

Issues, challenges and operationalization of the use of the Assessment Framework in the Quebec context: the exemple of the IACDW initiative

(Intersectorial Action for Child Development and Welfare)

AIDES in the original French

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Care Matters: Transforming Lives - Improving Outcomes Conference
Incorporating the 8th International Looking After Children Conference

©July 8, 2008

Workshop Plan

- 1) The AIDES initiative: outcomes expected, objectives and means;
- 2) Implementation of the projet
- 3) Challenges and issues: exploring solutions

This project is financed by the (Canadian) National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC). We thank the GRAVE-ARDEC and GRIN research groups for the support they have given us² since 2003.

AIDES : Outcomes expected

FINAL OUTCOME

- ❖ To ensure children's safety, encourage their optimal development, and contribute to improving their future;

INTERMEDIAIRE

- ❖ To support parents in the exercise of their parental role and responsibilities;

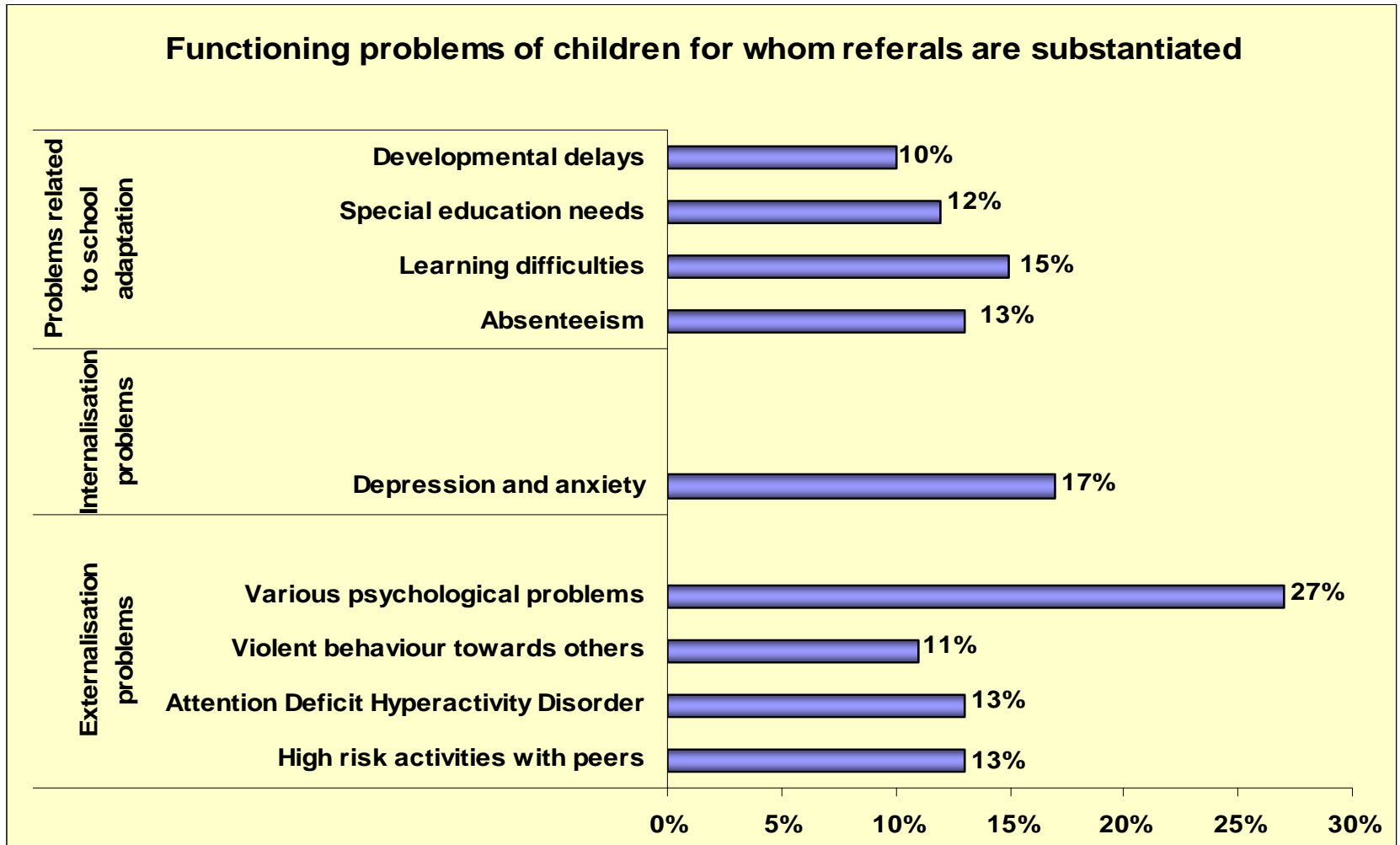
PROXIMAL

- ❖ To encourage parents' participation and collaboration throughout the intervention/care process, particularly in decisions concerning the family;
- ❖ To promote a climate of cooperation and collaboration between all practioners.

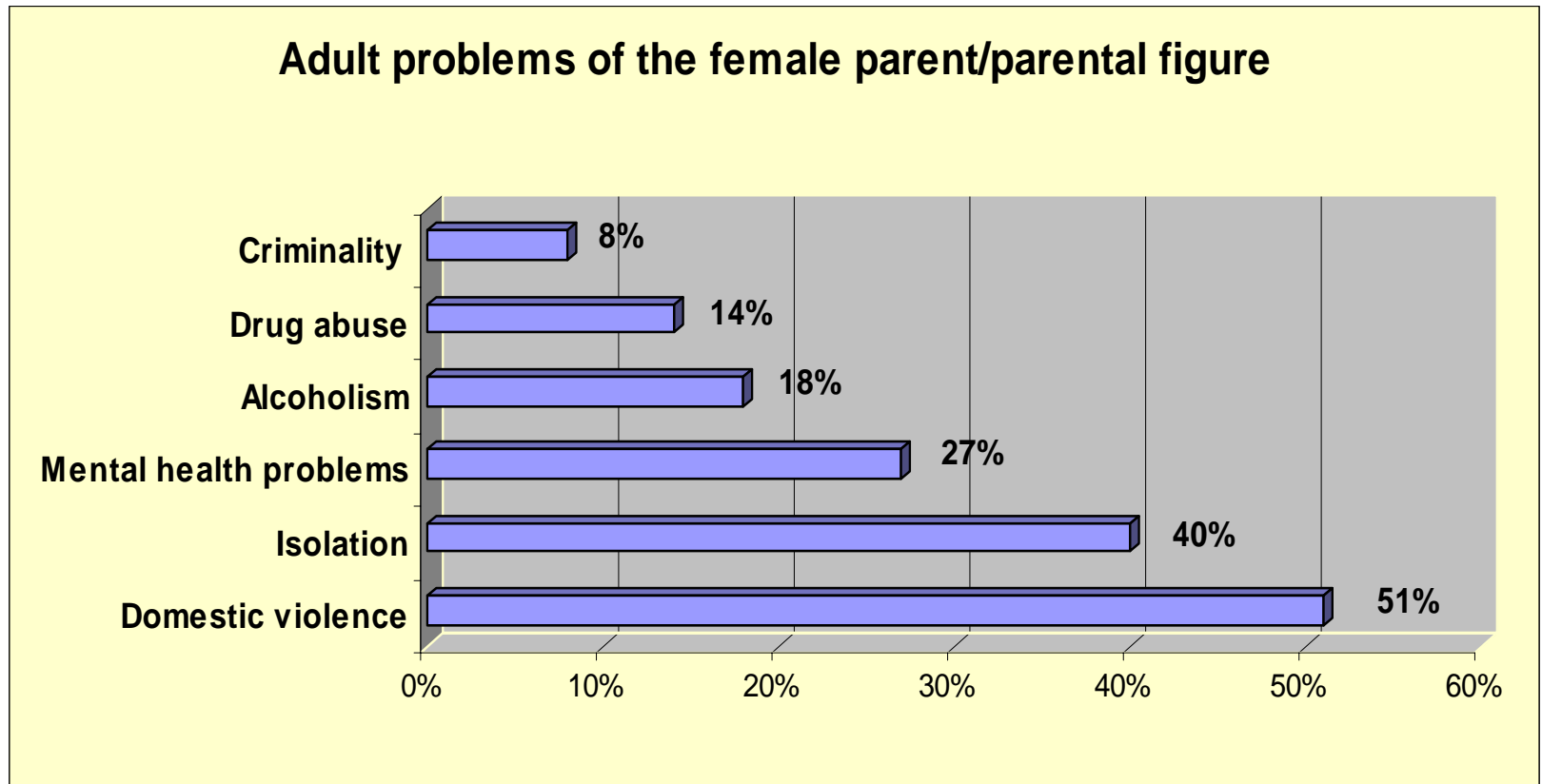
AIDES: Objectives

- ❖ An analysis of the child's developmental needs

1) One out of two children for whom referrals are substantiated present functioning problems:

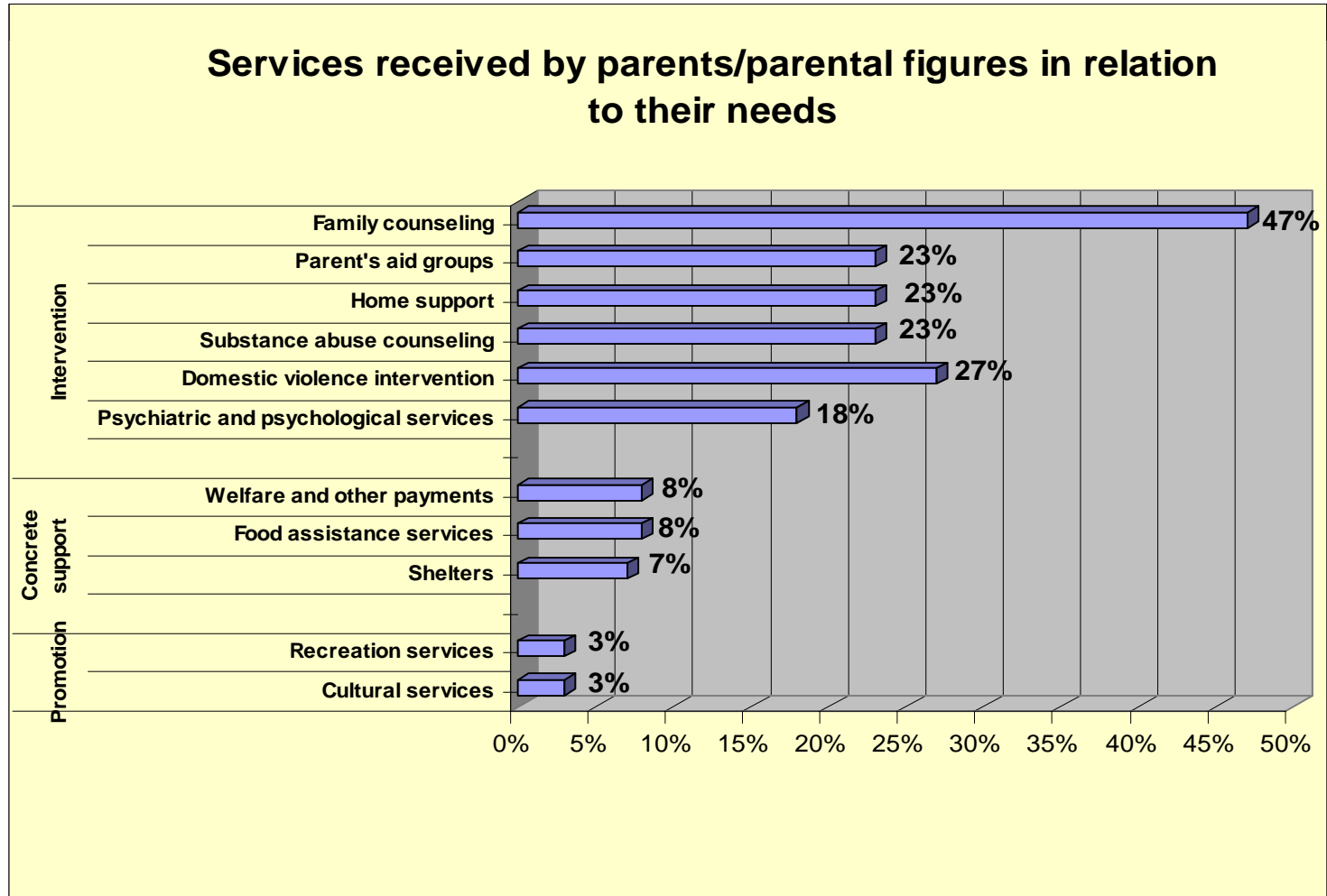


2) Female parents with at least one functioning problem (79%)



The incidence of the above problems is higher in cases of negligence.

3) Services received by parents/parental figures in relation to their needs.



Practitioners have indicated that in 64% of cases, services are necessary for at least one year.

FAMILY TYPOLOGY

(Clément, Chamberland et al. 2008)

- ❖ Inadequate parent(s)/dysnormative/dysnormativity:
- ❖ Indifferent parent(s):
- ❖ Parent(s) with incapacities
- ❖ Disorganized parent(s), dysfunctional family

The last 2 of these 4 categories are those which present the most problems involving associated adults.

The fourth category (disorganized parent/dysfunctional family) is the one which involves the lowest number of recommendations for services.

AIDES: Objectives

- ❖ An analysis of the child's developmental needs
- ❖ A fully committed parent as partner

- ❖ The intervention is based on the parent/child relationship as epicentre (Turney et Tanner, 2001)
- ❖ Change implies exploration, openness, and curiosity (Cleaver, 2006)
- ❖ Finding the balance between risk management and response to need
- ❖ Concrete aid and emotional support
- ❖ “Business agreement” type partnership (Golberg and Comins, 2001)
- ❖ The services offered are: long-term and well coordinated

AIDES: objectives

- ❖ An analysis of the child's developmental needs
- ❖ A fully committed parent as partner
- ❖ Collaborative process along all intervention stages

“65 % of referrals are made by professionals in the health and social services networks, the police force, and the school system.” (Trocmé et al., 2005)

- ❖ Culture shock: ideology, mandate, client
- ❖ Blending knowledge and experience
- ❖ Translation efforts

- ❖ Disappointing results concerning the effectiveness of practitioners in protection contexts (Dufour & Chamberland, 2004; Flynn & Bouchard, 2005; Macleod & Nelson, 2000)
- ❖ Creativeness without improvisation
- ❖ Time for reflecting: understanding for more appropriate action
- ❖ An analysis is more than just an evaluation
- ❖ Coherent actions based on analysis
- ❖ Differential response

AIDES: objectives

- ❖ An analysis of the child's developmental needs
- ❖ A fully committed parent as partner
- ❖ Collaborative process along all intervention stages
 - A shared assessment of the situation;
 - Commun planning;
 - Implementation, follow-up and review.

AIDES: Objectives

- ❖ An analysis of the child's developmental needs
- ❖ A fully committed parent as partner
- ❖ Collaborative process along all intervention stages
 - A shared assessment of the situation;
 - Commun planning;
 - Implementation, follow-up and review.
- ❖ Collective responsibility for results

**Safety, welfare, and the optimal
development of the child:
a responsibility to be shared by all
the different partners involved.**

- ❖ Imputability - guidelines for organizations centering on
 - ❖ children - parents - family mandates

Beyond the mandates, the child's needs as the epicentre of intervention by the network.

Means of the AIDES project

- ❖ British assessment framework
- ❖ CABE (children's needs analysis booklet)
(translation and adaptation of CORE Assessment)
- ❖ Participative approach
- ❖ Action plan
 - Individualized Service Plan (ISP)
 - Intervention Plan (IP)

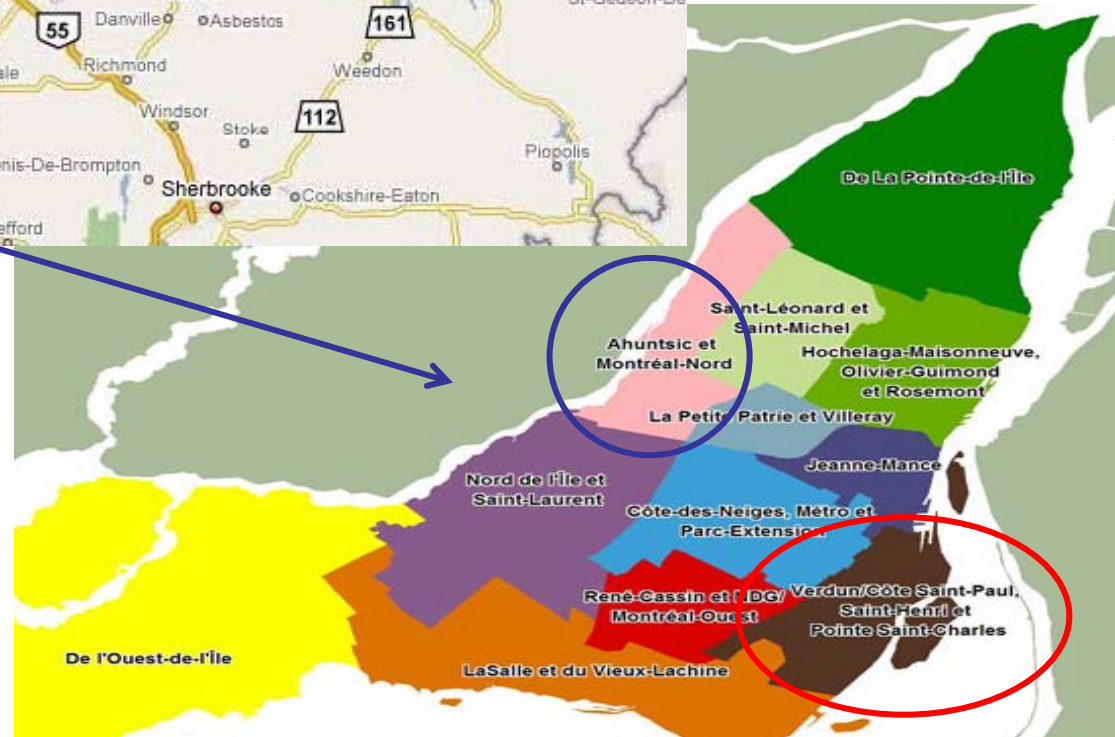
The child and his family in the AIDES project

- ❖ Must be *under seven years old* at the beginning of the intervention;
- ❖ The family situation must have deteriorated sufficiently to warrant *significant concern about the child's development*, i.e., it is reported to Youth Protection System (CJ) or is a high-priority file at the health and social service agencies (CSSS);
- ❖ The child or his parents is/are receiving or will receive the services *of at least two establishments*;
- ❖ The chosen orientation is to keep the child in his natural milieu.

Geographical situation of experimental and control territories for Montréal and Mauricie / Centre-du-Québec area



Experimental
Control
groups



2003 to 2008...until 2011

DESIGN, TRY-OUT, AND IMPLEMENTATION

- ❖ Inventory of collaboration initiatives among vulnerable families (in Quebec and elsewhere)
- ❖ **Formation of a group for reflection, review**
 - Partners: case workers, managers, researchers (CJ and CSSS)
 - Activities (1 year): 4 meetings and 1 seminar with U.K. representatives
 - Objectives: appropriation of reference framework, joint construction of intervention procedure
 - Tasks:
 - ❖ Choice of means: Core assessment, participative approach with parents, ISP process
 - ❖ Adaptation to Quebec context: reference framework, CABE
 - ❖ Creation of tools: small poster, series of charts
 - ❖ Construction of training content

2003 à 2008

DESIGN, TRY-OUT, AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Agreements signed with the partners CJ Montreal/North and CSSS Ahuntsic/Montreal-North for the try-out period (objectives sought, roles and responsibilities).
- Creation of a local coordination committee
 - Awareness of the initiative: information and training sessions (2 days) and follow-up meetings
 - Test implementation among a few families in territory of CSSS Ahuntsic/Montréal-Nord (2006)
 - Meeting with service providers to know their points of view
 - Enhancement of material and support activities
- Simultaneously in the Mauricie / Centre-du-Québec area - promoting the approach in the assessment framework of PAPFC

2003 to 2008...until 2011

DESIGN, TRY-OUT, and IMPLEMENTATION

of the initiative... but **also a research project** (n=230 participants)

- ❖ Adhesion of the different milieus (implementation and assessment)
- ❖ Formation of advisory and assessment committees
- ❖ Ethical approval (university and practitioner milieus)
- ❖ Identification of service providers (information and awareness activities concerning the initiative)
 - 1) *Support the use of the reference framework and the CABE in the analysis of the child's needs.*
 - 2) *Encourage development of competencies linked to the participative approach in follow-up with families.*
 - 3) *Involve network partners in the child's case and update the ISP.*
- ❖ Recruitment of families
- ❖ Evaluation of the implementation and effects (pre- and post-test)

2003 to 2008...until 2011

CONCEPTION, TRY-OUT AND IMPLEMENTATION

MONTREAL	MAURICIE/CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC
<p data-bbox="291 329 883 429"><u>Experimental Group</u> (55 children and their families)</p> <p data-bbox="354 511 820 615">Youth protection system (Montreal/North)</p> <p data-bbox="277 696 896 786">Health and social service agency (Ahuntsic/Montreal-North)</p>	<p data-bbox="1148 329 1740 429"><u>Experimental group</u> (60 children and their families)</p> <p data-bbox="1210 511 1677 554">Youth protection system</p> <p data-bbox="1052 696 1835 796">Health and social service agencies (Énergie, Drummond, Arthabaska-Érable)</p>
<p data-bbox="291 829 883 929"><u>Control Group</u> (55 children and their families)</p> <p data-bbox="354 1011 820 1115">Youth protection system (Montreal/West)</p> <p data-bbox="277 1196 896 1296">Health and social service agency (South-West Verdun)</p>	<p data-bbox="1148 829 1740 929"><u>Control Group</u> (60 children and their families)</p> <p data-bbox="1210 1001 1677 1043">Youth protection system</p> <p data-bbox="1052 1168 1835 1315">Health and social service agencies (Nicolet/Bécancour, Trois-Rivières / Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Maskinongé)</p>

Assessment/Review of the implementation of the AIDES initiative and its effects

		Pre-test	Stages of intervention	Post-test	
Implementation/process evaluation		<p><u>Characteristics of the children and their family situations</u></p> <p>Target group n=115 children/families Peer group N=115 children/families</p>	<p>Centering on the child's needs Analysis of child's case</p> <p>Target group n=20 cases Peer group n=20 cases</p>	<p>Participation/collaboration Telephone interviews</p> <p>Target group n=20 parents Peer group n=20 parents</p> <p>Target group = 15 service providers Peer group = 15 service providers</p>	<p><u>Characteristics of the children and their family situations</u></p> <p>Target group N ≥100 children/families Peer group N ≥ 100 children/families</p>
		<p><u>Practice conditions</u> Telephone interviews Target group n=15 service providers Peer group n=15 service providers Focus group Target group n=4 Focus group (8-12 people per focus group)</p>			
		Pre-test	Stages of intervention	Post-test	
Impact evaluation	<u>Proximate</u>		<p>Parental perceptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quality of aid practices employed by pivot service provider - quality of collaboration with pivot service provider - degree of control in decisions regarding services for their child and his/her family <p><u>Parent questionnaire</u> Target group n=115 parents Peer group n = 115 parents</p>		
	<u>Intermediary and ultimate</u>	<p>-Development of child -Victimization of child -Adaptation to parental role and exercise of parental responsibilities -Family environment</p> <p>Target group n=115 children/families Peer group N=115 children/families</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of child - Victimization of child - Adaptation to parental role and exercise of parental responsibilities - Family environment <p>Target group N ≥100 children/families Peer group N ≥ 100 children/families</p>	

The actors in the AIDES project (target group)



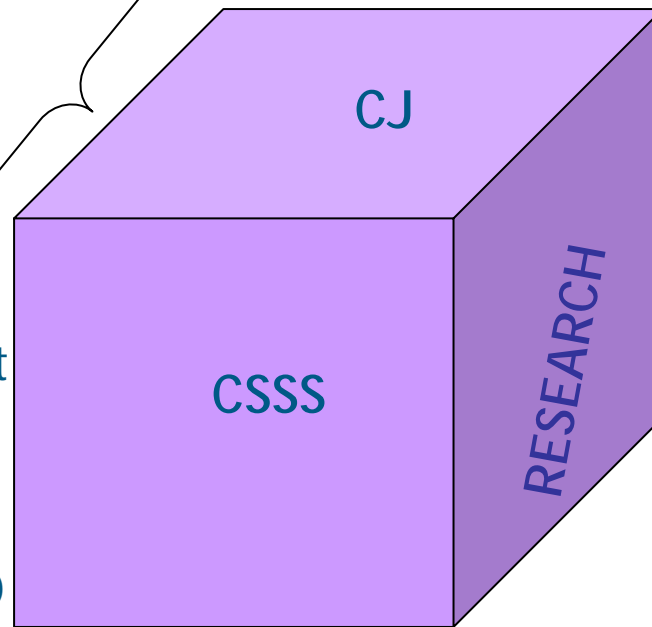
Challenges and issues

Chosen approach
in harmony with AIDES

Raise interest among
case workers and
accompany them

AIDES training

Asset: facilitating agent
(Montréal),
clinical counselor
and PAPFC programm
(Mauricie / Centre-du-Québec)



Support chosen
approach

Gather research data

Conciliate deadlines

Population-oriented approach

Missing element in tools

Asset: EIJ coordonator (Montréal)
PAPFC programm (Mauricie / Centre-du-Québec)

Challenges and issues

Establishing the link between the AIDES approach and institutional goals

- Empowerment and mobilization of parents;
- Relational/relation authority approach;
- Collaboration with network partners;
- Carrying out the PI and the PSI
- Evaluation of families' needs and best practices

Other challenges...

- Providing the services once the needs are identified;
- Widening the partnership to the community network;
- Looking after the base of the triangle.

To join us

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