

Dress Purple Day campaign

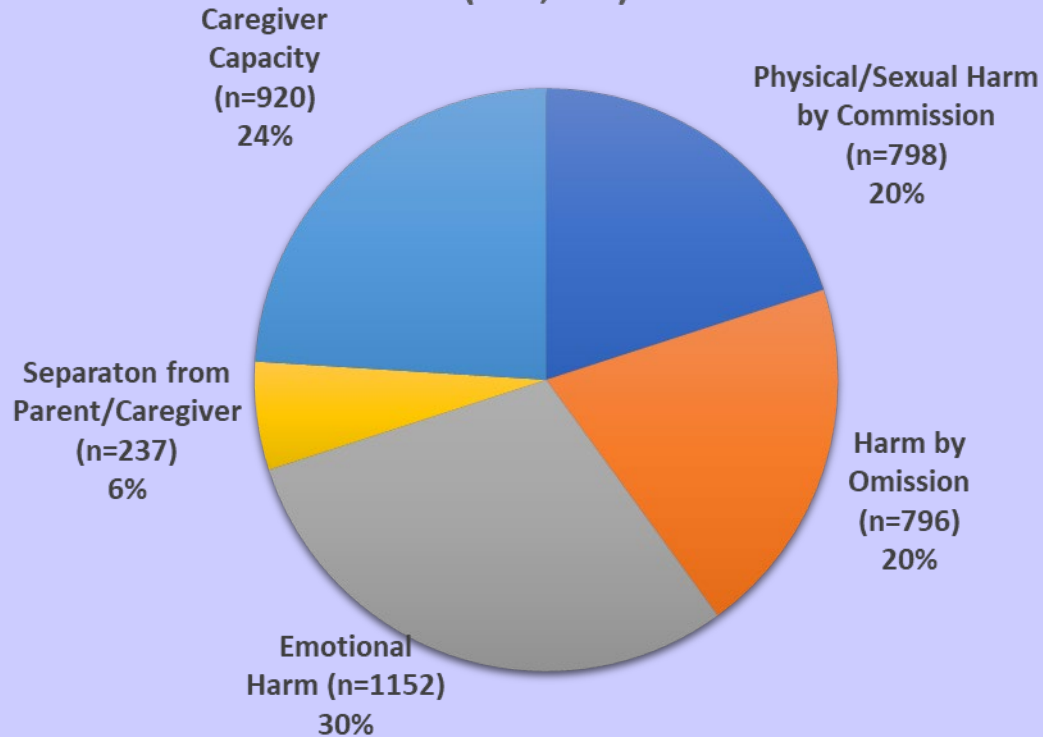


Every October Children's Aid Societies across the province raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families. On Dress Purple Day (previously known as Child Abuse Prevention Month), Children's Aid Societies collaborate with key partners, to speak up for every child and youth's right to safety and well-being in all spaces and to celebrate the community that cares for kids.

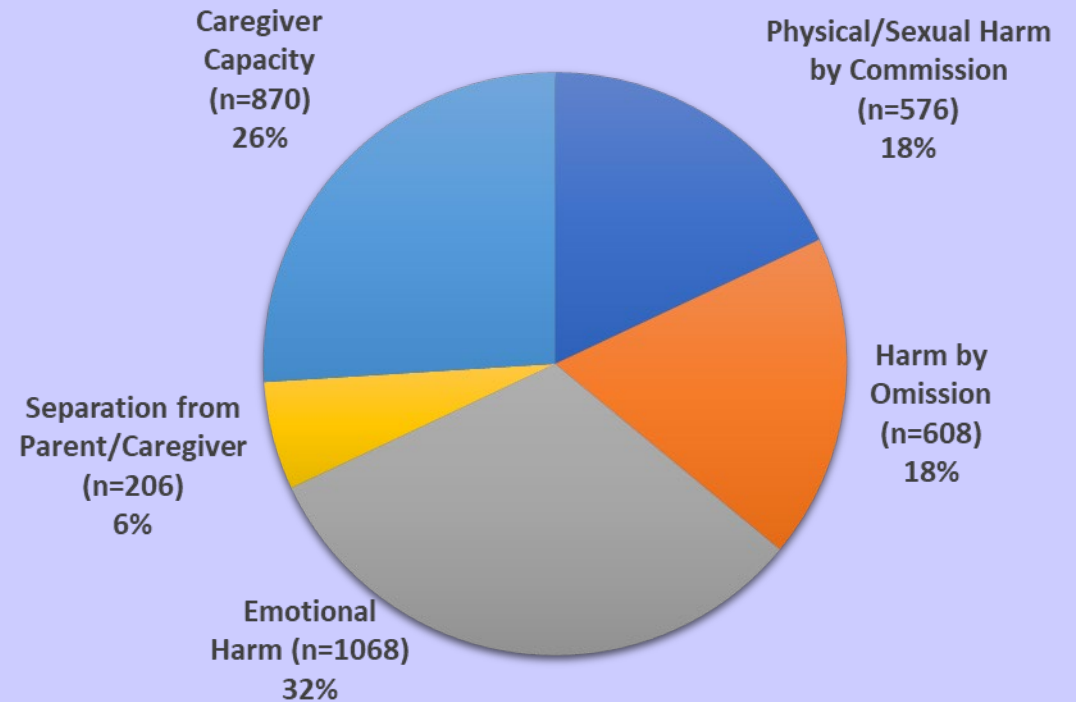


There are many reasons that HSCA become involved with families.

All 2019-2020 Child Protection Intakes
Documented, by Primary Code Section
(n=3,903)



All 2020-2021 Child Protection Intakes
Documented, by Primary Code Section
(n=3,328)



As you can see only 20% of referrals are related to the extreme abuse most people associate with child welfare.

The majority of children receiving service from HCAS is a result of families being unable to meet children's physical and emotional needs. Some of the difficulties that our families face include mental health concerns, addictions, social isolation, trauma, and extreme financial stress.

What We Know About Child Protection*:

- Nearly 50% of all substantiated investigations of child abuse in Ontario involved exposure to intimate partner violence.
- In 21% of substantiated investigations, neglect was identified as the overriding concern, while physical abuse was the primary form of maltreatment in 19% of the families.
- In 97% of investigations by Children's Aid Societies, children and families are provided with services in their homes. Only 3% of investigations involved moving a child or youth out of their home for their safety and well-being.

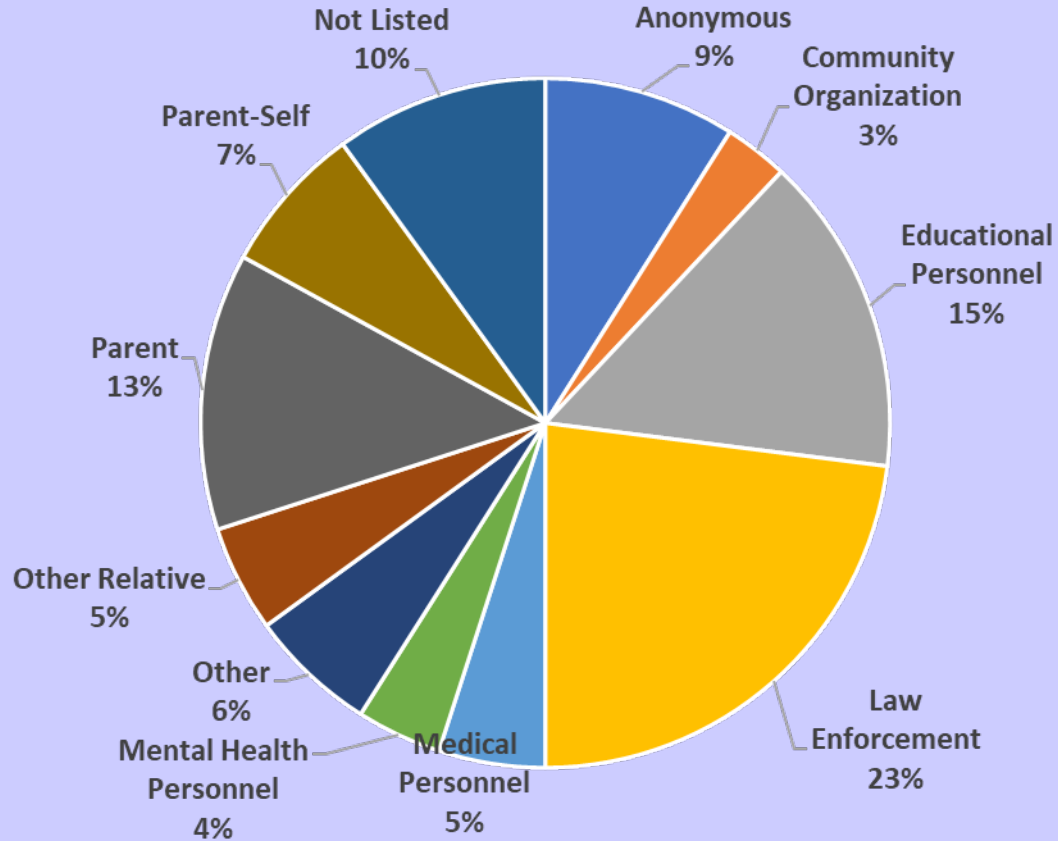
The top referrers to Children's Aid Societies in order are:

1. Schools
2. Law enforcement
3. Custodial/noncustodial parent
4. Community, health, or social service professionals

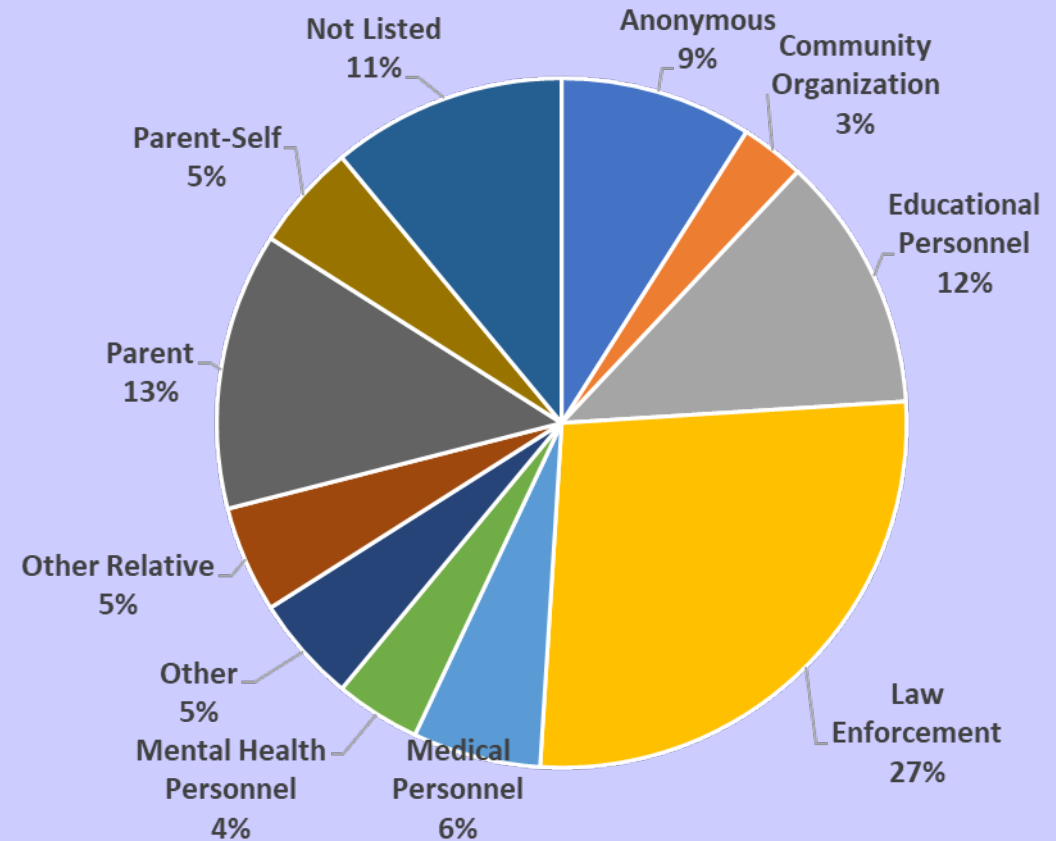


Who is reporting?

Percentage of all 2019-20 Child Protection Intakes
(top 10 referral sources reported 90% of all intakes)



Percentage of all 2020-21 Child Protection Intakes
(top 10 referral sources reported 89% of all intakes)



Children's Aid Societies investigate referrals from professionals and the public concerned about a caregiver's treatment of a child or youth. These concerns include that a child or youth is experiencing physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and/or that a child or youth is being neglected. CASs often work with children and youth where neglect is a key factor. Their families may be struggling with chronic challenges such as mental health issues, addiction, domestic violence, or extreme financial stress.

COVID Impact on Service

Major Impacts

- Client's mental health was precarious, saw more substance abuse and anxiety in kids. Increase in schools calling concerned they have not seen a child in a long time/attendance issues
- Increase in domestic violence, parental mental health concerns and custody/access issues
- With service providers offering services primarily virtually, increased delays and decreased hours – workers having to spend more time with families due to other services being unavailable or on hold
- Delays in getting required documentations for Home studies and delays in court
- Maintaining appropriate distance in homes, individuals delaying service by reporting they are self-isolating or not wanting to wear PPE

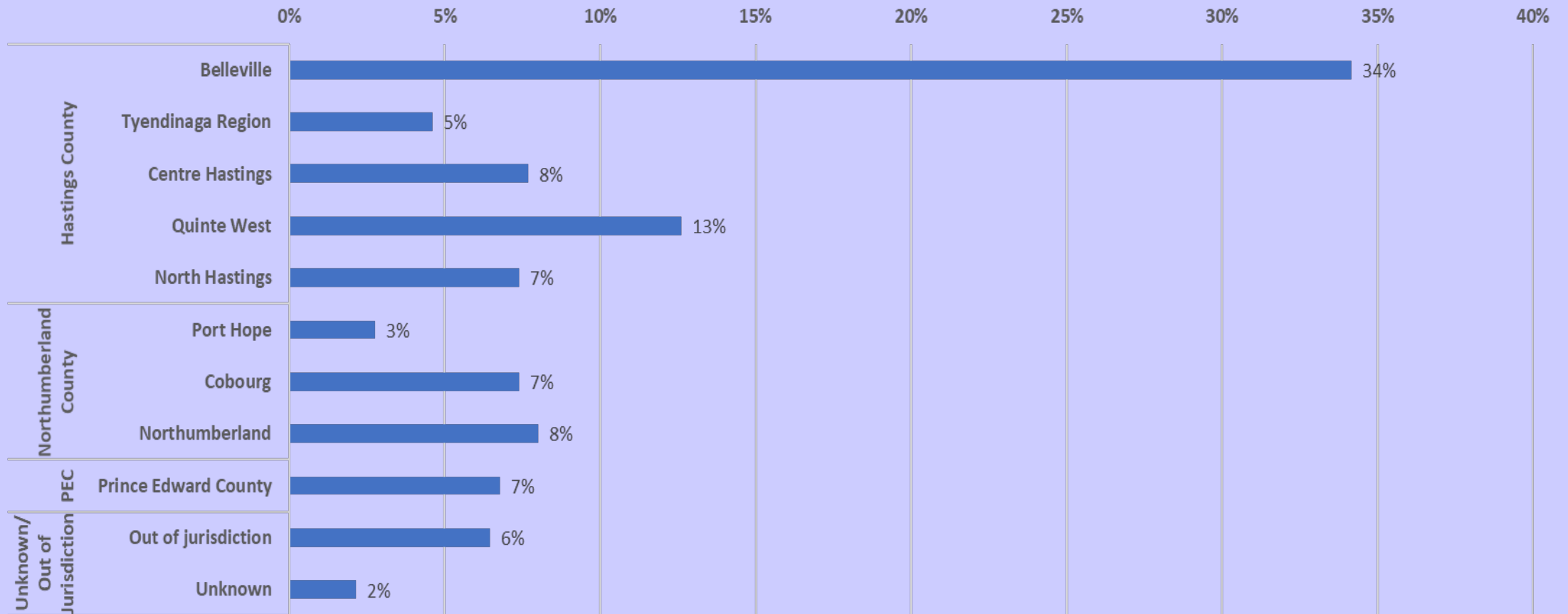
What we learned?

- Doing some work virtually allowed for some processes to move quicker (i.e. mediation), more training opportunities, less time spent in court, meetings could happen quicker and regular contact with co-workers
- Being creative in interventions with families (i.e. Parent Enrichment Program)
- Linking callers with community links as opposed to files opening with HSCA
- Need to spend more time with families helps better understanding an overall picture and clients needs

Geographic Breakdown - Regions

Families Receiving Ongoing Service, Percentage by Region - As of March 31st, 2021

Based on Address of Primary Client as of March 31st, 2021 - Note that this is an approximation based on mailing/residential address only



What YOU Can Do...

Call Highland Shores if you have any concerns that a child or youth may be in need of protection or assistance. Reach out to neighbours and friends to ensure that they are coping or are in need of further support. Your call to HSCA could lead to the help and support for a child, youth and their family.

Show your support by wearing a purple ribbon or purchase a purple item from The Children's Foundation and wear it proudly during the month of October!



You Can Make a Difference!

Join us to help raise awareness by wearing purple
on Dress Purple Day, October 27, 2021.



Purple t-shirts can be purchased from The Children's Foundation,
613-962-9292 or thechildrensfoundation.ca

Order yours today!