



First Nations child and family service (FNCFS) agencies: Analysis of questionnaires

DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

December 13, 2022

IFSD's mandate

- Build budgets, operating plans, and capital needs assessments to support/facilitate transition to setup First Nations and FNCFS agencies for success in a reformed FNCFS system.
- Phase 3 will:
 - Close data gaps, e.g., capital needs, baselines
 - Model and test the proposed funding approach
 - Refine the Measuring to Thrive framework
 - Define First Nations-based delivery models
 - Enhance fiscal certainty and planning tools
 - Build confidence among stakeholders

Principal takeaways

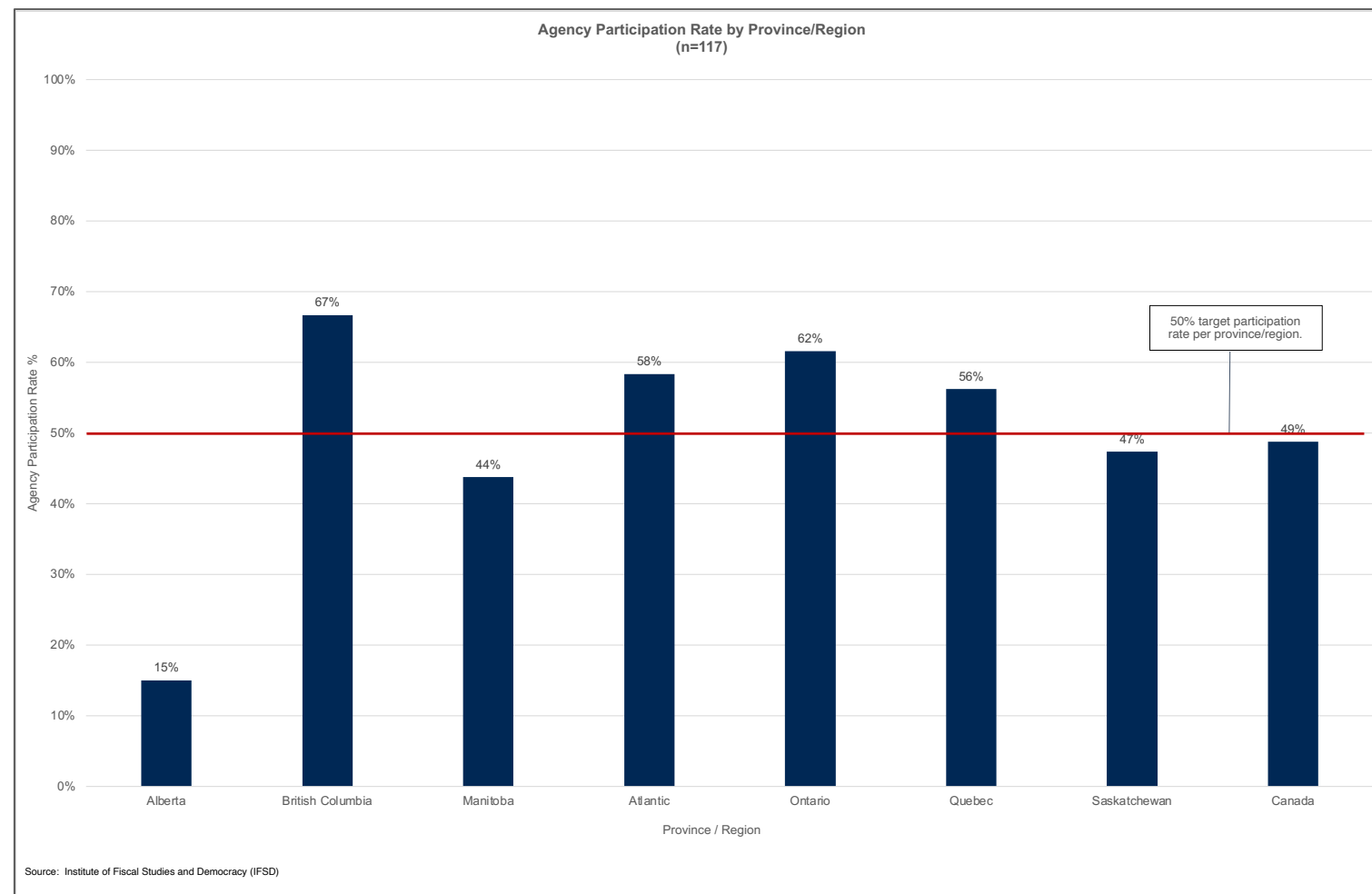
- Average FNCFS agency budgets have increased relative to past exercises.
 - Consistent with funding at actuals and CHRT orders.
- There is a correlation (**but declining**) between total expenditures and revenues and children in care.
 - Hypothesis: Prevention services are being directed to keeping children out of care.
- Correlations between Census 2016 and IRS populations and revenues and expenditures are significant, whereas those correlations with agency-reported population served are much less relevant.
 - Tacit cross-subsidy of federal funding to other supports/services and population residing outside of community is likely.
 - Data suggests that revenues are sought on a smaller population basis than the basis on which expenditures are applied. This could raise issues of budgetary sustainability over the long-run.
- Desired services emphasize housing/lodging with supports, e.g., transition homes, safe homes, etc.
- FNCFS agency revenues=75% federal (ISC) and 20% provincial (ministry of children and families).

Outreach

- All 117 FNCFS agencies were phoned and emailed.
- Initial contact by phone began the week of April 4, 2022.
 - If contact was made, an email including the project overview and registration for a workshop were sent.
- Outreach continued by phone and email from April to October 2022. **FNCFS agencies were contacted by phone at least 3 different times, and by email, 5 to 7 times.**
- The questionnaire process was closed on **November 4, 2022.**
- FNCFS agencies that did not participate in the questionnaire were contacted the week of November 28, 2022 and invited to respond to five questions (from the questionnaire).
 - The five questions capture basic information on revenues/expenditures for the baseline exercise (see Appendix).

National participation

- We are approaching 50% national participation.
- The outstanding region remains Alberta.
- This analysis **does not include** shortened responses, i.e., five questions, from FNCFS agencies.

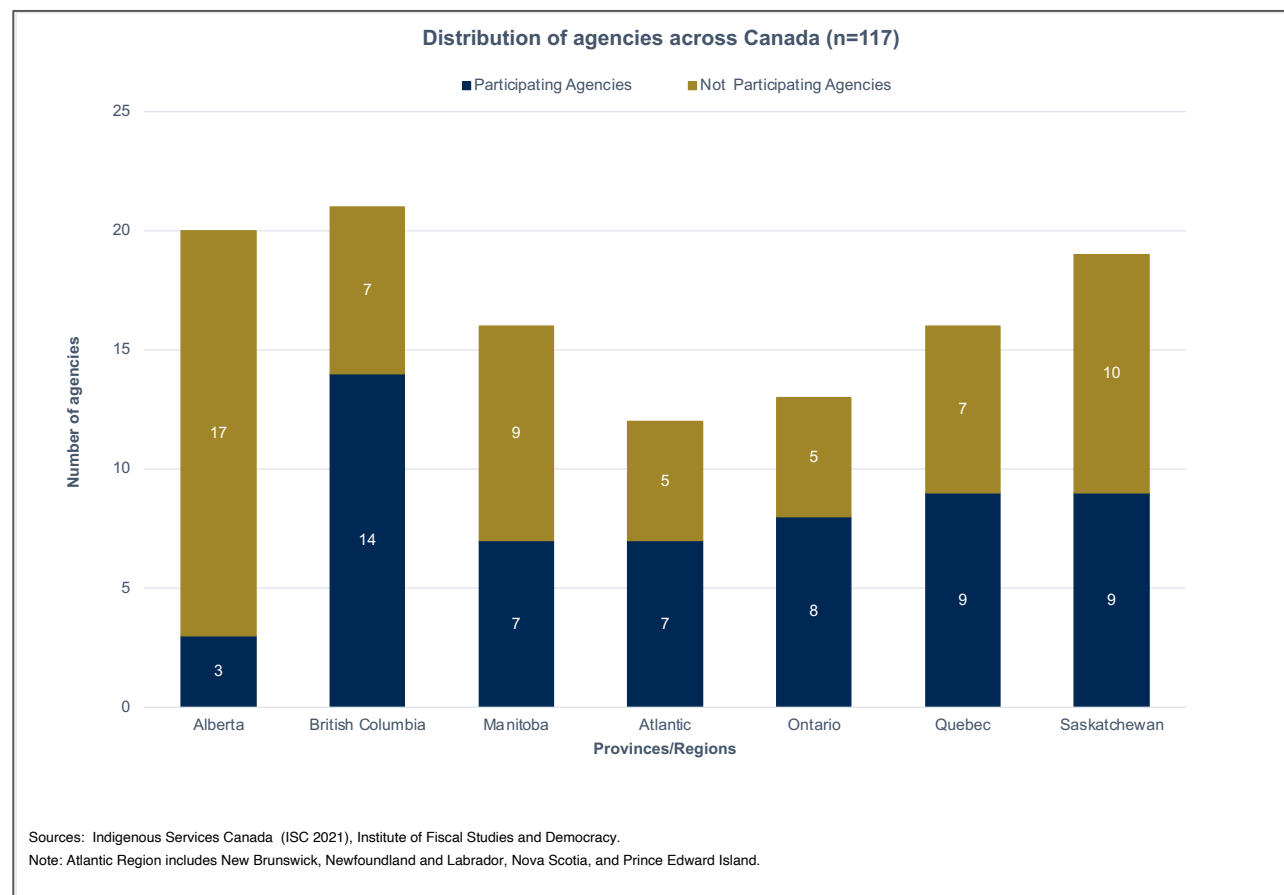


Notes on the analysis

- Descriptive analysis based on questionnaire contributions is presented in this briefing.
- The national **participation rate is relevant (49%)**
- Note that the response rate (n-value) differs for each question.

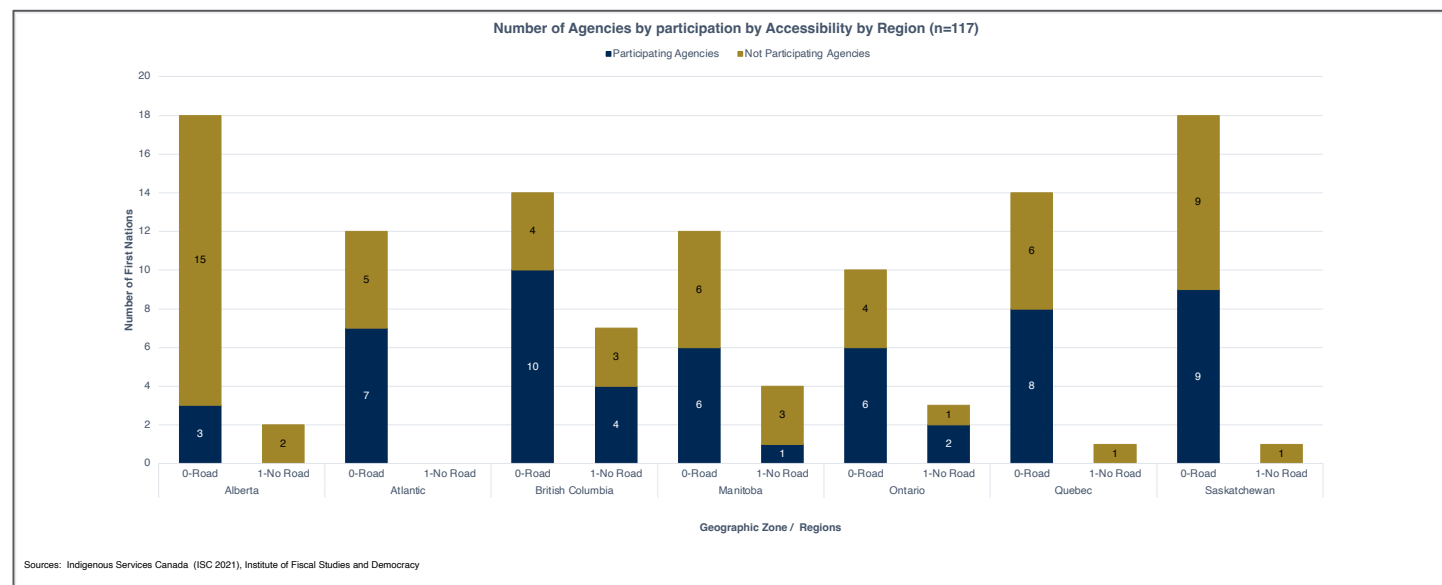
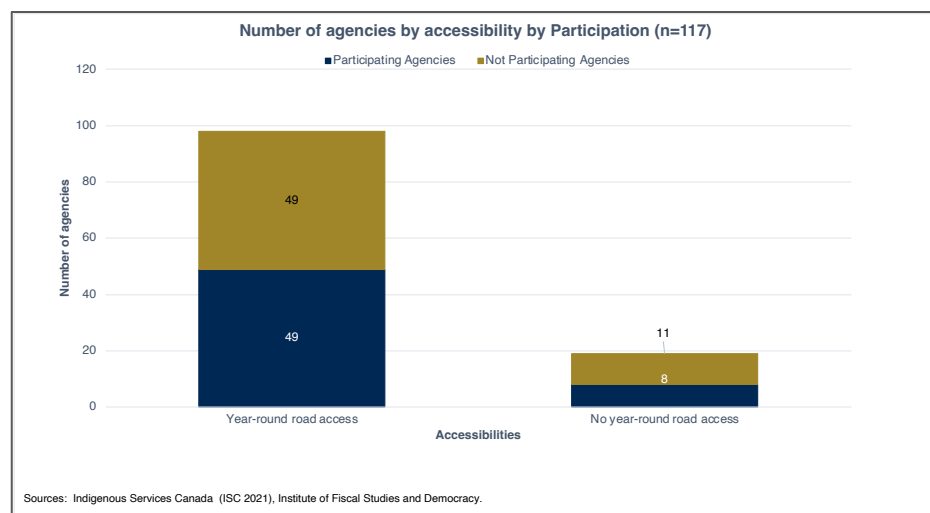
Questionnaire participation

- Other than Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, over 50% of FNCFS agencies in provinces/regions participated in the questionnaire.



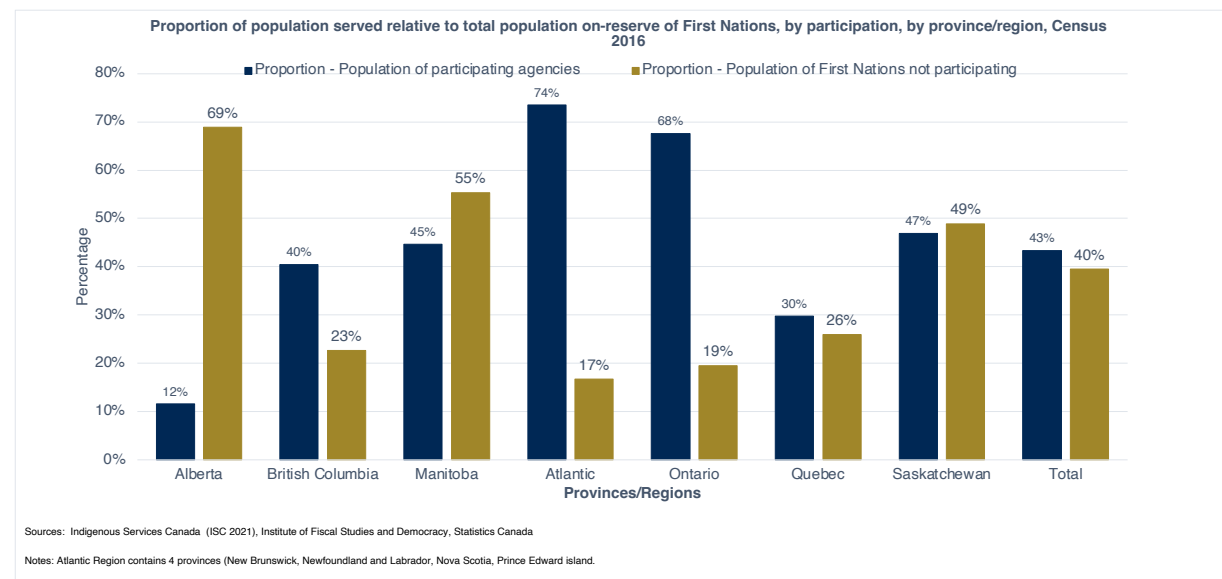
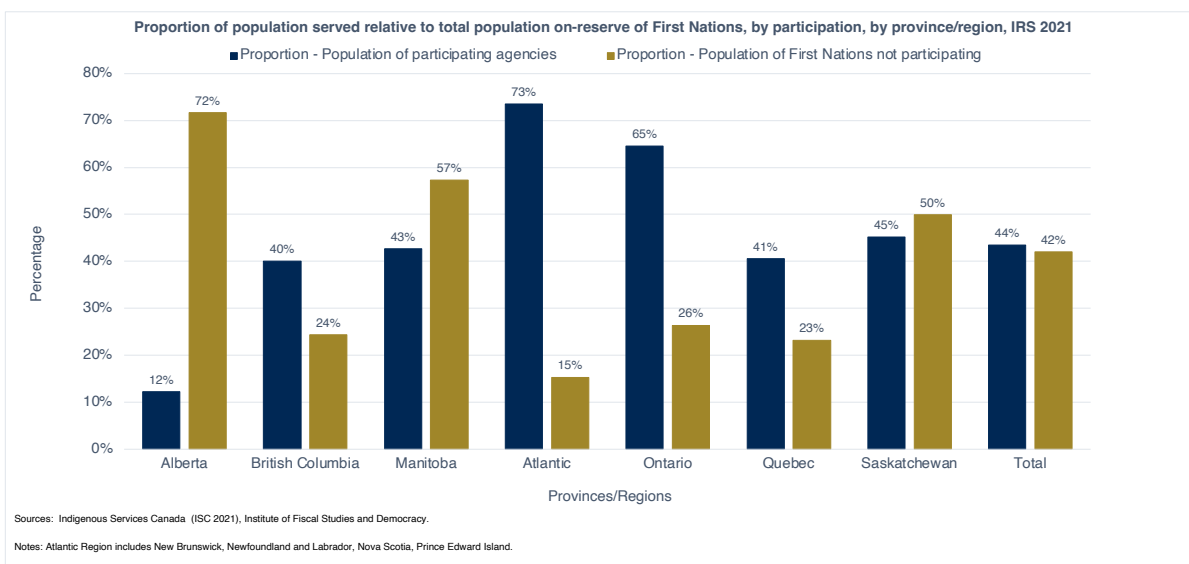
Participation by road access

- There is sufficient representation of FNCFS agencies serving First Nations accessible by year-round road both nationally and on a provincial/regional basis. For those not accessible by year-round road, national representation is sufficient, but varies across provinces/regions. This is not a concern, as past exercises indicate consistency of cost behaviour irrespective of provincial borders.



Participation by population served

- With consideration of IRS 2021 and Census 2016 population data, at a national level, most First Nations served by a FNCFS agency are represented through questionnaire participation.
- There is some variance at provincial/regional levels, consistent with overall questionnaire participation.

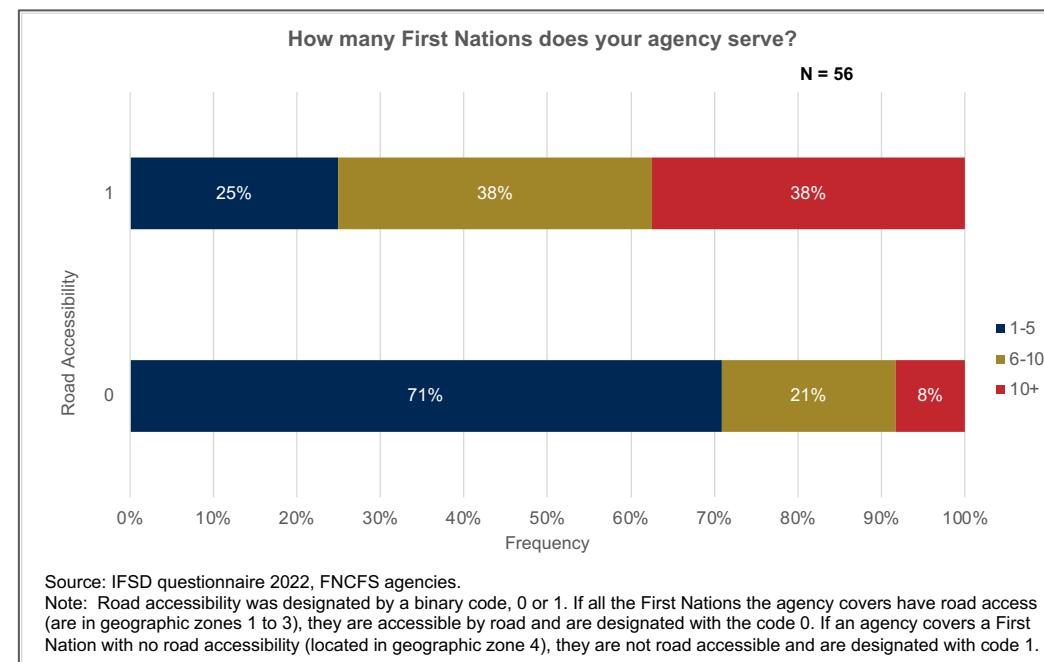
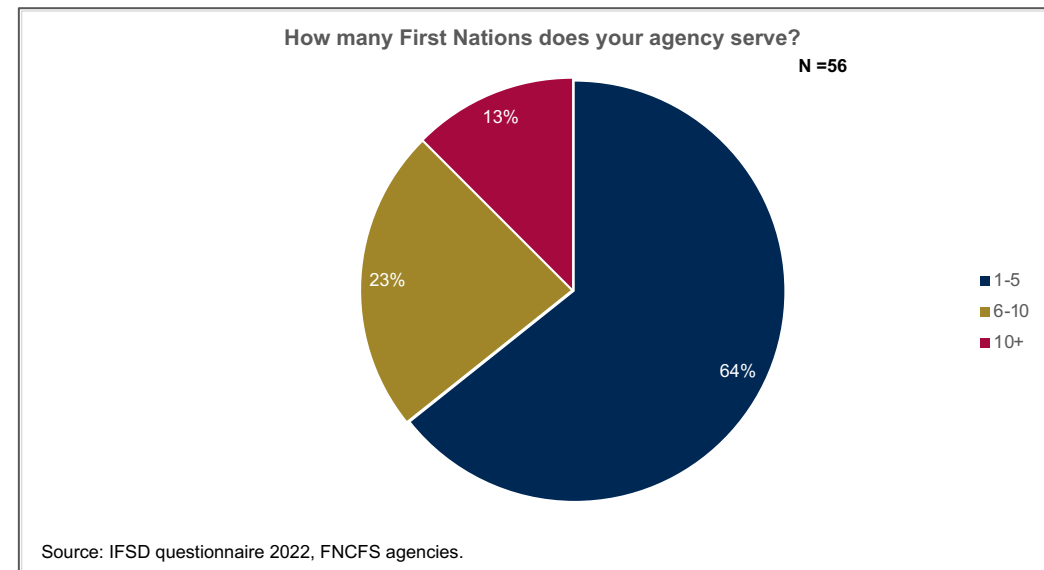




FNCFS agency questionnaire – Draft analysis

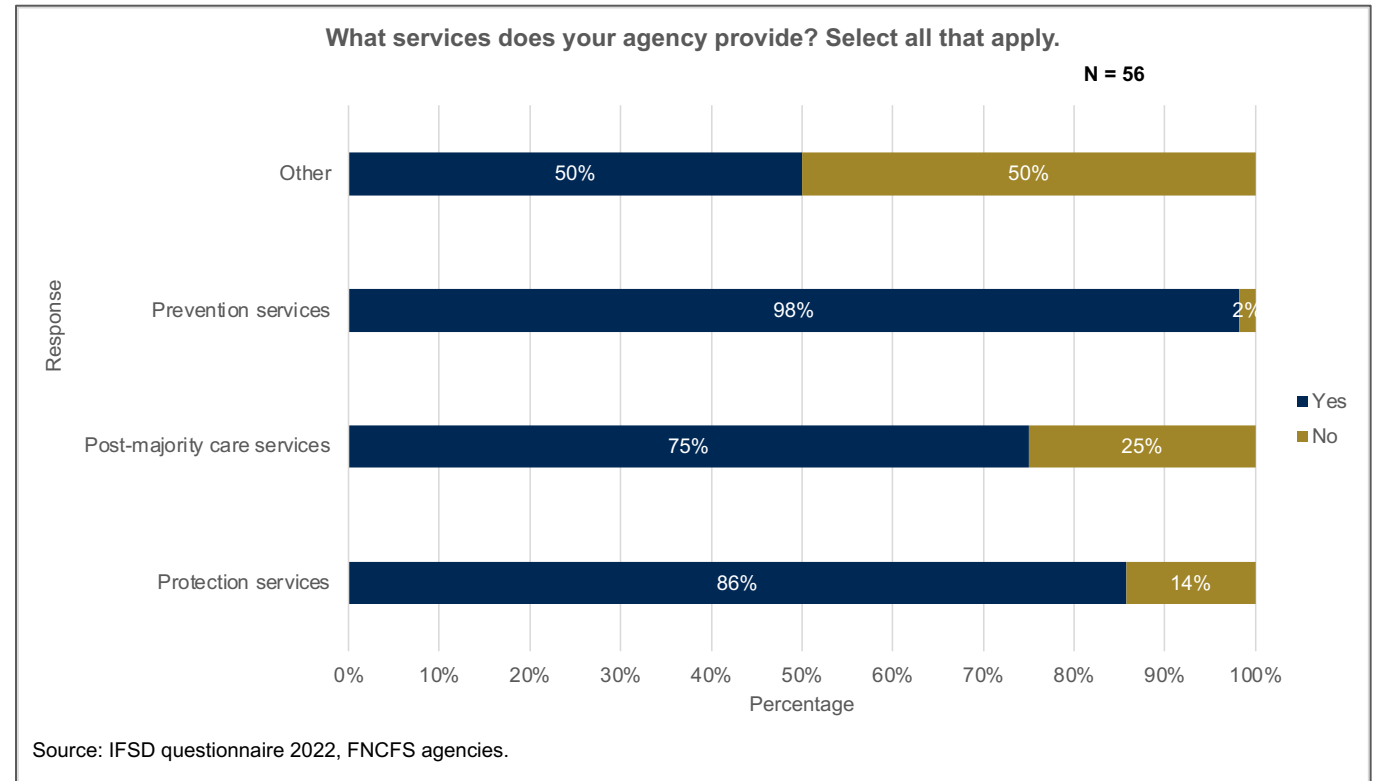
Number of First Nations served

- Most FNCFS agencies serve 5 First Nations or less.
- FNCFS agencies serving a First Nation without road access are more likely to serve more than 10 First Nations.



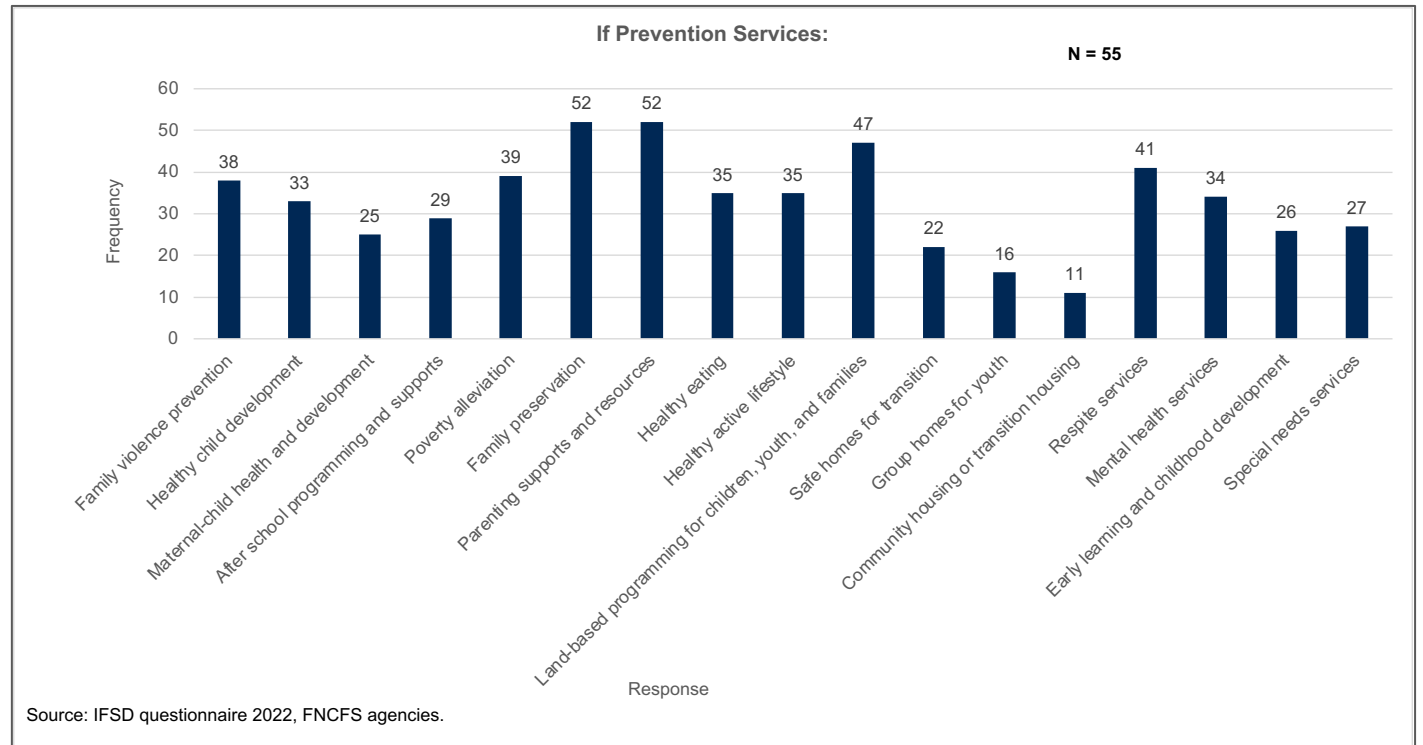
Services provided

- Nearly all participating FNCFS agencies report providing prevention services.
- 86% report providing protection services and 75% report offering post-majority care services.



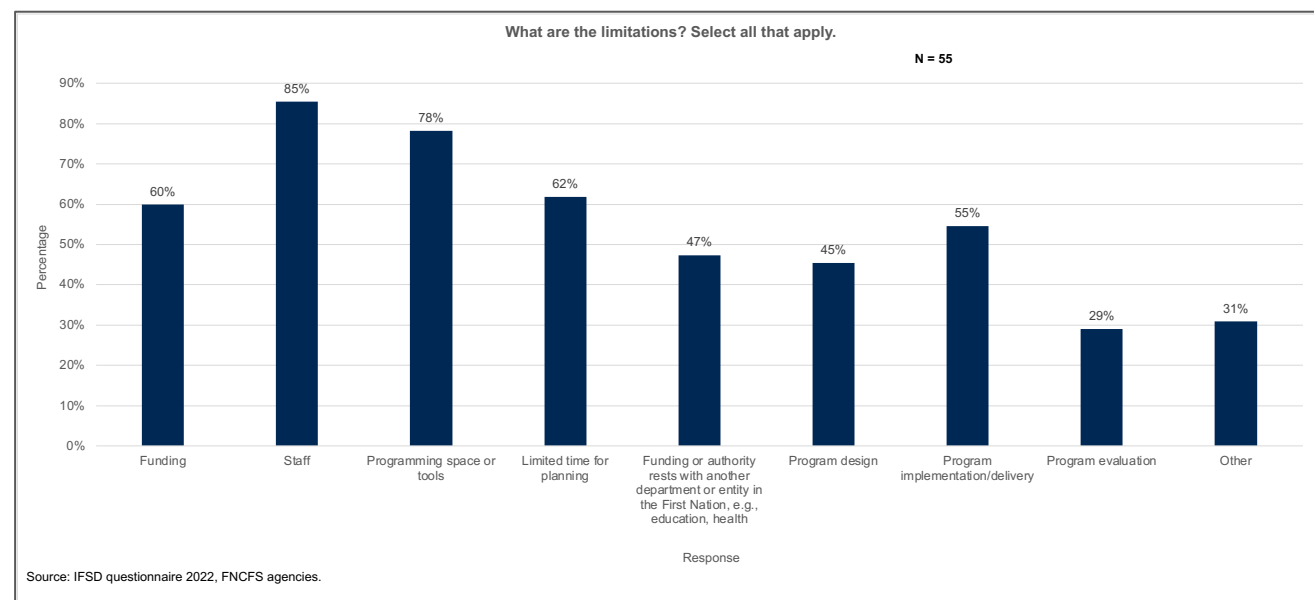
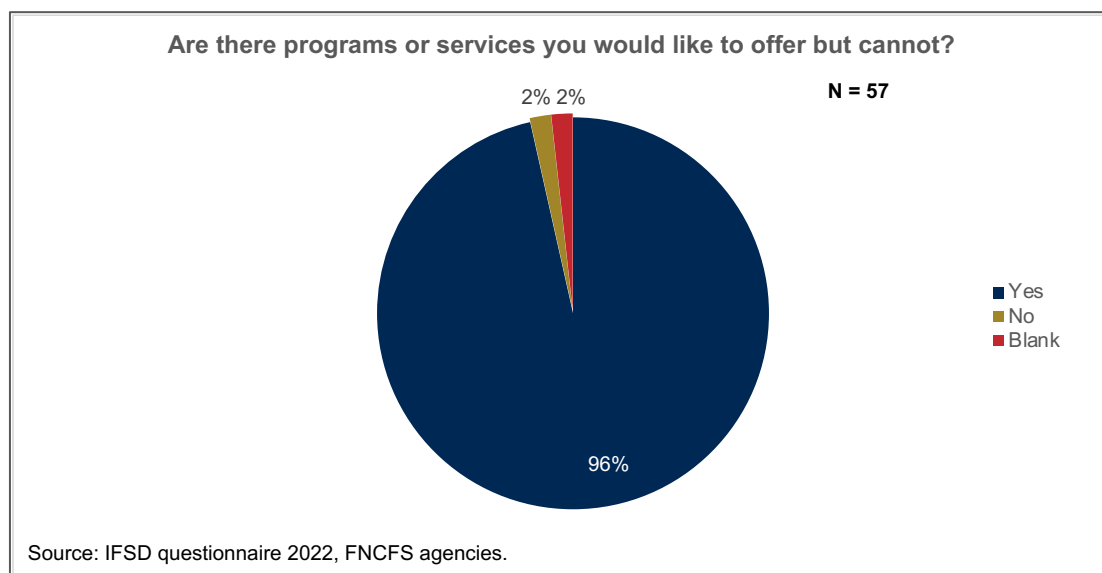
Prevention services

- Of those providing prevention services, the majority report providing parenting supports and resources, family preservation, and land-based programming.
- Hypothesis: the provision of CFS practice-based prevention services may have contributed to the *decline in the correlation* between the number of children in care and the total size of FNCFS agency expenditures and revenues.



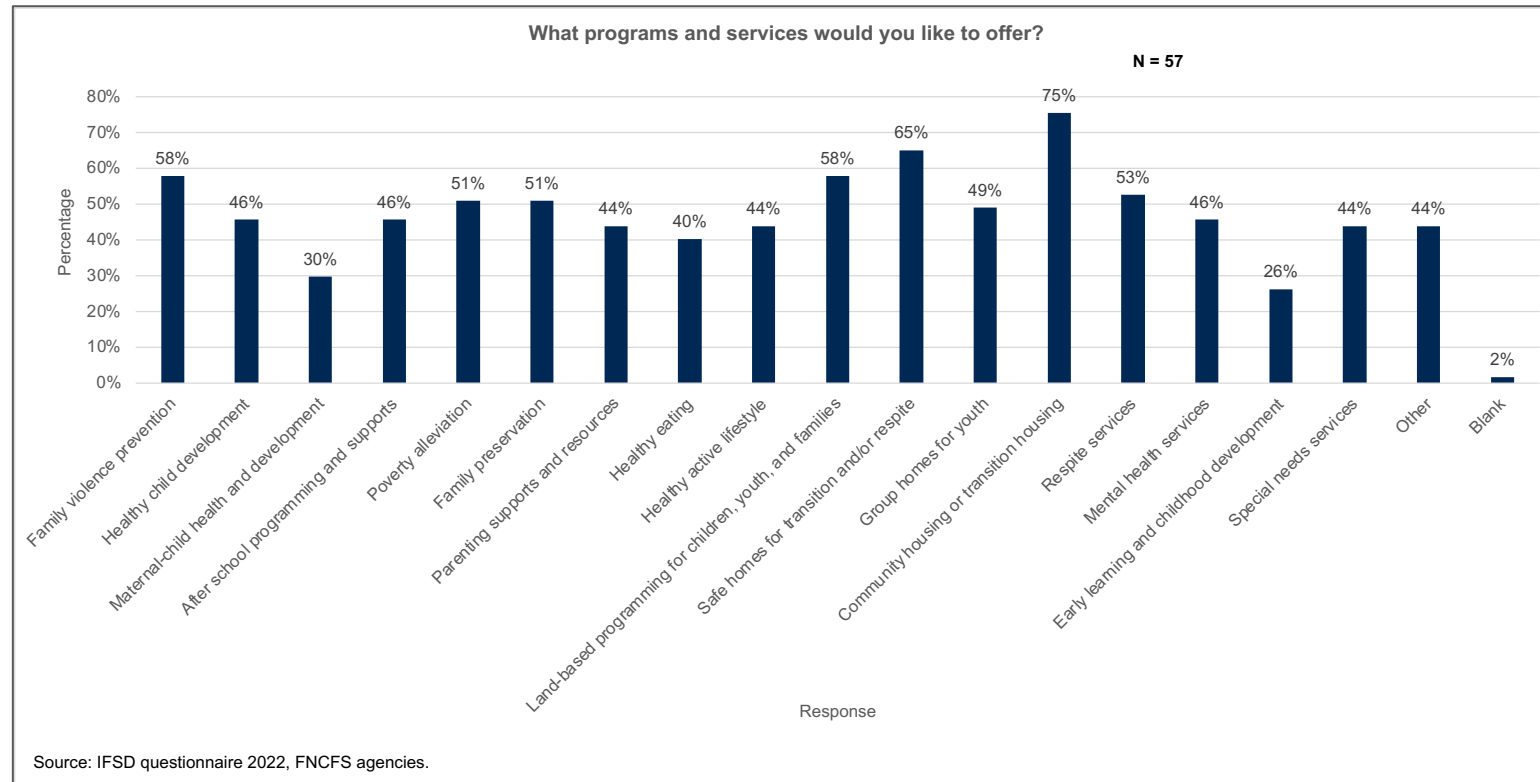
Providing desired services

- Nearly all FNCFS agencies reported **not being able to provide desired services** in their communities.
- The most often-cited limitations were staff, programming space or tools, limited time for planning, and funding.



Desired services

- Specific forms of housing, e.g., community housing or transition housing, and safe homes/respites, stand out among desired services. Family violence prevention and land-based programming also figure prominently.

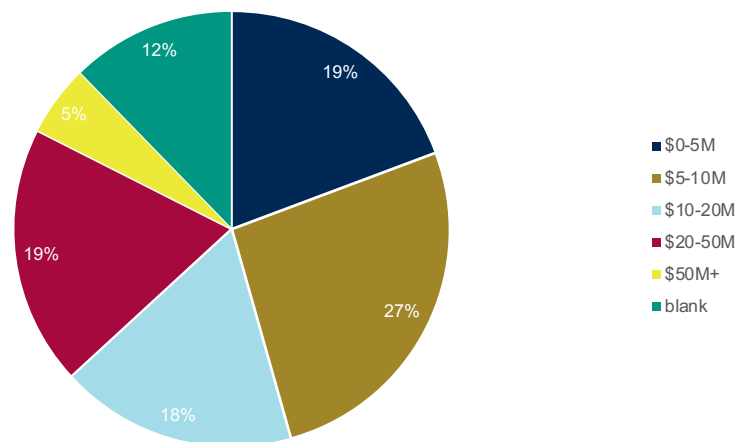


Total expenditures

- Most agencies report expenditures (all sources of funds) of up to \$10M for fiscal year 2020-21.

What were your FNCFS agency's total expenditures for fiscal year 2021–22?

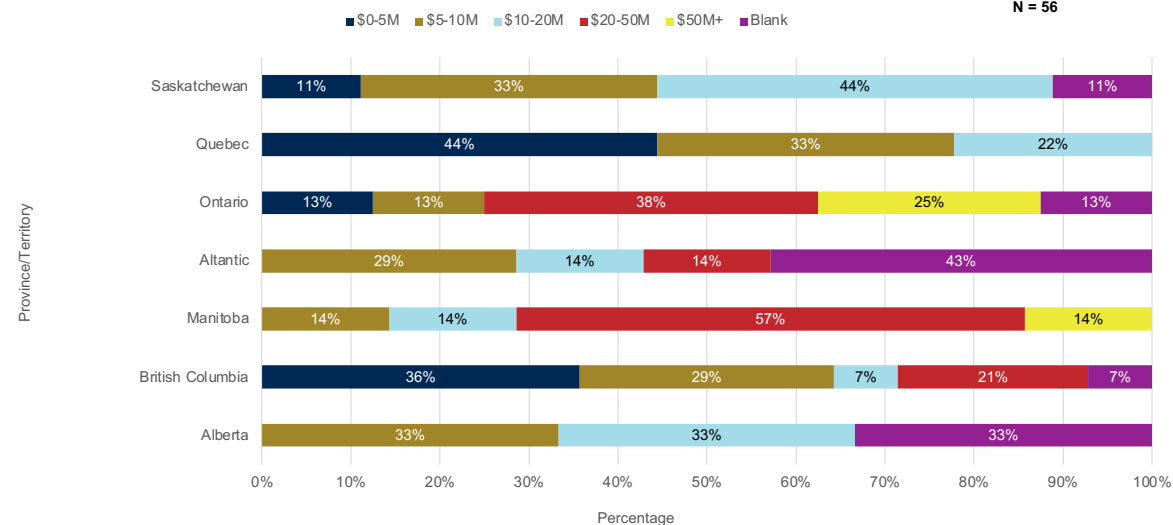
N = 57



Source: IFSD questionnaire 2022, FNCFS agencies.

What were your FNCFS agency's total expenditures for fiscal year 2021–22?

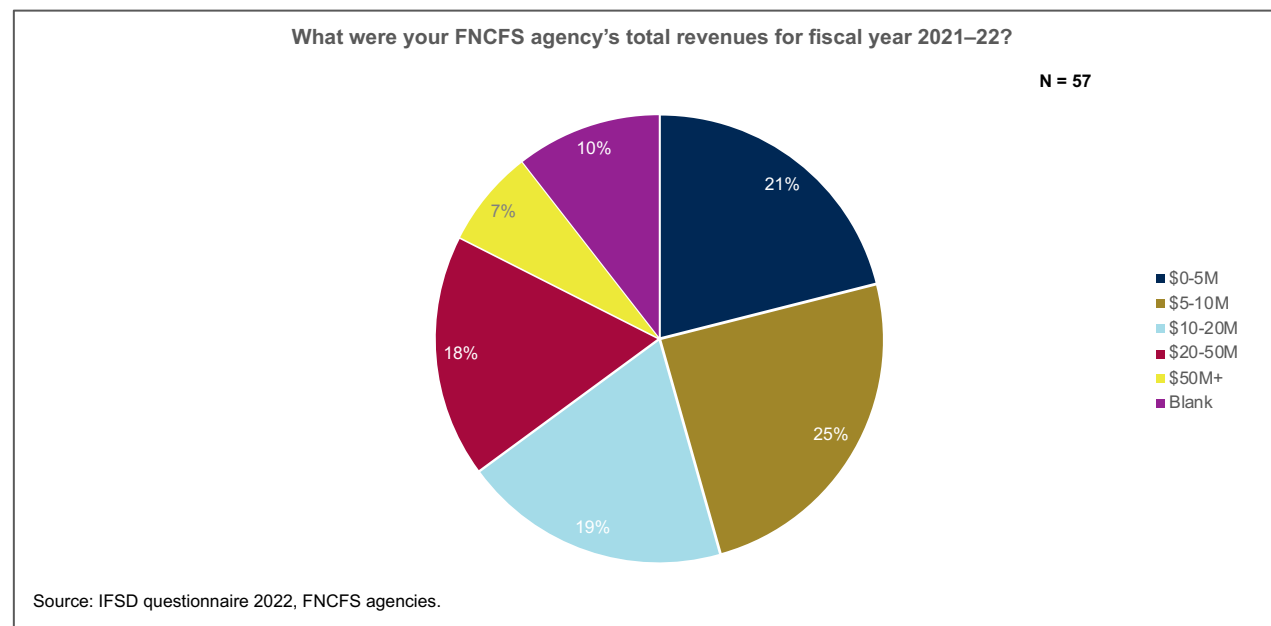
N = 56



Source: IFSD questionnaire 2022, FNCFS agencies.

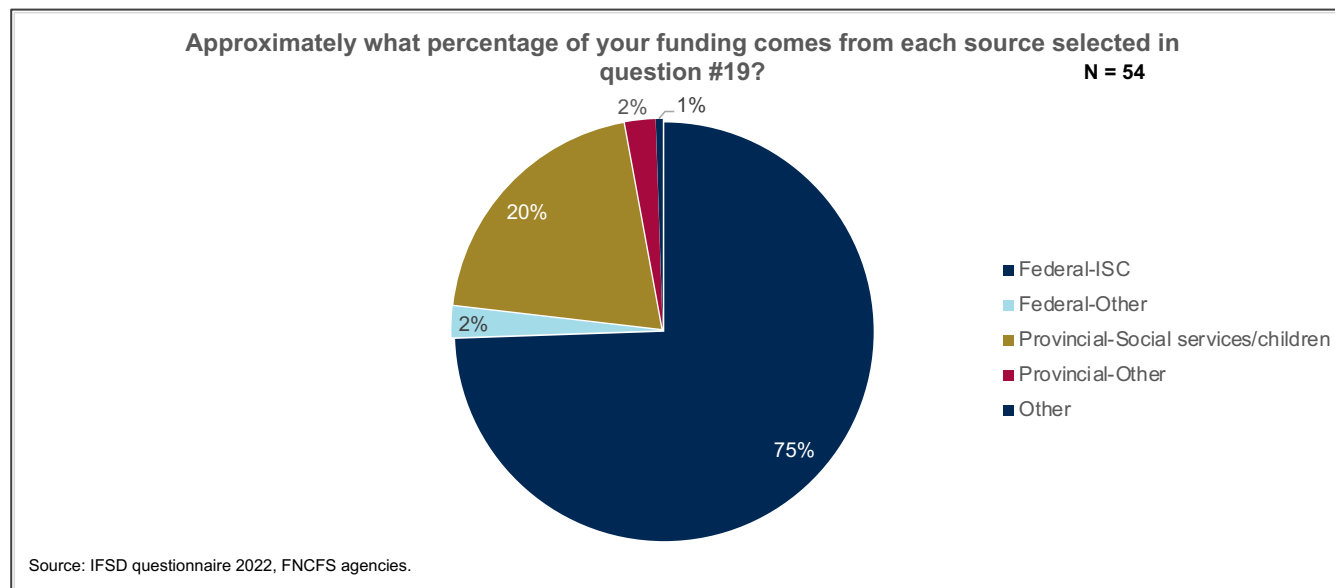
Total revenues

- Nearly half of respondents report revenues below \$10M (all sources of funds).



Baselining budgets

- Respondents report 75% of their funding from ISC.
 - 2% from other federal sources.
- 20% from provincial social services.
 - 2% from other provincial sources.
- 1% from other sources.

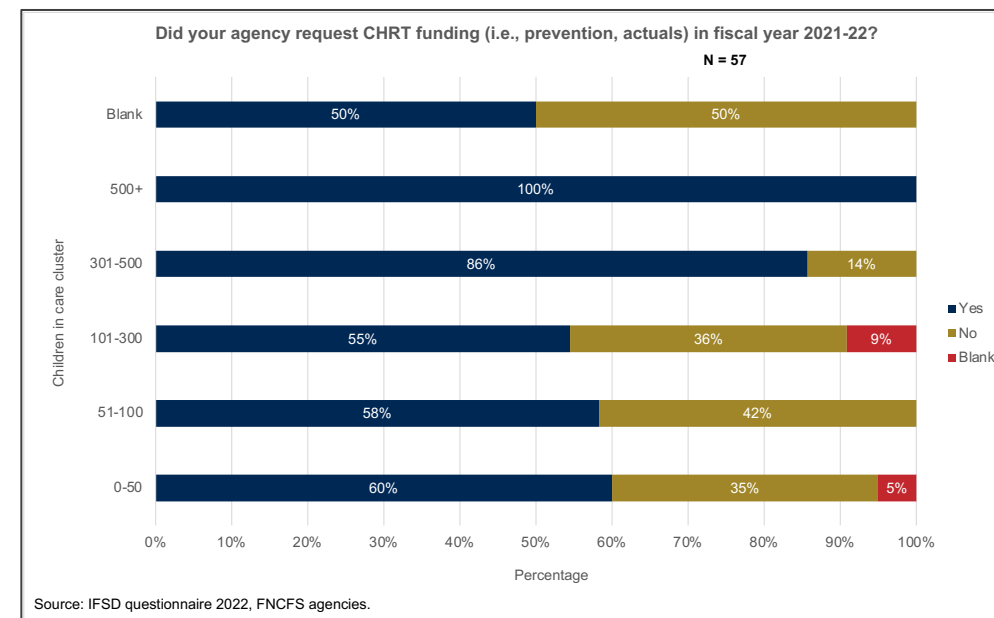
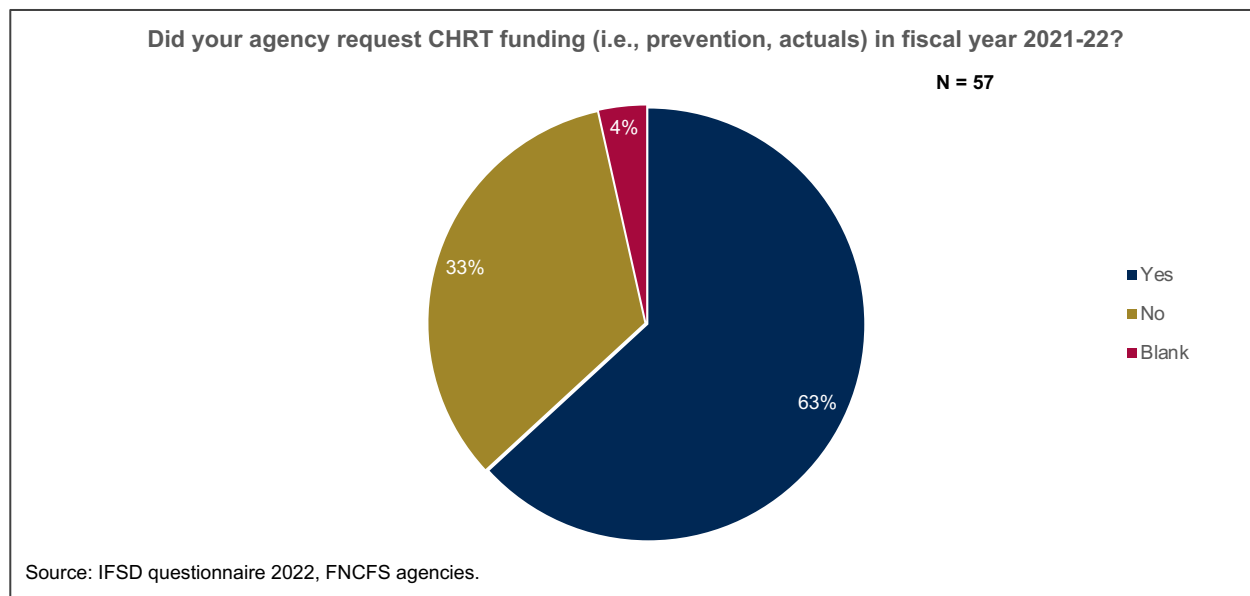


For the updated baseline budget: 75% of total budgets can be considered the “ISC baseline.”

Approx. 80% of total agency budgets come from federal sources.

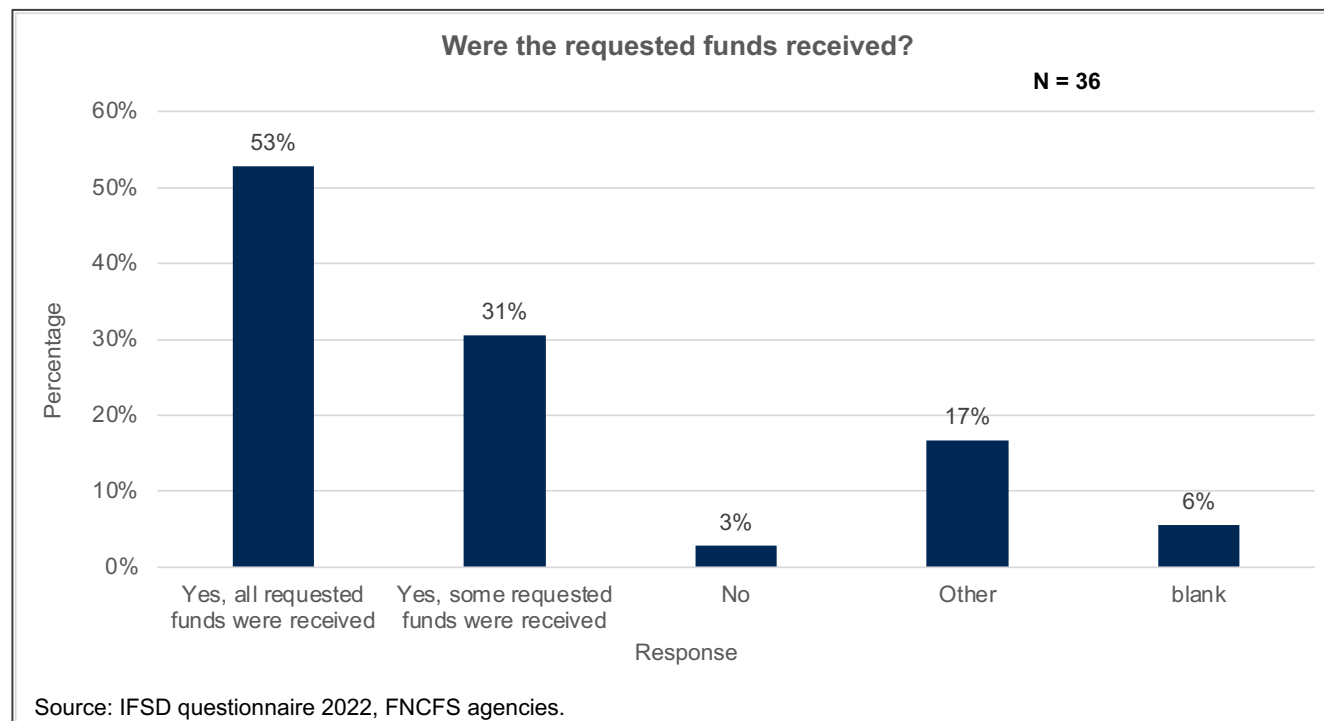
CHRT funding

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents reported requesting CHRT-mandated funding.



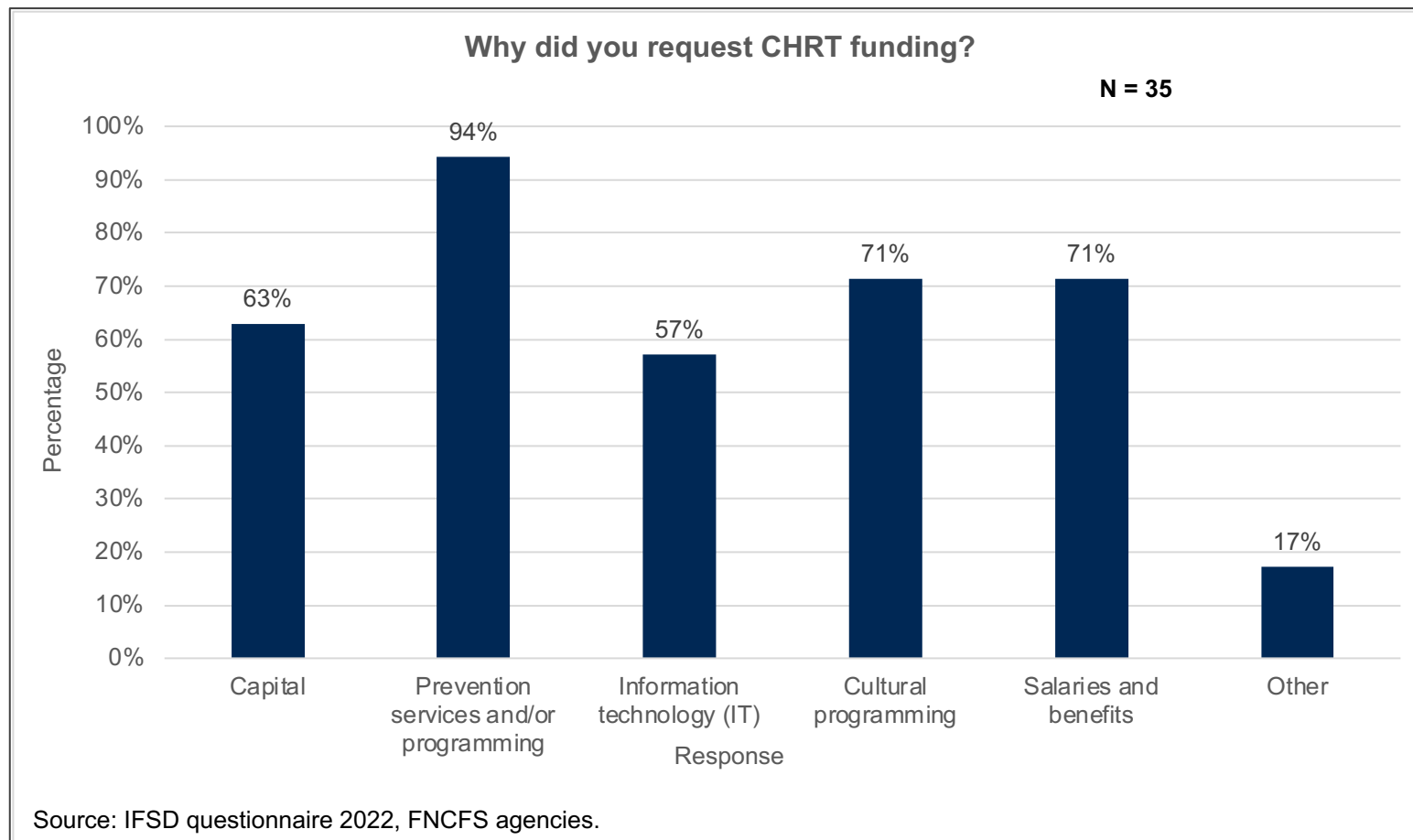
Receipt of CHRT funding

- 84% of respondents receive all or some of their requested CHRT funding.
- There were few reported rejections, but a significant number of non-responses and 'other' responses.



Use of CHRT funding

- Most CHRT funding was requested for prevention programs/services.
- Cultural programming and salaries and benefits followed with some distance.

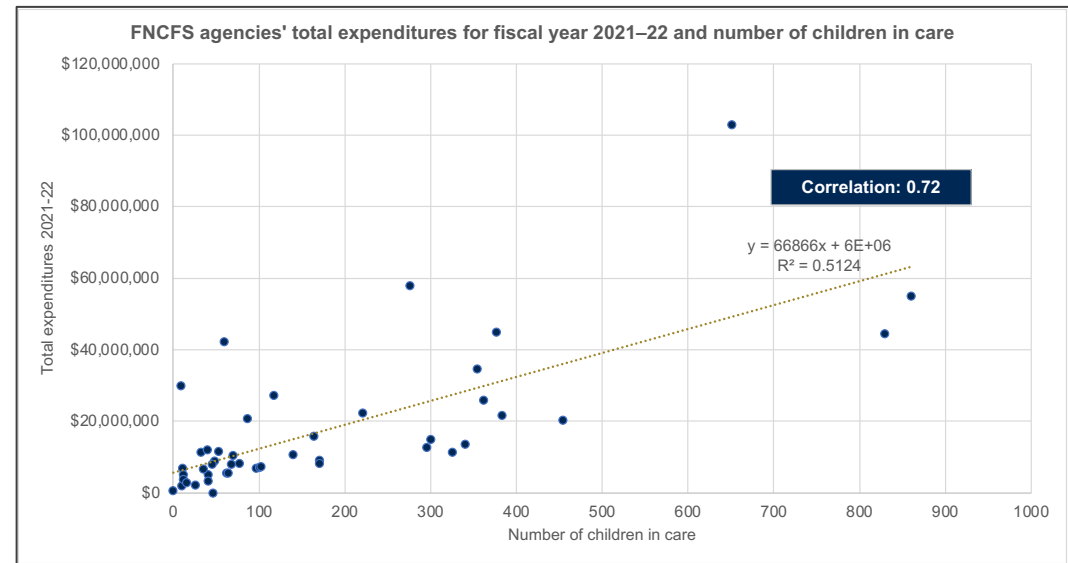
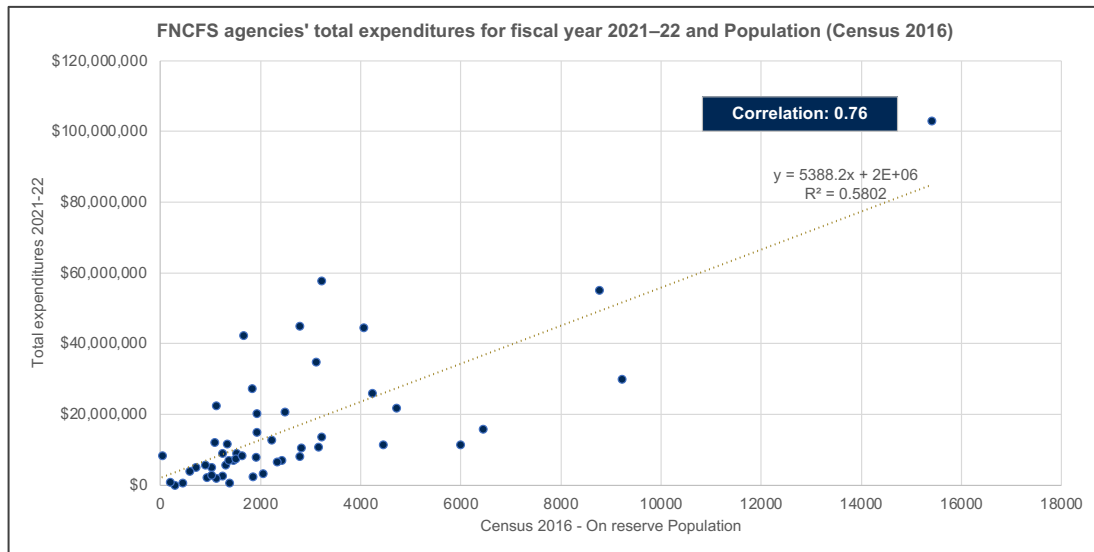
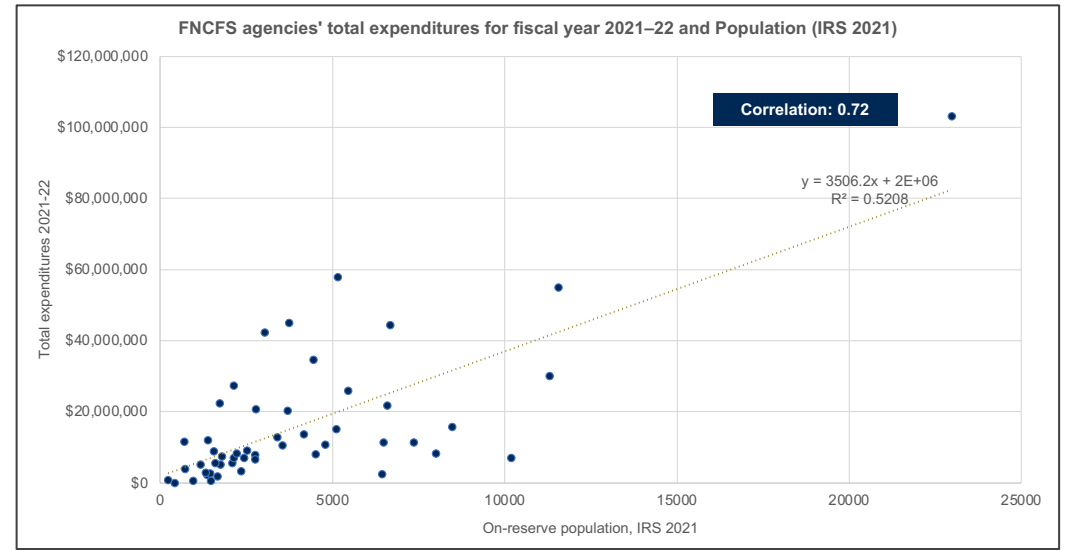
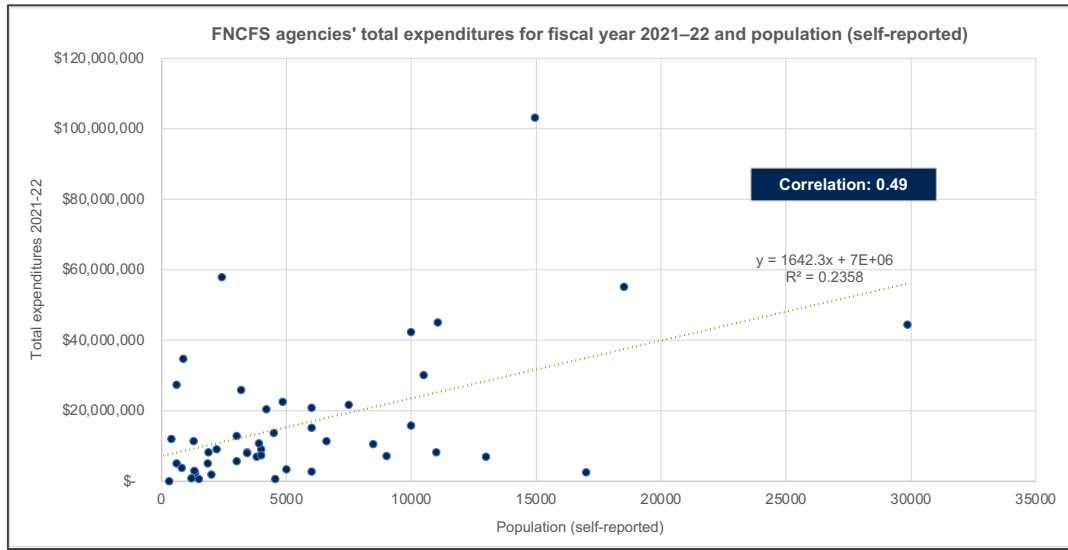


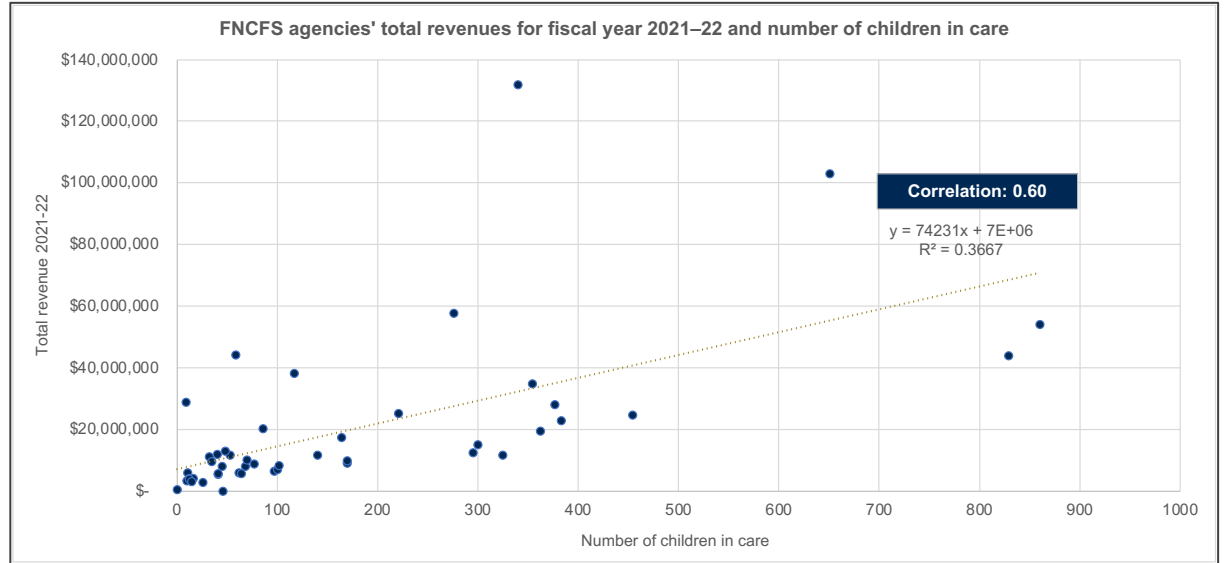
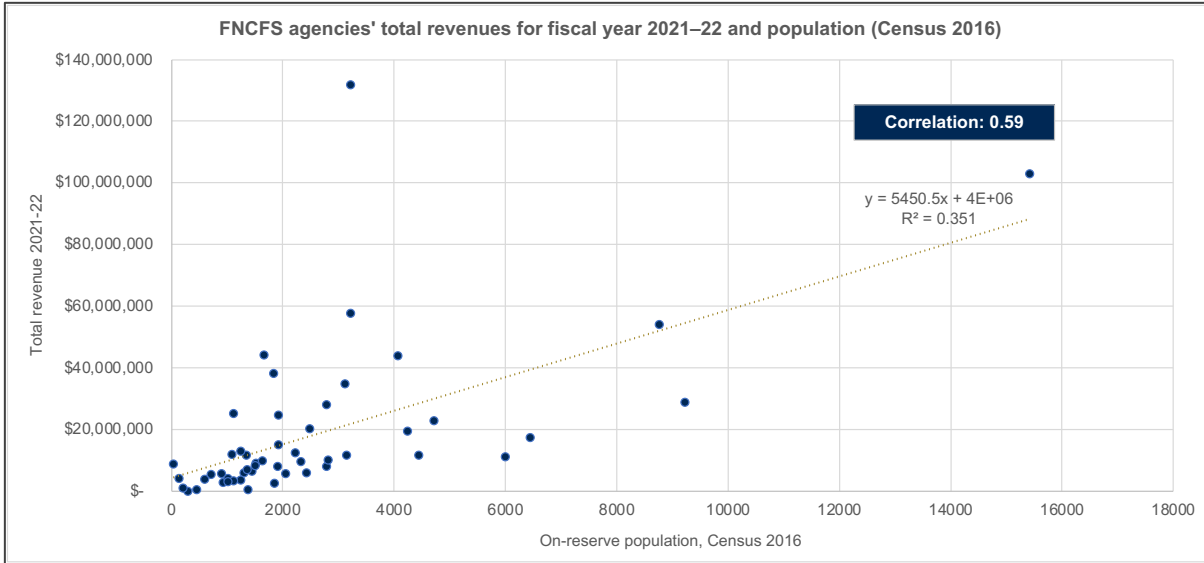
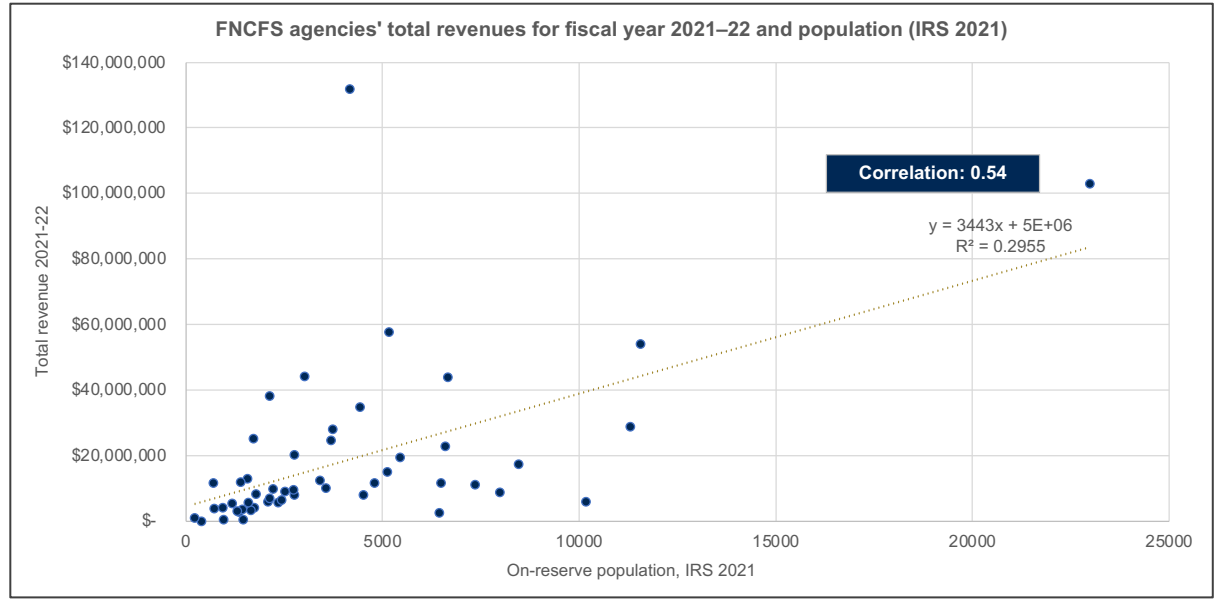
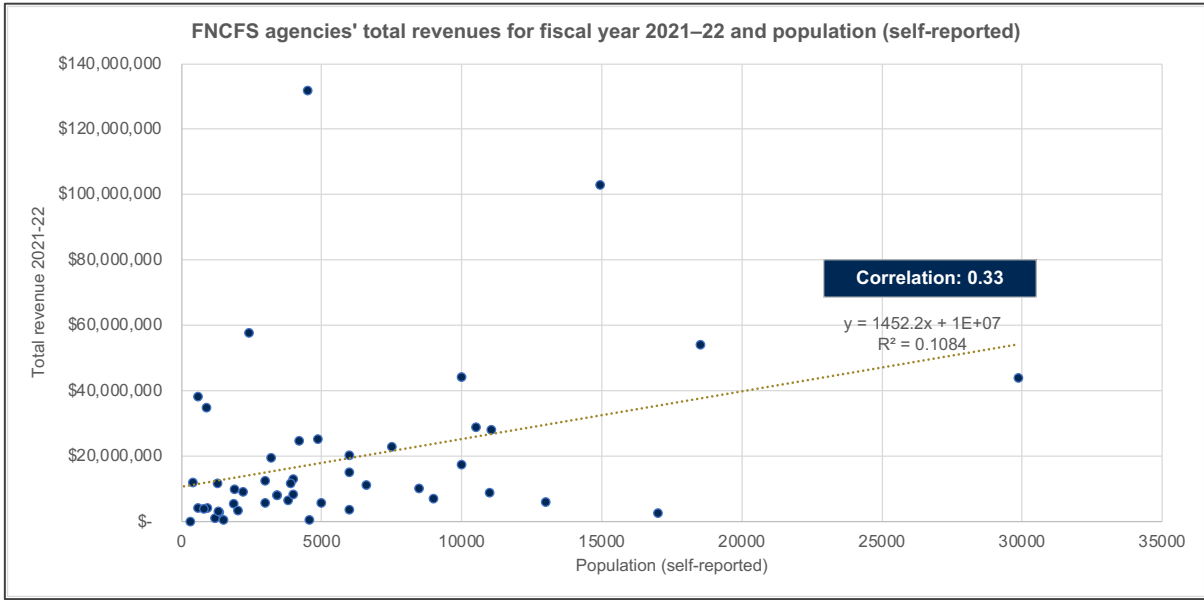
Correlations

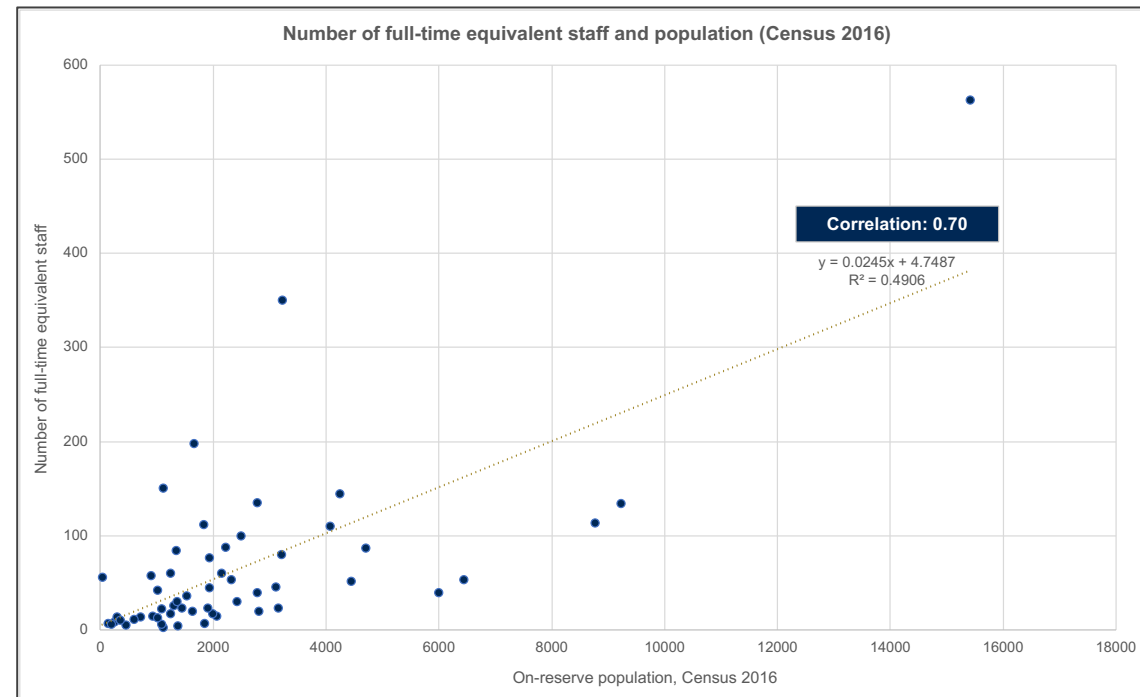
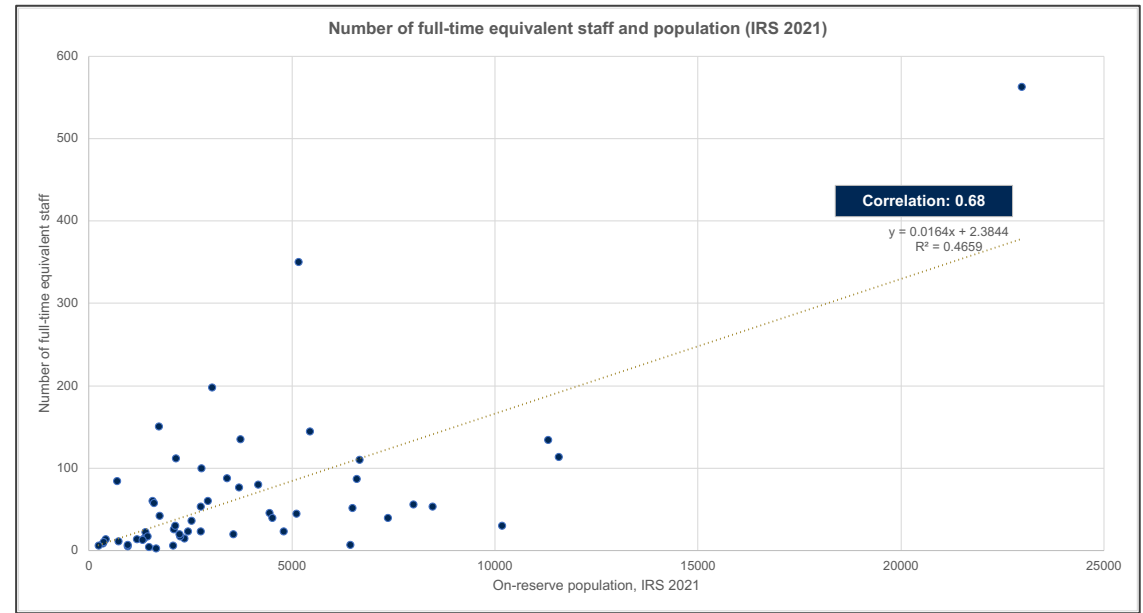
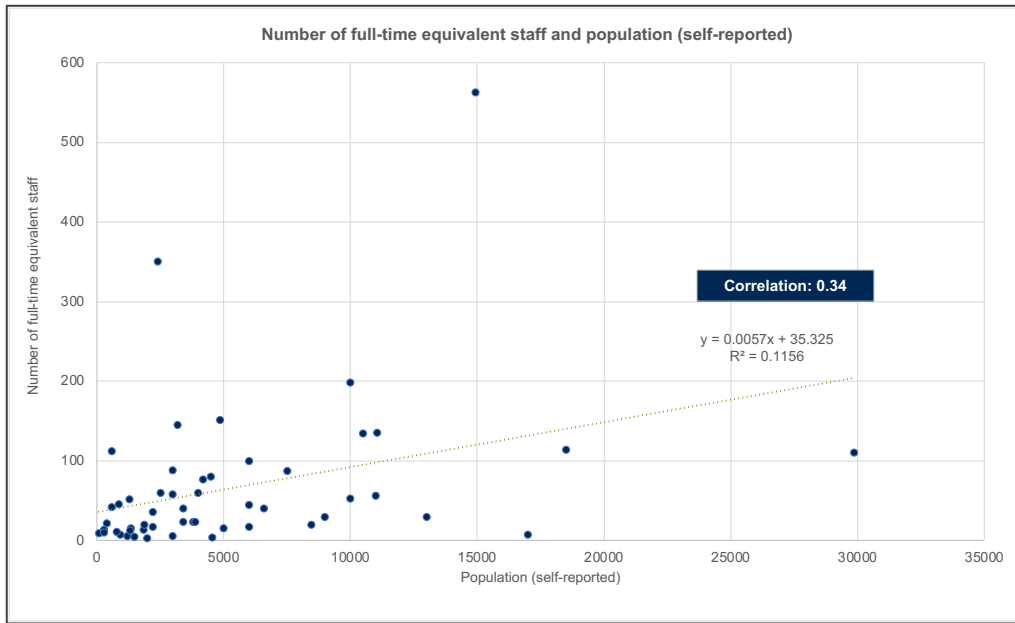
- A correlation denotes the strength of a relationship between two variables.
 - The value of a correlation is between 0 and 1. The closer it is to 1, the stronger the relationship.
 - A positive correlation denotes a linear relationship and a negative correlation denotes an inverse relationship between variables.
- Correlations are run between different variables (independent and dependent) to try to understand if there are explanatory relationships between them.
 - We seek out these types of relationships to help us make sense of data and the organizations/systems they represent.
 - We try to assess if the relationships between the variables can help to explain phenomena or in forecasting/projecting certain trends, e.g., cost behaviour.

Notes on correlations

- Self-reported population served has the lowest correlations with expenditures, revenues, and total staff.
- By contrast, correlations with IRS and Census 2016 population data and expenditures, revenues, and total staff are relevant (above 0.5).
- This may be indicative of the differences between data used for allocating funding v. actual population served. A cross-subsidization of funded v. unfunded populations is occurring.
- There remains a relevant positive correlation between total expenditures (0.72) and total revenues (0.60) and the number of children in care. Relative to Phase 1, however, the strength of the relationship has declined (it was previously 0.91). This suggests that funding is being allocated on different terms (this is consistent with CHRT orders and funding and actuals).
 - Data from this questionnaire suggests that most requests were for prevention programs and services.

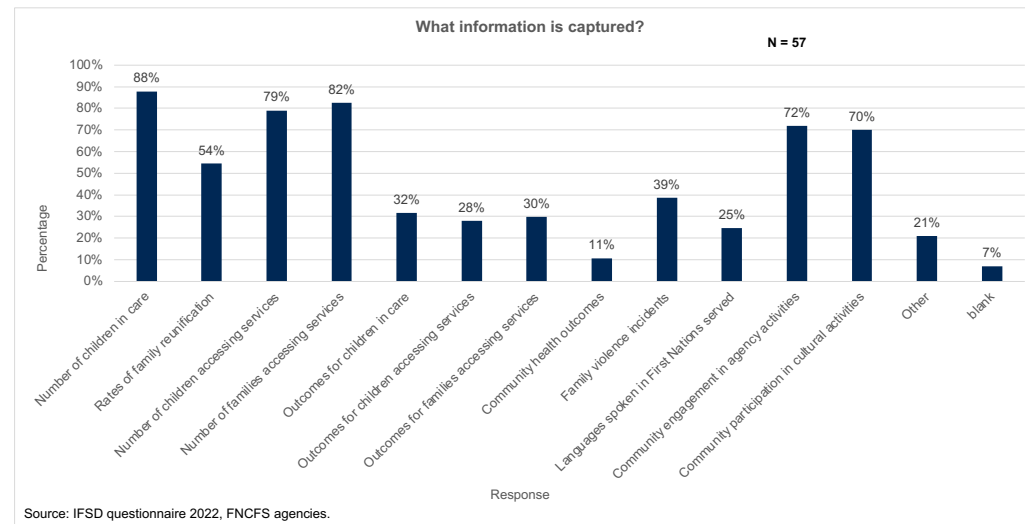
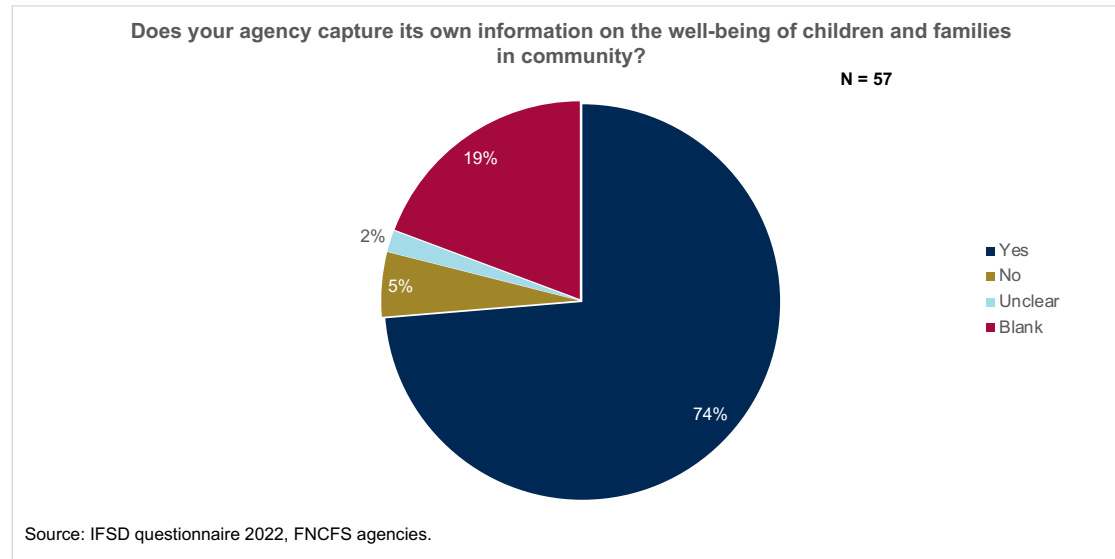






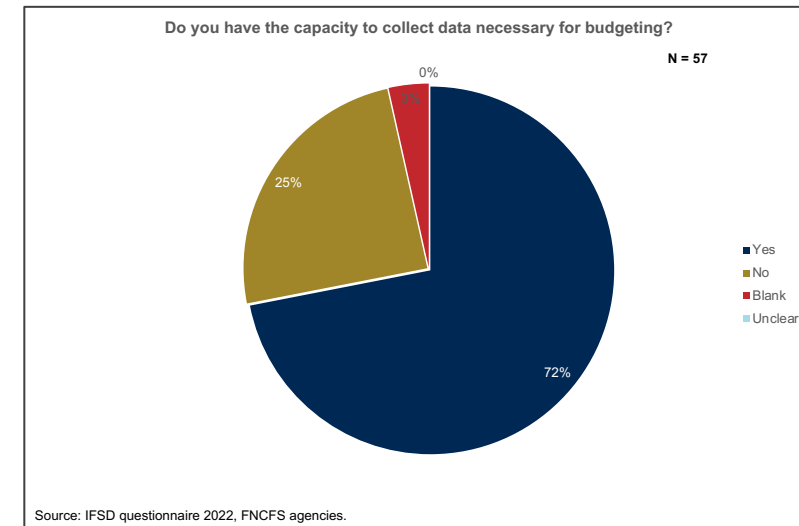
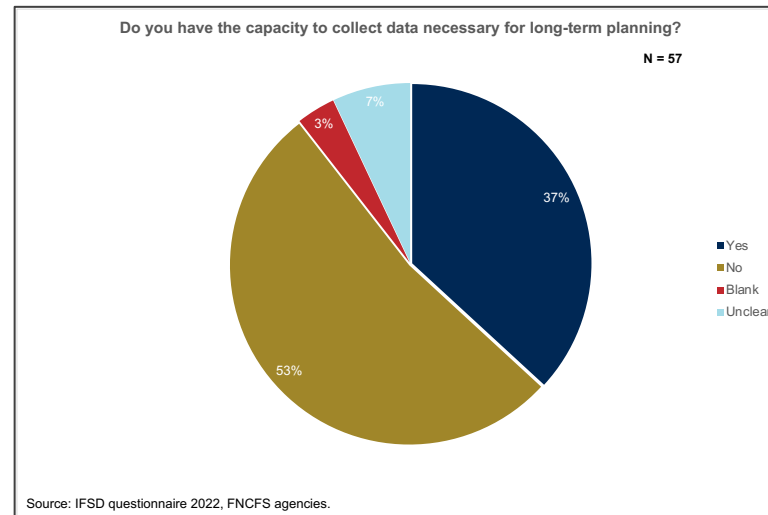
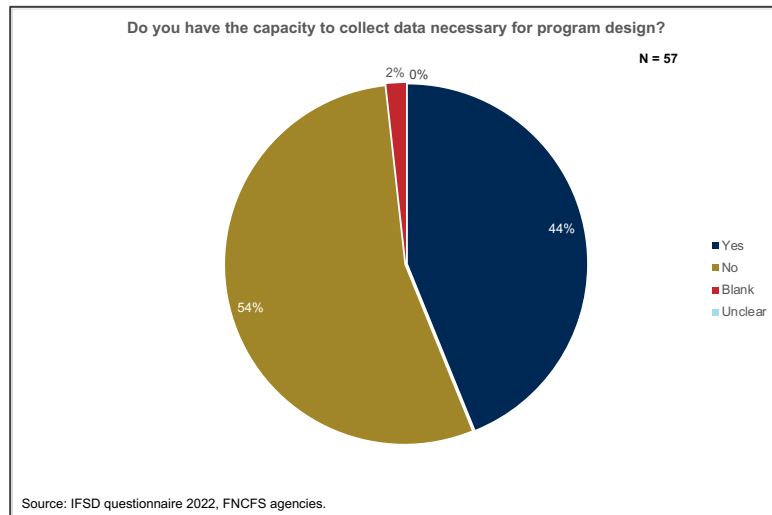
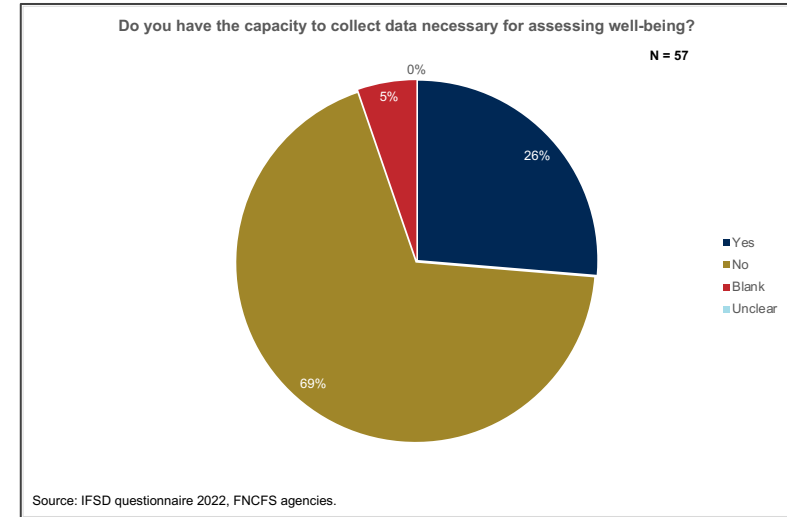
Data collection

- Nearly three-quarters of respondents report collecting their own information on the well-being of children and families.
- However, when asked what type of information is captured, most report 'input' type data, e.g., number of children in care, number of families accessing services, etc.



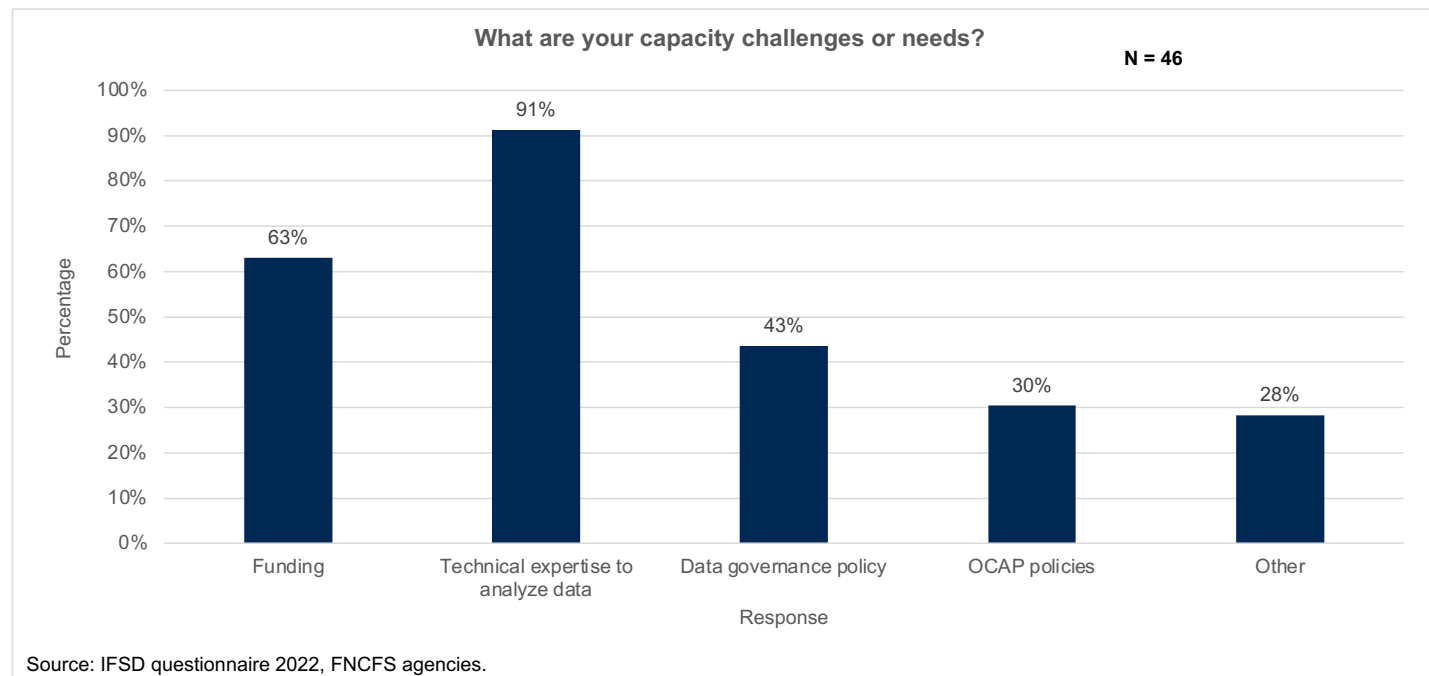
Data collection gaps

- Nearly 70% of respondents report being unable to capture data on well-being. A lack of data for program design and long-term planning was also highlighted.
- Budgeting was the one area in which 72% of respondents reported capacity to collect the necessary information to support the activity.



Challenges in data analysis

- 91% of respondents reported a need for technical expertise to analyze data.
- Data analysis can be a resource-intensive exercise without adequate staff, training, and tools.



Get in touch

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