Understanding increasing rates of reported maltreatment in Canada

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Presentation Team:
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Some “Facts” about child welfare trends

- Rate of child maltreatment victimization decreased by 22% in the US from 1994 to 2004

- Rate of victimization has more than doubled in Canada from 1998 to 2003

- Number of investigations leading to an admission to care increased 58% from 98 to 03
Outline

- CIS Background
- Report and victimization rated USA & Canada
- CIS 1998/03 Increase deconstructed by key maltreatment characteristics
- CIS 1998/03 Service response
CIS 2003 Background

- Second national study examining the incidence of reported child abuse and neglect.
- A national child health surveillance activity initiated by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Injury and Child Maltreatment Section of the Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division.
- A partnership with PHAC, provincial and territorial governments, the First Nations Child and family Caring Society, and Bell Canada.
- Conducted by a team of researchers from the Universities of McGill, Toronto, Calgary, Quebec, and Memorial.
CIS 2003 Methods

• Used a modified version of the CIS-1998 instrument to document nature of maltreatment, key child and family characteristics and post-investigation services.

• Data collected directly from investigating social workers (except administrative data used in Quebec).

• Sample:
  – 11,562 child investigations conducted by 936 child welfare workers in 55 sites across Canada +
  – administrative data on 2,638 investigations in 6 sites in Quebec.
  – CIS 1998: 7,672 investigations from 51 sites across Canada

• Limits:
  – Weighted national annual estimates
  – Limited to reports investigated by child welfare services.
  – Most data from Quebec could not be directly included.
  – Study not designed to make regional comparisons.
  – No follow-up beyond investigation

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Rates of reported and substantiated maltreatment in the United States (NCANSDS)

Investigations

Victims

per 1,000 children
Rates of reported and substantiated maltreatment in the United States (NCANDS)

- Per 1,000 children
- Investigations: 36.1% in 1990, 47.8% in 2004, +32%
- Victims: 13.4% in 1990, 11.9% in 2004, -11%

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Rates of reported and substantiated maltreatment in the United States (NCANDS)
Rates and numbers of reported & substantiated investigations (CIS 2003, excluding Quebec)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsubstantiated</td>
<td>85,969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suspected</td>
<td>28,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantiated</td>
<td>103,297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2003

Rate per 1,000 children

Unsubstantiated: 18.07%
Suspected: 5.90%
Substantiated: 47%
Increasing rates of reported & substantiated maltreatment in Canada (CIS 98-03, excluding Quebec)

Rate per 1,000 children

1998

2003

Unsubstantiated

Suspected

Substantiated

24.55‰

8.96

5.95

9.64

5.90

47%

45.68‰

18.07

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Centre of Excellence for Child Welfare
Centre d'excellence pour la protection et le bien-être des enfants

39%

66%

125%
Rates of reports per child vs. per family (CIS 98-03, excluding Quebec)

- Children:
  - 1998: 130,594
  - 2003: 217,319
  - Increase: 66%

- Families:
  - 1998: 83,976
  - 2003: 118,552
  - Increase: 41%
Differential trends by form of substantiated maltreatment: CIS 98/03 (excluding Quebec)

Rate per 1,000 children

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Summary explanation of 98-03 increase

• 125% increase in incidence of substantiated maltreatment could be explained by:
  – Increase in substantiation rates.
  – More siblings per family being investigated.
  – Explosion of reports of emotional maltreatment and exposure to domestic violence.

• **However**, picture is quite different if one controls for variations by form of maltreatment in substantiation rates, in victim per family ratio and in age distribution.
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Rates of reports per child vs. per family (CIS 98-03, excluding Quebec)

Children: 130,594 (1998) vs. 217,319 (2003), 66% increase
Families: 83,976 (1998) vs. 118,552 (2003), 41% increase
Rates of reports per child vs. per family (CIS 98-03, excluding Quebec)
Victim per family ratio by form of substantiated maltreatment: CIS 98/03 (excluding Quebec)

Substantiation rate by form of maltreatment: CIS 98/03 (excluding Quebec)

- Physical Abuse: 33% (1998), 41% (2003)
Substantiated Maltreatment by Age

- 0-3: 9,800
- 4-7: 25,000
- 8-11: 29,000
- 12-15: 24,900

(Chart compares data from 1998 and 2003)
Sexual Abuse

- 0-3
- 4-7
- 8-11
- 12-15

Year 98
Year 03
Exposure to Domestic Violence

- 0 - 3: 9,000
- 4 - 7: 8,000
- 8 - 11: 7,000
- 12 - 15: 6,000

Comparisons:
- 98
- 03
Age of victims by form of maltreatment (CIS 03; QC Excl.)

- PA
- SA
- Neg
- EM
- EDV

- 0 - 3
- 4 - 7
- 8 - 11
- 12 - 15
Physical harm in cases of substantiated maltreatment (CIS 03 QC Excl.)

- No Harm: 90%
- Harm No Treatment: 7%
- Harm Treatment: 3%

Injury Types:
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional Maltreatment
- Exp to DV

Injuries:
- Bruises: 78%
- Other: 14%
- Head Trauma: 4%
- Broken Bones: 2%
- Burns: 2%
- Other: 2%

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Physical harm by form of maltreatment: CIS 98/03 (excluding Quebec)

Emotional harm in cases of substantiated maltreatment (CIS 03 QC Excl.)

- No Harm: 80%
- Harm: 14%
- Signs of Harm: 6%

Pie chart showing distribution of cases:
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional Maltreatment
- Exp to DV

Graph showing harm treatment and no treatment percentages.
Emotional harm by form of maltreatment: CIS 98/03 (excluding Quebec)
# Maltreatment Specific Explanation for Increase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Victims / family</th>
<th>Subst Rate</th>
<th>Age-specific</th>
<th>Phys Harm</th>
<th>Emo Harm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+ 8-11</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Ø</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+ 8-11</td>
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<td>Ø</td>
<td>+ 8-11</td>
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Sources of Report (CIS 98/03; QC Excl.)

- Professional
- Non-professional
- Anonymous

- 29,089
- 16,042
- 3,788
- 21,214
- 3,061

- 77,199
- 3,061
Referral source (CIS 2003; QC Excl.)

Professional sources
- Community agency: 9%
- Other: 5%
- Mental health: 3%
- Health: 7%
- School: 21%
- Police: 31%

Non-professional sources
- Anonymous: 3%
- Other: 5%
- Friend/Neighbour: 4%
- Relative: 4%
- Child: 2%
- Parent: 11%
Service response: On-going services (CIS 98/03; QC Excl.)

- Cases to stay open for ongoing services: 5.16 (1998), 9.64 (2003)
- Court applications: 0.91 (1998), 1.53 (2003)
Service response: On-going services (CIS 98/03; QC Excl.)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placement</td>
<td>5,234</td>
<td>8,279</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court applications</td>
<td>4,330</td>
<td>7,280</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service response: On-going services (CIS 98/03; QC Excl.)

- Child previously investigated: 50% (1998) and 52% (2003)
- Cases to stay open for ongoing services: 54% (1998) and 44% (2003)
- Placement: 11% (1998) and 8% (2003)
- Court applications: 9% (1998) and 7% (2003)
Service response: On-going services (CIS 98/03; QC Excl.)

- Cases to stay open for ongoing services: 21% (1998), 21% (2003)
- Court applications: 4% (1998), 3% (2003)