



Highlights from the 2015–2016 Children’s Programs Performance Measurement Tool: AHSUNC

BACKGROUND

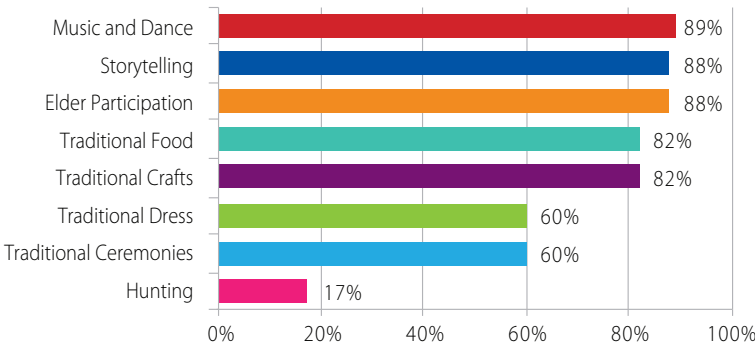
The **Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities** (AHSUNC) program, launched in 1995, is an early intervention program primarily intended for preschool Indigenous children 3–5 years of age and their families living off-reserve, in urban and northern communities.

\$29.1M in Grants and Contributions funding is provided annually to community-based Indigenous organizations across the country to deliver culturally appropriate programming intended to:

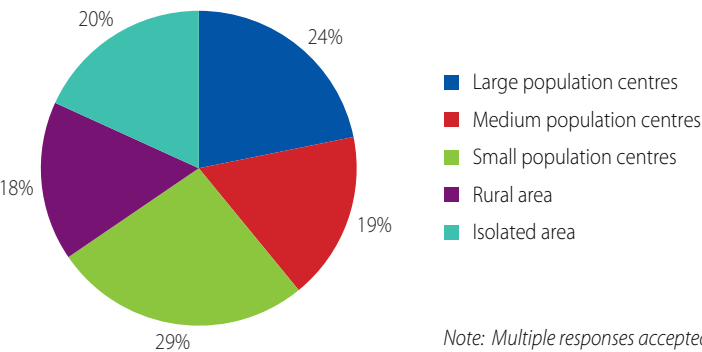
- ▶ Address health and social factors affecting the well being of Indigenous children and their families;
- ▶ Improve cultural awareness and use of Indigenous languages; and
- ▶ Improve school readiness and academic achievement and nurture a positive sense of self for Indigenous children.

The AHSUNC program includes six components: Indigenous culture and language; Education; Health promotion; Nutrition; Social support; Parental and family involvement.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL ACTIVITES OFFERED BY SITES



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF SITES



Note: Multiple responses accepted for this question

REACH TO TARGET POPULATION

- ▶ On average, the program reach ranges from **4600–4800** children annually at **134** program sites across Canada.
- ▶ First Nations children represent **55%** of the children enrolled, followed by Inuit **21%** and Metis **19%** children.
- ▶ **78%** of children enrolled were between 3 and 5 years of age.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- ▶ **25%** of children enrolled have suspected or diagnosed special needs.
- ▶ Support is provided mostly through referrals and tailored program activities.

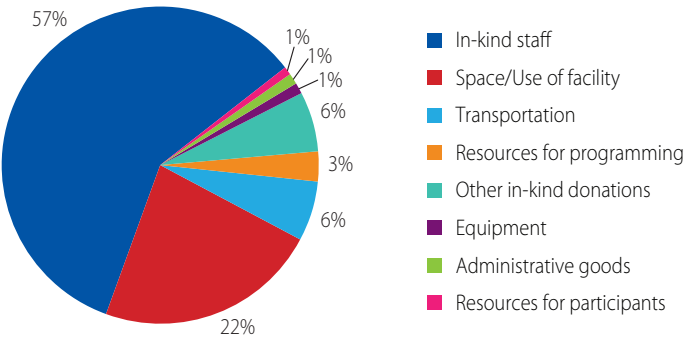
HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **69%** of sites offer half-day programming an average of 13.5 hours/week.
- ▶ **38%** sites (mostly in QC and ON) offer full day sessions that provide an average of 29 hours of programming per week.
- ▶ Nationally, **46%** of sites have a waiting list, representing a total of **879** children.

STAFF

- ▶ The AHSUNC program funds salary (in full or in part) for over 1000 staff; **84%** of whom are Indigenous.
- ▶ **52%** of staff have Early Childhood Educator (ECE) responsibilities.
- ▶ Over **59%** of ECE staff have met accreditation requirements. **26%** have additional credentials beyond this and **12%** are in training to become accredited ECEs.

PROPORTION OF DONATION BY TYPE



70% OF AHSUNC STIES RECEIVED DONATIONS TOTTALLING OVER \$15.4M

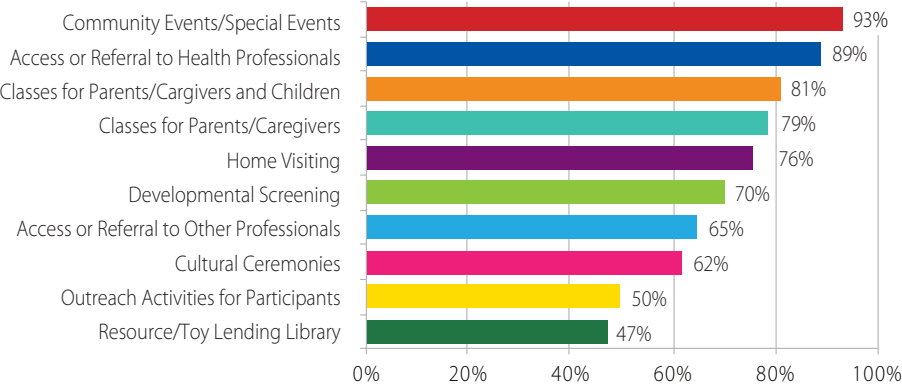
SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

- ▶ **80%** of AHSUNC sites had volunteers.
- ▶ **3173** individuals volunteered a total of **52,606** hours; the equivalent of **62** days per site, per year.
- ▶ **56%** of volunteers are current or past participants.

PARTNERS

- ▶ **82%** of AHSUNC projects have partner organizations.
- ▶ **77%** of AHSUNC sites reported having more than 4 types of partners.
- ▶ The most common types of partners were: health organizations (e.g. Community Health Centre, Clinic, Public Health Unit), Indigenous organizations and educational institutions (e.g., schools, universities).

COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY SITE



TOP 10 PUBLIC HEALTH TOPICS ADDRESSED	% SITES ADDRESSING THIS TOPIC
Nutrition education/healthy eating	95
Developmental screening (e.g., speech, hearing, vision assessments), Child developmental delays/special needs	86
Dental care or dental screening	86
School readiness/literacy/language development	85
Physical activity/active lifestyle	81
Culture and language revival and retention	73
Outdoor safety (e.g., sun, playground or sport safety)	69
Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/First Aid	68
Home environment safety	67
Immunization/vaccination	66