olds. Total count of children files 15 years of age and under.

2. What proportion of children from our community do we assess each year?

Each year, about **11%** of children come to the attention of our agency for a concern about their well-being or safety.

SPI 4 Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after an Investigation

Fiscal Year	Total Cases Re-opened	Total Cases Closed
2012-13	266	1,020
2013-14	232	956
2014-15	190	910
2015-16	221	799

Why It's Important

This is how often your agency completes an assessment. This can reflect community need or agency practice. We should be able to compare to other similar agencies to see if the assessment rates are similar.

Methodology

This is a child based number which can be calculated prior to CPIN implementation. This proportion is calculated by the number of children in a case where an investigation was conducted each physical year (using our legacy system we pulled the number of children 16 & under) dividing this number by the population of children in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry for a percentage.

3. How many families are assessed for a concern each year?

Each year, **921** families are assessed for a concern about their children.

SPI 4 Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after an Investigation

Fiscal Year	Total Cases Re-opened	Total Cases Closed
2012-13	266	1,020
2013-14	232	956
2014-15	190	910
2015-16	221	799

Why It's Important

This is probably a key statistic you are already using that speaks to the volume of work. It is connected with SPI4.

Methodology

The denominator for SPI 4 can be produced as an average over x number of years or reported for the last fiscal year.

4. How many families after assessment are provided with ongoing child welfare services each year?

About **326 families** (or **11%** of the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry's child population) are provided with ongoing services after assessment each year.

SPI 5 Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after Ongoing Protection Services Were Provided

Fiscal Year	Total Cases Re-opened	Total Cases Closed
2012-13	87	276
2013-14	90	286
2014-15	88	342
2015-16	109	403

Why It's Important

This is important as it shows the volume of families who move beyond investigation to service provision. It allows you to compare it to the number of families investigated. We can start to ask questions about agency differences take action where necessary and monitor this proportion.

Methodology

The denominator for SPI 5 can be produced as an average over x number of years or reported for the last fiscal year.

This proportion is calculated by the number of ongoing service files closed each fiscal year (legacy systems are a family based count); applying a correction factor for individual children (using the average number of children investigated in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry each fiscal year) dividing this number by the population of children and multiplying by 1000 to produce the number of children per 1000 in the population that are provided with ongoing services. You then divide by 10 for a percentage.

5. How many families return to our agency after receiving child welfare services?

After receiving services from Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, **29%** of families return to our agency within 12 months.

SPI 5 Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after Ongoing Protection Services Were Provided

Fiscal Year	Total Cases Re-opened	Total Cases Closed
2012-13	87	276
2013-14	90	286
2014-15	88	342
2015-16	109	403

Why It's Important

This important in order to assess whether cases are being closed prematurely.

Methodology

The numerator for SPI 5 can be produced as an average over x number of years or reported for the last fiscal year. The proportion is calculated by dividing the number of families returned with the number of families assessed for a concern.

6. Why do families return to our agency after their ongoing service file has been closed?

Families who return to our agency after receiving services return for a urgent need in only **7.4%** of cases and for a more chronic need in **21.2%** of cases.

SPI 5 Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after Ongoing Protection Services Were Provided as Urgent cases

Fiscal Year	Total Cases Re-opened	Total Cases Closed
2012-13	24	276
2013-14	27	286
2014-15	30	342
2015-16	16	403

SPI 5 Recurrence of Child Protection Concerns in a Family after Ongoing Protection Services Were Provided as Chronic cases

Fiscal Year	Total Cases Re-opened	Total Cases Closed
2012-13	63	276
2013-14	63	286
2014-15	58	342
2015-16	93	403

Why It's Important

This will help agencies to determine the clinical drivers of recurrence. It allows us to estimate the response to urgent cases versus more chronic concerns.

Methodology

The numerator for SPI 5 can be produced as an average over x number of years or reported for the last fiscal year.

The eligibility code at recurrence has been mapped to urgent chronic taxonomy (<http://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/3/3/483> Trocmé et al, 2015)

7. How many Children do we place in out of home care?

Our agency places approximately **89 children** each year in out-of-home care. This number represents **0.9%** of all children we assess and **0.4%** of the child population of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry.

SPI 7 Entry to Care (12 months)

Fiscal Year	Total Children Admitted After Investigated	Total Children Investigated
2012-13	121	2,493
2013-14	100	2,515
2014-15	108	2,515
2015-16	72	2,243

SPI 10 Time to Discharge (12 months)

Children aged 15 and under

Fiscal Year	Total Children Discharged	Total Children Admitted
2012-13	44	64
2013-14	39	73
2014-15	61	115
2015-16	69	105

Why It's Important

This addresses the misperception that a CAS's sole purpose is to bring children into care. It also addresses the likelihood of your agency bringing a child into care, which allows you to the proportion of the population in care to other agencies.

Methodology

The number of children admitted is based on SPI 10 denominator. Note that the SPI10 table above includes only children aged up to 15.

The number of children investigated is based on SPI 7 denominator: all children who had an investigation begin in the fiscal year.

Proportion of children assessed: Number of children admitted ÷ number of children investigated × 1000. You then divide by 10 for a percentage.

Proportion of the population: Number of children admitted ÷ children population × 1000. You then divide by 10 for a percentage.

8. How long do these children remain in the care of our agency?

Within 36 months, **71%** of children in our care have been discharged from care.

SPI10 Time to Discharge (36 months)

Fiscal Year	Total Children Discharged	Total Children Admitted
2012-13	55	70
2013-14	59	76
2014-15	70	118
2015-16	83	110

Why It's Important

This shows the elements of SPI10 and tells you how many remain in our system. You can compare this against others as well to give you an indication on whether you need to ask more questions and/or take action. It will help you gauge your progress to better permanency when you compare period over period.

Methodology

SPI10 calculates the discharge rate, where

Numerator: Children discharged after 36 months from the children's admission date.

Denominator: Total number of children admitted or re-admitted to care in the fiscal year.

9. What is the average number of days that children spend in out-of-home care?

The average number of days that children spend in our care is **178**.

Average days of In-Care for Children

Discharged within 36 months

Fiscal Year	Total Days of In-Care	Total Children Discharged
2012-13	12,079	55
2013-14	14,065	60
2014-15	9,617	70
2015-16	12,635	83

Why It's Important

This is a measure that will help you understand how quickly children leave care. It can help you locate areas for improvement and can also compare against other agencies and find out what they are doing to achieve their results.

Methodology

SPI 10 numerator gives the number of children discharged within 36 months from their admission dates. The length of in-care is calculated as number of days between the admission and discharge dates. Average number of days: Total days in-care ÷ number of children discharged at 36 months.

10. Do the children in care stay in the same placement during their time in care?

About **3%** of children stay in the same placement for the duration of their care. **56%** of children move between one to three times. **42%** of children move four or more times.

SPI11 Placement Stability/Moves in Care

Children with no move

Fiscal Year	Total Children	Total Children Admitted
2012-13	6	229
2013-14	6	207
2014-15	7	188
2015-16	5	188

Children with 1-3 moves

Fiscal Year	Total Children	Total Children Admitted
2012-13	122	229
2013-14	116	207
2014-15	116	188
2015-16	97	188

Children with 4 or more moves

Fiscal Year	Total Children	Total Children Admitted
2012-13	101	229
2013-14	85	207
2014-15	65	188
2015-16	86	188

Why It's Important

This is a key measure for understanding placement stability and also identifies the proportions of move frequencies, especially those who move a lot. You could dig deeper as necessary – even to case level for example to let you know kids that move for their fourth time.

Methodology

SPI 11 calculates the rate of in-care moves, where

Numerator: Total number of placement changes during the 36 months post admission.

Denominator: Number of children admitted or re-admitted to care in the fiscal year.

The proportions are calculated based on the frequency counts of SPI 11 numerator.