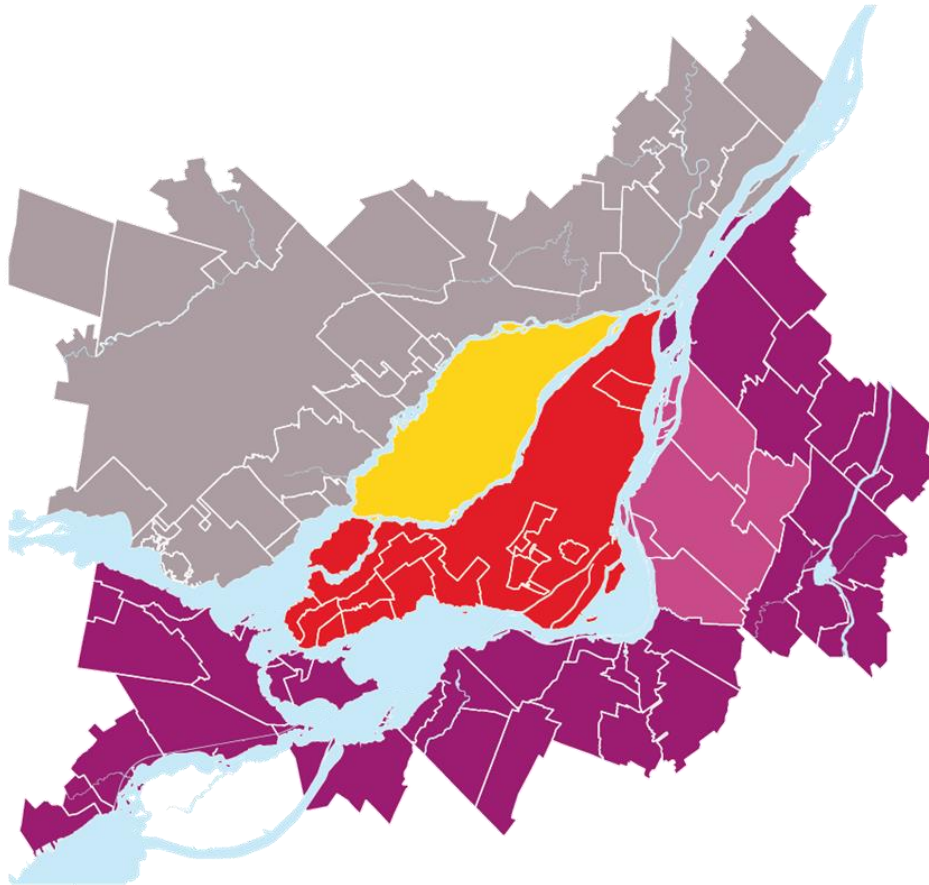


Demographic context

Greater Montréal encompasses 82 municipalities, broken down into 5 territories, and includes the island of Montréal at its centre and the cities of Longueuil and Laval along the north and south shores.



According to the 2016 Census, the Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA) had 4,098,930 inhabitants, up 4.2% from 2011. The Toronto CMA's population rose 6.2% and the Vancouver CMA's population rose 6.5% over the same period.¹

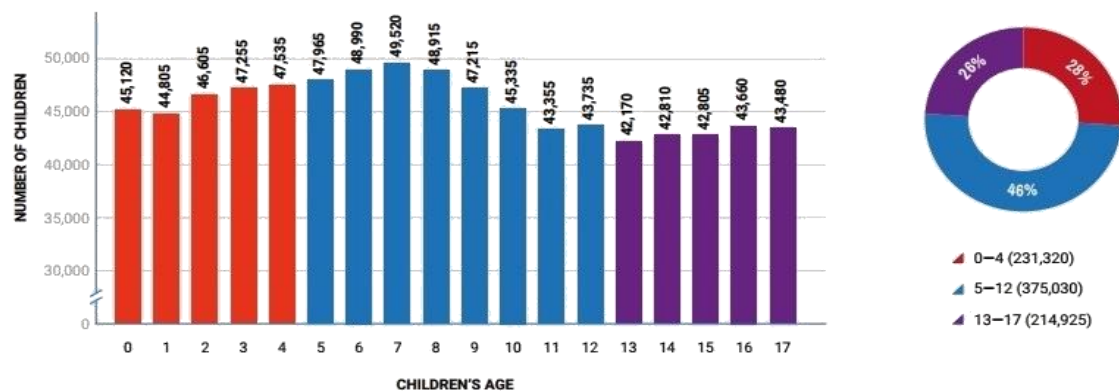
OVER 800,000 CHILDREN UNDER 18

A total of 821,275 children under age 18 were living in the Montréal CMA in 2016.

— 46% were between the ages of 13 and 17 (Figure 1).

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, demographic data are taken from the 2016 Census.

Figure 1.8 Breakdown of the population under the age of 18 (by age) and in three age categories (%), Montréal census metropolitan area, 2016



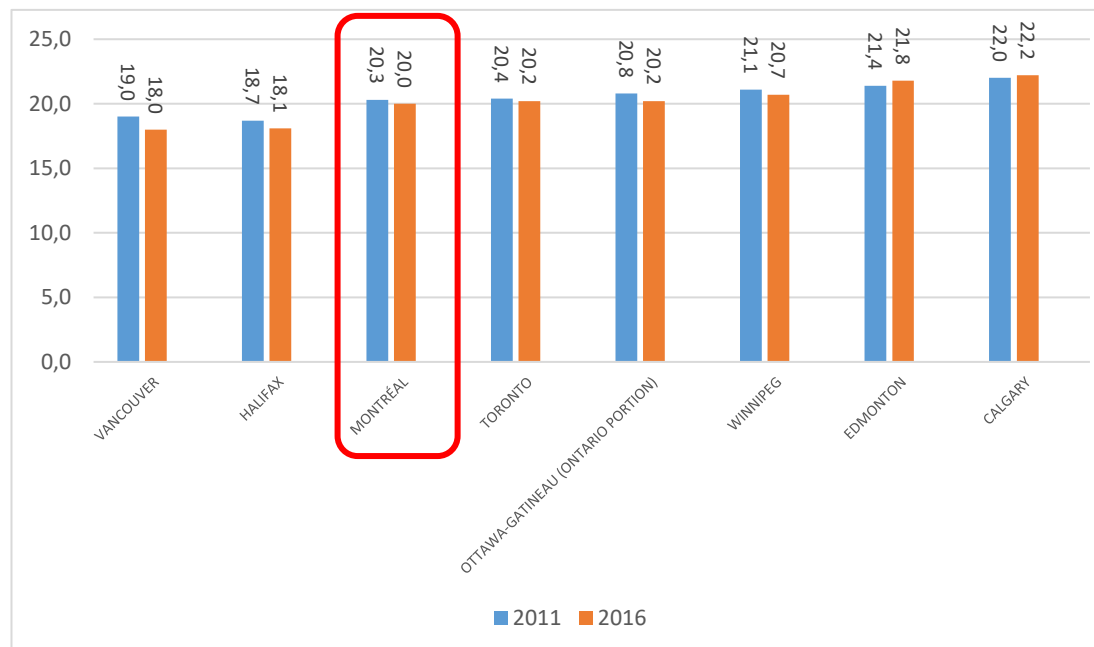
SOURCE: Statistics Canada (2017). 2016 Census, product No. 98-400-X2016001 in Statistics Canada's catalogue.

Source: Statistics Canada (2017). 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016001 in the Statistics Canada catalogue.

The demographic weight of children under age 18 in Montréal is higher than in the rest of Quebec, in Vancouver and in Halifax, but is lower than in Calgary and Edmonton.

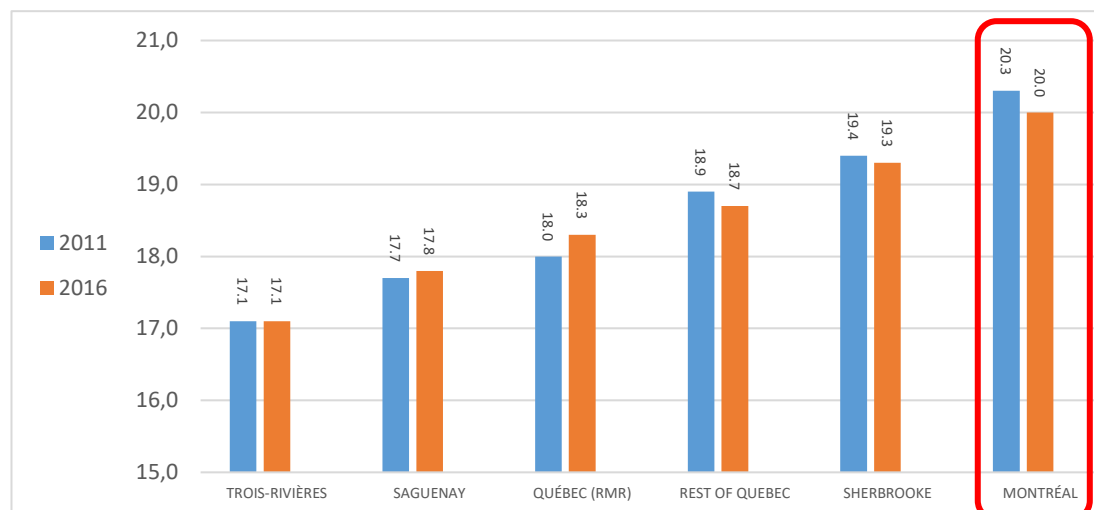
While the number of children under 18 increased from 2001 to 2016, this group's demographic weight relative to the overall population gradually decreased: from 21.6% in 2001, to 20.9% in 2006, to 20.3% in 2011, and then to 20% in 2016 (Figures 2 and 3).

Figure 2 Demographic weight (%) of children under 18 within the overall population, by census metropolitan area, Canada, 2011 and 2016



Source: Statistics Canada (2017). 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016001 in the Statistics Canada catalogue.

Figure 3 Demographic weight (%) of children under 18 within the overall population, for certain census metropolitan areas, Quebec, 2011 and 2016

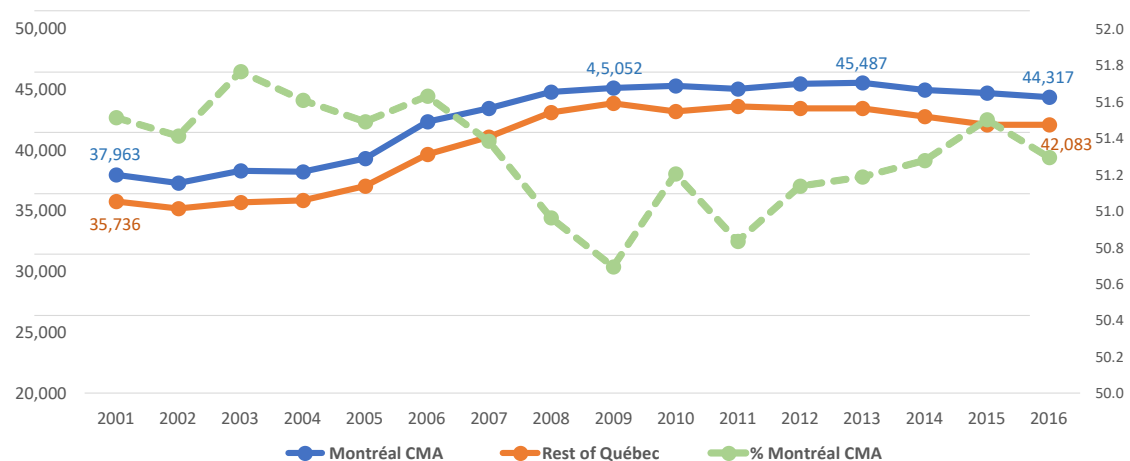


Source: Statistics Canada (2017). 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016001 in the Statistics Canada catalogue.

Number of births increasing in Montréal and all surrounding areas

The number of births in the Montréal CMA rose 19% since 2001, reaching 44,317 births in 2016 (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Live births (number and %), Montréal census metropolitan area and the rest of Quebec, 2001 to 2016



Source: Institut de la Statistique du Québec. (2017), Births, deaths, natural increase and marriages, by census metropolitan area, Québec, 2001-2016

Note: Births are allocated according to the mother's area of residence.

In 2016, the birth rate was 10.8 per thousand inhabitants, a drop from 2008 and 2009. The fertility index in the Montréal administrative region in 2016 was 1.43 children per woman, and thus lower than the rate of 1.59 for Quebec overall, and lower than the rates for Montérégie (1.67) and Laval (1.56.)

— In 2016, Montréal had the lowest fertility rate of Quebec's 17 administrative regions.²

While family structure and composition of families in Quebec have changed a great deal in the last half-century, **the vast majority of children live with both their biological parents**

In the Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA) in 2016, there were **451,875 couples with children**, and **172,240 single-parent families**. Most couples had two children. And more than three-quarters of single-parent households were headed by women. Most single-parent families had only one child.³

²Data taken from Institut de la statistique du Québec (2017). Coup d'œil sociodémographique: Les naissances au Québec et dans les régions en 2016.

³ Only households with children and that include only one census family, with no other people living in the household, are included here. Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016230 in the Statistics Canada catalogue.

- The vast majority of children under 15 lived with two biological or adoptive parents in 2016.⁴
In the Montréal CMA, **74.1%** of children lived with two biological or adoptive parents—a slightly higher percentage than for Quebec overall (**71.9%**).
In Montréal, **19.0%** of children under 15 lived in a single-parent family. This percentage was **19.7%** for Quebec overall.
In 2016 in Montréal, **6.7%** of children under 15 lived in a blended family, with one biological (or adoptive) parent and one parent by marriage. This percentage was **8.1%** for Quebec as a whole.
- Families in which the parents are **common-law** partners accounted for **29%** of families with children. The proportion of single-parent families has been increasing steadily over the last decades: they accounted for **25%** of families in 2011, but **29%** in 2016.
- The percentage of married couples has considerably decreased and, as a result, the number of births outside marriage has increased. Quebec-wide, **62.8%** of children were born to unmarried parents. The lowest **percentage of births to unmarried parents** was in Montréal and Laval (about **37%** in 2016), while this rate was markedly higher in Montérégie (**68%**).⁵
- In the Montréal CMR in 2016, among people with at least one child under 15 years of age, **665** lived in a **same-sex married couple**, an increase from 180 people in 2006. In 2016, **1,255** people were part of a **same-sex common-law** union—also on the rise as compared to 675 people in 2006.⁶
- While the number of same-sex parents has increased considerably in the last 10 years, they accounted for a mere **0.3%** of parents of children under 15 in Montréal in 2016. The rate for Quebec overall was also 0.3%.

In 2016 in the Montréal CMA, 65% of children under 15 spoke French as their mother tongue.

Mother tongue is defined as the first language learned and understood.

- In the Montréal CMA, the clear majority of children under the age of 15 (**93.5%**) had only one mother tongue: **64.7%** had French as their mother tongue, **12.3%** had English and **16.8%** had another language.⁷
- Children's mother tongue reported in the different cities in the Montréal CMA varied considerably, even though French remained the most common. In Montréal in 2016, French was the mother tongue of **47.5%** of children under the age of 15. This percentage was **56.9%** in Laval, **71.7%** in Longueuil and **86.3%** in the rest of the Montréal CMA.
- At the other end of the spectrum, the proportion of youths under 15 whose mother tongue was neither French nor English was **25.6%** in Montréal in 2016, **23.3%** in Laval, **15.1%** in Longueuil and only **4.4%** in the rest of the Montréal CMA.
- Arabic was the main mother tongue among immigrants of all ages living in the Montréal CMA in 2016. It was followed, in order, by Spanish, Italian, Creole languages and Mandarin. An "immigrant

⁴ Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016024 in the Statistics Canada catalogue.

⁵ Data taken from Institut de la statistique du Québec (2017). Coup d'œil sociodémographique: Les naissances au Québec et dans les régions en 2016.

⁶ Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-402-X2016004 in the Statistics Canada catalogue — Families, Households and Marital Status

⁷ Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-402-X2016005 in the Statistics Canada catalogue — Language.

language” refers to a non-Aboriginal language whose presence in the province is initially due to immigration after colonization by the French and English.⁸

For comparison purposes, Cantonese was the main immigrant mother tongue in Toronto and Vancouver in 2016, followed by Mandarin and Punjabi. In Edmonton and Calgary, the top language was Tagalog (Pilipino), followed by Punjabi and Cantonese.

- From 1971 to 2015, the percentage of children in preschool and in elementary and secondary schools, whose mother tongue was neither French nor English tripled on the island of Montréal, from **12.7% to 41.2%**.⁹

Since 2011, the island of Montréal has had more students whose mother tongue is neither French nor English than those who have French as their mother tongue: **41.2%** vs. **37.5%** in 2015. The percentage of students whose mother tongue was English was **19.1%**.

In other regions of Quebec, the percentage of students whose mother tongue is neither French nor English rose from **1%** in 1971, to **4.1%** in 2006, and then to **7.1%** in 2015.

The most common immigrant mother tongues among public school students on the island of Montréal are Arabic, Spanish and Creole.¹⁰

Montréal is by far the leading region of international immigration in Quebec

- 62% of immigrants admitted into Quebec between 2010 and 2014 lived in Montréal in January 2016.¹¹

Greater Montréal is one of the top three destinations in Canada for international immigration.

In 2016 in **Montréal**, **321,675 children** under 15 had at least one parent born outside Canada. This accounted for **46.6%** of the total population of children under 15.¹²

This percentage was distinctly higher than the percentage of **29.4% for Quebec overall**, but was still lower than the percentages for Toronto (**71.0%**) and Vancouver (**63.7%**).

⁸ Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-202-X2016010 in the Statistics Canada catalogue — Linguistic Diversity and Multilingualism in Canadian Homes.

⁹ Data taken from Olivier, C.-É. (2017). *Langue et éducation au Québec. Éducation préscolaire et enseignement primaire et secondaire*. Office québécois de la langue française, Direction de la recherche et de l'évaluation.

¹⁰ Data taken from Sévigny D. (2016). *Portrait socioculturel des élèves inscrits dans les écoles publiques de l'île de Montréal — Inscriptions au 4 novembre 2015*. Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal. 626 pp.

¹¹ Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016236 in the Statistics Canada catalogue — Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada.

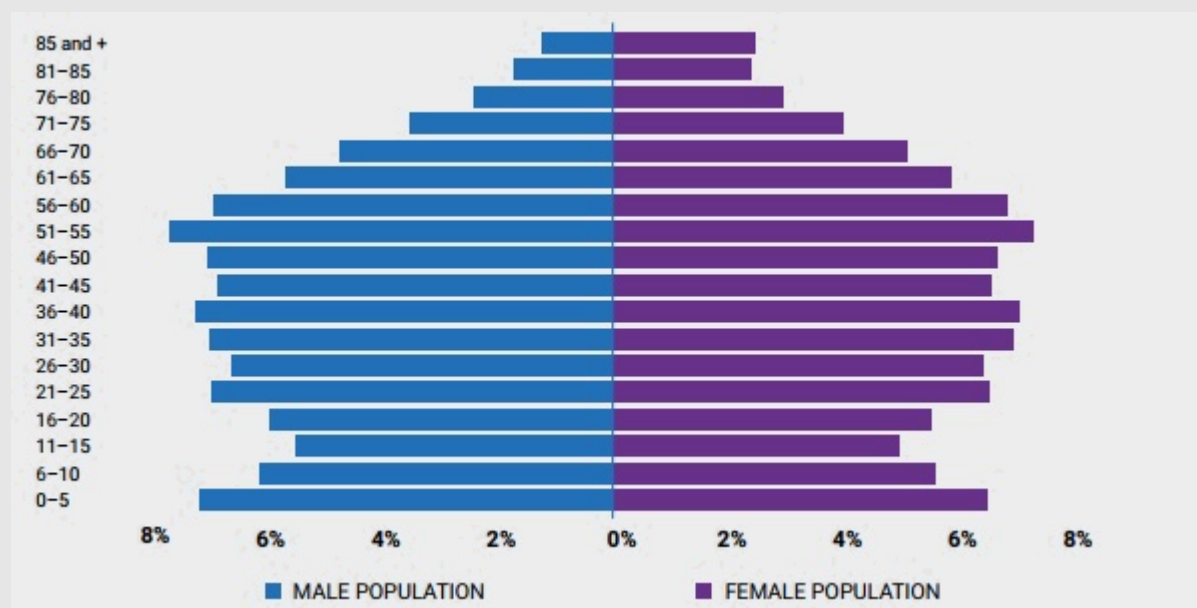
¹² Data taken from Statistique Canada, 2016 Census, product no. 98-400-X2016236 in the Statistics Canada catalogue — Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada.

AN AGING POPULATION

The average age of the Montréal CMA's population is 40 years, while nearly half of the population is between 35 and 65 years of age.

The aging of the population is obvious, whether in Montréal or the neighbouring areas, as illustrated by the age pyramids for each area.

Figure 5 Population breakdown by sex and age group, Montréal CMA, 2016



1. NO POVERTY

“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”

CANADA: 32nd OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 1.2 Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Canada's rank internationally in terms of poverty levels is not flattering. In 2014, a little over an average of one child in five (21%) was living in poverty in 41 high-income countries in the European Union (EU) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Ranking 24th out of 41, Canada had a slightly higher

average, with 22.2% of children under 18 living in a household whose income was less than 60% the median income.¹³

Canada also ranked 24th in the divide between the economic conditions of children at the lower end of the income distribution scale and other children. In 2013, the incomes of the poorest Canadian families (in the 10th percentile) was 53% lower than families in the middle of the scale (median).¹⁴

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA'S AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE

Statistics Canada estimated that in 2015, over 1.2 million children under age 18 were living in poverty in Canada, which is fewer than in 2014. The current rates remain higher than those reported in the 1980s, when fewer than 16% of children lived in low-income households in Canada.¹⁵

- In the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area in 2015, **16.4% of children under 18 were living in a low-income situation** (Figure 1.1).
- This percentage is lower than in Vancouver (17.7%), Toronto (18.7%) and all of Canada (17.4%).
- In the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area in 2015, **37.3% of children in a single-parent family were living in a low-income situation** (Figure 1.2).

¹³ This data was taken from UNICEF's most recent Innocenti Report Card and concerns the proportion of children under age 18 living in a household whose available income is less than 60% the median available income. "Available income" refers to the market income plus social benefits, after income tax deductions and adjustments for household size and composition. See the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti (2017). Building the future: children and the sustainable development goals in rich countries. Innocenti Report Card 14. Innocenti, Florence. UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti

¹⁴ Income inequality between children on the lower end of the distribution scale and other children were calculated based on the available income of households with children under age 18. "Available income" refers to the market income plus social benefits, after income tax deductions and adjustments for household size and composition. See the UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti (2016). *Fairness for children: A league table of inequality in child well-being in rich countries*. Innocenti Report Card 13. Innocenti, Florence. UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti.

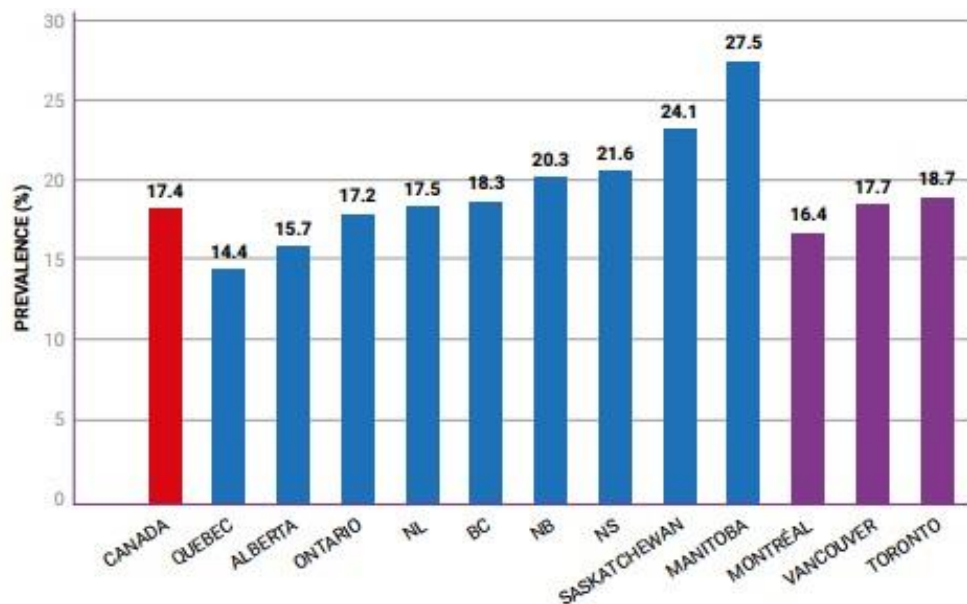
¹⁵ Statistics Canada data, *CANSIM Table 111-0015*, reported by Campaign 2000 in: Family Service Toronto (2016). *A road map to eradicate child & family poverty*. 2016 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada. Campaign 2000.

Poverty indicators: Different indicators are used to measure poverty. We used the following two:

1. **Low income cut-off (LICO):** A family is considered low-income if it spends more of its after-tax income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family. The LICOs are income thresholds below which a family spends 20 percentage points more of its budget on these essential goods than the average Canadian family. It is an absolute measurement.
2. **Low-income measure (LIM)** before or after taxes: A family is considered low-income if its income is less than half the median family income of all families, adjusted for household size and composition. This is a relative measurement.

Figure 1.1

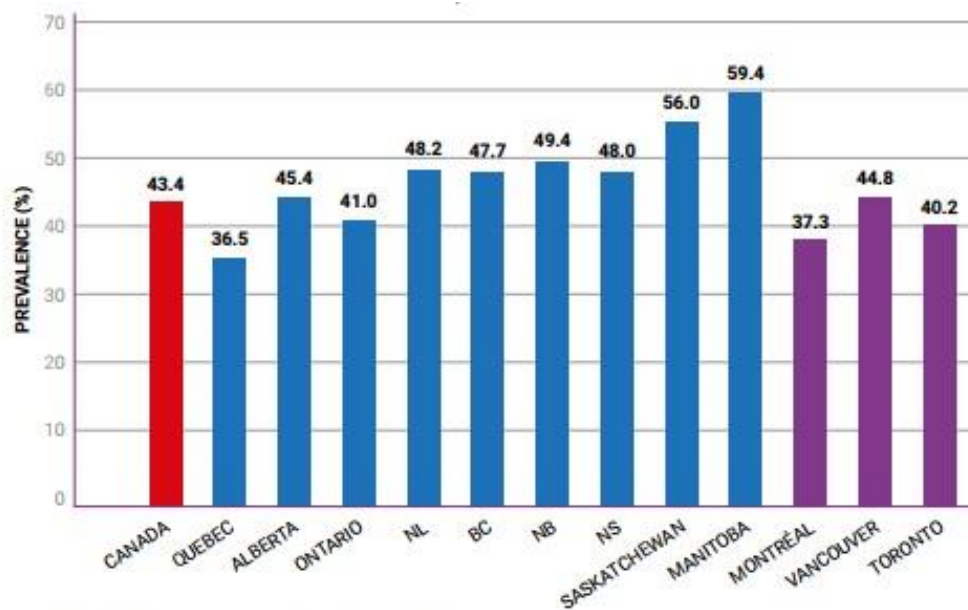
Percentage of children under 18 living in low-income households based on the after-tax low-income measure (LIM), **all family types**, 2015.



SOURCE: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 111-0015.

FIGURE 1.2

Percentage of children under age 18 living in low-income households based on the after-tax low-income measure (LIM), **single-parent families only**, 2015.



SOURCE: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 111-0015.

According to compilations by the institut de la statistique du québec (isq) and the after-tax low-income measure (LIM):

- In the **Montréal** administrative region, **30%** of **single-parent families** were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 33% in 2010.
 - In comparison, **11%** of **couples with two children** were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 13% in 2010.
- In **Laval**, **21%** of **single-parent families** were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 22% in 2010.
 - In comparison, **5%** of **couples with two children** were in a low-income situation in 2014, the same as in 2010.
- In **Montréal**, **22%** of **single-parent families** were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 24% in 2010.
 - In comparison, **3%** of **couples with two children** were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 4% in 2010.

In Montréal, 16.4% of children under age 18 were living in poverty in 2015.

In Quebec, in 2015, **14.4%** of children under age 18 were living in poverty.

- This percentage is the lowest of all the Canadian provinces.
- **Manitoba** has the highest rate of children under 18 living in poverty, at 27.5%.

35.8% of low-income neighbourhoods are in Montréal

Another aspect of poverty is the concentration of low-income individuals in certain neighbourhoods, and how it impacts the outlook of children who grow up there. Statistics Canada defines a low-income neighbourhood as “one in which **30%** or more of its residents have low income,” that is, an income below the threshold of the after-tax low-income measure (LIM).

- In Canada, in 2011, most of the low-income neighbourhoods were in the greater metropolitan areas of Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver.
- Montréal had the highest number of low-income neighbourhoods.
- Of the 478 low-income neighbourhoods in Canada, 171 (**35.8%**) were in Montréal. Toronto and Vancouver had 15.7% and 7.1% of these neighbourhoods, respectively.

<p>TARGET 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.</p>
--

Families benefit from taxes and transfers

One useful measure for assessing the contribution of taxes and social transfers to poverty reduction is the low-income cut-off (LICO), which is calculated before or after taxes and transfers.

In the Montréal census metropolitan area taxes and transfers brought the proportion of children under age 18 living in poverty down from 22% to 14%.

- This percentage of low income after taxes of children under age 18 is still higher than in Toronto and in Vancouver (13%), all of Quebec (8%) and all of Canada (9%).

- In the **Montréal Census Metropolitan Area** in 2015, taxes and transfers brought the proportion of children in **two-parent families** living in poverty down from **20% to 11%**.
- For children living in a **single-parent family headed by a woman**, the situation was more worrisome: **38%** were living in a low-income household, and taxes and transfers brought this figure down to **30%**.

39% OF QUEBEC CHILDREN WITH PARENTS WHO RECEIVE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE LIVE IN MONTRÉAL

- In July 2017, 300,911 Quebec households benefitted from last-resort financial assistance. A total of 410,847 people benefitted: 323,756 adults (79%) and 87,091 children (21%).¹⁶
- Montréal had the highest number of last-resort assistance recipients. Montréal children who benefitted from this assistance made up 39.2% of all children living in recipient households in Quebec, while Montréal residents make up around 25% of Quebec's population.
- For all of Quebec, the proportion of children living in a household receiving last-resort assistance was 5.7%, down 0.3 percentage points from July 2016. With 9.5% of children under 18 benefitting from social assistance, Montréal ranks considerably high.

¹⁶ The data on social assistance recipients was taken from: Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale (2017). [*Rapport statistique sur la clientèle des programmes d'assistance sociale — Juillet 2017*](#). Quebec. Service de l'analyse et de l'information de gestion.

Table 1.1

Number of last-resort financial assistance recipients and social assistance rate, July 2017

	All of Quebec	Montréal	Laval	Montréal
Adults				
Number of adults	323,756	102,375	11,562	46,753
Social assistance rate	6.1%	7.7%	4.3%	4.8%
Children				
Number of children	87,091	34,197	3,497	13,003
Social assistance rate	5.7%	9.5%	4.1%	4.3%
All recipients				
Number of recipients	410,847	136,572	15,059	59,756
Social assistance rate	6.1%	8.1%	4.2%	4.7%

Source: Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale.

Note: The “social assistance rate” refers to the proportion of the population that benefits from one or more of Quebec’s three social assistance programs: the *Programme d’aide sociale* (social assistance), *Programme de solidarité sociale* (social solidarity) or *Programme alternative Jeunesse* (youth alternative program).

- In Quebec, there were 35,076 single-parent families among the households receiving last-resort financial assistance. These families made up 11.7% of all recipient households. Also, 43.5% of these families had temporary employment constraints, mainly due to pregnancy or the presence of dependent children under the age of five.
- 20% of children living in households receiving last-resort assistance lived in low-rent housing (HLM) or a housing cooperative.

2. ZERO HUNGER

“End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition”

CANADA: 37th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

Target 2.1 End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

35,000 children in Greater Montréal depend on food assistance programs run by food banks

Families with children accounted for 43% of food bank users in Quebec in March 2016, of which 23% were two-parent families and 20% were single-parent families.¹⁷

- The Montréal region is noteworthy for having the largest number of beneficiaries of food assistance programs, as of March 2016, with some **150,000 people** assisted each month.
- Laval had the highest proportion of households receiving food assistance for the first time (22.5%).
- Each month, nearly **35,000 children** under age 18 receive food assistance from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud (Table 2.1).
- Including the beneficiaries of the food banks' other programs (meal and snack distribution, cooking workshops and community kitchens) brings the number of children served to over 35,000.
- According to the 2015 *Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5*, 9% of Quebec parents who have at least one child age six or under mentioned needing information on food banks, clothing banks or other forms of material assistance in the previous 12 months. Of those who needed this information, 30% said they "never" used these services, 50% said they "sometimes" used these services and 20% said they "often" used these services.¹⁸

Table 2.1

People who relied on the Moisson Montréal, Moisson Rive-Sud and Moisson Laval food banks' food assistance programs, March 2016

¹⁷ Data taken from Food Banks of Quebec (2016). *Hunger Count Quebec, 2016*.

¹⁸ Data taken from Institut de la statistique du Québec (2016), *Mieux connaître la parentalité au Québec: Un portrait à partir de l'Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0-5 ans 2015*.

	No. of users	% of children among those assisted	Trend since 2015 (%)
(Moisson Montréal)			
No. of children under 18 benefitting	24,649	35.3 %	↓ 3.4%
No. of households benefitting	26,902		
(Moisson Rive-Sud)			
No. of children under 18 benefitting	7,297	40.8 %	↑ 1.0%
No. of households benefitting	6,400		
(Moisson Laval)			
No. of children under 18 benefitting	2,843	40.8 %	↑ 2.2%
No. of households benefitting	2,744		

Source: Food Banks of Quebec (2016). *Hunger Count Quebec, 2016*.

Note: The data, compiled from March 1 to 31, 2016, was collected from affiliated community organizations and food counters served by Moisson members. Moisson Rive-Sud is the largest food bank in Montérégie, covering 60% of its territory.

RELiance ON FOOD BANKS IS INCREASING

Canada: 36% of users are under 18

- Of the people who rely on food banks, children and young people make up a disproportionate number. More than a third of Quebecers who received food assistance in March 2016 were under 18. Nearly **60,000 children** were served by food banks in **Quebec**, and over 300,000 in all of Canada. While people under 18 make up 19.3% of the population, they account for 35.6% of the people assisted by food banks in Canada. The proportion of children assisted in Quebec (34.5%) is comparable to the national trend (Table 2.2).
- In Quebec, 171,800 people used a food bank in March 2016, up 5.3% from the same period in 2015 and up 34.7% from 2008.
- Except for Manitoba and Ontario, all the provinces reported an increase in food bank reliance between 2015 and 2016.

Table 2.2

Food bank use in Canada, March 2016

<i>Provinces and territories</i>	<i>No. of people assisted</i>	<i>Trend (%) since 2015</i>	<i>Trend (%) since 2008</i>	<i>Children under age 18 (%)</i>
<i>British Columbia</i>	103,464	↑ 3.4	↑ 32.5	32.2
<i>Alberta</i>	79,293	↑ 17.6	↑ 136.1	39.4
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	31,395	↑ 17.5	↑ 76.9	45.2
<i>Manitoba</i>	61,914	↓ 2.9	↑ 53.0	42.9
<i>Ontario</i>	335,944	↓ 6.4	↑ 6.9	33.4
<i>Quebec</i>	171,800	↑ 5.3	↑ 34.7	34.5
<i>New Brunswick</i>	19,769	↑ 4.1	↑ 26.4	32.5
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	23,840	↑ 20.9	↑ 40.9	30.4
<i>Newfoundland & Labrador</i>	26,366	↑ 5.3	↓ 3.3	37.3
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	3,370	↑ 6.9	↑ 16.5	35.5
<i>Northwest Territories</i>	6,337	↑ 24.9	N/A	38.2
<i>Canada</i>	863,492	↑ 1.3	↑ 27.8	35.6

Source: Food Banks Canada (2016). *Hunger Count 2016*.**Note:** The data, compiled from March 1 to 31, 2016, was collected from community organizations and food counters.

Food insecurity more extensive in Montréal: 11.3%

- In 2011–2012, approximately **one Greater Montréal household in 10** experienced “moderate to severe food insecurity,” meaning that they consumed food of insufficient quantity or quality, mainly due to lack of financial resources. This was the highest proportion of food insecurity in Quebec (Figure 2.1).
- The most affected populations are families with children, low-income individuals and renter households.

Figure 2.1

Prevalence of moderate-to-severe food insecurity among households in 2011–2012 for certain regions of Quebec and in comparison with the rest of Canada



Source: Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey, 2011–2012. Data taken from the Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) (2014). *L'insécurité alimentaire dans les ménages québécois: mise à jour et évolution de 2005 à 2012*. Government of Quebec, Surveillance des habitudes de vie, No. 4, 11 pp.

Target 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition.

UNHEALTHY EATING HABITS AND OBESITY PROBLEMS IN MANY CHILDREN

One in two high school students (50%) eats breakfast before school

- According to the *Québec Health Survey of High School Students* conducted in 2010–2011, only **54%** of high school students had breakfast before school each morning, compared to 62% in all of Quebec.¹⁹
- Barely **one-third** of students eat the minimum number of portions of fruits and vegetables recommended by the *Canada Food Guide*, which is six portions per day for 9–13-year-olds and seven to eight portions per day for 14–18-year-olds.

¹⁹ Data taken from Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (2015). [Les habitudes alimentaires des jeunes du secondaire à Montréal : données tirées de l'Enquête québécoise sur la santé des jeunes du secondaire 2010-2011](#). Direction de santé publique, Secteur Tout-petits – Jeunes.

Obesity in Quebec children ages 6–17 rose from 12% in 1981 to 25% in 2013.²⁰

- According to the Survey, two-third of high school students in Montréal are a normal weight. Approximately **15%** of students are fat and **7%** are obese. This situation is comparable to Quebec as a whole. More boys than girls were overweight.ⁱ²¹
- Three out of every 10 students (33%) drank sugary drinks and ate unhealthy snacks and sweets on a daily basis. For just beverages, a little over a quarter (26%) of students reported drinking sugary drinks every day.
- Approximately four out of every 10 students in Montréal ate junk food in a restaurant or snack bar at least three times a week. This is higher than the average for the rest of Quebec (29%).
- Young people from materially disadvantaged areas had a higher rate of unhealthy eating habits, such as consuming sugary drinks, unhealthy snacks and sweets, or junk food.

²⁰ Excess weight, which includes being overweight and obese, refers to body mass index (BMI) calculated based on the weight and height of each student. Data taken from Institut national de santé publique du Québec (2016). [*Surveillance du statut pondéral mesuré chez les jeunes du Québec : état de situation jusqu'en 2013*](#). Government of Quebec, surveillance des habitudes de vie, No. 7.

²¹ Data taken from Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (2015). [*Le surplus de poids chez les jeunes du secondaire à Montréal : données tirées de l'Enquête québécoise sur la santé des jeunes du secondaire 2010-2011*](#). Direction de santé publique, Secteur Tout-petits – Jeunes.

3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

“Enable everyone to be healthy and promote well-being”

CANADA: 29th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 3.2 Eliminate avoidable deaths of newborns and children under five.

The low birth weight rate has been holding steady just under 6% since 1999

Weight at birth is the most important determining factor of survival and healthy growth. This indicator also demonstrates pregnant women’s and mothers’ overall health and health behaviour, which play a crucial role in the other aspects of children’s wellbeing. Low birth weight is associated with a greater risk of a host of health problems in both childhood and adulthood.

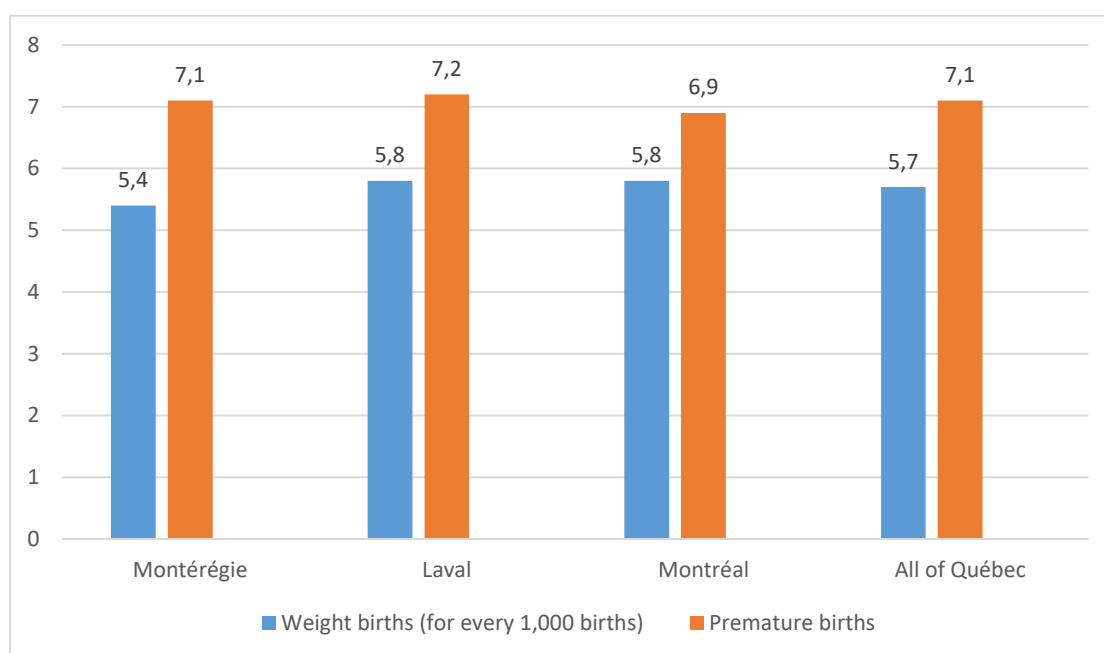
- From 2011 to 2013, 5.8% of babies born in Montréal had a **low birth weight** (under 2,500 g) (Figure 3.1).

Montréal had a lower rate of low birth weight (5.4%) than in the province as a whole (5.7%).

- The low birth weight rate has remained relatively stable in recent years and has stayed below 6% since 1999.
- The low birth weight rate varies based on the mother’s age and education. In Montréal, **mothers who have not finished high school** are more likely to give birth to a low-weight child (7.2%). Higher rates were also observed for mothers aged 35 and over (6.6%) and mothers under 20 (7.1%).²²

²² Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (2017). *Fichier des naissances*; and Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, *Fichier des décès (produit électronique), actualisation découpage territorial version M34-2016 selon la table de correspondance des territoires 2014-2015*.

Figure 3.1



Source: Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (2017). *Fichier des naissances*.

Stillbirth, infant mortality and child mortality rates

In 2009–2013, the **stillbirth rate** was 4.2 deaths per 1,000 births throughout Quebec.²³

- A stillbirth occurs when a fetus of over 500 g dies during pregnancy or delivery. The stillbirth rate is the portion of all births (live or not) that end in stillbirth.²⁴

The highest rates were in Montréal (5.2 for every 1,000 births) and in Laval (5.0 for every 1,000 births), but was lower in Montérégie (3.6 for every 1,000 births)²⁵

IN QUEBEC IN 2009–2013, THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE (BABIES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE) WAS 4.8 FOR EVERY 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

²³ These are the most recent data available.

²⁴ Specifically, the stillbirth rate represents the number of stillbirths divided by the total of the number of stillbirths plus live births multiplied by 1,000.

²⁵ Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, Fichier des décès (produit électronique), actualisation découpage territorial version M34-2016 selon la table de correspondance des territoires 2014-2015.

- Montréal and Laval had a higher rate, with **5.1 out of every 1,000 live births**, equivalent to the rate for all of Canada, which ranks 22nd out of the 30 countries studied.

Montréal had a lower rate, with **3.6 deaths out of every 1,000 live births**.

Three of the world's wealthiest developed countries occupy the lower third of the infant mortality ranking: **Canada**, the United States and the United Kingdom.

- Deaths of children under one year old are mainly caused by birth defects (20.9%), insufficient gestation or low birth weight (16.7%).

From 2008 to 2012 in Quebec, the **child mortality rate** (children between one and four years old) was 14.7 deaths for every 100,000 births.²⁶

- Rates in Montréal, Laval and Montréal were similar to those for Quebec as a whole (13.6 deaths for every 100,000 births in Montreal).
- Trauma, birth defects and tumours are among the primary causes of death in this age group.

Target 3.4 Promote mental health and wellbeing

Young people aged 12–19 have more difficulty accessing a doctor

In 2013–2014, **65%** of young people, aged 12–19, in the greater **Montréal** area said they **had a family doctor** or a “regular doctor” (Figure 3.2).

This percentage is markedly lower than all of Canada (**85.6%**), Toronto (**94.4%**) and Vancouver (**87.9%**).

In all the **Quebec regions, including Montréal, Laval and Montréal**, the percentage of children registered with a family doctor has been on the rise since 2013. Despite this progression, Montréal, Laval and Montréal have registration rates below the provincial average for 2017.²⁷

²⁶ Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, Fichier des décès (produit électronique), actualisation découpage territorial version M34-2016 selon la table de correspondance des territoires 2014-2015.

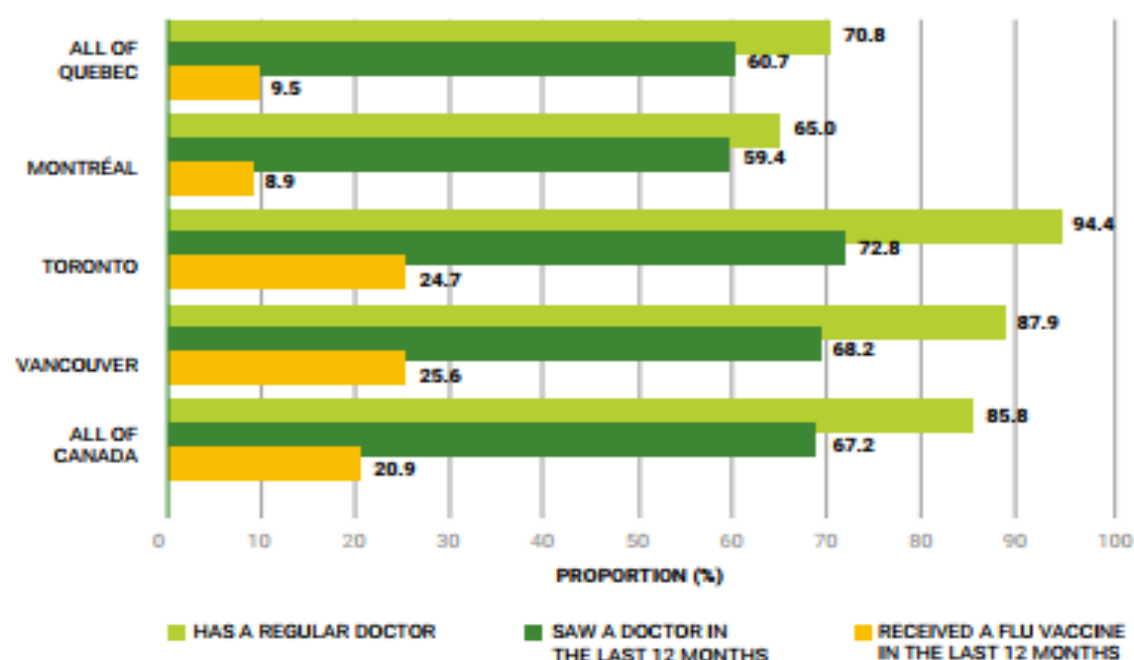
²⁷ Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, compiled by the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, 2017.

According to the 2012 immunization schedule, 82% of two-year-olds in Montréal received the recommended vaccinations for their age, below the 95% target.

In one out of every four cases, difficulty obtaining an appointment was given as the main reason for the delay in the child's first vaccination visit. Only one parent out of 10 said they voluntarily delayed immunization.

Figure 3.2

Proportion of young people who said they had access to or had consulted a healthcare professional and the proportion who received a flu vaccine, according to census metropolitan areas, for all of Quebec and the rest of Canada, adolescents ages 12–19 only, 2013-2014.



SOURCE: Statistics Canada, *Survey of Community Health*, CANSIM 105-0592 Table - Health indicator profile

Mortality rate from suicide in young people aged 12–17

— In Quebec, in 2010–2012, the mortality rate from suicide in young people aged 12–17 was **four for every 100,000**.²⁸

— The estimated rate in the three regions making up Greater Montréal is slightly less than **3.5 deaths out of every 100,000** young people of that age.

²⁸ Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, [Fichier des décès \(produit électronique\), actualisation découpage territorial version M34-2016 selon la table de correspondance des territoires 2014-2015](#).

- In Canada, in 2012, the suicide rate among 15–19-year-olds was **10.2 deaths out of every 100,000** and **1.8 deaths out of 100,000** among 10–14-year-olds.

Many students in Montréal high schools have health problems

- According to the 2010–2011 *Québec Survey of High School Students*, 18.2% of high school students in Quebec report having had **asthma** in their lifetime.²⁹
Montréal (17.3%) and Laval (18.4%) are similar to the rest of Quebec on this issue, while Montérégie has a slightly higher proportion (20.5%).
- **Food allergies** affect 7–8% of high school students in Montréal and in the neighbouring regions, resembling the percentage for all of Quebec.³⁰

The **causes for the hospitalization** of children vary by age.³¹

- The vast majority of hospitalized children under one year old in Montréal (79.2%) required care for illnesses stemming from the perinatal period such as incomplete gestation or low birth weight.
- For children 1–4 years old, respiratory illnesses (42.9%) and trauma (8.7%) were the more frequent reasons for hospitalization.
Among 5–11-year-olds in Montréal, over half of all hospitalizations were due to three main causes: respiratory illnesses (19.1%), digestive illnesses (16.9%) and trauma (14.1%).
- Adolescents aged 12–17 were hospitalized mainly for digestive illnesses (20.2%), trauma (19.2%) and bone and joint disorders (10.1%).
- These findings on the primary reasons for hospitalization among children in Montreal are similar to those for all of Quebec.

Increase in mental health diagnoses

- In **Quebec**, the prevalence of **mental disorders** in children doubled between 2001 and 2015, from 5% in 2001–2002 to 10% in 2014–2015. This is mainly

²⁹ Institut de la statistique du Québec, *2010–2011 Québec Survey of High School Students*, original compilations from the Infocentre de santé publique of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

³⁰ Institut de la statistique du Québec, *2010–2011 Québec Survey of High School Students*, original compilations from the Infocentre de santé publique of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

³¹ Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (2015). Fichier des hospitalisations MÉD-ÉCHO (electronic document), territorial division update version M34-2016 based on the 2014–2015 table of territorial correspondance.

attributed to the fact that more children are being diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).³²

In Montréal, the rate jumped from 5% in 2001–2002 to 7% in 2014–2015.

Although the overall rate was 7% in 2014–2015, it was 9% for 15–19-year-olds and 6% for 1–4-year-olds

- In Montréal, in 2013–2014, **77%** of 12–19-year-olds rated their **mental health** as “very good” or “excellent.”³³

This percentage was higher than in Toronto (**72%**) and in Vancouver (**69%**).

A higher proportion of boys than girls (**82% vs. 72%**) said their mental health was “very good” or “excellent.”

- In **Montréal**, in 2010–2011, 9% of high school students were **diagnosed with ADHD** by a medical professional.³⁴

This proportion was lower than **the 13%** reported for **all of Quebec**.

More boys were diagnosed with ADHD than girls: **12% vs. 7%**.

25% of girls experience intense stress

- In Montréal in 2013–2014, 19% of 15–19-year-olds said they experienced a **high level of stress on a daily basis**.³⁵

This proportion is similar to all of Quebec.

³² Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec. *Programme national de santé publique du Québec 2015-2025 : pour améliorer la santé de la population du Québec*, Québec, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, 2015, 85 p.; Canadian Institute for Health Information (2015). *Care for Children and Youth with Mental Disorders*, 34 p.; Système intégré de surveillance des maladies chroniques du Québec (SISMACQ), Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ), [territorial division update version M34-2016 based on the 2014–2015 table of territorial correspondance](#); and Bernier, L., Authier, M.-A. & Blanchard, D. 2017. *Santé et mieux-être*. Direction régionale de la santé publique, CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. Presentation for the strategic committees of 2017 Vital Signs: The Children of Greater Montréal, Foundation of Greater Montréal, February 2017.

³³ Statistics Canada. Table CANSIM 105-0592 — Health indicator profile.

³⁴ Institut de la statistique du Québec, *2010–2011 Québec Survey of High School Students*, original compilations from the Infocentre de santé publique of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec.

³⁵ Data taken from Statistics Canada. Table CANSIM 105-0592 — Health indicator profile.

More girls reported experiencing “intense” stress daily than boys: 25% vs. 14%.

- According to the *Québec Survey of High School Students*, more high school girls (28.2%) reported significant psychological distress than boys (13.6%) (Table 3.1).
- This level of psychological distress is seen more in Secondary 4 and 5 students than in younger students.
- Of all high school students, boys and girls, 8.6% reported being diagnosed with an anxiety disorder by a medical professional and 4.9% reported receiving a diagnosis of depression. Again, girls are more affected than boys.

Table 3.1: Proportion of students reporting a significant level of psychological distress and a diagnosis of anxiety or depression, 12–17-year-old high school students, by sex and grade level, all of Quebec, 2010–2011

	Significant level of psychological distress	Anxiety diagnosis	Depression diagnosis
	%		
Total	20.8	8.6	4.9
Sex			
Girls	28.2	11.0	5.9
Boys	13.6	6.2	3.9
Grade			
Secondary 1, 2, 3	19.3	7.8	4.5
Secondary 4, 5	23.4	9.9	5.6

Source: 2010–2011 *Québec Survey of High School Students*

Note: These data were self-reported by adolescents in Quebec high schools.

Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of psychoactive substance abuse, namely the abuse of alcohol.

- According to the *Québec Survey of High School Students*, in Montréal, **8.1%** of high school students said they smoked daily, occasionally or were just starting. This was the case for 11.3% of high school students in the rest of Quebec.³⁶

³⁶ Data from the 2010–2011 *Québec Survey of High School Students* and from the *Québec Survey of Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling in High School Students* taken from the Direction régionale de santé publique of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (2015). *Les jeunes de 5 à*

- The same study noted that, in Montréal, an estimated **8%** of high school students reported **problematic use of alcohol and drugs**, compared to **11%** in the rest of Quebec.
- In Montréal, in 2013, **32.6%** of Secondary 5 students **said they had gambled** in the 12 months prior to the *Québec Survey of High School Students*.

This proportion is lower than **all of Quebec (37.8%)**.

Among the students who said they had gambled, 35% showed **at least one symptom of a gambling problem**.

Target 3.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services

Fewer teenage pregnancies

In **Montréal**, from 1998 to 2012, the average annual number of **teenage pregnancies** fell by nearly half, from 960 in 1998–2000 to 477 in 2010–2012.³⁷

This may be attributed to better access to frontline services adapted to this specific clientele.

Decline in mother-child transmission of HIV

- In Montréal in 2013, 372 young people aged 12 to 17 were **diagnosed with chlamydia** (declared cases) and 34 with **gonorrhea**. The incidence rate for chlamydia is 329.4 cases for every 100,000 individuals, and 30.1 for every 100,000 people for gonorrhea.³⁸

17 ans à Montréal. Portrait sommaire — avril 2015. Équipe surveillance du Secteur Tout-petits — Jeunes, 10 p.; and the Direction régionale de santé publique of the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (2014). *Principaux résultats sur la santé et le bien-être des jeunes du secondaire à Montréal — avril 2014* Équipe surveillance du Secteur Tout-petits — Jeunes, 38 p.

³⁷ Dorval, D. (2014). *Les grossesses à l'adolescence à Montréal. Direction régionale de santé publique, CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal*, 6 p.; and Institut de la statistique du Québec (2015). *Tableau statistique — Taux de fécondité selon le groupe d'âge de la mère, indice synthétique de fécondité et âge moyen à la maternité, Québec, 1951-2016*.

³⁸ The data on sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases are from the Notifiable Disease data found in Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (2015). *Les jeunes de 5 à 17 ans à Montréal. Portrait sommaire — avril 2015.* Équipe surveillance du Secteur Tout-petits — Jeunes, 10 p. The data on mother-child HIV transmission from Venne, S., G. Lambert and K. Blouin (2014). *Portrait des infections transmissibles sexuellement et par le sang (ITSS)*

The incidence rate in Montréal closely resembled the rate for all of Quebec for gonorrhea, which was 23.9 cases for every 100,000 individuals, but was lower than the rest of Quebec for chlamydia (468.2 cases for every 100,000).

- Between 2002 and 2013, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec recorded 38 new **cases of mother-to-child transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)**.

In Canada, researchers noted a drop in mother-child transmission of HIV after the wide-scale introduction of combination therapy in 1997. Before 1997, 20% of babies were infected, while only 1% of babies were infected by mothers on combination therapy in the following years.

4. QUALITY EDUCATION

“Ensure inclusive and quality education for all”

CANADA: 8th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 4.1

Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

In Quebec in 2013–2014, there were nearly one million students enrolled at the preschool, primary or secondary (high school) levels in the province’s 3,000 educational establishments.³⁹

- Of these students, **23%** attended an educational establishment in **Montréal**, **19%** in the **Montréal** region and **5%** in **Laval**.
- In the early 1970s, there were over 400,000 students attending primary or secondary schools on the island of Montréal. This illustrates the significant demographic changes that have occurred in the last 40 years.⁴⁰
- The decrease in the number of enrolled students between 1971 and 2013 was greater in **Montréal than for the province of Quebec as a whole: 46% vs. 39%**.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF 61% AFTER FIVE YEARS, BUT ALMOST 80% AFTER SEVEN YEARS

The data on high school graduation rates draws a profile of student perseverance and academic success. Each cohort of young people entering Secondary 1 for the first time was tracked over a period of five to seven years. For every cohort, “graduation and qualification rate” represents the proportion of students who received a first diploma

³⁹ The data was taken from the Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur’s different operational systems, namely the Charlemagne System, which collects information on school attendance and graduation rate. See: Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur (2016). *Statistiques de l’éducation préscolaires, enseignement primaire et secondaire – Édition 2015*. Government of Quebec, 126 p.

⁴⁰ Data taken from: Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (2014). *Indicateurs linguistiques. Secteur de l’éducation – Édition 2013*. Government of Quebec. 29 p.

or qualification five, six or seven years after entering high school, either in the general education program, adult education or vocational training.⁴¹

For all Montréal school boards, the graduation and qualification rate after seven years for students in the 2008 cohort was 78.1% in 2014–2015 (Figure 4.1).

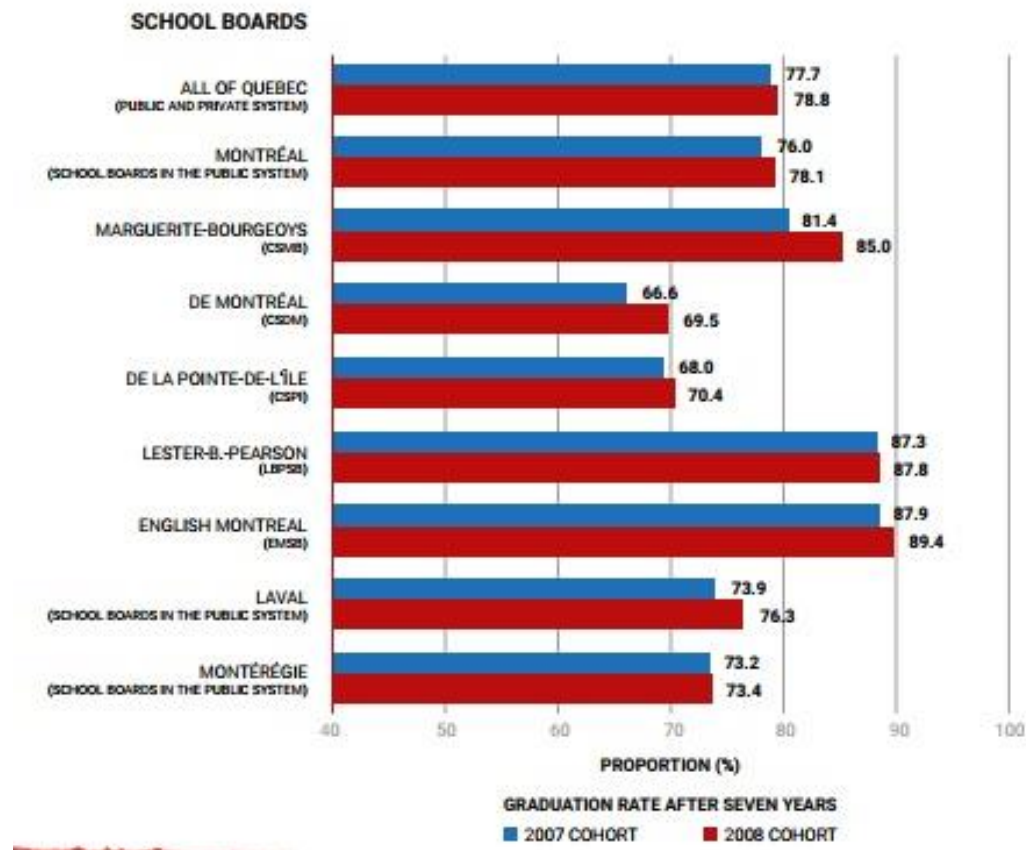
- This graduation rate was slightly lower than the **provincial one of 78.8%**.
- There are significant discrepancies in the graduation rates of Montréal's various school boards: **85%** for the schools in CSMB, **89.4%** in the English Montreal, **87.8%** in the Lester-B.-Pearson, and **69.5%** in CSDM.
- The graduation rates after seven years in Laval and the Montérégie are lower than those observed in Montréal: **76.3%** in Laval and **73.4%** in the Montérégie, for the 2008 cohort.
- The graduation and qualification rates after six years are lower: **74.8%** for the 2008 cohort for all of Quebec and **73%** for Montréal. After five years, the graduation rates decline to **66%** in Quebec and **61%** in Montréal. For comparison purposes, in 2015, the graduation rate for Ontario and for the schools of the Toronto District SchoolBoard was **85%**.
- The gap between girls' and boys' graduation rates is trending downward, but remains significant, at around 10 percentage points.

For Quebec as a whole, the boys in the 2007 and 2008 cohort had a graduation and qualification rate of 72.5% and 73.8%, respectively, after seven years. The girls in the same cohort had a graduation and qualification rate of 83.0% and 83.9%, respectively. A similar gap exists in the Montréal, Laval and Montérégie regions.

⁴¹ Diplomas and qualifications include a secondary school diploma (DES), vocational diploma (DEP) and attestation of vocational specialization (ASP), but also an entire series of other vocational qualifications such as certificates from programs preparing students with learning difficulties for the job market, without any academic requirements, such as having Secondary-5-level French and mathematics. See: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (2016). *Diplomation et qualification par commission scolaire au secondaire – Édition 2016*. Government of Quebec. 23 p.

Figure 4.1

High school graduation and qualification rate, for all of Quebec and for some Regions and school boards, 2013–2014 and 2014–2015



SOURCE: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), 2016.

NOTE: The rate reported for all of Quebec is an overall rate that includes both public and private schools. However, the rates by school board include only public schools because the method used to calculate graduation rates cannot be applied to private schools due to their small size. The rate includes the high school graduation rate for that period and the qualification rate for students in the Work-Oriented Training Path. The data in this table shows the progression of the 2007 and 2008 student cohorts up to their graduation in 2013–2014 and 2014–2015

The high school dropout rate is decreasing, but boys are still at greater risk

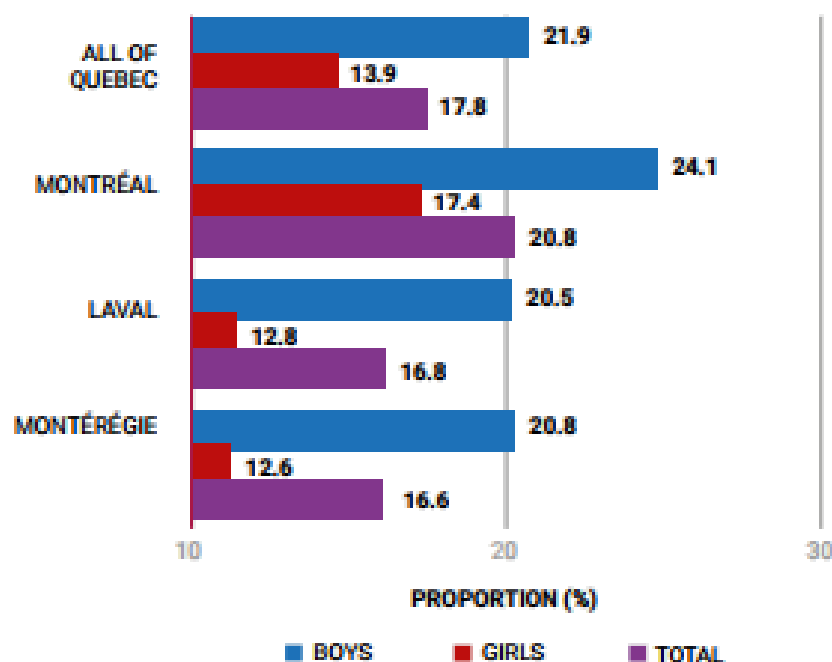
School dropout is another indicator of student perseverance. “Dropout rate” refers to the proportion of students leaving the general education program without a high school diploma or other qualification. This rate is calculated annually, by region and according to the student’s place of residence.

In Montréal in 2012–2013, the school dropout rate for high school students in the public system was 20.8%, an improvement of 4.2 percentage points over 2008–2009⁴²(Figure 4.2).

- The dropout rate in Montréal is higher than the province-wide rate of **17.8%**
- The annual dropout rates for the Laval and Montérégie regions are lower than the Montréal and provincial averages: **16.8%** in Laval and **16.6%** in the Montérégie.
- The dropout rate for young Montrealers in the public school system was **24.1%** for boys and **17.4%** for girls. For Quebec overall, the rates were **21.9%** for boys and **13.9%** for girls. This shows that dropping out of school is more prevalent among girls in Montréal than in the rest of the province. In fact, in some Montréal schools, the dropout rate is higher for girls than for boys. The dropout rate in Montréal is higher than the province-wide rate of **17.8%**.

Figure 4.2

Annual rate of students leaving the general education program without a high school diploma or qualification (public system only), for all of Quebec and some regions, 2012–2013



SOURCE: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), 2016 (originally compiled by the Infocentre de santé publique du Québec using the Charlemagne system).

⁴² At the time of writing, only the dropout rate for all of Quebec was available for 2014–2015. The rates used for comparison were from 2012–2013. "Region" refers to the socio-sanitary region (SSR).

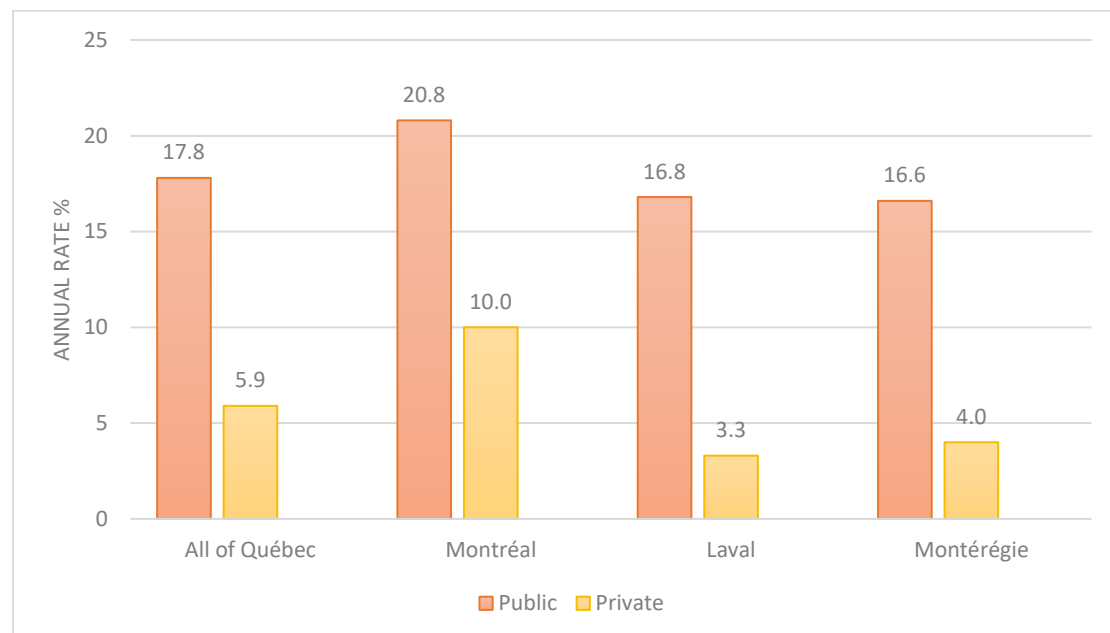
- The annual rate of students leaving school without a high school diploma or other qualification is higher in the public school system than in the private system.

In 2012–2013, the annual dropout rate in private schools in the Montréal area was 10%, two times lower than in public schools (Figure 4.3).

The dropout rate was only 4% in the private system in Montérégie and 3.3% in the private system in Laval.

Figure 4.3

Annual rate of students leaving the general education program without a high school diploma or other qualification, public and private systems, all of Quebec and some regions, 2012–2013



Source: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MÉES), 2016 (originally compiled by the Infocentre de santé publique du Québec using the Charlemagne system)

IN MONTRÉAL IN 2015, MORE THAN 60% OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WERE FROM IMMIGRANT FAMILIES.

In 2015, 62.8% of students enrolled in Montréal's French and English public schools were from immigrant families, either born abroad themselves (first-generation

immigrant) or born in Quebec, but to at least one parent born abroad (second-generation immigrant).⁴³

- This is a significantly higher percentage than in 1998, when 45.5% of students were from immigrant families.

In 2015, at least 50% of students in 203 of Montréal's 421 primary and secondary public schools were first- or second-generation immigrants. Of these 203 schools, 199 were French-speaking.

- **46%** of first- and second-generation students will finish their studies within the expected timeframe compared to 57% among third-generation students.
- 27% of immigrant students entered a French high school one year behind their peers and 8% entered two or more years behind.

ONE IN FIVE STUDENTS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A HANDICAP, SOCIAL MALADJUSTMENT ISSUE OR LEARNING DISABILITY

In **Montréal** in 2014–2015, students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities (also known under the French initialism **EHDAA**) accounted for **19.4%** of the school population, which is lower than for the regions of Laval (**22.8%**) and the Montérégie (**19.6%**) and for Quebec overall (**20%**).⁴⁴

- There were proportionally more boys than girls considered to have handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities.
- The graduation rate of students considered to have handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities is significantly lower than that of students who are not.⁴⁵

In 2008–2009, the graduation and qualification rate after seven years, for regular students enrolled in Secondary 1 in Quebec, was 82.4% compared to

⁴³ The data on students from immigrant families was taken from: Bakhshaei, M. (2015). *La scolarisation des jeunes Québécois issus de l'immigration : un diagnostic*. Research report by the Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon; Hooked on School Montreal (2016). *Agir ensemble en persévérance scolaire à Montréal*. Position paper presented to the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur as part of the public consultations for a school success policy; Sévigny, D. (2016). *Portrait socioculturel des élèves inscrits dans les écoles publiques de l'île de Montréal – Inscriptions au 4 novembre 2015*. Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal – Inscriptions au 4 novembre 2015. 626 p.; and Mc Andrew, M. J. Ledent, J. Murdoch, J. & R. Ait-Said (2011). *La réussite scolaire des jeunes Québécois issus de l'immigration au secondaire*. Final report submitted to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. Montréal: ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, p. 53.

⁴⁴ Data taken from: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), 2016 (originally compiled by the Infocentre de santé publique du Québec using the Charlemagne System).

⁴⁵ Data taken from: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (2016). *Diplomation et qualification par commission scolaire au secondaire – Édition 2016*. Government of Quebec. 23 p.

48.3% for students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities.

The gap between the two groups is wide, but closed slightly between the 2004 and 2008 cohorts.

UNICEF TARGET 4.2: Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

A vast network of reduced-contribution childcare

Quebec has a vast childcare network that offers three types of services: early childhood centres (CPEs), private childcare centres and home childcare centres. These three types of services may or *may not* offer reduced-contribution spots. “Reduced-contribution childcare services” refer to spots offered by CPEs, subsidized childcare centres and home childcare providers recognized by a home childcare coordinating office.

- In Quebec, the number of reduced-contribution spots increased from **196,618** in 2006 to **232,034** on March 31, 2017.⁴⁶
- In March 2017, the Montréal region had about **28%** of all reduced-contribution spots, followed by the Montérégie region, with **19%** of spots. Laval had **5%** of these spots.
- In 2017, over **70%** of spots in *unsubsidized* childcare centres were located in one of the three regions of Greater Montréal. Spots in CPEs in the Greater Montréal area only made up **47%** of all CPE spots in Quebec.

More than half of children aged five and under attended an educational childcare centre

- In 2004, 48.4% of children under five in Quebec attended an educational childcare centre. After a slight dip between 2006 and 2009, this number has risen annually. In 2013, it attained 56.6%, the highest it has been in the last 10 years.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Data taken from: Ministère de la Famille (2017). *La famille en valeur*. Annual Report - 2016–2017. Government of Quebec.

⁴⁷ Data taken from: Ministère de la Famille (2016). *La famille en valeur. Portrait du réseau des services de garde éducatifs à l'enfance en vue d'une évaluation de sa performance: Cadre de référence et indicateurs*. Government of Quebec.

- These percentages were higher in Montréal and Laval than the Quebec average: respectively, 61.2% and 62.7% of children under five attended an educational childcare centre in 2013. In Montérégie, 56.1% of children attended an educational childcare centre.

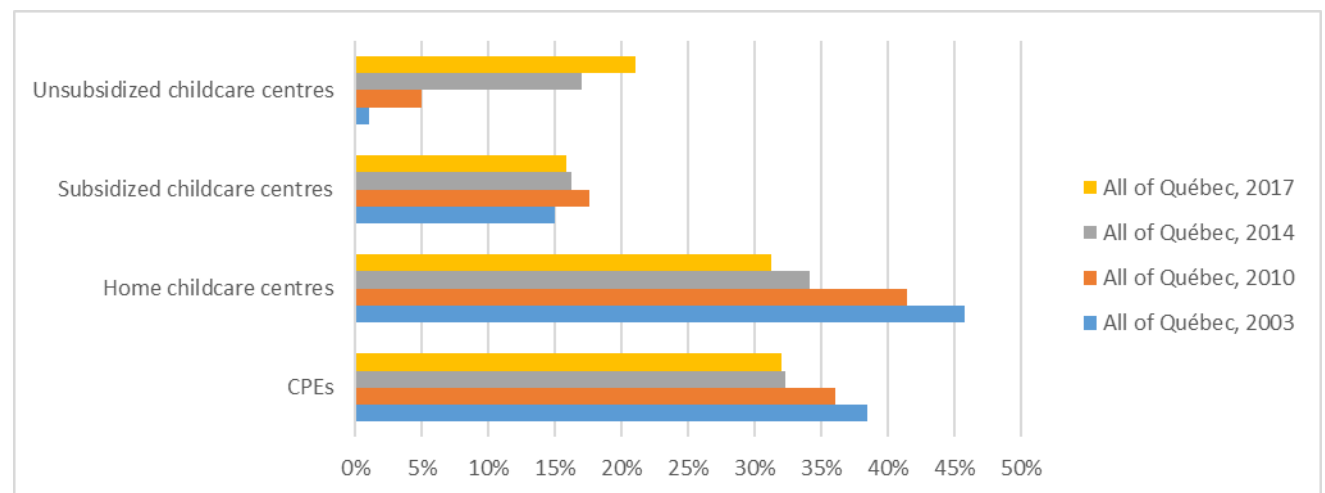
The relative share of CPEs has decreased in recent years

- Across Quebec, the relative share of CPEs has fallen gradually in recent years. The relative share of home childcare centres has also decreased significantly (Figure 4.4).

Inversely, there was a considerable increase in unsubsidized childcare centres: from less than 1% of spots in 2003 to 5% in 2010, 17% in 2014 and 21% in 2017.

Figure 4.4

Proportion of childcare spots according to type of service, all of Quebec, 2003, 2010, 2014 and 2017



Source: Ministère de la Famille (2017). *La famille en valeur*. Annual report - 2016–2017. Government of Quebec.

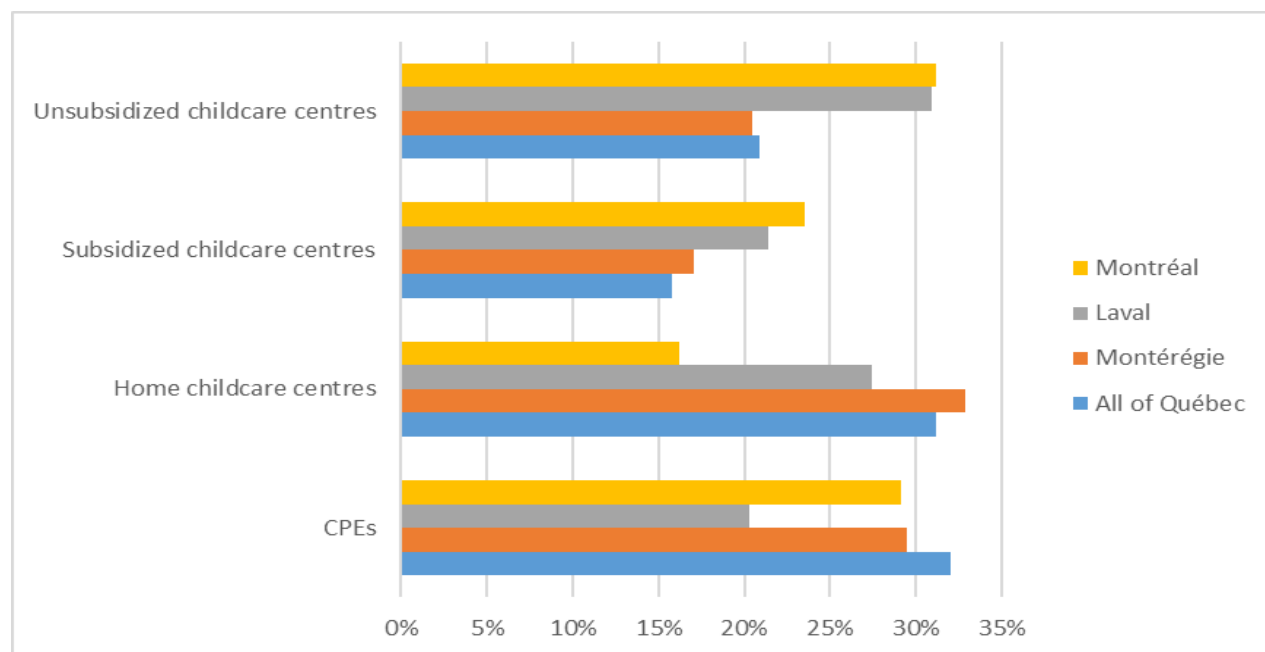
- The relative shares of the four types of childcare services vary considerably by region. In 2017, Montréal and Laval had a much higher proportion of unsubsidized childcare spots than elsewhere in Quebec (Figure 4.5.)
- In Montérégie, home childcare centres were the most frequently used service, caring for 32.9% of the children in childcare.
- In Montréal, home childcare centres accounted for only 16.2% of children in childcare, compared to 31.2% in all of Quebec.

Unsubsidized childcare centres offered the largest number of childcare spots in Montréal, with 31.2% of spots, followed by CPEs, with 29.1% of spots.

To compare, CPEs offered 50% of all childcare spots in Montréal when the program was created in 1998.⁴⁸

Figure 4.5

Proportion of childcare spots according to type of service, all of Quebec, Montréal, Laval and Montérégie, 2017



Source: Ministère de la Famille (2017). *La famille en valeur*. Annual report - 2016–2017. Government of Quebec.

CHILDCARE COSTS IN QUEBEC ARE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN IN OTHER CANADIAN CITIES

- In 2015 in Quebec, the monthly cost of a childcare centre spot for children aged five and under was \$174 (Table 4.1).
- Childcare centre costs are **considerably lower** in Quebec than in other Canadian cities, especially Toronto (\$1,128).

⁴⁸ Comeau, M. (2014). *Les services de garde à Montréal de 1990 à 2014*. Agence de la Santé et des Services sociaux de Montréal, Équipe de surveillance des secteurs Tout-petits – Jeunes, Direction de la santé publique, 11 p.

Table 4.1

Childcare costs for preschool-age children, in selected Canadian cities, 2014 and 2015

Cities	Monthly fees 2014 (median)	Monthly fees 2015 (median)	Increase (%)	Increase (\$) per month
Laval	\$152	\$174	14%	\$22
Longueuil	\$152	\$174	14%	\$22
Montréal	\$152	\$174	14%	\$22
Toronto	\$1,073	\$1,128	5%	\$56
London	\$933	\$977	5%	\$43
St. John's	\$868	\$900	4%	\$32
Saskatoon	\$665	\$680	2%	\$15
Halifax	\$783	\$785	-	\$2
Calgary	\$924	\$925	-	\$1
Winnipeg	\$451	\$451	-	-

Source: Macdonald, D. and T. Klinger (2015). *They Go Up So Fast – 2015 Child Care Fees in Canadian Cities*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

IN MONTRÉAL, 29% OF CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN ARE VULNERABLE IN AT LEAST ONE AREA OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT

The *Enquête québécoise sur le développement des enfants à la maternelle* (EQDEM) is a wide-scale survey that the Institut de la Statistique du Québec conducted in 2012, involving 65,000 children attending kindergarten (age five). The Survey assessed child development using the Early Development Instrument (EDI) developed by researchers from McMaster University's Offord Centre for Child Studies in Ontario.

The EDI is a questionnaire that kindergarten teachers fill out for each child in their class, based on their knowledge and observations of the child's behaviour. It contains 103 questions on the five developmental areas: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge (see box for more details).

— In Montréal in 2012, **29%** of children in kindergarten were considered vulnerable in at least one developmental area.⁴⁹ This is higher than the percentage of **26%** observed for Quebec overall.

⁴⁹ Data taken from: Blanchard, D., S. Lavoie, M. Comeau, J.-P. Quesnel & D. Guay (2014). *Portrait montréalais du développement des enfants à la maternelle. Résultats issus de l'Enquête québécoise*

- Among Montréal children who were vulnerable in at least one developmental area, half were vulnerable in one area and a quarter were vulnerable in two areas. Compared to Quebec as a whole, Montréal had a higher number of children vulnerable in the areas of “communication skills and general knowledge” (15% in Montréal compared to 10% in Quebec), “physical health and well-being” (12% vs. 9%) and “social competence” (10% vs. 9%).
- Proportionally, more boys, children born outside Canada and children from very economically disadvantaged areas were considered vulnerable in at least one developmental area.

The Five Developmental Areas

Physical health and wellbeing

General physical development, motor skills, ability to feed and dress themselves, toilet training, punctuality, level of awareness.

Social competence

Social skills, self-confidence, sense of responsibility, respect for peers, respect for adults, rules and routines, work habits and self-reliance, curiosity.

Emotional maturity

Prosocial and mutual aid behaviour, fear and anxiety, aggressive behaviour, hyperactivity and inattention, emotional expression.

Language and cognitive development

Interest and skills in reading, writing and mathematics, adequate use of language.

Communication skills and general knowledge

Ability to communicate to be understood, ability to understand others, clear enunciation, general knowledge.

Source: Janus, M. and D.R. Offord (2000). Reporting on readiness to learn in Canada. ISUMA, *Canadian Journal of Policy Research*, 1, p. 71–75.

PARENTING PRACTICES IN THE AREAS OF CULTURE AND DIGITAL CONSUMPTION

Data from the 2015 *québec survey on the experience of parents of children aged 0 to 5* shows that, for quebec overall, parents of children aged five and under did cultural activities with their children at least once a day:

- **80%** played with their children (**83%** for Montréal).
- **50%** sang songs or recited nursery rhymes to their children (**57%** for Montréal).
- **41%** read or told them stories (**48%** for Montréal).

A 2015 survey of 1,000 parents of children aged 4–17 conducted by cefrio suggests that, in quebec, the vast majority of primary and secondary students have access to at least one digital device at home.

- About eight out of 10 students have either a smartphone (**81%**), a laptop computer (**79%**) or an e-tablet (**76%**) at their disposal.
- The parents of school-aged children estimate that their children use the Internet an average of 10 hours a week. About two of those hours are for school work and eight hours are for non-school-related activities.

Sources :

Lavoie, A. & C. Fontaine (2016). *Mieux connaître la parentalité au Québec. Un portrait à partir de l'Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0 à 5 ans. 2015*. Quebec, Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Beaudoin, J., C. Bourget, G. Mallette-Vanier, S. Racine, G. Ducharme & A. Lavoie (2016). *Portrait des compétences numériques parentales. Résultats d'une enquête menée auprès de parents d'enfants d'âge scolaire*. Quebec, CEFRIO.

5. GENDER EQUALITY

“Achieve gender equality and empower all girls”

CANADA: NO RANKING

In Montréal, Quebec and the rest of Canada, inequalities persist between women and men, and girls and boys.

Among children, inequality comes in many forms and is often attributed to persistent gender stereotypes at home, at school, in sports and recreation, or in relationships.

Throughout this report, we have paid **particular attention** to gender differences. For the sustainable development goal on gender equality, we are focusing on two issues tied directly to UNICEF’s targets: girls’ and boys’ access to higher education and violence committed against girls and boys.

TARGET 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

Year after year, more women receive a bachelor’s degree than men

- In 2016 in Quebec, **11%** of women and **14.7%** of men ages 25–64 did not have any kind of diploma, attesting to how women have significantly closed the gap in education.⁵⁰

In Montréal, **8.6% of women ages 25–64** did not have any kind of diploma, compared to **8.9% of men**, a non-significant statistical difference.

Gender differences were statistically significant in Laval and in Montérégie. In Laval, **8.4%** of women did not have any kind of diploma, compared to **16.4%** of men. In Montérégie, **10.2%** of women did not have diploma, compared to **15.4%** of men.

- Following a temporary drop between 2011 and 2012, the number of new holders of a bachelor’s degree in general education in the youth sector surged by **13%** the next year (2012–2013), creating an average annual increase of **2.4%** for 2011–2015 (Table 5.1).

⁵⁰ Institut de la statistique du Québec. (2017). *Panorama des régions du Québec*: Édition 2017. Government of Quebec, Institut de la statistique du Québec.

- Throughout Quebec, **women represented the majority** of bachelor's degree recipients in general education in the youth sector.

TABLE 5.1

Holders of a bachelor in general education in the youth sector who completed their high school studies in Quebec, all of Quebec, Montréal, Laval and Montérégie, 2011 and 2015

SOURCE: Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES), 2016.

	Number of graduates in 2011	Number of graduates in 2015	Average annual increase 2011–2015	Proportion of women graduates in 2015
All of Quebec	27,058	29,732	2.4%	62.2%
Montréal	6,804	7,469	2.4%	59.2%
Laval	1,533	1,666	2.1%	61.0%
Montérégie	5,224	5,894	3.1%	63.3%

- In 2015, **29,732 graduates with a bachelor's degree** did their high school studies in Quebec, and **62.2%** of them were women.
- Despite some progress in diversifying programs of study, there are still proportionally more men than women receiving a bachelor's degree in pure and applied sciences, regardless of place of residence.

In Quebec in 2015, **34%** of new male bachelor graduates received a degree in pure and applied sciences, compared to only **10%** of new female graduates.

There were more graduates in social sciences overall, but women were the majority, with **69%** receiving a bachelor's degree in social sciences compared to **56%** of men.

TARGET 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

More than 80% of sexual assault victims are girls

- In Quebec, approximately **3,500 sex offenses** were reported to the police in 2014 (Figure 5.1).

The most frequent offenses are sexual assault, sexual contact and child luring through the Internet.

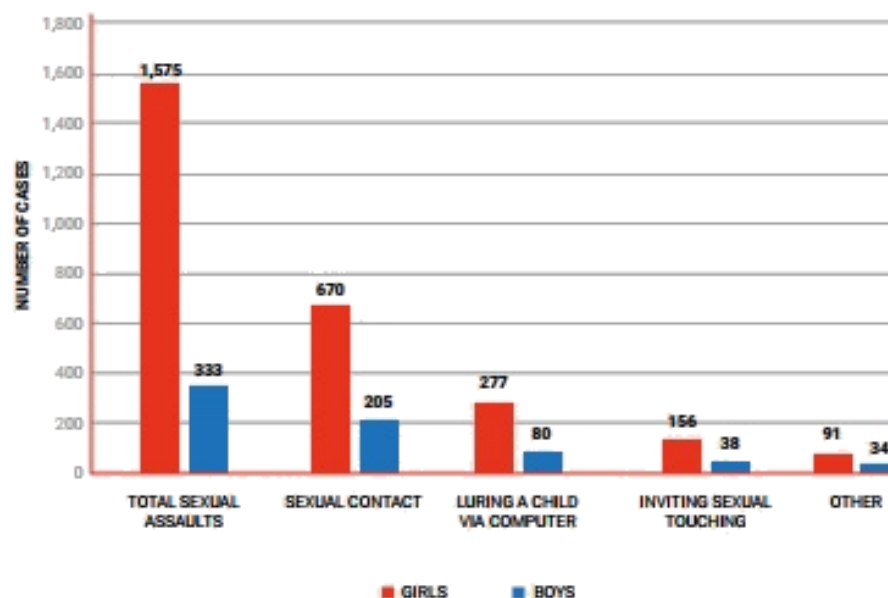
In every category of sex offense, girls are more likely to be victims than boys.

The difference between girls and boys is quite significant for sexual assault: **80% of sexual assault victims are girls; or 1,575 girls compared to 333 boys.**

- Though girls are the most frequent victims of sexual assault, **the aggressors are almost exclusively men**: 96% of perpetrators of all sexual offences were men.⁵¹

Figure 5.1

Number of victims of sex offences by type and age, all of Quebec, 2014



SOURCE: Direction de la prévention et de l'organisation policière (2016). *Infractions sexuelles au Québec. Faits saillants. 2014.* Québec, ministère de la Sécurité publique.

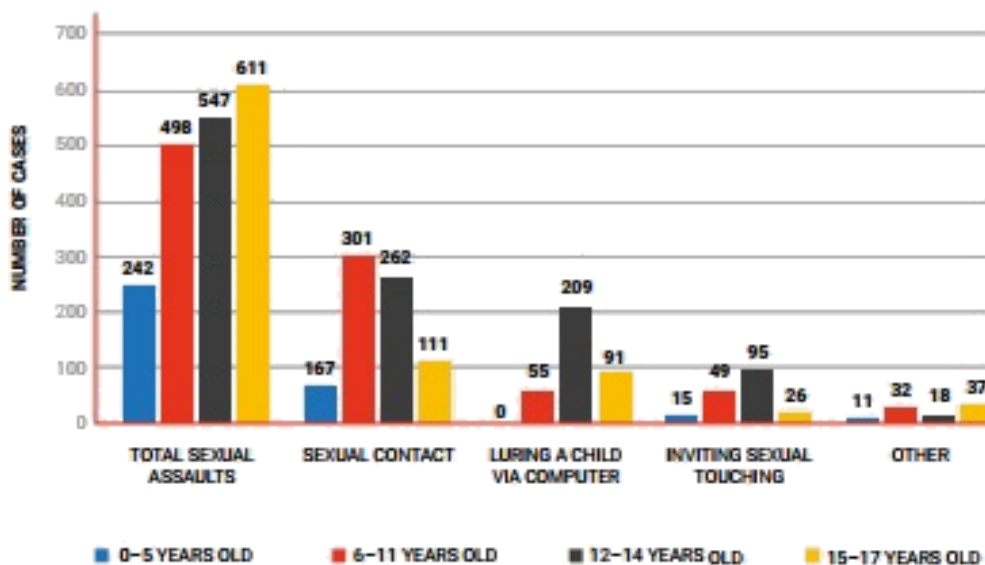
⁵¹ Data taken from: Direction de la prévention et de l'organisation policière. (2016). *Infractions sexuelles au Québec. Faits saillants. 2014.* Government of Quebec, Ministère de la Sécurité publique.

- Sexual assault was the main type of sexual offence committed on victims **under 6 years of age**: **242 cases** of sexual assault were reported in Quebec in 2014 (Figure 5.2).
- **Girls ages 12–14** made up more than a quarter (26.8%) of all victims (boys and girls) of sexual contact, while **girls ages 6–11** made up a quarter (25.2%) of all such victims.
- Girls ages 12–14 are also the most frequent target of offences committed on victims under the age of 16, involving invitation to sexual touching. This group made up 44.3% of all such victims.
- In cases of sexual contact and invitation to sexual touching, the perpetrator is often **someone the child knows**, followed by a family member (other than a parent), a step-parent or a distant relative.

It is only in cases of child luring through the Internet that strangers are the main perpetrators. In 30.8% of such cases, the alleged perpetrator was a stranger and in 19% of such cases, it was someone the child knew.

Figure 5.2

Number of victims of sex offences by type and age, all of Quebec, 2014



SOURCE: Direction de la prévention et de l'organisation policière (2016). *Infractions sexuelles au Québec. Faits saillants*. 2014. Québec, ministère de la Sécurité publique.

NOTE: Sexual contact and inviting sexual touching only concern children under 16. This is the age of the victim when the offense is reported. The victim may have been younger when the sexual acts were committed.

6. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

“Promote full and productive employment and decent work for all”

CANADA: 11th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.

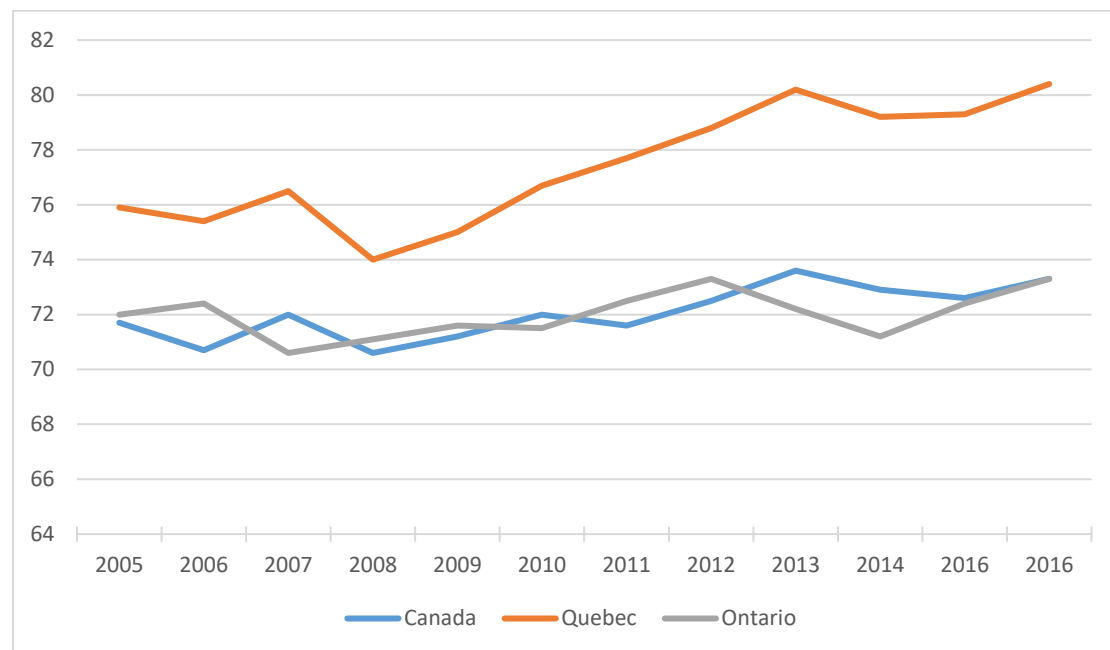
In the last 30 years, parents of young children, especially mothers, have become increasingly present on the labour market

- In 1984 in Quebec, **53.8%** of mothers who lived with a spouse and whose youngest child was **under three years of age** had a job or were looking for one. The labour force participation rate for these mothers climbed to **77.5%** in 2005 and reached **79.9%** in 2014.⁵²
- The participation rate of mothers with at least **one child under six** rose from **75.9%** in 2005 to **80.4%** in 2016 (Figure 6.1).
- The rise in the labour force participation rate of mothers is **markedly higher in Quebec** than the rest of Canada.
- The participation rate in **Ontario and all of Canada** is lower than in Quebec, remaining **under 75%**.
- According to the 2015 *Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5*, in **63%** of two-parent families with at least one child under six, **both parents were active on the labour market**.

⁵² Mothers ages 25–54. Data taken from Observatoire des Tout-petits (2016). [*Taux d'activité des mères de 25-54 ans dont le plus jeune enfant a moins de 6 ans*](#).

Figure 6.1

Evolution of the labour force participation rate of mothers of children under six, Quebec, Ontario and all of Canada, 2005 to 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, *CANSIM Table 282-0211*, Labour Force Survey (LFS), 2005–2016.

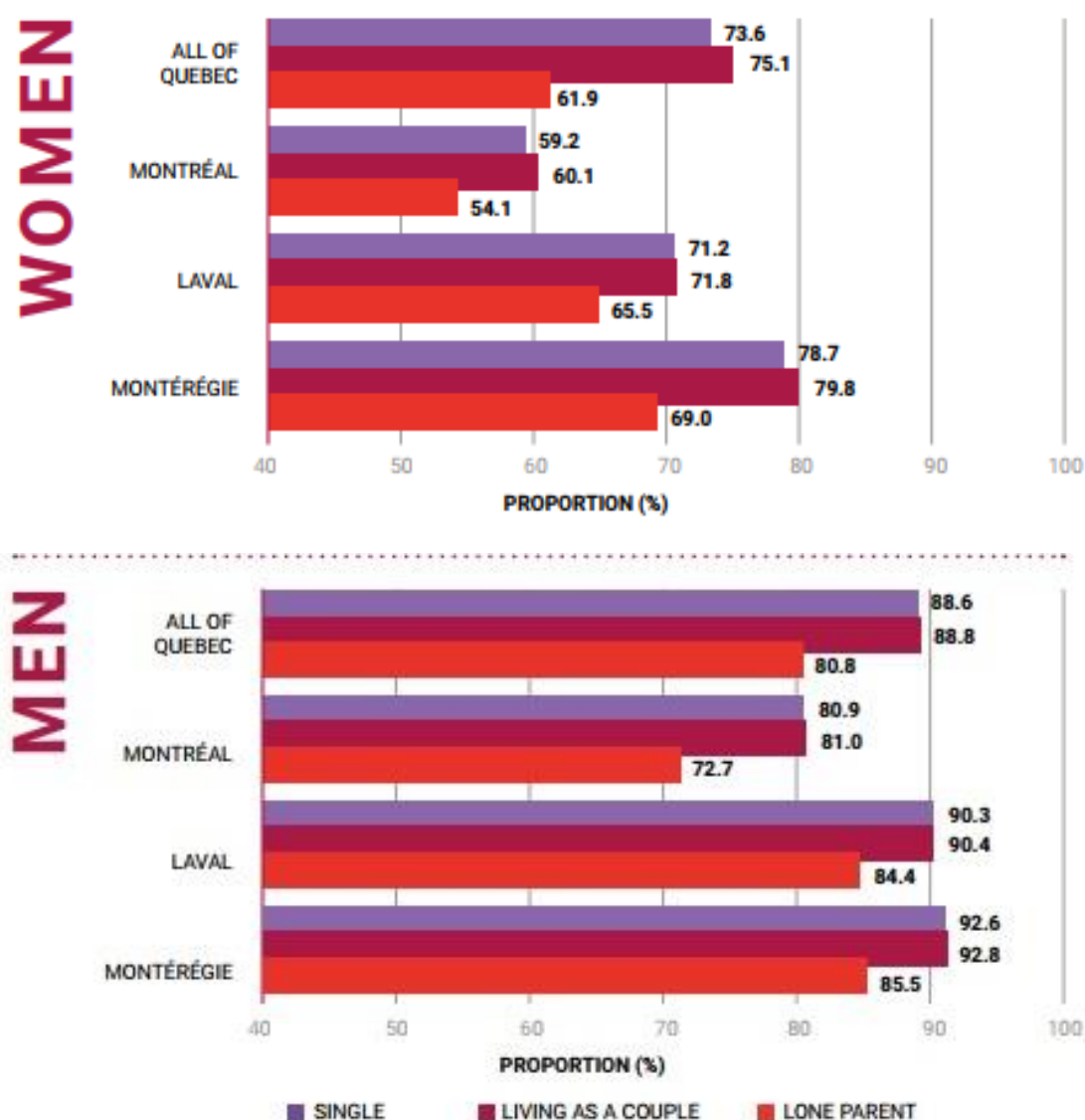
Note: “Labour force participation rate” refers to the proportion of people who are employed or are seeking employment.

- In Quebec in 2011, employment rates for people aged 25–54 with at least one child under the age of six was **88.6%** for men and **73.6%** for women (Table 6.2).
- Employment rates for women with young children have increased considerably over the last 35 years, and as a result, the gap between male and female employment has strongly decreased.
- A comparison of parents’ employment rates in the regions that make up Greater Montréal shows that significant regional differences exist: In Montréal, the number of women and men aged 25–54 with at least one child under six and who had a paid job was lower than the number for Quebec overall and the numbers for Laval and the Montérégie.
- Men were not affected in the same way as women by the presence of children in the home. The employment rate for men with children was higher than for men without.

- Living as a couple or being a lone parent also had a significant impact on parents' employment rates. In all regions, lone-parent mothers had lower employment rates than mothers living as a couple. The same was true for men.

Figure 6.2

Employment rate for 25–54-year-olds living in a household with at least one child under the age of six, by sex and family situation, all of Quebec, Montréal, Laval and Montérégie, 2011



Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population data, taken from Conseil du statut de la femme (2015). *Portrait statistique: Égalité Femmes — Hommes (Montréal, Laval et Montérégie)*

Note: For comparison by administrative region, the latest data are from the 2011 Census.

WORK-FAMILY BALANCE IS A BIG CHALLENGE

Work-family balance refers to meeting both work and family responsibilities. Conflicts arise when work interferes with the ability to meet family responsibilities and vice versa.

In effect since 2006, the **Québec Parental Insurance Plan** (QPIP) is one of the means the government has put in place to help workers better meet their various responsibilities. The plan financially supports parents in the first months of their child's life.

- According to *l'Observatoire des tout-petits*, in 2014 in Quebec, 129,190 parents benefited from Quebec's parental insurance plan—up **25%** since 2006. This increase was especially pronounced among fathers, with a **57%** hike, as compared to **6%** for mothers⁵³.

In Montréal, 28,742 parents took advantage of this Plan, up **39%** from 2006. This increase is significantly higher than for Quebec as a whole.

- A total of 87,700 children were born in Quebec in 2014, with 23,445 born in Montréal.

The parents of 18,237 of these newborns took advantage of the Plan, for a participation rate of **77.8%**.

For Quebec overall, the rate of participation in the Plan is nearly ten percentage points higher, at **87.4%**.⁵⁴

In Montérégie in 2014, **91.8%** of births led to use of the Quebec Parental Insurance Plan, while in Laval, **89.1%** did so.

Over half of parents feel they do not have enough time for themselves

- According to the 2015 *Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5*, **54%** of Montréal parents said they “never or rarely” felt like they had enough free time for themselves; the percentage is **55%** for Quebec overall.⁵⁵

⁵³ Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale (2016). *Rapport sur le portrait des prestataires du Régime québécois d'assurance parentale 2014*. Gouvernement du Québec: 31 p.

⁵⁴ Data taken from Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale (2016). *Rapport sur le portrait des prestataires du Régime québécois d'assurance parentale 2014*. Gouvernement du Québec : 31 p.

⁵⁵ Data taken from Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5*, 2015; & Lavoie, A. & C. Fontaine (2016). *Mieux connaître la parentalité au Québec. Un portrait à partir de l'Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0 à 5 ans*. 2015. Québec, Institut de la statistique du Québec.

- **20%** of Montréal parents said they “often or always” felt like they lacked time for their children—a lower percentage than the proportion of 25% for Quebec overall.
- **46%** of Montréal parents said they “often or always” felt like they were on the go all day, similar to what parents reported in Quebec overall (**48%**).
- **34%** of Montréal families mentioned “often or always” being exhausted by supertime.

Women were more likely than men to experience these challenges.

- **23%** of Montréal parents said that work “often or always” impacted family life. This conflict affected both fathers and mothers.

A flexible work schedule and paid leave were the most frequently used means for parents to achieve work-family balance

- According to the 2015 *Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5*, three-quarters of salaried parents of children age five and under had access to at least one work-family balance measure.⁵⁶
- Over half of Montréal parents were able to organize a **flexible work schedule** (56%) or take **paid family leave** (51%).
- Montréal parents also used other means of achieving a work-family balance, such as **reorganizing or cutting down work time** or **working from home**: 26% of parents did both.

In Quebec overall, 20% of parents of children age five and under worked from home to achieve work-family balance.

TARGET 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

⁵⁶ Data taken from Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5*, 2015 & Lavoie, A. & C. Fontaine (2016). *Mieux connaître la parentalité au Québec. Un portrait à partir de l'Enquête québécoise sur l'expérience des parents d'enfants de 0 à 5 ans*. 2015. Québec, Institut de la statistique du Québec.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

In Quebec in 2013–2016, there were **1,487,500** young people aged 15–29. A little over **800,000**, or **54%** of them, were no longer in school.⁵⁷

- Of the approximately **800,000** youth who were no longer in school, 186,800 were considered “neither enrolled nor employed” (NEET), meaning they did not have a job and did not attend school or a training program.

In other words, in 2013–2016 in Quebec, **12%** of youth aged 15–29 were neither working, attending school or a training program

Of the **186,800** neither enrolled nor employed youth: **17%** were aged 15–19, **38%** were aged 20–24, and **45%** were aged 25–29.

- Of the 1,487,500 youth aged 15–29 who were no longer in school, **9%** did not have a secondary school diploma (DES).

This is an improvement compared to 1992–1995 when **15%** of youth were out of school and without a secondary school diploma.

In the rest of Canada, the rate is lower than in Quebec: **6%** of youth were out of school and without a secondary school diploma in 2013–2016.

The rates in Quebec and Canada are lower than the average rates in OECD countries.

OVER A QUARTER OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORKING 16 HOURS PER WEEK EXPERIENCED PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, AND SEVERAL RISKED DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

While students generally view paid work in a positive light, young people who juggle work and school are exposed to certain risks, especially when devoting too many hours to work. In adolescents, carrying this dual workload risked affecting their academic success and perseverance, but also their mental and physical health.

- According to the 2010–2011 *Québec Health Survey of High School Students*, **15%** of secondary school students who had a paid job during their studies reported having a **high level of psychological distress**, without however reporting having been diagnosed with anxiety or depression.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ The data on students who work, their health and risk of drop-out are taken from Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (2017). *Le travail chez les jeunes du secondaire au Québec*, Québec, 32 p. and Berthelot, M., & I. Traoré (2016). *Le travail rémunéré pendant les études et la santé mentale des jeunes: le nombre d’heures travaillées compte*. Institut de la statistique du Québec, Direction des statistiques de santé, Santé et bien-être: *Zoom santé*, No. 59. 13 p.

⁵⁸ The data on students who work, their health and risk of drop-out are taken from Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (2017). *Le travail chez les jeunes du secondaire au Québec*, Québec, 32 p. and Berthelot, M., & I. Traoré (2016). *Le travail rémunéré pendant les études et la santé mentale*

This percentage was higher among students working 16 or more hours per week (27%), as compared to 20% among those working under 11 hours a week or those who did not have paid work.

This applied to both boys and girls, but is more pronounced among girls.

- A smaller percentage of high school students with a paid job during the school year reported being **in poor health** than students without a job (3.8% compared to 4.7%).

However, in **students working more than 20 hours per week**, this trend reversed, with the percentage of working students reporting poor health climbing to 7.2%.

- Among youth in secondary school, **21%** of boys working 1–10 hours per week showed a high risk of dropping out of school. This proportion was 41% in those working over 21 hours. For girls, these percentages were **13%** and **24%**, respectively.

The data presented here are for Quebec overall, since there is often little or no data for the Greater Montréal area.

- According to a recent study on Secondary 4 and 5 students attending French-language school in Montréal, the percentage of working students who were **held back a year** was proportionally higher than students who did not work (21.7% vs. 16.1%). The same is true for **low motivation** (36.5% vs. 30.5%) and signs of **academic disengagement** (38.9% vs. 31.7%).⁵⁹

des jeunes: le nombre d'heures travaillées compte. Institut de la statistique du Québec, Direction des statistiques de santé, Santé et bien-être: *Zoom santé*, No. 59. 13 p.

⁵⁹ Data taken from Gaudreault, M., L. Laberge, N. Arbour, N & M.M. Gaudreault (2015). *La conciliation études-travail chez les élèves francophones montréalais de 4^e et de 5^e année du secondaire*. Jonquière, ÉCOBES — Recherche et transfert, 84 p.

7. REDUCED INEQUALITIES

“Reducing inequalities within and between countries”

CANADA: 14th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

Target 10.1 Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population.

— In the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area in 2015, **16.4%** of children under 18 were living in low-income households, according to Statistics Canada’s low-income measure **after** tax.

The low-income measure (LIM) is an income threshold set at 50% of the “median” family income, where half of families earn more and half earn less. It is adjusted to household size and composition. A family is considered to be low-income (or living in poverty) when its income is below the low-income measure.

The low-income rate in Montréal is higher than Quebec’s **14.4%** and lower than Canada’s **17.4%**.

Poverty affects more single-parent families, especially those headed by a woman. In Montréal, **37.3%** of children living in a single-parent family were living in a low-income situation in 2015.

39% of parents with children under six were living in a low-income household, according to the low-income measure before tax, a rate higher than the **24%** rate in Quebec.

PALMA RATIO OF INEQUALITIES

In *Report Card 14*, UNICEF presents economic inequalities using the Palma Ratio. This index compares the income share of the richest 10% of households with children to the income share of the poorest 40%. A ratio superior to 1 means that the poorest 40% earn less than the richest 10%. In 2014, UNICEF estimated that among households with children, Canada’s ratio was of 1.12, which ranked the country 24th out of 41 countries.

An analysis of the Palma Ratio in Quebec and in Canada from 1969 to 2009 shows that in the 2000s, the Palma Ratio increased more significantly in Canada than in Quebec.

Sources: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2017) *Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries*, *Report Card 14*, Innocenti Research Centre – Innocenti, Florence.

Langlois, S. & M. Lizotte (2014). L’indice de Palma, nouvelle mesure des inégalités au Québec et au Canada, *Revue Vie Économique*, Volume 6, Number 1: Institut de recherche économique contemporaine.

WEAKER SOCIAL MOBILITY IN MONTRÉAL FAMILIES

For some families, poverty has a lasting effect: children who grew up in a low-income family end up in a vulnerable situation when they reach adulthood. For others, it is a temporary situation. The degree of social mobility in a country or region can be measured by estimating the “intergenerational income elasticity,” which is the correlation between the parents’ and children’s adult income. The lower the elasticity, the more socially mobile the person is.

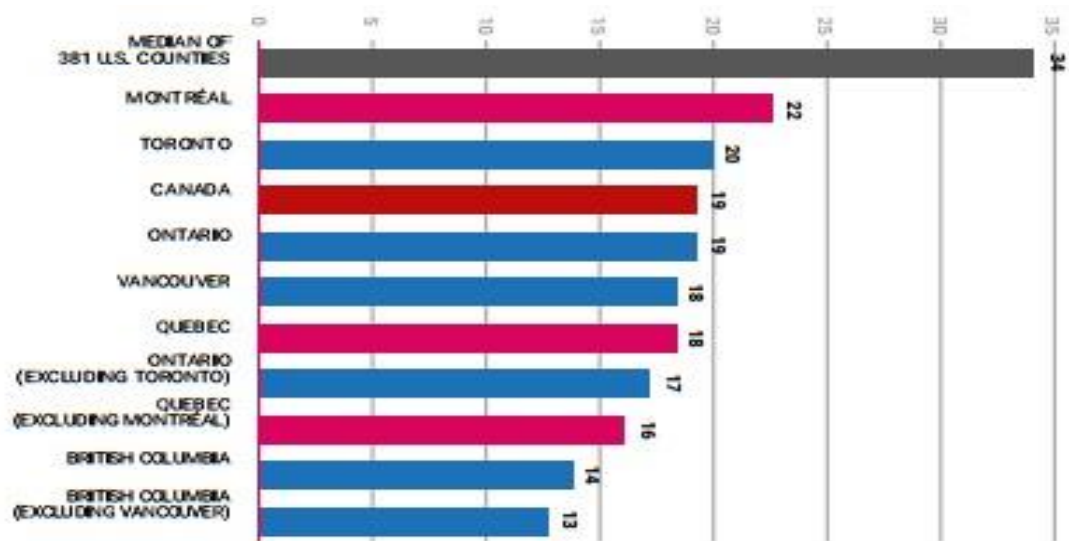
- Canada ranked rather well among the OECD countries for social mobility. Its intergenerational income elasticity is well below the estimated elasticity for countries like France, Italy, the United Kingdom or the United States, although Finland, Norway and Denmark ranked lower.⁶⁰
- The Institut du Québec estimated the intergenerational income elasticity for Quebec and the other provinces, as well as for Canada’s three metropolises: Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver.⁶¹
- In Montréal, social mobility is lower (high elasticity) than in Toronto and Vancouver (Figure 7.1).
- In Quebec, social mobility is slightly higher (low elasticity) than in Canada as a whole.

⁶⁰ Data taken from Corak, M. (2013). *Income Inequality, Equality of Opportunity, and Intergenerational Mobility*, Discussion Paper No. 7520, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA).

⁶¹ The Institut du Québec study used the international methodology developed by Miles Corak to estimate the intergenerational elasticity of certain parts of Canada. See Scarfone, S., F. Gosselin, M. Homsy & J.-G. Côté (2017). *Le Québec est-il égalitaire ? Étude sur la mobilité sociale et l’égalité du revenu au Québec et au Canada*, Institut du Québec.

Figure 7.1

Intergenerational income elasticity in Canada and some American countries



Source: Scarfone, S., F. Gosselin, M. Homsy & J.-G. Côté (2017). *Le Québec est-il égalitaire ? Étude sur la mobilité sociale et l'égalité du revenu au Québec et au Canada*. Institut du Québec.

SOME FAMILIES FEEL CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL PRESSURE

In Quebec in 2012, two-thirds of couples with children succeeded in keeping their debt below 40% of their disposable income, down from 77% in 1999.

Debt is not necessarily negative, at least not for all families. However, the debt ratio, especially when involving consumer debt, is an indicator of the financial obligations and pressures families must grapple with.

- In 1999 in Quebec, consumer debt (excluding mortgages) represented **24.5%** of the disposable income of couples with children under 18. In 2012, the debt-to-income ratio rose to **45.7%**.⁶²
- Quebec's ratio is still lower than for the rest of Canada, which had a ratio of **50% in 2012**.
- Between 1999 and 2012, the proportion of couples with children under 18 whose debts exceeded **80%** of their disposable income almost tripled, from **5% to 13%**.

⁶² "Disposable income" refers to the market income plus social benefits, after income tax deductions. The "debt ratio" only includes households with debt. Data taken from Marc-André Gauthier (2015). *Aperçu du ratio d'endettement à la consommation des familles au Québec*. Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Données sociodémographiques en bref*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 19–22 p.

One Montréal family in four lives in unsuitable housing, in terms of prohibitive cost or insufficient space.⁶³

Affordable and suitable housing improves parents' ability to meet their children's basic needs, such as feeding, clothing and caring for them. To be considered "affordable," housing must take up less than 30% of the household's before-tax income.

— According to the data from the 2016 Census, **25%** of households, with or without children, spent 30% or more of their income on housing in the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area (Figure 7.2). This percentage was lower for families with children: **12%** did not have access to affordable housing. As for single-parent families, nearly **one in five** did not have access to affordable housing.

These rates are much lower than for the rest of Canada, especially the greater Toronto and Vancouver areas.

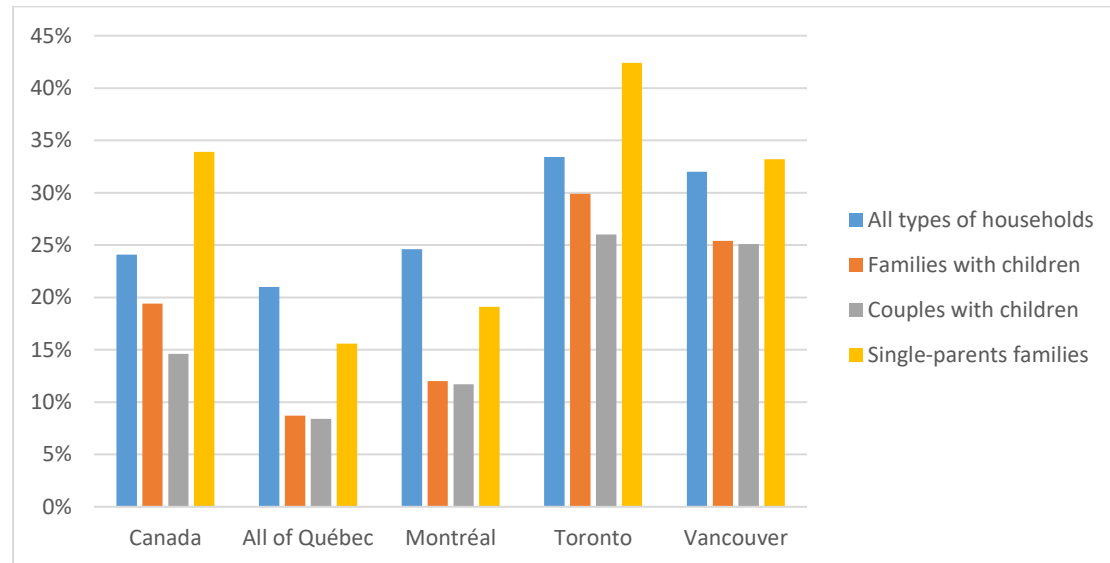
However, the rate in Montréal is higher than in other Quebec regions.

A higher proportion of renter households spent **30%** or more of their income on housing.

⁶³ Only families with children (headed by one or two parents) "without additional persons in the household" are included here. Data taken from: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, No. 98-400-X2016230 in Statistics Canada's catalogue — *Housing indicators*.

Figure 7.2

Percentage of households that spent 30% or more of their income on housing, 2016, Canada, all of Quebec, Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver



Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, No. 98-400-X2016230 in the Statistics Canada's catalogue — *Housing indicators*

Note: Only families with children "without additional persons in the household" are included here.

The average cost of housing is lower in Montréal than in Canada's other big cities.

- High housing costs force some families into unsuitable housing. In Montréal in 2016, nearly **118,000 of families with children** (headed by one or two parents) lived in unsuitable housing in terms of quality, space or "affordability," representing **one in four families with children**.

Again, single-parent families are the most affected by this issue.

Target 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

UNDERFUNDING OF INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS

- In 2016 in the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area, less than **1%** of the population **identified as Indigenous**. Of this 1%, **6,150 are children under the age of 15**.⁶⁴

Indigenous children made up less than 1% of all children under 15 in Montréal, the same percentage as in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area.

For comparison, Indigenous children made up 4% of all children under 15 in the census metropolitan areas of Calgary and Vancouver. In Winnipeg, this percentage was higher, at 20%.

- Some Indigenous people in Greater Montréal live in Indigenous communities, namely the Mohawk communities of **Kahnawake** in Montérégie, and **Kanesatake** in the Laurentians.⁶⁵

Kahnawake has a population of nearly 11,000 people, 8,000 of whom are living in a community. Of these, around 700 are children under the age of six.

Kanesatake has a population of 2,500 people. Nearly 1,400 live in a community. Of these, around 700 are children under the age of six.

In the 2016 report *Federal Spending on Primary and Secondary Education on First Nations Reserves*, the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer reported on the significant shortfall between the funding provided to Indigenous schools and that received by provincial schools throughout Canada.

In Canada, education is each province's responsibility, except regarding First Nations children living in Indigenous communities. Their education is overseen by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

⁶⁴ Data taken Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, No. 98-402-X2016009 in Statistics Canada's catalogue — *Aboriginal identity population by age and sex*. The 2016 census data did not allow us to obtain statistics for children under 18. The two first age categories are: under 15 and 15–24.

⁶⁵ Data taken from Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones. (2016). *Statistiques des populations autochtones du Québec 2015*. Other data was taken from the presentation given by Caroline St-Louis from Avenir d'enfants: *Les Autochtones de Montréal : Quelques points de repère et réflexion*, presented during the 2017 Vital Signs: Greater Montréal's Children strategic committee meetings in May 2017.

CHILDREN WITH A PRECARIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS

In **Montréal** in 2016, **321,675 children** under the age of 15 had at least one parent born outside of Canada, representing **46.6 %** of the total population of children under 15.⁶⁶

This proportion was much higher than the **29.4% for all of Quebec**, but lower than the **71%** in Toronto and **63.7%** in Vancouver.

Children born in Canada to parents with a precarious immigration status do not automatically receive healthcare. Children, until the age of majority, are admitted to Quebec's health insurance program (Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec [RAMQ]) based on their parent's status. They must meet specific criteria to be covered by the RAMQ.

Since 2011, Médecins du Monde has been running *Projet Migrants*, a project to improve healthcare access for child and adult immigrants not covered by the RAMQ who are also not eligible for the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). Over 3,000 people benefited from these services and activities in 2015–2016.

CHILDREN WITH A HANDICAP

— In **Quebec** in 2015, **35,204 families (4%)** received the **Supplement for Handicapped Children (SHC)** from the child assistance measure. This supplement is paid out to parents of children with an impairment or a functional disability that significantly limits their daily activities.

Of the families benefiting from the SHC, **7,812** were living in Montréal, 7,616 in Montérégie and 1,951 in Laval.

Half of the families benefiting from the SHC in Quebec make under **\$50,000 per year**.

⁶⁶ Data taken from Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, No. 98-400-X2016236 in Statistics Canada's catalogue — *Immigration and diversity*.

8. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

“Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”

Canada: 19th out of 41 countries

Target 11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality

The number of days in which Montréal’s air quality was poor decreased from 64 days in 2015 to 29 days in 2016.

- In 2015, daily drinking water production was 823 litres per person on the island of Montréal, **26%** less than in 2001. This is noteworthy, as Quebec’s potable water savings goal in its *Stratégie québécoise d’économie d’eau potable* was **20%** for 2017.⁶⁷
- The Montréal community’s greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) were reduced by **25%** between 1990 and 2013. This is in line with the objective to achieve a **30%** reduction in emissions by 2020. However, emissions by the transport sector, namely road transport, rose **14%** between 1990 and 2013.⁶⁸

Exposure to second-hand smoke affects more youth in Montréal than in Toronto or Vancouver

Air quality and exposure to second-hand smoke or excessive humidity in a living environment are modifiable factors associated with the prevalence of many types of respiratory disease in children. These factors can impact children’s safety and even their success at school.

- Between 2015 and 2016, the number of days with **poor air quality** fell 60%, from 64 to 29 days. This was the best result since 2002 when air quality data started being collected. This is the most positive data gathered since 2002, when air quality began to be measured.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ Data taken from Ville de Montréal (2016). *Bilan de l’usage de l’eau potable 2015: rapport annuel*, June 2016. Service de l’eau.

⁶⁸ Data taken from Ville de Montréal (2016). *Inventaires des émissions de gaz à effet de serre 2013* — Collectivité montréalaise. Service de l’environnement.

⁶⁹ Data taken from Ville de Montréal (2016). *Bilan 2016 de la qualité de l’air à Montréal*. Service de l’environnement.

- In children, exposure to tobacco smoke was responsible for **13%** of lifelong asthma, **7%** of respiratory infections and **6%** of seasonal rhinitis (hay fever).⁷⁰
 - According to data from the 2013–2014 Canadian Community Health Survey, **12.3%** of youth aged 12–19 in the Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA) reported being exposed to second-hand smoke at home. This rate was **5.9%** in Toronto and **4.3%** in Vancouver.⁷¹
 - A 2014 survey of 1,600 households on the island of Montréal showed that **1 in 5 households** had visible traces of mold or water infiltration, or mildew odours. This percentage reached **38%** when humidity and non-visible mold were included.⁷²
- Renter households, single-parent families and couples with children are more likely to be affected by this problem.

MONTRÉAL'S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT FOSTERS HEALTHY HABITS IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- In 2011, **77%** of Montréal's boroughs had a “medium-high” to “high” **pedestrian potential**. This was true for 64% of neighbourhoods in Laval.⁷³
- A neighbourhood's pedestrian potential considers the area's intersection, residential and destination density as well as its mixed land-use. Neighborhoods' pedestrian potential is rated on a four-point scale: low, average, medium-high or high.
- In Montréal and Laval, the pedestrian potential is higher in disadvantaged neighbourhoods than in more advantaged neighborhoods.
- In 2011, more than **90%** of Montréal children under age 18 lived in a sector whose central point is less than one kilometre from a **park or green space** and approximately 40% lived in a sector whose central point is less than one kilometre from a **recreational infrastructure**. Little difference was found in access between children living in privileged areas and those living in disadvantaged areas.

⁷⁰ Data taken from Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (2011). *Étude sur la santé respiratoire des enfants montréalais de 6 mois à 12 ans*.

⁷¹ Data taken from Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). *Table CANSIM 105-0502*.

⁷² Data taken from Raynault, M.-F., S. Tessier & F. Thérien (2015). *Pour des logements salubres et abordables : rapport du directeur de santé publique de Montréal*, Montréal, Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal.

⁷³ Data taken from Québec en Forme (2013). *L'environnement municipal: Portrait des politiques, mesures et caractéristiques de l'environnement bâti favorables à la saine alimentation et au mode de vie physiquement actif des jeunes*: reports for the regions of Montréal, Laval and Montérégie.

In Laval, the percentage of children under 18 living within one kilometre of a sports or recreational infrastructure varied from **53%** in disadvantaged neighbourhoods to **82%** in more advantaged neighbourhoods.

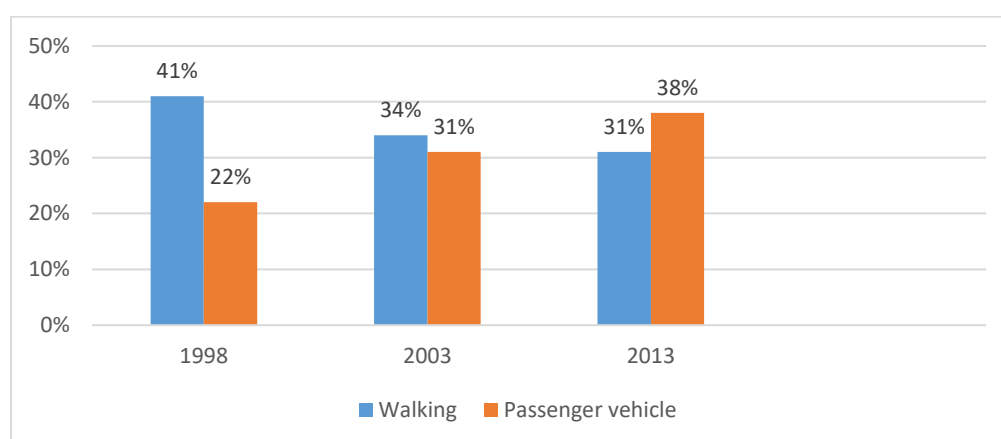
- In 2012, **53%** of public schools in the Montréal socio-sanitary region (SSR) were within a 500-metre radius (or a 10-minute walk) of a fast-food restaurant and **74%** were within a 500-metre radius of a convenience store. These were the highest percentages seen in Quebec. In Montérégie, these percentages were **37%** for proximity to a fast-food restaurant and **49%** for proximity to a convenience store. The percentages for Laval were **41%** and **44%**, respectively.⁷⁴
- Montréal schools also stand out for being located near bike paths and in neighbourhoods with a high pedestrian potential: In 2012, **65%** of public schools in Montréal were within a 500-metre radius of a bike path and **84%** were in a neighbourhood with a “strong” pedestrian potential. These percentages were the highest in Quebec. The percentages of schools located within 500 metres of a bike path were **24%** in Montérégie and **30%** in Laval.

Elementary school children are walking to school less than before

- Between 1998 and 2013, the number of elementary school children in Greater Montréal walking to school fell from **41%** to **31%**, while the number of children being driven jumped from **22%** to **38%** (Figure 8.1).

Figure 8.1

Modal share of school commutes, Montréal metropolitan area, 1998, 2003 and 2013



Source: *Enquête Origine-Destination 2013*, special compilations by Juan Torres.

Mobility behaviours vary significantly by age. The results of the Réseau de transport

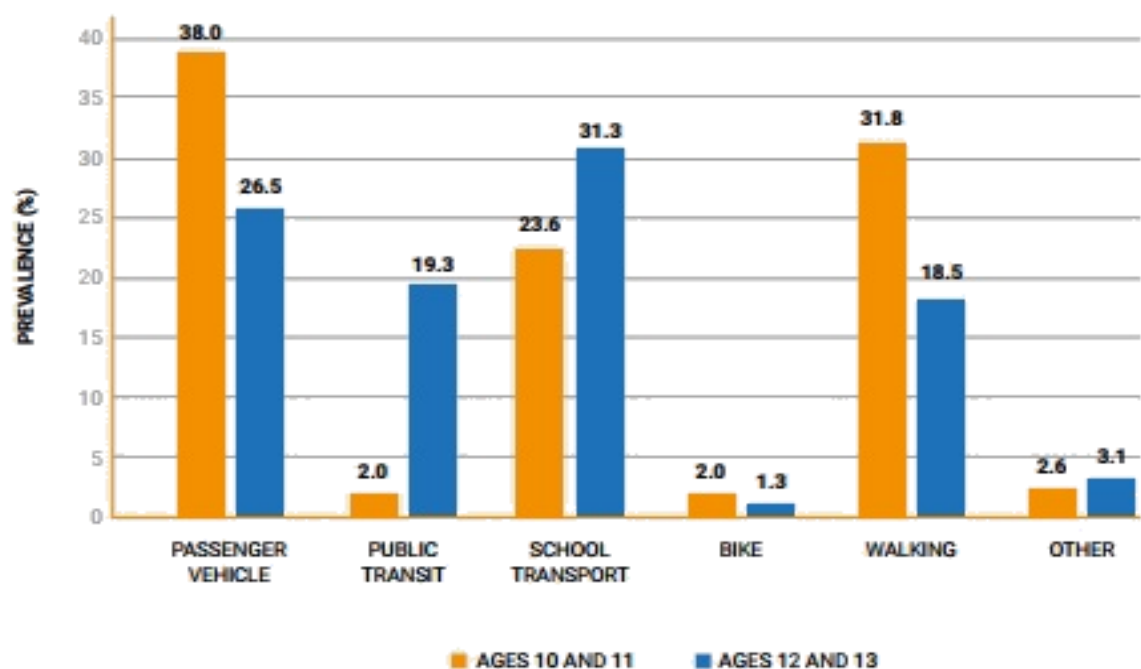
⁷⁴ Data taken from Institut national de santé publique du Québec (2014). *L'environnement bâti autour des écoles et les habitudes de vie des jeunes : état des connaissances et portrait du Québec*. Direction du développement des individus et des communautés, Québec.

métropolitain's 2013 *Enquête Origine-Destination* survey revealed very clear variations between elementary and high school students.

- In Greater Montréal, the proportion of 10- and 11-year-olds walking to school was **31.8%** in 2013 compared to **18.5%** of 12- and 13-year-olds, the age at which they start high school (Figure 8.2).
- The proportion of 10- and 11-year-olds who were driven to school by a parent or guardian was **38%** in 2013, compared to **26.5%** of 12- and 13-year-olds. The most significant difference involved public transit: only 2% of 10- and 11-year-olds used public transit in 2013 while 19.3% of 12- and 13-year-olds did.
- The greatest difference was seen in the use of public transportation: in 2013, only **2%** of 10- and 11-year-olds used public transit, but this number rose to **19.3%** for 12- and 13-year-olds.

Figure 8.2

Modal share of school commutes by 10- and 11-year-olds and 12- and 13-year-olds, Greater Montréal, 2013



Source: *Enquête Origine-Destination* 2013, a special compilation by Juan Torres.

The 2013 *Origine-Destination* survey also highlighted significant differences between

children in Montréal and those on the north and south shores.⁷⁵

- More 5–11-year olds living in Montréal’s central neighbourhoods walked to their elementary school than children of the same age groups living on the city’s north and south shores (**48% vs. 23%**).
- An even greater difference was noted for high school students: **78%** of 12–17-year-olds in Montréal’s central neighbourhoods used active modes of transportation to get to high school, while barely **19%** of 12–17-year-olds on the north and south shores did.
- This 2013 survey also revealed that, for children aged 5–11, some 51,000 trips of 500 metres or less were done by car when they could have been done on foot or by bike. For youth aged 12–17, there were about 4,400 car trips that could have been done using active modes of transportation.
- The percentage of children travelling by school bus varied according to regional population density. For 2012–2013, the lowest percentage was in Montréal, where **36.8%** of students used school buses, as compared to **68.2%** of students in Laval and **63.9%** in Montérégie.⁷⁶

Transportation Choices

The adoption of healthy habits, and more specifically making healthy choices about transportation, is not only based on the individual preferences of parents and children, but also on whether or not amenities and environments are conducive to active transportation. The living environment and, more broadly, the built environment[†] also has an impact on the choice to lead an active lifestyle.

For instance, neighbourhoods with many safe bike paths encourage bicycle use, living close to shops and services encourage walking and cycling, and more citizens use public transit in neighbourhoods with efficient options.

At the other end of the spectrum, when neighbourhoods are designed in a way that separates residential from commercial and service districts, when they have a low residential density and no public transit, citizens take their cars.

Promoting the use of active transportation must be done only to the extent that these options are safe. Amenities to protect pedestrians and cyclists are recommended to allow users to get around safely and, in this way, indirectly foster the use of these means of transportation.

Source: Direction régionale de la santé publique du CIUSSS de Centre-Sud-de-Montréal

†: By “built environment” we mean all human-made aspects of the physical environment, including public spaces; physical structures such as dwellings, schools and businesses; and transportation infrastructures such as bike paths and streets.

⁷⁵ Data are taken from special compilations by the Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal, based on *Enquête Origine-Destination* 2013.

⁷⁶ Data taken from Ouellet, S. (2014). *Indicateurs de gestion. 2012-2013. Transport scolaire*. Québec, ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

- The most recent data collected by Vélo Québec showed that 78% of Montréal children and 85% of Laval children aged 3–17 did some **cycling** in 2015. More than half of these cycled at least once a week.⁷⁷

In Laval, **60%** of children bike as a form of active transportation, mostly to get to school or the park or to visit friends. In Montréal, this percentage is **50%**.

For Quebec overall, **85%** of children use biking as a form of active transportation.

In 2016, Montréal was among the top North American cities in terms of public transit access. It ranked fourth, with a score of 77.4, after Toronto (78.1), San Francisco (80.4) and New York (84.1).⁷⁸

The Transit Score is a composite index that assesses public transit accessibility and the quality of public transit services being offered. It uses a scale of 0 to 100.

From 2011 to 2015, over 6,000 children were injured or killed in traffic accidents.

- From 2011 to 2015, **6,308 children** under 18 were injured or killed in a traffic accident involving a motor vehicle in Montréal, Laval and Montérégie (excluding on highways).⁷⁹
- On the road network of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, **41%** of the collisions involving children and the injuries or deaths of children occurred on the island of Montréal.
- The fact that the island of Montréal has a higher proportion of children who were injured or killed on the road than in the other regions can be explained by the metropolitan area's characteristics, particularly its high population density, high volume of automobile traffic, and large number of arterial roads and intersections.⁸⁰

⁷⁷ Data taken from Vélo Québec (2016). *L'état du vélo à Montréal en 2015*. And, Vélo Québec (2016). *L'état du vélo à Laval en 2015*.

⁷⁸ Data taken from Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (2016). Observatoire du Grand Montréal. Comparaisons Nord-Américaines. Indice Transit Score d'accessibilité au transport en commun.

⁷⁹ Data are taken from special compilations by the Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal, based on data from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) for 2011 to 2015. The data reported relate to the region in which the collision or death occurred. For instance, children injured or killed in Montréal may include children living in other regions.

⁸⁰ See Morency, P. & F. Tessier (2010). "Les enfants blessés sur les routes montréalaises : description sommaire des lieux de collision." Journée de la recherche en santé publique. Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal.

On the island of Montréal, pedestrians accounted for about one-third of the 3,308 children under 18 who were injured or killed in a traffic accident involving a motor vehicle between 2011 and 2015. This percentage was higher on the island than in the whole of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (30% vs. 20%).⁸¹

Inversely, injuries and deaths occurring in road accidents involving motorcycles or motorbikes were proportionally higher in the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal overall than on the island of Montréal (8% vs. 2%).

⁸¹ Data taken from special compilations by the Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal.

9. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

“Ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns”

Canada: 6th out of 41 countries

UNICEF target 12.8: Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

“[Seventy] per cent of youth in Canada are aware of environmental issues, a large number compared to other countries.” Canada ranks sixth in the world for awareness of environmental problems.

Source: UNICEF Canada (2017). *Oh Canada! Our kids deserve better.*

The most recent UNICEF Innocenti Report Card looked at the environmental awareness of **15-year-old students** (halfway through secondary studies). In the 41 countries surveyed, youth were shown to be largely aware of contemporary environmental challenges: on average 62% of 15-year-olds could identify at least five major environmental issues.

In 2015, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) asked 15-year-old students if they were familiar with or could explain well each of the following key environmental problems:

1. The increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere
2. The use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
3. Nuclear waste
4. The consequences of deforestation for other land use
5. Air pollution
6. The extinction of plant and animal species
7. Water shortages

Source: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2017). “Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries.” *Innocenti Report Card 14*, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. Florence: Innocenti.

“In the case of Canada, which is in sixth place, more than 7 out of 10 students achieve this level of knowledge. Young people are particularly aware of air pollution and plant and animal

*extinction. Genetically modified organisms and nuclear waste, meanwhile, are the least well understood issues.”*⁸²

There are no statistics on the number or proportion of children and youth under the age of 18 in Greater Montréal who are aware of sustainable development problems. Rather than providing detailed data on the question here, we highlight information that illustrates the educational orientations, approaches, and intentions on the environment and sustainable development in the Quebec Education Program.

Since 2001, the Quebec Education Program has been the official ministerial guide for the essential knowledge required in Quebec education. For the first time, the ministry now includes significant coverage of environmental and sustainable development issues in the program.

The Quebec Education Program is focused on the learning deemed essential for students in the early 21st century. “This learning is better adapted to our current understanding of child psychology and children’s development stages, while respecting the autonomy of educational institutions and professionals.”⁸³

The “Broad Areas of Learning” include contemporary themes that students will face in various aspects of their lives. Five areas are identified, chosen for both their community and their educational relevance: health and well-being, personal and career planning, environmental awareness and responsibilities, media literacy, and citizenship and community life.

“The educational goal regarding the environment and consumption is to encourage students to develop an active relationship with their environment while maintaining a critical attitude towards exploitation of the environment, technological development and consumer goods.”⁸⁴

The objective is to develop the child’s ability to see, appreciate, and understand the various elements that make up our world.

⁸² See UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2017). “Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries.” *Innocenti Report Card 14*, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre. Florence: Innocenti.

⁸³ See Quebec Education Program. Québec: Ministère de l’Enseignement et de l’Éducation supérieure, 2015.

⁸⁴ See http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/PFEQ/poster.pdf

The Program's development paths are:

1. School presence (preschool and primary) or understanding of the environment (secondary)
2. Building a viable environment focussed on sustainable development
3. Consumption strategies and the responsible use of goods and services
4. Awareness of the social, economic and ethical aspects of consumption

AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT BUILT INTO OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The school system is made up of 2,686 teaching institutions, all of which follow the Quebec Education Program that aims to familiarize preschool, primary and secondary students with the environment. In this way, all students at these levels are learning to be aware of environmental issues.

The most recent data available on preschool, elementary and secondary education in Quebec date from 2013–2014. In one or another of the three administrative regions of Montréal, Laval, and the Montérégie, more than 475,000 children received preschool, primary, or secondary education in 2013–2014, which is to say that over **475,000 children were made aware of environmental issues in school** in 2013–2014.

- Out of a total **108,132 children aged four and five years attending preschool in Quebec**, **23,922** children attended a school in Montréal, **4,730** attended a school in Laval, and **20,446** attended a school in the Montérégie.
- Out of a total of **483,156 children attending primary school** in Quebec, **111,349** attend a school in Montréal, **25,527** in Laval and **94,716** in Montérégie.
- Out of a total of **403,890 teenagers attending secondary school** in Quebec, **96,993** attend a school in Montréal, **20,763** in Laval and **76,914** in Montérégie.

10. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”

Canada: 37th out of 41 countries

UNICEF Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

UNICEF Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Any report filed with the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) in regards to a possible threat to the safety and/or development of a child is recorded as a **“report received.”** When, on the basis of information obtained in a report and following a preliminary analysis of the reported situation, the DYP deems a report to be justified and proceeds to the full assessment of the child’s situation, the report status becomes **“report retained.”**⁸⁵

In Quebec in 2014–2015, the DYP received 86,861 reports⁸⁶:

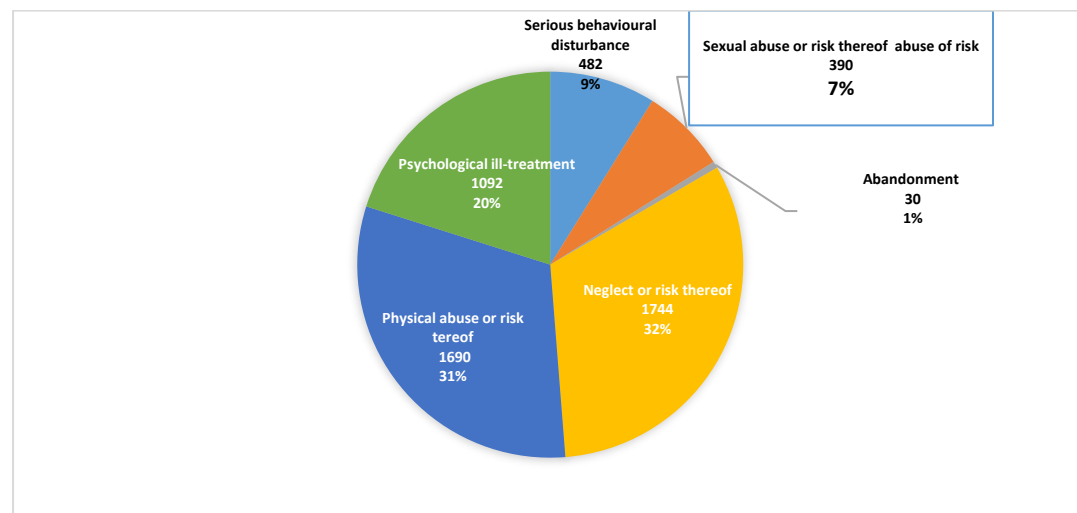
- Of these, **12,795 reports** were made from the **Montréal** and **12,223 from Montréal**. To compare populations, 296,680 children under 18 lived in Montréal and 355,651 in Montréal.
- In Laval, **3,098 reports** were received for a population of 85,184 children.
 - *Montréal reports include data from the Centre jeunesse de Montréal, which provides services to French-speaking clients, and the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, which serves the English-speaking and Jewish populations.*
- **40%** of reports received were considered justified and were retained.
- In Montréal in 2014–2015, cases of **neglect or the risk of neglect** accounted for **one-third** of retained reports for children and youth under the age of 18, followed by cases of abuse or the risk of abuse, and psychological ill-treatment (Figure 10.1).

⁸⁵ See *Cadre normatif du système d'information clientèle*, Projet Intégration Jeunesse, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux.

⁸⁶ Data taken from *Rapports statistiques annuels des services de protection et de réadaptation pour les jeunes en difficulté d'adaptation et leur famille*, 2014–2015; 2015, the most recent information available.

Figure 10.1

Reports retained (number and proportion) by problem, in children and youth under the age of 18, Montréal, 2014–2015



Source: Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. (2015). *Annual Management Report. 2014-2015*. Montréal, Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l’Ouest-de-l’Île-de-Montréal and

Centre jeunesse de Montréal (2015). *Rapport annuel de gestion. 2014-2015*. Montréal, CIUSSS Centre-Est-de-l’Île-de-Montréal.

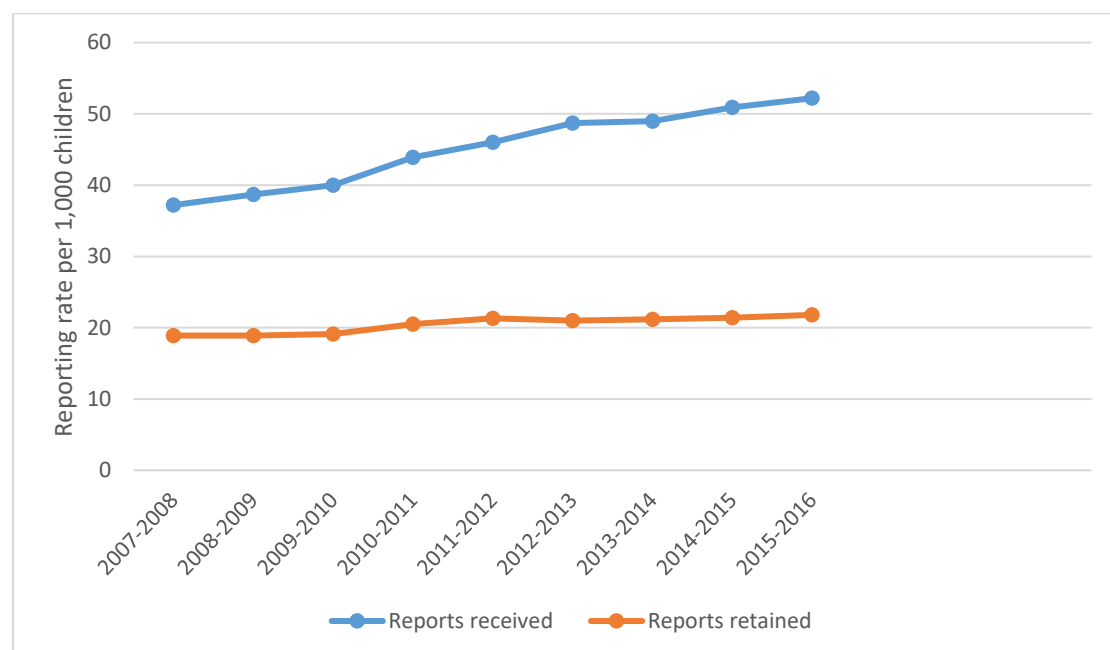
Another way to highlight the extent of reporting is to present the statistics as rates of reporting according to population. These make it possible to compare the frequency of reporting by year, region or demographic. Rates are often expressed as “per 1,000,” “per 10,000,” or “per 100,000,” depending on the phenomenon under consideration.

- In Quebec, reports *received* for children under six years of age have **increased each year**, from **37 in 1,000** children under six in 2007–2008 to **52 per 1,000** in 2015–2016. (Figure 10.2).

Reports *retained* for young children have increased as well, but less dramatically than the rate of reports received. Cases of neglect or of serious risk of neglect are the most frequent cause of reports retained for children under six years of age.

Figure 10.2

Reports received and retained (per 1,000), children under 6, province of Quebec, 2007–2008 to 2015–2016



Source: Observatoire des tout-petits, 2017

Note: Reporting rates per 1,000 are calculated as follows: number of reports ÷ target population x 1,000. Reporting rates per 10,000 are calculated as follows: number of reports ÷ target population x 10,000.

Reports to the Directors of Youth Protection in 2015–2016.

- In 2015–2016, the Directors of Youth Protection in Quebec received 87,800 reports.
- Of these, 34,911 were retained.
- 29,856 children were involved in at least one retained report.

Reasons for Filing a Report with the Director of Youth Protection

Physical abuse and risk thereof: A child is the victim of bodily injury or is subjected to unreasonable methods of upbringing by a parent or another person, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. Or, a child is at serious risk (significant likelihood) of being the victim of physical abuse.

Neglect and risk thereof: A child's parents or guardian do not meet the child's basic needs by failing to provide the necessities of life, failing to provide health care, failing to provide appropriate supervision or support, and/or failing to provide for schooling. Or, a child is at serious risk (significant likelihood) of being the victim of neglect.

Psychological ill-treatment: A child is seriously or repeatedly subjected to behaviour by a parent or another person that could cause psychological harm to the child, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. Psychologically harmful behaviour can include indifference, belittlement, emotional rejection, excessive control, isolation, threats, exploitation, or exposure to spousal abuse or domestic violence.

Sexual abuse and risk thereof: A child is subjected to gestures of a sexual nature, with or without physical contact, by a parent or another person, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation. Or, a child is at serious risk (significant likelihood) of being the victim of sexual abuse.

Serious behavioural disturbance: A child behaves in such a way as to repeatedly or seriously undermine his or her own physical or psychological integrity or that of others, and the child's parents fail to take the necessary steps to put an end to the situation (or the child, if aged 14 years or older, objects to such steps).

Abandonment: A child's parents are deceased or fail to provide for the child's care, maintenance, or education, and those responsibilities are not taken on by another person.

Source: Observatoire des tout-petits, 2017. Reprinted and translated from the French with permission.

Domestic homicides are extremely serious, but rare: in Quebec in 2014, five children under 18 years of age were victims of domestic homicide. Over 10 years, 58 children have died as a result of domestic homicide.⁸⁷

⁸⁷ Data taken from Direction de la prévention et de l'organisation policière. (2016). *Les homicides familiaux en 2014. Faits saillants*. Québec, Ministère de la Sécurité publique.

Montréal is one of the major Canadian urban centres with the highest rates of family violence against children.

- In the Montréal census metropolitan area in 2015, 1,852 cases of domestic violence against children under 18 were reported to the police, representing 282 cases per 100,000 involving girls and 199 per 100,000 involving boys.
- This is among the highest rates for all metropolitan areas in Canada.
- Rates from other metropolitan areas in Quebec are even higher than those of Montréal (Figure 10.4).

Figure 10.3

Cases of domestic violence against children under 18 reported to police (rate/100,000), based on census metropolitan area and sex, 2015

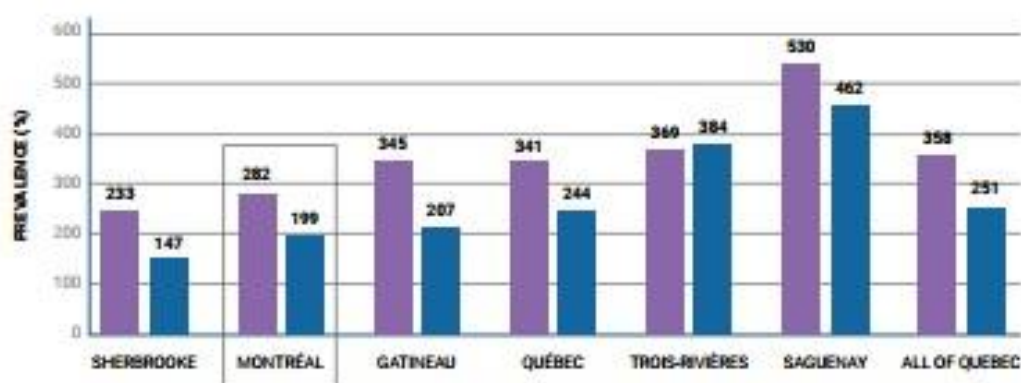
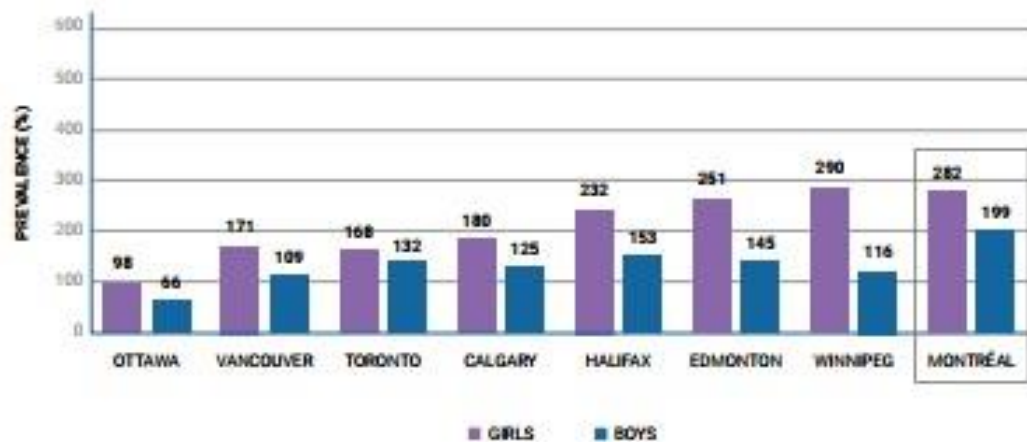


Figure 10.4

Cases of domestic violence against children under 18 reported to police (rate/100,000), based on census metropolitan area and sex, 2015.



Source: Burczyckam M. and S. Conroy (2017). *Family Violence in Canada: A statistical profile*, 2015. Juristat. Statistics Canada Catalogue, No. 85-002-X.

Violence in school, on the way to school, in romantic relationships or via cyber-bullying is increasingly widespread

The 2010–2011 *Québec Health Survey of High School Students* is the most recent wide-ranging study that includes information on violence against children and youth in Secondary 1–5 in Greater Montréal.

— According to this study, **40%** of high school students in Montréal report having been victims of at least one form of violence either at school, on the way to school or through cyber bullying.⁸⁸

This proportion is higher than the provincial rate of **36%**.

Boys reported higher numbers of interpersonal violence than girls (48% vs. 33%).

Proportionally more students in Secondary 1 and 2 than in Secondary 3–5 stated they had been a victim of interpersonal violence.

Students in disadvantaged areas were more likely to be victims of violence or to demonstrate indirect aggressive behaviours.

⁸⁸ Data taken from Pica, L. A., I. Traoré, F. Bernèche, P. Laprise, L. Cazale, H. Camirand, M. Berthelot, and N. Plante (2012). *L'Enquête québécoise sur la santé des jeunes du secondaire 2010-2011. Vol. 1. Le visage des jeunes d'aujourd'hui: Leur santé physique et leurs habitudes de vie*. Québec, Institut de la statistique du Québec; and Riberdy, H., & C. Hamel (2015). *La violence chez les jeunes du secondaire à Montréal: Données tirées de l'Enquête sur la santé des jeunes du secondaire 2010-2011*. Montréal, Équipe de surveillance du secteur Tout-petit – Jeunes, Direction de la santé publique.

- In Montréal in 2010–2011, 40% of high school students stated they had suffered violence in their love relationship in the 12 months prior to the survey.⁸⁹
- There were proportionally more girls who reported suffering a form of violence at the hands of their partner (48% vs. 31%).
- Psychological violence is the most common form of violence in romantic relationships among high school students. Psychological violence includes belittlement regarding physical appearance, insults, and controlling behaviour.
Girls are twice as likely as boys to experience psychological violence in a romantic relationship: **35% compared to 22%.**
- In Montréal, 12% of high school students reported having experienced at least one instance of forced sexual violence in their lifetime. This includes forced kissing, sexual touching and forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual violence refers to unwanted gestures of a sexual nature and constitutes serious assault.
Girls were twice as likely as boys to report having been victims of forced sexual violence in their romantic relationships: **16% compared to 8%.**

⁸⁹ Data taken from Riberdy, H., C. Hamel, and P. H. Tremblay (2017). *La violence dans les relations amoureuses chez les jeunes du secondaire à Montréal : données tirées de l'Enquête sur la santé des jeunes du secondaire 2010–2011*. Montréal, Service Développement des enfants et des jeunes, Direction de la santé publique.

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