

Completing the OnLAC Assessment and Action Record (AAR): Empirical Findings from 2021 on the Time and Number of Sessions Required, Modalities, and Participant Feedback

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Background

In August, 2022, the Ontario Looking After Children (OnLAC) team at the University of Ottawa received and reviewed a copy of *Ontario Looking After Children (OnLAC): A History, Current State Analysis and Considerations for the Future*, a report commissioned by the Ontario Association for Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) and prepared by project consultant Jessica Diamond in March 2022. This report sought to describe the procedures used in the OnLAC project and, in particular, the completion of the Assessment and Action Record (hereafter, "AAR"). (The full acronym of the tool is AAR-C2-2016, which denotes the 2016 version of the second Canadian adaptation of the Assessment and Action Record from Looking After Children. For detailed information on the AAR-C2-2010, please consult the *User's Manual for the AAR-C2-2016*, by Miller, Flynn, Vincent, 2017). We see this review and resulting discussions as timely, given that the AAR is overdue for revision (following earlier revisions in 2006, 2010 and 2016).

Purpose of Looking After Children and the AAR

As indicated in the *AAR User's Manual for the AAR-C2-2016* (Miller et al., 2017), Looking After Children is a child-development approach to child welfare services that originated in England and Wales as a response to serious concerns about the outcomes of young people in care. The title of an early publication, *Looking After Children: Assessing Outcomes in Child Care* (Parker, Ward, Jackson, Aldgate, & Wedge, 1991), clearly conveys that the intention to assess service outcomes has been central to the approach since the beginning. Looking After Children is guided by three main principles. First, children and young people in out-of-home care are entitled to the same quality of caregiving as that experienced by children cared for by loving, responsible caregivers and parents in the community. Second, a strong partnership is required among all the adults involved in the "corporate" or substitute parenting of looked after children – birth families, foster families, social workers, and other professionals – to ensure that the children's needs are fully met. Third, interventions to promote optimal outcomes among looked after children and youth must be based on knowledge and research in child development, with outcome targets on the same level as

those for young people of the same age in the general population, even if the needs of young people in care may often be greater.

The AAR is intended to be completed in an annual conversational interview in which the young person (if in care for a year or more and if aged 10 or older), the young person's caregivers, and the child welfare worker participate. In the case of children aged 0-9 who have been in care for a year or more, the caregivers and the child welfare worker complete the AAR on behalf of the child. Young adults aged 18+ complete the AAR with the child welfare worker without the participation of the caregiver, as many are in independent living settings.

The AAR has three complementary purposes, on three successively higher levels. First, on the level of the individual child or youth, the tool has the direct-service (or "clinical") function of helping the child welfare worker and caregivers to assess the young person's needs comprehensively, prepare and implement a high-quality plan of care, and monitor the young person's yearly progress. Second, on the level of the local child welfare organization, the AAR has the managerial function of enabling middle and senior managers and board members to monitor the progress of groups of children or youth annually, compare their actual developmental outcomes with those that have been targeted, and make data-based decisions to improve the relevance of agency services and the quality of young people's lives. Third, at the level of the province, the AAR has the policy function of encouraging decision-makers in government and the voluntary sector to monitor young people's outcomes on a system-wide basis, evaluate their outcomes in light of expected progress, and formulate improved policies and practices. Because of its long-term support of the OnLAC project and the use of the AAR, Ontario is one of the rare jurisdictions internationally that has this multi-level outcome-monitoring capacity. The challenge is to assist workers and supervisors, local CASs, and provincial bodies to use the OnLAC data to their full advantage.

Purpose of the Present Report

The present report is adapted from a previous report (*Completing the OnLAC Assessment and Action Record (AAR): Empirical Findings from Year 12 (2012-2013) on the Time and Number of Sessions Required, Participants, and Modalities* (Flynn, Miller, and Vincent, 2013) completed for OACAS and the former Gateway committee. We have prepared the present report for consideration by the OACAS and the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), to inform forthcoming discussions about the AAR and the broader OnLAC project. Using 2021 OnLAC data that was reported by child welfare workers in response to AAR items, we have addressed four key questions for each of the AAR age groups, both for the 2021 OnLAC sample as a whole and for subsamples where AARs were completed in either via the standard paper or electronic version, or via Viewpoint software:

- How much time does it take, on average, to complete the AAR?
- How many sessions, on average, does it take to complete the AAR?
- How is the AAR usually completed? and
- Who (caregivers and/or young person) will receive a copy of the completed AAR?

We address each of these questions in turn.

Question 1: How long does it take, on average, to complete the AAR (See Table 1)

Table 1 presents the findings based on a 2021 OnLAC sample of 2,908 young people in care that was available as of this writing. The sample included 544 AARs completed via Viewpoint software (18.7% of the total sample). In Table 1, quadrant A (upper left) shows the average (i.e., mean and median) number of hours required to complete the AAR for the sample as a whole and for each of the 9 AAR age groups. Quadrant B (middle left) displays the same data for the Standard AAR sub-sample. Quadrant C (lower left) displays the same data for the Viewpoint AAR sub-sample. Quadrant D (upper right) shows the average (mean and median) number of hours spent by young persons themselves in completing the AAR, for those aged 10 and over (as noted earlier, children aged 0-9 are too young to speak for themselves and thus their cells are blank). Quadrant E (middle right) shows the same data for the Standard AAR sub-sample. Quadrant F (lower right) presents the same data for the Viewpoint AAR sub-sample.

As quadrant A shows for the sample as a whole, the mean number of hours to complete the AAR conversation (i.e., including the discussion of key clinical issues) varies between 1 hr 54 min for the youngest group and 2 hrs 18 minutes for the pre-adolescents (10-12 yrs) and mid- to later adolescents (13-15 and 16-17 yrs). In no case does completion of the AAR conversation require even 3.0 hours, on average. For both Standard and Viewpoint AARs Aboriginal (FNMI) young persons in care (quadrants B and C), the means and medians are similar. Quadrants D, E, and F show that the average time spent by the young person in completing the AAR interview is considerably less than the total average time required, with an average participation time at less than half of the total completion time.

To put these average times in perspective, it should be noted that even if the average time required were rounded up to 3.0 hours this amount of time would represent only 1/6th of 1% ($3.0/1,800$) of the total yearly time spent at work by the typical child welfare worker. Thus, for example, if a worker had a case load of 24 young persons in care, completion of the AAR would take up only 4% ($= 24 \times 1/6$ of 1%) of the worker's annual time at work. This suggests that the process of completing the AAR interview is quite efficient. Moreover, the time required to complete the AAR conversation has to be weighed against the major benefits to be derived, including gathering information that enables the young person's plan of care to be fully updated on an annual basis and his or her outcomes regularly assessed, on the clinical, Society, and provincial levels.

Table 1.

Total Time Required, on Average, to Complete the AAR Conversation, for the 2021) OnLAC Sample as a Whole and for the Standard and Viewpoint methods of completion, by AAR Age Group.

Age group	Total Time to Complete AAR Conversation - including Background Information				Young Person's Total Time Participating in AAR Conversation			
	N	Mean hrs and mins to complete	Median hrs and mins to complete	SD	N	Mean hrs and mins to complete	Median hrs and mins to complete	SD
0-11 mos	76	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins				
1-1 years	155	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins				
2-2 years	151	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	1.3 = 1 hr, 18 mins				
3-5 years	336	2.1 = 2 hrs, 6 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins				
6-9 years	484	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.4 = 1 hr, 24 mins	444	0.4 = 0 hrs, 24 mins	0 = 0 hrs, 0 mins	0.6 = 0 hrs, 36 mins
10-12 years	452	2.3 = 2 hrs, 18 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	441	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins
13-15 years	647	2.3 = 2 hrs, 18 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	637	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins
16-17 years	585	2.3 = 2 hrs, 18 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	573	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins
18+ years	22	2.1 = 2 hrs, 6 mins	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	22	1.5 = 1 hr, 30 mins	1.4 = 1 hr, 24 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins
TOTAL	2908	2.2 = 2 hrs, 12 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.4 = 1 hr, 24 mins	2117	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins
Age group	Total Time to Complete AAR Conversation - including Background Information - Standard Version				Young Person's Total Time Participating in AAR Conversation - Standard Version			
	N	Mean hrs and mins to complete	Median hrs and mins to complete	SD	N	Mean hrs and mins to complete	Median hrs and mins to complete	SD
0-11 mos	64	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins				
1-1 years	130	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins				
2-2 years	124	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.4 = 1 hr, 24 mins				
3-5 years	287	2.1 = 2 hrs, 6 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins				
6-9 years	414	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.4 = 1 hr, 24 mins	376	0.4 = 0 hrs, 24 mins	0 = 0 hrs, 0 mins	0.6 = 0 hrs, 36 mins
10-12 years	368	2.3 = 2 hrs, 18 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.1 = 1 hr, 6 mins	357	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins
13-15 years	503	2.3 = 2 hrs, 18 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.1 = 1 hr, 6 mins	494	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.1 = 1 hr, 6 mins
16-17 years	453	2.3 = 2 hrs, 18 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	2.1 = 2 hrs, 6 mins	441	1.3 = 1 hr, 18 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.3 = 1 hr, 18 mins
18+ years	21	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	21	1.4 = 1 hr, 24 mins	1.3 = 1 hr, 18 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins
TOTAL	2364	2.2 = 2 hrs, 12 mins	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1689	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	1.1 = 1 hr, 6 mins

Age group	Total Time to Complete AAR Conversation - including Background Information - Viewpoint Version				Young Person's Total Time Participating in AAR Conversation - Viewpoint Version			
	N	Mean hrs and mins to complete	Median hrs and mins to complete	SD	N	Mean hrs and mins to complete	Median hrs and mins to complete	SD
0-11 mos	12	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins				
1-1 years	25	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	1.5 = 1 hr, 30 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins				
2-2 years	27	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	1.5 = 1 hr, 30 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins				
3-5 years	49	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	1.5 = 1 hr, 30 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins				
6-9 years	70	1.8 = 1 hr, 48 mins	1.5 = 1 hr, 30 mins	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins	68	0.3 = 0 hrs, 18 mins	0 = 0 hrs, 0 mins	0.7 = 0 hrs, 42 mins
10-12 years	84	2.4 = 2 hrs, 24 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.3 = 1 hr, 18 mins	84	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins	0.7 = 0 hrs, 42 mins
13-15 years	144	2.4 = 2 hrs, 24 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.3 = 1 hr, 18 mins	143	1.1 = 1 hr, 6 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins
16-17 years	132	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.9 = 1 hr, 54 mins	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	132	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins	1.0 = 1 hr, 0 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins
18+ years	1	4.0 = 4 hrs, 0 mins	4.0 = 4 hrs, 0 mins	n/a	1	4.0 = 4 hrs, 0 mins	4.0 = 4 hrs, 0 mins	n/a
TOTAL	544	2.1 = 2 hrs, 6 mins	2.0 = 2 hrs, 0 mins	1.2 = 1 hr, 12 mins	428	0.9 = 0 hrs, 54 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins	0.8 = 0 hrs, 48 mins

Question 2: How many sessions, on average, does it take to complete the AAR? (See Table 2)

Table 2 displays the total number of sessions required to complete the AAR conversation, for the 2021 OnLAC sample as a whole (upper panel), for the Standard AAR sub-sample (middle panel), and for the Viewpoint AAR sub-sample (lower panel). In only a small proportion of cases (i.e., less than 1% to 5%) did it take 4 or more sessions to complete the AAR. In most instances, the mean was 2 sessions and the median was 2 sessions, for both the 2021 sample as a whole and for the Standard AAR and Viewpoint AAR sub-samples. As with the data on the average time to completion (question 1), these data on the average number of sessions needed suggest that the process is an efficient one.

Table 2.

Total Time Required, on Average, to Complete the AAR Conversation, for the 2021) OnLAC Sample as a Whole and for the Standard and Viewpoint methods of completion, by AAR Age Group.

Age group	Total Sessions to Complete AAR Conversation - including Background Information						
	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean no. of sessions to complete</i>	<i>Median no. of sessions to complete</i>	<i>1 session</i>	<i>2 sessions</i>	<i>3 sessions</i>	<i>4 or more sessions</i>
0-11 mos	79	1.8	2.0	40.5%	45.6%	11.4%	2.5%
1-1 years	158	1.8	2.0	34.2%	55.1%	10.8%	0.0%
2-2 years	158	1.7	2.0	41.8%	49.4%	8.9%	0.0%
3-5 years	350	1.8	2.0	38.3%	48.6%	12.6%	0.6%
6-9 years	487	1.9	2.0	33.3%	55.0%	9.9%	1.8%
10-12 years	470	2.0	2.0	26.4%	48.3%	21.5%	3.8%
13-15 years	673	2.0	2.0	26.2%	49.6%	20.2%	4.0%
16-17 years	590	2.0	2.0	33.2%	43.7%	17.6%	5.4%
18+ years	23	1.9	2.0	39.1%	30.4%	30.4%	0.0%
Total	2988	1.9	2.0	31.9%	49.0%	16.1%	3.0%
Age group	Total Sessions to Complete AAR Conversation - including Background Information - Standard Version						
	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean no. of sessions to complete</i>	<i>Median no. of sessions to complete</i>	<i>1 session</i>	<i>2 sessions</i>	<i>3 sessions</i>	<i>4 or more sessions</i>
0-11 mos	67	1.8	2.0	40.3%	47.8%	9.0%	3.0%
1-1 years	133	1.7	2.0	36.8%	51.9%	11.3%	0.0%
2-2 years	131	1.7	2.0	41.2%	51.1%	7.6%	0.0%
3-5 years	301	1.8	2.0	38.2%	49.2%	12.3%	0.3%
6-9 years	417	1.8	2.0	35.5%	54.2%	8.6%	1.9%
10-12 years	384	2.0	2.0	28.6%	46.1%	21.4%	3.9%
13-15 years	523	2.0	2.0	27.2%	48.6%	19.7%	4.6%
16-17 years	458	1.9	2.0	35.4%	43.2%	15.9%	5.5%
18+ years	22	1.9	2.0	40.9%	27.3%	31.9%	0.0%

Total	2438	1.9	2.0	33.5%	48.3%	15.1%	3.1%
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Age group	Total Sessions to Complete AAR Conversation - including Background Information - Viewpoint Version						
	N	Mean no. of sessions to complete	Median no. of sessions to complete	1 session	2 sessions	3 sessions	4 or more sessions
0-11 mos	12	1.8	2.0	41.7%	33.3%	25.0%	0.0%
1-1 years	25	1.9	2.0	20.0%	72.0%	8.0%	0.0%
2-2 years	27	1.7	2.0	44.4%	40.7%	14.8%	0.0%
3-5 years	49	1.8	2.0	38.8%	44.9%	14.3%	2.0%
6-9 years	70	2.0	2.0	21.4%	60.0%	17.1%	1.4%
10-12 years	86	2.1	2.0	16.3%	58.1%	22.1%	3.5%
13-15 years	150	2.0	2.0	22.7%	53.3%	22.0%	2.0%
16-17 years	132	2.1	2.0	25.8%	45.5%	23.5%	5.3%
18+ years	1	2.0	2.0	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	552	2.0	2.0	25.0%	52.2%	20.1%	2.7%

Question 3: How is the AAR usually completed? (See Tables 3a-3c)

The AAR is intended to be completed in the form of a face-to-face, conversational interview that is conducted by the child welfare worker, as much as possible, except when obstacles make this difficult and render other modalities more feasible (e.g., great distances, as in rural or especially northern Ontario, or enrollment of the young person in a distant college or university program).

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on work across the sector, as laws and by-laws were enacted to mitigate the spread of SARS-Cov-2. Many communities spent considerable time from March 2020 through 2021 under mandatory stay-at-home orders and many workplaces put work-from-home policies in place. As such, it was expected that the intended in-person AAR conversation may not occur. Tables 3a through 3c display AAR method of completion data for 2019 (pre-pandemic) and 2020 and 2021 (during the pandemic) and describes how the pandemic has affected the AAR process for the overall sample, and for Standard AAR and Viewpoint AAR sub-samples.

Table 3a indicates how the AAR was completed in 2019. Face-to-face interviews were reported in over 75% of cases for the overall 2019 sample. For the Standard AAR sub-sample, face-to-face conversations were reported in 82% of cases, and ranged between 78% and 92% of cases when broken down by age group. For the Viewpoint AAR sub-sample, face-to-face conversations were reported in 47% of cases, and ranged between 32% and 75% when broken down by age group (noting that the 18+ age group accounted for a very small number of the 2019 Viewpoint AARs).

Table 3b indicates how the AAR was completed in 2020. Ten months of 2020 were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Face-to-face interviews were reported in 52% of cases for the overall 2020 sample, a drop of 23% over the previous year. For the Standard AAR sub-sample, face-to-face conversations were reported in 59% of cases, a drop of 23% from the previous year, and ranged between 55% and 78% of cases when broken down by age group (again, noting that the 18+ age group represents a small number of the 2020 Standard AARs). For the Viewpoint AAR sub-sample, face-to-face conversations were reported in just 29% of cases, a drop of 18% from the previous year, and ranged between 19% and 34% when broken down by age group.

Table 3c indicates how the AAR was completed in 2021. All of 2021 was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Face-to-face interviews were reported in 55% of cases for the overall 2021 sample, an increase of 3% from the previous year. For the Standard AAR sub-sample, face-to-face conversations were reported in 61% of cases, an increase of 2% over the previous year, and ranged between 56% and 87% of cases when broken down by age group (noting that the 18+ age group represents a small number of the 2021 Standard AARs). For the Viewpoint AAR sub-sample, face-to-face conversations were reported in just 28% of cases, a further drop of 1% over the previous year, and ranged between 7% and 38% when broken down by age group.

These data suggest that child welfare workers are able to adapt the way in which they complete the AAR in a flexible fashion, to suit local circumstances, but also suggest that the intended method of completion of the AAR is adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 3a.

Percentage of 2019 AAR Interviews Completed Through Use of Different Modalities (Face-to-Face Conversation, Telephone Conversation, Self-Administration, or Other)

Age group	2019 - How was the AAR conversation completed?*					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	80.2%	1.5%	9.2%	30.5%		4.6%
1-1 years	78.9%	0.8%	16.9%	26.6%		3.0%
2-2 years	80.2%	2.3%	12.8%	36.0%		5.3%
3-5 years	74.1%	1.2%	18.0%	37.6%		4.1%
6-9 years	71.3%	1.6%	14.4%	34.0%		5.0%
10-12 years	80.5%	0.5%	10.2%	38.6%	13.6%	6.0%
13-15 years	74.6%	0.9%	9.6%	39.2%	23.0%	6.3%
16-17 years	73.5%	0.5%	12.1%	31.4%	20.0%	8.3%
18+ years	78.0%	n/a	n/a		12.2%	26.8%
TOTAL	75.4%	1.0%	12.3%	35.0%	19.5%	6.1%
Age group	2019 - How was the AAR conversation completed? - Standard Version					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	91.8%	2.1%	6.2%	19.6%		5.2%
1-1 years	86.7%	0.5%	13.3%	20.2%		2.5%
2-2 years	86.0%	2.1%	10.5%	25.9%		4.2%
3-5 years	80.9%	1.2%	13.8%	30.0%		4.1%
6-9 years	77.8%	2.0%	10.2%	26.6%		4.3%
10-12 years	86.1%	0.6%	8.4%	35.0%	9.0%	4.9%
13-15 years	82.7%	1.1%	7.6%	31.0%	14.8%	5.0%
16-17 years	78.4%	0.6%	9.6%	26.0%	15.4%	8.5%
18+ years	78.4%	n/a	n/a		10.8%	29.7%
TOTAL	81.9%	1.1%	9.6%	28.2%	13.5%	5.6%

Age group	2019 - How was the AAR conversation completed? - Viewpoint Version					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	47.1%	n/a	17.6%	61.8%		2.9%
1-1 years	32.4%	2.9%	38.2%	64.7%		5.9%
2-2 years	51.7%	3.4%	24.1%	86.2%		10.3%
3-5 years	41.4%	1.4%	38.6%	74.3%		4.3%
6-9 years	41.3%	n/a	33.9%	68.8%		8.3%
10-12 years	51.1%	n/a	19.6%	57.6%	38.0%	12.0%
13-15 years	47.4%	n/a	16.4%	66.7%	50.2%	10.3%
16-17 years	50.0%	n/a	24.6%	58.0%	42.8%	7.2%
18+ years	75.0%	n/a	n/a		25.0%	n/a
TOTAL	46.5%	0.4%	24.5%	65.0%	45.2%	8.4%

*respondents could select more than option.

Table 3b.

Percentage of 2020 AAR Interviews Completed Through Use of Different Modalities (Face-to-Face Conversation, Telephone Conversation, Self-Administration, or Other)

Age group	2020 - How was the AAR conversation completed?*					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	49.6%	1.7%	41.3%	35.5%		9.9%
1-1 years	51.2%	1.4%	38.8%	34.4%		7.7%
2-2 years	54.6%	2.9%	35.6%	32.2%		8.0%
3-5 years	48.2%	1.4%	40.0%	40.0%		10.1%
6-9 years	47.6%	0.6%	34.8%	42.3%		8.8%
10-12 years	58.6%	0.6%	30.6%	40.5%	16.6%	9.3%
13-15 years	52.6%	0.4%	28.5%	41.2%	26.6%	8.2%
16-17 years	52.7%	0.6%	27.6%	34.4%	23.2%	8.6%
18+ years	71.4%	n/a	9.5%		9.5%	19.0%
TOTAL	52.3%	0.8%	32.2%	38.4%	22.7%	8.8%
Age group	2020 - How was the AAR conversation completed? - Standard Version					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	55.4%	2.2%	43.5%	28.3%		10.9%
1-1 years	56.7%	1.8%	42.7%	26.8%		7.3%
2-2 years	58.9%	3.3%	35.8%	25.8%		7.9%
3-5 years	54.6%	1.7%	41.2%	31.3%		8.6%
6-9 years	55.6%	0.8%	36.5%	30.5%		7.4%
10-12 years	66.6%	0.7%	30.0%	32.0%	10.6%	7.5%
13-15 years	60.5%	0.5%	29.1%	32.1%	15.8%	6.3%
16-17 years	57.6%	0.8%	29.2%	27.8%	17.3%	7.9%
18+ years	77.8%	n/a	5.6%		5.6%	22.2%
TOTAL	59.1%	1.1%	33.3%	29.8%	14.8%	7.6%

Age group	2020 - How was the AAR conversation completed? - Viewpoint Version					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	31.0%	n/a	34.5%	58.6%		6.9%
1-1 years	31.1%	n/a	24.4%	62.2%		8.9%
2-2 years	26.1%	n/a	34.8%	73.9%		8.7%
3-5 years	18.8%	n/a	34.4%	79.7%		17.2%
6-9 years	20.5%	n/a	29.1%	82.1%		13.7%
10-12 years	29.2%	n/a	32.7%	71.7%	38.9%	15.9%
13-15 years	32.6%	n/a	26.9%	63.9%	53.7%	12.8%
16-17 years	34.1%	n/a	21.7%	59.4%	45.7%	11.6%
18+ years	33.3%	n/a	33.3%		33.3%	n/a
TOTAL	29.0%	n/a	28.2%	68.1%	47.8%	12.9%

*respondents could select more than one option

** Note that 10 months of this OnLAC data was collected during the Covid-19 pandemic, and as such, work-from-home policies or mandatory stay-at-home orders may have been in place.

Table 3c.

Percentage of 2021 AAR Interviews Completed Through Use of Different Modalities (Face-to-Face Conversation, Telephone Conversation, Self-Administration, or Other)

Age group	2021 - How was the AAR conversation completed?*,**					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	52.4%	1.2%	33.3%	40.5%		9.5%
1-1 years	52.1%	1.2%	37.7%	34.7%		6.6%
2-2 years	49.7%	0.6%	29.9%	35.3%		8.4%
3-5 years	53.4%	0.8%	32.9%	36.4%		8.4%
6-9 years	48.6%	1.0%	35.0%	39.5%		8.6%
10-12 years	57.5%	1.8%	30.3%	42.1%	14.8%	7.3%
13-15 years	58.9%	1.3%	21.5%	44.8%	25.8%	6.3%
16-17 years	55.1%	0.6%	21.9%	37.2%	22.9%	10.6%
18+ years	83.3%	n/a	20.8%		20.8%	33.3%
TOTAL	54.8%	1.1%	28.1%	39.5%	21.8%	8.3%
Age group	2021 - How was the AAR conversation completed? - Standard Version					
	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community	Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker	Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)	Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)	Other
0-11 mos	56.3%	1.4%	31.0%	33.8%		8.5%
1-1 years	57.2%	1.4%	40.6%	29.7%		5.8%
2-2 years	56.3%	0.7%	32.6%	31.1%		8.1%
3-5 years	57.5%	0.9%	34.0%	31.4%		7.9%
6-9 years	56.4%	1.2%	34.6%	35.8%		7.4%
10-12 years	64.1%	2.0%	30.2%	35.4%	10.3%	6.5%
13-15 years	64.9%	1.5%	23.4%	39.3%	18.8%	5.9%
16-17 years	63.2%	0.8%	23.8%	30.3%	15.4%	9.9%
18+ years	87.0%	n/a	21.7%		21.7%	30.4%
TOTAL	61.2%	1.3%	29.4%	34.0%	15.4%	7.7%

<i>Age group</i>	2021 - How was the AAR conversation completed? - Viewpoint Version					
	<i>Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker</i>	<i>Face-to-face conversation conducted by the child welfare worker in conjunction with a member of the young person's FNMI community</i>	<i>Telephone conversation conducted by the child welfare worker</i>	<i>Self-administration by the caregiver (paper or electronic)</i>	<i>Self-administration by the young person (paper or electronic)</i>	<i>Other</i>
0-11 mos	30.8%	n/a	46.2%	76.9%		15.4%
1-1 years	27.6%	n/a	24.1%	58.6%		10.3%
2-2 years	21.9%	n/a	18.8%	53.1%		9.4%
3-5 years	28.3%	n/a	26.4%	66.0%		11.3%
6-9 years	7.4%	n/a	37.0%	59.3%		14.8%
10-12 years	29.8%	1.1%	30.9%	70.2%	34.0%	10.6%
13-15 years	38.4%	0.6%	15.1%	63.5%	49.7%	7.5%
16-17 years	28.8%	n/a	15.8%	59.6%	47.3%	13.0%
18+ years	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	100.0%
TOTAL	28.1%	0.3%	22.9%	62.7%	45.0%	11.2%

*respondents could select more than one option

** Note that this OnLAC data was collected during the Covid-19 pandemic, and as such, work-from-home policies or mandatory stay-at-home orders may have been in place.

Question 4: Who (caregivers and/or young person) will receive a copy of the completed AAR?

One of the guiding principles of OnLAC is the development of honest, open partnerships among agencies, caregivers, young people, and the important people in their lives (including families or origin, teachers, and other significant adults). Both the caregiver and the young person provide their time and input into the assessment process and ethical practice would see participants receive copies of or access to the completed AAR. This helps to ensure that participants are informed when the time comes to create the plan of care, so that nothing included in the plan is a surprise.

The majority of participants in the AAR conversation in 2021 were reportedly not going to receive a copy of the completed AAR.

Table 4.

Percentage of 2021 AAR participants who will receive a copy of the completed AAR document.

Age group	AAR Copy				
	N	Will the caregiver or young person receive a copy of the completed seven AAR dimensions?		If yes, who will receive a copy of the completed seven AAR dimensions?	
		Yes	No	Caregiver	Young person
0-11 mos	77	28.6%	71.4%		
1-1 years	155	31.0%	69.0%		
2-2 years	155	30.3%	69.7%		
3-5 years	335	27.8%	72.2%		
6-9 years	467	25.3%	74.7%		
10-12 years	454	21.8%	78.2%	89.9%	38.4%
13-15 years	646	26.3%	73.7%	85.9%	56.5%
16-17 years	566	18.6%	81.4%	72.4%	66.7%
18+ years	24	33.3%	66.7%		
TOTAL	2879	24.7%	75.3%	83.2%	54.5%

Age group	AAR Copy - Standard Version				
	N	Will the caregiver or young person receive a copy of the completed seven AAR dimensions?		If yes, who will receive a copy of the completed seven AAR dimensions?	
		Yes	No	Caregiver	Young person
0-11 mos	66	27.3%	72.7%		
1-1 years	129	29.5%	70.5%		
2-2 years	126	28.6%	71.4%		
3-5 years	283	23.7%	76.3%		
6-9 years	391	23.3%	76.7%		
10-12 years	365	20.0%	80.0%	87.7%	31.5%
13-15 years	495	23.6%	76.4%	85.5%	51.3%
16-17 years	432	14.4%	85.6%	77.4%	59.7%
18+ years	23	30.4%	69.6%		

TOTAL	2310	22.0%	78.0%	81.9%	46.3%
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Age group	AAR Copy - Viewpoint Version				
	N	Will the caregiver or young person receive a copy of the completed seven AAR dimensions?		If yes, who will receive a copy of the completed seven AAR dimensions?	
		Yes	No	Caregiver	Young person
0-11 mos	11	36.4%	63.6%		
1-1 years	26	38.5%	61.5%		
2-2 years	29	37.9%	62.1%		
3-5 years	52	50.0%	50.0%		
6-9 years	76	35.5%	64.5%		
10-12 years	89	29.2%	70.8%	96.2%	57.7%
13-15 years	151	35.1%	64.9%	86.8%	67.9%
16-17 years	134	32.1%	67.9%	65.1%	76.7%
18+ years	1	100.0%	0.0%		
TOTAL	569	35.3%	64.7%	80.5%	68.3%

References

- Flynn, R., Miller, M., & Vincent, C. (2013). *Completing the OnLAC Assessment and Action Record (AAR): Empirical findings from year 12 (2012-2013) on the time and number of sessions required, participants, and modalities*. Ottawa, ON: Centre for Research on Educational and Community Services, Ontario Looking After Children Project, University of Ottawa.
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- Parker, R., Ward, H., Jackson, S., Aldgate, J., & Wedge, P. (Eds.) (1991). *Looking after Children: Assessing outcomes in child care*. London, UK: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.