

Poverty and Readiness to Learn in School Results - by Municipalities in Niagara Region
2006 Early Development Instrument (UEY) / 2001 Census Results (Statistics Canada)

Municipality > Data Element ↓	Grimsby (EDI sample =158)	West Lincoln (EDI sample =45)	Lincoln (EDI sample =260)	Pelham (EDI sample =121)	SC (EDI sample =865)	Thorold (EDI sample =136)	Welland (EDI sample =318)	Wainfleet (EDI sample =33)	PC (EDI sample =111)	FE (EDI sample =210)	NOTL (EDI sample =78)	NF (EDI sample =634)
Vulnerable - Overall EDI	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Communication Skills & General Knowledge	X				X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Physical Health & Well-being			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
Language & Cognitive Development			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Emotional Maturity			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Social Competence			X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
EDI Gender (m)	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Avg Household Income	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
% Without High School	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Structure (lone parents)	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Immigration			X		X		X			X		X
ESL			X		X		X					X
Gov't Transfer Payments (GTPs)*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Unemployment (15+)*	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
LICO (Low Income Cut-off)*	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Home Ownership*	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Housing Stress Index (HSI)*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

* Denotes mapped socioeconomic data not found in "Readiness to Learn: Community Knowledge in Niagara" handout.

NOTES:

The above information, along with that found in "Readiness to Learn: Community Knowledge in Niagara", constitutes an important part of the overall picture but is not the complete story. ***Please in conjunction with neighbourhood level information as well as other reliable local data, including factors found within communities and information from early years programs and services.***

Please refer to "Readiness to Learn: Community Knowledge in Niagara" for detailed descriptions of the EDI domains (p. 4), as well as specific sub-domain areas of weakness for each municipality (found after each domain map; pp. 12-17) and municipal maps outlining neighbourhood study areas (NSAs) within each municipality (pp. 6-8). *Municipal briefs, outlining results at the neighbourhood level, are available upon request.*

The overall EDI results for the region are very good! At the same time, deeper analysis reveals that:

- There appears to be declining average (mean) scores in the Physical Health & Well-being and Communication Skills & General Knowledge domains, at the region-wide level, over time (p. 9)
- Generally, municipalities in Niagara that have more socioeconomic weakness have more vulnerability on the EDI (above). West Lincoln has the least SES weakness and shows no vulnerability. Grimsby is interesting, with little vulnerability despite many areas of socioeconomic challenge.
- Investment in the early years offers a good return on investment and may be an effective strategy to improve academic outcomes and reduce the level of educational support and intervention required (pp. 1, 9-10)

Vulnerability, as reported above and in the handout, is a measure of the percentage of children who scored in the lowest 10th percentile. This has been found to be a strong predictor of future success in education, employment and well-being (Offord, 2006) and has also been correlated to EQAO scores in various parts of the province and country (see pp. 9-10).

Gender, ESL status, poverty (i.e. average household income, LICO, GTPs, unemployment, etc..., family status, parental education levels, home ownership and HIS; related to mobility) have been shown to be related to poorer early development and readiness to learn outcomes. ***The above Census variables have been mapped for Niagara by UEY and, in cases where municipal results are hard to discern on regional maps, municipal level maps have also been generated. These are available upon request.***

Access to resources has also been found to be related to readiness to learn scores, and of particular importance to children living in poverty. ***Resource maps displaying programs and services for parents/caregivers and children 0-6 years are available for each municipality, upon request.***