MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REFERENCE GUIDE

August 2026

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Children and Family Development

Modelling, Analysis and Information Management Branch
Finance & Corporate Services Division

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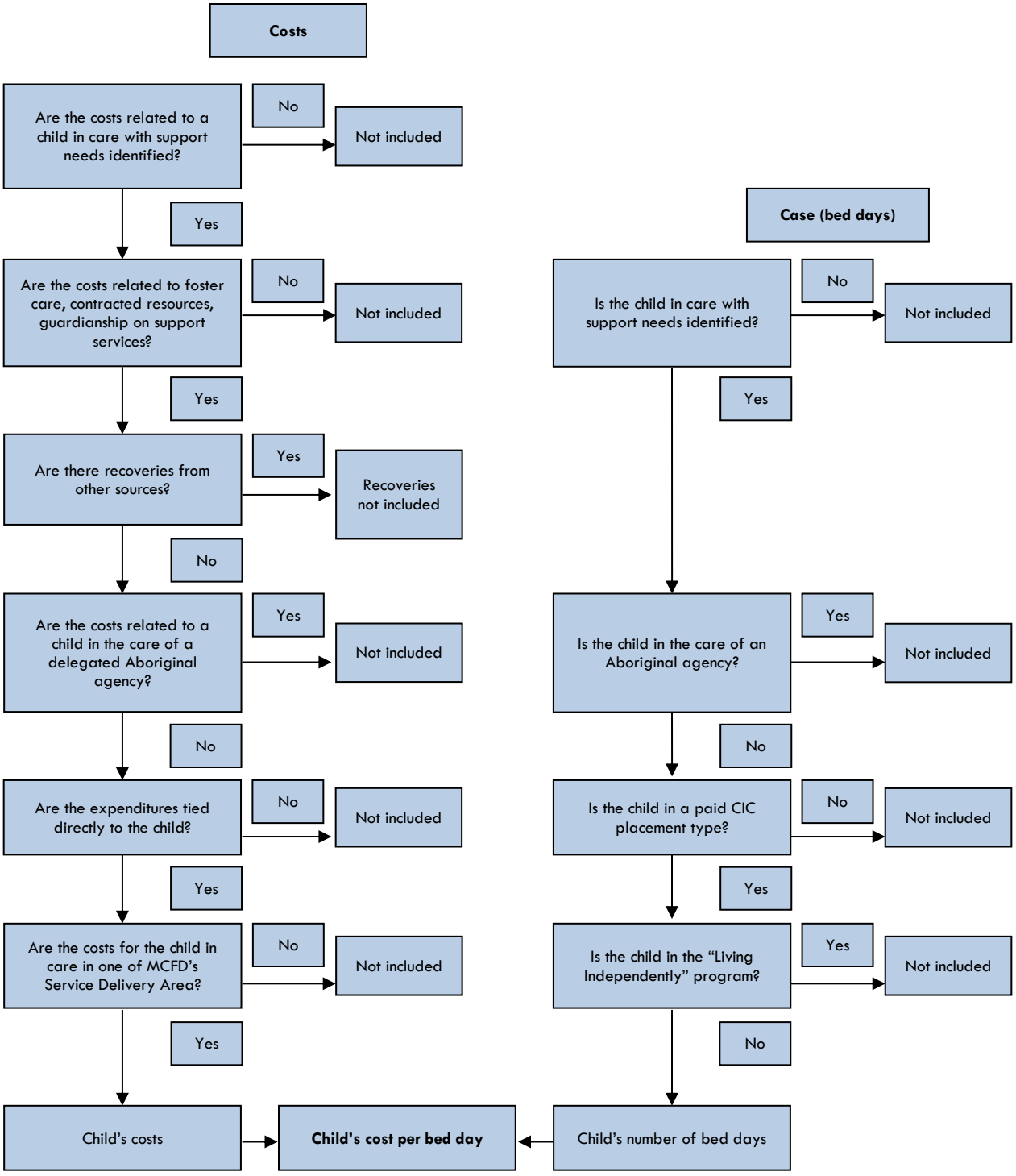
2.01 Cost Per Child and Youth in Care with Support Needs

Indicator: Median cost per day and full year spent living in a residential placement for children and youth in care that have been identified as having support needs (excludes children in the care of delegated Aboriginal agencies). Costs are based on a rolling 12 month period.

Rationale: Comparing costs between SDAs helps to identify cost pressures so that they can be effectively managed. There are various sources of cost pressures, for example a shortage of foster parents with specific skills in some areas that translates into a higher usage of more expensive contracted resources. Other examples include the use of exceptional payments to service providers and the level of care required by the current caseload composition.

Indicator Notes



Excludes the cost for children that are not in residential placements (i.e. children living independently, hospital, with relatives, etc.), children in the care of delegated Aboriginal agencies, recoveries from other sources, and the cost of funded unutilized beds. A child in care is deemed to have support needs if he or she meets at least one of the following criteria:

1) the child has a documented developmental disability;
2) the child has an autism diagnosis or receives autism funding;
3) the child is eligible for the At Home Program;
4) the child is in care with a Program Service code of CYSN;
5) the child is in care under a support needs agreement; and
6) the child is eligible for, or receiving Child Disability Benefits.

This measure may change retroactively to accurately reflect the latest data.

3.01 Child and Youth Mental Health Services Client Service Satisfaction

Indicator: Satisfaction of surveyed CYMH clients as reported by them in service satisfaction surveys.

This indicator reports on the satisfaction of the CYMH clients who were surveyed at the end of their service period. Satisfaction on the following aspects of the service is assessed:

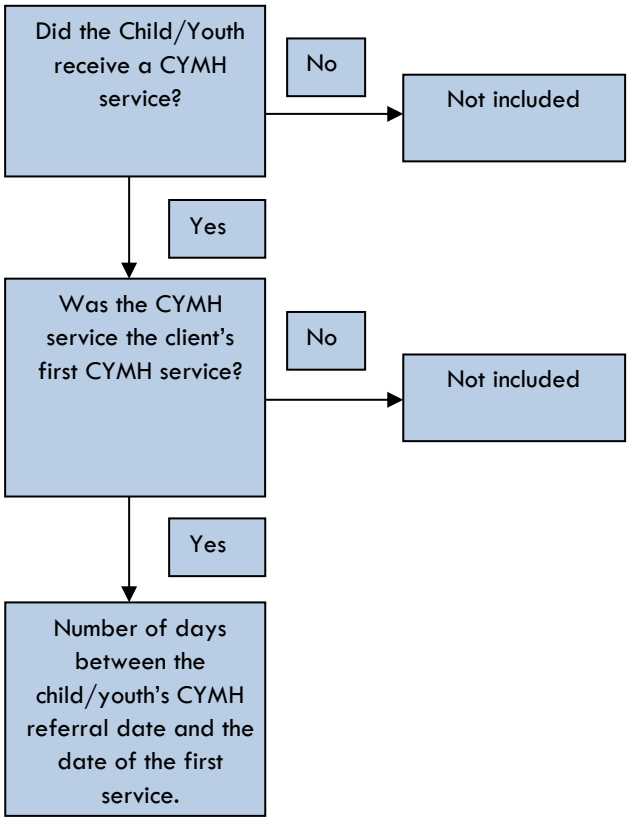
- Convenience of location
- Wait times
- Time of day of service
- Courtesy/Respect
- Information provided
- Coping skills learned
- Inclusive decision making
- Helpfulness of service
- Overall quality of service

3.02 Average Time for Children and Youth to Receive their First CYMH Service

Indicator: Of the Children and Youth in Care who received their first CYMH service, the average number of days between their referral to CYMH services and their first CYMH service.

Rationale: For children and youth experiencing mental health issues, access to timely and effective therapeutic services is the most desirable option. These services (including brief, group, and one-to-one services) should take place without unnecessary delays.

Indicator Notes

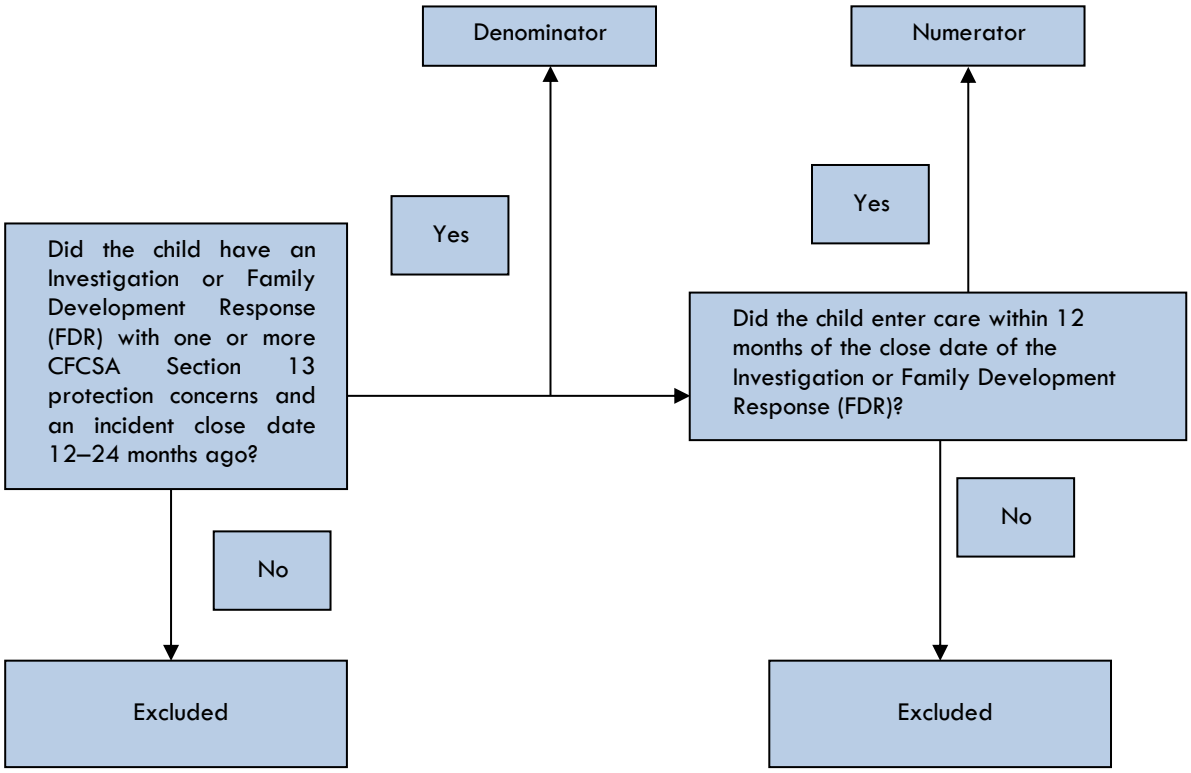


4.00 Family Preservation

Indicator: The Family Preservation rate is based on children with Investigations or Family Development Responses (FDR) who were initially assessed as having **one or more CFCSA Section 13 protection concerns**, with incident close dates from 12 to 24 months ago. It calculates the percentage of children who were not admitted into care within 12 months of the close date of the Investigation or Family Development Response, indicating that they were able to safely remain with their family or extended family.

Rationale: Evidence has shown that children and youth have far better social, health, education, and economic outcomes when they live safely with a family – a parent, family member or extended family, or in a home with permanent caregivers – than they do in government care. The strategic direction of the ministry is to invest in supports to help preserve families, while continuing to ensure the safety of children and youth.

Indicator Notes



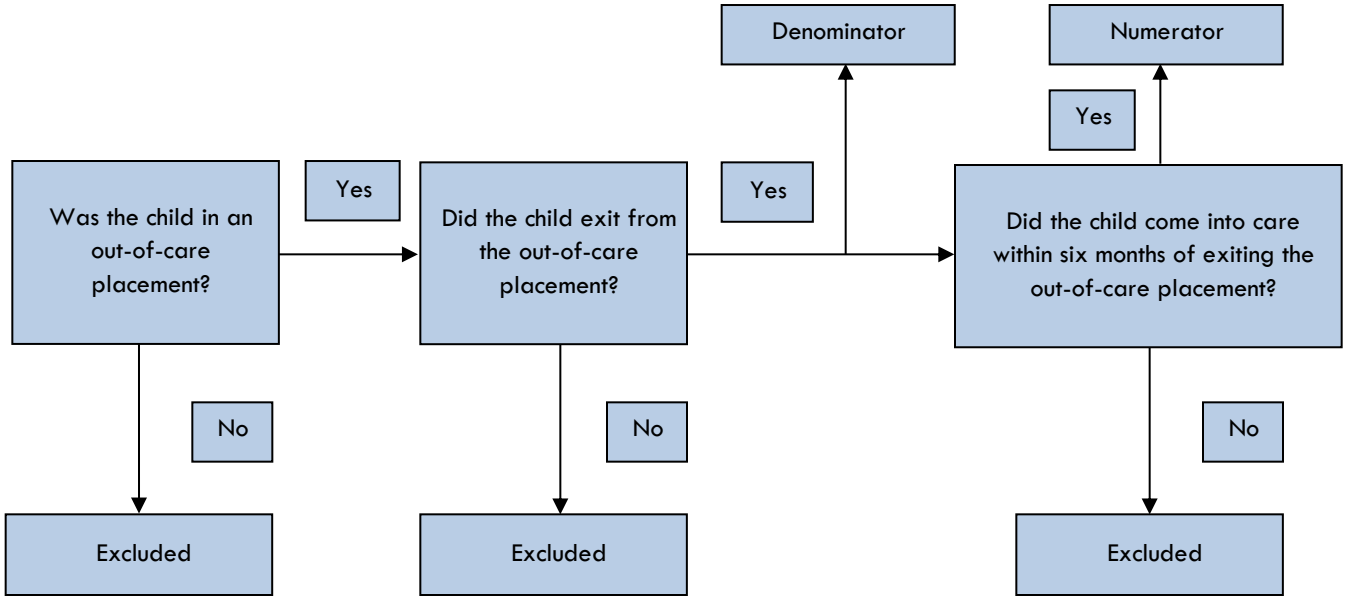
4.06 Children Admitted into Care that Previously had a Recent Out-of-Care Placement

Indicator: Proportion of children who exit from an out-of-care placement over a 12 month period and then enter care within six months of exit.

Rationale: Permanent, stable relationships are a major determinant of whether children feel safe and secure and therefore, of well-being overall. If a child has to leave her parental home, the ministry or delegated Aboriginal agency strives to place the child with people who know the child and will maintain a positive, life-long relationship with them, their families and communities, thereby minimizing disruptions to children and their families.

When a child needs to leave their parental home because they are at risk of abuse or neglect or are temporarily unable to live with their parents, the ministry or delegated Aboriginal agency can, if appropriate, arrange for an out of care placement with extended family or close friends which is an alternate care arrangement to foster care. This indicates how effective out-of-care placements are at keeping children from further involvement in the child welfare system by examining the proportion children who come into care after leaving an out-of-care placement.

Indicator Notes



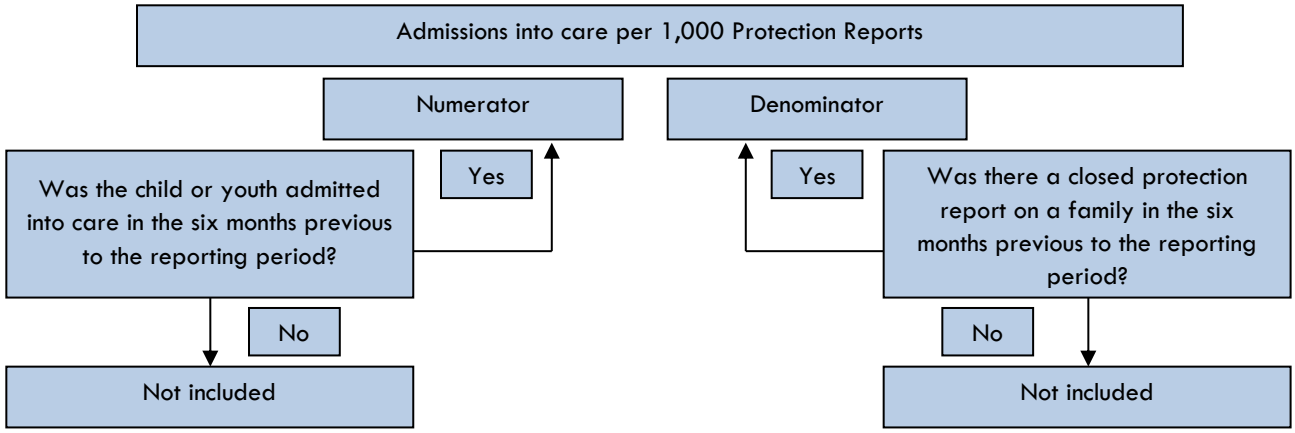
- The Out of Care caseload includes the following agreements and legal orders:
  - Extended Family Program Agreements
  - Interim Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 35(2)(d)
  - Interim Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 35(2)(d) - Consent
  - Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 41(1)(b), 42.2(4)(c), 49(7)(b), 54.01(9)(b)
  - Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 41(1)(b), 42.2(4)(c),49(7)(b), 54.01(9)(b) - Consent
  - Extension to Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 44(3)(b)
  - Extension to Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 44(3)(b) – Consent

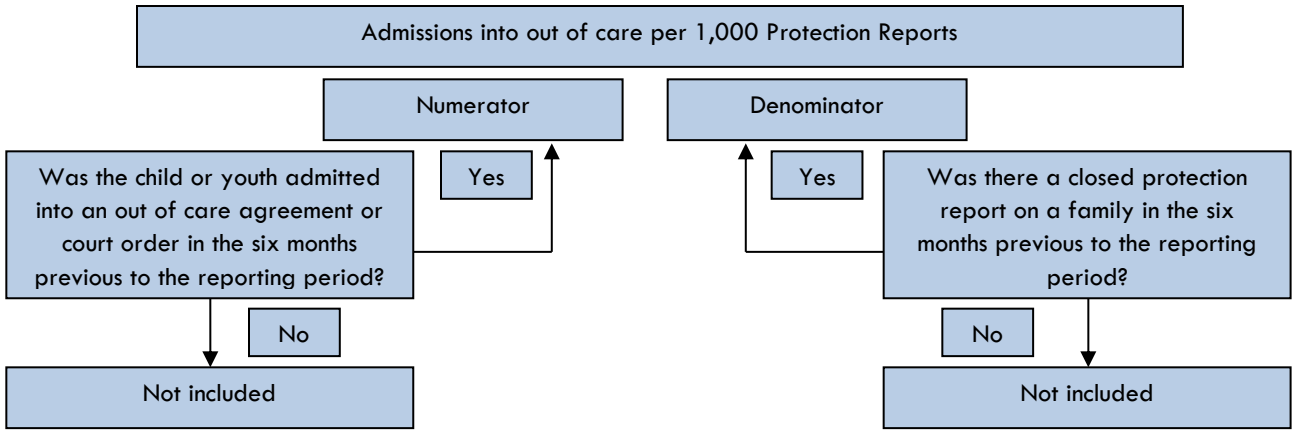
4.16 Relative Use of Admissions into Care and Admissions to Out-of-Care Controlling for Protection Reports

Indicator: Admissions into care per 1,000 protection reports, 6 month rolling period.

Rationale: When appropriate, out-of-care options are a best practice; the well-being of children and youth is, overall, better when children and youth can continue to live with their families. Sometimes children and youth can be placed in out-of-care options as a substitute for admission into care.

Indicator Notes





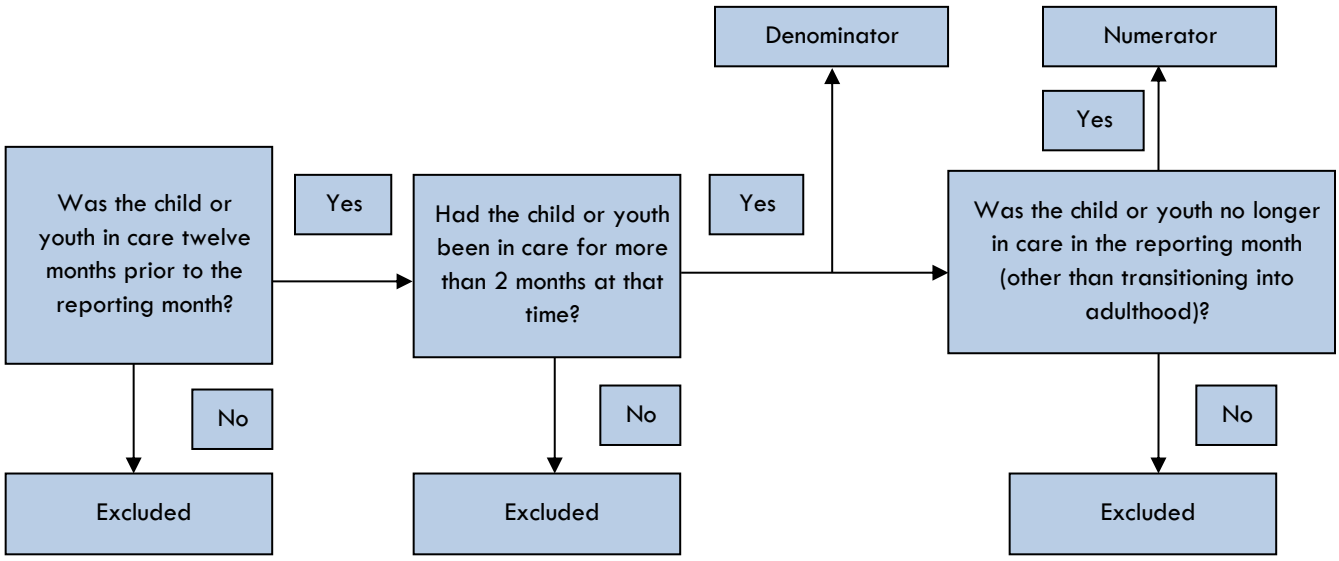
Out of care includes the following agreements and court orders: Extended Family Program Agreements; Interim Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 35(2)(d); Interim Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 35(2)(d) - Consent; Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 41(1)(b), 42.2(4)(c), 49(7)(b), 54.01(9)(b); Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 41(1)(b), 42.2(4)(c), 49(7)(b), 54.01(9)(b) - Consent; Extension to Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 44(3)(b); and Extension to Temporary Custody with Other under Director's Supervision – s. 44(3)(b) - Consent.

5.01 Permanence

Indicator: Of all children and youth who were in care (with two months minimum duration) twelve months prior to the reporting period, the proportion that had exited from care by the reporting month for reasons other than transitioning into adulthood (i.e., turning 19 years old). This is a leading indicator of permanency as, although the intention is permanency, it is possible that some of these children and youth return to care at some point in their future;

Rationale: Permanent, stable relationships are a major determinant of whether children feel safe and secure and therefore, of well-being overall. Permanence is achieved by leaving care through reunification, adoption or guardianship.

Indicator Notes



5.06 Recurrence of Maltreatment

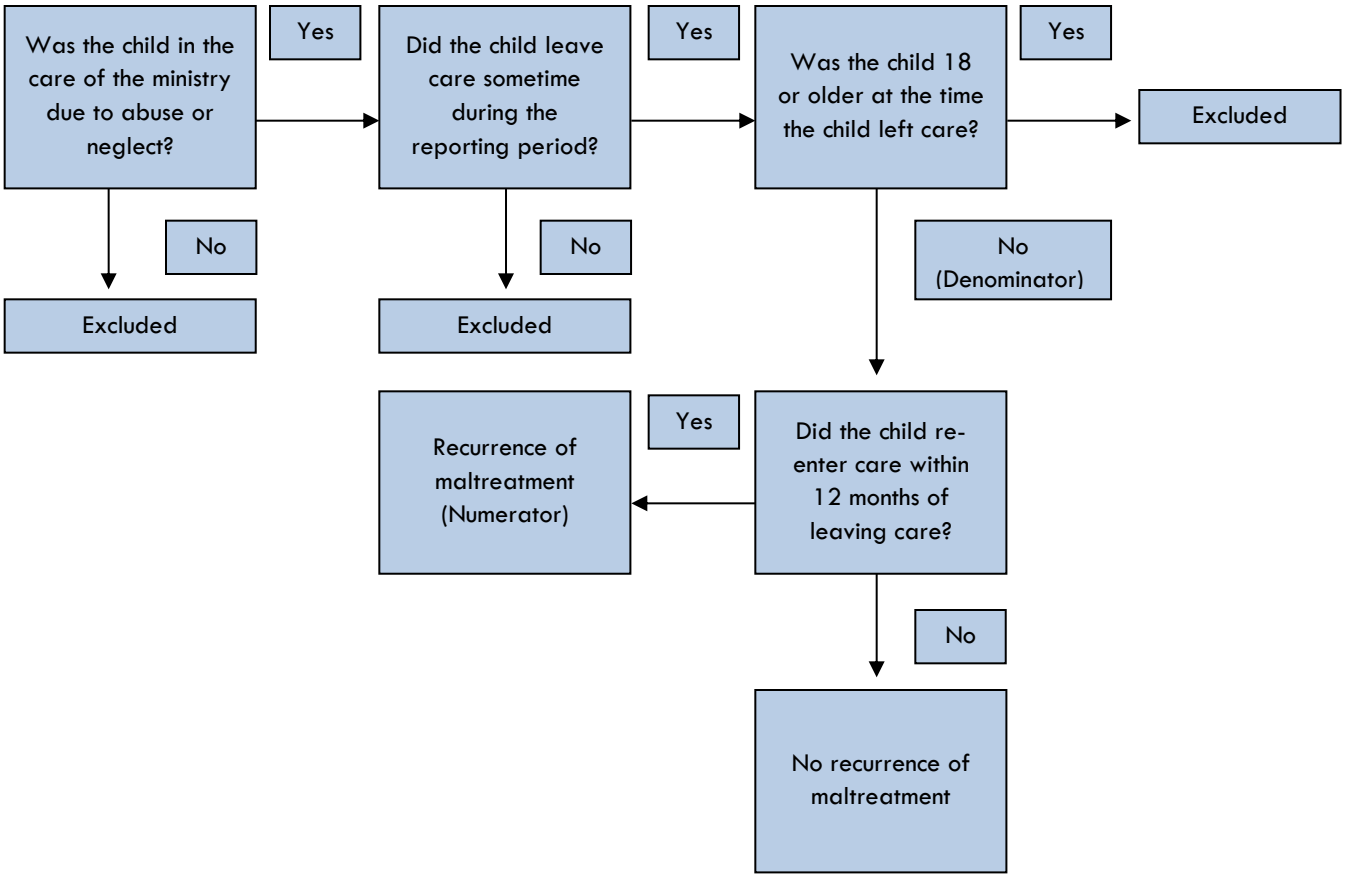
Indicator: The rate at which children returning to their caregivers after being in the care of the ministry were readmitted into care within 12 months of returning home.

For example, a child removed from his home in January 2016 returned home in April 2016 but came back into care in March 2017 is included.

Rationale: One of the ministry's core objectives is to protect children that have been victims of abuse or neglect from further maltreatment. The maltreatment recurrence rate measures how often children that had to leave their homes because of abuse or neglect fell victim to further suspected abuse or neglect after reunification with their family. A lower maltreatment recurrence rate means that, of the children that returned home, more did so safely.

Indicator Notes

- Children 18 years or older are excluded from the base as they may not be available for the measure's full cycle.



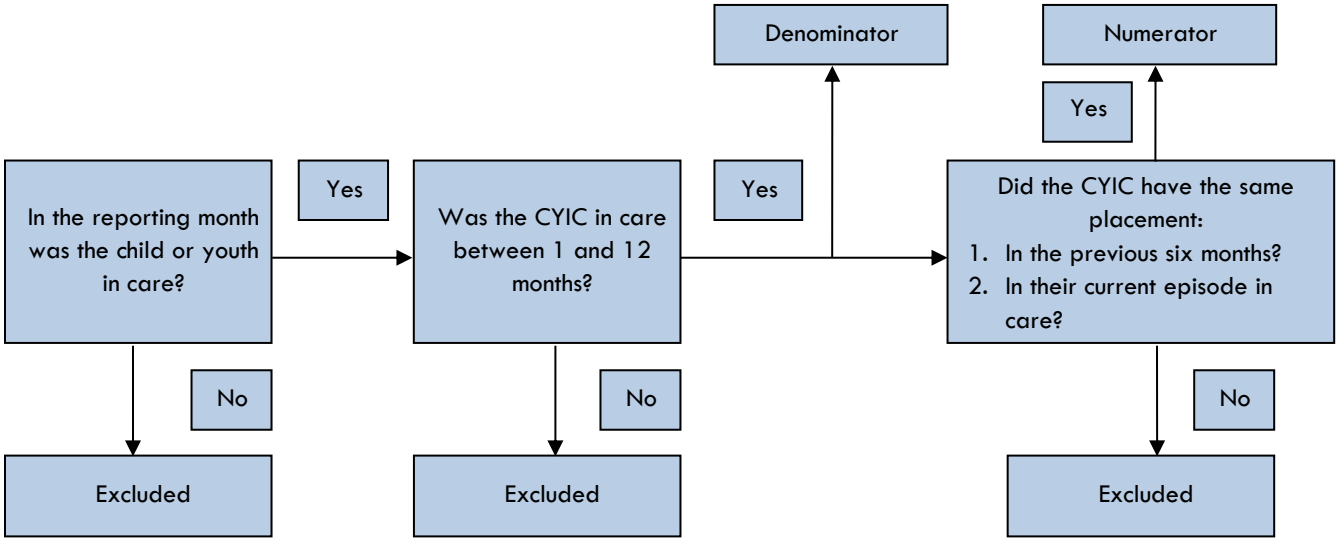
5.11 Placement Stability

Indicators: For CYIC with one to twelve months duration:

1. the proportion that did not experience placement changes within the previous six months of their current episode in care
2. the proportion that did not experience placement changes during their current episode in care.

Rationale: Placement stability is essential for children and youth to develop secure attachment to a caregiver (a fundamental determinant of their well-being) and sense of belonging. Some placement changes are necessary and can be beneficial in terms of ensuring the right fit for the child or youth, but generally avoiding or minimizing moves while in care is an important goal. Evidence shows that attachment to a caregiver for children under six can occur within as little as two-three months, and takes only slightly longer for older children and youth. Additionally, most moves occur within the first year of care.

Indicator Notes



The following moves are excluded from the indicator:

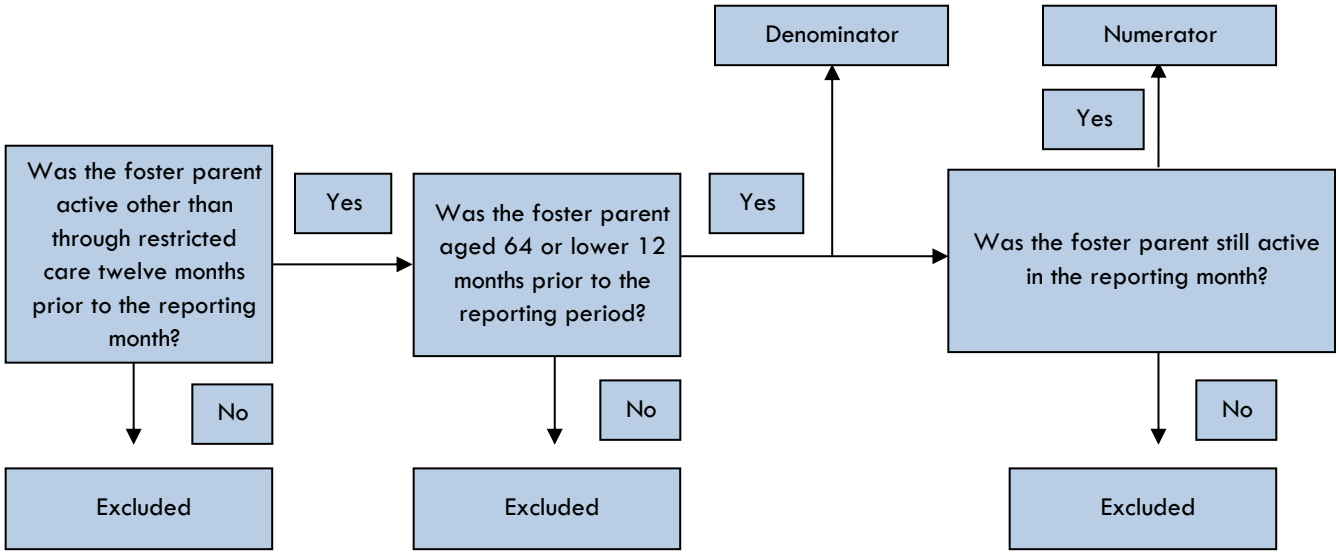
- a child's first placement
- change of caregiver address
- youth custody centre
- hospital
- AWOL
- pays own board
- independent living
- placements lasting three days or less.

5.12 Foster Parent Retention Rate

Indicator: Percentage of active foster parents that were 64 years or younger 12 months prior to the reporting month that were still active in the reporting month.

Rationale: Foster parent retention allows for stability of placement for the children and youth who cannot be placed in kinship care. Additionally, experienced foster parents may also be better able to provide complex care that is required for the children and youth in MCFD care. Effective support for foster parents is a significant factor in their decision to continue fostering over time. The effectiveness of this support will be reflected in rates of retention for foster parents from year to year.

Indicator Notes



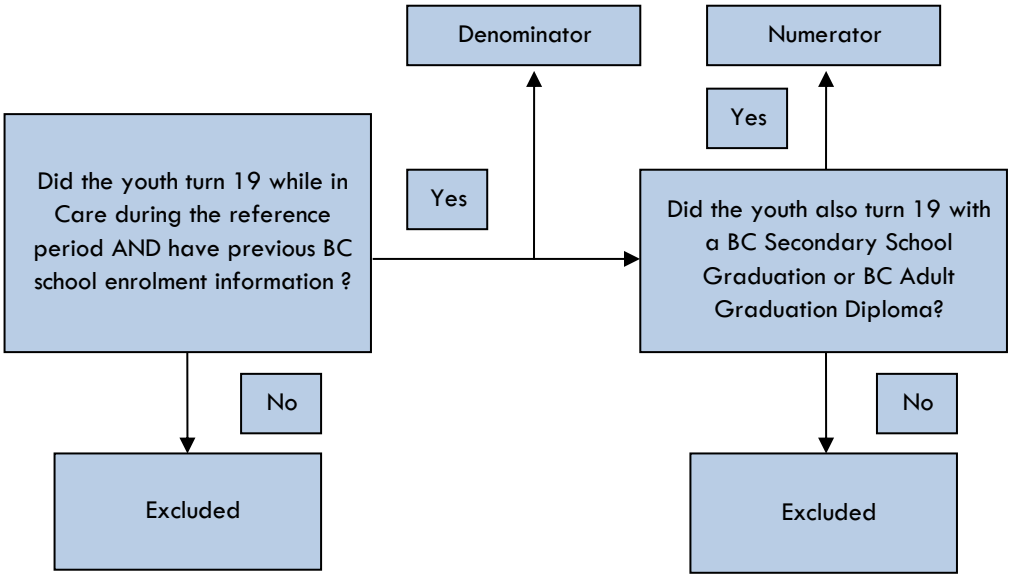
5.26 Children and Youth in Care (CYIC) Who Turn 19 with a High School Credential

Indicator: Proportion of Children and Youth in Care that Turn 19 with a BC Secondary School Graduation or BC Adult Graduation Diploma.

Count of Ministry CYIC that Turn 19 with a BC School Completion Certificate.

Rationale: There is strong evidence that completing high school is conducive to general well-being throughout life. Furthermore, it is a good barometer of current general well-being for that particular cohort. MCFD works to maximize the educational attainment of CYIC.

Indicator Notes



The ministry works to ensure that CYIC turning 19 gain independence, successfully complete secondary school, and gain life skills so that they can live independently as adults. This indicator measures how effective the ministry is at helping youth remain in and complete school by examining the proportion of youth who turn 19 while in care and with a BC Adult Graduation Diploma or BC Secondary School Graduation.

CYIC turning 19 with a BC School Completion Certificate are presented as counts.

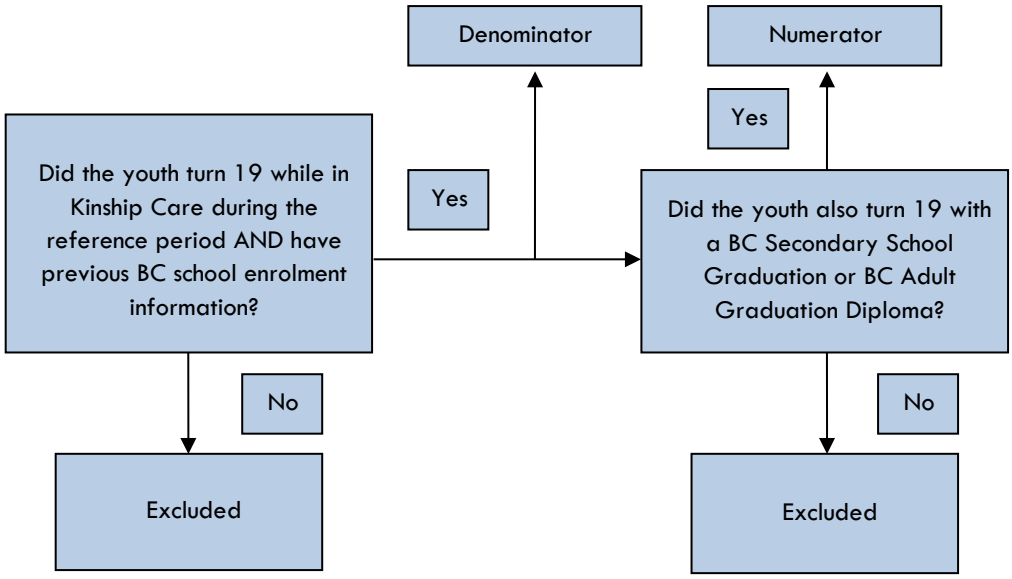
5.28 Youth in Kinship Care Arrangements Who Turn 19 with a High School Credential

Indicator: Proportion of Ministry Kinship Care Youth that Turn 19 with a BC Secondary School Graduation or BC Adult Graduation Diploma.

Count of Ministry Kinship Care Clients that Turn 19 with a BC School Completion Certificate.

Rationale: There is strong evidence that completing high school is conducive to general well-being throughout life. Furthermore, it is a good barometer of current general well-being for that particular cohort. MCFD works to maximize the educational attainment of those in Kinship Care.

Indicator Notes



The ministry works to ensure that those in Kinship Care turning 19 gain independence, successfully complete secondary school, and gain life skills so that they can live independently as adults. This indicator measures how effective the ministry is at helping youth remain in and complete school by examining the proportion of youth who turn 19 while in Kinship Care and with a BC Adult Graduation Diploma or BC Secondary School Graduation.

Youth in Kinship Care turning 19 with a BC School Completion Certificate are presented as counts.

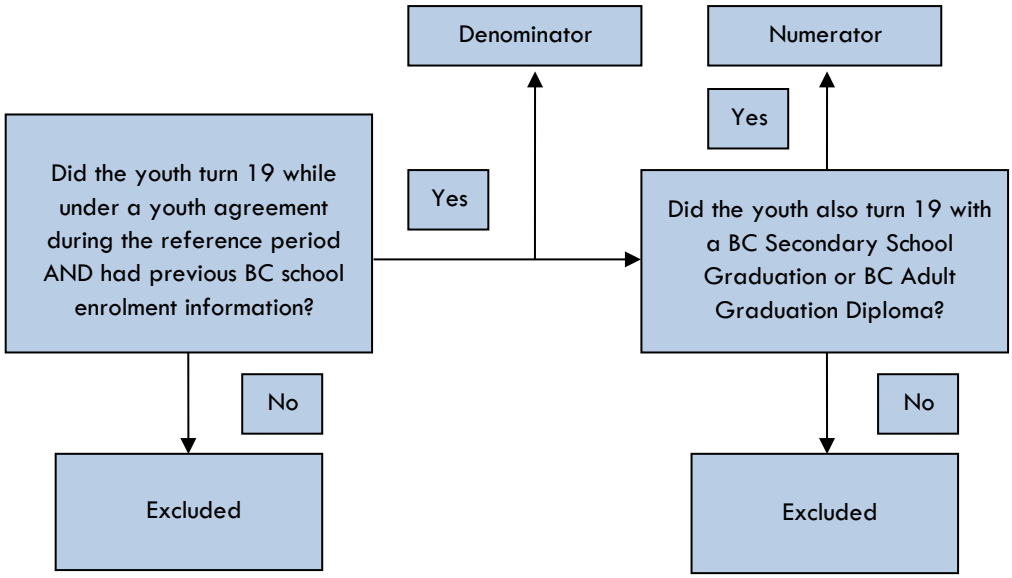
5.30 Youth on a Youth Agreement (YAG) Who Turn 19 with a High School Credential

Indicator: Proportion of Youth on Ministry Youth Agreements that turn 19 with a BC Secondary School Graduation or BC Adult Graduation Diploma.

Count of Youth on Ministry Youth Agreements that turn 19 with a BC School Completion Certificate.

Rationale: There is strong evidence that completing high school is conducive to general well-being throughout life. Furthermore, it is a good barometer of current general well-being for that particular cohort. MCFD works to maximize the educational attainment of youth on YA.

Indicator Notes



Youth between the ages of 16 to 18 may enter into a youth agreement with the ministry when they cannot return home for reasons of safety. The agreement aims to support the youth gaining independence, returning to school, and/or gaining work experience and life skills so that they can continue to live independently. This indicator measures how effective youth agreements are at helping youth remain in and complete school by examining the proportion of youth who turn 19 while under a youth agreement with a BC Adult Graduation Diploma or BC Secondary School Graduation.

Youth who turn 19 while under a youth agreement with a BC School Completion Certificate are presented as counts.

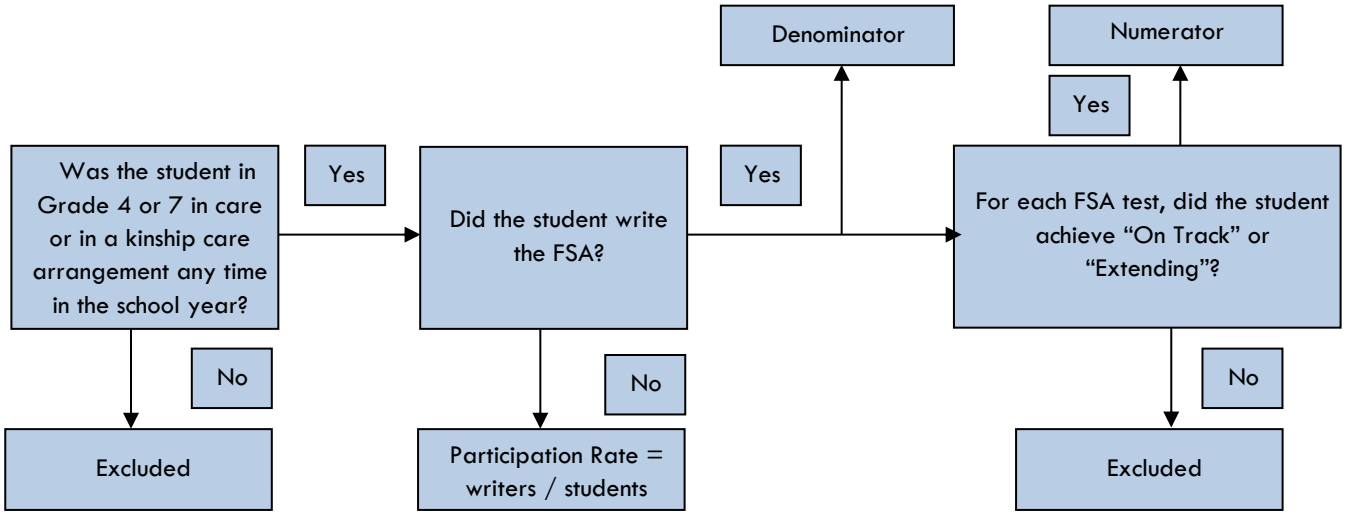
5.31 & 5.32 Foundation Skills Assessment for Literacy and Numeracy, Grade 4 and Grade 7

Measures 5.31 and 5.32 use the same methodology, with the measures differing by the population reported. Measure 5.31 reports results for Children and Youth in Care (CYIC), while Measure 5.32 reports results for children and youth in Kinship Care arrangements.

Indicator: The proportion of students identified as CYIC or Kinship Care any time between July and June of their grade 4 or grade 7 year who wrote the FSA and the proportion of those that wrote that achieved "On Track" or "Extending".

Rationale: Gauging the learning of CYIC and Kinship Care provides MCFD with insight into their educational progress as well as some of their broader needs. FSA scores (even as early as Grade 4) have a high predictive power of high school completion.

Indicator Notes



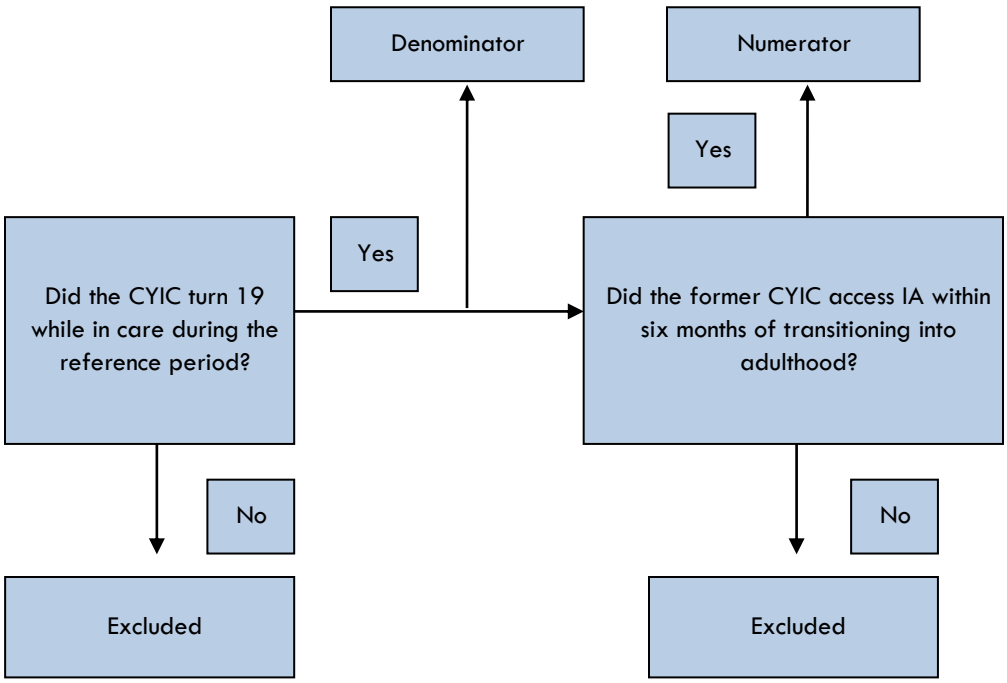
5.36 Claiming Income Assistance within Six Months of Transitioning into Adulthood (CYIC)

Indicator: Of all youth in care who turned 19 years old during a six-month reference period, the proportion that went on to claim Income Assistance within six months.

Rationale: The ministry assists and supports the transition to adulthood for any child in care who turns 19 years old. Among desired transitions are employment, further education or training not moving on to Income Assistance. This is an indicator of how effectively the ministry prepares youth to transition to adulthood.

Indicator Notes

These numbers include children in care that turned 19 and transitioned to CLBC (appropriate adult care system for their needs). Before August 2014: While Indigenous children in care that turn 19 years old with developmental disabilities and live on reserve are not eligible for CLBC services. As of August 2014, all people residing within First Nations communities, regardless of ancestry, and who meet CLBC eligibility requirements, can access CLBC funded services based upon their disability-related needs and availability of local CLBC resources. Source: https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FAQs-for-First-Nations-communities-about-CLBC-Services-in-First-Nations-communities.pdf



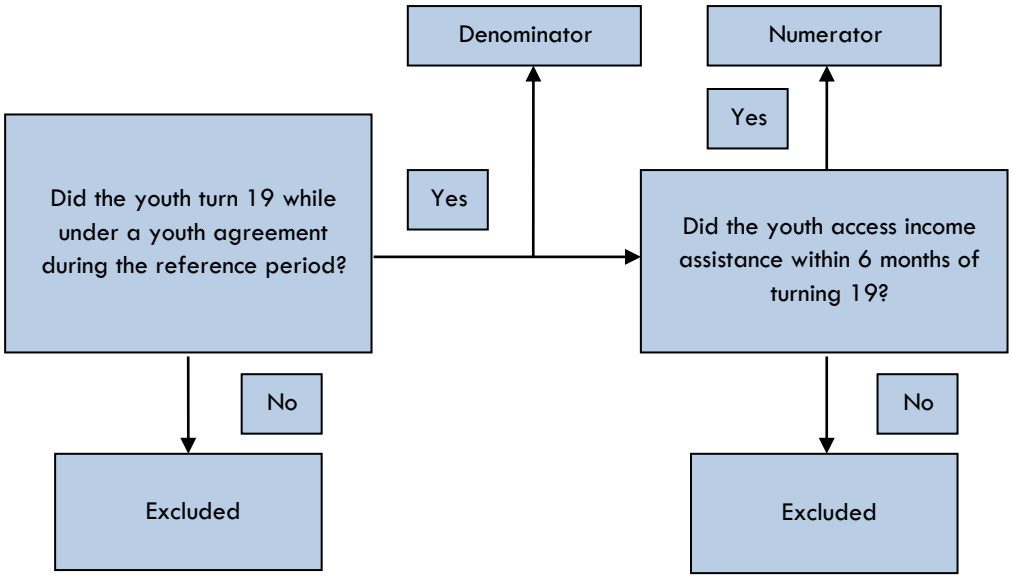
5.56 Youth who Claim Income Assistance within Six Months of Transitioning into Adulthood from Youth Agreements

Indicator: Of all Youth on Youth Agreements (YA) who turned 19 years old during a six-month reference period, the proportion that went on to claim Income Assistance within six months.

Rationale: The ministry assists and supports the transition to adulthood for any child in care who turns 19 years old. Among desired transitions are employment, further education or training not moving on to Income Assistance. This is an indicator of how effectively the ministry prepares youth to transition into adulthood.

Indicator Notes

A youth agreement is a legal agreement between the ministry and a young person between the ages of 16 to 18 who cannot return home to their family for reasons of safety. The purpose of the agreement is to help the youth gain independence, return to school, and/or gain work experience and life skills so that they can continue to live independently.

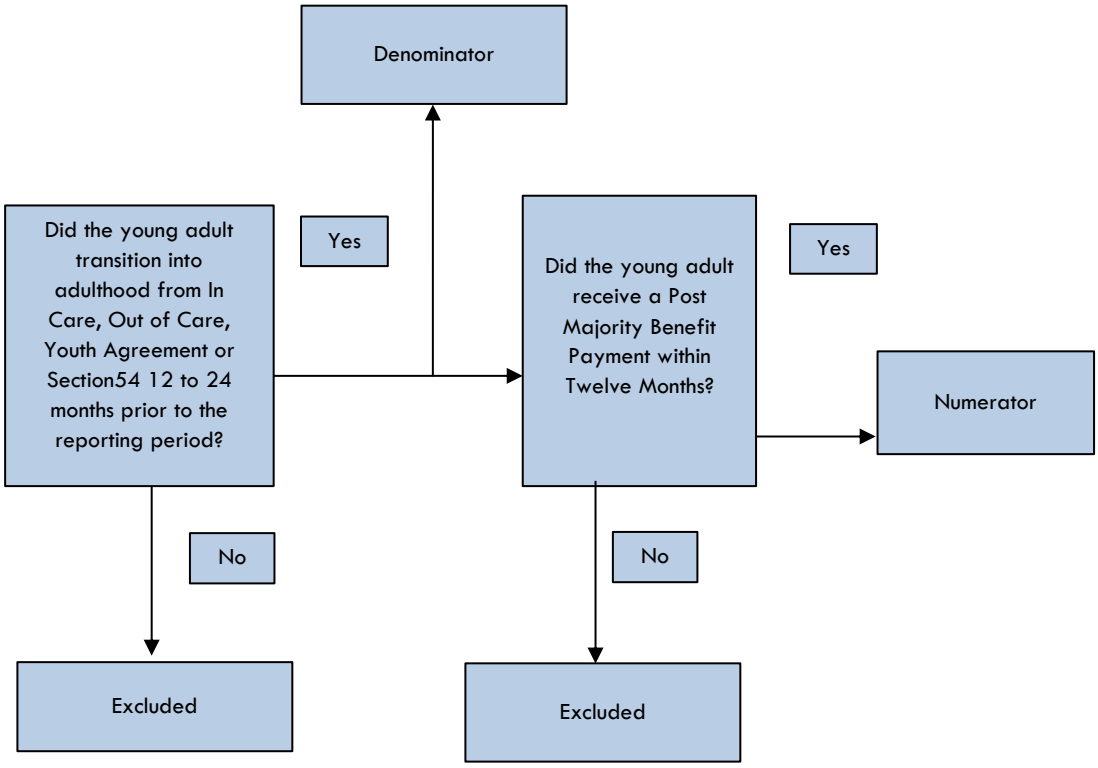


5.57 Proportion of Eligible Young Adults that Receive a SAJE Benefit Payment within Twelve Months from Turning 19

Indicator: Of all eligible Young Adults previously In Care, Out of Care, Youth Agreement or Section54, the proportion that went on to receive Post Majority benefits through SAJE within 12 months of transitioning into adulthood.

Rationale: The ministry assists and supports young adults transitioning out from In Care or Out-of-Care to help them lead healthy and productive adult lives. Since April 2024, the Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) program offers eligible young adults Housing Supports, Income Supports, Health & Wellness Supports and Life-skills, Training and Cultural Connections funding up to their 27th birthday.

Indicator Notes



5.66 Cost per Child and Youth in Care (Excluding Children with Support Needs)

Indicator: The average cost per day and full year spent in a residential placement per child and youth in care, excluding those identified with support needs. Costs are based on a rolling 12 month period.

Rationale: Cost pressures often stem from a shortage of skilled foster parents, which translates into a higher usage of more expensive contracted resources. Other factors that can impact costs per case include the use of exceptional payments to service providers and the level of care required by the current caseload composition.

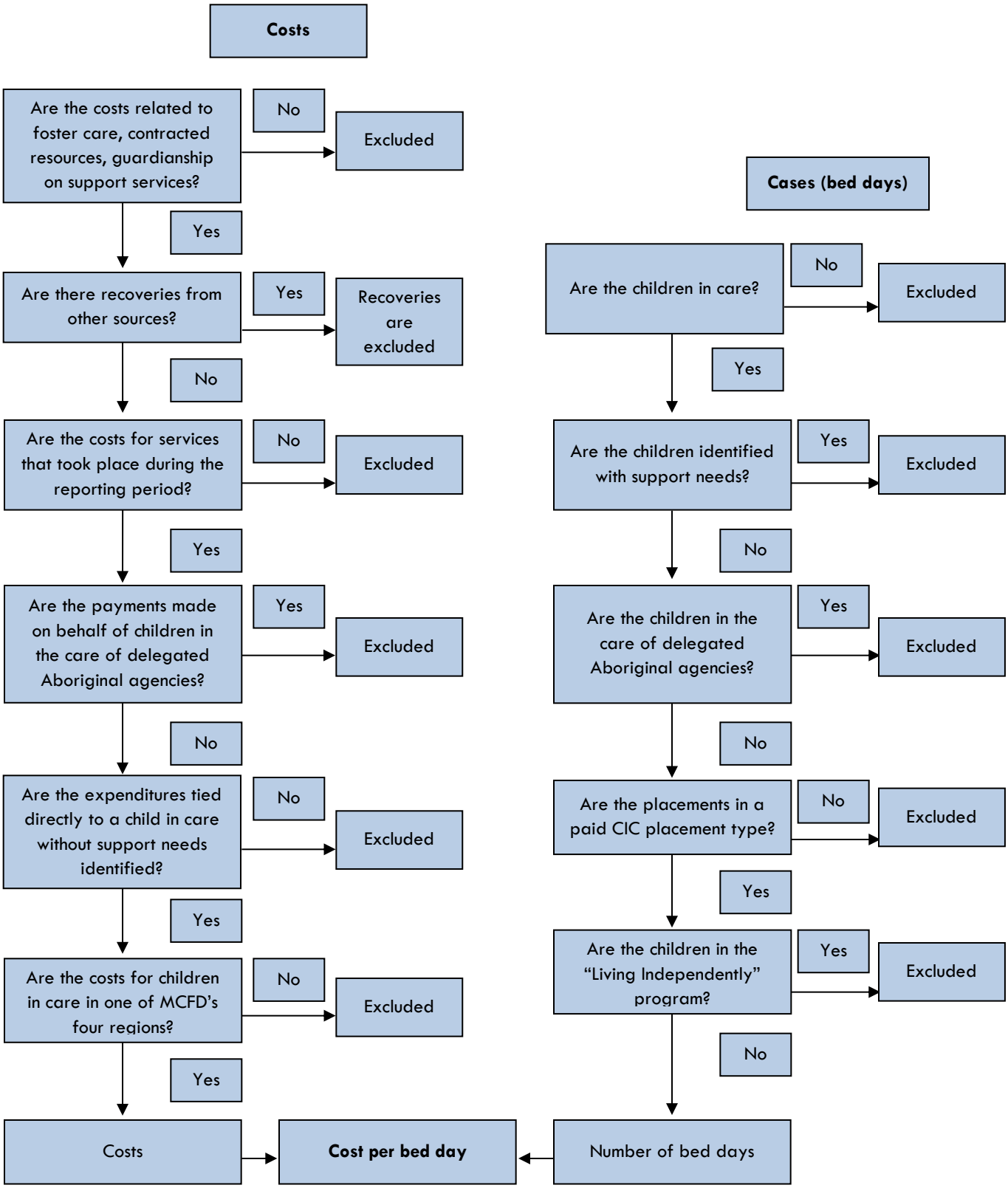
Excludes the cost for children that are not in residential placements (i.e. children living independently, hospital, with relatives, etc.), children in the care of delegated Aboriginal agencies, recoveries from other sources, and the cost of funded unutilized beds.

A child in care is deemed to have support needs if he or she meets at least one of the following criteria:

1) the child has a documented developmental disability;
2) the child has an autism diagnosis or receives autism funding;
3) the child is eligible for the At Home Program;
4) the child is in care with a Program Service code of CYSN;
5) the child is in care under a support needs agreement; and
6) the child is eligible for, or receiving Child Disability Benefits.

This measure may change retroactively to accurately reflect the latest data.

Indicator Notes



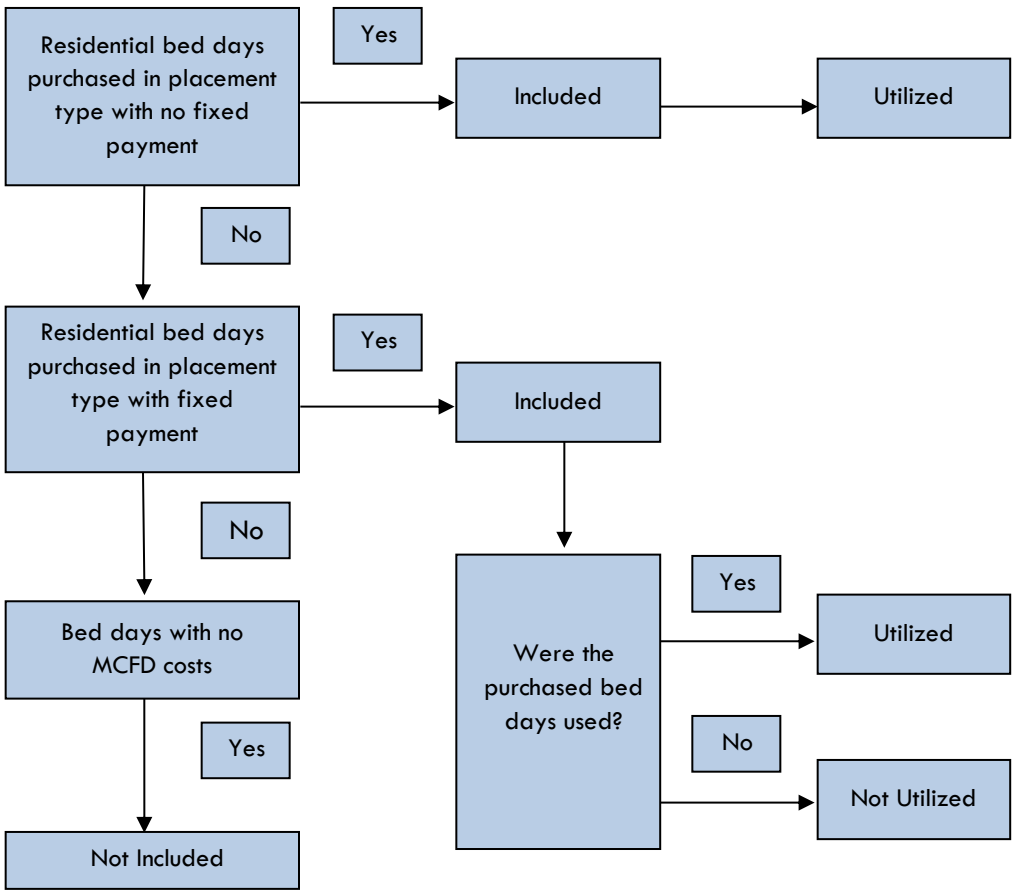
5.71 Funded Bed Utilization Rate

Indicator: Total number of bed days the ministry purchased and used, divided by the total number of bed days that the ministry purchased, over a rolling 12 month period. For contracts with no fixed payments (regular, restricted, and level one foster homes) the number of bed days used is equal to the number of bed days purchased. A bed is not considered vacant if it is held for a child that is temporarily away from a foster home but expected to return. The measure excludes bed days purchased by delegated Aboriginal agencies.

Rationale: In order to ensure sufficient quantities of appropriate homes for children and youth that come in to care the ministry needs to fund some empty beds. Foster parents with specialized skills are provided with a monthly fixed payment regardless of whether a child is living in the home.

This is an indicator of the ministry's ability to manage its contracts with foster care providers in order to optimize resources. Generally, a higher utilization rate (with sufficient capacity) is associated with more efficient use of foster home capacity.

Indicator Notes



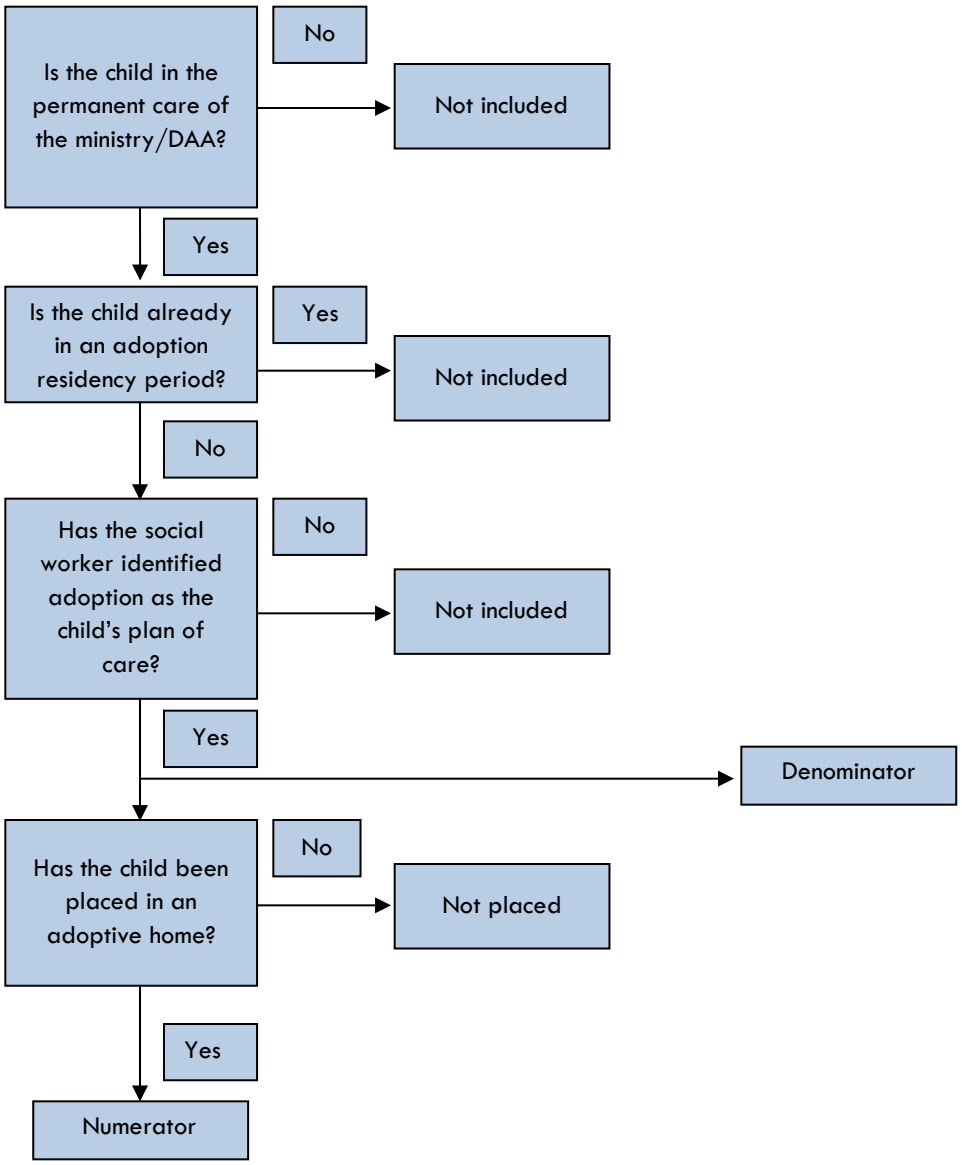
5.76 Percent of Children Eligible for Adoption Placed in Adoption Homes

Indicator: Percent of Children Eligible for Adoption Placed in Adoption Homes, 12 month rolling period.

Rationale: Evidence has shown that children require a stable and continuous relationship with a nurturing person or persons to maximize physical, social emotional and cognitive development. If this relationship is not possible with the birth family or other out of care options, then for children whom the ministry has legal permanent guardianship, adoption is an alternative.

Indicator Notes

Eligible children are defined as children in permanent care identified as having adoption as their plan of care at some point during the fiscal year, and not already in their adoption residency period. Although the adoption may not yet be completed from a legal perspective, a placement means the child has joined his or her new adoptive family. The legal completion occurs while the child is already with the new family.

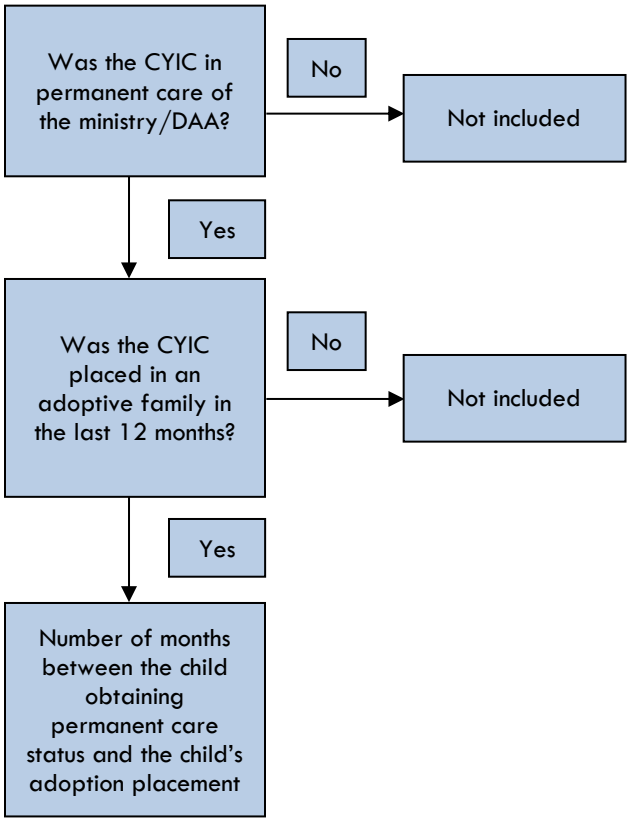


5.77 Average Wait Time for Children and Youth in Care to go from Permanent Care Status to Adoption Placement

Indicator: Of the Children and Youth in Care who were adopted over a rolling12 month period, the average number of months they were in permanent care prior to being placed in their adoption home.

Rationale: For CYIC who are no longer able to return to their family, achieving permanency through adoption is a desirable option. Research has found that a longer history in out of home care, as well as a child's age at time of adoption are risk factors strongly associated with an adoption placement's chances for success, meaning that once it is determined that adoption is the best option for a child, it should take place without unnecessary delays.

Indicator Notes



6.01 Five Year Recidivism of Formal Diversion Clients

Indicator: Clients receiving formal diversion services that did not commit a new offence within the following five years.

Rationale: Objectives of formal diversion include avoiding official labelling and processing, and providing services that help prevent a youth from re-offending.

6.06 Five Year Recidivism of First Community Sentence

Indicator: Clients receiving First Community Sentence services that did not commit a new offence within the following five years.

Rationale: One objective of a community sentence is to provide services that help prevent a youth from re-offending.

6.11 Five Year Recidivism of First Custody Sentence

Indicator: Clients receiving their first Custody Sentence Services that did not commit a new offence in the following five years.

Rationale: Recognizing that custody holds the highest risk population, one objective of custody services is to provide services that help prevent a youth from re-offending.

6.16 Youth Court Cases

Indicator: Youth Court Cases per 10,000 Youth Population

Rationale: Re-offending of low severity crime is best prevented when alternatives to court are applied, such as diversion. Effective community alternatives will reduce the rate of court cases relative to the crime rate.

6.21 Youth in Custody

Indicator: Youth in Custody per 10,000 Youth

Rationale: Committal to custody should be restricted to those youth that are the highest risk and who have the greatest likelihood of re-offending. Incarceration of lower risk youth can actually increase the likelihood of re-offending. Effective community alternatives will reduce and restrict the rate of youth in custody.