

## Chapter 5

## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

In this chapter, the basic socio-demographic characteristics of the sample are reviewed. Within each cohort, tables are presented showing characteristics of the baseline sample, and of the focal, longitudinal, sample for the wave at which the children were of comparable age. While it would be possible to present data for the focal cohort at each wave, the resulting presentation would be tedious, and would typically show only modest variation from wave to wave. In the one instance in which there is notable variation, that of income for the younger cohort sites, the change will be discussed in the text.

Data were not gathered for the comparison sites at baseline, so that tables for the baseline cohort are less complex than those for the focal, and the table totals are based on different sets of sites. Where it is of interest, in discussing results for the focal samples, figures for only those cases from the demonstration sites will be presented in the text.

## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE YOUNGER COHORT SAMPLES

In two-parent households, an attempt was made to interview the parent most familiar with the focal child. In the vast majority of such cases the mother was interviewed. Of the one-parent households involved in the study, over 90% were headed by a woman. Thus, the vast preponderance of respondents, 93.3% of the baseline sample and 96.1% of the focal, were female. As shown in Table 5.1, the variation from site to site was modest.

Table 5.1 Female Respondents, by Site (%)

| Site                       | JK Baseline Sample |      | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |      |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                            | n                  | %    | n                            | %    |
| Guelph                     | 43                 | 90.7 | 55                           | 98.2 |
| Kingston                   | 110                | 93.6 | 107                          | 92.5 |
| Ottawa                     | 69                 | 97.1 | 62                           | 96.8 |
| Toronto                    | 103                | 91.3 | 95                           | 96.8 |
| Walpole                    | 35                 | 93.9 | 48                           | 97.9 |
| Peterborough<br>Comparison | na                 | na   | 192                          | 96.4 |
| All Sites                  | 358                | 93.3 | 559                          | 96.1 |

As shown in Table 5.2, at baseline the mean year of birth for the respondent was 1961, while for the focal cohort it was 1996. Since all those interviewed were parents of children in Junior Kindergarten, but those in the focal cohort were interviewed four years later than those in the baseline, the focal cohort might be expected to have more recent birth years.

Table 5.2 Mean Year of Birth for Respondents, by Site

| Site                    | JK Baseline Sample |         |      | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |         |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|------|------------------------------|---------|------|
|                         | n                  | Mean    | sd   | n                            | Mean    | sd   |
| Guelph                  | 43                 | 1961.49 | 5.04 | 53                           | 1966.73 | 6.31 |
| Kingston                | 110                | 1961.67 | 5.59 | 101                          | 1967.79 | 5.79 |
| Ottawa                  | 69                 | 1961.54 | 5.46 | 60                           | 1961.54 | 6.12 |
| Toronto                 | 103                | 1959.42 | 7.11 | 87                           | 1964.80 | 7.41 |
| Walpole                 | 33                 | 1964.41 | 5.98 | 45                           | 1965.83 | 7.16 |
| Peterborough Comparison | na                 | na      | na   | 190                          | 1966.30 | 5.89 |
| All Sites               | 358                | 1961.22 | 6.15 | 536                          | 1966.30 | 6.42 |

As shown in Table 5.3, at baseline the proportion of immigrant respondents at Guelph, Kingston and Walpole Island was under 25%, while at Ottawa it was 50.7% and at Toronto 71.8%. In the focal cohort, Kingston and Walpole were below 10%, as was Peterborough. Guelph increased to 49.1%, Ottawa declined to 26.7%, and Toronto remained in the same neighbourhood, at 79.3%. The increase in Guelph and the decline in Ottawa reflect the reality that low-income areas are often immigrant-reception areas because of low rent levels, but also that neither site has been an established immigrant-reception area.

Immigrant parents had come from many places, including, for example, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Somalia, Vietnam and several Central American countries. There were too few from any one location to permit useful analysis of how they were faring compared to those born in Canada.

Classification by cultural group (see Table 5.4) began with responses to the question How would you describe your ethnic identity? Because many Canadian-born Anglophones did not identify themselves with any cultural group, stated identify could not be readily used to define an Anglophone category. It was decided to include in this category those who grew up in Canada, the U.S., or Great Britain, and who preferred to be interviewed in English, unless some other characteristic placed them in another category. Those who identified themselves as Chinese or spoke Chinese at home were placed in their own group, as were those who identified themselves as Vietnamese or spoke the language at home. Those who identified themselves with a Native culture, or in reply to a question about Native status indicated Native ancestry, were placed in the Native category. The remaining members of the sample were put in the Other category, as there were too few in any well-defined group for effective analysis.

Reflecting differences in the proportion of immigrants, the sites vary considerably in cultural composition. In the baseline sample, while Guelph and Kingston differ in only minor ways, the differences between these two sites and the others are great. At Guelph, 74.4% were anglophone, at Kingston 79.1%. At Ottawa, the percentage dropped to 46.4% and at Toronto, to 41.4%. At the reserve on Walpole Island, the proportion reached its lowest level, at 8.8%. At Toronto, 18.4% were Chinese and 25.2% Vietnamese, while neither group made up more than 6.4% of the sample at any of the other sites.

In the focal sample, the relative character of the sites remained much the same, although the increase in Vietnamese from 2.3% to 25.5% at Guelph is worth noting. Peterborough, for which there are no baseline data, is the most anglophone of the sites, with 90.8% of the sample falling in that category.

**Table 5.3 Respondent s Place of Birth, by Site (%)**

| <b>JK Baseline Sample</b>           |          |                |                                |                |                  |              |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Site</b>                         | <b>n</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Elsewhere<br/>in Canada</b> | <b>Vietnam</b> | <b>Elsewhere</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| Guelph                              | 43       | 67.4           | 9.3                            | 2.3            | 20.9             | 99.9         |
| Kingston                            | 110      | 68.2           | 13.6                           | 0.0            | 18.2             | 100.0        |
| Ottawa                              | 69       | 42.0           | 7.2                            | 1.4            | 49.3             | 99.9         |
| Toronto                             | 103      | 23.3           | 4.9                            | 33.0           | 38.8             | 100.0        |
| Walpole                             | 33       | 87.9           | 0.0                            | 0.0            | 12.1             | 100.0        |
| Peterborough<br>Comparison          | na       | na             | na                             | na             | na               | na           |
| All Sites                           | 358      | 52.0           | 8.1                            | 10.1           | 29.9             | 100.1        |
| <b>48-Month Focal Cohort Sample</b> |          |                |                                |                |                  |              |
| <b>Site</b>                         | <b>n</b> | <b>Ontario</b> | <b>Elsewhere<br/>in Canada</b> | <b>Vietnam</b> | <b>Other</b>     | <b>Total</b> |
| Guelph                              | 53       | 45.3           | 5.7                            | 28.3           | 20.8             | 100.1        |
| Kingston                            | 101      | 79.2           | 12.9                           | 0.0            | 7.9              | 100.0        |
| Ottawa                              | 60       | 65.0           | 8.3                            | 0.0            | 26.7             | 100.0        |
| Toronto                             | 87       | 16.1           | 4.6                            | 17.2           | 62.1             | 100.0        |
| Walpole                             | 45       | 91.1           | 0.0                            | 0.0            | 8.9              | 100.0        |
| Peterborough<br>Comparison          | 190      | 85.8           | 7.9                            | 0.0            | 6.3              | 100.0        |
| All Sites                           | 536      | 67.4           | 7.5                            | 5.6            | 19.6             | 100.1        |

Table 5.4 Respondent s Cultural Group, by Site (%)

| JK Baseline Sample           |                |            |         |            |        |       |       |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------|---------|------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Site                         | Cultural Group |            |         |            |        |       |       |
|                              | n              | Anglophone | Chinese | Vietnamese | Native | Other | Total |
| Guelph                       | 43             | 74.4       | 0.0     | 2.3        | 4.7    | 18.6  | 100.0 |
| Kingston                     | 110            | 77.3       | 6.4     | 0.0        | 5.5    | 10.9  | 100.1 |
| Ottawa                       | 69             | 46.4       | 4.3     | 2.9        | 2.9    | 43.5  | 100.0 |
| Toronto                      | 103            | 21.4       | 18.4    | 25.2       | 6.8    | 28.2  | 100.0 |
| Walpole                      | 33             | 8.8        | 0.0     | 0.0        | 91.2   | 0.0   | 100.0 |
| Peterborough Comparison      | na             | na         | na      | na         | na     | na    | na    |
| All Sites                    | 358            | 48.5       | 8.1     | 8.1        | 13.4   | 22.0  | 100.1 |
| 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |                |            |         |            |        |       |       |
|                              | Cultural Group |            |         |            |        |       |       |
|                              | n              | Anglophone | Chinese | Vietnamese | Native | Other | Total |
| Guelph                       | 55             | 47.3       | 7.3     | 25.5       | 3.6    | 16.4  | 100.1 |
| Kingston                     | 108            | 77.3       | 6.4     | 0.0        | 5.5    | 10.9  | 100.1 |
| Ottawa                       | 66             | 56.1       | 0.0     | 0.0        | 9.1    | 34.8  | 100.0 |
| Toronto                      | 98             | 14.3       | 9.2     | 14.3       | 4.1    | 58.2  | 100.1 |
| Walpole                      | 48             | 6.3        | 0.0     | 0.0        | 93.8   | 0.0   | 100.1 |
| Peterborough Comparison      | 196            | 90.3       | 0.0     | 0.0        | 5.1    | 4.6   | 100.1 |
| All Sites                    | 571            | 59.9       | 2.6     | 4.9        | 13.7   | 18.9  | 100.0 |

## Marital Status

As shown in Table 5.5, with the exception of Walpole, the bulk of respondents at each site had been married. In the focal sample, Walpole again is the only site where a minority of respondents had been married, although its proportion had risen slightly. Overall, the proportion who had been married is a little lower in the focal sample, at 67.0%, compared to 72.3% for the baseline.

**Table 5.5 Respondents Ever Married, by Site (%)**

| Site                    | JK Baseline Sample |      | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                         | n                  | %    | n                            | %    |
| Guelph                  | 43                 | 72.1 | 55                           | 72.7 |
| Kingston                | 110                | 77.3 | 107                          | 57.9 |
| Ottawa                  | 69                 | 81.2 | 62                           | 74.2 |
| Toronto                 | 103                | 71.8 | 95                           | 63.2 |
| Walpole                 | 33                 | 39.4 | 48                           | 47.9 |
| Peterborough Comparison | na                 | na   | 196                          | 74.5 |
| All Sites               | 358                | 72.3 | 563                          | 67.0 |

As shown in Table 5.6, the proportion currently living with a husband or wife displays the same pattern as was seen in Table 5.5: the bulk of those who have been married are living with their spouse, with the exception of Walpole Island.

**Table 5.6 Respondents Living With Husband/Wife, by Site (%)**

| Site                    | JK Baseline Sample |      | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                         | n                  | %    | n                            | %    |
| Guelph                  | 31                 | 67.7 | 40                           | 80.0 |
| Kingston                | 85                 | 67.1 | 69                           | 62.3 |
| Ottawa                  | 56                 | 69.6 | 43                           | 74.4 |
| Toronto                 | 74                 | 78.4 | 65                           | 60.0 |
| Walpole                 | 32                 | 39.4 | 27                           | 40.7 |
| Peterborough Comparison | na                 | na   | 147                          | 79.6 |
| All Sites               | 278                | 72.3 | 391                          | 70.1 |

Table 5.7, which presents data on single parenthood, also shows only modest site-to-site and between-sample differences. For the baseline sample, 36.9% of households were led by a single parent. For the focal sample 35.7% were headed by single parents.

**Table 5.7 Single Parents, by Site (%)**

| Site                    | JK Baseline Sample |      | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                         | n                  | %    | n                            | %    |
| Guelph                  | 43                 | 46.5 | 55                           | 25.5 |
| Kingston                | 110                | 34.5 | 108                          | 41.7 |
| Ottawa                  | 69                 | 33.3 | 66                           | 37.9 |
| Toronto                 | 103                | 36.9 | 98                           | 45.9 |
| Walpole                 | 33                 | 39.3 | 48                           | 39.6 |
| Peterborough Comparison | na                 | na   | 196                          | 28.6 |
| All Sites               | 358                | 36.9 | 571                          | 35.7 |

### Education and Employment

The formal education of respondents ranged from none at all to the postgraduate level. While there was some variation from site to site, the percentage differences shown in Table 5.8 are not always very reliable because of the small numbers involved. Attention will therefore be focused on the characteristics of the full sample. Of our baseline respondents, 21.5% had gone no further than Grade 9, another 22.1% had completed Grade 10 or 11, and another 28.4% Grade 12 or 13. The remaining 28.1% had some form of post-secondary training. Degrees were held by 8.9%. Toronto showed far the highest proportion with Grade 9 or less, at 46.5%, more than double the percentage for any other site. Kingston had far the highest proportion with post-secondary training, at 44.5%, 18.9 percentage points higher than its runner-up, Guelph, at 25.6%.

In the focal sample, among sites for which data were gathered on both occasions, Toronto is distinctive. At that site, the proportion reporting no more than Grade 9 dropped from 46.5% to 16.8%, and the proportion with post-secondary training increased from 19.8% to 28.4%. At Ottawa, the proportion with post-secondary training rose from 15.6% to 37.7%. At other sites, changes were relatively modest. As mentioned in the methodology chapter, one reason for consistent use of education as a covariate in our analyses of Better Beginnings effects was the presence of changes between samples at some of the sites.

Table 5.8 Level of Education of Respondents, by Site (%)

| JK Baseline Sample           |     |              |          |          |         |        |       |
|------------------------------|-----|--------------|----------|----------|---------|--------|-------|
| Site                         | n   | Gr 9 or Less | Gr 10-11 | Gr 12-13 | College | Degree | Total |
| Guelph                       | 43  | 16.3         | 14.0     | 44.2     | 16.3    | 9.3    | 100.1 |
| Kingston                     | 110 | 7.3          | 27.3     | 20.9     | 30.9    | 13.6   | 100.0 |
| Ottawa                       | 64  | 21.9         | 31.3     | 31.3     | 10.9    | 4.7    | 100.1 |
| Toronto                      | 101 | 46.5         | 16.8     | 16.8     | 11.9    | 7.9    | 99.9  |
| Walpole                      | 47  | 16.1         | 32.3     | 25.8     | 22.6    | 3.2    | 100.0 |
| Peterborough Comparison      | na  | na           | na       | na       | na      | na     | na    |
| All Sites                    | 349 | 21.5         | 22.1     | 28.4     | 19.2    | 8.9    | 100.1 |
| 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |     |              |          |          |         |        |       |
| Site                         | n   | Gr 9 or Less | Gr 10-11 | Gr 12-13 | College | Degree | Total |
| Guelph                       | 55  | 20.0         | 7.3      | 47.3     | 16.4    | 9.1    | 100.1 |
| Kingston                     | 107 | 4.7          | 13.1     | 37.4     | 36.4    | 8.4    | 100.0 |
| Ottawa                       | 61  | 14.8         | 21.3     | 26.2     | 34.4    | 3.3    | 100.1 |
| Toronto                      | 95  | 16.8         | 5.3      | 49.5     | 24.2    | 4.2    | 100.1 |
| Walpole                      | 48  | 22.9         | 41.7     | 14.6     | 16.7    | 4.2    | 100.0 |
| Peterborough Comparison      | 196 | 2.0          | 11.7     | 22.4     | 49.5    | 14.3   | 100.1 |
| All Sites                    | 562 | 10.0         | 14.1     | 32.0     | 35.1    | 8.9    | 100.0 |

The respondents, and their partners, included a high proportion without paid employment. Table 5.9 shows the employment status of the women, by site. Of the full baseline sample, 15.5% had full-time paid employment, another had 14.1% part-time work, and 17.2% were seeking work. In the focal sample, at the sites for which baseline data are available, the proportion with full-time work goes up, although modestly, and the proportion not seeking work goes down.

We can calculate an unemployment rate by taking those seeking work as a percentage of the labour force those holding or seeking employment. Using data from the four sites for which baseline data are available, the rate comes out at 36.1 at baseline and 24.9 for the focal sample. For the full focal sample, the rate is 26.1. Although these rates may not fully reflect desire for employment some people do not seek work because they do not think it is available and some working part-time might prefer to work full-time these are high figures in their own right.

Table 5.9 Employment Status of Females (Respondents or Partners), by Site (%)

| JK Baseline Sample           |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Site                         | n   | Full Time | Part Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Guelph                       | 40  | 30.0      | 12.5      | 17.5               | 40.0                   | 100.0 |
| Kingston                     | 109 | 21.1      | 19.3      | 6.4                | 53.2                   | 100.0 |
| Ottawa                       | 68  | 11.8      | 14.7      | 20.6               | 52.9                   | 100.0 |
| Toronto                      | 102 | 5.9       | 8.8       | 26.5               | 58.8                   | 100.0 |
| Walpole                      | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| Peterborough Comparison      | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| All Sites                    | 311 | 15.4      | 14.1      | 17.2               | 53.3                   | 100.0 |
| 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
| Site                         | n   | Full Time | Part Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Guelph                       | 54  | 31.5      | 18.5      | 22.2               | 27.8                   | 100.0 |
| Kingston                     | 104 | 26.0      | 15.4      | 24.0               | 34.6                   | 100.0 |
| Ottawa                       | 60  | 21.7      | 15.0      | 18.3               | 45.0                   | 100.0 |
| Toronto                      | 94  | 11.7      | 18.1      | 20.2               | 50.0                   | 100.0 |
| Walpole                      | 48  | 20.8      | 16.7      | 6.3                | 56.3                   | 100.1 |
| Peterborough Comparison      | 191 | 41.4      | 23.0      | 11.5               | 24.1                   | 100.0 |
| All Sites                    | 551 | 28.5      | 18.9      | 16.7               | 35.9                   | 100.0 |

Table 5.10 shows the employment status of the men. In the baseline sample, 41.7% were working full-time, and 14.1% part-time. Those without paid work and actively seeking it made up 30.6% of the group. Using data from Guelph, Kingston, Ottawa, and Toronto, the baseline unemployment rate comes to 35.4. For the same sites, the rate in the focal sample comes to 21.8. The decline for this set of sites primarily results from changes at Ottawa, which dropped from 34.8 to 9.5, and Toronto, which dropped from 44.6 to 31.2. For the full focal sample it is 9.3. The decline between the four-site rate and the overall rate for the focal sample reflects the quite low rate for Peterborough. (As pointed out in the methodology chapter, site differences in employment caused us to use whether the respondent's partner held a full-time job as a control variable in examining Better Beginnings' longitudinal effects.)

Table 5.10 Employment Status of Males (Respondents or Partners), by Site (%)

| JK Baseline Sample           |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Site                         | n   | Full Time | Part Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Guelph                       | 26  | 57.7      | 19.2      | 19.2               | 3.8                    | 99.9  |
| Kingston                     | 69  | 53.6      | 15.9      | 18.8               | 11.6                   | 99.9  |
| Ottawa                       | 46  | 37.0      | 13.0      | 34.8               | 15.2                   | 100.0 |
| Toronto                      | 65  | 26.2      | 10.8      | 44.6               | 18.5                   | 100.1 |
| Walpole                      | 21  | 38.1      | 28.6      | 28.6               | 4.8                    | 100.1 |
| Peterborough Comparison      | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| All Sites                    | 206 | 41.7      | 14.1      | 30.6               | 13.6                   | 100.0 |
| 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
| Site                         | n   | Full Time | Part Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Guelph                       | 41  | 82.9      | 4.9       | 4.9                | 7.3                    | 100.0 |
| Kingston                     | 64  | 60.9      | 14.1      | 15.6               | 9.4                    | 100.0 |
| Ottawa                       | 42  | 64.3      | 9.5       | 9.5                | 16.7                   | 100.0 |
| Toronto                      | 53  | 56.6      | 17.0      | 13.2               | 13.2                   | 100.0 |
| Walpole                      | 29  | 44.8      | 10.3      | 20.7               | 24.1                   | 99.9  |
| Peterborough Comparison      | 138 | 85.5      | 8.7       | 1.4                | 4.3                    | 99.9  |
| All Sites                    | 367 | 71.1      | 10.6      | 8.4                | 9.8                    | 99.9  |

### Income

For the full sample at baseline, the mean monthly income was \$1,783. As shown in Table 5.11, Guelph ranked highest, with a mean of \$2,087, Kingston came next at \$1,972, Walpole third at \$1,722, Ottawa a short distance below at \$1,666, and Toronto fifth at \$1,560. There is little difference between samples for Toronto or Walpole, but Guelph, Kingston, and Ottawa showed increases ranging from \$381 for Kingston to \$678 for Guelph. For the sites on which data are available for both samples, the mean increased from \$1,783 to \$2,091, while for the full focal sample, it was \$2,522.

Income is one variable on which it is necessary to point out differences in sample characteristics over time. The longitudinal data indicate that incomes moved up over time, particularly between the 18-month and 33-month interviews. For those interviewed on all four occasions, the mean incomes were: at 3 months \$2,054; at 18 months \$2,178; at 33 months \$2,479; at 48 months \$2,587. The largest change took place between the 18-month interviews and the 33-month interviews, which began in October of 1996

and continued through October of 1997. The precise reasons for the relatively sharp rise are not readily determined from our data.

**Table 5.11 Mean Monthly Income, by Site (\$)**

| Site                    | JK Baseline Sample |       |       | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |       |       |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                         | n                  | Mean  | sd    | n                            | Mean  | sd    |
| Guelph                  | 42                 | 2,087 | 1452  | 55                           | 2,765 | 1,665 |
| Kingston                | 105                | 1,972 | 1,097 | 108                          | 2,353 | 1,849 |
| Ottawa                  | 68                 | 1,666 | 754   | 66                           | 2,195 | 1,322 |
| Toronto                 | 102                | 1,560 | 763   | 98                           | 1,489 | 763   |
| Walpole                 | 30                 | 1,722 | 1,256 | 48                           | 1,717 | 892   |
| Peterborough Comparison | na                 | na    | na    | 189                          | 3,328 | 1,898 |
| All Sites               | 347                | 1,783 | 1,031 | 571                          | 2,522 | 1,733 |

The impact of a low income depends heavily on the number who must be supported by it. Table 5.12 shows the proportions below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs (LICOs), which 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, they are widely treated as poverty lines.

In keeping with the change in income data just reported, there was a modest decline in the percentage below the LICOs between the baseline and the focal samples at each site. However, for the demonstration sites 74.2% were still below them. As with income, Peterborough fared better than the other sites with 34.4% below the LICOs.

**Table 5.12 Families Below Low Income Cut-offs, by Site (%)**

| Site                    | JK Baseline Sample |      | 48-Month Focal Cohort Sample |      |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------|
|                         | n                  | %    | n                            | %    |
| Guelph                  | 42                 | 66.7 | 55                           | 52.7 |
| Kingston                | 105                | 72.4 | 102                          | 69.6 |
| Ottawa                  | 68                 | 89.7 | 61                           | 75.4 |
| Toronto                 | 102                | 95.1 | 87                           | 92.0 |
| Walpole                 | 28                 | 82.1 | 48                           | 75.0 |
| Peterborough Comparison | na                 | na   | 189                          | 34.4 |
| All Sites               | 345                | 82.6 | 542                          | 60.3 |



## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLDER COHORT SAMPLES

In two-parent households, an attempt was made to interview the parent most familiar with the focal child. In the vast majority of such cases, the mother was interviewed. Of the one-parent households involved in the study, over 90% in each sample, were headed by a woman. Thus the vast preponderance of respondents, 87.4% of the baseline older cohort sample and 88.4% of the focal cohort sample, were female. As shown in Table 5.13, the variation from site to site was modest.

**Table 5.13 Female Respondents, by Site (%)**

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |      | Grade 2 Focal Sample |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
|                          | n                       | %    | n                    | %    |
| Cornwall                 | 45                      | 88.9 | 66                   | 98.5 |
| Highfield                | 43                      | 76.7 | 79                   | 81.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 118                     | 90.7 | 112                  | 91.1 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na   | 118                  | 87.3 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na   | 161                  | 87.0 |
| All Sites                | 206                     | 87.4 | 560                  | 88.4 |

Table 5.14 provides mean year of birth by site. Since parents in the focal sample were interviewed four years later than those in the baseline sample, yet had children of comparable ages, it might be expected that parents in the focal sample would have been born a few years later. The mean years of birth, for the two samples, were (rounded) 1957 and 1962. There was only minor variation from site to site.

**Table 5.14 Mean Year of Birth for Respondent, by Site**

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |         |      | Grade 2 Focal Sample |         |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------|------|----------------------|---------|------|
|                          | n                       | Mean    | sd   | n                    | Mean    | sd   |
| Cornwall                 | 45                      | 1956.53 | 5.58 | 66                   | 1962.61 | 3.75 |
| Highfield                | 43                      | 1958.14 | 6.38 | 77                   | 1961.47 | 6.47 |
| Sudbury                  | 118                     | 1958.15 | 5.56 | 112                  | 1963.97 | 6.15 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na      | na   | 117                  | 1961.72 | 4.95 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na      | na   | 182                  | 1961.28 | 5.64 |
| All Sites                | 206                     | 1957.18 | 5.81 | 553                  | 1962.10 | 5.62 |

Across sites there were great differences in country of birth (see Table 5.15). The demonstration site at Highfield and its comparison site in Etobicoke are located in immigrant-reception areas. In both samples, 88% (rounded) of the parents interviewed at Highfield were born outside Canada, and in the focal sample, 83.5% of those at the comparison site were immigrants. At the other sites (Cornwall, Sudbury, and their comparison site, Ottawa-Vanier), the vast bulk of respondents were native-born.

Table 5.15 Respondent s Place of Birth, by Site (%)

| Grade 2 Baseline Sample  |     |                |                     |                |       |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| Site                     | n   | Place of Birth |                     |                |       |
|                          |     | Ontario        | Elsewhere in Canada | Outside Canada | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 45  | 75.6           | 20.0                | 4.4            | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 43  | 7.0            | 4.7                 | 88.4           | 100.1 |
| Sudbury                  | 118 | 84.7           | 8.5                 | 6.8            | 100.0 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na  | na             | na                  | na             | na    |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na  | na             | na                  | na             | na    |
| All Sites                | 206 | 66.5           | 10.2                | 23.3           | 100.0 |
| Grade 2 Focal Sample     |     |                |                     |                |       |
| Site                     | n   | Place of Birth |                     |                |       |
|                          |     | Ontario        | Elsewhere in Canada | Outside Canada | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 65  | 81.5           | 16.9                | 1.5            | 99.9  |
| Highfield                | 75  | 12.0           | 0.0                 | 88.0           | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 110 | 88.2           | 9.1                 | 2.7            | 100.0 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | 115 | 13.0           | 3.5                 | 83.5           | 100.0 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | 182 | 58.8           | 19.2                | 22.0           | 100.0 |
| All Sites                | 547 | 51.4           | 11.0                | 37.7           | 100.1 |

Immigrant parents had come from many places, including, for example, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, and several Central American countries. There were too few from any one location to permit useful analysis of how they were faring compared to those born in Canada. Thus, in Table 5.16, the breakdown of cultural groups by site shows only four broad categories: Anglophone, Francophone, Native, and Other.

Classification by cultural group began with responses to the question How would you describe your ethnic identity? Those who gave replies such as Franco-Ontarian, French-Canadian, Québécois, and the like were placed in the Francophone category. Among those who did not identify themselves with any cultural group, those who preferred to be interviewed in French were also placed in the Francophone category.<sup>1</sup> Those who identified themselves with a Native culture (usually Ojibwa) or indicated, in response to a question about Native status, that they had Native ancestry were placed in the Native category. Because many Canadian-born Anglophones did not identify themselves with any cultural group, stated identity could not be readily used to define an Anglophone category. It was decided that those who grew up in Canada, the U.S., or Great Britain, and who preferred to be interviewed in English, would be counted as Anglophone unless some other characteristic placed them in the Francophone or Native category. The remaining members of the sample were put in the Other category.

Table 5.16 Respondent s Cultural Group, by Site (%)

| Grade 2 Baseline Sample  |     |                |             |        |       |       |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Site                     | n   | Cultural Group |             |        |       |       |
|                          |     | Anglophone     | Francophone | Native | Other | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 45  | 31.1           | 68.9        | 0.0    | 0.0   | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 43  | 7.0            | 2.3         | 0.0    | 90.7  | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 118 | 28.8           | 39.0        | 27.1   | 5.1   | 100.0 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na  | na             | na          | na     | na    | na    |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na  | na             | na          | na     | na    | na    |
| All Sites                | 206 | 24.8           | 37.9        | 15.5   | 21.8  | 100.0 |
| Grade 2 Focal Sample     |     |                |             |        |       |       |
| Site                     | n   | Cultural Group |             |        |       |       |
|                          |     | Anglophone     | Francophone | Native | Other | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 66  | 30.3           | 68.2        | 1.5    | 0.0   | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 79  | 11.4           | 1.3         | 0.0    | 87.3  | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 112 | 43.8           | 37.5        | 14.3   | 4.5   | 100.1 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | 118 | 17.8           | 0.8         | 0.0    | 81.4  | 100.0 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | 185 | 25.9           | 62.7        | 0.5    | 10.8  | 99.9  |
| All Sites                | 560 | 26.3           | 36.6        | 3.2    | 33.9  | 100.0 |

The differences among sites are very clear. At Cornwall, in both samples, just over two thirds were Francophone and the remainder were almost all Anglophone. At Highfield, over 90% of the baseline sample and almost as many in the focal sample were newcomers to Canada, who were placed in the Other category. Sudbury was more diverse, with substantial representations of Anglophones, Francophones, and Natives, each making up over 25% of the baseline sample.

Like its paired demonstration site at Highfield, the comparison site in Etobicoke was largely composed of immigrants: 81.4% of the focal sample at Etobicoke were placed in the Other category. Ottawa-Vanier, like its paired demonstration sites in Cornwall and Sudbury, had solid representation of both Anglophones and Francophones, with the latter predominating.

## Marital Status

As shown in Table 5.17, variations in the proportion of respondents who had been married were modest. In the baseline sample, 83.4% had been married, and in the focal sample 78.6%. The only notable change seen was for Sudbury, where the percentage dropped from 88.4% to 62.5% ( $p < .5$ ), the lowest in the study.

**Table 5.17 Respondents Ever Married, by Site (%)**

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |      | Grade 2 Focal Sample |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
|                          | n                       | %    | n                    | %    |
| Cornwall                 | 44                      | 97.7 | 66                   | 90.9 |
| Highfield                | 43                      | 76.3 | 79                   | 82.3 |
| Sudbury                  | 118                     | 88.4 | 112                  | 62.5 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na   | 118                  | 84.7 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na   | 185                  | 78.4 |
| All Sites                | 205                     | 83.4 | 560                  | 78.6 |

Among those who had married, the proportion currently living with a husband or wife was notably lower for Sudbury than for the other two sites. As shown in Table 5.18, for Cornwall the figure was 79.5% and for Highfield it was 76.3%, while for Sudbury it was 57.3%.

**Table 5.18 Respondents Living With Husband/Wife, by Sites (%)**

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |      | Grade 2 Focal Sample |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
|                          | n                       | %    | n                    | %    |
| Cornwall                 | 39                      | 79.5 | 61                   | 80.3 |
| Highfield                | 38                      | 76.3 | 66                   | 90.9 |
| Sudbury                  | 89                      | 57.3 | 73                   | 56.2 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na   | 105                  | 71.4 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na   | 147                  | 70.7 |
| All Sites                | 166                     | 66.9 | 452                  | 72.8 |

Those not living with a legal marriage partner were often living with someone without having married, so that single parenthood might be distributed across site and sample in ways unpredictable from the preceding variables. In fact, Table 5.19 shows only modest variation in the proportion of single parents. In the baseline sample, 36.0% of respondents were single parents, and in the focal sample, 30.5% were in this category. For individual sites, fluctuations were a little greater, as might be expected because of smaller sample sizes, but were modest.

Table 5.19 Single Parents, by Site (%)

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |      | Grade 2 Focal Sample |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
|                          | n                       | %    | n                    | %    |
| Cornwall                 | 41                      | 24.5 | 66                   | 15.2 |
| Highfield                | 43                      | 34.9 | 79                   | 22.8 |
| Sudbury                  | 116                     | 40.5 | 112                  | 48.2 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na   | 118                  | 31.4 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na   | 185                  | 28.1 |
| All Sites                | 200                     | 36.0 | 560                  | 30.5 |

### Education and Employment

The formal education of respondents ranged from none at all to the postgraduate level. While there was some variation between samples, and from site to site, the percentage differences shown in Table 5.20 are not very reliable because of the small numbers involved. Attention will therefore be focused on the characteristics of the full samples. Of the baseline respondents, 15.6% had gone no further than Grade 9, another 20.0% had completed Grade 10 or 11, and a further 27.8% Grade 12 or 13. The remaining 36.6% had some form of post-secondary training. Degrees were held by 11.2%. In the focal sample, the proportions with less than Grade 9 and with Grade 10 or 11 went down, and the proportion at higher levels went up, so that 44.6% had some post-secondary education.

Table 5.20 Level of Education of Respondents, by Site (%)

| Grade 2 Baseline Sample  |     |              |          |          |                          |                   |       |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|
| Site                     | n   | Gr 9 or Less | Gr 10-11 | Gr 12-13 | College, Some University | University Degree | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 45  | 11.1         | 13.3     | 31.1     | 28.9                     | 15.6              | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 43  | 23.3         | 23.3     | 34.9     | 7.0                      | 11.6              | 100.1 |
| Sudbury                  | 117 | 14.5         | 21.4     | 23.9     | 30.8                     | 9.4               | 100.0 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na  | na           | na       | na       | na                       | na                | na    |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na  | na           | na       | na       | na                       | na                | na    |
| All Sites                | 205 | 15.6         | 20.0     | 27.8     | 25.4                     | 11.2              | 100.0 |
| Grade 2 Focal Sample     |     |              |          |          |                          |                   |       |
| Site                     | n   | Gr 9 or Less | Gr 10-11 | Gr 12-13 | College, Some University | University Degree | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 66  | 1.5          | 18.2     | 39.4     | 30.3                     | 10.6              | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 76  | 9.2          | 14.5     | 23.7     | 28.9                     | 23.7              | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 112 | 15.2         | 17.0     | 33.0     | 34.8                     | 0.0               | 100.0 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | 116 | 5.2          | 12.1     | 36.2     | 32.8                     | 13.8              | 100.1 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | 182 | 7.1          | 19.8     | 25.8     | 31.9                     | 15.4              | 99.9  |
| All Sites                | 552 | 8.0          | 16.7     | 30.8     | 32.1                     | 12.5              | 100.1 |

For their age range, the respondents, and their partners, included a high proportion without paid employment. Table 5.21 shows the employment status of the women. For the full baseline sample, 31.7% had full-time paid employment, another had 21.6% part-time work, and 16.1% were seeking work. The most notable difference across the sites is that at Highfield the bulk of those without paid work reported that they were seeking it, while in the other two sites the reverse was true. However, in the focal sample, Highfield is not very different from the other sites in the proportion seeking work. Although Highfield changes in this way, the overall figures (not shown) for the three demonstration sites differ only trivially from those for the baseline sample. For example, the percentage with full-time work is 33.6%, compared to 31.7% for the baseline sample.

Table 5.21 Employment Status of Females (Respondents or Partners), By Site (%)

| Grade 2 Baseline Sample  |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Site                     | n   | Full-Time | Part-Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 45  | 37.8      | 33.3      | 2.2                | 26.7                   | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 43  | 37.2      | 16.3      | 37.2               | 9.3                    | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 111 | 27.0      | 18.9      | 13.5               | 40.5                   | 99.9  |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| All Sites                | 199 | 31.7      | 21.6      | 16.1               | 30.7                   | 100.1 |
| Grade 2 Focal Sample     |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
| Site                     | n   | Full-Time | Part-Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 65  | 40.0      | 27.7      | 10.8               | 21.5                   | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 78  | 50.0      | 10.3      | 15.4               | 24.4                   | 100.1 |
| Sudbury                  | 107 | 17.6      | 19.6      | 20.6               | 42.1                   | 99.9  |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | 114 | 42.1      | 15.8      | 22.8               | 19.3                   | 100.0 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | 181 | 45.9      | 17.7      | 16.6               | 19.9                   | 100.1 |
| All Sites                | 545 | 39.4      | 17.8      | 17.8               | 25.0                   | 100.0 |

Table 5.22 shows the employment status of the men. In the baseline sample, 69.7% were working full-time, and 6.8% part-time. Those without paid work and actively seeking in made up 13.6% of the group. The figures for the three demonstration sites, taken together, in the focal sample, (not shown) are little different. For example, the proportion working full-time is 75.8%, compared to 69.7% in the baseline sample.

Table 5.22 Employment Status of Males (Respondents or Partners), By Site (%)

| Grade 2 Baseline Sample  |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Site                     | n   | Full-Time | Part-Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 35  | 74.3      | 8.6       | 11.4               | 5.7                    | 100.0 |
| Highfield                | 27  | 74.1      | 7.4       | 14.8               | 3.7                    | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 70  | 65.7      | 5.7       | 14.3               | 14.3                   | 99.9  |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na  | na        | na        | na                 | na                     | na    |
| All Sites                | 132 | 69.7      | 6.8       | 13.6               | 9.8                    | 99.9  |
| Grade 2 Focal Sample     |     |           |           |                    |                        |       |
| Site                     | n   | Full-Time | Part-Time | None, Seeking Work | None, Not Seeking Work | Total |
| Cornwall                 | 56  | 89.3      | 1.8       | 5.4                | 3.6                    | 100.1 |
| Highfield                | 61  | 78.7      | 6.6       | 9.8                | 4.9                    | 100.0 |
| Sudbury                  | 63  | 55.6      | 7.9       | 12.7               | 23.8                   | 100.0 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | 83  | 81.9      | 9.6       | 7.2                | 1.2                    | 99.9  |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | 133 | 74.4      | 6.0       | 11.3               | 8.3                    | 100.0 |
| All Sites                | 396 | 75.8      | 6.6       | 9.6                | 8.1                    | 100.1 |

Unemployment rates can be arrived at by omitting those who are not seeking work and then comparing the number seeking work to those who have paid employment. For the baseline sample, the resulting rate for males is 15.1 and for females 23.2. For the focal sample, the respective rates are 10.4 and 23.8. While these figures may not fully reflect desire for employment some people do not seek work only because they do not think it is available, and some who are working part-time might prefer to work full-time these are high figures in their own right.

### Income

For the full baseline sample, the mean monthly income was \$2,422. As shown in Table 5.23, there was noticeable variation from site to site. Cornwall stood at the top, with a mean of \$2,997, Highfield at the bottom, with a mean of \$2,205, and Sudbury a bit above Highfield at \$2,287. In the focal sample, interviewed four years later, Cornwall had risen to \$3,517 and Highfield to \$2,490, while Sudbury dropped to \$1,892. Because of the differing experiences of the three demonstration sites, there was no significant difference in incomes for the three taken together.

The Etobicoke comparison site, at \$2,465, was within \$25 of its paired comparison site at Highfield. Ottawa-Vanier was within the range between Cornwall and Sudbury, but was clearly closer to Cornwall.

Table 5.23 Mean Monthly Income, by Site

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |       |       | Grade 2 Focal Sample |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|
|                          | n                       | Mean  | s.d.  | n                    | Mean  | s.d.  |
| Cornwall                 | 44                      | 2,997 | 1,408 | 62                   | 3,517 | 2,028 |
| Highfield                | 43                      | 2,205 | 1,222 | 58                   | 2,490 | 1,743 |
| Sudbury                  | 118                     | 2,287 | 1,386 | 64                   | 1,892 | 1,156 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na    | na    | 118                  | 2,465 | 1,701 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na    | na    | 185                  | 3,314 | 2,417 |
| All Sites                | 205                     | 2,422 | 1,385 | 560                  | 2,784 | 2,054 |

As shown in Table 5.24, there is considerable variation in the percentage below the LICOs at the older cohort sites. At baseline the proportion varied from 40.9% at Cornwall to 86.0% at Highfield. The diversity is only a little less in the focal sample, although Sudbury has the highest proportion of the demonstration sites, at 75.9%.

Table 5.24 Families Below Low Income Cut-offs, by Site (%)

| Site                     | Grade 2 Baseline Sample |      | Grade 2 Focal Sample |      |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
|                          | n                       | %    | n                    | %    |
| Cornwall                 | 44                      | 40.9 | 66                   | 42.4 |
| Highfield                | 43                      | 86.0 | 79                   | 72.2 |
| Sudbury                  | 118                     | 64.4 | 112                  | 75.9 |
| Etobicoke Comparison     | na                      | na   | 118                  | 70.3 |
| Ottawa-Vanier Comparison | na                      | na   | 185                  | 53.0 |
| All Sites                | 205                     | 63.9 | 560                  | 62.7 |



