



Canadian Child & Youth  
**HEALTH COALITION**

# Fact Sheet

[www.ccyhc.org](http://www.ccyhc.org)

## About CCYHC

***There is strength in numbers.*** Ten national organizations have come together under the umbrella of the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC) with a *common vision to advance the cause of child and youth health and health care in Canada.*

- Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres (CAPHC)
- Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP)
- Canadian Family Advisory Network (CFAN)
- Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)
- Council of Canadian Child Health Research (CCCHR)
- Maternal, Infant, Child, & Youth Research Network (MICYRN)
- National Infant, Child, & Youth Mental Health Consortium (The Consortium)
- Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC)
- Pediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada (PSCC)
- Safe Kids Canada (SKC)

Established in 2004, the collective mandate of CCYHC is to foster the development of new knowledge in the field of child and youth health and health care, promote the application of this knowledge, support education and strengthen national advocacy. The Coalition members represent a broad range of experts and stakeholders across the continuum of child and youth health including all children's hospitals, the majority of child and youth rehabilitation centres, all academic child health research institutes, all departments of paediatrics, all paediatric surgical departments, the national association of paediatricians, over 30 child and youth focused mental health organizations, a leading national child and youth injury prevention organization, and 15 family advisory groups. As such, CCYHC has an unparalleled capacity to develop, implement and assess national programs and efficiently effect changes in policy and practice that can lead to improvement in child and youth health outcomes.

***The CCYHC is collaborative and consensus-driven.*** While each of the Coalition members holds distinct mandates, they share many common goals and objectives. The Coalition firmly believes that the synergistic strength gained through formal collaboration on jointly established strategic priorities provides a strong vehicle for achieving more in identified areas of concern than individual member organizations can accomplish independently.

## Programs & Initiatives

The Coalition's multi-disciplinary partnership means it can look at the big picture when it comes to child and youth health. Indeed, leveraging the broad expertise of its membership, the Coalition has implemented several national initiatives and programs including:

- **Child and Youth Health Indicators Development Program.** This initiative aims to help researchers and decision makers develop and apply meaningful indicators of child and youth health and health care to ensure that decisions are evidence-based and reflect real needs. In 2006, in collaboration with the CIHR-Institute of Human Development Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) and 13 other partner organizations, the Coalition launched a Request for Applications (RFA) to validate and/or develop child and youth health indicators. The purpose of this initiative is to support teams of researchers and decision



- makers to develop and apply indicators of child and youth health and health care. The Coalition has also recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH) to participate in the development of a chapter centered on indicators related to children and youth in the health care system as part of the next edition of the *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile*.
- **Canadian Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Strategy.** The Canadian Paediatric Surgical Wait Times Project builds on an initiative, led by the CCYHC, to develop recommendations for a national strategy on this issue. The CPSWT Project was announced in January 2007 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to measure surgical wait times for children and youth in six targeted areas. Based on its initial achievements, the project gained further funding from Health Canada until March 2010 to expand its data collection to all paediatric surgical subspecialties, include selected community hospitals, and continue to address wait times for children and youth. The Coalition will seek to apply the surgical wait times strategy to a broader set of wait-time issues in other high-priority areas in the future.
  - **Maternal, Infant, Child, and Youth Research Network (MICYRN).** This is a multi-disciplinary initiative to support world-class clinical research. It aims to address gaps in the clinical research environment and build Canada's maternal, infant and child health researchers into a single community dedicated to improving the health of mothers and children in Canada. Research partners consist of established and emerging clinical teams, research networks and groups committed to integrating resources to maximize returns. MICYRN's core objectives are to build innovative platforms to address gaps in the clinical research environment. [www.micyrn.ca](http://www.micyrn.ca)
  - **Health Human Resources.** The CCYHC is committed to promoting sustained excellence in education and training to ensure a workforce prepared to meet the health needs of children and youth across the spectrum of promotion, prevention and care. The Coalition has recently established a collaborative partnership with the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) around the collection of child and youth health human resource data. A primary objective of this collaboration is to ensure that input from the child and youth health care community is used to inform the modification and improvement of national databases designed to capture accurate HHR information.
  - **The Child & Family in the Healthcare System.** The Coalition has decided to take a fresh look at how children and their families experience and are dealt with in today's health care system. With the Canadian Family Advisory Network (CFAN) centrally engaged in this initiative, CCYHC aims to share best practice and develop a common vision of how this interaction should occur. Work is now well underway on two initial priorities – 1) parental presence at surgical induction and recovery and 2) the transition from inpatient status to "real life".
  - **Child Rights Education for Health Professionals (Boulton Initiative).** This project seeks to provide a strategy for educating health professionals about the practical application of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The Coalition is participating in the development of this initiative towards achieving a developmental child rights approach in all child/youth health programs and services, an approach that reflects a holistic and inclusive understanding of health and the realities of associated challenges and opportunities.

## Advocacy

**CCYHC is passionate about child and youth health.** Thus, our work also has an advocacy dimension, providing support and valuable feedback on policy issues that we believe stand to benefit from the Coalition's expertise and influence. Examples of our advocacy work include:

- **“Reaching for the Top: A Report by the Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth” (the Leitch Report).** In response to an invitation from Dr. K. Kellie Leitch, then Federal Advisor on Healthy Children and Youth, the CCYHC conducted a broad national stakeholder consultation across its membership and submitted a comprehensive report outlining pressing health issues facing children and youth, gaps in programming and services, and solutions that might address these gaps.
- **“Racing for Kids’ Health” – Establishing Priorities in Canadian Child & Youth Health Research.** In early 2007, in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (CIHR – IHDCYH) and the SickKids Foundation, the Coalition developed a brochure designed to highlight current priority areas in Canadian child and youth health research. The document provides salient facts related to child and youth health in Canada, lists key gaps in our knowledge that future research should attempt to fill, and suggests how the new knowledge can be applied to improve the health and health care of Canada’s children and youth.

## Contact CCYHC

For further information about the Canadian Child & Youth Health Coalition (CCYHC), please visit [www.ccyhc.org](http://www.ccyhc.org) or contact:

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