




**Centre of Excellence
for Child Welfare**

**Centre d'excellence pour
la protection et le bien-être des enfants**

Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood
Development
Montreal, September 5-6, 2003



An overview of child welfare services in Canada:

The need for alternative responses

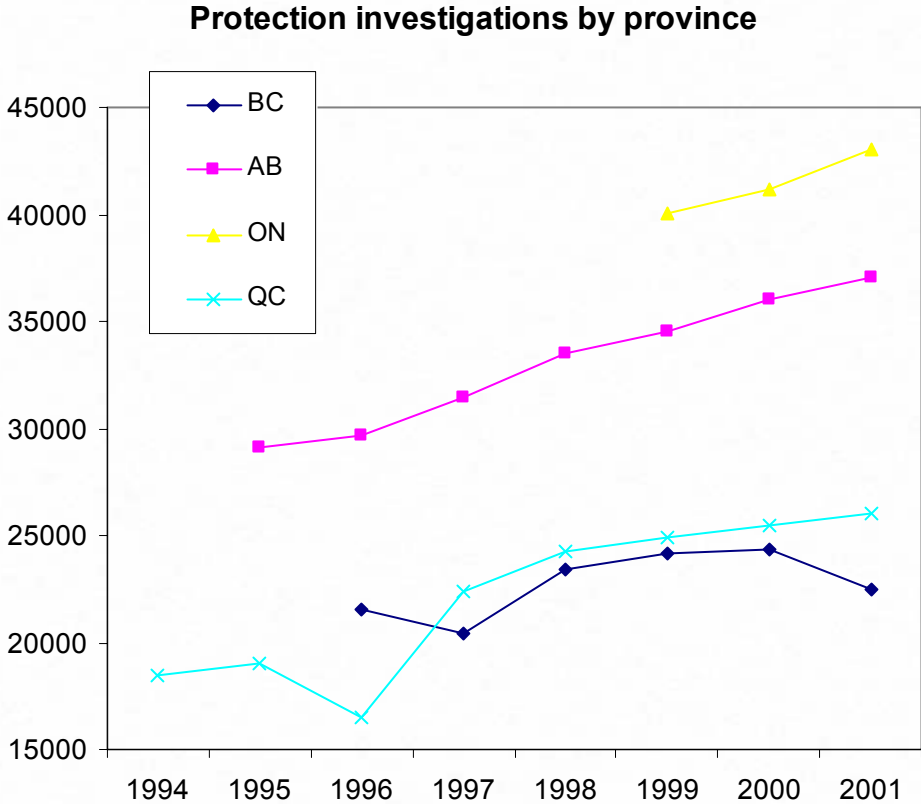
Prevention of maltreatment from Vivaldi's foundlings to today,

Montreal Quebec, September 5-6, 2003

Nico Trocmé

Increasing caseloads across Canada

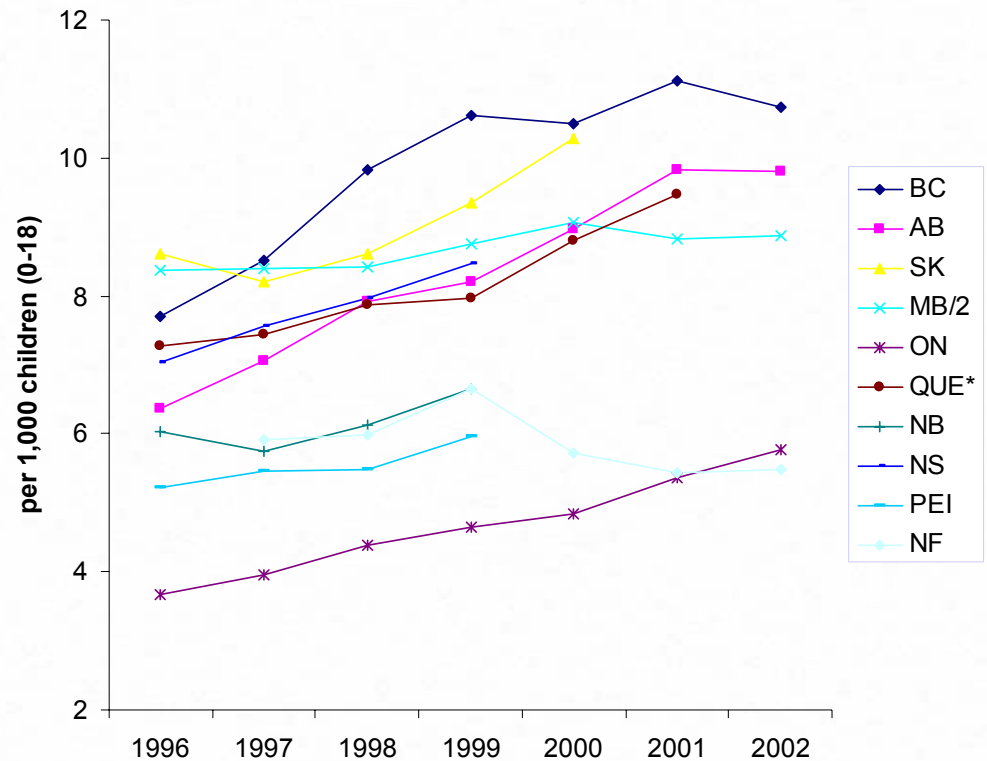
- Child protection investigations on the rise



Increasing caseloads across Canada

- Child protection investigations on the rise
- More children in care

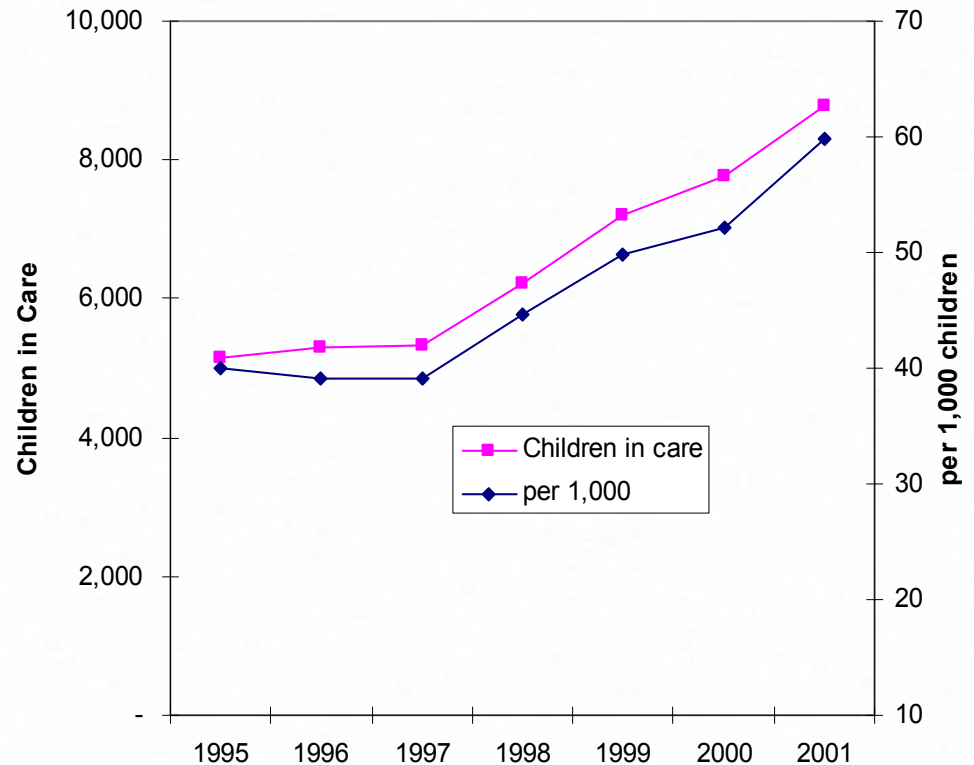
Children in Care by Province



Increasing caseloads across Canada

- Child protection investigations on the rise
- More children in care
- More First Nations children in care

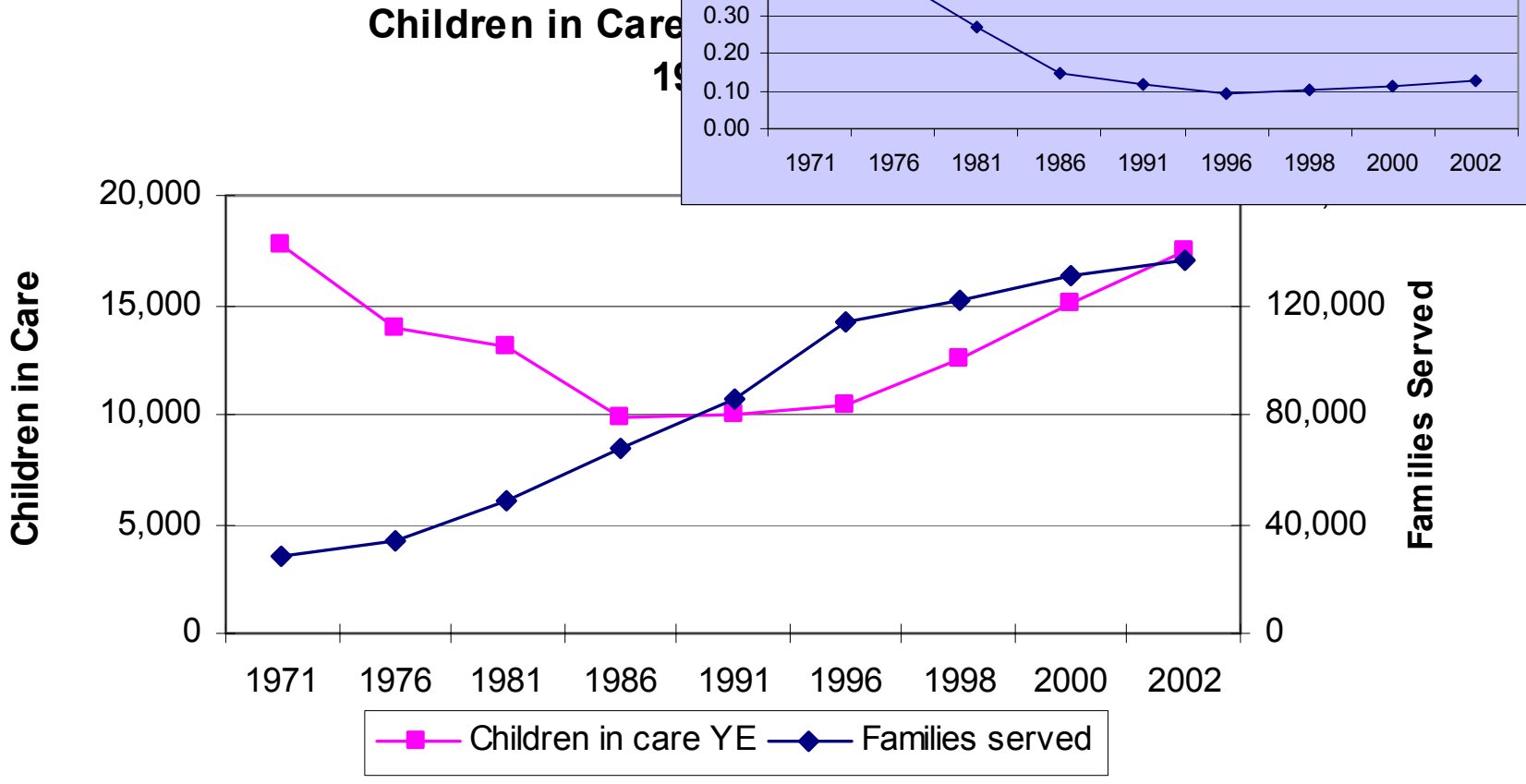
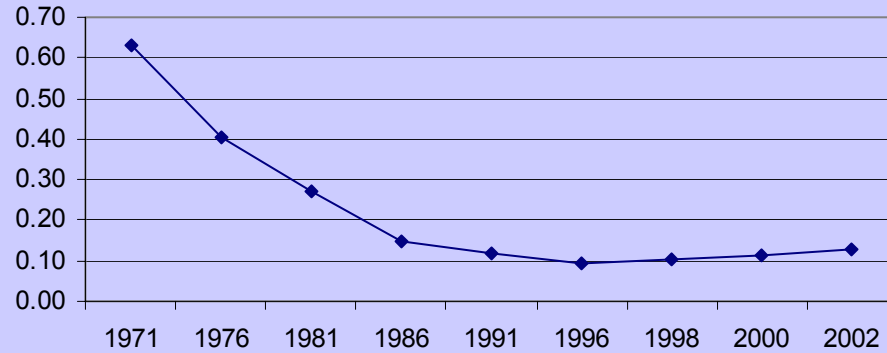
On-reserve children in care



A 30 year perspective

Children in care per 1,000 children

Ratio of children in care to families served:
1971-1996



Centre of Excellence
for Child Welfare

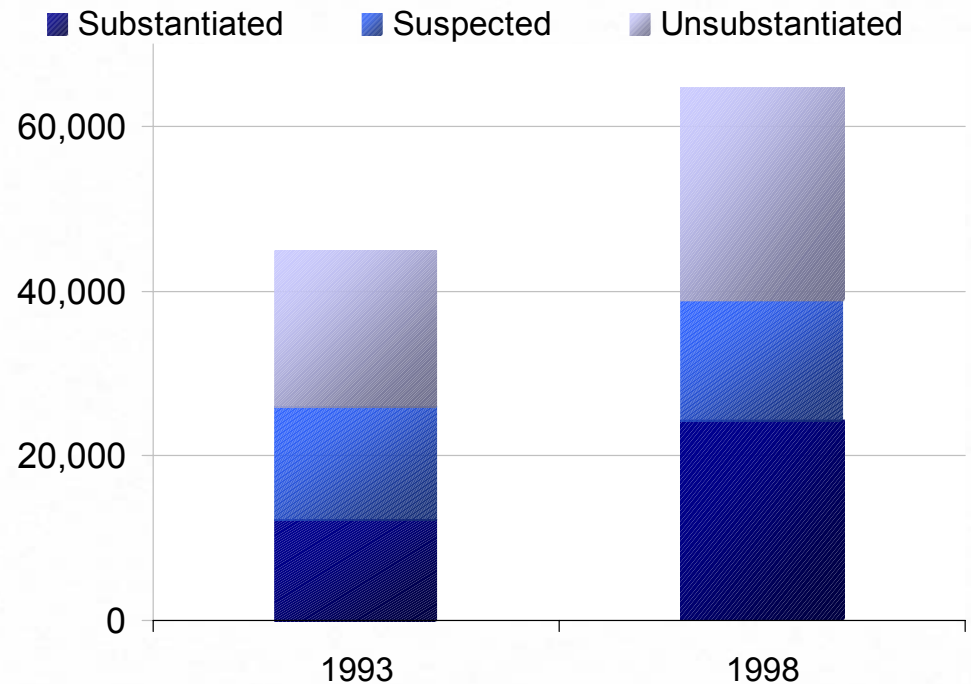
Centre d'excellence pour
la protection et le bien-être des enfants

Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood
Development

Montreal, September 5-6, 2003

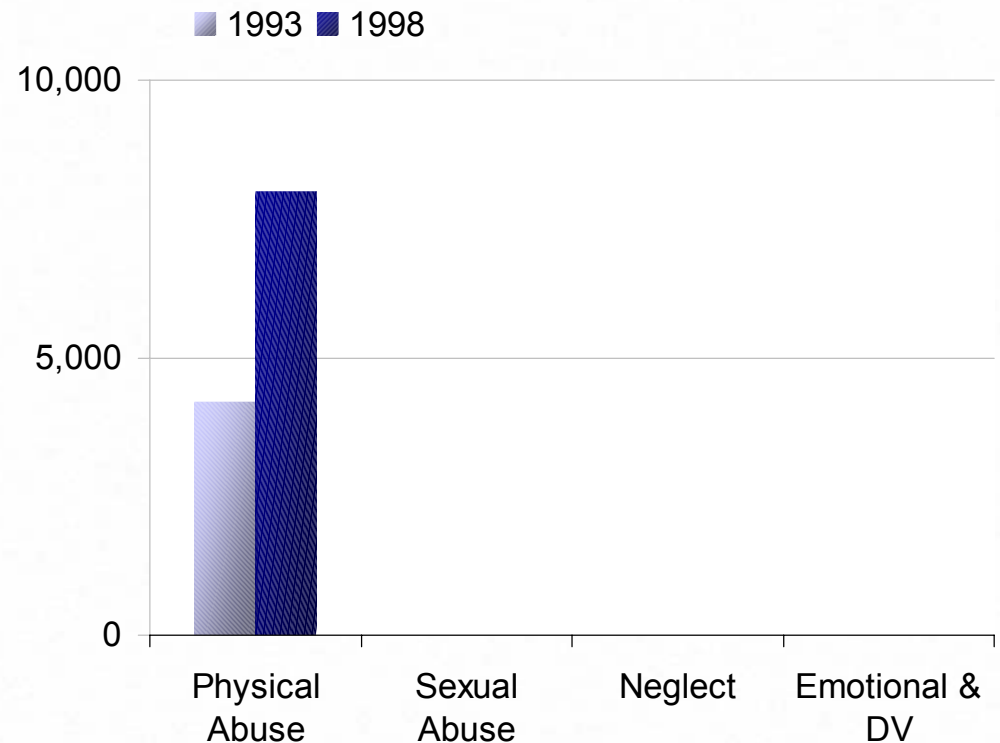
Differential trends by form of maltreatment: OIS 93-98

- 44% increase in investigations: 44,900 to 64,800
- 98% increase in substantiated investigations: 12,300 to 24,400



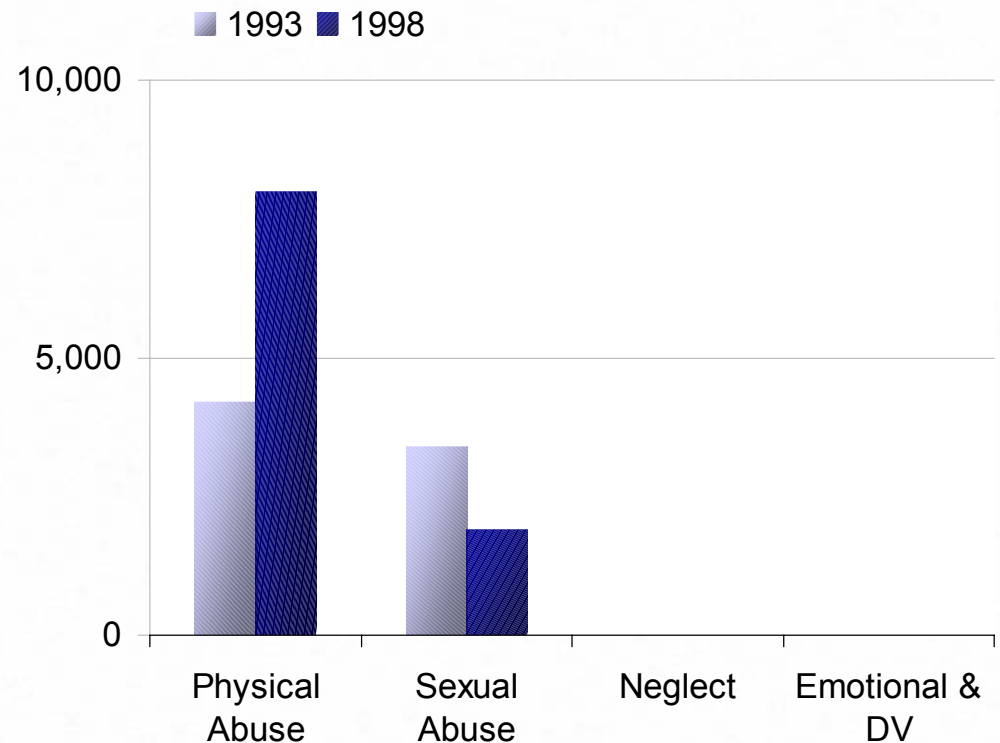
Differential trends by form of maltreatment: OIS 93-98

- 90% increase in substantiated physical abuse: 4,200 to 8,000



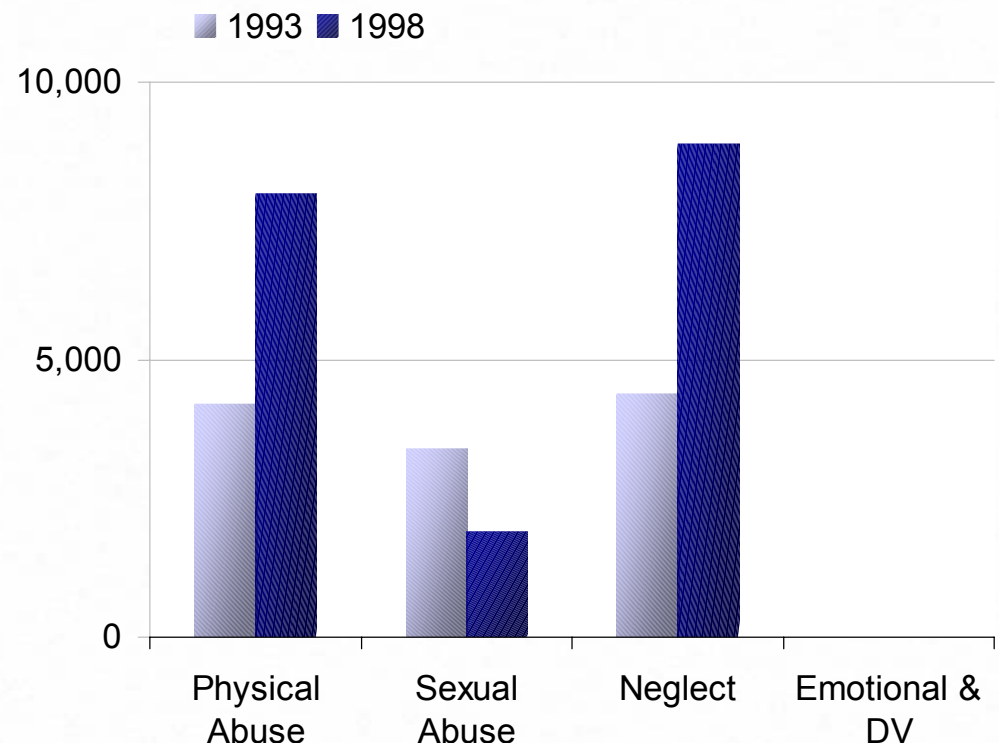
Differential trends by form of maltreatment: OIS 93-98

- 90% increase in substantiated physical abuse: 4,200 to 8,000
- 44% decrease in substantiated sexual abuse: 3,400 to 1,900



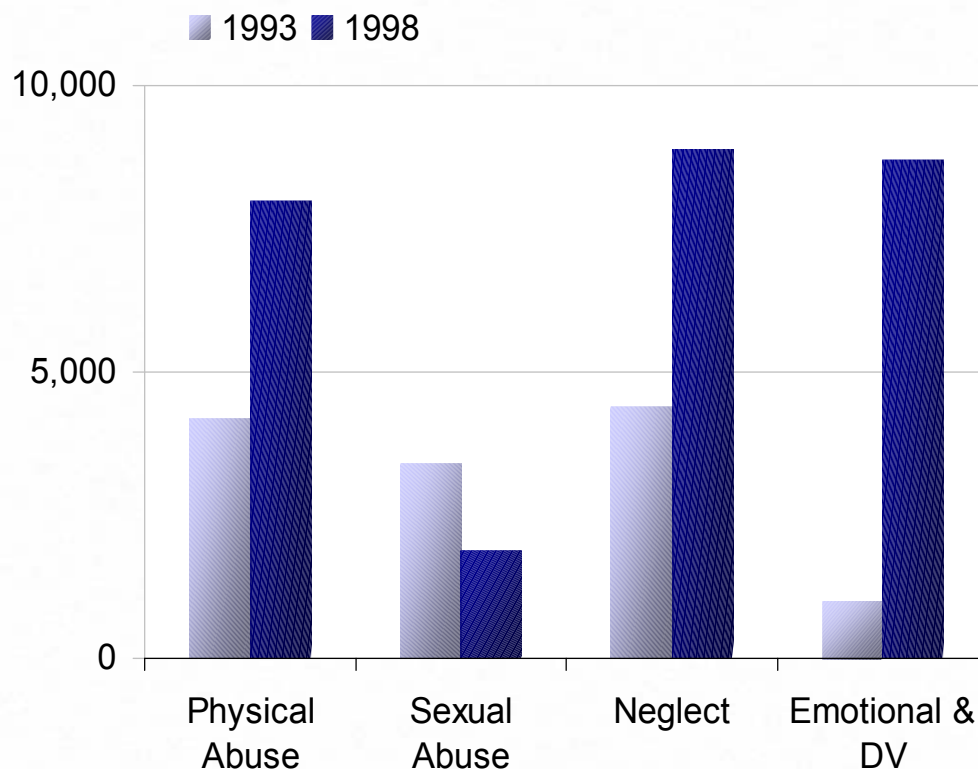
Differential trends by form of maltreatment: OIS 93-98

- 90% increase in substantiated physical abuse: 4,200 to 8,000
- 44% decrease in substantiated sexual abuse: 3,400 to 1,900
- 102% increase in substantiated neglect: 4,400 to 8,900



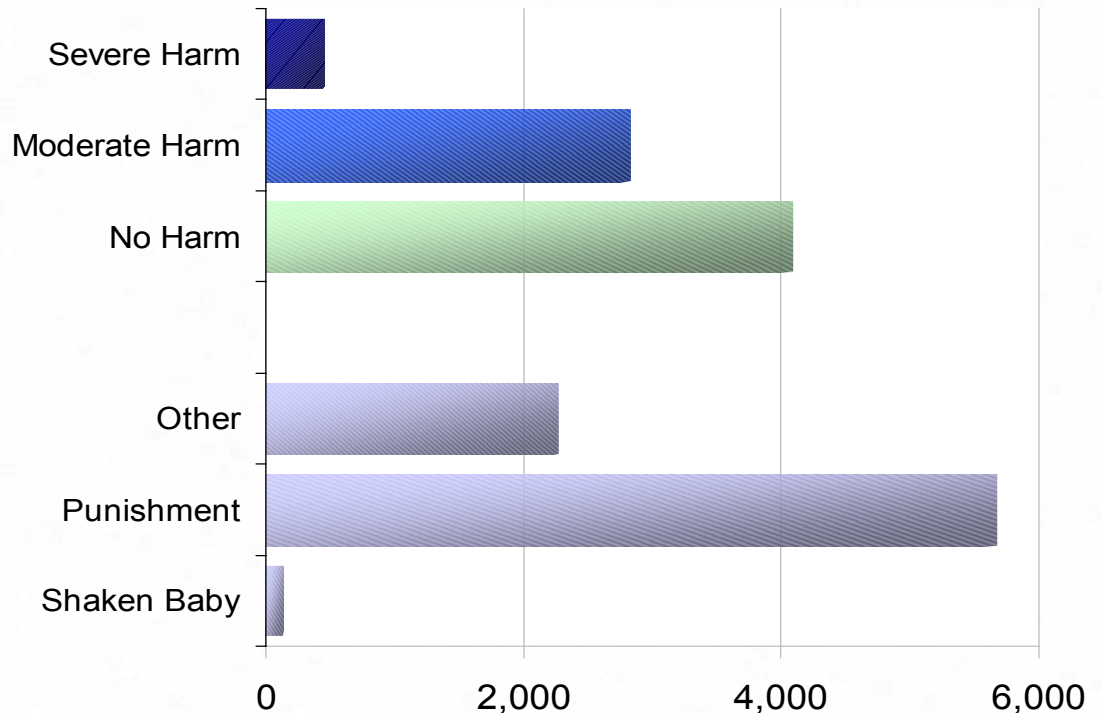
Differential trends by form of maltreatment: OIS 93-98

- 90% increase in substantiated physical abuse: 4,200 to 8,000
- 44% decrease in substantiated sexual abuse: 3,400 to 1,900
- 102% increase in substantiated neglect: 4,400 to 8,900
- 770% increase in substantiated emotional maltreatment/exposure to DV, 1,000 to 8,700.



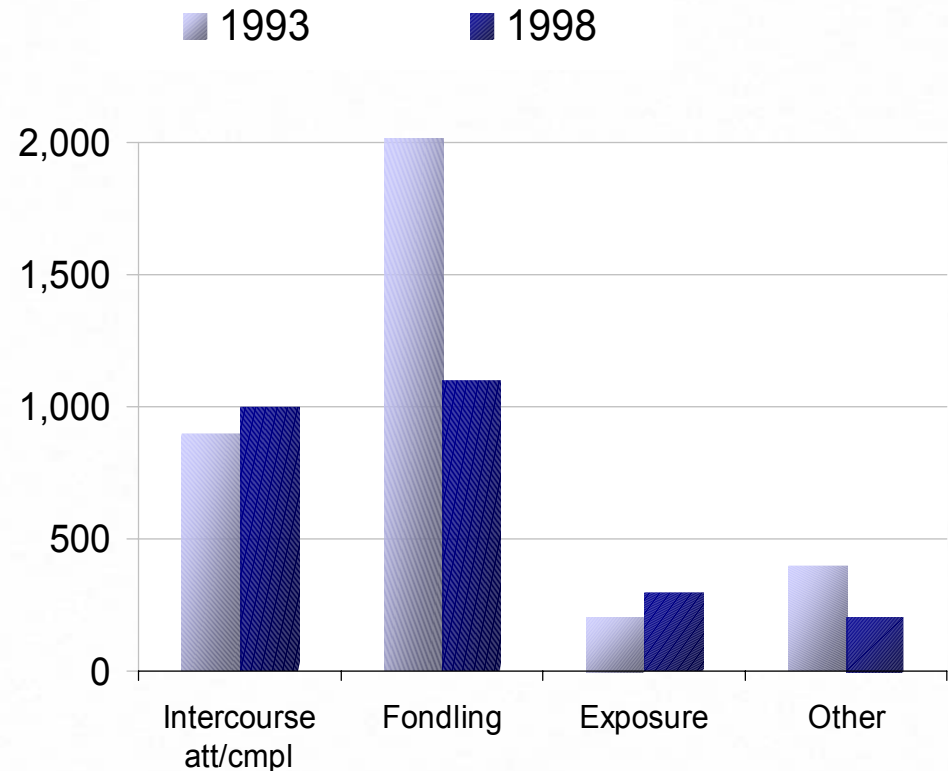
Type and severity of substantiated physical abuse: OIS 98

- 71% of substantiated investigations of physical abuse classified as inappropriate punishment
- no physical harm noted in 55% of substantiated cases
- severe harm requiring medical treatment noted in 6% of cases



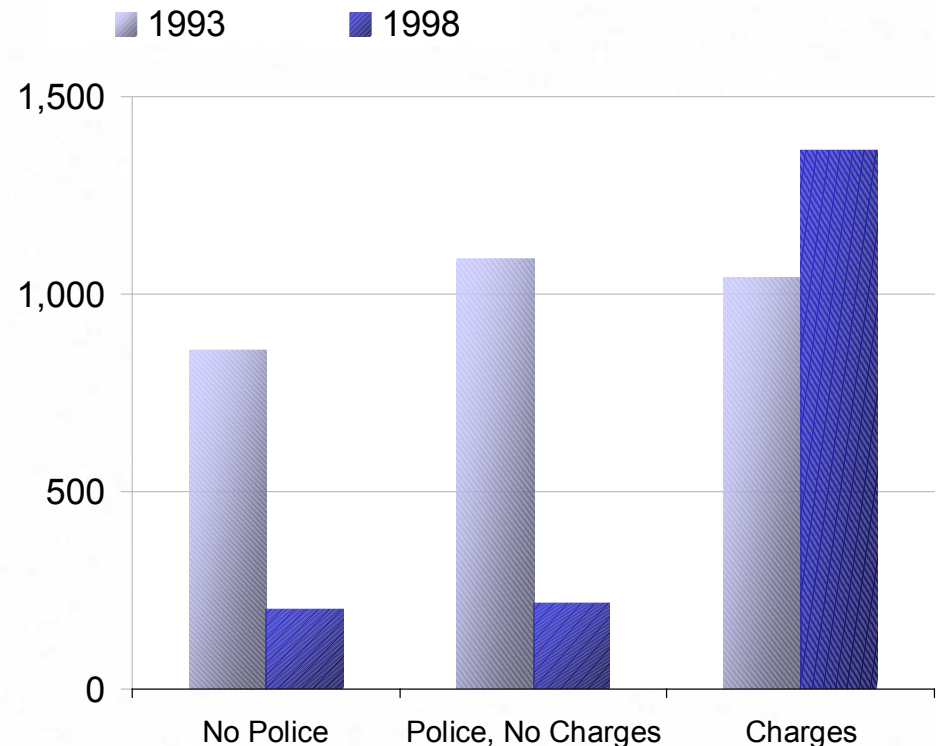
Sexual abuse: Decreasing incidence or decreasing reporting?(OIS 93-98)

- 48% decrease in substantiated fondling, from 2,100 victims in 1993 to 1,100 in 1998 .
- Attempted or completed intercourse remained steady around 1,000 victims per year.



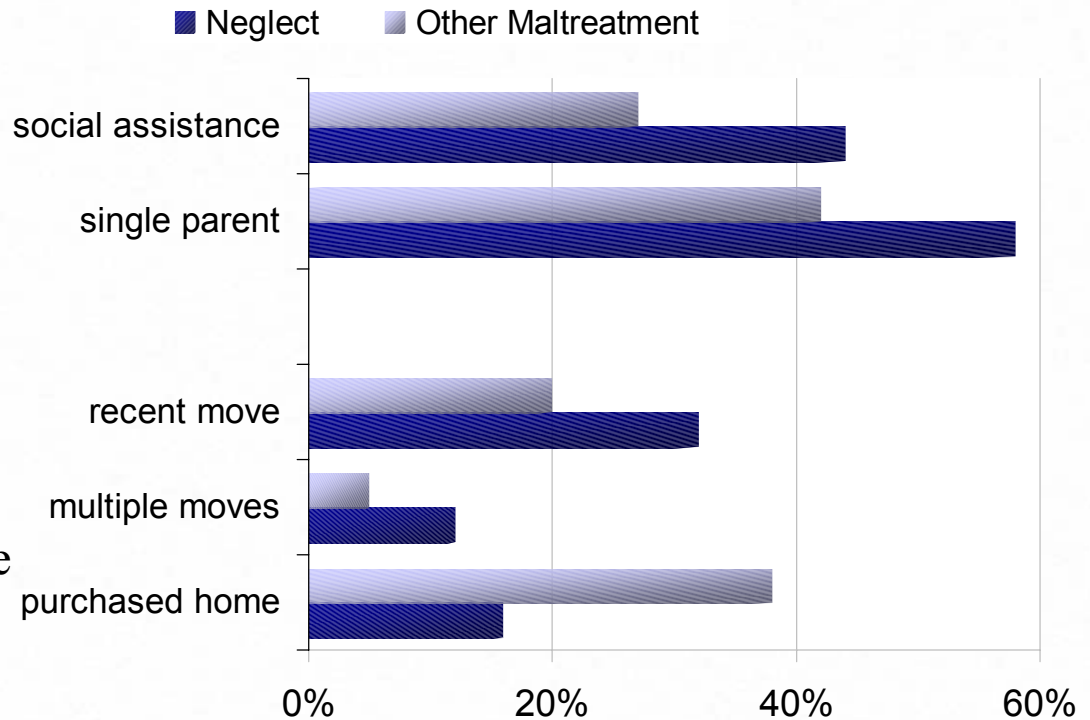
Sexual abuse: Decreasing incidence or decreasing reporting?(OIS 93-98)

- In 1993 charges were laid in 35% of substantiated sexual abuse cases,
- by 1998, charges were being laid in 76% of substantiated sexual cases.



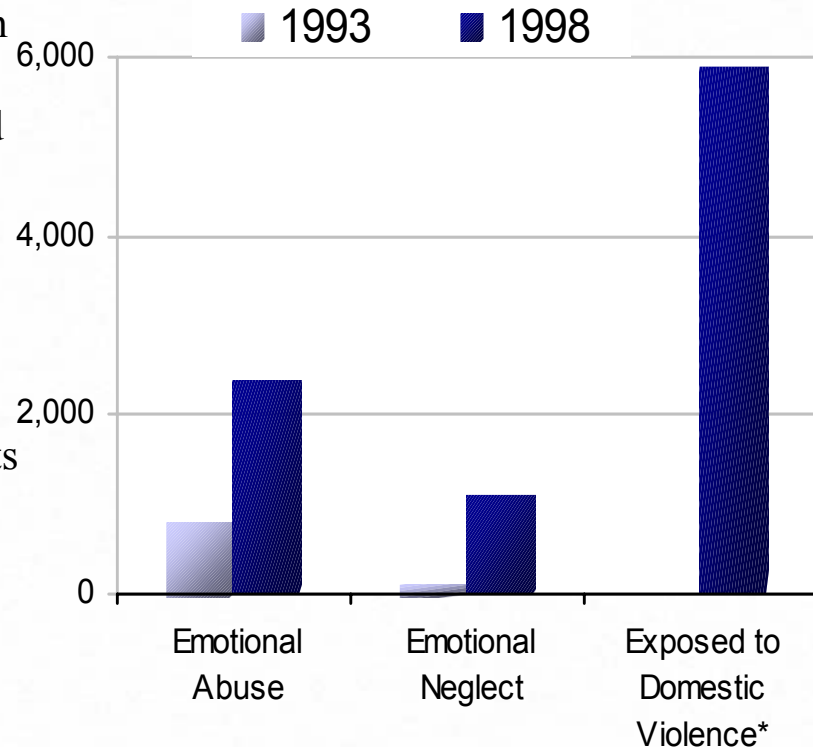
Neglect and poverty: OIS 98

- 44% of neglect cases were dependent on social assistance, compared to 27% for other forms of maltreatment .
- Other cases of maltreatment were more likely to live in purchased homes (38% vs. 16%) , and less likely to have moved within the previous six months (20% vs. 32%).



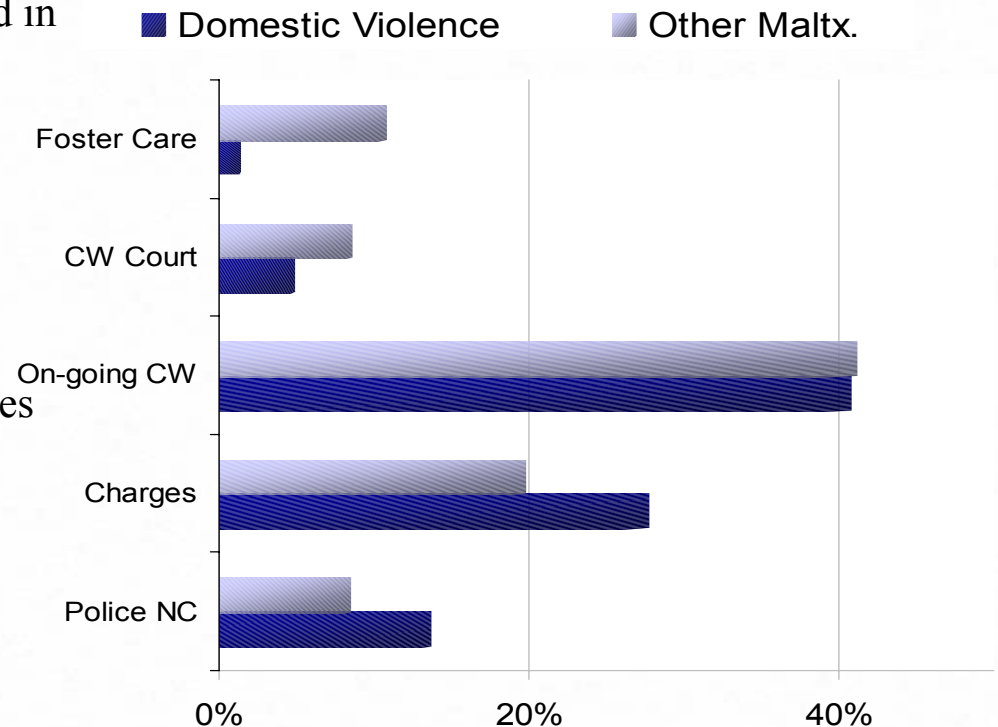
Exposure to domestic violence: OIS 93-98

- Exposure to domestic violence noted in nearly 6,000 substantiated investigations, 24% of all substantiated cases.
- Domestic violence noted in 35% of cases of substantiated maltreatment, involving nearly 8,000 maltreated children.
- Exposure to domestic violence accounts for half of the increase in substantiated cases between 1993-1998
- Over 80% of referrals are from professionals



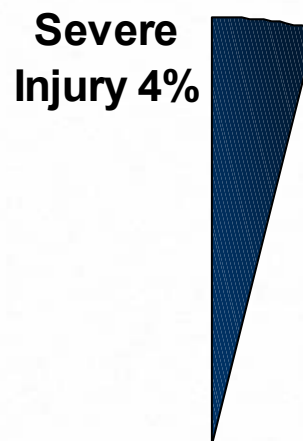
Responding to exposure to domestic violence: OIS 98

- Police investigations were conducted in 42% of cases, charges laid in 28%.
- On-going child welfare services provided in 41% of cases.
- CW court initiated in 5% of cases compared to 9% for other forms of maltreatment
- Children placed in care in 1% of cases compared to 11% for other forms of maltreatment.



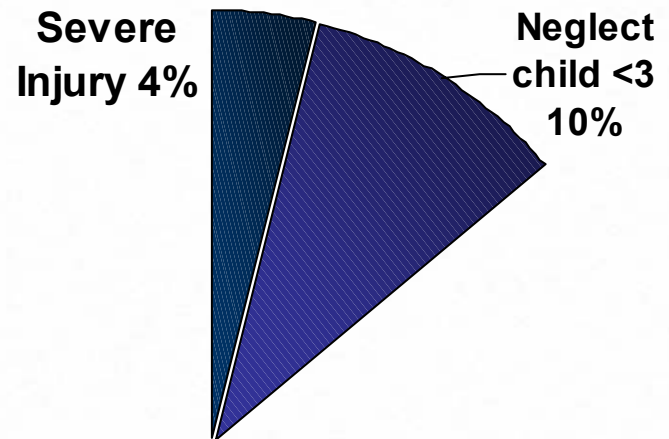
Endangered safety (CIS 98)

- Severe physical harm: 4% of substantiated cases



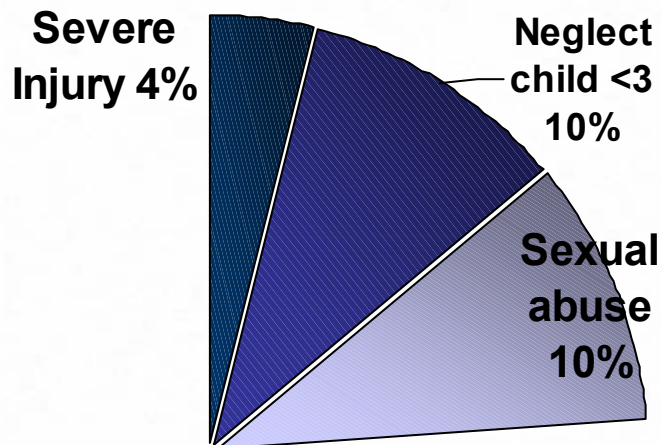
Endangered safety (CIS 98)

- Severe physical harm: 4% of substantiated cases
- Neglect of child under 3: 10% of substantiated cases



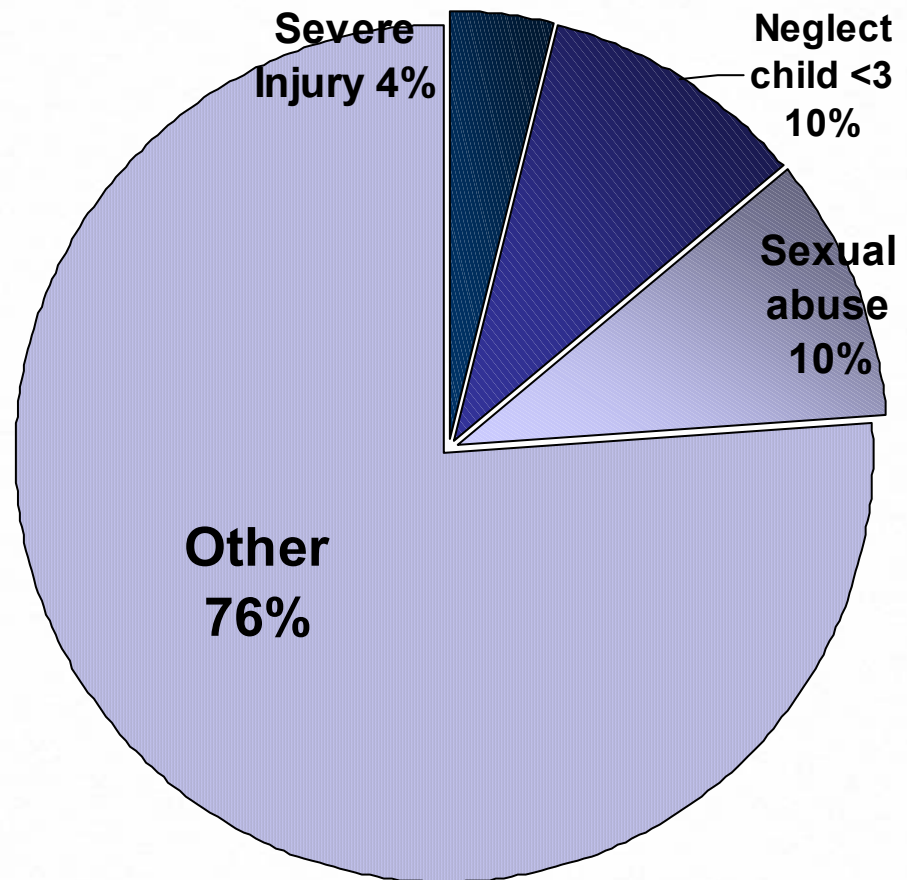
Endangered safety (CIS 98)

- Severe physical harm: 4% of substantiated cases
- Neglect of child under 3: 10% of substantiated cases
- Sexual abuse: 10% of substantiated cases

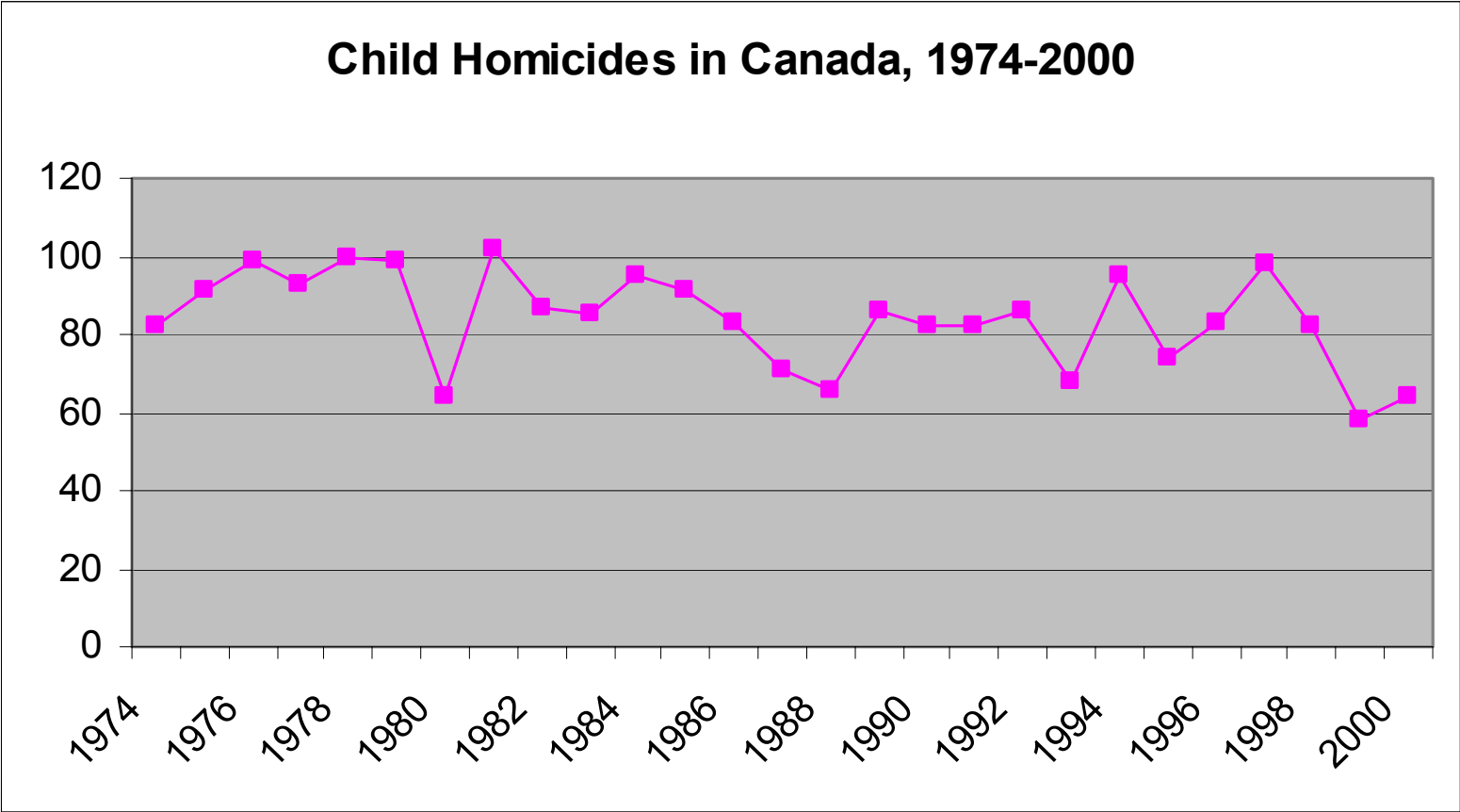


Endangered safety (CIS 98)

- Severe physical harm: 4% of substantiated cases
- Neglect of child under 3: 10% of substantiated cases
- Sexual abuse: 10% of substantiated cases
- Other maltreatment : 76% of substantiated cases



Child homicides



Centre of Excellence
for Child Welfare

Centre d'excellence pour
la protection et le bien-être des enfants

Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood
Development

Montreal, September 5-6, 2003

The other 75%...

- At risk of harm?

or

- Endangered development & well-being: “développement compromis ”



Safety & well-being paramount principles in child welfare legislation across Canada

- **British Columbia:** *the safety and well-being of children are the paramount considerations...*
- **Alberta:** *survival, security or development of the child is endangered*
- **Newfoundland:** *every child is entitled to be assured of personal safety, health and well-being..*
- **NWT:** *the paramount objective of this act is to promote the best interests, protection and well-being of children.*
- **New Brunswick:** *protective care” means a service which provides an immediate safeguard for a child’s security and development/*
- **Saskatchewan:** *The purpose of this act is to promote the well-being of children in need of protection...*
- **Quebec:** *loi s'applique à un enfant dont la sécurité ou le développement est ou peut être considéré comme compromis.*
- **Ontario:** *The paramount purpose of this Act is to promote the best interests, protection and well being of children*
- **Manitoba:** *The best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration...*
- **PEI:** *...the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.*



The severity of endangered development

Children



Parents & families

Language delays

Aggressiveness

Attention disorders

Anxiety/depression

Educational delays

Early drop-out

Limited involvement in sports

Tobacco & alcohol consumption for some

Social isolation & marginalization

Multiple moves and school changes

Extreme poverty

Single parents

Mental health problems

Substance abuse

Spousal violence

Social isolation & mistrust

Feeling of parental incompetence

Limited support for school activities

Limited community involvement

Poor self-esteem



The need to focus equally on endangered development

- Urgent protection has become the central focus of child welfare services
- Endangered development (développement compromis) is the major reason for intervention for 75% of victims of maltreatment
- Treating the sequelae of maltreatment is not sufficiently emphasized
- Re-focus on preventing recurrence of maltreatment (threats to development) and breaking the cycle of maltreatment



Differential response & community collaboration

- Child maltreatment is not a uni-dimensional phenomenon ranging from mild neglect to severe battery or death.
- Each form of maltreatment and level of severity requires a differential response ranging from criminal charges to community based parent training, from court-ordered child welfare services to the helping hands of neighbours, from foster care to public education campaigns.
- No single program, no single service sector and no single level of government can fully address the needs of maltreated children.



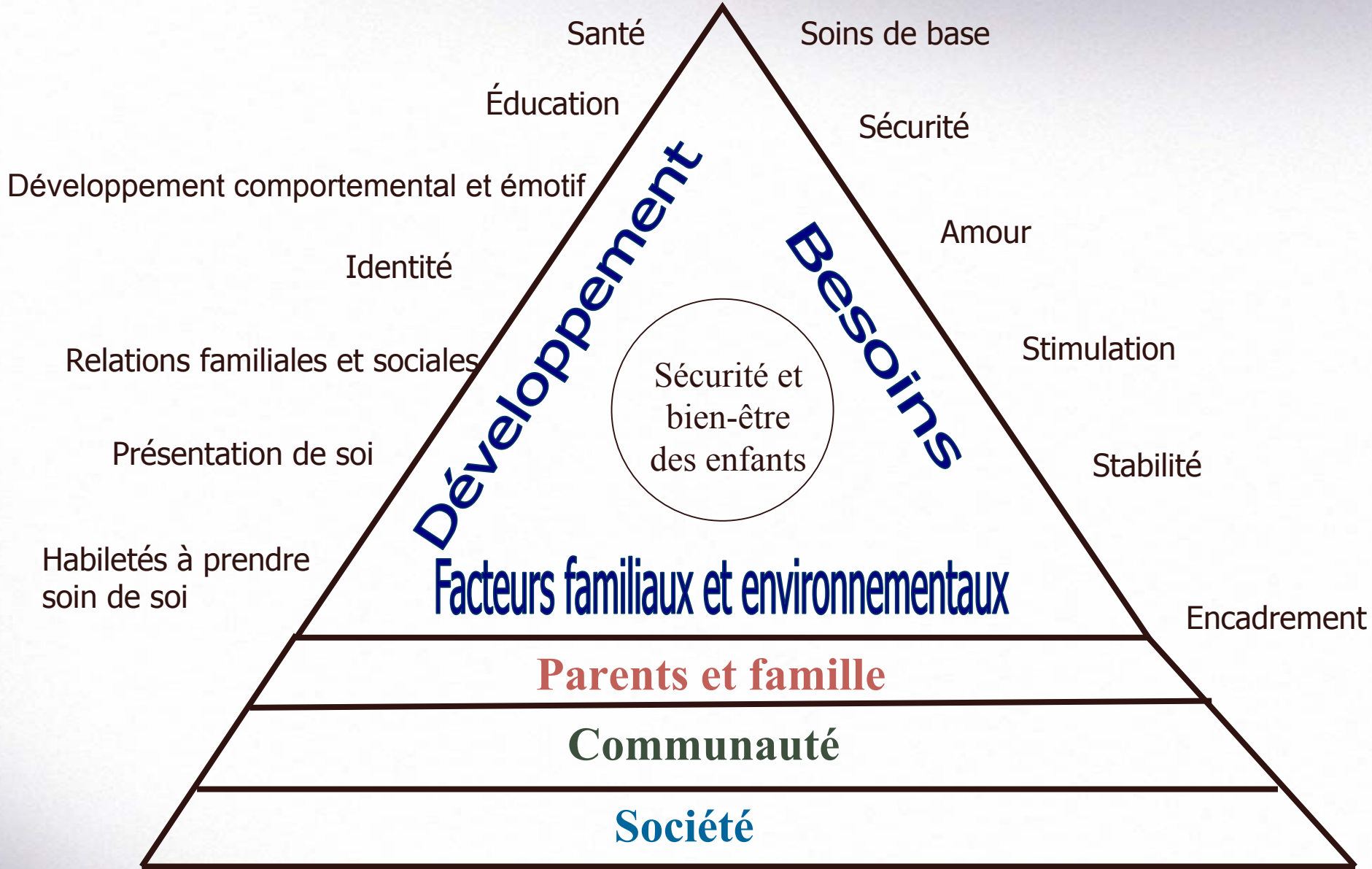


**Centre of Excellence
for Child Welfare**

**Centre d'excellence pour
la protection et le bien-être des enfants**

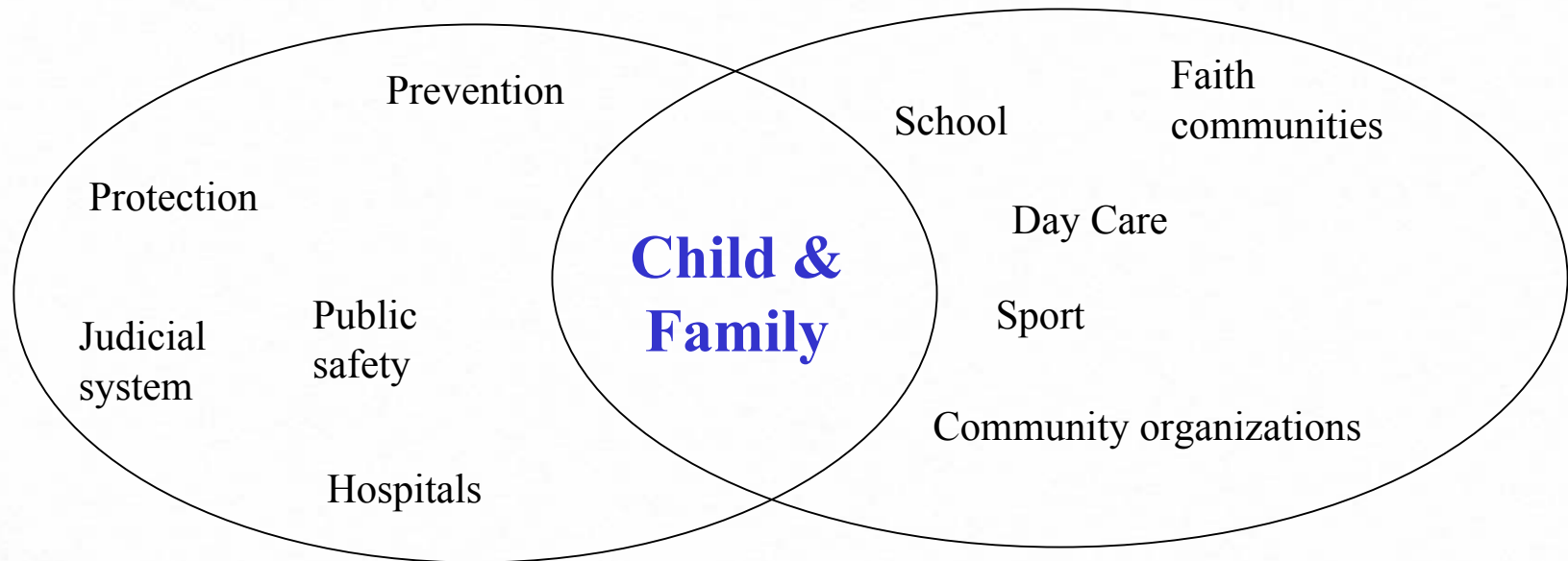
Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood
Development
Montreal, September 5-6, 2003

www.cecw-cepb.ca



Shared and convergent objectives

Specialized services to protect children
and treat the effects of maltreatment



Community services to promote health
development and improve family circumstances

