



cyacc

Child & Youth Advocacy
Centres of Canada

caeac

Centres d'appui aux enfants
et aux adolescents du Canada

What is the reality of child and youth abuse in Canada?

An estimated **1 in 3 children in Canada** experiences abuse before the age of 15, including physical abuse (26%) and sexual abuse (8%).¹



~**60%**

of **Canadians** report some form of maltreatment in childhood, including emotional abuse, exposure to intimate partner violence, or neglect.²

Abuse impacts every part of a child's life: mental health,³ physical health,⁴ relationships, education, sense of belonging, and long-term ability to thrive.⁵



According to UNICEF Report Card 19⁶ **Canada ranks 19th** out of **36** affluent nations for well-being, and even lower in mental well-being (23rd), physical health (26th), and social skills (28th).

First Nation, Inuit and **Métis** children are disproportionately impacted by abuse. CYACs report that **19%** of children accessing services identify as **Indigenous**. Services must be culturally safe, distinctions based, and trauma informed.⁷



Women and **2SLGBTQIA+ children** and **youth** also face higher levels of abuse. CYACs must be equipped to respond with inclusive, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed care that meets their unique needs.⁸





References

1. Department of Justice Canada, (2018). Understanding the Development and Impact of Child Advocacy Centres (CACs), Department of Justice Canada, CanLII Docs 11131, <https://canlii.ca/t/t8zr>, retrieved on 2024-10-27
2. Afifi, T. O., MacMillan, H. L., Boyle, M., Taillieu, T., Cheung, K., & Sareen, J. (2014). Child abuse and mental disorders in Canada. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 186(9), E324–E332. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.131792> , Bader, D., Frank, K., & Kohen, D. (2023). Taking Stock of Canadian Population-Based Data Sources to Study Child Maltreatment: What's Available, What Should Researchers Know, and What are the Gaps? In *Child Indicators Research* (Vol. 16, Issue 6, pp. 2511–2544). Springer Science and Business Media B.V. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-023-10062-w> , Heidinger, L. (2022). Profile of Canadians who experienced victimization during childhood, 2018. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00016-eng.pdf?st=XWbrrRAf>
3. Gruhn, M. A., & Compas, B. E. (2020). Effects of maltreatment on coping and emotion regulation in childhood and adolescence: A meta-analytic review. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 103, 104446. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104446>
4. Afifi, T. O., Macmillan, H. L., Boyle, M., Cheung, K., Taillieu, T., Turner, S., & Sareen, J. (2016). Health Reports Child abuse and physical health in adulthood. *Health Reports*, 27(3), 10–18. www.statcan.gc.ca and Mathews, B., Pacella, R., Scott, J. G., Finkelhor, D., Meinck, F., Higgins, D. J., Erskine, H. E., Thomas, H. J., Lawrence, D. M., Haslam, D. M., Malacova, E., & Dunne, M. P. (2023). The prevalence of child maltreatment in Australia: findings from a national survey. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 218(S6), S13–S18. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51873> and Mathews, B., Thomas, H. J., & Scott, J. G. (2023). A new era in child maltreatment prevention: call to action. *Medical Journal of Australia*, 218(S6), S47–S51. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51872>
5. Conroy, S. (2021). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019.
6. <https://www.unicef.ca/en/rc19>
7. Caldwell, J., & Sinha, V. (2020). (Re) Conceptualizing Neglect: Considering the Overrepresentation of Indigenous Children in Child Welfare Systems in Canada. *Child Indicators Research*, 13(2), 481–512. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-019-09676-w> and Fallon, B., Joh-Carnella, N., Trocmé, N., Esposito, T., Hélie, S., & Lefebvre, R. (2022). Major Findings from the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2019. *International Journal on Child Maltreatment: Research, Policy and Practice*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42448-021-00110-9>
8. Conroy, S. (2021). Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile, 2019 and Fix, R. L., & Nair, R. (2020). Racial/ethnic and gender disparities in substantiation of child physical and sexual abuse: Influences of caregiver and child characteristics. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 116. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105186> and Moody, G., Cannings-John, R., Hood, K., Kemp, A., & Robling, M. (2018). Establishing the international prevalence of self-reported child maltreatment: A systematic review by maltreatment type and gender. In *BMC Public Health* (Vol. 18, Issue 1). BioMed Central Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-6044-y>