

# CHILD WELFARE IN ONTARIO: KEY FACTS\*

## **\$1.4 billion**

Child welfare budget envelope

## **38**

Non-Indigenous Children's Aid Societies

## **→ 3**

Faith-based agencies

## **12**

Indigenous Well-Being Societies

## **Governing Legislation**

Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017

**9,000** Child welfare employees across the province, following 1 authorization process

## **365 days a year**

## **24 hours a day**

Children's Aid Societies provide mandated services to keep children and youth safe

**158,574** Calls and referrals with concerns about the safety and well-being of children and youth in Ontario

## **83,869** Investigations

**In 97%** of investigations children remain with their families while they receive services and support from a CAS

**41,420** Cases provided with ongoing protection service

**85%** of children are discharged from care within 36 months

**11,942** Monthly average number of children in care

**4,624** Monthly average of children on extended care

**814** Adoptions finalized last year

**25% on average** of children needing out of home placements live with kin families

**89%** of children who receive CAS services live in families that are struggling to meet their basic needs<sup>1</sup>

**53%** of families receiving CAS services live in socio-economic hardship<sup>2</sup>

**46%** of families receive CAS services because of adult mental health issues (including addictions)<sup>3</sup>

**76%** of families surveyed say it is difficult to know where to get help for mental health challenges<sup>4</sup>

**185,000** families are on wait lists for affordable housing in Ontario<sup>5</sup>

*In cases where child maltreatment was substantiated:*

**48%** involved exposure to Intimate Partner Violence

**24%** involved Neglect

**13%** involved physical abuse

**2%** involved sexual abuse

## Referral Sources

*Of all cases referred to CASs:*

**31%** of referrals came from schools

**27%** of referrals came from police

**12%** of referrals came from a custodial or non-custodial parent

**9%** of referrals came from Community Health or Social Services

**5%** of referrals came from hospitals

\* Data Sources: Ministry Quarterly Reports, 2017-18 (43 agencies); Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, 2013; Child Welfare Performance Indicators; 2013 OACAS Data

## **ABOUT OACAS and CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES**

OACAS is a provincial membership organization that represents 48 out of 50 Children's Aid Societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Societies in Ontario. Children's Aid Societies across the province support 41,420 ongoing protection service cases (2017-18) and are the legal guardians for an average of 11,942 children and youth in care each month (2017-18 data).

**For more information, please contact Kayla Scott:**  
[kscott@oacas.org](mailto:kscott@oacas.org)

**[oacas.org](http://oacas.org) @our\_children**



Ontario Association of  
Children's Aid Societies