

Definition of Policy Forum Terms

- Fishbowl:** In a fishbowl process, a group of individuals (experts) form an inner circle and discuss an issue, theme or topic, while a second larger group form an outer circle and listen to the conversation and/or debate of issues.
- In the case of the Policy Forum, the two themes are development of specialized responses to address child maltreatment and family violence; and working across jurisdictions and sectors to build networks of effective, coordinated, collaborative responses to family violence.
- Best Practices:** “Best Practices” is ordinarily used to refer to models of service delivery that have shown some effectiveness in accomplishing desired outcomes. “Best Practices” can also refer to processes and tools for service delivery and administration.
- Policy:** A governing set of principles given force and effect by elected officials in order to meet recognized public needs. Policy is made in the name of 'the public' and is interpreted and implemented by both public and private sectors. Policy sets out what government intends to do and chooses not to do.
- Surveillance:** Refers to the ongoing, systematic use of routinely collected data to understand an issue and guide action in a timely fashion. Surveillance systems count events and the use of services as they occur. Some systems collect information on risk factors, while other systems measure behaviours and environmental factors independently of any family violence events associated with them.
- Research:** Research is often described as an active, diligent, and systematic process of inquiry aimed at discovering, interpreting, and revising facts. This intellectual investigation produces a greater knowledge of events, behaviors, and theories, and makes practical applications possible.