

Our Health Counts London

The first inclusive, community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in London

PARENTING & CHILD PROTECTION AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) reveals the colonial goals of Canada's Indigenous policies over time. These goals included the elimination of traditional Indigenous governments and livelihood, and the planned expiry of treaty obligations through processes of assimilation.¹ The TRC defines these policies as 'cultural genocide'. A key implementation of these assimilationist policies has involved the involuntary removal of generations of Indigenous children from their families through residential schools and Child Protection Agencies (CPA).¹ Structural factors, such as institutional racism, inadequate housing, poverty, and limited access to adequate health care continue to leave Indigenous families at risk of CPA involvement. Children who have grown up in care are more likely to experience these structural disadvantages. A focus on imposed colonial structural challenges such as poverty and child welfare policies that reward agencies and non-Indigenous foster families involved in Indigenous child apprehension in addition to supporting the revitalization of Indigenous family and community parenting and kinship ties is urgently required. There are an increasing number of Indigenous-led CPAs which provide more culturally safe services to Indigenous families. These agencies are aiming to improve the outcomes of CPA interventions and ensure interactions between Indigenous families and CPA are mutually beneficial.

Parenting of Indigenous Children in London

OVER 94% of Indigenous parents in London...

- Feel they can make an important difference to their child
- Are able to do things that will improve their child's behaviour
- Take time to play with their child everyday or a few times a week

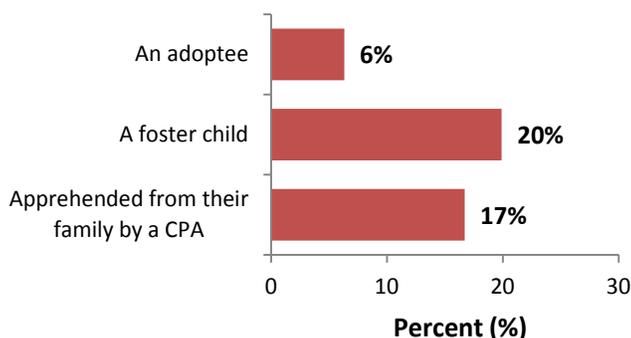
68% offer their child choices everyday.

89% encourage their child in sincere and specific ways everyday.

Child Protection Agency Involvement

57% of Indigenous adults in London had a CPA involved in their care when **they** were children.

Indigenous adults in London said they were:

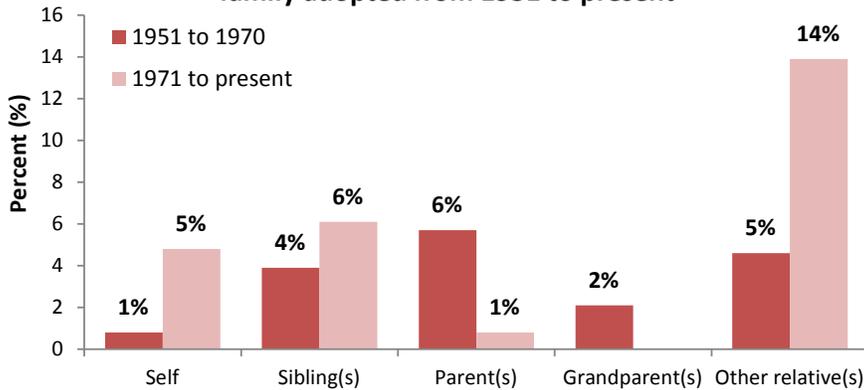


Statistics Canada has reported that Indigenous children are foster children at a rate **12x higher** than non-Indigenous children.

Only 42% of Indigenous children in foster care in Ontario are living with at least one Indigenous adult.²

These findings highlight the need for more resources dedicated to Indigenous child protection agencies that better understand the importance of family integrity for Indigenous child and family welfare.

Indigenous adults in London who were adopted or had family adopted from 1951 to present



16% of Indigenous adults in London said they were adopted or had other members of their family adopted between 1951-1970, during the Sixties Scoop.

23% of Indigenous adults in London said they were adopted or had other members of their family adopted from 1971 to present.

Child Protection Agency Involvement Among Parents

53% of Indigenous parents in London have had a CPA involved in the care of their child.

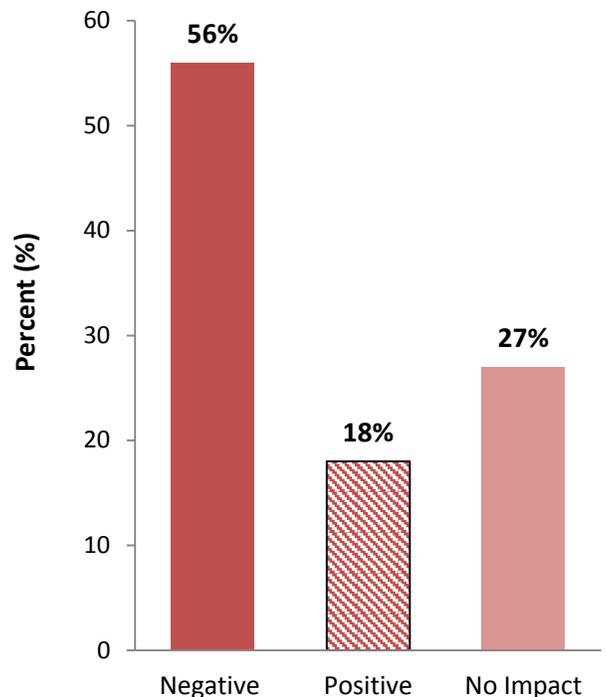


54% of Indigenous parents that had a CPA involved in the care of their child were dissatisfied/very dissatisfied.

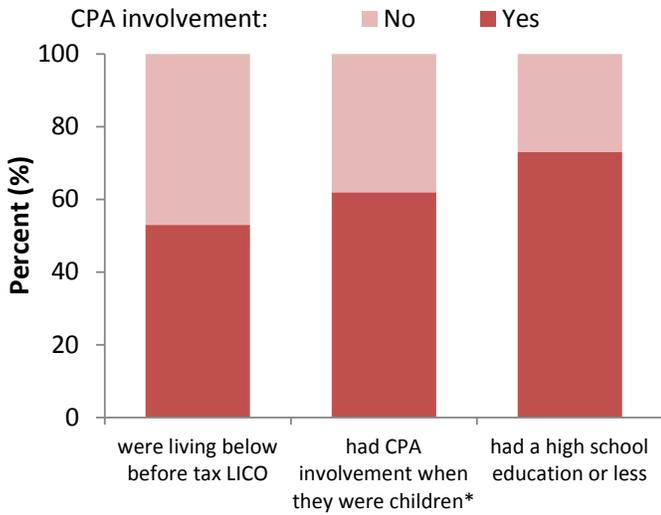
There was no difference across age groups and involvement with a CPA in the Indigenous adult population in London.

18% of Indigenous parents in London felt that their overall health and wellbeing was positively impacted by the involvement of a CPA in their family.

Impact of CPA involvement for parents who had a CPA involved in their child's care



CPA Involvement was higher among parents who had a high school education or less:



Of Indigenous parents in London who have ever had CPA involvement:

62% have been investigated due to a complaint or report.

16% had voluntarily sought support as a parent from the CPA.



8% of Indigenous parents reported having a child apprehended by a CPA.

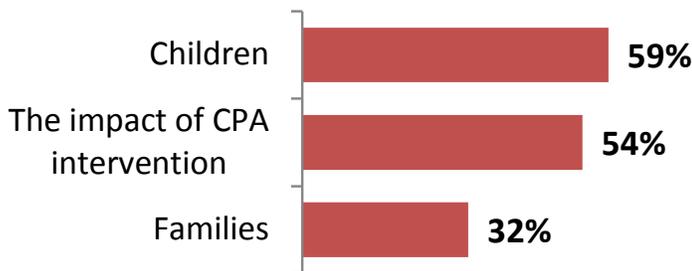
This is consistent with findings where **26% of foster children (<14 years) in Ontario are Indigenous**, yet account for only 3% of the child population under 14 years old.²

Needs

Many parents felt there was a lack of community resources serving Indigenous people to support:



20% of Indigenous families indicated that there are health or social services that they avoid.



11% indicated they used Mnaasged Child and Family Services in the past year. No one indicated that they avoided this service.

Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling (see Project Overview and Methods Factsheet)

Definitions

Indigenous adults: persons self-identifying as Indigenous such as First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or other Nation aged 15 years and older living or using services in the City of London. Indigenous children: persons self-identifying as Indigenous such as First Nations, Métis, Inuit, or other Nation aged 0-14 years living or using services in the City of London. Parent: biological and non-biological parent and/or caregiver. Caregivers: parents with children under the age of 14 in their care who filled out a child survey

*Due to small sample sizes these numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Sources

1. Truth and Reconciliation Canada (2015); 2. Turner (2016)

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