

## ANNUAL REPORT OF QUÉBEC'S DIRECTORS OF YOUTH PROTECTION/PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS (DYP/DP): CHILDREN EXPOSED TO CONJUGAL VIOLENCE

**Baie-Comeau, June 18, 2024** – For the 21st edition of the Directors of Youth Protection's Annual Report, the Directors of Youth Protection (DYP) have chosen to focus on an important and little-known aspect of their work, namely children who are exposed to conjugal violence.

Conjugal violence has a devastating impact on children and youths, affecting their emotional, mental, and physical well-being. The DYP feel it is essential to acknowledge that children exposed to conjugal violence may be living in fear and insecurity, which can trigger mental health issues, behavioural issues, and difficulties at school. Violence in the home affects a child's normal development, their ability to form healthy relationships, and their sense of security. In such cases the DYP, together with various partners, play a necessary and vital role in re-establishing a safe and healthy home environment in which the children can recover and feel normal again.

### Regional Statistics for 2023–2024

- **2 912** reports processed, which represents **8** children per day, a 34% decrease compared to last year.
- **645** reports were retained for evaluation, which represents **22.15%** of reports processed.
- The four main problems related to the development and safety of children which require youth protection follow-up are:
  1. Neglect: 27.48%
  2. Serious risk of neglect (addiction, mental health, instability): 23.18%
  3. Physical abuse: 16.89%
  4. Serious behavioural disturbance: 11.59%
- After evaluation, **61.63%** of reports retained concluded that the child's safety or development was compromised.
- **64.48%** of children placed in the care of the DYP have remained in their home environment or were entrusted to a relevant third party.
- **192** teenagers received services under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), which represents a 6% increase compared to last year.

### Provincial Statistics for 2023–2024

- This year we saw a slight decrease in the number of reports processed (-0.9%). In 2023–2024, 100 258 children, or 6.13% of Québec children 0 to 17 years old, were the subject of at least one report. Last year, they represented 6.06% of Québec children.
- In 2023–2024, 134 871 reports were processed. Of those reports, 42 378 were retained. This means that 35 791 children (2.19%) who were the subject of at least one report were retained for evaluation, which is similar to the number for 2022–2023 (2.18%).
- In 2023–2024, reports concerning exposure to conjugal violence made up 12.5% of all reports. In Québec that represents one report in eight, or close to 50 reports per day.
- For the year 2023–2024, 2.66% of 0–17-year-old children in Québec were placed under the care of the DYP, as compared with 2.64% in 2022–2023. In all, 20% of children were taken into care as a result of psychological maltreatment and 12% as a result of physical abuse or a serious risk thereof.
- Looking only at those taken into care from the start of 2023–2024, exposure to conjugal violence represents 9.5% of those cases.

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- The number of adolescents who received services under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) increased by 15% over 2022–2023. The increases seen over the past two years have brought the numbers back to pre-pandemic levels.

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