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# Child and Family Services Statistical Report 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

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## British Columbia

### Introduction

The following tables are based on data provided by the Child Protection Division of the Ministry for Children and Families. Data are for the following areas:

1. *Child and Family Services* - family support services.
2. *Protection* - services to all families/children considered to be "at risk" or in need of protection.
3. *Children in Care* - cases where there has been a transfer of custody and/or guardianship.
4. *Adoption* - both Ministry and non-Ministry adoptions.

In addition, expenditures for child and family services plus the Ministry for Children and Families are included.

***British Columbia data should not be compared with data for other jurisdictions due to the limitations noted in the Preface***

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### *Child and Family Services*

**Table 1 Family Support Services Intake Calls by Nature of Call for March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001**

Nature of Call	March 1999	March 2000	March 2001
Family Support Services	1,081	782	786
Services for Youth	470	382	346
Services for Special Needs Children	85	85	110
Special Needs Daycare	126	133	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,361</b>

#### *Protection*

**Table 2.a Completed Child Protection Investigations by Type of Concern, during March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001**

Type	March 1999	March 2000	March 2001
Abuse			
Physical	462	441	356
Sexual	126	90	71
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>427</b>
Neglect	352	363	303
Other <sup>1</sup>	487	468	437
Multiple <sup>2</sup>	925	965	832
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>1,999</b>

1. Other includes abandonment, death of caregiver, absence of parent(s), disability of parent(s), deprivation of necessary medical care, absent from home and endangered, parent not protecting from harm, emotional abuse.
2. Represents cases where more than one type of concern is reported.

**Table 2.b Helpline1 Child Welfare Calls by Type<sup>2</sup>, during March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001**

<b>Type<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>March 1999</b>	<b>March 2000</b>	<b>March 2001</b>
Abuse			
Physical	113	75	102
Sexual	35	31	36
Multiple	131	131	154
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>292</b>
Neglect	139	127	154
Other <sup>3</sup>	164	181	227
<b>Total</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>673</b>

1. The Helpline for Children is part of the Ministry for Children and Families' "After Hours Program" which receives reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, as well as requests for other Ministry services.
2. Represents caller's allegation.
3. Represents the sum of the following calls: emotional abuse, abandoned child, not coded protection, and other protection.

**Table 2.c Child Protection Reports<sup>1,2</sup> Received during March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001, by Type of Caller**

Referral Source	March 1999 <sup>3</sup>	March 2000	March 2001
Subject Child	84	88	86
Parent	344	349	378
MCF/MHR <sup>4</sup> employee	316	316	283
In Home Support Provider	35	29	24
Friend/Neighbour	285	258	225
Residential Caregiver	26	22	17
Relative	197	195	179
Anonymous	106	99	95
Concerned Citizen	214	215	229
Police	302	386	361
School	529	544	565
Preschool/Daycare	33	30	28
Health Professionals	162	149	177
Community Professional	461	440	412
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>3,059</b>

1. Not all reports received are investigated because in some cases the initial assessment of the report indicates that investigation is not warranted.
2. Only workers who are delegated authority to receive reports under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* can receive child protection reports.
3. Data are revised.
4. MCF represents the Ministry for Children and Families; MHR represents the Ministry known as the Ministry of Human Resources.

**Table 2.d Completed Case Actions Following Protection Investigations During March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001**

Actions	March 1999	March 2000	March 2001
Remove Child	266	311	309
Offer Care Agreement	71	34	44
Offer Support Services	589	562	492
Refer to Community Agency/Other Ministry	505	531	419
Offer Support Services and Refer to Agency/Ministry	89	86	59
No service Required	832	803	676
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>1,999</b>

**Table 2.e Children Under Supervision<sup>1</sup> as at March 1999,  
March 2000 and March 2001**

<b>Type of Order</b>	<b>March 1999</b>	<b>March 2000</b>	<b>March 2001</b>
Before Protection Hearing	129	138	111
After Period of Care	1,065	1,185	1,180
Without Removal <sup>2</sup>	161	309	319
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,632</b>	<b>1,610</b>

1. "Children under Supervision" are children who are not in the care or custody of the Director under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, but whose care by the parent or other person, by order of the court, is subject to supervision by the Director. Terms and conditions with which the parent or other person must comply are often attached to Supervision Orders. Breach of a term or condition may result in removal of the child.

2. Since June 1, 1998, it has been possible for a Supervision Order to be made by the court without the child first being removed.

### **Children in Care**

**Table 3.a Children Taken Into Care<sup>1</sup> by Legal Authority, during March 1999<sup>5</sup>, March 2000 and  
March 2001**

<b>Legal Authority</b>	<b>March 1999<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>March 2000</b>	<b>March 2001</b>
Voluntary Care Agreement	182	107	196
Special Needs Agreement	26	10	14
Removed child (30.1a) <sup>2</sup>	24	40	30
Removed child (30.1b) <sup>3</sup>	144	151	139
Removed child (Supervision Order) <sup>4</sup>	28	29	33
Adoption Act	2	1	-
Other Province/Country	3	1	3
Family Relations Act	5	3	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>472</b>

1. Entrance to care is only through the above named legal authorities.

2. Child's health or safety is in immediate danger.

3. No other less disruptive measure that is available is adequate to protect the child.

4. Removal when a supervision order is already in place, but the order has failed to protect the child.

5. The 1999 data have been revised and are therefore not comparable to data included in our previous Statistical Report.

**Table 3b. Children in Care<sup>1</sup> by Reason for Service<sup>2</sup>, as at March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001**

<b>Reason</b>	<b>March 31, 1999</b>	<b>March 31, 2000</b>	<b>March 31, 2001</b>
<b>Parental</b>			
Temporary parental crisis	220	140	149
Time to resolve/strengthen parenting	775	548	500
Parent receiving treatment	169	131	139
Awaiting adoption placement	74	47	52
<b>Subtotal - Parental</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>840</b>
<b>Special Needs</b>			
Child's behavioural condition	1,290	1,021	958
Child's developmental condition	369	0	322
Child's emotional condition	381	307	275
Child's physical condition	234	218	201
Child's mental condition	375	316	308
<b>Subtotal - Special Needs</b>	<b>2,649</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>2,064</b>
<b>Protection Action</b>			
Physical harm by parent	1,211	1,332	1,474
Sexual abuse/exploitation by parent	320	326	327
Parent not protecting from abuse	525	586	669
Neglect by parent with physical harm	2,615	2,699	3,040
Emotional harm by parent	1,341	1,408	1,548
Deprived of necessary health care	120	131	138
Parent refusal to treatment of condition	65	44	43
Parent unable/unwilling to care	5,148	5,302	5,636
Child absent from home in danger	350	274	244
Parent deceased: inadequate provisions.	99	78	82
Child abandoned: inadequate provisions.	557	648	600
Expired agreement: parent			
Unable/unwilling to care	223	238	231
<b>Subtotal - Protection</b>	<b>12,574</b>	<b>13,066</b>	<b>14,032</b>
<b>Other Acts/Jurisdictions</b>			
Death of guardian	109	97	78
Court transfers guardianship	6	6	2
Relinquished for adoption	47	44	40
Care requested by other province	44	41	47
Care requested by other country	-	1	0
<b>Subtotal - Other</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>167</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.

2. Because there may be up to three reasons for service, the reasons add to more than the total number of children in care (9,813 in 1999, 9,523 in 2000, and 9,956 in 2001).

**Table 3.c Children in Care<sup>1</sup> by Legal Authority as at March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001**

<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>March 31, 1999</b>	<b>March 31, 2000</b>	<b>March 31, 2001</b>
Parental Agreement	2,321	1,302	1,158
Before Court <sup>2</sup>	1,319	1,185	1,357
Temporary Custody	1,771	2,014	2,090
Continuing Custody	3,947	4,515	4,927
Other Legislation <sup>3</sup>	332	395	291
Not Coded	123	112	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>9,523</b>	<b>9,956</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.
2. Includes Removed Children & Interim Orders.
3. Includes other Province/Country, *Adoption Act* and *Family Relations Act*.

**Table 3.d Children in Care<sup>1</sup> by Placement Type, as at March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001**

<b>Placement</b>	<b>March 31, 1999</b>	<b>March 31, 2000</b>	<b>March 31, 2001</b>
Ministry Resources			
Regular Family Care	876	836	785
Restricted Family Care	916	847	904
Level 1 Care	1,486	1,362	1,355
Level 2 Care	1,873	1,913	2,217
Level 3 Care	624	685	892
Contracted Child Care Resource	2,531	2,394	2,271
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,306</b>	<b>8,037</b>	<b>8,424</b>
Independent Living	404	415	398
Free Home	585	601	650
Other	402	364	370
Not Coded	116	106	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>9,523</b>	<b>9,956</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.

**Table 3.e Children in Care<sup>1</sup> by Age Group and Sex, as at March 31, 1999**

<b>March 31, 1999</b>			
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<2 years	315	319	634
2-4 years	579	502	1,081
5-7 years	690	560	1,250
8-10 years	743	602	1,345
11-13 years	897	688	1,585
14-16 years	1,159	1,184	2,343
17-18 years	767	808	1,575
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>9,813</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.
2. Numbers for 2000-2001 were not available.

**Table 3.f Aboriginal Children in Care<sup>1</sup> by Residence of Parents as at March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001**

<b>March 31, 1999</b>				
<b>Aboriginal Group</b>	<b>On Reserve</b>	<b>Off Reserve</b>	<b>Not Coded</b>	<b>Total</b>
First Nations	405	1,940	348	2,693
Inuit	-	17	4	21
Métis	1	219	27	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>2,961</b>
<b>March 31, 2000</b>				
<b>Aboriginal Group</b>	<b>On Reserve</b>	<b>Off Reserve</b>	<b>Not Coded</b>	<b>Total</b>
First Nations	423	2,046	317	2,786
Inuit	-	14	2	16
Métis	-	248	28	276
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>3,078</b>
<b>March 31, 2001</b>				
<b>Aboriginal Group</b>	<b>On Reserve</b>	<b>Off Reserve</b>	<b>Not Coded</b>	<b>Total</b>
First Nations	449	2,253	429	3,131
Inuit	-	22	3	25
Métis	-	328	43	371
Nisga'a	3	2	2	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>3,534</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.

**Table 3.g Children Discharged from Care1 by Reason, during March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001**

<b>Reason for Discharge</b>	<b>March 1999</b>	<b>March 2000</b>	<b>March 2001</b>
<b><i>Child Returned to Parent/Home</i></b>			
Parent located, child no longer in care	1	3	-
Child returned/repatriated, no longer in care	64	60	46
Immediate danger removed, no longer in care	5	-	-
Parent able to resume care	88	81	39
Returned Under Supervision Order	196	208	205
Court refused requested order	-	-	-
Court cancelled Continuing Custody Order	4	2	4
Care required by child has been completed	26	27	8
Child AWOL/Institutionalized, agreement cancelled	36	6	2
<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>	<b>420</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>304</b>
<b><i>Alternate Care Arranged</i></b>			
Guardianship transferred to relative (FRA)	31	29	14
Adoption completed	12	5	8
Ward of other province/country returned	6	4	6
<b><i>Child Became Independent</i></b>			
Reached age of majority	64	58	48
Child married	-	-	1
<b><i>Child deceased</i></b>	-	1	-
<b><i>Not Coded</i></b>	97	83	75
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>630</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>456</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.

**Table 3.h Former Children in Care1 Receiving Extended Services as of March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001**

	<b>March 31, 1999</b>	<b>March 31, 2000</b>	<b>March 31, 2001</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>293</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>312</b>

1. See Glossary for definition of child in care.

### **Adoptions**

**Table 4.a Children in Care who have Adoption as their Plan of Care1 as at March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001**

	<b>March 31, 1999</b>	<b>March 31, 2000</b>	<b>March 31, 2001</b>
<b><i>Sex</i></b>			
Male	545	634	723
Female	486	543	584
<b><i>Age Group</i></b>			
0 to 23 months	155	177	162
2 to 5 years	381	416	453
6 to 12 years	460	540	626
over 12 years	35	44	66
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>1,307</b>

1. A plan of care is defined as an after-care plan of adoption.

**Table 4.b Children Available<sup>1</sup> for Adoption as at March 31, 1999, March 31, 2000, and March 31, 2001**

	<b>March 31, 1999</b>	<b>March 31, 2000</b>	<b>March 31, 2001</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>687</b>

1. These are the children who are actually registered for adoption. There are a number of other children who have adoption as their plan of care but are not yet registered for adoption. Only the children who are registered are considered available for adoption.

**Table 4.c Ministry Adoptions<sup>1</sup> during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001**

	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
Number of children placed	118	180	163
Number of approved homes as at March 31	220	166	118
Number of applications pending as at March 31 <sup>2</sup>	736	626	770

1. Data collection system has changed and data in this report are not comparable with data from previous years.
2. This includes both homes presently under study and applicants waiting. The applicants waiting are generally requesting children with few special needs and may not be studied due to this.

**Table 4.d Ministry Adoptions<sup>1</sup> : Number of Children Placed by Sex and Age Group during 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001**

	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	68	93	93
Female	50	87	70
<b>Age Group</b>			
0 to 23 months	64	100	76
2 to 5 years	27	52	41
6 to 12 years	24	26	45
Over 12 years	3	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>163</b>

1. Data have been revised

**Table 4.e Number of Special Needs 1 Children Placed for Adoption 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001**

	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>152</b>

1. Special needs is defined as a child who has a diagnosed mental or physical disability or a high risk of developing these. A child who has a special placement need due to age, culture or significant ties, or is part of a sibling group.

**Table 4.f Non-Ministry Adoptions 1,2 : 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001**

	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

1. These numbers include the intercountry, direct placements and section 48's under BC legislation. They do not include Ministry healthy infant or special needs adoptions, nor do they include licensed adoption agency statistics.
2. Data collection system has changed and data in this report are not comparable with data from previous years.

**Expenditures****Table 5.a Ministry for Children and Families Child and Family Service Expenditures (\$000s) 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001**

	<b>1998-1999<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
Program Management <sup>2</sup>	\$ 233,670	\$ 245,672	\$ 278,105
Family Support Services	102,600	80,962	92,869
Youth Services	14,410	16,171	20,788
Adoption Services	3,064	2,666	3,326
Services to Aboriginals	9,558	14,360	20,233
Foster Care	83,862	90,972	99,908
Independent Living	4,240	4,848	4,599
CIC Services	23,829	21,139	25,561
Contracted Child Care Resource	124,288	139,572	136,334
Foster Parent			
Recruitment, Foster Parent			
Association Grants etc.	2,292	3,717	3,717
CIC Recoveries	(11,973)	(38,713)	(38,713)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$533,147</b>	<b>\$581,366</b>	<b>\$643,733</b>

1. Data are revised.
2. Includes Program Management costs for all ministry programs.

**Table 5.b Ministry for Children and Families Total Expenditures (\$ millions) 1998-1999 to 2000-2001**

	<b>1998-1999<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-2001</b>
<b>Child, Family and Community Services<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 1,009.6</b>	<b>\$ 853.7</b>	<b>\$ 946.3</b>
Social Assistance	n/a	n/a	n/a
Community Support Services	411.7	436.8	508.9
Administration and Support	55.0	59.0	44.1
Minister's Office	0.4	0.5	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,476.7</b>	<b>\$1,350.0</b>	<b>\$1,499.8</b>

1. The totals in table 5a do not match the numbers reflected under "Child, Family and Community Services" in this table as table 5a does not include expenditures for Community Services.

2. Data are revised.

### Glossary of Terms

<b>Child:</b>	A person under 19 years of age. Support and/or maintenance may be provided to former permanent wards or to a person who was party to a youth agreement until the person's 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday for a total of 24 months until the person's 24 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
<b>Child in Care:</b>	Children in the care of the Director designated under the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Act</i> ("the Director") (temporary or permanent transfer of guardianship and/or custody) under the following legal statuses: Voluntary Care Agreement; Special Needs Agreement; Removal; Interim Custody Order; Temporary Custody Order; Continuing Custody Order; <i>Adoption Act</i> Ward; <i>Family Relations Act</i> Ward; ward of another jurisdiction.
<b>Voluntary Care Agreement:</b>	Agreement between the Director and the parent that results in the placement of the child in a foster home for a short period while the parent deals with whatever difficulty has led them to be unable to care for their child on a temporary basis. The agreement may be made for a period of up to 3 months if the child is under 5 years of age or up to 6 months if the child is older. Depending on the age of the child, extensions of up to 24 months are possible.
<b>Special Needs Agreement:</b>	Agreement between the Director and the parent of a special needs child where the parent requires additional support services to care for the child. The child is often placed in a specialized resource designed to respond to the child's special needs. Agreements are for a period of six months and can be renewed for periods of up to 12 months.
<b>Youth Agreement:</b>	An agreement between the Director under the <i>Child, Family and Community Service Act</i> and a youth who needs assistance and who cannot, in the Director's opinion, be re-established in the youth's family, or has no parent or other person willing or able to assist the youth. The agreement may provide residential, educational or other support services, and financial assistance.
<b>Interim Order:</b>	Short-term order made by a judge at a presentation hearing concerning the custody or supervision of a child.
<b>Temporary Custody Order:</b>	On the making of this order, custody and guardianship are transferred to the Director for 3 months if the child is under 5 years of age or 6 months if the child is 5-12 years of age, or 12 months if the child is over 12 years of age. If financially capable, the parents must pay maintenance costs.
<b>Continuing Custody Order:</b>	On the making of this order, the Director has sole custody and guardianship of the child; parents' rights and responsibilities are terminated. All continuing custody wards under 12 are considered for adoption.
<b>Supervision Order:</b>	When this order is made, the child remains with a parent or other person under the supervision of the Director for up to six months. Extensions of up to a year are possible. The child is not considered to be in care.
<b>Adoption Act Ward:</b>	A child whose parent voluntarily surrenders the child to the Director of Adoption for the purposes of adoption. The Director of Adoption becomes the child's sole guardian.
<b>Family Relations Act Ward:</b>	A child who is orphaned and has no legal guardian, by the operation of law, becomes a ward of the Director.

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Date Modified: 2005-05-18