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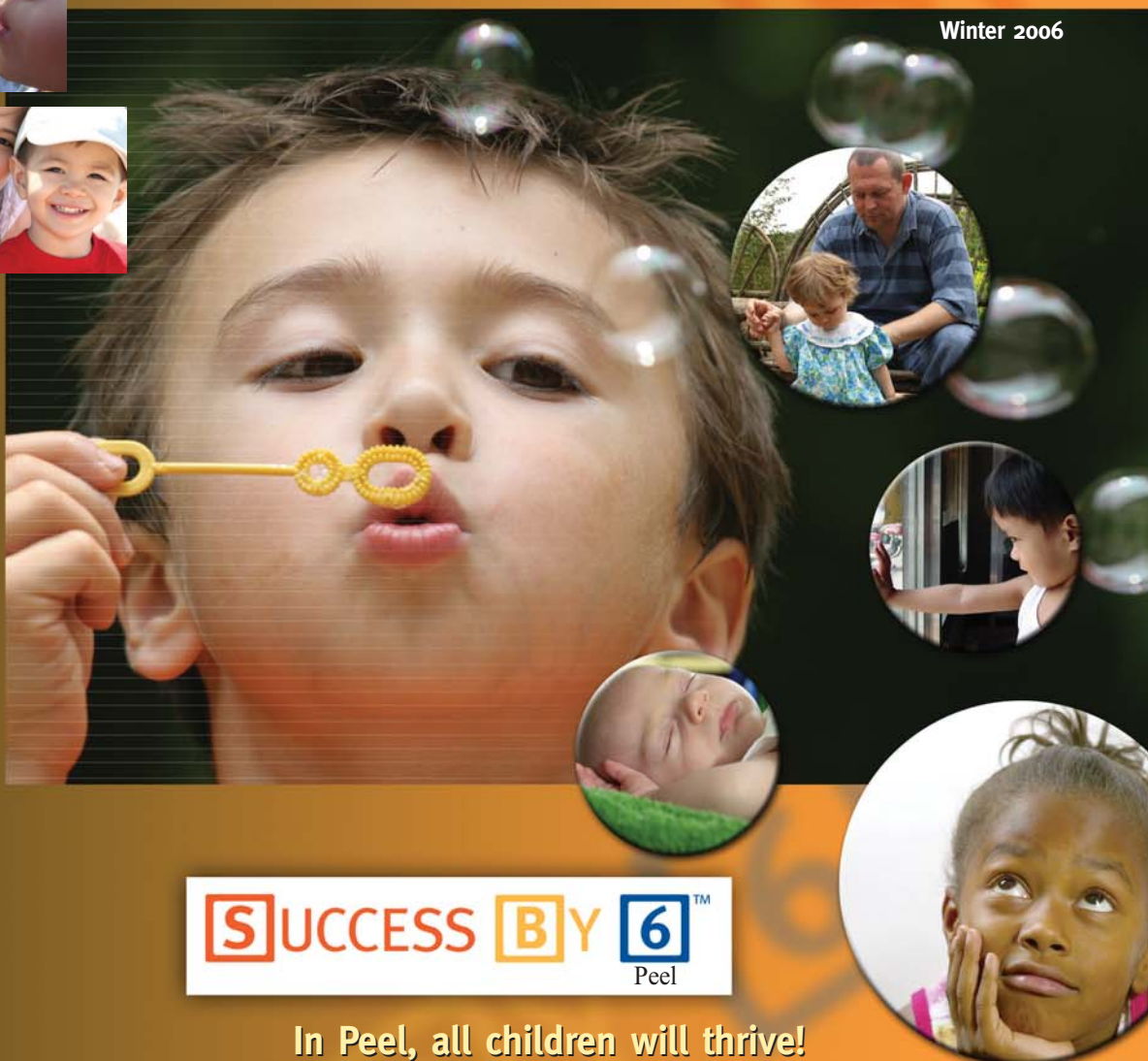
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CHILDREN IN PEEL ... A Snapshot of Our Youngest Children

Winter 2006



In Peel, all children will thrive!

the community in Peel works together to support parents and caregivers to ensure that all children from birth to age six have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



“ Children in Peel deserve the opportunity to achieve their potential. Success By 6 Peel provides children and their families access to the resources they need to thrive.”

Shelley White, CEO
United Way of Peel Region

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Peel

In Peel,
all children will thrive!



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY YEARS

The evidence is clear

Scientific research tells us that the best time for nurturing a child's whole being is before the age of six. This research shows that the building blocks of the brain are created during the very first years of a child's life.

The benefits are long-term

When children are given a good start in life, in a loving, caring setting, they have the experience they need to prepare them for successful school entry. Children who haven't had the positive experiences to support early development will find school – and life, much harder.

For a Lifetime of Success

Renowned child development experts, the Honorable Margaret Norrie McCain and Dr. Fraser Mustard concluded that when we nurture a child's development in the early years, we lay the groundwork for a competent, successful, and responsible adult.



WHO WE ARE

Success By 6 Peel is a unique, community-based initiative. Our non-profit initiative focuses on giving children the very best start in life. We are a community-based partnership with the United Way of Peel Region and more than 60 partners in business, labour, health, social services and government.

Success By 6 Peel brings the community together to offer opportunities for both children and their families. We champion the cause for all children in Peel Region to ensure that our children have the best possible start in life. Our partners have joined together to work towards ensuring better outcomes for children under the age of six years.

A VOICE FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

This report reflects our commitment to providing a strong voice on behalf of children and families in Peel Region. This community report examines how well Peel is caring for and supporting its children. Information is presented about the family and community, as well as five outcome-based childhood issues: economic security, health, safety, child care, and children's school readiness.

SUCCESS BY 6™
Peel

SUCCESS BY 6™ COMMITMENTS

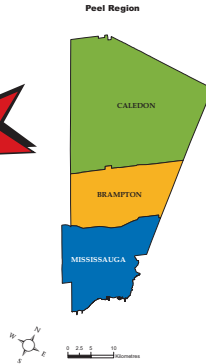
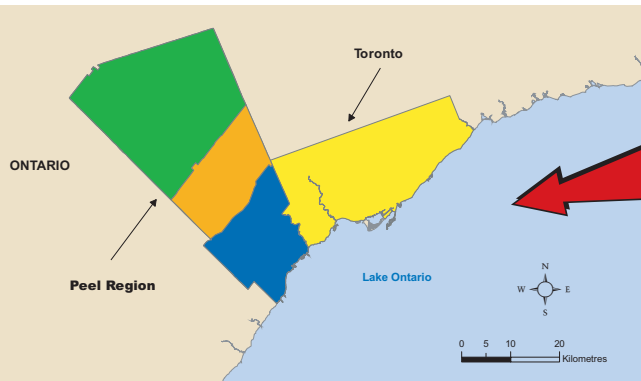
- Every baby is born as healthy as possible.
- Every parent/caregiver has the knowledge, skills, and supports necessary to nurture their child.
- Children live in safe and nurturing environments.
- Everyone who works with children is supported and recognized.
- Communities are active, engaged, and dynamic in supporting our children.
- Children develop to their ultimate potential.

PEEL'S YOUNGEST CHILDREN

How Are They Doing?

www.successby6peel.ca

WHERE IS PEEL REGION?



A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- Peel had the 4th highest population growth rate among municipalities in all of Canada from 1996 to 2001.
- Peel is home to people from more than 60 different countries, according to the 2001 Census.
- The percentage of households in Peel with an annual income over \$100,000 increased from 16% to 26% between the 1996 and 2001 Censuses.
- 1 in 7 families with children in Peel live in poverty (2001 Census).
- More than 4 out of 10 lone female parent families in Peel are living in low income (2001 Census).
- Almost 5% of live births in Peel are low birth weight births (i.e., babies weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth).
- Approximately 20% of the children in foster or group care in Peel Region are younger than six years of age.
- 4% of the available child care spaces in Peel can be found in child care centres that are operated by the Region of Peel. Other child care spaces are either for profit or non-profit group and home child care.
- Approximately 27,000 children in Peel attend kindergarten annually.

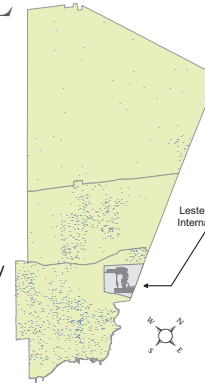
PEEL REGION

Peel Region is located west of the City of Toronto on the shores of Lake Ontario. It is the second largest municipality in Ontario and has a population of over 1 million residents. Peel Region is comprised of the cities of Brampton and Mississauga, and the Town of Caledon. Each of these municipalities has its own distinct characteristics, assets, and needs.



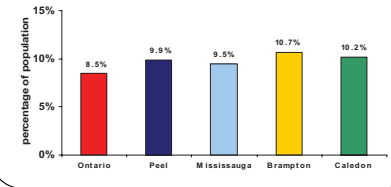
A SNAPSHOT OF POPULATION GROWTH IN PEEL

In recent years, Peel Region has experienced tremendous population growth. Over the past 10 years, Peel Region has been one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario. This growth is fuelled by high rates of economic activity and immigration. While population growth is a desired outcome of economic success, it can put a strain on services that affect all residents.



Peel Region Population Density
Source: 2001 Census

Proportion of Population Aged 0 to 6 Years



Source: 2001 Census

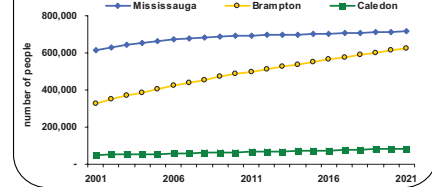
IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Rapid, diverse population growth often results in less adequate community services, especially in newly developed areas. Children may lack access to quality child care or may have to contend with crowded schools or being bussed to schools outside of their neighbourhood as a result of this growth.

SUCCESS BY 6 PRIORITIES

- Facilitate the coordination of education, recreation, and family support services to best utilize available resources and improve service delivery.
- Lobby for funding to develop resources and to implement additional programs to better meet the unique needs of the growing Peel population.

Peel's Population Growth Forecast



Source: Region of Peel Population Forecasts, September 2005

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- Peel's population currently comprises 9% of Ontario's total population.
- Approximately 1.1 million people live in Peel Region (59% of residents live in Mississauga, 36% live in Brampton, and 5% live in Caledon).
- Peel had the 2nd highest population growth rate among municipalities in Ontario from 1996 to 2001, second only to York Region.
- Peel's population has doubled in the past two decades.
- The population of children under age six in Peel is expected to grow to 126,000 by 2011 (Region of Peel Population Forecasts, September 2005).
- 62% of Peel's population growth from 1991 to 2001 was due to immigration.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

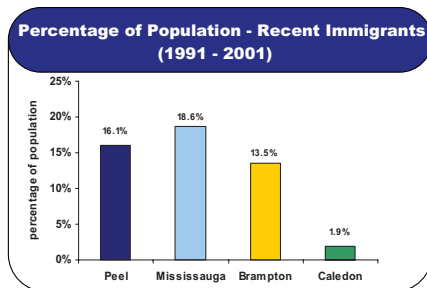
Language barriers may exist for newcomers to Peel that may prevent them from full participation and integration in the broader Peel community. This has an obvious impact on children entering our schools, where English may be their second language. With limited English language skills, further challenges arise for parents in accessing health care, parenting services, and supports for children with special needs.

SUCCESS BY 6 PRIORITIES

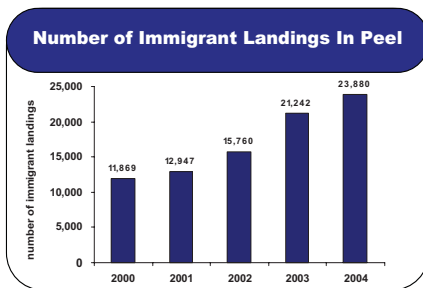
- Engage and coordinate service providers in supporting the delivery of accessible and culturally sensitive programs for immigrant families.
- Advocate for and implement equitable programs, practices, and policies for families that support the rich diversity in Peel.
- Support advocacy efforts for increased funding to provide more English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for parents, caregivers, and children.

A SNAPSHOT OF IMMIGRATION IN PEEL

With its large immigrant population, Peel boasts a culturally rich, vibrant and diverse community. New immigrants bring important expertise and skills that strengthen our work force and our business community, and fuel our local economy. With their rich social and cultural capital, new immigrants to Peel also greatly enhance our community.



Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada



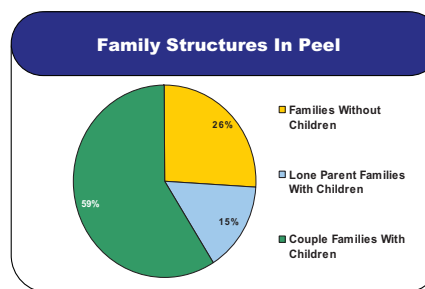
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- Peel's immigrant population makes up 14% of Ontario's total immigrant population. This number has increased since 1996, when Peel's immigrant population made up 12.5% of Ontario's total immigrant population.
- Immigrants make up 43% of Peel's total population. In comparison, immigrants make up 27% of Ontario's total population and 18% of Canada's total population.
- In 2001, 16% of Peel's population was comprised of recent immigrants (immigrants who arrived from 1991 to 2001).
- From 2000 to 2004, the number of immigrant landings (the number of people who arrived in Peel from another country in a given year) doubled.
- More than 90 different languages are spoken by children in Peel schools.
- The top five non-official languages spoken by recent immigrants (1991 to 2001) in Peel include: Punjabi, Urdu, Polish, Tagalog, and Arabic.
- 7.3% of Peel's children under the age of four years speak neither English nor French. This compares with 4.5% in Ontario (2001 Census).

A SNAPSHOT OF FAMILIES IN PEEL

A safe and healthy family life is important for the growth and development of all children. By providing support and education to families in Peel, we can improve the lives of children. Currently more than 80,000 children under the age of 6 years live in census families^o in Peel.



Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

^oA census family is composed of a married couple or two persons living common-law, with or without children, or of a lone parent living with at least one child in the same dwelling. A couple living common-law may be of opposite or same sex. "Children" in a census family include grandchildren living with their grandparent(s) without parents present[†].

[†]An economic family consists of a group of two or more people who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption[†].

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- There are 276,090 census families in Peel (2001 Census).
- 62% of Peel census families live in Mississauga, 33% live in Brampton, and 5% live in Caledon.
- 74% of census families (or 203,120 families) in Peel have children.
- Children aged 0 to 6 years make up one-fifth of all children living in census families.
- Lone-parent families comprise 15% of all economic families[†] with children in Peel.
- The proportion of lone parent families is highest in Brampton and lowest in Caledon.
- In Mississauga, almost half (49%) of all lone parent families with children younger than six years of age are living in poverty. The figures are lower for Brampton (41%) and Caledon (25%).
- 60% of census families in Peel are headed by immigrants.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Parents are a child's first teachers. Children benefit greatly when their parents and caregivers encourage and promote their child's growth and development through education, play, recreation, healthy nutrition, a safe environment, positive social relationships, and the nurturing of emotional needs.

SUCCESS BY 6 PRIORITIES

- Promote awareness of the importance of early child development to parents and caregivers.
- Mobilize services that equip parents and caregivers with knowledge, tools, and resources to support children's growth and learning.
- Increase awareness of and access to local child development programs in Peel.
- Engage Peel businesses and employers in establishing family-friendly workplaces.

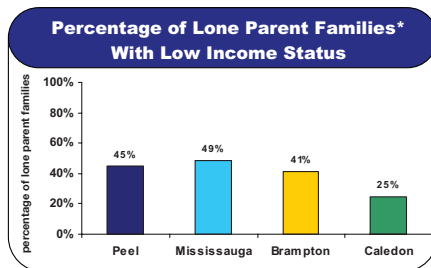


HOW ECONOMICALLY SECURE ARE PEEL CHILDREN?

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

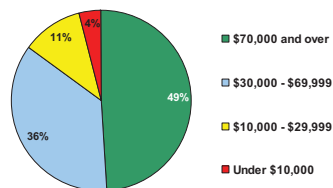
- Over 10% of all economic families in Peel live in poverty.
- 30% of Peel's economic families living in poverty have children younger than age six.
- There are currently almost 12,000 children under six years of age who are living in poverty in Peel.
- Younger children have higher rates of poverty than the rest of the general population.
- 15% of census families in Peel earn less than \$30,000 a year.
- Mississauga has the highest percentage (15.8%) of children younger than age six living below LICO. This compares with 12.7% in Brampton and only 4.3% in Caledon.
- The rate of children younger than age six living in poverty is lower in Peel than in Ontario.

Living in poverty can present serious threats to childhood development. In this report, poverty is measured using Low Income Cut-Offs (LICOs). LICOs are the minimum dollar amounts needed to purchase food, shelter, clothing, and transportation. They vary based on family and community size. A family with an income less than the appropriate LICO is considered to be living in poverty. Often, children living in poverty do not have access to stable housing or adequate nutrition.



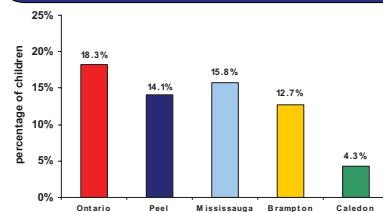
*Refers to families with children younger than six years of age.
Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

Census Family Income Ranges in Peel



Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

Percentage of Children[†] Living Below LICO (Low Income Cut-Offs)



[†] Younger than age six.
Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada

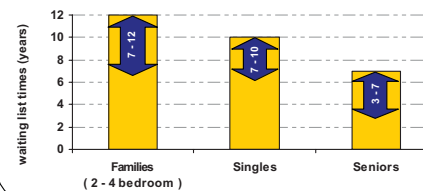
IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Living in poverty can have a significant impact on families and their children. With rising costs for housing, transportation and food, many families struggle with meeting the basic needs for their children. Lack of finances can act as a barrier to engaging other resources to support children. These conditions contribute to poor developmental outcomes for children.

SUCCESS BY 6^{Peel} PRIORITIES

- Monitor and map community needs, risk factors and assets in order to address the unique requirements of Peel neighbourhoods.
- Support neighbourhood development projects.
- Advocate for increased funding and resources to support programs that respond to the complex needs of families living in poverty.
- Work with other groups and organizations to advocate for policies that support affordable housing (e.g., rent control, social housing) and access to nutritious food.

Waiting List Timelines for Peel Region



Source: Region of Peel Housing and Property Department, 2004

HIDDEN POVERTY IN PEEL

Although more than one quarter of Peel's households earns more than \$100,000 per year, one in seven families with children in Peel live in poverty. Low income families struggle to obtain nutritious food and adequate shelter. These families are often hidden by the overall affluent appearance of Peel Region.

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- In 2004, there were 14,700 households or 37,036 applicants on the waiting list for social housing in Peel.
- 60% of the households on this waiting list are families.
- For families waiting for two-, three-, and four-bedroom households, the wait is 7 to 12 years.
- In the past 10 years, there has been limited amounts of new social housing built in Peel, and the production of private rental units is lower.
- Nationally, social housing unit production decreased 85% from 1989 to 1998.
- In 2005, shelters were used by 10,049 individuals in Peel. Of that number, 2,073 were children.
- 18 registered food banks are currently operating in Peel. More than 6,000 people access Peel's largest food bank on a monthly basis[†].

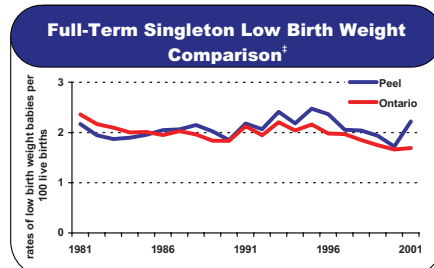


A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- The rate of low birth weight^o births among full-term singleton[†] births decreased in both Peel and Ontario since the mid-1990s. Still, the Peel rate increased from 1.7 low birth weight live births per 100 live births in 2000 to 2.2 per 100 live births in 2001. Rates in Peel have been generally higher than those for Ontario since 1986. The low birth weight rate for all singleton live births in Peel (including premature births) was 4.9 per 100 births in 2001.
- Babies born to teen mothers are at increased risk of pre-term birth and low birth weight, mental health problems, early childhood injury and acute illness[‡]. Between 1996 and 2001, live birth rates in teen mothers in Peel decreased from 2.6 per 100 live births in 1996 to 1.9 per 100 live births in 2001.
- Between 1993 and 2000, perinatal^o mortality rates in Peel were generally higher than those in Ontario[‡].
- Infant mortality rates in Peel have declined from 8.1 deaths per 1,000 live births (up to 364 days of age) in 1981 to 4.6 deaths in 2001. Peel's infant mortality rates have remained below the Ontario average.
- All families with newborns benefit from post-partum services. Through the Region of Peel Healthy Babies Healthy Children program (HBHC), 100% of these families received an early telephone contact by public health nurses. In 2000, 52% of these families received a post-partum home visit. However, in 2004 only 7% of families received a home visit due to inadequate program funding.

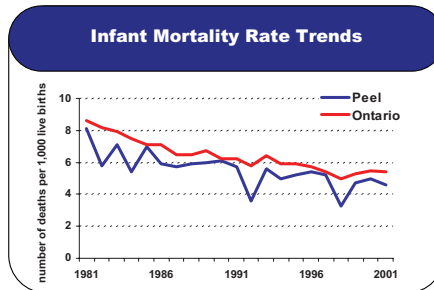
HOW HEALTHY ARE BABIES IN PEEL?

Healthy child development is critical in the early years of life. The promotion of good maternal health during the prenatal period and proper care of the infant after birth are necessary to ensure that our children are healthy. Healthy children are more likely to grow up to become healthy adults.



Source: Ontario Live Birth Databases 1981-2001, HELPS (Health Planning System), Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
^oLow birth weight refers to babies weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth.

[†]A singleton is a baby that is not a twin or other multiple birth.
[‡]Rates are per 100 full-term (37 weeks or more), singleton live births.



Source: Ontario Mortality and Live Birth Databases 1981-2001, HELPS (Health Planning System), Public Health Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

^oPerinatal period spans from 20 weeks gestation to 7 days after delivery.

HOW HEALTHY ARE CHILDREN IN PEEL?

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Children born with low birth weights are at increased risk of experiencing more developmental and/or physical problems. They may have been exposed to second-hand smoke in the uterus, or born to teenaged moms or to moms with limited access to prevention programs. With better prenatal and early childhood care, these incidents can be reduced.

SUCCESS BY 6 PRIORITIES

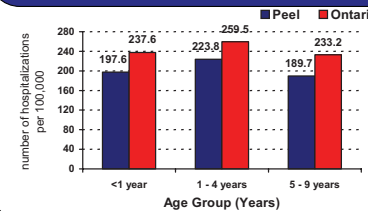
- Advocate for expansion of pre- and postnatal services across Peel.
- Develop public education strategies around childhood health promotion issues.



A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

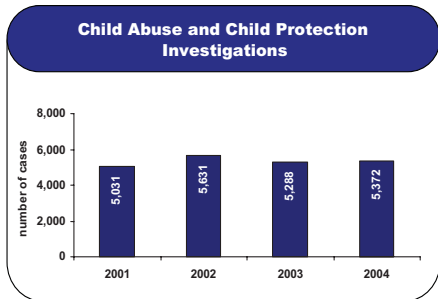
- In 2001, the two most common reasons for hospitalization of Peel children aged 1 to 6 years were respiratory system diseases (such as asthma and pneumonia) and infectious and parasitic diseases¹.
- Unintentional injuries in childhood are the leading cause of death among young children in Canada, and are also among the leading causes of hospitalization². In 2005, the rate of hospitalizations due to unintentional injuries was higher for 1 to 4 year olds (223.8 per 100,000), compared with children less than one year of age (197.6 per 100,000) and 5 to 9 year olds (189.7 per 100,000). Peel's rates of unintentional injury hospitalizations were lower than those for Ontario within these age groups.
- A parent survey³ in Peel revealed that approximately 10% of children aged 0 to 2 years were exposed to second-hand smoke either at home or in the car. Parents also reported that only 60% of Peel children aged one and two years always wore a helmet while on bicycles, tricycles or wagons.

Unintentional Injury Hospitalizations 2003

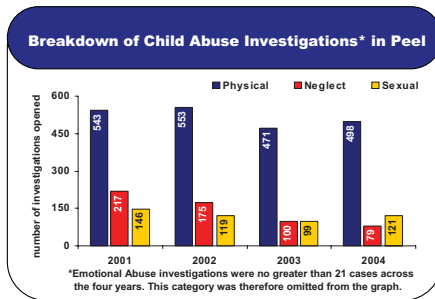


Source: Hospital In-Patient Data 2003, Provincial Health Planning Database (PHPD), Health Planning Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

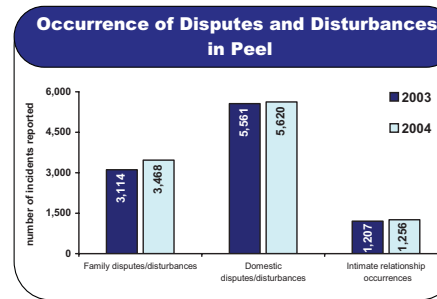
Note: Please refer to *Child Health Report 2004*⁴ for more detailed information about child health in Peel.



Source: Peel Children's Aid Society, 2004



Source: Peel Children's Aid Society, 2004



Source: Peel Regional Police, 2004

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

The waiting list in Peel for non-profit or subsidized child care indicates that there are not enough licensed or subsidized child care spaces to meet the demand. This means that many children are cared for in unlicensed facilities. Research shows that quality licensed early learning and child care promotes safety and optimal child development⁸.

SUCCESS BY 6 PRIORITIES

- Advocate for more funding so that quality child care is available to all.
- Participate in the Best Start initiative, the Ontario government's plan for accessible, quality child care, which will increase local early years services in Peel.
- Become involved in local campaigns for universal access to quality child care.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Abuse, neglect, or exposure to family violence can have a detrimental effect on children's social, emotional, cognitive, and/or physical development. These children may continue to experience the effects of trauma throughout their lives.

SUCCESS BY 6 PRIORITIES

- Promote awareness of the detrimental impact child abuse and neglect have on children.
- Bring all partners together to ensure that relevant and accessible parenting programs and child support services are available across Peel Region.

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- In 2004/2005, Peel Children's Aid Society received 13,227 referrals for child protection services. Of these referrals, 5,572 (or 41%) met eligibility requirements to proceed with a child protection investigation. Of these child protection investigations, 16% were designated as investigations of child abuse and/or neglect.
- In 8.5% of the 2004/2005 investigations of child abuse and/or neglect, children were placed in the care of Peel Children's Aid Society (CAS). Peel CAS has the lowest rate of children served in care for every 1000 children in the community in Ontario⁹.
- In 2004/2005, 13% of investigations of child abuse and/or neglect by Peel CAS required ongoing intervention to ensure the safety and well-being of children.
- In 2004, Peel police responded to 5,620 domestic disputes and disturbances, 3,468 family disputes and disturbances, and 1,256 intimate relationship occurrences.
- In 2004, 22% of the children in Peel who were in foster or group care were children from birth to 6 years of age.

HOW AVAILABLE IS CHILD CARE FOR PEEL FAMILIES?

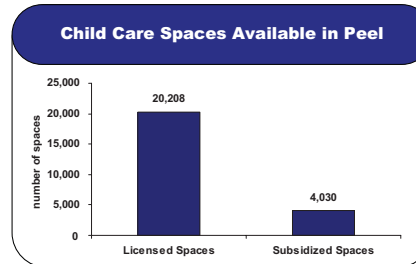
Quality child care is a major concern for every working parent. The need for quality child care is especially important, given the positive benefits on children's social and cognitive skills⁸. Access to and availability of child care spaces are critical needs for many parents in Peel.

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

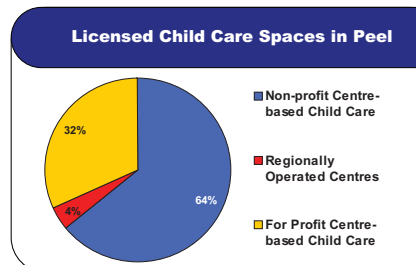
- For the first six months of 2005, Peel Region has subsidized in excess of 4,030 full-day equivalent child care spaces.
- In 2005, over 500 new subsidized child care spaces were added in Peel. However, the number of subsidized spaces in Peel has remained consistently very low, averaging 1.7% of the population of children aged 0 to 12 years from 2002 to 2005.
- In 2001, Peel provided only one subsidized child care space for every seven children (aged 0 to 12 years) living below LICO. This level of access was the lowest of all reporting municipalities in Canada⁹.
- The total number of licensed child care spaces in Peel is 20,208 (as of August 2005). Of this number, 64% of the licensed spaces are non-profit, 32% are for profit, and 4% are regionally operated centres.
- In 2001, the number of licensed child care spaces in Peel represented 8.6% of Peel's child population, aged 0 to 12 years. The current number of licensed child care spaces in Peel represents 9.4% of this child population¹⁰.
- As a result of new funding from the provincial Best Start plan, the number of licensed child care spaces in Peel Region is expected to increase by 2,085 spaces by April 2008.

HOW SAFE AND SECURE ARE PEEL CHILDREN?

As young children are the most vulnerable members of our society, our first priority must be to keep them safe and secure. Children who experience abuse or other traumatic events may have emotional scars that last well into adulthood. Protection from these types of negative experiences will foster more emotionally stable and healthy children.



Source: Region of Peel Social Services, 2005



Source: Region of Peel Social Services, 2005

HOW DO PEEL CHILDREN RATE IN SCHOOL READINESS?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures kindergarten children's school readiness. It is a gauge of children's preschool development and experiences. Children's school readiness is rated on five developmental areas: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills and general knowledge. Children whose EDI scores fall in the lowest 10th percentile* on one or more areas are considered to be at risk for future problems in school. In the spring of 2004, kindergarten teachers from both English-speaking school boards in Peel completed the EDI for 13,364 senior kindergarten students.

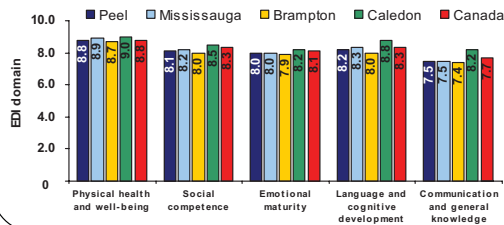
A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- Within Peel Region, average EDI scores are highest in Caledon and lowest in Brampton across all five developmental areas. EDI results relate to the social risk factors of the community (e.g., income, unemployment, education, home ownership, lone parent status, etc.). In lower social risk communities, such as Caledon, EDI scores tend to be higher.
- Compared to other regions in southwestern Ontario, Peel's readiness levels are the lowest in: communication skills and general knowledge, and social competence.
- In Peel, girls had significantly higher school readiness levels than boys in all five developmental areas.
- Children born earlier in the year had significantly higher school readiness levels.
- Children who attended organized preschool programs had significantly higher school readiness levels than children who did not attend these types of programs.
- English as a Second Language (ESL) learners had significantly lower school readiness levels than non-ESL learners in all five EDI domains.



Entering school for the first time is one of the most important transitions in a child's life.

Comparison of 2004 Peel EDI Scores



Note: Scores are on a 0 – 10 scale. Higher scores indicate more advanced school readiness skills. In the 2004 Peel EDI sample, 26% of the students were ESL learners and 92% of students attended Junior Kindergarten.
Source: Peel District School Board, 2004

*Percentile: This calculation is based on a set of 100 equal divisions. For example, if the group of students scores below the 10th percentile, it means that approximately 90% of the population scored higher than them.

I MPACT ON CHILDREN

Education prepares our children to be self-reliant, responsible, and caring citizens. It provides them with the skills necessary to pursue lifelong learning and to make a meaningful contribution to society.

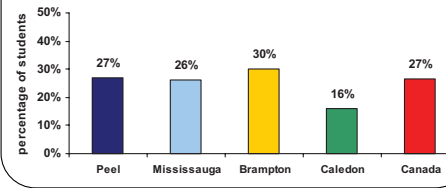
S UCCES S B Y 6 P R I O R I T I E S

- Continue to support the expansion of early years hubs in Peel to promote young children's school readiness.
- Coordinate resources that enable parents and caregivers to access meaningful early educational opportunities and activities that support healthy early child development.

A CLOSE-UP ON PEEL

- 27% of kindergarten children in the Peel Region scored in the lowest 10th percentile in one or more of the developmental areas. This compares with 27% in the Canadian sample.
- The percentage of students scoring in the lowest 10th percentile in one or more EDI areas varied by municipality: Brampton (30%), Mississauga (26%), and Caledon (16%).
- Lower scores were demonstrated for gross and fine motor skills among kindergarten children in Peel compared to other indicators of physical health and well-being (such as physical independence and physical readiness for school work).
- Kindergarten children in Peel demonstrated their readiness to explore new things, as well as general respect, responsibility, independence and ability to adjust. Overall social competence with peers was somewhat less well demonstrated.
- Peel kindergarten children were generally rated as not anxious, fearful, aggressive, hyperactive or inattentive. However, scores for pro-social and helping behaviours (such as comforting an upset peer or inviting bystanders to play) were low.
- Kindergarten children in Peel scored higher on basic literacy, numeracy, interest and memory indicators than on more complex literacy skills (e.g., read simple and complex words, write simple words and sentences).
- Communication skills and general knowledge among Peel kindergarten students was lower among children in Brampton and Mississauga than among their peers in Caledon.

Percentage of Students Scoring in the Lowest 10th Percentile in One or More EDI Areas



Percentage of Students Scoring in the Lowest 10th Percentile in the EDI Areas of Development

Number of EDI areas of development in the lowest 10 th percentile	% of students from the Peel Region
Only 1 area	13%
Only 2 areas	7%
Only 3 areas	4%
Only 4 areas	2%
All 5 areas	1%
Total (1 or more areas)	27%

Source: Peel District School Board, 2004

"Children who are nurtured in the early years are prepared for a lifetime of learning and achievement. Success By 6 helps give them the best start possible."

Jim Grieve - Director of Education, Peel District School Board

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

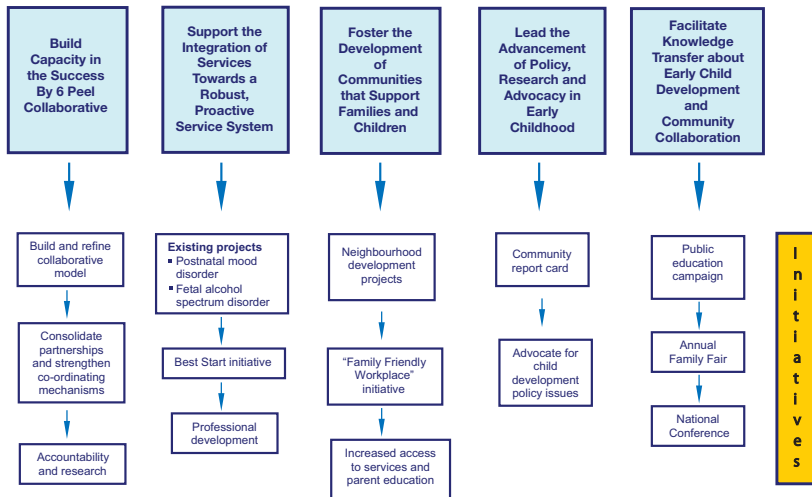
This report addressed important issues and problems faced by our children and families. The influences of family, child health and the community, economic security, safety, child care, and children's school readiness all affect a child's well-being. Inadequate support in any of these areas creates barriers to child development that can have long-term, negative consequences for children, their families, and our entire society.

Now is the time to initiate change on behalf of our youngest children. Success By 6 Peel provides the vehicle for action and is committed to ensuring that neighbourhood-based programs and supports are available for all children and families. Success By 6 Peel has identified strategic directions and developed strategic initiatives to achieve its vision so that, "In Peel, all children will thrive!" Success By 6 Peel enables the community to work together to support parents and caregivers, ensuring that all children from birth to age six have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



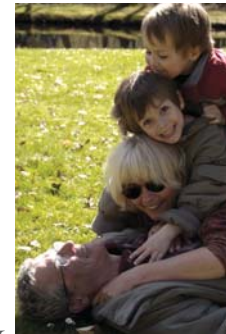
SUCCESS BY 6 PEEL VISION
In Peel, all children will thrive!

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



Creating healthy environments for children will require the involvement and integration of both public and private sectors of the community. By working together, we can build a community where all families and children have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Moving from the facts to action takes political will, courage and energy.
Together we can all work for positive change to ensure that in Peel all children will thrive.



WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?

We are all responsible in helping children learn and succeed. Here are some actions that we can take to support vibrant, safe and healthy communities for children and families.

1. Get involved in local advocacy efforts. Support advocacy groups, local committees, neighbourhood associations, and community groups that: (1) build a caring and inclusive culture that values children and families, (2) make children's issues a key priority, (3) promote policy that leads to healthy outcomes for children, (4) assist new immigrants (e.g., ESL support, training programs), and (5) address issues for children and families living in poverty.
2. Take a stand and advocate for adequate funding to support and to expand programs for families and children. Support Peel Fair Share. The Fair Share Task Force is advocating for a more equitable distribution of social service funds. Join the effort and encourage your municipal, provincial, and federal government representatives to make equitable funding and resources for young children a priority.
3. Engage the private sector to make contributions to programs that facilitate early childhood development.
4. Advocate for family-friendly workplace practices. Some of these practices include flexible working hours, job-sharing, work-from-home positions, or quality on-site child care facilities.
5. Get involved in local programs for young children and their families. Positive adult role models are important to a child's healthy development. Volunteer, coach, or tutor children in your community.
6. Support parents to become more active and involved (e.g., attend parent education courses in your community and practice new parenting skills that you have learned). Learn about community resources and join Success By 6 Peel.

