

Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect-2003 (OIS 2003)

Major Findings

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Table 3-6
Primary or Secondary Forms of Sexual Abuse by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 2003

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
Primary or Secondary Forms of Sexual Abuse				
Penetration				
Number of Child Investigations	226	125	442	793
Row Percentage	28%	16%	56%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.09	0.05	0.18	0.33
Attempted Penetration				
Number of Child Investigations	–	–	107	261
Row Percentage	36%	23%	41%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.11
Oral Sex				
Number of Child Investigations	360	277	364	1,001
Row Percentage	36%	28%	36%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.42
Fondling				
Number of Child Investigations	1,067	378	3,620	5,065
Row Percentage	21%	7%	71%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.45	0.16	1.51	2.12
Sexual Talk				
Number of Child Investigations	107	–	507	670
Row Percentage	16%	8%	76%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.04	0.02	0.21	0.28
Voyeurism				
Number of Child Investigations	–	–	111	201
Row Percentage	–	45%	55%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	–	0.04	0.05	0.08
Exhibitionism				
Number of Child Investigations	116	–	389	565
Row Percentage	21%	11%	69%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.05	0.03	0.16	0.24
Exploitation				
Number of Child Investigations	143	203	591	937
Row Percentage	15%	22%	63%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.06	0.08	0.25	0.39
Total Investigations Involving Sexual Abuse as Primary or Secondary Reason for Investigation**				
Number of Child Investigations*	2,114	1,248	6,131	9,493
Row Percentage	22%	13%	65%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.88	0.52	2.56	3.97
Total Investigations Involving Sexual Abuse as Primary Reason for Investigation				
Number of Child Investigations*	1,490	756	4,508	6,754
Row Percentage	22%	11%	67%	100%
Incidence per 1,000 children	0.62	0.32	1.89	2.83

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* Based on a sample of 421 child maltreatment investigations with information about sexual abuse. Columns may not add up to total because of low frequency estimates are not reported but are included in total. Row Percentage totals may add up to 99% or 101% because of rounding.

** The total number of investigations involving primary or secondary sexual abuse is not equal to the sum of the specific forms of sexual abuse because some cases involve multiple forms of sexual abuse (see Table 3-4).

at the conclusion of the investigation. It should be noted, however, that the use of the suspected category leads to fewer cases being classified as substantiated or unsubstantiated. Comparisons with other statistics that use only two levels of substantiation should therefore be made with caution (see Chapter 1).

Family-Level Substantiation: In Table 3-2, which presents family-level data, the substantiation level is determined by the highest level of substantiation among all investigated children within a family. For example, if the allegation of maltreatment for the first child was unsubstantiated and the allegation of maltreatment for the second child was substantiated, then the family investigation was deemed to be substantiated (a minimum of one substantiated form of maltreatment for the multiple children who were investigated).

Total Child Investigations and Overall Rates of Substantiation

Table 3-1 presents the estimated number of child investigations of reported maltreatment in all of Ontario. An estimated 128,108 child maltreatment investigations were conducted in Ontario, a rate of 53.59 investigations per thousand children. Forty-four percent of these investigations were substantiated, an estimated 58,425 child investigations.⁴⁴ In a further 10% of investigations (an estimated 13,032 child investigations, 5.45 investigations per 1,000 children) there was insufficient evidence to substantiate maltreatment, however, maltreatment remained suspected by the investigating worker. Forty-six percent of investigations (an estimated 56,652 child investigations, 23.70 investigations per 1,000 children) were unsubstantiated.

Table 3-1
Child Maltreatment Investigations by Level of Substantiation in Ontario in 2003

	Level of Substantiation			Total
	Substantiated	Suspected	Unsubstantiated	
Maltreatment Investigations in Ontario				
Child Investigations*	58,425	13,032	56,652	128,108
Incidence per 1,000 Children	24.44	5.45	23.70	53.59
Row Percentage	44%	10%	46%	100%
<i>Ontario Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect 2003</i>				
* Based on a sample of 7,172 child maltreatment investigations.				

⁴⁴ At least one form of maltreatment was substantiated.