

2024-2025

CALLING FOR CHANGE

Investigative Reviews Report Summary

Between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA) released 69 investigative reviews for children and youth who had been involved with the child intervention system: 60 for young people who had passed away and 9 for young people who were seriously injured.

Of the 69 young people reviewed:

45

were Indigenous, highlighting how colonial policies and practices continue to impact Indigenous people through the over-involvement of government systems in their lives.

48

had mental health and/or substance use challenges and were impacted by significant trauma, grief, and loss.

28

were between the ages of 18 - 22 years old and many struggled with their transition to adulthood due to complex needs and limited supports.

This report focuses on:

Timely responses to trauma, grief and loss

Most of the young people reviewed experienced compounding instances of trauma, grief, and loss that deeply affected their wellbeing. Services should respond proactively to the unique needs of children and youth.

Adequate child intervention assessments

Of the 69 young people, 37 (54%) had child intervention assessments that did not fully reflect the capacity of their caregivers, identified risks, or disruptions in their relationships.

Transition to adulthood supports

When young people have been permanently removed from the care of their parents, the government has an obligation to transition them to adulthood successfully.

Read the full report: ocya.alberta.ca/reports

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advocate made three recommendations to improve services and supports and promote the well-being and resilience of young people involved with the child intervention and youth justice systems.

1

The Ministry of Children and Family Services should make the Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) policy manual publicly available.

2

The Ministries of Primary and Preventative Health Services, Hospital and Surgical Health Services, Education and Childcare, Assisted Living and Social Services, and Justice should have mandatory training in child-centered, trauma-informed practices for professionals who deliver services to young people and their families.

3

The Ministries of Primary and Preventative Health Services, Hospital and Surgical Health Services, Children and Family Services, Education and Childcare, and Assisted Living and Social Services should each implement an approach to identify young people's traumatic experiences that will guide the planning of services and supports that are responsive to their individual needs.

“I am optimistic that with careful consideration of the commentary in this report, young people with similar circumstances will have better outcomes and bright futures.”

Terri Pelton, Child and Youth Advocate