

	Indicator Name	Indicator	Detailed Explanation	Outcome
Child and youth well-being: Safety	Injuries or deaths	Number of serious injuries or deaths	Though rare, serious injuries and deaths are an important indicator to prevent these tragedies from occurring in the future and to evaluate whether the child welfare system is appropriately responding to cases of maltreatment.	Children are free from severe physical danger and harm
	Protection concerns	Recurrence of child protection concerns after ongoing protection services	The recurrence of child protection concerns in a family after ongoing protections services were provided is not only important to protect the well-being of children and prevent chronic abuse; it is also an indicator of how effective child welfare services are at preventing maltreatment.	
	Child abuse (excluding sexual)	Child abuse (excluding sexual abuse)	Children who have been maltreated are at increased risk of recurrence of maltreatment. Research has found that compared to children who had not been previously maltreated, children who had been were nearly six times more likely to experience it again.	
	Child sexual abuse	Child sexual abuse	Exposure to strong, frequent and/or prolonged adversity, such as chronic abuse, parental substance abuse, or exposure to violence, can elicit a toxic stress response. This type of stress can have a profound effect on the architecture of the developing brain, which can have potentially permanent damaging effects.	
	Family reunification	Rate of successful family reunification (i.e. no re-entry into care)	A stable and permanent living situation is essential for healthy development and establishing more secure and strong relationships with caregivers, which in turn impact a child's ability to thrive. Research has demonstrated that in general, a child's family is the best way to deliver this environment.	

Child and youth well-being: Safety	Timeliness of care	Timeliness of customary care	Unstable placements in foster care, characterized by placement frequency and episodic foster care, have been associated with increased rates of mental health service utilization.	Children are connected to their families and Indigenous communities
	Families within community	Percentage of children with kin and/or Indigenous families within their community	Compared to foster children, children in kinship care have displayed better outcomes with respect to behavioural development and mental health functioning.	
	Caregiver quality	Quality of caregiver and youth relationship	To understand the well-being of children who have been removed from their homes, it is also important to understand the quality of their relationships with their caregivers. Establishing secure, trusting and positive relationships with their caregiver is essential for healthy development, impacting outcomes across the life course.	
Child and youth well-being: Safety	Community relational connections	Regular opportunities for relational connections to community	Stability promotes fewer school changes and thus stronger relationships with peers, as well as more consistent access to community services and activities	Children are connected to their families and Indigenous communities
	Placement rate	Out of home placement rate	While the out of home placement rate is not necessarily a negative indicator, as some children need to be removed from dangerous living situations, at an aggregate level, the out-of-home placement rate can indicate the effectiveness of preventative child welfare services and the well-being of children in the community as a whole.	

Child at	Moves in care	Number of moves in care	Multiple moves in care are associated with various negative outcomes among children. Instability may elicit a toxic stress response, which can result in developmental delays and behaviour problems. In turn, this can propagate a negative cycle of displacement and worsening attachment disorders.	
Child and youth well-being: Cognitive development	Early childhood education	Percentage of children (0-5) participating in funding early childhood education programming	Participation in early childhood education is a well-evidenced intervention to enhance school readiness, especially among children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ensuring that children are better prepared when entering school aims to improve educational achievement – a key factor in social mobility and escaping poverty.	Children and youth exhibit positive attitudes toward learning and are supported in their educational development
	Numeracy and literacy targets (0-5)	Percentage of children (0-5) achieving basic numeracy and literacy targets	Educational attainment is important for child well-being, particularly in the context of a child's socio-economic trajectory. Literacy and numeracy scores tell us how well the child is performing in school and is a gauge of cognitive functioning.	
	Positive attitude toward learning (children)	Percentage of children exhibiting positive attitude towards learning	Academic success also has a reciprocal effect on a child's attitude towards learning (often referred to as academic self-concept). Learning begets learning, and academic achievement and motivation to learn are key factors to a high level of educational attainment.	

Child and youth well-being: Cognitive development	Numeracy and literacy targets	Percentage of children (6-14) achieving basic numeracy and literacy targets	Most of the gaps that are seen at age 18 are already present at age five. Gaps tend to widen as opposed to shrink as the child proceeds through formal schooling and are predictive of future school performance and educational attainment.	Children and youth exhibit positive attitudes toward learning and are supported in their educational development
	Positive attitude toward learning	Percentage of children (6-13) exhibiting positive attitude towards learning	Academic success also has a reciprocal effect on a child's attitude towards learning (often referred to as academic self-concept). Learning begets learning, and academic achievement and motivation to learn are key factors to a high level of educational attainment.	
being: Cognitive development	Elementary school education access	Percentage of youth (6-13) able to access elementary school education in their community	Educational attainment often translates into levels of skill and ability in society, which are linked to a host of outcomes in adulthood. More obvious impacts of low education are reduced rates of employment and earnings. Failure to complete high school is linked to higher rates of welfare dependency and criminality.	Children and youth exhibit positive attitudes toward learning and are supported in
	High school education access	Percentage of youth (14-18) able to access high school education in their community	Educational attainment is a determinant of participation in the Canadian labour market, especially for Indigenous people. Employment rates are higher for Indigenous people with post-secondary credentials	

Child and youth well-being: Educational attainment	Parental engagement in education	Percentage of children/youth reporting parental engagement in learning/education	Parental engagement in their child's learning/education has a large impact on how well children perform and remain engaged in education. Children of mothers with low educational attainment made up 32% of children entering school lacking printing and writing skills, as opposed to 8% of children with mothers who had a bachelor's degree or higher.	Children and youth are more likely to complete their educational development
	Post-secondary education	Percentage of youth (14-18) who intend to pursue post-secondary education	Employment rates are higher for Indigenous people with post-secondary credentials.	
Child and youth well-being: Social relationships	Positive relationships (parents/caregiver)	Percentage of youth reporting positive relationships with parent or caregiver	In the earliest years of life, it is argued that the quality of relationships and parenting carries the heaviest weight among the factors that drive healthy development. Establishing warm, secure and responsive relationships with caregivers are key to establishing a child's confidence to play, socialize and explore their environment, which is what propels development.	Children and youth develop positive relationships with family and friends and are connected to their Indigenous communities
	Positive relationships (siblings, extended family, friends)	Percentage of youth reporting positive relationships with siblings, extended family and/or friends	As children progress into adolescence, strong social relationships continue to be an important protective factor as individuals navigate major developmental changes. Strong social relationships, or lack thereof, have been tied to several aspects of well-being.	
	Ties to elders	Percentage of youth reporting ties to elders in the community	Social relationships such as belongingness with peers and adults at school and connection with adults at home were the strongest predictors of life satisfaction. Research has also found positive associations between social relationships and physical and psychological well-being by promoting healthier lifestyles, better self-esteem, and a greater sense of purpose and internal locus of control	

	Extracurricular activities	Percentage of youth participating in extracurricular activities within the community	Participation in social activities is important for developing social competence and skills and is linked with fewer behavioural problems and higher self- esteem.	
Child and youth well-being: Emotional, cultural and spiritual well-being	Chronic concerning behaviour	Percentage of children/youth exhibiting chronic concerning behaviours	Behavioural issues among children are associated with socioeconomic disadvantage and have been linked to worse outcomes in adulthood. For example, research has found an association between attention deficit problems and poor labour outcomes in adulthood, such as lower rates of employment, lower earnings and worse jobs. Conduct disorders in childhood, which include antisocial behaviours such a disobedience, tantrums, fighting, destructiveness, lying and stealing, increase the likelihood of violence, criminality, poor relationships, and poor mental health.	Children and youth are mentally and socially well
	Prosocial behaviour	Percentage of children/youth exhibiting prosocial behaviour	There is a strong body of evidence linking social-emotional competence to improved attitudes towards school and higher educational achievement. By contrast, those who have not developed in this area have weaker relations with peers and teachers. This decreases interest in school and persists into later years of learning, which can lead to dropping out.	

Child and youth well-being: Emotional, cultural and spiritual well-being	Mental health	Percentage of children/youth reporting mental health problems	Scholars have recognized the importance of these indicators given the effects of intergenerational trauma on mental health among Indigenous peoples. For example, self-esteem and optimism are important protective factors for depressive symptomology among Aboriginal youth; a desire to contribute to one's community and believing in one's self have also found to improve mental health among Indigenous youth.	Children and youth are mentally and socially well
	Happiness	Percentage of children/youth reporting happiness	Emerging research has found life satisfaction to be a mediating factor on how stressful life events influence parenting behaviour and problem behaviour among adolescents.	
	Belonging to community	Percentage of children/youth reporting belonging to community	Community and culture were cited as the most common protective factor for mental health among Indigenous youth, which included things like healthy relationships with family and community members.	Children and youth are connected to land, culture, and tradition
	Pride in indigenous identity	Percentage of children/youth reporting pride in Indigenous identity	The importance of restoring the connection to one's Indigenous culture and identity is emphasized in relation to mental health outcomes and resilience.	
	Connection to land	Percentage of children/youth reporting sense of connection to land	In a study examining suicide rates among First Nations youth in British Columbia, researchers found that among communities where cultural continuity was preserved through avenues such as securing land claims, were self-governing, had band-administered education, police, fire and health services as well as cultural facilities within the community had lower suicide rates than communities where these factors were less present.	
outh well-being: Emotional, cultural and spiritual well-being	Spiritual practices	Percentage of children/youth reporting participation in spiritual practices and traditional ceremonies	Many studies have demonstrated Indigenous spirituality acting as a protective factor against alcohol abuse and suicide.	Children and youth are connected to land, culture, and tradition

Child and y	Knowledge of Indigenous language	Percentage of children reporting knowledge of Indigenous language(s)	One study found that First Nations who had high levels of language knowledge had significantly lower rates of suicide than those with lower levels and for non-Indigenous youth. Researchers identified language as the strongest cultural continuity factor contributing to this difference.	
Emotional, cultural, spiritual well-being (cont.)	Eating traditional foods	Percentage of children/youth reporting eating traditional foods	Loss of land and access to traditional foods has meant that healthy food choices, especially among rural and isolated First Nations, are expensive and often unavailable. This has, in part, led to disproportionately high rates of chronic diseases related to lifestyle factors, such as type 2 diabetes and obesity. Research shows that traditional food gathering not only promotes a healthier diet, but also more exercise and a connection to one's Indigenous identity.	Children and youth are connected to land, culture, and tradition
Child and youth well-being: Physical health and wellbeing	Disability and chronic illness	Percentage of children/youth living with disability or chronic illness	An epidemiologic survey of 3,294 children in Ontario found that children with both chronic illness and associated disability were at three times greater risk of experiencing psychiatric disorders. Learning and behavioural disabilities have been associated with a higher risk of school difficulties, criminality, higher medical needs, difficulty establishing emotional relationships, and employment challenges as adults.	Children and youth are physically well
	Healthy eating	Percentage of children/youth reporting healthy eating habits	A healthy diet lays an important foundation for development among children, as well as for future outcomes in adulthood.	
	Physical activity	Percentage of children/youth reporting regular physical activity	Establishing patterns of regular physical activity and a healthy diet are important for preventing obesity and chronic illnesses such as type 2 diabetes and promoting healthy body image.	
	Healthy sleep habits	Percentage of children/youth reporting healthy sleep habits	Healthy habits include sleep hygiene especially among adolescents, as this is a time when children are gaining more independence and autonomy in their lifestyle choices.	Children and youth are physically well



Child and youth well-being: Physical health and wellbeing	Teenage births	Percentage of teenage births	Teen pregnancy can lead to a variety of health problems and is also linked to critical social issues such as poverty, poor education, risky behaviours that lead to poor health issues, and child welfare. It also imposes financial costs that can be financially devastating to families.	Youth exhibit regular positive decision-making
	Illicit drug use	Percentage of youth who reported using illicit drugs in the past month	Early prevention of risky behaviour such as alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use or unprotected sex is important, as these problem behaviours can manifest in youth and extend into adulthood. For example, a study of 727 Indigenous adolescents in the United States found that those who began drinking at an earlier age (i.e. 11-13 years old) were at a much greater risk of developing problem drinking than those who started later.	
	Gambling	Percentage of youth who reported gambling in the past month	Gambling can become problematic and when it does it can have a serious impact on the physical, emotional and financial health of the individual who gambles, as well as their family and community.	
Physical health and wellbeing (cont.)	Smoking	Percentage of youth who reported smoking in the past month	Those who start smoking as youth often carry the habit which also often worsens over time into adult life. Smoking is highly addictive and becomes not only a costly daily habit financially but can also lead to major costs including health, exposes those around them to health concerns, and have been linked to negative social impacts as well.	Youth exhibit regular positive decision-making
Financial and social well-being	Livable income	Percentage of families reporting livable income to meet needs	Families in chronic and persistent poverty are especially prone to challenges with self-sufficiency and may require additional support to reach this objective. For many First Nations households, life choices can be severely compromised by high food costs, poor availability of healthy food, low income, and/or high housing and heating costs.	Families have the money they need to live

Family well-being: Well engagement	Empowerment and resilience	Percentage of families reporting feelings of empowerment and resilience	Self-sufficiency is among the most cited factors in the literature on family wellbeing. Many studies have found that low parental income and economic hardships cause increased economic pressure in families, which adversely impacts parental mental health, conflict between parents/caregivers, parent- child interactions and parenting practices, as well as cognitive, academic, and socioemotional outcomes in children.	Families exhibit social wellness
Family well-being: Wellness and social engagement	Social engagement	Percentage of families demonstrating social engagement through participation in cultural traditions, teachings and ceremonies	Positive associations between social relationships and physical and psychological well-being by promoting healthier lifestyles, better self-esteem, and a greater sense of purpose and internal locus of control. When these positive relationships are associated with cultural practices and traditions it has compound positive reinforcing effects on well-being.	Families exhibit social wellness
	Family violence	Percentage of families reporting incidents of family violence	Children who witness domestic violence are at higher risk of committing violent acts in the future. Witnessing or experiencing family violence can also lead to long-term physical and mental health issues.	
	Substance misuse	Percentage of families reporting substance misuse	Substance misuse can lead to a variety of serious health issues both physical and mental and has drastic negative impacts on outcomes regarding employment, income and general well-being.	
	Gambling (family)	Percentage of families reporting problematic gambling	Individuals that gamble are more likely to become addicted to it which can lead to low self-esteem, stress-related disorders, anxiety, poor sleep and appetite, substance misuse problems as well as depression.	

Family Well-being: Basic needs	Clean running water	Percentage of households with drinking water flowing from tap for consumption, bathing and other uses	Access to potable water is widely recognized as a fundamental condition for human health, and the lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation is one of the greatest threats facing vulnerable populations in the world. Clean, accessible, and sustainable drinking water is a basic necessity of life, and indispensable for meeting national and international standards of health, justice, equality, and responsibility.	Households have basic needs
Family Well-being: Basic needs	Food sovereignty	Percentage of households reporting food sovereignty	Proper nutrition is key to both physical and mental health and development. When households do not have enough food and must seek help in attaining food they often lack adequate nutrition and this can also lead to feelings of anxiety depression and low self-worth	
	Home repairs needed	Percentage of homes in need of major repairs	Inadequate, unsuitable, and unaffordable housing has been linked to chronic health conditions such as asthma and poor mental health. Poor housing has also been linked to the spread and chronic occurrence of viruses and bacteria, and the increased prevalence of unintentional injuries.	
	Suitable homes	Percentage of suitable homes	Housing improvements linked with improved health include renovations, relocation, and energy efficiency projects. For children, housing improvements were associated with a decrease in respiratory illnesses and lower rates of school absenteeism. For adults, long-lasting improvements in mental health have been demonstrated.	

	Internet connectivity	Percentage of households with internet connectivity	Broadband connectivity has been associated with numerous community benefits, and has been recognized as a pressing issue for Aboriginal communities. In some cases, broadband infrastructure has been framed as a component of indigenous self-determination. broadband infrastructure plays an important role in community development, and that Indigenous communities can access unique benefits from broadband infrastructure.	Households have basic needs
Family Well-being: Basic needs	Below poverty line	Percentage of households below the provincial poverty line	Parental or familial experiences of poverty have been associated with numerous detrimental effects to child wellbeing, including emotional and behavioral problems as well as further disruptions in schools and to friendships. Poverty is also associated with poor early childhood development and is a risk factor for family breakdown, both of which have been linked to poor educational performance in children.	
	Employment rate	Community employment rate	Self-sufficiency is among the most cited factors in the literature on family wellbeing. Many studies have found that low parental income and economic hardships cause increased economic pressure in families, which adversely impacts parental mental health, conflict between parents/ caregivers, parent- child interactions and parenting practices, as well as cognitive, academic, and socioemotional outcomes in children.	Households have basic needs

Family Well-being: Community services and engagement	Community space	Presence of community space for gathering (Y/N)	Community infrastructure is essential to fostering services, facilities, and networks which increase quality of life and reducing poverty. Particularly in Aboriginal communities, investments in transportation, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure is most strongly connected to creating economic benefits by supporting industrial growth and re-investment in additional economic infrastructure.	Communities offer services and space in support of well-being
	Community activities	Community activities contribute to the development of capable human beings (Y/N)	Community activities and gatherings are important for building social trust, belonging and well being.	
Community Well-being: Community services and engagement	Community space wifi	Percentage of community spaces with free public wifi	Broadband connectivity has been associated with numerous community benefits, and has been recognized as a pressing issue for Aboriginal communities. Wifi is crucial for connectivity, education, and services. Publicly available wifi in community spaces can be an important resource.	Communities offer services and space in support of well-being
	Community health services	Community offers and controls health services (Y/N)	Long term economic growth also relies on community infrastructure that supports a diversified economy and good quality of life for community members. Assets such as education infrastructure; health care infrastructure; water, wastewater and solid waste disposal; and housing infrastructure, enhance quality of life in communities which increases the potential of a business to attract workers and acts as a disincentive to out-migration of community members.	

Community Well-being: Community services and engagement	Community social services	Community offers and controls social services (Y/N)	Safe neighbourhoods contain resources which support family activities and community health and connections, including parks, sidewalks or walking paths, libraries, and community centers. Neighbourhood safety can create opportunities for children to learn social customs, develop feelings of confidence in their communities, and build interpersonal relationships with peers.	
	Community elder services	Community offers and controls elder services (Y/N)	Programming and infrastructure available to support elder services in community	
Community Well-being: Wellness	Service provider collaboration	Community service providers collaborate and connect for improved service delivery (Y/N)	Community infrastructure is significant to the degree that it promotes safety and security among neighbourhoods which, in turn, promote safety within families.	Communities offer services and space in support of well-being
	Affordable & reliable transportation	Percentage of community benefitting from affordable and reliable transportation	Particularly in Aboriginal communities, investments in transportation, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure is most strongly connected to creating economic benefits by supporting industrial growth and re-investment in additional economic infrastructure	
	Third party management	Community is under third-party management (Y/N)	Recipient funding agreement is managed by a federally-appointed third-party manager	
Community Well-being: Wellness	Community risk	Community's risk rating	Risk and associated mitigation measures of recipients and their initiatives.	Community is financially independent
	Suicide attempts	Rates of reported suicide attempts	The rate of suicide among First Nations people is three times higher than the rate among non-Indigenous people. The suicide rate among First Nations living on-reserve have been found to be twice as high as those living off-reserve, and the highest rates are among youth aged 15 to 24 compared to other age groups.	
Community Well-being: Wellness	Substance misuse	Rates of reported substance misuse	Substance misuse can lead to a variety of serious health issues both physical and mental and has drastic negative impacts on outcomes regarding employment, income and general well-being.	Community exhibits wellness

Co	Problematic gambling	Rates of problematic gambling	Individuals that gamble are more likely to become addicted to it which can lead to low self-esteem, stress-related disorders, anxiety, poor sleep and appetite, substance misuse problems as well as depression.	Community exhibits wellness
Family Well Being: Wellness	Heavy drinking	Rates of reported heavy drinking	High rates in communities of heavy drinking are associated with negative physical and mental health impacts, developing other substance misuse issues, elevated levels of assault, crime and lower levels of employment and income.	
	Chronic health conditions	Rates of chronic health conditions	Chronic health conditions can negatively influence family life as both those suffering as well as family members can experience strong emotions of guilt, anger, sadness, fear, anxiety and depressed mood. They can have long term medical complication, increased costs and lead to substance misuse.	
	Violent crime	Rates of violent crime	Violent crime can lead to premature death, or cause serious injuries, placing a toll on health services. People who survive violent crime also suffer depression, anxiety and may continue to enduring physical and mental pain and suffering. Exposure to violent crime can also lead to increased crime rates in a negative spiral.	

Family Wellness: Education	Elementary education	Community offers and controls elementary school education	Educational attainment is important for child well-being, particularly in the context of a child's socio-economic trajectory. When it is provided by the community within the	Community supports and offers education
	Secondary education	Community offers and controls secondary school education	Learning begets learning, and academic achievement and motivation to learn are key factors to a high level of educational attainment. Providing education within the community and instilling a sense of belonging is key in these formative teenage years which are often the most difficult growing up as well.	
	High school graduation	Rates of high school graduation	Failure to complete high school is linked to higher rates of welfare dependency and criminality. Elevated high school graduation rates lead to higher earnings, higher percentages of home ownership, lower rates of welfare assistance, fewer out-of-wedlock births and fewer arrests.	
	Completed post-secondary education	Rates of completed post-secondary education	Employment rates are higher for Indigenous people with post-secondary credentials.	



