

Selected Variables from Ontario Looking After Children (OnLAC)
Informing the Service Framework for Child Welfare in Ontario
Year 13 Ontario Provincial Report

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
Introduction	ii
Children Have a Voice in Their Planning.....	1
Assessment and Action Record (AAR) completion for OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) children aged 0-9 years	1
Assessment and Action Record (AAR) completion for OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) young people aged 10-17 years	2
“I have had a say in things that affect my life.” OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) young people aged 10-17 years	3
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) children aged 0-9 years who have a permanency plan	4
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) young people aged 10-17 years who have a permanency plan	5
Resiliency and Asset Building	6
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Positive Parenting and Developmental Assets for children aged 0-9 years.....	6
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Parenting Practices (Positive Parenting, Inconsistent Discipline, Poor Supervision) as reported by young people aged 10-17 years.....	7
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Relationship with Primary Caregiver and Developmental Assets for young people aged 10-17 years	8
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Correlations for Parenting Practices, Relationship with Primary Caregiver, and Developmental Assets for young people aged 10-17 years.....	9
Aboriginal Identity and Connection to Culture	10
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) selected variables pertaining to First Nations, Métis, & Inuit (FNMI) children aged 0-9 years	10
OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) selected variables pertaining to First Nations, Métis, & Inuit (FNMI) children aged 10-17 years	11

Introduction

This report was prepared by the University of Ottawa OnLAC team at the request of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) in preparation for the 2017 Ontario Child Welfare Data Forum.

The variables selected in consultation with OACAS and presented here are intended to inform 2016 Service Framework for Child Welfare in Ontario item 6 – *Expected outcomes for children and families as a result of their receipt of services: Meeting the needs of “children in care” and Crown wards* (Service Framework, p. 12). Specifically:

- Children have a voice in their planning
- Children develop resiliency as a result of having their needs met (through the OnLAC approach)
- Children experience increased protective factors (asset building) and reduced risk factors that contribute to improved well-being
- Aboriginal children have the opportunity to know their culture and identity, connect with the land, and learn/speak their language

Children Have a Voice in Their Planning

Assessment and Action Record (AAR) completion for OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) children aged 0-9 years

<i>Total</i>	0-9 years n = 2,171				
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 1,191 54.9%			Females n = 980 45.1%	
<i>Ethnicity</i> (missing 3.3% of total Year 14 0-9 sample)	Canadian n = 1,186 56.5%	FNMI n = 613 29.2%	African-Canadian n = 82 3.9%	Caribbean-Canadian n = 149 7.1%	Other n = 70 3.3%
<i>Age group</i>	0-5 years n = 1,265 58.3%			6-9 years n = 906 41.7%	
<i>Total time spent completing AAR x Gender & Age group</i>	Males n = 397		Females n = 308		
					Males n = 297
					Females n = 240
Mean hours	2.4		2.4		2.3
Median hours	2.3		2.3		2.3
Range hours	0.3-10.0		0.5-8.5		0.8-5.8
<i>Total time <u>child</u> participated in completing AAR x Gender & Age group</i>	Males n = 88		Females n = 59		
					Males n = 103
					Females n = 106
Mean hours	0.3		0.4		0.7
Median hours	0.0		0.0		0.3
Range hours	0.0-3.5		0.0-2.3		0.0-3.0
<i>Method of completion AAR x Age group</i>	0-5 years <i>workers could select more than one option</i>			6-9 years <i>workers could select more than one option</i>	
Face-to-face conversation	83.1%			83.6%	
Telephone conversation	15.7%			14.1%	
Self- administration by the caregiver	23.7%			32.2%	
Other	6.1%			7.0%	

Assessment and Action Record (AAR) completion for OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) young people aged 10-17 years

<i>Total</i>	10-17 years n = 4,340					
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 2,421 55.8%			Females n = 1,919 44.2%		
<i>Ethnicity</i> (missing 9.5% of total Year 13 10-17 sample)	Canadian n = 2,530 64.4%	FNMI n = 895 22.8%	African-Canadian n = 127 3.2%	Caribbean-Canadian n = 136 3.5%	Other n = 238 6.1%	
<i>Age group</i>	10-12 years n = 992 22.9%		13-15 years n = 1,670 38.5%		16-17 years n = 1,678 38.7%	
<i>Total time spent completing AAR x Gender & Age group</i>	Males n = 369	Females n = 247	Males n = 585	Females n = 461	Males n = 541	Females n = 422
Mean hours	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Median hours	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Range hours	0.1-8.0	0.0-8.0	0.5-9.0	0.0-12.5	0.8-12.0	1-8.3
<i>Total time young person participated in completing AAR x Gender & Age group</i>	Males n = 266	Females n = 151	Males n = 407	Females n = 329	Males n = 379	Females n = 320
Mean hours	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9
Median hours	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5
Range hours	0.0-5.8	0.0-4.5	0.0-5.3	0.0-4.5	0.0-12.0	0.0-6.3
<i>Method of completion AAR x Age group</i>	10-12 years CWW could select more than one option		13-15 years CWW could select more than one option		16-17 years CWW could select more than one option	
Face-to-face conversation	90.2%		85.2%		83.1%	
Telephone conversation	11.6%		10.1%		9.4%	
Self- administration by the caregiver	31%		31.9%		27.1%	
Self- administration by the young person	9.7%		17.4%		18.5%	
Other	6.4%		6.9%		7.0%	

"I have had a say in things that affect my life." OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) young people aged 10-17 years

<i>Total</i>	10-17 years n = 3,128 72.1%					
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Canadian n = 1,987 78.5%	FNMI n = 696 77.8%	African-Canadian n = 101 79.5%	Caribbean-Canadian n = 103 75.7%	Other n = 181 76.1%	
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 1,700 70.2%			Females n = 1,428 74.4%		
<i>Age group</i>	10-12 years n = 703 70.9%		13-15 years n = 1,215 72.8%		16-17 years n = 1,210 72.1%	
<i>Gender x Age group</i>	Males n = 391 69.0%	Females n = 312 73.4%	Males n = 652 70.7%	Females n = 563 75.3%	Males n = 657 70.5%	Females n = 553 74.1%

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) children aged 0-9 years who have a permanency plan

<i>Total</i>	0-9 years N =2,115 79.5%				
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Canadian n = 1,165 80.9%	FNMI n = 600 77.7%	African-Canadian n = 79 73.4%	Caribbean-Canadian n = 146 80.8%	Other n = 67 76.1%
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 1,162 79.3%			Females n = 953 79.7%	
<i>Age group</i>	0-5 years n = 1,233 79.3%			6-9 years n = 882 79.8%	
<i>Gender x Age group</i>	Males n = 671 77.7%		Females n = 562 76.9%		Males n = 491 77.1%
<i>Plan x Gender & Age group</i>	Males n = 634		Females n = 522		Males n = 480
Discharge from care	6.3%		7.1%		8.5%
Remain in current placement	25.1%		23.6%		39.0%
Adoption	46.1%		47.5%		32.3%
Kinship	2.7%		3.4%		2.3%
Status change to legal custody	0.5%		0.8%		1.7%
Customary care	0.9%		1.1%		0.6%
Adult services	0%		0%		0.4%
Other	2.1%		1.7%		2.5%
Permanency plan is not yet determined	16.4%		14.8%		12.7%
<i>Caregiver's intention¹</i>	Males n = 675		Females n = 573		Males n = 502
Yes	39.9%		39.6%		49.4%
Uncertain	48.0%		49.0%		15.1%
No	12.1%		11.3%		35.5%

¹Question: Caregiver's intention is to have the child in the current placement into adulthood?

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) young people aged 10-17 years who have a permanency plan

	10-17 years N = 4,189 86.4%					
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Canadian n = 2,450 87.4%	FNMI n = 859 83.6%	African-Canadian n = 124 91.1%	Caribbean-Canadian n = 134 84.3%	Other n = 233 87.1%	
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 2,344 86.5%			Females n = 1,845 86.3%		
<i>Age group</i>	10-12 years n = 958 84.0%		13-15 years n = 1,624 86.5%		16-17 years n = 1,607 87.9%	
<i>Gender x Age group</i>	Males n = 550 82.9%	Females n = 408 85.5%	Males n = 896 87.4%	Females n = 728 85.3%	Males n = 898 87.9%	Females n = 709 87.9%
<i>Plan x Gender & Age group</i>	Males n = 537	Females n = 399	Males n = 878	Females n = 717	Males n = 861	Females n = 703
Discharge from care	3.9%	5.0%	3.6%	4.9%	2.4%	3.0%
Remain in current placement	62.9%	65.4%	70.3%	69.9%	52.7%	52.6%
Adoption	13.4%	12.0	4.1%	4.6%	0.7%	0.9%
Kinship	1.7%	2.5%	1.9%	1.3%	0.8%	0.6%
Status change to legal custody	1.5%	1.8%	1.1%	1.8%	0.5%	0.3%
Customary care	0.4%	0.5%	0%	0.1%	0.1%	0%
Independent living	0.9%	0%	2.7%	3.1%	25.6%	27.2%
Adult services	2.2%	0.3%	4.9%	2.0%	9.9%	6.8%
Other	1.5%	1.5%	3.1%	3.2%	2.9%	3.4%
Permanency plan is not yet determined	11.5%	11.0%	8.2%	9.2%	4.4%	5.3%
<i>Caregiver's intention¹</i>	Males n = 558	Females n = 413	Males n = 908	Females n = 739	Males n = 877	Females n = 677
Yes	69.4%	69.7%	75.4%	71.3%	71.9%	70.6%
Uncertain	12.4%	13.6%	9.9%	11.6%	9.6%	10.8%
No	18.3%	16.7%	14.6%	17.1%	18.5%	18.6%

¹Question: Caregiver's intention is to have the young person in the current placement into adulthood?

Resiliency and Asset Building

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Positive Parenting and Developmental Assets for children aged 0-9 years

<i>Total Positive Parenting</i> Range 0-24	n = 2,095 missing data n = 76				
	Mean 19.2	Median 19.0	25th 17.0	Quartiles 50th 19.0 75th 22.0	
<i>Positive Parenting</i> <i>Gender mean</i>	Males n = 1,151 19.3		Females n = 944 19.2		
<i>Positive Parenting</i> <i>Age group mean</i>	0-5 years n = 1,218 20.6		6-9 years n = 877 17.4		
<i>Positive Parenting</i> <i>Gender x Age</i> <i>group mean</i>	Males n = 661 20.5	Females n = 557 20.6	Males n = 490 17.6	Females n = 387 17.2	
<i>Total Developmental Assets</i> Range 0-40	n = 2,136 missing data n = 35				
	Mean 35.7	Median 37.0	25th 34.0	Quartiles 50th 37.0 75th 39.0	
<i>Developmental Assets</i> <i>Gender mean</i>	Males n = 1,176 35.3		Females n = 960 36.2		
<i>Developmental Assets</i> <i>Age group mean</i>	0-5 years n = 1,247 36.6		6-9 years n = 889 34.3		
<i>Developmental Assets</i> <i>Gender x Age</i> <i>group mean</i>	Males n = 678 36.6	Females n = 569 36.7	Males n = 498 33.6	Females n = 391 35.3	
Correlation					
<p>Correlation measures the <u>direction</u> and degree (<u>strength</u>) of relationship between two variables. Positive correlations are those where both variables move in the same direction (when one score increases, the other score also increases). Negative correlations are those where variables move in different directions (when one score increases, the other score decreases). Perfect correlation (+1.0 or -1.0) occurs when two variables are exactly related, either positively or negatively. No relationship (0.0) is when two variables are not related at all. The closer to +1.00 the correlation coefficient (r) is, the stronger the positive relationship between the two variables. Likewise, the closer -1.00, the stronger the negative relationship between the two variables.</p> <p><i>When interpreting correlations between constructs that are difficult to measure, such as parenting, relationships, etc., we expect correlations to be lower than data that are easier to count (like demographics). For OnLAC data, we can generally consider correlations of .5 to be strong, correlations of .3 to be moderate, and correlations of .1 to be weak.</i></p>					
<i>Correlation Positive Parenting and Developmental Assets</i>	n = 2,068 r = .201* *Significant at the 0.01 level				

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Parenting Practices (Positive Parenting, Inconsistent Discipline, Poor Supervision) as reported by young people aged 10-17 years

<i>Total Positive Parenting</i> Range 0-12	n = 3,625 missing data n = 715					
	Mean 10.2	Median 11.0	25th 9.0	Quartiles 50th 11.0		75th 12.0
<i>Positive Parenting Gender mean</i>	Males n = 2,001 10.2			Females n = 1,624 10.1		
<i>Positive Parenting Age group mean</i>	10-12 years n = 872 10.8		13-15 years n = 1,450 10.2		16-17 years n = 1,303 9.8	
<i>Positive Parenting Gender x Age group mean</i>	Males n = 492 10.8	Females n = 380 10.8	Males n = 791 10.3	Females n = 659 9.9	Males n = 718 9.8	Females n = 585 9.7
<i>Total Inconsistent Discipline</i> Range 0-12	n = 3,604 missing data n = 736					
	Mean 2.8	Median 2.0	25th 0.0	Quartiles 50th 2.0		75th 4.0
<i>Inconsistent Discipline Gender mean</i>	Males n = 1,991 2.9			Females n = 1,613 2.7		
<i>Inconsistent Discipline Age group mean</i>	10-12 years n = 869 2.7		13-15 years n = 1,438 3.0		16-17 years n = 1,297 2.8	
<i>Inconsistent Discipline Gender x Age group mean</i>	Males n = 493 2.6	Females n = 376 2.8	Males n = 786 3.0	Females n = 652 2.9	Males n = 712 2.9	Females n = 585 2.5
<i>Total Poor Supervision</i> Range 0-12	n = 3,597 missing data n = 743					
	Mean 2.0	Median 1.0	25th 0.0	Quartiles 50th 1.0		75th 4.0
<i>Poor Supervision Gender mean</i>	Males n = 1,987 2.1			Females n = 1,610 1.9		
<i>Poor Supervision Age group mean</i>	10-12 years n = 861 1.0		13-15 years n = 1,439 2.0		16-17 years n = 1,297 2.7	
<i>Poor Supervision Gender x Age group mean</i>	Males n = 487 1.0	Females n = 374 1.0	Males n = 784 2.0	Females n = 655 2.0	Males n = 716 2.9	Females n = 581 2.4

Note: A higher score on any of the Parenting Practices scales indicates an increase in the construct being measured.

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Relationship with Primary Caregiver and Developmental Assets for young people aged 10-17 years

<i>Total Relationship with Primary Caregiver</i> Range 0-8	n = 3,677 missing data n = 663					
	Mean 6.5		Median 7.0		Quartiles 25th 5.0 50th 7.0 75th 8.0	
<i>Relationship with Primary Caregiver Gender mean</i>	Males n = 2,030 6.6			Females n = 1,647 6.5		
<i>Relationship with Primary Caregiver Age group mean</i>	10-12 years n = 888 7.0		13-15 years n = 1,467 6.6		16-17 years n = 1,322 6.2	
<i>Relationship with Primary Caregiver Gender x Age group mean</i>	Males n = 499 7.0	Females n = 389 7.1	Males n = 805 6.6	Females n = 662 6.4	Males n = 726 6.3	Females n = 596 6.1
<i>Total Developmental Assets</i> Range 0-40	n = 4,220 missing data n = 120					
	Mean 26.4		Median 28.0		Quartiles 25th 21.0 50th 28.0 75th 33.0	
<i>Developmental Assets Gender mean</i>	Males n = 2,335 25.6			Females n = 1,865 27.4		
<i>Developmental Assets Age group mean</i>	10-12 years n = 960 30.2		13-15 years n = 1,625 26.2		16-17 years n = 1,635 24.4	
<i>Developmental Assets Gender x Age group mean</i>	Males n = 551 29.2	Females n = 409 31.6	Males n = 897 25.4	Females n = 728 27.3	Males n = 907 23.7	Females n = 728 25.3

Note: A higher Relationship with Caregiver score indicates the young person's greater perceived quality of relationship with the primary caregiver. A higher Developmental Assets score indicates the young person possesses a greater number of assets.

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) Correlations for Parenting Practices, Relationship with Primary Caregiver, and Developmental Assets for young people aged 10-17 years

Correlation

Correlation measures the direction and degree (strength) of relationship between two variables. **Positive correlations** are those where both variables move in the same direction (when one score increases, the other score also increases). **Negative correlations** are those where variables move in different directions (when one score increases, the other score decreases). **Perfect correlation (+1.00 or -1.00)** occurs when two variables are exactly related, either positively or negatively. **No relationship (0.00)** is when two variables are not related at all. The closer to +1.00 the **correlation coefficient (*r*)** is, the stronger the positive relationship between the two variables. Likewise, the closer -1.00, the stronger the negative relationship between the two variables.

When interpreting correlations between constructs that are difficult to measure, such as parenting, relationships, etc., we expect correlations to be lower than data that are easier to count (like demographics). For OnLAC data, we can generally consider correlations of .5 to be strong, correlations of .3 to be moderate, and correlations of .1 to be weak.

<i>r</i>	Positive Parenting	Inconsistent Discipline	Poor Supervision	Relationship w/ Caregiver	Developmental Assets
Positive Parenting	1.00				
Inconsistent Discipline	<i>-.050</i>	1.00			
Poor Supervision	<i>-.244</i>	<i>.306</i>	1.00		
Relationship w/ Caregiver	<i>.577</i>	<i>-.036</i>	<i>-.253</i>	1.00	
Developmental Assets	<i>.222</i>	<i>-.102</i>	<i>-.295</i>	<i>.287</i>	1.00

Bold = Significant at the 0.01 level

Italics = Significant at the 0.05 level

Aboriginal Identity and Connection to Culture

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) selected variables pertaining to First Nations, Métis, & Inuit (FNMI) children aged 0-9 years

<i>Total</i>	0-9 years n = 613 <i>represents 28.2% of the total Ontario OnLAC Year 13 0-9 sample</i>			
	First Nations n = 547 89.2%	Métis n = 42 6.9%	Inuit n = 11 1.8%	Multiple Identities n = 13 2.1%
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 317 51.7%		Females n = 296 48.3%	
<i>Age group</i>	0-5 years n = 339 55.3%		6-9 years n = 274 44.7%	
<i>Gender x Age group</i>	Males n = 117 52.2%	Females n = 162 47.8%	Males n = 140 51.1%	Females n = 134 48.9%
<i>Does the child visit or meet with people from his/her own FNMI community?</i>	Males n = 153	Females n = 34	Males n = 131	Females n = 124
Often	22.2%	23.4%	21.4%	18.5%
Sometimes	23.5%	32.4%	33.6%	30.6%
Rarely/never	54.2%	44.1%	45.0%	50.8%
<i>Does the child learn about traditional teachings, customs, or ceremonies?</i>	Males n = 153	Females n = 145	Males n = 130	Females n = 124
Often	19.0%	18.6%	23.8%	20.2%
Sometimes	39.9%	48.3%	58.5%	52.4%
Rarely/never	41.2%	33.1%	17.7%	27.4%
<i>Does the child participate in his/her FNMI community events, activities, traditional meals/foods, and ceremonies?</i>	Males n = 153	Females n = 143	Males n = 131	Females n = 123
Often	16.3%	18.2%	17.6%	17.9%
Sometimes	30.7%	35.0%	42.0%	44.7%
Rarely/never	52.9%	46.9%	40.5%	37.4%
<i>How often is the child exposed to (does the child speak) his/her own First Nations or Inuit language?*</i>	Males n = 148	Females n = 137	Males n = 120	Females n = 114
Often	4.7%	8.6%	5.0%	2.6%
Sometimes	15.5%	16.4%	8.3%	9.6%
Rarely/Never	17.6%	19.1%	12.5%	19.3%
Doesn't know his/her own First Nations or Inuit language	62.2%	46.1%	74.2%	68.4%

*For First Nations and Inuit children

OnLAC Year 13 (2013-14) selected variables pertaining to First Nations, Métis, & Inuit (FNMI) children aged 10-17 years

<i>Total</i>	10-17 years n = 895 <i>represents 20.6% of the total Ontario OnLAC Year 13 10-17 sample</i>					
	First Nations n = 783 87.5%		Métis n = 70 7.8%		Inuit n = 15 1.7%	Multiple Identities n = 27 3.0%
<i>Gender</i>	Males n = 450 50.3%			Females n = 445 49.7%		
<i>Age group</i>	10-12 years n = 240 26.8%		13-15 years n = 341 38.1%		16-17 years n = 314 35.1%	
<i>Gender x Age group</i>	Males n = 128 53.3%	Females n = 112 46.7%	Males n = 173 50.7%	Females n = 168 49.3%	Males n = 149 47.5%	Females n = 165 52.5%
<i>Do you visit or meet with people from your own FNMI community?</i>	Males n = 102	Females n = 98	Males n = 135	Females n = 127	Males n = 110	Females n = 122
Often	11.7%	10.2%	9.8%	11.8%	18.2%	15.6%
Sometimes	33.6%	48.0%	24.9%	36.2%	29.1%	23.0%
Rarely/never	34.4%	41.8%	43.4%	52.0%	61.5%	61.5%
<i>Do you learn about traditional teachings, customs, or ceremonies?</i>	Males n = 101	Females n = 98	Males n = 135	Females n = 125	Males n = 110	Females n = 120
Often	17.8%	20.4%	20.0%	12.8%	18.2%	18.3%
Sometimes	59.4%	61.2%	51.1%	50.4%	37.3%	37.5%
Rarely/never	22.8%	18.4%	28.9%	36.8%	44.5%	44.2%
<i>Do you participate in his/her FNMI community events, activities, traditional meals/foods, and ceremonies?</i>	Males n = 100	Females n = 96	Males n = 135	Females n = 125	Males n = 109	Females n = 120
Often	7.8%	12.5%	15.6%	8.0%	13.8%	13.3%
Sometimes	41.4%	46.9%	34.1%	34.4%	28.4%	25.0%
Rarely/never	28.9%	40.6%	50.4%	57.6%	57.8%	61.7%
<i>How often do you speak your own First Nations or Inuit language?*</i>	Males n = 97	Females n = 96	Males n = 127	Females n = 118	Males n = 105	Females n = 107
Often	2.1%	4.2%	3.1%	1.7%	1.0%	2.8%
Sometimes	7.2%	10.4%	6.3%	14.4%	1.9%	8.4%
Rarely/Never	20.6%	25.0%	23.6%	23.7%	28.6%	25.2%
Don't know my First Nations or Inuit language	70.1%	60.4%	66.9%	60.2%	68.6%	63.6%

*For First Nations and Inuit young people