

Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study of Children in Out-of-Home Care (POCLS)

Dashboard 2 – Child Protection History of children and young people

What is included in Dashboard 2?

This POCLS dashboard provides a summary of the child protection history of children and young people who entered out-of-home care (OOHC) for the first time between May 2010 and October 2011 and subsequently received final Children's Court care and protection orders by 30 April 2013 - this cohort is referred to as the **final orders cohort** (n =2,828).

Dashboard 2 includes data on the following study topics:

- Number of risk of significant harm (ROSH) reports for children and young people prior to their first entry into OOHC, and
- All Helpline assessed issues of ROSH reports for children and young people prior to their first entry into OOHC.

Dashboard 2 includes data sourced from the administrative system of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), broken down by age, Aboriginality, culturally and culturally linguistically diverse (CALD) status and district.

Summary of Dashboard 2 findings:

Study Topic 1 – Number of ROSH Reports before entering OOHC

- Of the 2,828 children and young people in the final orders cohort, 41.9% had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC, 25.2% had 5-9 ROSH reports, 13.7% had 10-14 ROSH report and 19.2% had 15 or more ROSH reports.
- Of the 1,368 children in the final orders cohort aged 9-35 months at entry into OOHC, two thirds (65.3%) had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to the first entry into OOHC, one quarter (25.2%) had 5-9 ROSH reports, 6.5% had 10-14 ROSH reports and 3.0% had 15 or more ROSH reports.
- Of the 680 children in the final orders cohort aged 3-6 years at entry into OOHC, 19.3% had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC, 27.8% had 5-9 ROSH reports, 22.8% had 10-14 ROSH reports and 30.1% had 15 or more ROSH reports.
- Of the 539 children in the final orders cohort aged 7-11 years at entry into OOHC, 18.2% had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC, 22.6% had 5-9 ROSH reports, 19.5% had 10-14 ROSH reports and 39.7% had 15 or more ROSH reports.

- Of the 241 children and young people in the final orders cohort aged 12-17 years at entry into OOHC, 26.1% had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC, 23.2% had 5-9 ROSH reports, 16.2% had 10-14 ROSH reports and 34.4% had 15 or more ROSH reports.
- Of the 987 Aboriginal children and young people, 40.2% had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC, 24.7% had 5-9 ROSH reports, 13.5% had 10-14 ROSH reports and 21.6% had 15 or more ROSH reports.
- Around half (50.8%) of the 386 CALD children and young people in the final orders cohort had less than 5 ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC, 24.9% had 5-9 ROSH reports, 11.9% had 10-14 ROSH reports and 12.4% had 15 or more ROSH reports.
- Over one third (38.5%) of the children and young people in the final orders cohort from Hunter and Central Coast Districts had 10 or more ROSH reports prior to their first entry into OOHC. This compares with 33.6% from Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW Districts, 35.3% from Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts, 36.3% from Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts, 19.0% from South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts, 28.7% from South Western Sydney District and 33.5% from Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts.

Study Topic 2 – All Helpline assessed issues prior to their first entry into OOHC

- Overall for children and young people in the final orders cohort, the most common types of Helpline assessed issues prior to their first entry into OOHC were physical abuse (73.1%), neglect (69.6%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (64.9%).
- Around 60% of the children in the final orders cohort who were aged 9-35 months at entry into OOHC had Helpline assessed issues of physical abuse (59.8%) or carer drug or alcohol issues (59.1%) prior to their first entry into OOHC.
- The most common types of Helpline assessed issues prior to their first entry into OOHC were neglect (86.5%), physical abuse (85.4%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (76.0%) for children in the final orders cohort aged 3-6 years at entry into OOHC.
- Children in the final orders cohort who were aged 7-11 years at entry into OOHC most commonly had Helpline assessed issues of physical abuse (86.5%), neglect (83.7%) and risk of psychological abuse (79.0%) prior to their first entry into OOHC.
- For the older children in the final orders cohort who were aged 12-17 years at entry into OOHC, the most common Helpline assessed issues prior to the first entry into OOHC were physical abuse (83.4%), risk of psychological abuse (80.5%) and neglect (79.7%).
- Of the Aboriginal children and young people in the final orders cohort, the most common types of Helpline assessed issues prior to their first entry into OOHC were carer drug or alcohol issues (74.6%), physical abuse (72.9%) and neglect (71.5%).
- Around 70.7% of the CALD children and young people in the final orders cohort had a Helpline assessed issue prior to their first entry into OOHC of physical abuse, 62.7% had neglect and 55.4% had carer drug or alcohol issues.
- The most common types of Helpline assessed issues prior to entry into OOHC for children and young people in the final orders cohort from:
 - Hunter and Central Coast Districts were physical abuse (74.6%), neglect (68.6%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (66.7%).
 - Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern Districts were neglect (71.4%), physical abuse (70.3%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (65.7%).

- Mid North Coast, New England and Northern NSW Districts were physical abuse (80.8%), neglect (75.4%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (66.9%).
- Murrumbidgee, Far West and Western NSW Districts were physical abuse (73.6%), neglect (72.0%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (71.3%).
- South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney and Sydney Districts were carer drug or alcohol issues (64.0%), physical abuse (61.4%) and neglect (61.4%).
- South Western Sydney District were physical abuse (71.1%), neglect (70.0%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (58.4%).
- Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Districts were physical abuse (74.0%), neglect (66.7%) and carer drug or alcohol issues (61.8%).

Explanatory notes:

1. The district reported in this dashboard reflects where the child or young person's case plan was held at the child's first placement.
2. Non-Aboriginal includes children and young people where Aboriginal status was 'not stated'.
3. CALD data should be interpreted with caution due to relatively small numbers and data quality issues.
4. To maintain confidentiality and prevent identification of study participants, numbers less than 10 for Aboriginal children and young people and less than 5 for non-Aboriginal children and young people are not published. In some cases, the small numbers are replaced with "Not publishable" while in other cases, categories may be combined with the data grouped more broadly.
5. Aboriginal is used throughout this dashboard and is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
6. Carer serious mental health issues include psychiatric disability carer and suicide risk/attempt of carer; Carer other issues include issues relating to the carer including in prison, developmental disability, financial problems, gambling problem, physical disability; Child risk behaviours include drug/alcohol use by the child, runaway, suicide risk, child is danger to self/others, self-harming behaviours, inappropriate sexual behaviour.