

# Early Learning and Development & Community Factors in Fort Erie

*“The quality and capacity of our future population depends on what we do now to support early child development.”*

Fraser Mustard, Founder & Chair Emeritus, Council for Early Child Development

GLORY RESSLER

Coordinator, Understanding the Early Years

905-646-7311 ext. 319

gressler@eccdc.org

May 26, 2008

Fort Erie Council

**eccdc**

early childhood community development centre

Understanding the Early Years



Human Resources and  
Social Development Canada

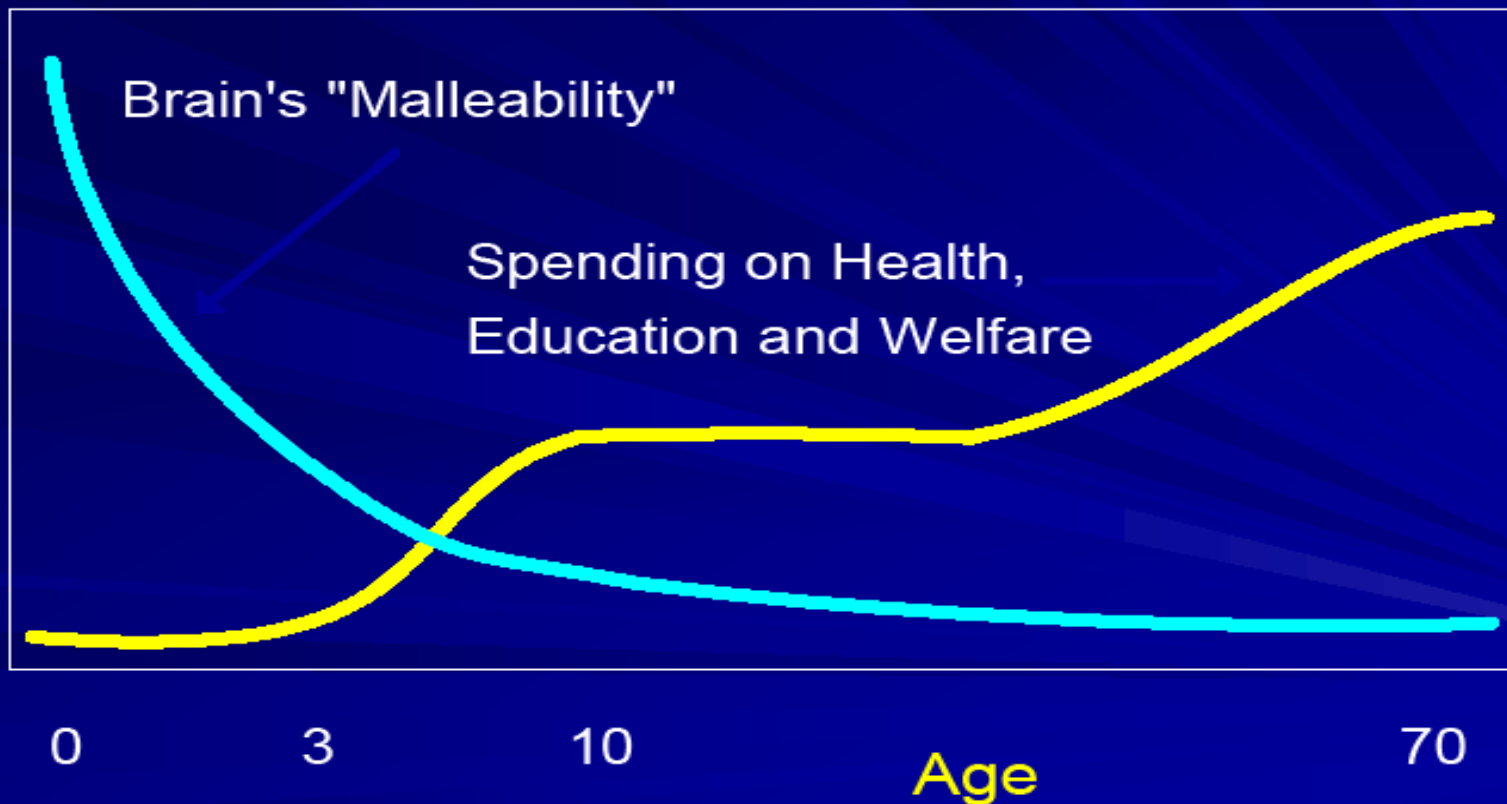
Ressources humaines et  
Développement social Canada

The Understanding the Early Years initiative is funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. For further information, visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca)

# The case for, and levels of, investment

97-044

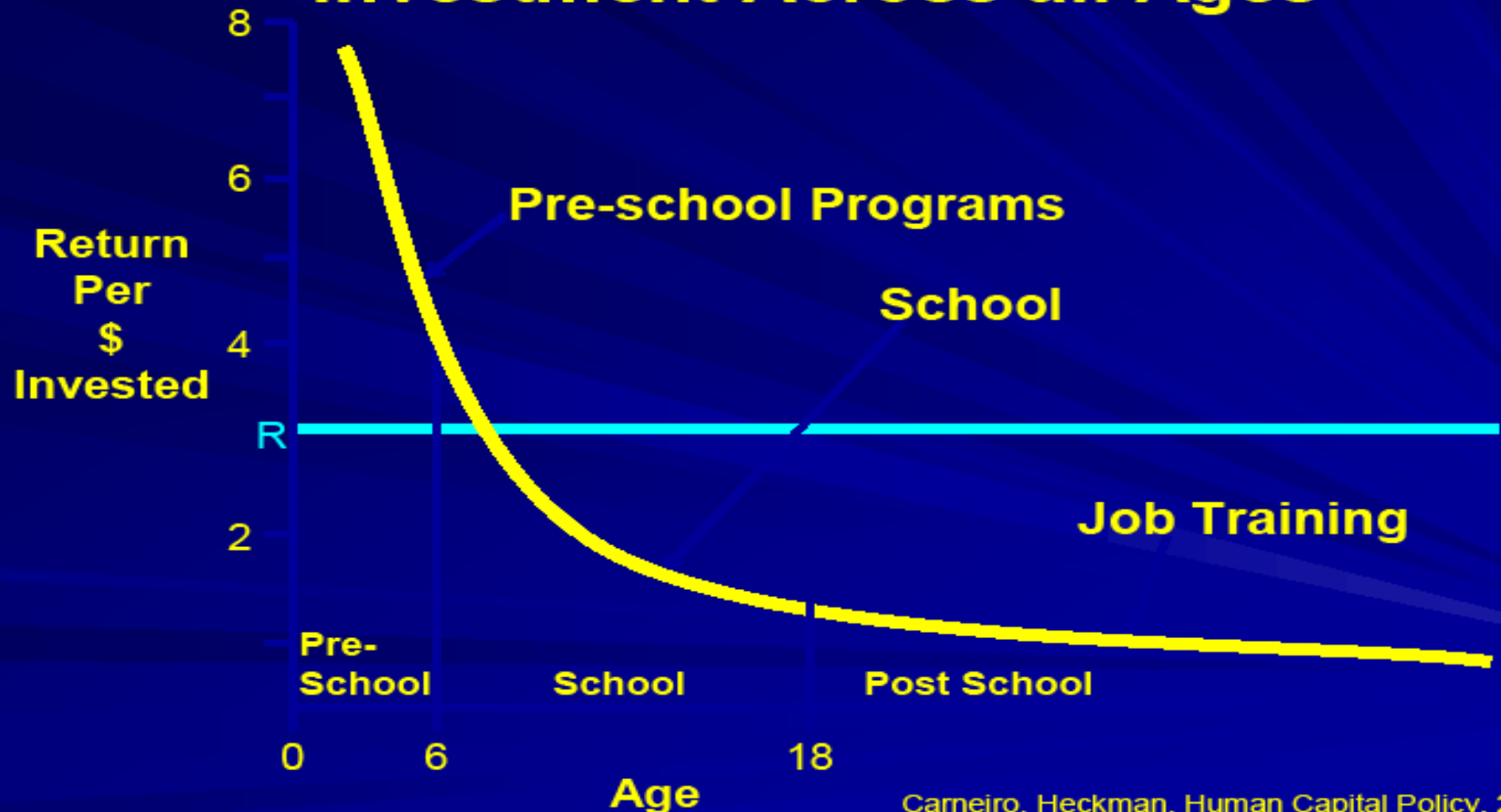
## The Mismatch Between Opportunity and Investment



Makes good economic sense...

## Rates of Return to Human Development Investment Across all Ages

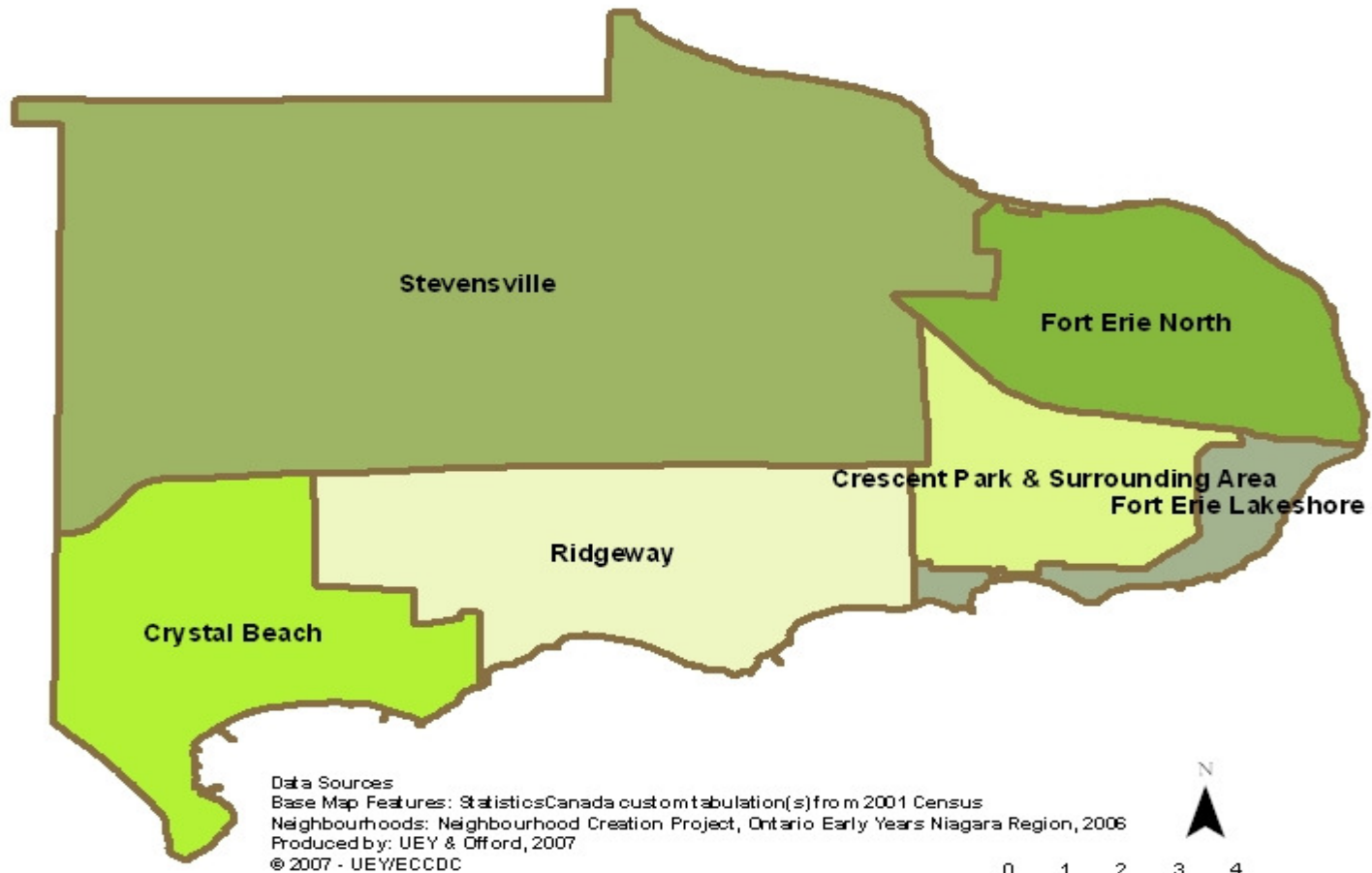
03-074



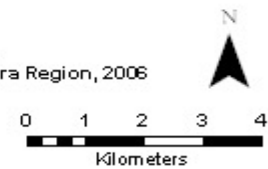
Cameiro, Heckman, Human Capital Policy, 2003

# Fort Erie Neighbourhoods

## Town of Fort Erie

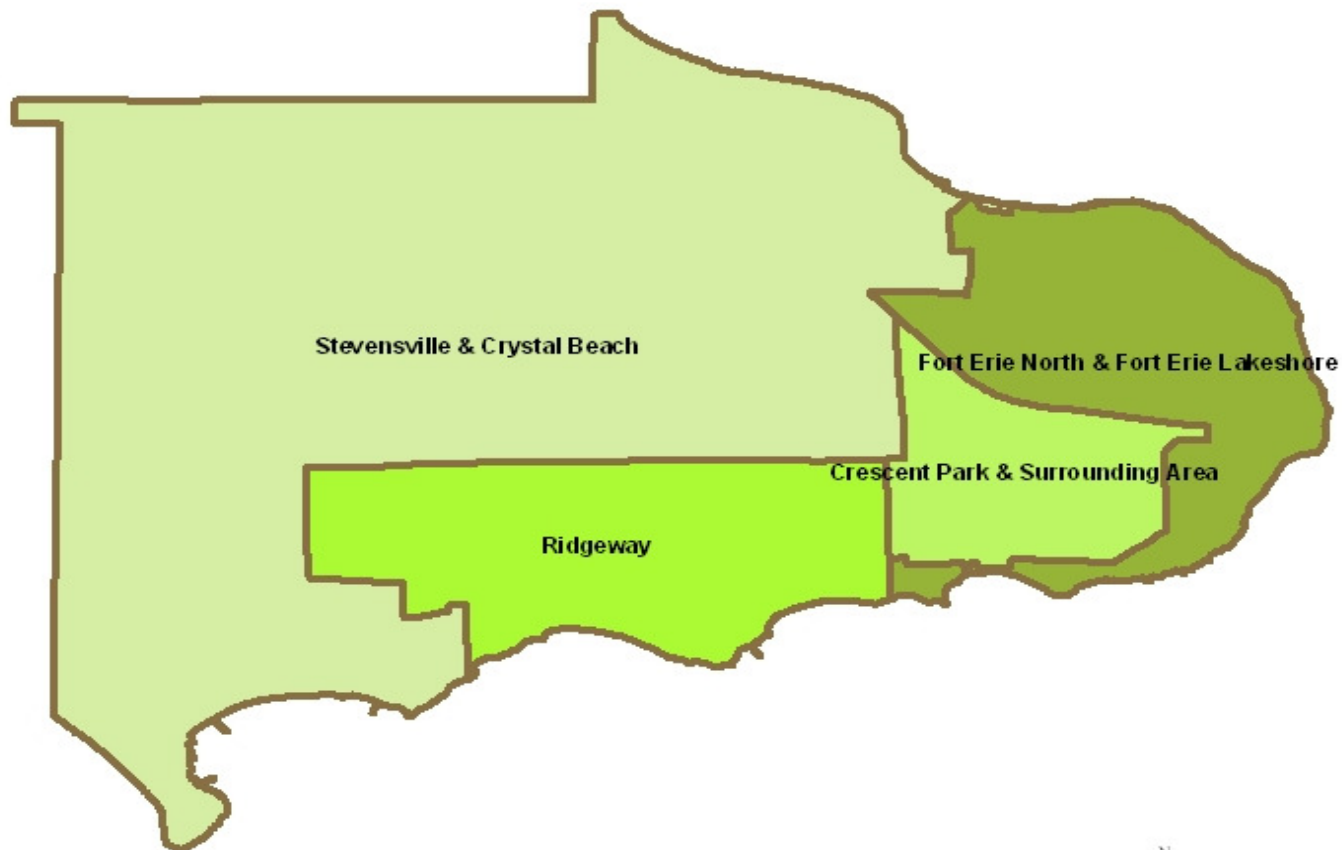


Data Sources  
Base Map Features: StatisticsCanada custom tabulation(s) from 2001 Census  
Neighbourhoods: Neighbourhood Creation Project, Ontario Early Years Niagara Region, 2006  
Produced by: UEY & Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEWECCDC

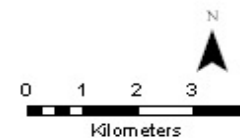


# Amalgamated Neighbourhoods

## Town of Fort Erie



Data Sources:  
Base Map Features: Statistics Canada custom tabulation(s) from 2001 Census  
Amalgamated Neighbourhoods: Ontario Early Years Niagara Region & UEY, 2007  
Produced by: UEY & Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEYECCDC





# Readiness to Learn and Early Development Domains

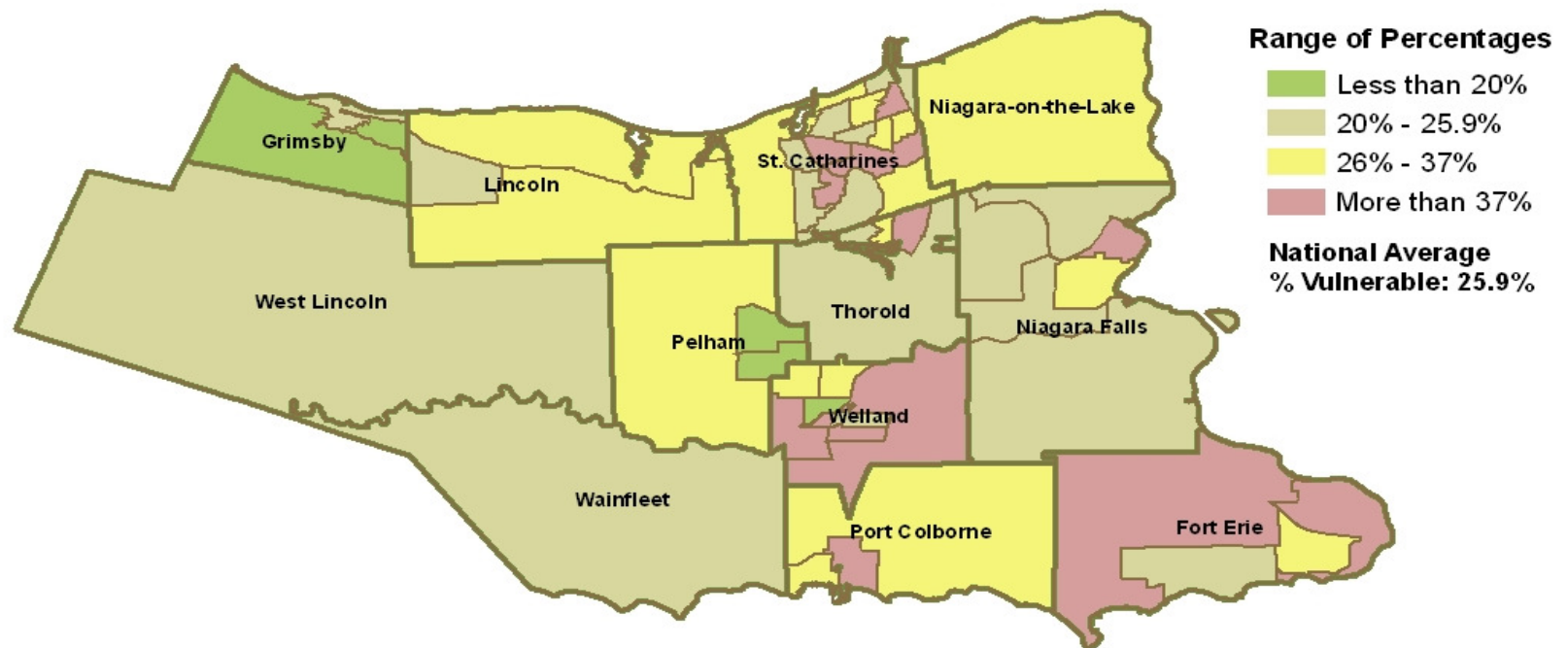
1. Physical Health & Well-being
2. Social Competence
3. Emotional Maturity
4. Language & Cognitive Development
5. Communication Skills & General Knowledge



# 2006 Early Development Instrument (EDI)

## % of Vulnerable Children by Neighbourhoods in Niagara Region

(Vulnerable: Children who scored below the 10th percentile on one or more readiness to learn domains)



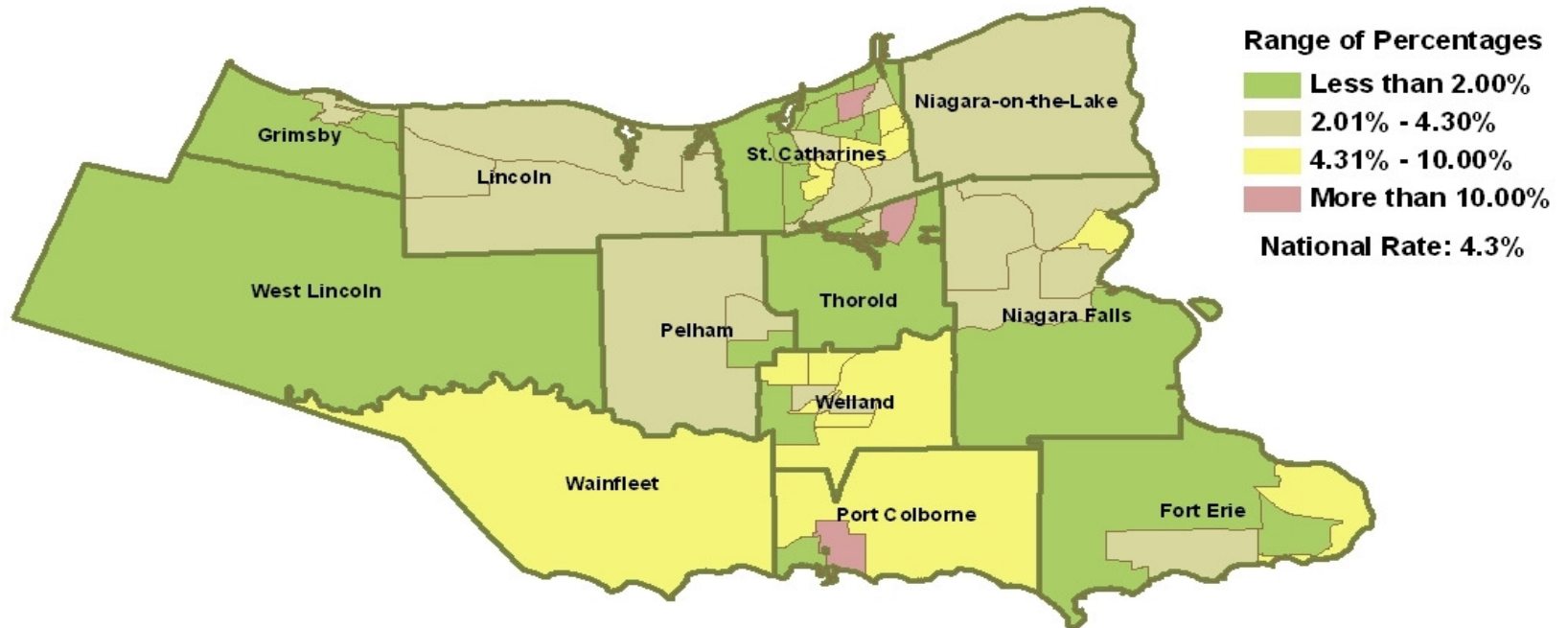
Data Sources:  
EDI Data: UEY & Offord Centre for Child Studies, 2006  
Base Map Features: Statistics Canada custom tabulation(s) from 2001 Census  
Amalgamated Neighbourhoods: Ontario Early Years Niagara Region & UEY, 2007  
Produced by: UEY & Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEY/ECDC



# 2006 EDI Results

## % Low on 3 or More Domains in Niagara Region

(Multiple Challenges: Children who scored below the 10th percentile on 3 or more domains)



**Data Sources**  
EDI Data: UEY & Offord Centre for Child Studies, 2006  
Base Map Features: Regional Municipality of Niagara, PREP Unit, Public Health, 2006  
Amalgamated Neighbourhoods: UEY & Neighbourhood Creation Project, 2006/07  
Produced by: UEY & Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEY/ECCDC





# Factors Increasing Rates of Risk

• Child health (low)	2.35
• Gender (boy)	2.32
• Income (low)	2.02
• Family status (not intact)	1.83
• Age (younger half)	1.36

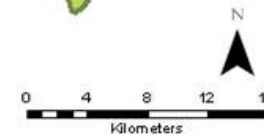
Source: Janus & Duku 2007

# Distribution of Male SK Students (2006)

Distribution of Male SK EDI Sample in Niagara Region

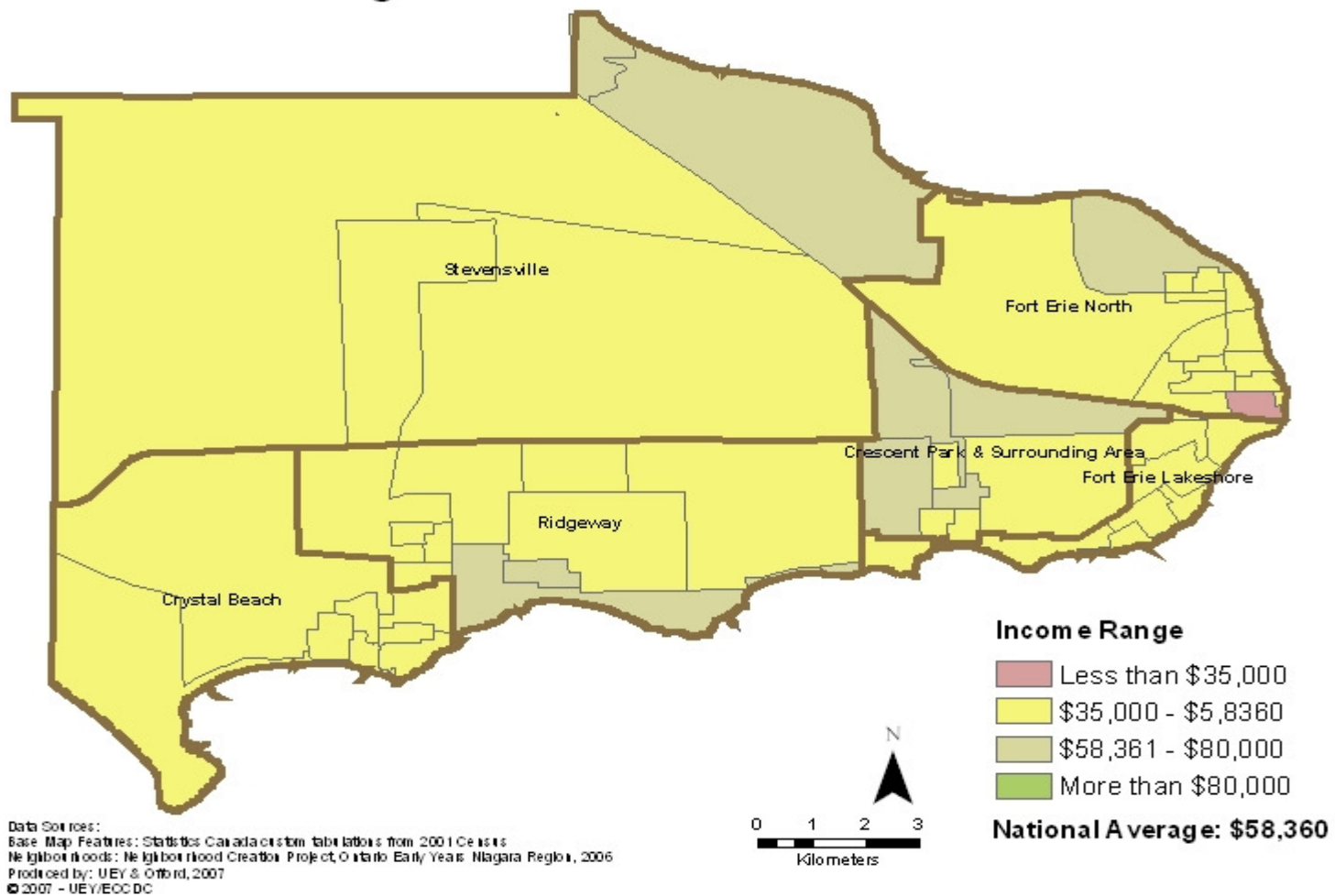


Data Sources  
EDI Data: UEY & Offord Centre for Child Studies, 2006  
Base Map Features: Statistics Canada custom tabulation(s) from 2001 Census  
Amalgamated Neighbourhoods: Ontario Early Years Niagara Region & UEY, 2007  
Produced by: UEY & Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEY/ECCDC



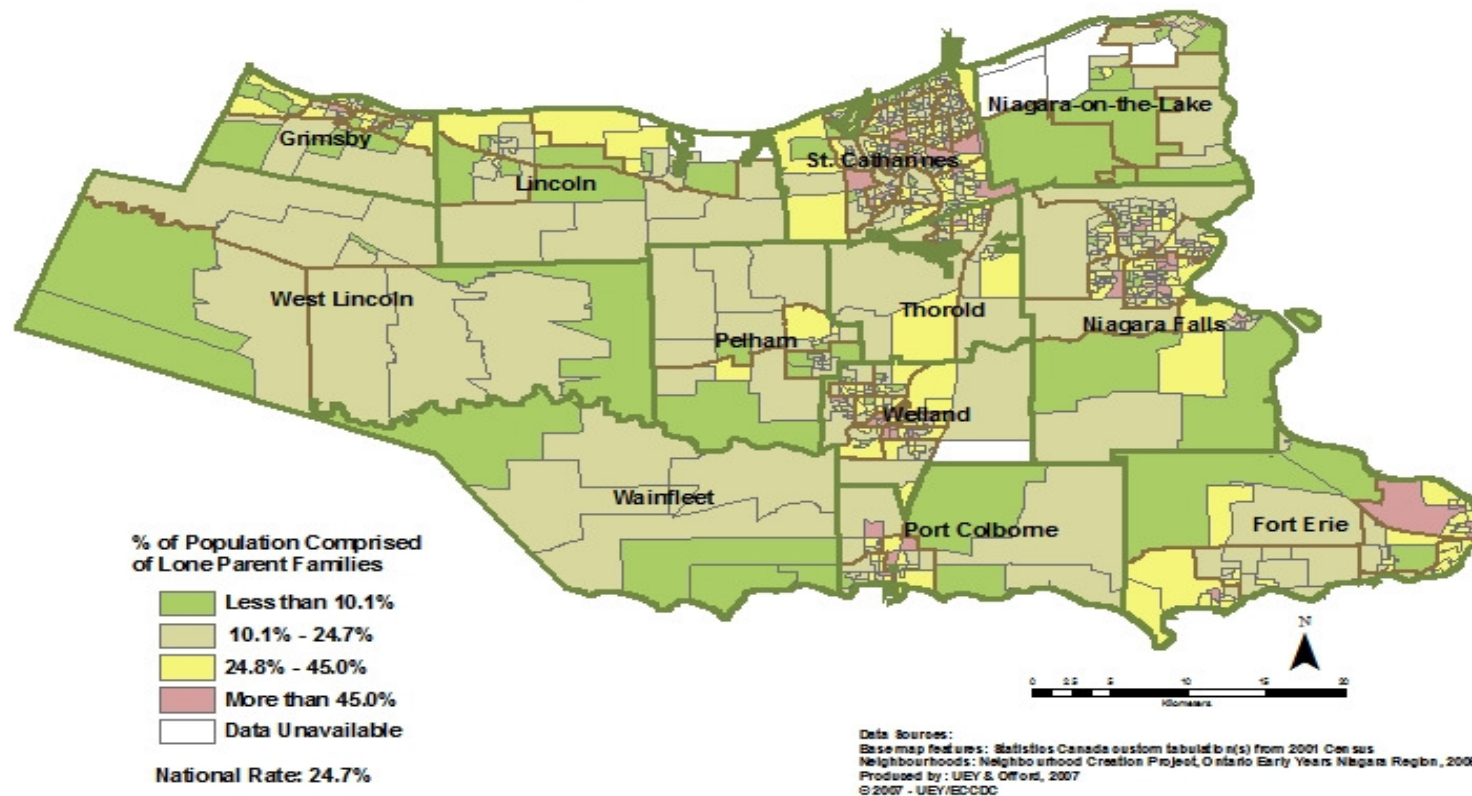
# Fort Erie 2001 Census Results

## Average Household Income in Fort Erie



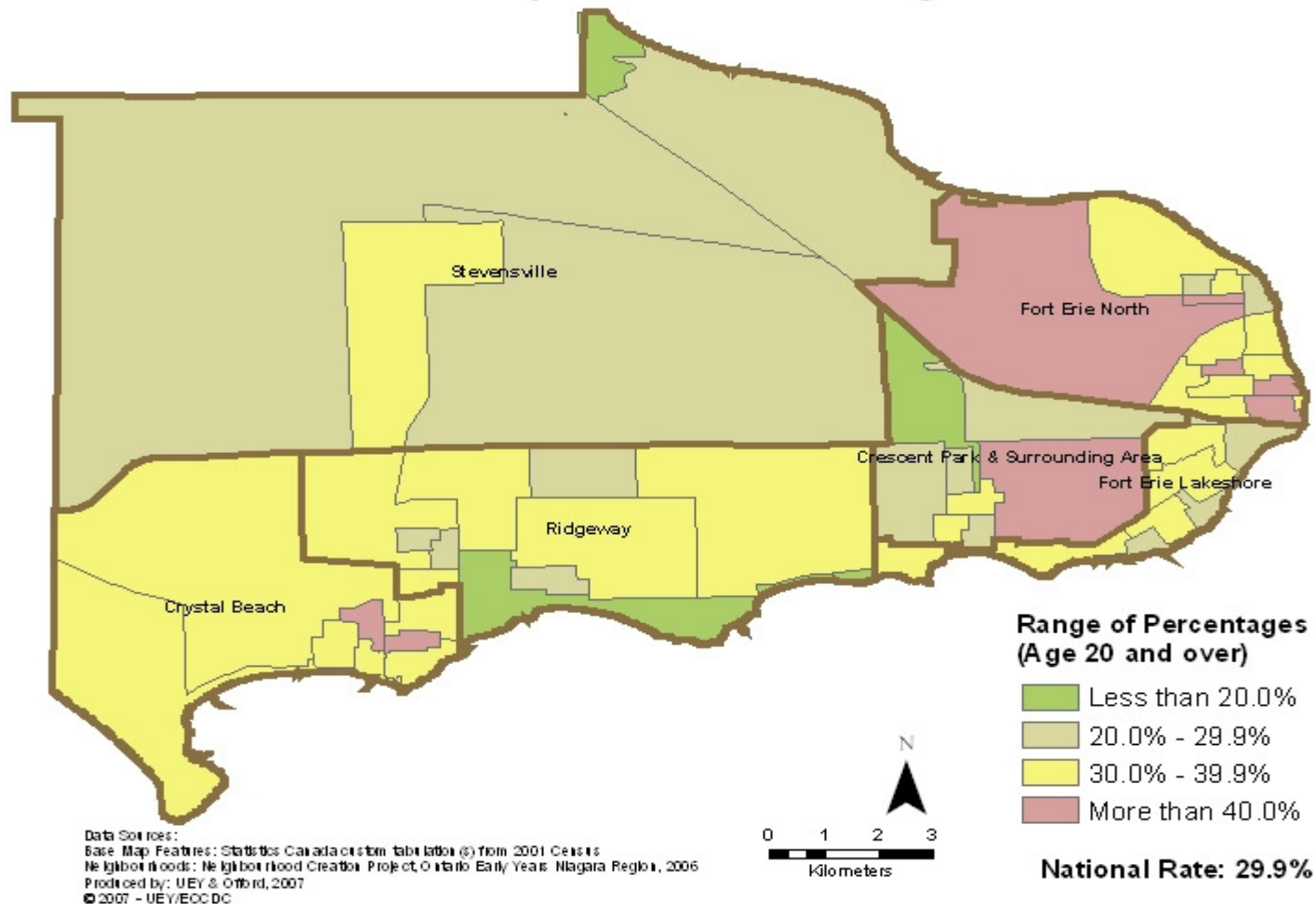
# Fort Erie 2001 Census Results

## Family Structure in Niagara Region



# Fort Erie 2001 Census Results

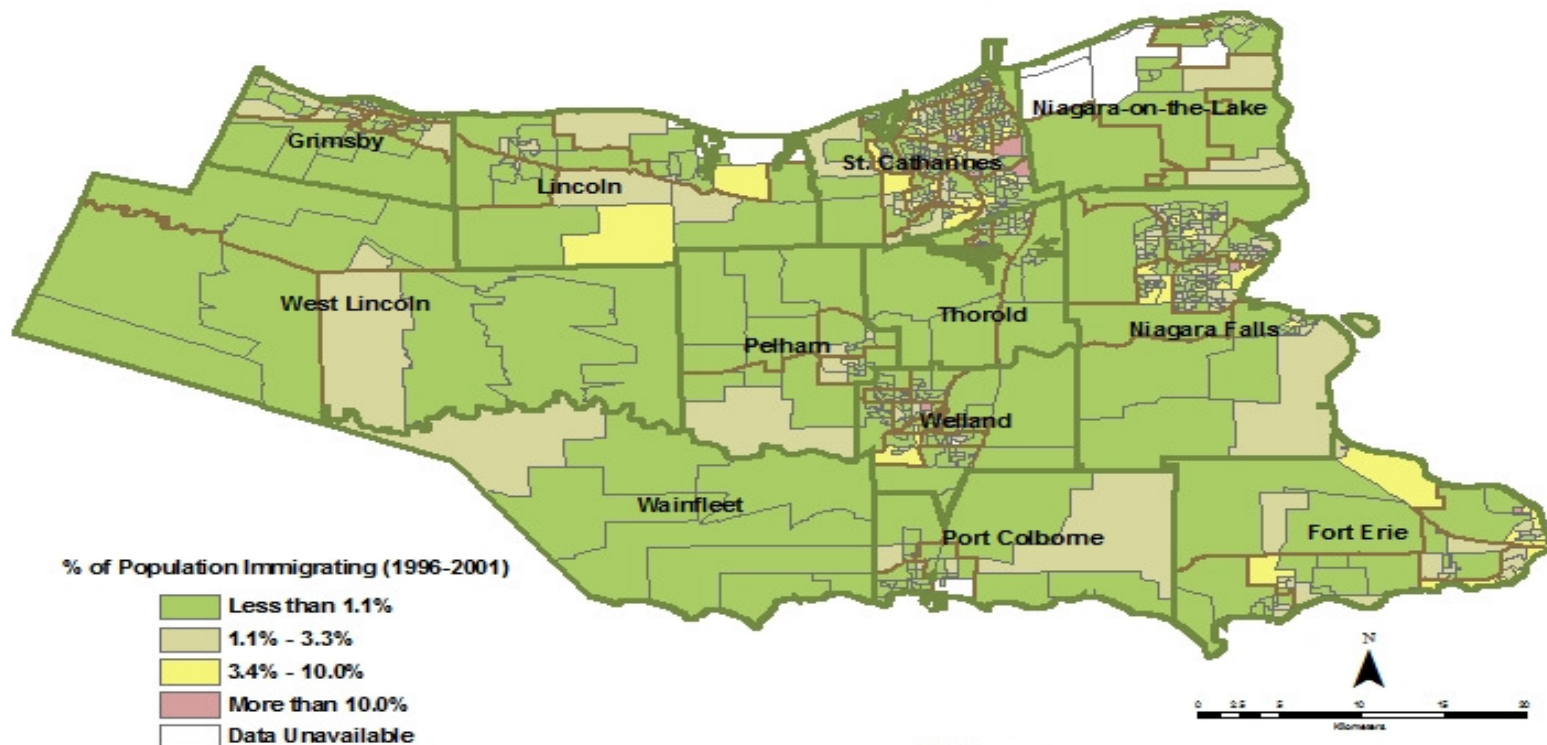
## % of Fort Erie Population without High School





# Fort Erie 2001 Census Results

## Immigration in Niagara Region

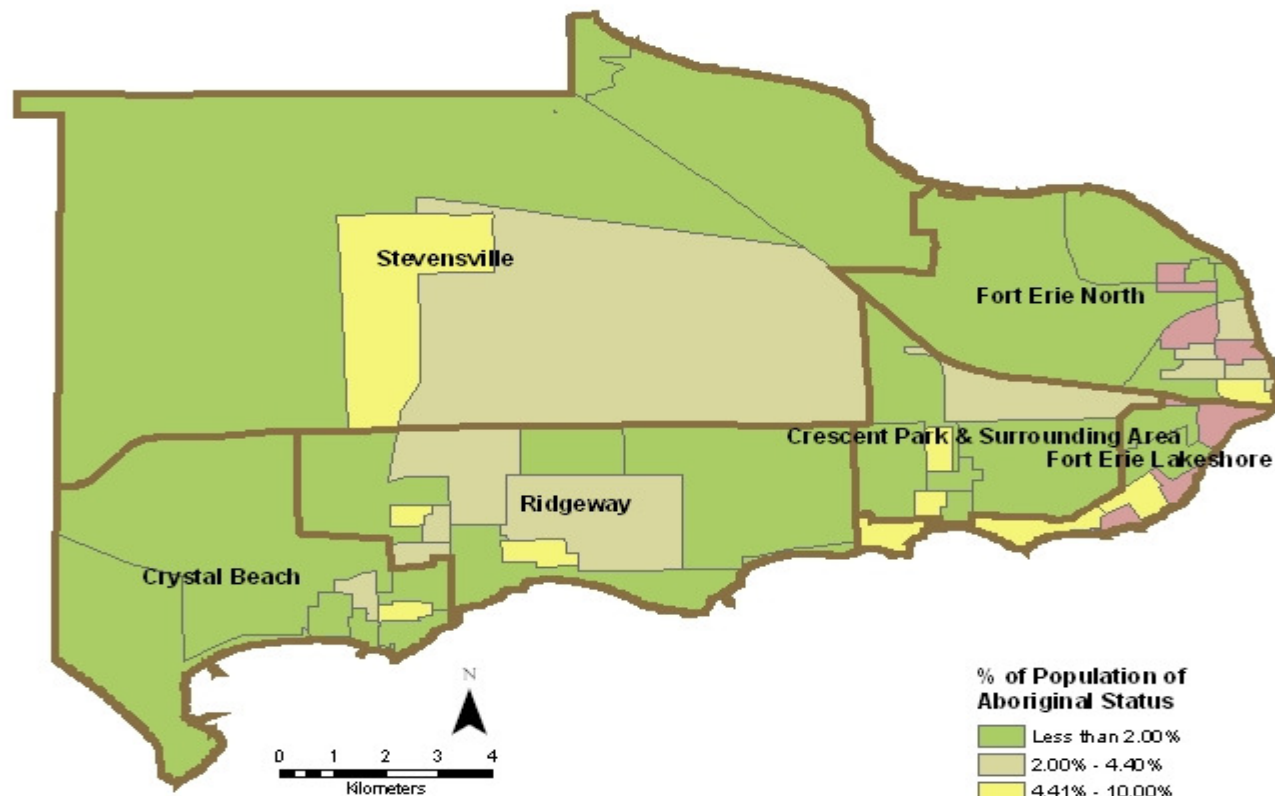


National Rate: 3.3%

Data Sources:  
Base Map Features: Statistics Canada custom tabulation(s) from 2001 Census  
Neighbourhoods: Neighbourhood Creation Project, Ontario Early Years Niagara Region, 2006  
Produced by: UEY S. Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEY/ECDC

# Fort Erie 2001 Census Results

## Aboriginal Population in Fort Erie



Data Sources:  
Base Maps Features: Statistics Canada custom tabulation(s) from 2001 Census  
Neighbourhoods: Neighbourhood Creation Project, Ontario Early Years Niagara Region, 2006  
Produced by: UEY & Offord, 2007  
© 2007 - UEWECCDC

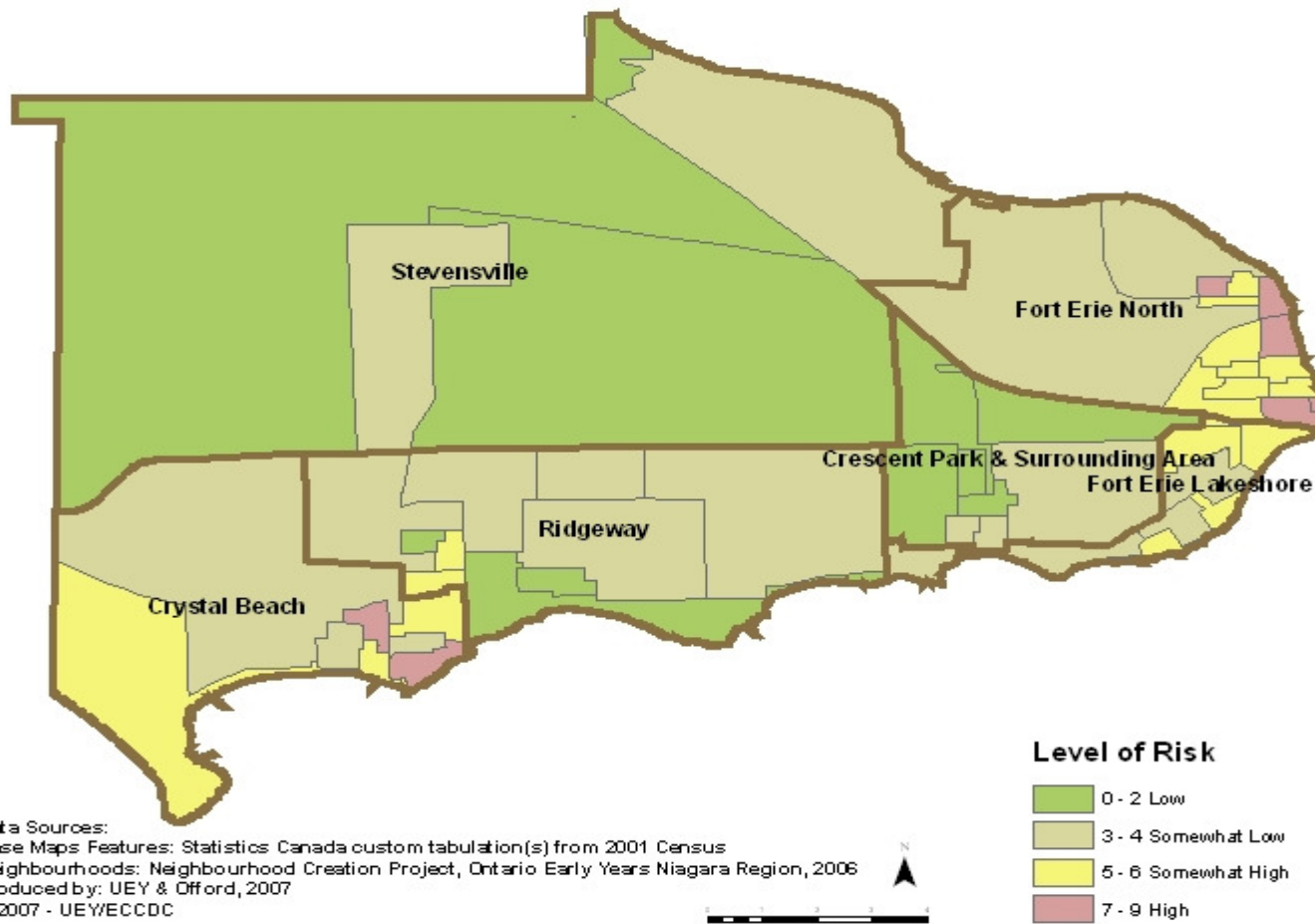
### % of Population of Aboriginal Status

- Less than 2.00%
- 2.00% - 4.40%
- 4.41% - 10.00%
- More than 10.00%

Percentage of Canadian Population Overall: 4.4%

# Fort Erie 2001 Census Results

## Social Risk Index (SRI) in Fort Erie



# In conclusion

- Just over 1 in 4 (26%) Fort Erie children are not ready for learning in school
- There seems to be a relationship between socioeconomic conditions and low scores on the EDI
- Poor (vulnerability) scores impact future success and, eventually, community health and prosperity
- Larger percentages of children living in poverty are vulnerable
- Neighbourhood makes a difference - not always in a predictable manner
- Access to resources is also important, particularly for those families experiencing socioeconomic challenges
- Low scores, differences and surprises can inspire further study and action

# Next Steps

- Consider investing in supports/services for families with children 0-6 as building important community social capital (human infrastructure)
- Collaborate with other communities addressing similar challenges
- Use research and local knowledge to make evidence-based decisions and plans
- Identify additional neighbourhood factors affecting poor outcomes
- Examine resilience in neighbourhoods beating the odds, in order to capitalize on what is already working (your assets)
- Consult service providers and community to clarify questions or obtain more local information