

Child-welfare services, including protection, foster care and adoption services, are provided by provincial welfare departments or, in some provinces, by children's aid societies. Particular emphasis is placed on preventive services to children in their homes. Subsidized day-care services for the children of working mothers are operated under voluntary and public auspices. At present, these services are established mainly in the larger centres.

A number of voluntary agencies also deal with groups that have special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, young persons and released prisoners. Family-welfare agencies or combined family-and-child-welfare agencies in urban centres, for example, offer case-work services to families in need of counselling on such problems as marital relations, parent-child relations and family budgeting. Counselling and recreational services for older or retired people are being developed by many agencies, and child and youth organizations with recreational and character-building programs offer group participation in such activities as physical education, camping and the development of special skills. Welfare councils and community-planning councils contribute to the planning and co-ordination of local welfare services.

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