



Child protection history of the children
and young people in the POCLS

Overview of Dashboard 2

This document provides a high-level view of the child protection history of the children and young people (hereafter children) in the Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study (POCLS). It accompanies the [interactive dashboard](#), published on the DCJ website.

Data reported in Dashboard 2 are grouped into the following categories:

- Issues reported prior to entering out-of-home care (OOHC) by age, gender and placement type
- Predominant reported issue type prior to first entry into OOHC by age, gender and placement type
- Number of risk of significant harm (ROSH) reports before entering OOHC by age, gender and placement type.

Data for children interviewed at each of the four Waves of data collection and for children who completed all of Waves 1, 2 and 3 or Waves 1, 2, 3 and 4 can be found in Dashboard 2. Data for the sub sample that received final orders by April 2013 (n=2,828) can also be found in Dashboard 2.

It should be noted that the dashboards do not show whether differences are statistically significant, and so confirmation of trends observed in the dashboards through either published papers available on the POCLS website or by contacting the POCLS team is highly recommended before making decisions based on this data.

What types of questions can be explored with Dashboard 2?

The following questions are examples of the types of questions that can be answered in Dashboard 2.

Question	How to Guide	Answer
What were the most common types of ROSH reports before entering OOHC for those interviewed at Wave 4?	Choose cohort 'Wave 4 all responses', district 'All', Drill down level 1 'All Children', Drill down level 2 'All Children' Refer to the graphic entitled <i>All Issues Reported Prior to Entering Out of Home Care</i>	The four most common ROSH report types were physical abuse (69%), neglect (67%), carer drug/alcohol issues (66%) and domestic violence (57%).
What were the differences by placement/exit type at Wave 2 in the number of ROSH reports before entering OOHC?	Choose cohort 'Wave 2 all responses', district 'All', Drill down level 1 'Placement type at wave interview, Drill down level 2 'All Children' Refer to the graphic entitled <i>Number of ROSH Reports Before Entering Out of Home Care</i>	There is not much difference between children in foster care and children in relative/kinship care in the number of ROSH reports prior to entry. Children in foster care tend to have fewer ROSH reports.

Overview of the child protection history of the children and young people in the POCLS study

Type of Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) reports

- The most common types of ROSH reports for those who received final orders were physical abuse (73%), neglect (70%), carer drug/alcohol issues (65%), and domestic violence (57%), with similar rates for these concerns evident among the children who completed interviews at Waves 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- Rates of ROSH reports with these issues appear to be less frequent for children under three years of age.
- 73% of children who received final orders and were initially placed in relative/kinship care had received a ROSH report relating to carer drug or alcohol issues compared to 60% of children initially placed in foster care.

Predominant reported issue type

- The predominant reported issue type considers the child maltreatment issues (physical, sexual, neglect and psychological) and determines the issue with the highest percentage that is above 50%. Where the highest percentage is tied or the percentage is less than 50%, the predominant issue is described as mixed.
- The most predominant reported issue type prior to first entry into care was mixed, followed by neglect and physical for all cohorts.
- Of those who were interviewed at Wave 4, 19% of children aged 3-6 years at the time of interview had a predominant reported issue of neglect prior to their first entry into care. This compares to 36% of children aged 7-11 years and 32% of children aged 12-17 years.

Number of ROSH reports

- Of those who received final orders, children aged 9-35 months were more likely to have had 0-2 ROSH reports (38%) than children in the other age groups (around 10%).
- Of those who were interviewed at Wave 4, 34% of children who had exited to guardianship had 0-2 ROSH reports compared to 27% of children in foster care and 20% of children in relative/kinship care.

Where can I find further information?

The documents accompanying the dashboards present some key statistics about the carers and the children in the Study. If you are unable to use the interactive dashboards and need more granular information or other statistics, please contact the POCLS team on Pathways@fac.s.nsw.gov.au

For an overview of the POCLS please see the [Study objectives and strategic research agenda \(Technical Report No.1, 2020\)](#).

For more information on POCLS including our publications please visit our [web page](#).

