



Prevention and Intervention:

The Role of Front-line Services in Child Welfare

Kayla DeMong

Associate Executive Director and Family Support Coordinator

ifs@aidssaskatoon.ca

Outline

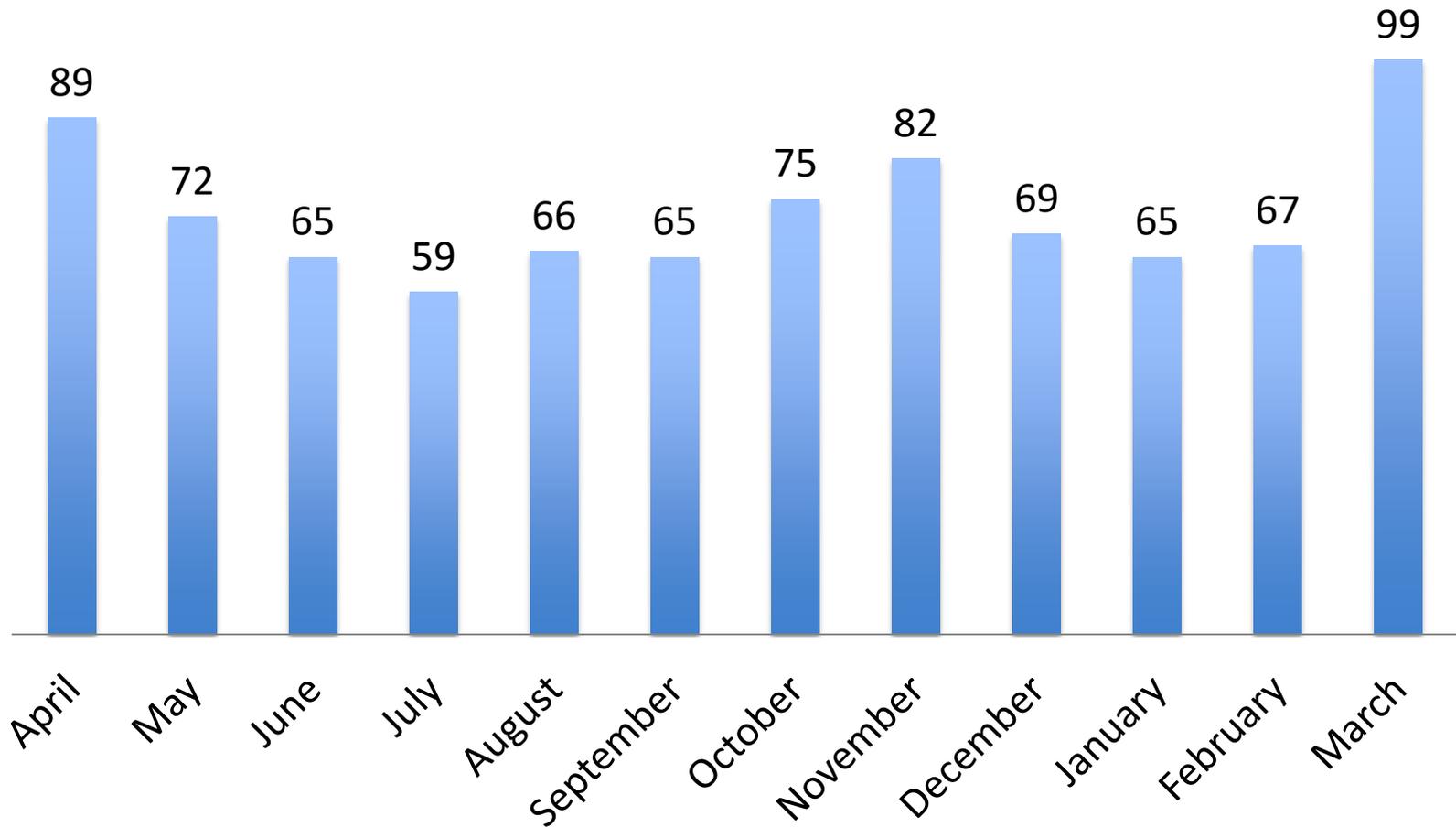
- What is the Family Support Program?
- Overview of how the program operates
- The role Harm Reduction has in the programs success
- Play a game
- Time for questions and discussion

- The Family Support Program is a partnership between AIDS Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services (MSS)
- The program was designed by MSS and AIDS Saskatoon was selected for the pilot in October 2011 because of its dedication to Harm Reduction and its reputation for building relationships with populations that are often seen as hard to engage
- The objective of the program is to provide support to families in crisis to ensure the personal safety of children while allowing them to remain within the family home
- Engagement in support is voluntary
- No time limit on how long families can access support

- Family Support operates:
 - Monday to Friday 9am to 12am
 - Weekends and Holidays 4pm to 12am
- Services include:
 - Advocacy
 - In home support
 - Transportation (food security, housing, crisis, medical needs of children)
 - Safety planning
 - Referrals and resources
 - Support with CFS
 - Support in Family Court
 - Support with documents
 - Support with reunification
 - Prenatal support

Referrals and Engagement

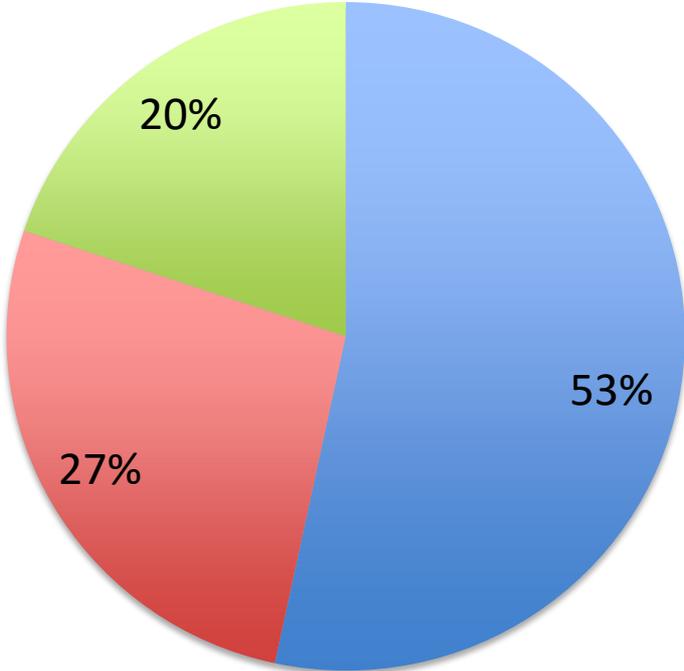
- 1178 total referrals since program began
- 71.2% of families referred completed intakes
- 79.9% of families who completed intakes actively engaged in services



Monthly breakdown showing engagement of unique families from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Who Makes Referrals

■ CFS ■ Self ■ Community Agencies



Reasons Families Are Referred

- Substance Use
- Lack of support
- Housing
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Health
- Medical needs of children
- Neglect
- Parent/child conflict
- Prenatal support
- Inappropriate supervision/caregiver
- Abuse
- Newborn support
- Apprehension support
- Support with CFS
- New to city
- Inappropriate discipline
- Historical involvement with CFS
- Parenting support
- Support with finances
- Grandparents in need of support
- Transportation needs
- Children recently returned
- Food security
- Cognitive concerns
- Custody issues
- Teen mom
- Birth alert
- Advocacy
- Gang concerns
- Criminal involvement
- Family court support

2016/2017 Program Statistics

- 2462 instances of direct support
- 1755 transportation
- 2063 in-home and phone supports
- 2433 referrals

What do you think of when you
hear Harm Reduction?

Basic Principles of Harm Reduction

- **Safety**
 - All people have the right to participate in a community of mutual respect, compassion and dignity. We understand individual and community safety as encompassing a dynamic blend of physical, emotion and spiritual security.
- **Self – determination**
 - We believe that everyone has the power and right to determine the nature of the services they access. We believe in the right to quality services without discrimination. We believe in a person's right to initiate and terminate their use of our services at any time.
- **Positive, whole relationships**
 - We are dedicated to building and sustaining meaningful and connections with PWAS. We actively and conscientiously strive to create a culture which honors and respects people.

- Respect
 - We accept that people make their own decisions and no judgment is made to condone or condemn them for their choices. We do support informed decision making with a focus on reducing harm, not making a person's decision for them. There is no one approach that works for everyone.
- Resiliency
 - We acknowledge that people have made it this far in their life without us and have the ability within themselves to recover from change or adversity. There is no one right way to respond to changes in life and we want to be there to encourage support systems.
- Diversity
 - We believe all people have worth. We celebrate and embrace the richness of unique and diverse life experiences. We value the principles of accessibility and equality and will actively seek to create an environment where people are treated justly and fairly.

For more information please contact:

Kayla DeMong

Associate Executive Director and Family Support Coordinator

306.242.5005

ifs@aidssaskatoon.ca

www.aidssaskatoon.ca