

Child Welfare Service Performance Indicators – Peel Children’s Aid Permanency Outcome - The Days of Care, by Placement Type

DEFINITION

For all children admitted to the care of Peel Children's Aid Society, the percentage of days of care provided in the fiscal year, by placement type (i.e., family-based care versus non-family-based care).

WHY IS THIS MEASURE IMPORTANT?

Family-based care is the preferred placement setting for the majority of children in care. Children placed in family settings have greater opportunities to form a connection with consistent caregivers and to experience the benefits associated with membership in a family.

The research tells us that children placed in family-based care are more likely to achieve permanency when they exit care, i.e., be discharged to parents or family including adoptive families or legal custody arrangements, compared to children in group care.

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

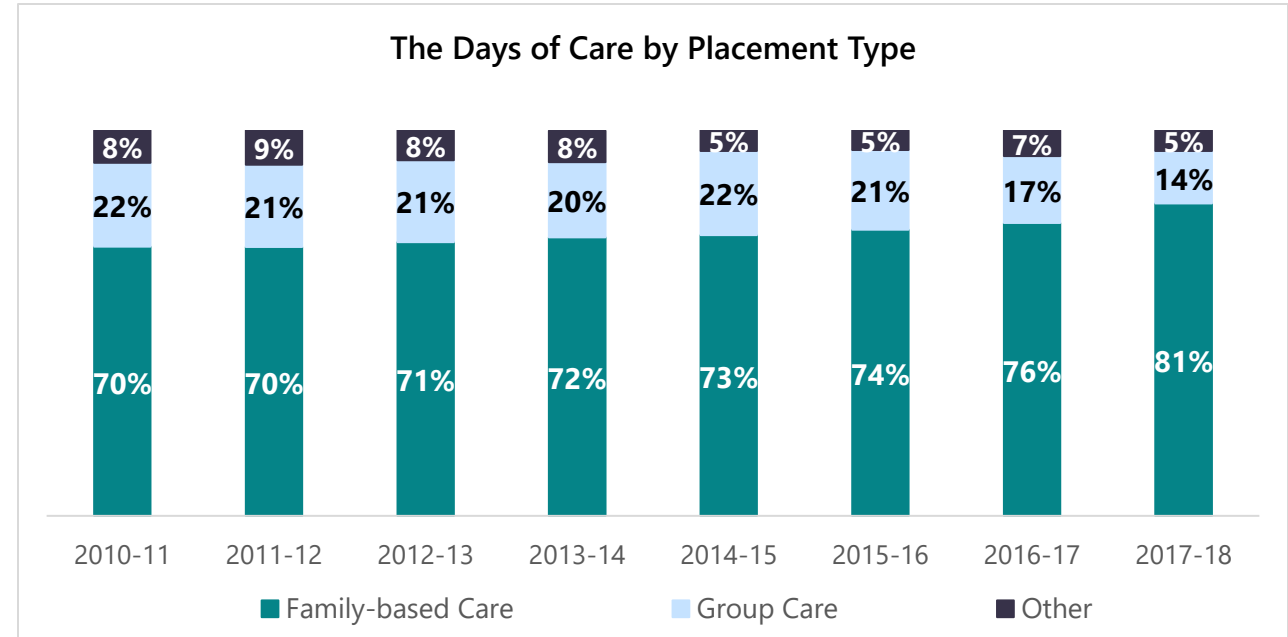
Data illustrate the number of days of care provided by a Children’s Aid Society rather than the proportion of children by placement type. There are variations across Societies in how placement types are classified (i.e., as family versus non-family based care).

CONTEXT

The focus of Children’s Aid Societies is to keep children safe in their home of origin with necessary supports for their family. When a child cannot remain safely in their home of origin, a Children’s Aid Society provides an alternative quality of care such as living with Kin or Foster Care. A prominent focus of the Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services Transformation Agenda was to expand family-based care options for children to include and value the participation of extended family members and significant individuals in the child’s community.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

While a high rate of family-based care is desirable, selection of a placement setting should be first and foremost influenced by the needs of the child and the fit to the placement. Given the mandate of a Children’s Aid Society, and the nature of the challenges experienced by some children and youth, it can be difficult for agencies to recruit and train quality alternative care through Kin arrangements or Foster Parents.



RESULTS

The majority (i.e., 70-81%) of days of care provided are family-based in each of the years under review.

ABOUT THE DATA

These data are compiled and analyzed by the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies through the Ministry Quarterly Reports.

“Other” includes days of care provided for young people who are in care but living independently; or days of care provided through institutions such as hospitals, children’s mental health centers or youth justice facilities.

** Please note that percentages are rounded and may not add up to 100 percent.*