

Appendix C

**THE BETTER BEGINNINGS, BETTER FUTURES DEMONSTRATION SITES**

**YOUNGER COHORT SITES**

**GUELPH**

The city of Guelph, with a metropolitan population of 105,420 in 1996<sup>1</sup>, lies 100 km west of Toronto. About 40 per cent of its labour force is employed in manufacturing, with major plants producing electronics, fibreglass and machined parts. The city is home to the University of Guelph.

The project is focussed on an area in the centre of the city, stretching 1.8 km from northwest to southeast, and 1.3 km from southwest to northeast, centred on a major street named Willow Road. The area had a population of 7,590 in 1996. Although it is predominantly native born and Anglophone, the site is home to sizable numbers of immigrants from non-Anglophone countries. In 1991 22.3% of the area's population was born outside Canada, and by 1996 the percentage had moved up to 26.3%. In 1991 more than half of the newcomers had been born in Europe, and in 1996 this was almost half. However, no single cultural group has stood out as the dominant source of immigrants. In 1996, apart from English, 4 languages were spoken at home by 100 site residents or more: Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish and Vietnamese, but the most common of these, Vietnamese, was spoken by just 335 residents. There are two public housing units, and a cluster of privately owned high-rise apartment buildings, as well as a number of privately owned family dwellings in the neighbourhood.

Data from successive Censuses have confirmed the socio-demographic disadvantage of the population, although it takes a somewhat different form from what is seen at other sites. Like the others, Guelph has a high proportion of single parents, 21.2% in 1991, compared to the Ontario figure of 12.6%, and 24.7% in 1996, compared to the Ontario figure of 14.4%. Unlike the other sites, its unemployment rates for 1991 and 1996 were usually within 2 percentage points of those for the province, with the exception of the rate for males in 1991, which stood at 12.0, compared to the provincial figure of 8.6.

Unemployment Rates				
	Guelph		Ontario	
	1991	1996	1991	1996
Male	12.0	7.5	8.6	8.7
Female	9.5	8.6	8.4	9.6

<sup>1</sup> Technically, the Census distinguishes between Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations. Since the distinction is of no concern here, the expression 'metropolitan population' will be used for both CMA's and CAs.

Although the unemployment rates were not usually atypically high, employment incomes were low. For full time full year workers, either male or female, earned incomes were around three quarters of the provincial average. In 1991 full time full year male workers averaged \$31,928, compared to the provincial mean of \$41,509, while full time full year females at the site averaged \$21,309, compared to the provincial average of \$27,862. In 1996 the site averages were \$33,043 for males, contrasted to a provincial mean of \$45,477 and \$25,304 for females, contrasted to the provincial figure of \$32,645. Mean family income was \$40,360 in 1990, compared to the provincial average of \$57,227, and \$42,874 in 1995, compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) reflect income, family size, and size of community of residence. Although Statistics Canada, having no official definition of poverty, does not refer to them as poverty lines, LICOs are widely treated as such. For the Onward Willow Better Beginnings research families, 53% were living below the LICOs compared to the Provincial average in 1997 of 18.6%.

## **KINGSTON**

Kingston, with a metropolitan population of 125,447 in 1996, lies near the eastern tip of Lake Ontario and the head of the St. Lawrence River. The city is home to many institutions of advanced education and of government, including Queen's University, the Royal Military College, the head office for the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, and within a 50 km radius, 9 penal institutions. The city's manufactures include aluminum products, synthetic textiles and locomotives.

The Kingston program site, in North Kingston, had a population of 13,115 in 1996. The site is elongated, running 4.3 km from north to south, and is divided by an east-to-west railway line. Those at the site are predominantly native born: in both 1991 and 1996 only 11.9% of the area's population was born outside Canada. It is also predominantly Anglophone. In 1996 88.1% reported English to be their mother tongue, and 92.0% reported speaking English at home. Although French, Portuguese and Spanish were spoken at home by 100 site residents or more, only 1.8% of the population reported that they could not carry on a conversation in English.

Data from successive Censuses have confirmed the socio-demographic disadvantages of the population. Like the other sites, Kingston has a high proportion of single parents, 24.5% in 1991, compared to the Ontario figure of 12.6%, and 27.4% in 1996, compared to the Ontario figure of 14.4%. For both sexes, and for both Census years, unemployment rates at the Kingston site were well above those for the province, as shown below.

Unemployment Rates				
	Kingston		Ontario	
	1991	1996	1991	1996
Male	12.6	18.9	8.6	8.7
Female	15.2	16.3	8.4	9.6

Mean family income was \$36,190 in 1990 compared to the provincial average of \$57,227, and \$36,067 in 1995 compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) reflect income, family size, and size of community of residence. Although Statistics Canada, having no official definition of poverty, does not refer to them as such, LICOs are widely treated as poverty lines. For the Better Beginnings for Kingston Children research families, 70% were living below the LICOs compared to the Provincial average in 1997 of 18.6%.

## **OTTAWA**

Ottawa, the national capital, with a metropolitan population of 1,010,458 in 1996, is located on the Ottawa River. The city's economy has traditionally been heavily dependent on the Federal government, and its largest employer is still the federal civil service. Tourism has been its traditional second industry, but its field of most rapid expansion in recent years has been high technology. The city is the site of Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. The city itself is predominantly Anglophone, with a substantial Francophone minority, but other parts of the National Capital Area, notably the city of Hull on the eastern shore of the Ottawa River, are predominantly francophone.

This Better Beginnings project is located in South-East Ottawa, taking in four locally recognized neighbourhoods (Fairlea, Heatherington, Ledbury, and Albion) with a 1996 population of 7,590. Although several neighbourhoods are involved, none is large, and the entire site is contained within an area stretching .7 km from north to south and 1.9 km from west to east. Although its population is predominantly native born and Anglophone, there is a substantial Francophone minority, making up 10.1% of the population in 1991 and 9.7% in 1996. In 1991 28.7% of the area's population was born outside Canada, and in 1996 the percentage had moved up to 33.2%. In 1996, four languages, other than English or French were spoken at home by 100 or more site residents: Arabic, spoken by 295; Chinese, by 150; Somali, by 455; and Spanish, by 200.

Its rates of single parenthood are markedly higher than those for Ontario, standing at 37.9%, compared to the Ontario figure of 14.4%. Its unemployment rates for 1991 and 1996 were above those for the province, as shown below.

Unemployment Rates		
	South-East Ottawa Research Families	Ontario 1996
Male	9.5	8.7
Female	18.3	9.6

Mean family income was \$26,340 in 1995, compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) reflect income, family size, and size of community of residence. Although Statistics Canada, having no official definition of poverty, does not refer to them as such, LICOs are widely treated as poverty lines. For the South-East Ottawa research families, 75% were living below the LICOs compared to the Provincial average in 1997 of 18.6%.

## TORONTO

Toronto, with a 1996 metropolitan population of 4,263,757, is the provincial capital, the financial and manufacturing hub of Ontario, and the leading banking centre of Canada. The city is the seat of Ryerson Polytechnical University, the University of Toronto and York University. In recent decades an influx of third world immigrants has diversified its culture.

The Inner City Toronto site is focussed on Regent Park, one of Ontario's oldest and most densely populated public housing complexes, and on 7 apartment buildings near it in the Moss Park/Oak Street area. The area is relatively compact, since the public housing area included runs only .3 km from north to south, and 1.0 km from west to east. The 1996 population was 11,010.

This inner city Toronto site is demographically distinctive, with the highest proportion of immigrants among the younger cohort sites, the highest proportion of single parents of any urban Better Beginnings site, very high unemployment rates and the lowest mean incomes of any of the urban Better Beginnings sites. In 1991 48.7% of the area's population was born outside Canada, and in 1996 the percentage had moved up to 58.0. Two cultural groups stood out among immigrants in both Census years: Chinese and Vietnamese. In 1991 15.7% of the population spoke only Chinese at home, and in 1996 the figure had dropped only slightly to 14.9%. In 1991 9.5% spoke only Vietnamese at home, and in 1996 the figure had moved up slightly, to 10.1%. Other home languages had far fewer speakers, but in 1996 more than 100 people spoke each of Arabic, Bengali, Spanish, Tagalog and Tamil at home.

Data from successive Censuses have confirmed the major socio-demographic disadvantages of the population. Its rates of single parenthood are markedly higher than those for Ontario, standing at 50.8% in 1991, compared to the Ontario figure of 12.6%, and 42.5% in 1996, compared to the provincial 14.4%. Its unemployment rates for 1991 and 1996 were well above those for the province, as shown below.

Unemployment Rates				
	Regent Park / Moss Park		Ontario	
	1991	1996	1991	1996
Male	27.7	30.5	8.6	8.7
Female	24.1	31.2	8.4	9.6

Mean family income was \$21,193 in 1995, compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) reflect income, family size, and size of community of residence. Although Statistics Canada, having no official definition of poverty, does not refer to them as such, LICOs are widely treated as poverty lines. For the Toronto Better Beginnings research families, 92% were living below the LICOs compared to the Provincial average in 1997 of 18.6%.

### **WALPOLE ISLAND**

This project is sponsored by the Walpole Island First Nation, who reside on an island of the same name on the St. Clair River. The major source of employment on the island is government services. The population is entirely aboriginal, apart from a modest number of intermarriages. At the beginning of the project, it was estimated that 2,655 people lived on the island.

Population characteristics cannot readily be taken from the Census, as at other sites, because many people at Walpole Island, as at many other First Nation communities, do not complete Census forms. At Walpole, under 60% of the estimated population was counted into the Census in 1991 and 1996. However, relying on administrative data, the original proposal included figures to confirm the major socio-economic disadvantages of the population. For the year 1990, it was estimated that the rate of single parenthood was (roughly) 50 per cent, and that (roughly) 80 per cent of the children were in a family who received social assistance. The unemployment rate, for males and females combined, was estimated at 60 per cent.

Administrative data did not permit an estimate of mean family income. For those who did respond to the Census, it stood at \$21,389 in 1990, compared to the provincial average of \$57,227, and \$20,686 in 1995, compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

### **OLDER COHORT SITES**

## **CORNWALL**

Cornwall, a city of 49,137 in 1996, with a metropolitan population of 62,183,<sup>2</sup> lies on the St. Lawrence River, roughly halfway between the eastern tip of Lake Ontario and Montreal. It is headquarters for the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, and a manufacturing community whose products include textiles, paper, chemicals, furniture and electrical equipment. Although the city is predominantly anglophone, a substantial francophone minority is present, part of the westward extension of Francophones from their North American heartland in Quebec.

The Cornwall programs began with children aged 4 to 8 attending four Francophone schools in the area. In 1996 a new school was added, and in 1997 children from two schools were moved to another, so that the program is now operating in four schools, as at the beginning, but two of them are different from those present at the start.

Of the schools, the two operated by the Roman Catholic Separate School Board draw their students from the Parish of the Nativity, a traditionally Francophone area near the centre of the city, but the two operated by the Public School Board are the only two Francophone schools operated by that Board, so children are bussed to them from all over the city. Because of bussing, *Partir d'un bon pas* works within less sharply defined boundaries than other sites do. Yet it is possible to define an area which includes the bulk of their constituency, centred in the Parish of the Nativity, but taking in areas outside it, including 69.9 per cent of Cornwall residents who reported to the 1996 Census that they spoke only French at home.

Because this area, stretching 5.8 km from north to south, and 4.8 km from west to east, includes most of the city of Cornwall, its population (29,475 in 1996) is greater than that of the other sites. Its large population would be very difficult to serve, within an annual budget of about \$575,000, if programs were aimed at all children, but since the site's major programs are school-based, and focussed on four schools, the situation is more manageable. In the schools participating, 529 children were registered in 1996-97 in grades JK to Grade 2.

The Cornwall site contains a mix of Anglophone and Francophone residents, with many marriages between the two groups. (Published Census data do not provide a figure for the proportion.) It has a low proportion of immigrants: only 5.8% of the population in 1996 had been born outside Canada.

Census data provide evidence of socio-demographic disadvantage. For example, the proportion of single parents was 16.8% in 1991, compared to the Ontario figure of 12.6%, and 20.8% in 1996, compared to the Ontario figure of 14.4%. Both male and female unemployment rates were above those for Ontario in

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<sup>2</sup> Technically, Census documents refer to the area centred in Cornwall as a Census Agglomeration rather than a Census Metropolitan Area. To avoid shifts in terminology from site to site, shifts which make no difference for our purposes, the population figure for either a CA or a CMA will be referred to as the metropolitan population.

1991 and in 1996, as shown in the table below.

Unemployment Rates				
	Cornwall		Ontario	
	1991	1996	1991	1996
Male	11.5	15.1	8.6	8.7
Female	11.0	11.7	8.4	9.6

Mean family income was \$44,778 in 1990, compared to the provincial average of \$57,227, and \$45,309 in 1995, compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

## **HIGHFIELD**

The Highfield School site is located in what, until 1997, was known as the Borough of Etobicoke, the westernmost of the former subdivisions of Metropolitan Toronto.<sup>3</sup>

The project is focussed on Highfield Junior School and its catchment area, which makes up a single Census tract, with boundaries running 1.6 km from north to south and 1.0 km from west to east. The Tract had a population of 8,544 in 1996. In recent decades it has been home to immigrants of many cultures: in the original project proposal it was pointed out that more than 40 languages were spoken by children in the school. In 1991 53.6% of the area's population was born outside Canada, and in 1996 the percentage had risen to 59.8%.

The breakdown of the population by region of birth for 1991 and 1996 was as follows, in percentages:

	1991	1996
Canada	46.4	40.2
Africa	1.7	1.5
Caribbean	5.5	7.1
Central & South America	5.6	4.6
Europe	17.2	12.3
India	12.0	18.6
Other Asia	11.4	14.7
Other	0.2	0.9

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<sup>3</sup> See the description of the Toronto site above for information on the city.

	100.0	99.9
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Apart from Canada, none of the regions listed provided as much as one-fifth of the population in either Census year.

Since parents born elsewhere often have children born in Canada, the proportion of parents born elsewhere is higher than the proportion of the total population listed above. In the Better Beginnings samples, the proportion of adults born outside the country was over 88%.

Although the Census does not publish country of birth for Census Tracts, mother tongue is available, in some detail, and allows for a more precise view of cultural origins. In 1996 nine languages were mother tongue to 100 people or more. Apart from English, they included three European languages (Italian, Polish, and Spanish), three Indian languages (Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu), Arabic and Chinese. Cultural diversity is clearly a hallmark of the site.

Data from successive Censuses have confirmed the sociodemographic disadvantages of the population. For example, the proportion of single parents in 1991 was 23% compared to the Ontario average of 13%, and 21% in 1996 compared to the Ontario figure of 14%. Both male and female unemployment rates were well above those for Ontario in 1991 and in 1996, as shown in the table below.

	Unemployment Rates			
	Highfield		Ontario	
	1991	1996	1991	1996
Male	14.1	13.3	8.6	8.7
Female	12.6	17.5	8.4	9.6

Mean family income in 1990 was \$43,841 compared to the provincial average of \$57,227, and \$36,054 in 1995 compared to the provincial average of \$59,830.

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) reflect income, family size, and size of community of residence. Although Statistics Canada, having no official definition of poverty, does not refer to them as such, LICOs are widely treated as poverty lines. For the Highfield Better Beginnings research families, 72.2% were living below the LICOs compared to the Provincial average in 1997 of 18.6%.

## SUDBURY

Sudbury, with a 1996 metropolitan population of 158,393 is the economic centre of a hardrock mining region which is among the world's largest producers of nickel, and also a source of cobalt, copper, gold, platinum, silver and sulphur. In recent years the Sudbury economy has diversified with the expansion of Laurentian University, and the addition of government offices and distribution centres. Although the metropolitan area is predominantly anglophone, there is a substantial francophone minority, who are in the majority in smaller communities near the city.

The Better Beginnings site in Sudbury is made up of two locally recognized downtown neighbourhoods

Donovan on the west and The Flour Mill on the east. Geographically, Sudbury is one of the larger Better Beginnings sites, with boundaries stretching just over three kilometres from north to south, and over four kilometres from west to east. In 1996, the population of the site was 13,791. The children of the Sudbury site have been served by six schools, four Anglophone and two Francophone, although one of the Anglophone schools closed in 1997. There were approximately 500 children from JK to Grade 2 attending schools in this site in 1996-97.

The families of Donovan are predominantly Anglophone, but there is a substantial Francophone minority, and churches and other organizations represent minorities of many tongues. In the Flour Mill, traditionally mainly Francophone, businesses and public institutions all have French-speaking staff. (In 1996, 36.7% of all site residents gave French as their mother tongue.) In each of the two neighbourhoods there is a minority of Native, primarily Ojibwa, families. The majority of the residents in the Sudbury site are native born -- only 11 per cent of those resident at the site were foreign-born in 1996.

The families of Donovan and The Flour Mill live with substantial socio-demographic disadvantage. In 1991, the proportion of single parents was more than double that of Ontario overall 27% compared to 13% and in 1996, those figures were 29% compared to 14%. In 1990, the mean family income was \$36,191, compared to the provincial average of \$57,227. In 1995, it was \$36,539 compared to the provincial average of \$59,830. Both male and female unemployment rates were well above those for Ontario in both 1991 and 1996.

Unemployment Rates				
	Sudbury Better Beginnings site		Ontario	
	1991	1996	1991	1996
Male	14.1	22.1	8.6	8.7
Female	12.6	19.6	8.4	9.6

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs) reflect income, family size, and size of community of residence. Although Statistics Canada, having no official definition of poverty, does not refer to them as such, LICOs are widely treated as poverty lines. For the Sudbury Better Beginnings research families, 75.9% were living below the LICOs compared to the Provincial average in 1997 of 18.6%.