

The background of the cover features a collage of four black and white photographs of children's faces, arranged in vertical panels. Overlaid on the bottom left is a series of three thick, diagonal brushstrokes in red, orange, and purple. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant.

VitalSigns[®]

Greater Montréal's Children

2017



Foundation of Greater Montréal

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SECOND EDITION ERRATA

Please take note that the following corrections were made to the *2017 Vital Signs* report. In the second edition of the report:

- **Page 10, title** now reads “35,000 children in Greater Montréal depend on food assistance programs offered by food banks.” This replaces “35,000 in Greater Montréal depend of food banks.”
- **Page 10, third paragraph** now reads “Nearly 35,000 children under 18 received help from food assistance programs each month from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud (Table 2.1).” This replaces “Nearly 35,000 under 18 received food assistance each month from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud. They represented over one half (59%) of the children receiving food bank support in Quebec in March 2016 (Table 2.1).”
- **Page 10, fourth paragraph** has been removed. (“In Montréal, in 2015, one parent in five with a least one child under age 6 stated that they had used food banks, clothing banks or other forms of material assistance ‘often’ in the previous 12 months. This proportion was similar to that for the province of Quebec as a whole.”)
- **Page 20, Table 6.1:** The purple in the legend is now associated with “All households” not “Single.”

ABOUT VITAL SIGNS™

The Vital Signs™ report, conducted by several community foundations under the coordination of Community Foundations of Canada, draws on local data to measure the vitality of our communities and support actions that improve quality of life.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

START CONVERSATIONS. TAKE ACTION. If you or your organization is moved or motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

PASS IT ON. Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, neighbours, library, community centre or an elected official at any level.

FIND OUT MORE. Learn about the many organizations in our community working to improve it, and see how you too can help.

CONTACT US. We know about the issues of our community as well as the organizations working to improve them. If you would like to make a difference, we can help and guide you. www.fgmtl.org



YVAN GAUTHIER
President and Chief Executive Officer

A UNIQUE OUTLOOK ON GREATER MONTRÉAL'S CHILDREN

The Foundation of Greater Montréal presents a special edition of *Vital Signs*™ for 2017. In this year of anniversary celebrations—Montréal's 375th and Canada's 150th—we decided to focus this report on children: our community's future. The story of this accomplishment deserves to be told.

The Foundation of Greater Montréal launched the Vital Signs™ project in December 2016, inviting three dozen or so children's rights organizations to share their data on young people and tell us about the most crucial issues our children face. This report would not exist without their contribution. From the very start of this process, we laid out conditions for success, and one of them—getting children involved in the reflection process—had a huge impact on how the project evolved. Six groups of young people from different neighbourhoods and various situations (children of Syrian refugees, children with physical disabilities, etc.) joined the Vital Signs™ conversation. Their contribution was so great, in fact, that we decided to hold a forum on the importance of listening to our community's children.

The publication last June of UNICEF's *Report Card 14* had a major influence on the Vital Signs™ project. This report compares the situation of Canada's children aged 0–17 with that of children from 40 other industrialized countries. Its basis is the sustainable development goals that 193 United Nations member countries adopted in September 2015. The results of *Report Card 14* confirmed our hunch: when compared to descriptions in past UNICEF reports, the current situation of Canada's children has noticeably deteriorated. Today, Canada ranks 25th overall for children's well-being; in 2007, it came in 12th. Out of the 41 countries evaluated for the sustainable development goals, Canada is 32nd for the *No poverty* goal, and 37th for both the *Zero hunger* and *Peace, justice and strong institutions* goals. Naturally, we had to adapt the indicators, which were designed for countries, to make them applicable at the regional level. We also had to look for studies on the situation of children, which are unfortunately rare.






The findings in this portrait of children in Greater Montréal were sometimes those we were expecting; others were surprising or worrisome.

A FEW FINDINGS

Although 35.8% of Canada's disadvantaged neighbourhoods can be found in Montréal, tax breaks and social transfers mitigate the major impacts of this poverty. Nearly 50% of high school students do not eat before school. Despite progress in retention at the high school level, Montréal still lags behind other regions. Girls succeed best at university, receiving 59.2% of bachelor's degrees. Regarding access to a family doctor, only 65% of young people aged 12–19 in the Montréal metropolitan area have regular access, as compared to 94% in Toronto and 88% in Vancouver. Most schools in Quebec teach about sustainable development, but many children experience problems caused by mold in their schools and substandard apartments.






Vital Signs™ does not offer an analysis of these observations; instead, it is intended to stimulate debate in the community of Greater Montréal. Several organizations have already announced major initiatives and we hope to see a wave of innovative projects to benefit our children. *Vital Signs*™ describes a multidimensional reality engaging the whole community including the children.

THE 10 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) USED FOR THE VITAL SIGNS™ REPORT

GOAL	TARGET (by 2030, unless otherwise indicated)	FGM INDICATORS
		REPORT CARD 14 INDICATORS
CHAPTER 1  SDG1. NO POVERTY CANADA: 32nd OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES End poverty in all its forms everywhere	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.	1. Rate of children living in a low-income household 2. Disadvantaged neighbourhoods
	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.	1. Child poverty rate (60% of median household income) 2. Proportion of children living in situations of multidimensional poverty 1. Social Assistance Program beneficiaries 1. Reduction of the child poverty rate by social transfers
CHAPTER 2  SDG2. ZERO HUNGER CANADA: 37th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	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 year round.	1. Food bank use 2. Food insecurity in Montréal 1. Children under age 15 living with a person who reports being affected by food insecurity (%)
	2.2 End all forms of malnutrition.	1. Deficient food habits and weight issues 1. Obesity in children aged 11–15
CHAPTER 3  SDG3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING CANADA: 29th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age.	1. Infant death rate 1. Neonatal death rate
	3.4 Promote mental health and well-being.	1. Rate of death by suicide for young people aged 12–17 2. Access to a family doctor 3. Diagnosis of mental health disorders 1. Suicide of teenagers aged 15–19 per 100,000 inhabitants 2. Children aged 11–15 who report experiencing at least two mental health symptoms more than twice a week (%)
	3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including harmful use of alcohol.	1. Lifestyle habits: Tobacco, alcohol, drugs and gambling 1. Children aged 11–15 reporting having been drunk in the past month (%)
	3.7 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services.	1. Teenage pregnancy 1. Number of births per 1,000 adolescents aged 15–19
CHAPTER 4  SDG4. QUALITY EDUCATION CANADA: 8th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning	4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes.	1. School retention and success in high school students 2. Cultural practices and digital consumption 1. Fifteen-year-old students with minimal-level mastery in reading, math and science (%)
	4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.	1. Educational daycare services 2. Child development in kindergarten 1. Participation in organized learning activities (one year before officially kindergarten entry)
CHAPTER 5  SDG5. GENDER EQUALITY Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Available data was insufficient to incorporate results into the table summarizing UNICEF's Report Card 14.)	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	1. New bachelor's degree graduates 1. Proportion of adults who agree with the statement that "university studies are more important for boys than for girls" 2. Difference between the daily participation of girls and boys in household chores, by age
	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.	1. Serious violence; sexual infractions 1. Women aged 18–29 having reported being the victim of sexual violence before age 15 (%)

EXPLANATORY NOTE: This special edition of *Vital Signs*[™] paints a picture of the situation of children in the Greater Montréal area. Like UNICEF's *Report Card 14* evaluating 41 developed countries, this report focuses particularly on the economic, social, educational and environmental aspects affecting children from a sustainable development perspective. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed on by the international community in 2015 aim to set a global agenda for development that is both equitable and sustainable socially, economically and environmentally. Reaching the SDGs could help future generations enjoy better prospects. The capacity to ensure the well-being of our children is the best way to guarantee future collective success.

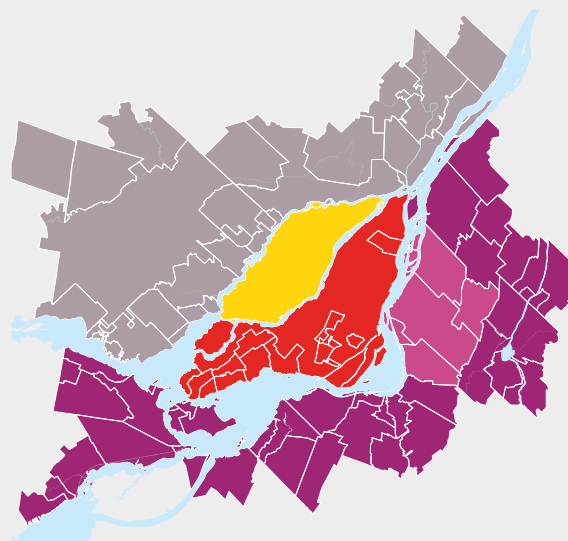
The research framework used in this edition of *Vital Signs* consists of goals for collective efforts to improve the situation of children. The *Vital Signs* report presents several indicators to evaluate the data available for Montréal, Laval and Montérégie. To allow analysis and a better understanding of this data, Canada's ranking among 41 countries is given for each goal at the beginning of every chapter.

GOAL	TARGET (by 2030, unless otherwise indicated)	FGM INDICATORS
		REPORT CARD 14 INDICATORS
CHAPTER 6  SDG8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH CANADA: 11th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all	8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.	1. Parents' participation in the labour force 2. Family-work balance
	8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.	1. Children living in households without employed adults (%) 1. Portrait of out-of-school youth 1. Youth aged 15–19 who are not in school and without work or training (%)
CHAPTER 7  SDG10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES CANADA: 14th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.1 Achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average.	1. Families social mobility 2. Housing costs 1. Palma ratio: Relationship between the income of the wealthiest 10% of households with children and that of the poorest 40%
	10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	1. Influence of socioeconomic status on students' results in three subjects
	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.	1. Inequality in opportunities for Indigenous children, immigrant children and disabled children 1. Gap between household income of a child in the 50th percentile (median) and that of a child in the 10th percentile, as a percentage of the median
CHAPTER 8  SDG11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES CANADA: 19th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality.	1. Air quality 2. Environments favourable to healthy living habits 3. Access to active modes of transportation 4. Children's safety on the road network 1. Annual average concentration of MP2.5 fine particles in urban areas, weighted according to the proportion of children aged 0–19 years living in urban areas
	12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.	1. The Quebec school system's training program 1. Fifteen-year-old students with knowledge of at least five environmental issues (%)
CHAPTER 9  SDG12. RESPONSABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION CANADA: 6th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.	1. Safety, insecurity, crime 2. Family violence requiring police intervention 1. Death of children aged 0–19 due to being hit or harmed voluntarily, per 100,000 habitants
	16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.	1. Children aged 11–15 who reported having been victim to harassment at least twice in the previous month (%) 2. Women aged 18–29 who reported having been victim to physical violence before age 15 (%)
CHAPTER 10  SDG16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS CANADA: 37th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies		

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

GREATER MONTRÉAL, OR THE GREATER MONTRÉAL REGION, 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.



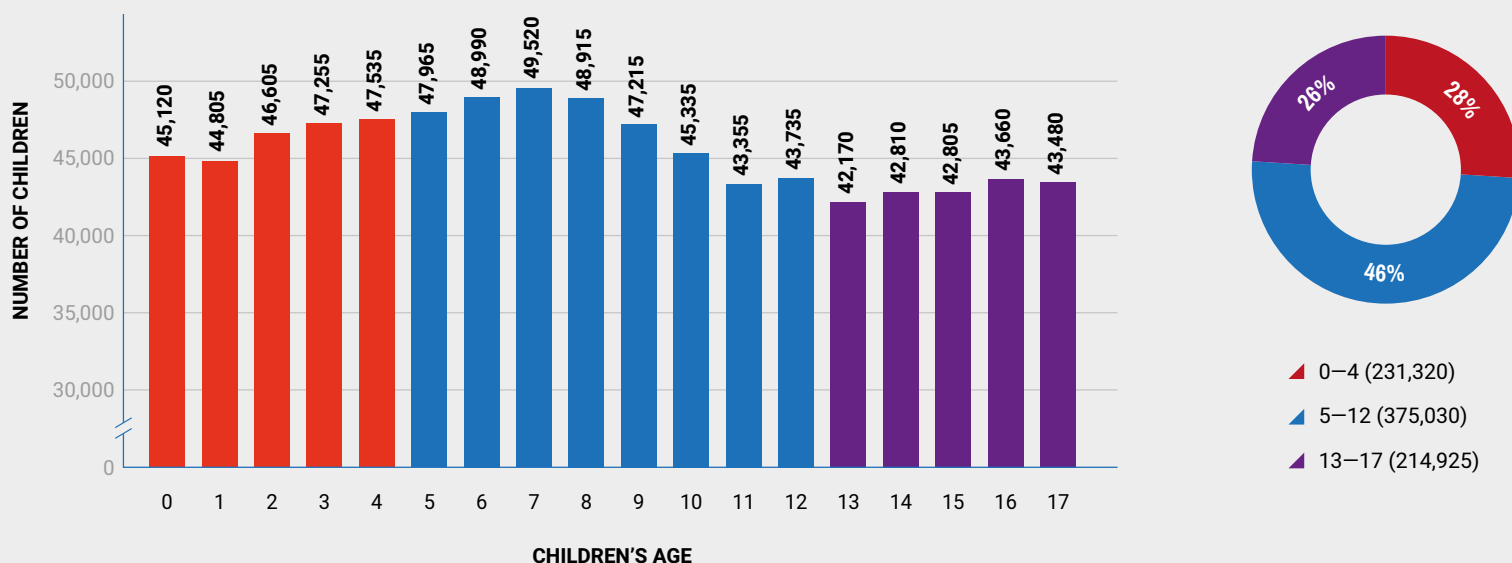
OVER 800,000 CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN MONTRÉAL

A total of **821,275 children** under age 18 were living in the Montréal CMA in 2016. While the number of children under 18 rose between 2001 and 2016, their weight relative to the total population has gradually fallen, from 21.6% in 2001 to 20.9% in 2006, to 20.3% in 2011 and, finally, to 20% in 2016.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN MONTRÉAL IS HIGHER THAN ELSEWHERE IN QUEBEC, IN VANCOUVER AND IN HALIFAX, BUT IS LOWER THAN IN CALGARY AND EDMONTON.

DEMOGRAPHIC FIGURE 1.1

BREAKDOWN OF THE POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 BY AGE AND INTO THREE AGE GROUPS (%), MONTRÉAL CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA, 2016



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

BIRTHS ON THE RISE IN MONTRÉAL AND NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS IN THE MONTRÉAL CMA ROSE 17% SINCE 2001, REACHING 44,317 BIRTHS IN 2016.

In 2016, the birth rate was 10.8 for every 1,000 inhabitants, down from 2008 and 2009. The fertility rate in the Montréal CMA was 1.43 children per woman in 2016, lower than the rate for all of Quebec (1.59), and those in Montérégie (1.67) and in Laval (1.56).

EVOLUTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S MOTHER TONGUE

In 2016, private households in the Metropolitan Montréal Region included **451,875 couples with children** and **172,240 single-parent families**. Most of the couples had two children while most of the single-parent families had only one child. Over three-quarters of single-parent families were headed by a woman.

IN 2016, THE VAST MAJORITY OF CHILDREN UNDER 15 LIVED WITH 2 BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS.

- ▲ Families with common-law parents now make up **29%** of families with children. The percentage of single-parent families has also risen steadily over the decades, accounting for **25%** of families in 2011 and **29%** in 2016.
- ▲ Montréal and Laval had the **lowest rate of live births to unmarried women** (approximately **37%**) in 2016, while Montérégie had a significantly higher rate (**68%**).
- ▲ In the Montréal CMA in 2016, among those with at least one child aged 15 or under, 665 people were part of a same-sex married couple, up from 180 people in 2006. In 2016, 1,255 people were part of a common-law same-sex couple, also up from 675 people in 2006.

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

- ▲ In the Montréal CMA, the clear majority of children under age 15 (**93.8%**) have only one mother tongue: among these, **67%** had French as their mother tongue, **12.3%** had English and **16.8%** had another language.
- ▲ Children's mother tongue reported in the various cities within Montréal CMA varied considerably, though French remained the most common. The percentage of children under age 15 with French as their mother tongue was **47.5%** in Montréal, **56.9%** in Laval, **71.7%** in Longueuil and **86.3%** in the rest of the CMA.
- ▲ The proportion of children under age 15 whose mother tongue was neither French nor English was **25.6%** in Montréal, **23.3%** in Laval, **15.1%** in Longueuil and a mere **4.4%** in the rest of the 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 language" refers to a non-Aboriginal language whose presence in the province is initially due to immigration after colonization by the French and English.

MONTRÉAL IS BY FAR THE LEADING REGION FOR INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION IN QUEBEC

The Montréal region is one of the top three destinations in Canada for international immigration: **62%** of immigrants admitted into Quebec between 2010 and 2014 lived in Montréal in January 2016. 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 age 15.

This percentage was distinctly higher than the percentage of **29.4%** for Quebec overall, but was still lower than the percentages for Toronto (**71%**) and Vancouver (**63.7%**).

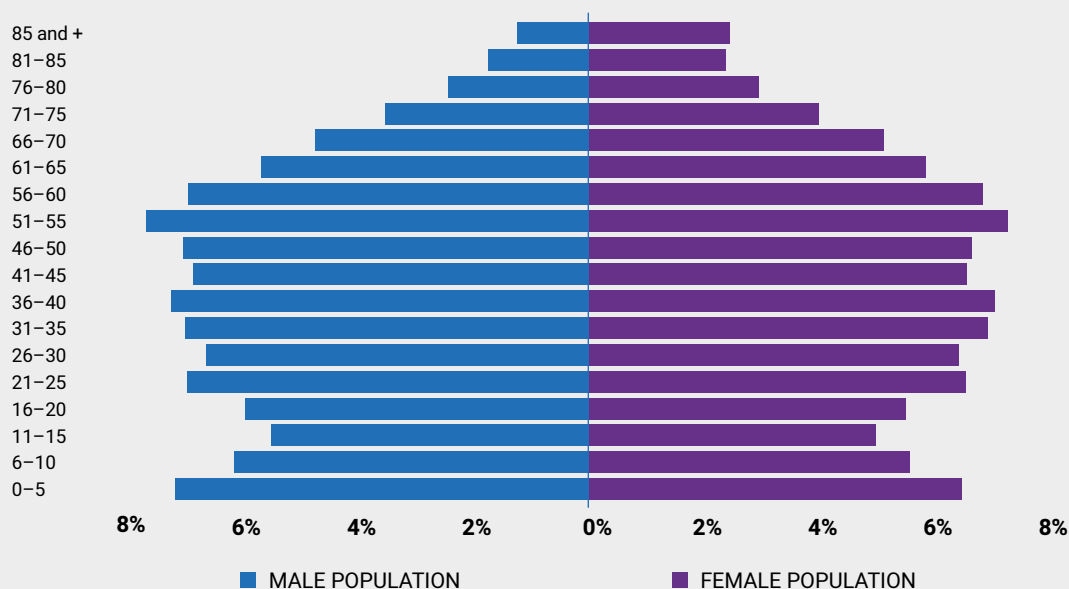
AN AGING POPULATION

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.

Population aging can be seen in Montréal and neighbouring areas.

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

DEMOGRAPHIC FIGURE 1.2
POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY SEX AND AGE GROUP,
MONTRÉAL CMA, 2016





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.

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

- ▲ 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).

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.

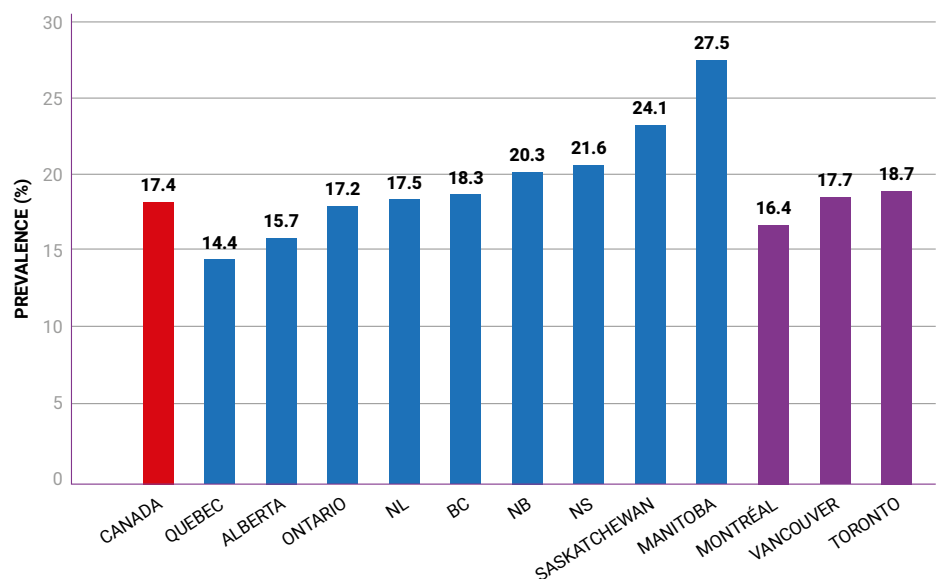
In comparison, **5%** of couples with two children were in a low-income situation in 2014, the same as in 2010.

- ▲ 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.

FIGURE 1.1

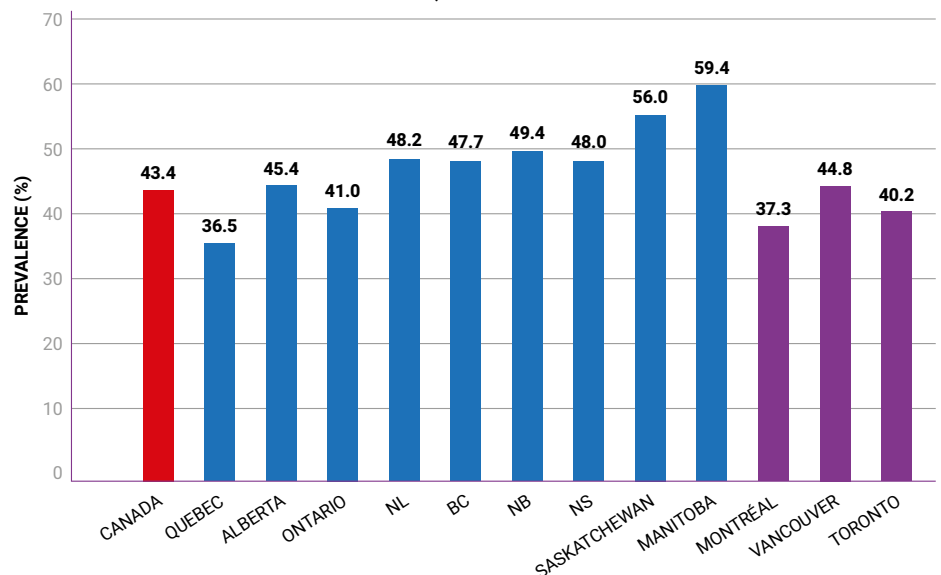
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING IN LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BASED ON THE AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE (LIM), ALL FAMILY TYPES, 2015.



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.



IN MONTRÉAL, 16.4% OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVED IN A LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD 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 CANADA'S LOW-INCOME NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE IN MONTRÉAL

Another aspect of poverty is the concentration of low-income individuals in certain neighbourhoods, and how this 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.

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.

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 18 LIVING IN POVERTY DOWN FROM **22% TO 14%**.

▲ 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%**.

Two indicators of poverty were used:

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.



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 FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OFFERED 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.

- ▲ 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.

The largest percentage of households receiving help for the first time was seen in Laval (**22.5%**).

- ▲ Nearly **35,000 children** under 18 received help from food assistance programs each month from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud (Table 2.1).

When we add in the beneficiaries of other programs offered by the food banks, such as meal and snack distribution, cooking workshops and collective kitchens, then the number of children receiving assistance rises above 35,000.

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. The proportion of children assisted in Quebec is comparable to the national trend (Table 2.2).

TABLE 2.1

USERS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE MOISSON MONTRÉAL, MOISSON RIVE-SUD AND MOISSON LAVAL FOOD BANKS, MARCH 2016

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

SOURCE: Food Banks Canada (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 Montréal, covering 60% of its territory.

TABLE 2.2

USE OF FOOD BANKS IN CANADA, MARCH 2016

PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES	No. of people assisted	Trend (%) since 2015		Trend (%) since 2008		Children under age 18 (%)
BC	103,464	↑	3.4	↑	32.5	32.2
Alberta	79,293	↑	17.6	↑	136.1	39.4
Saskatchewan	31,395	↑	17.5	↑	76.9	45.2
Manitoba	61,914	↓	2.9	↑	53.0	42.9
Ontario	335,944	↓	6.4	↑	6.9	33.4
Quebec	171,800	↑	5.3	↑	34.7	34.5
New Brunswick	19,769	↑	4.1	↑	26.4	32.5
Nova Scotia	23,840	↑	20.9	↑	40.9	30.4
NL	26,366	↑	5.3	↓	3.3	37.3
PEI	3,370	↑	6.9	↑	16.5	35.5
Territories	6,337	↑	24.9	N/A		38.2
Canada	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 IS 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 a 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.

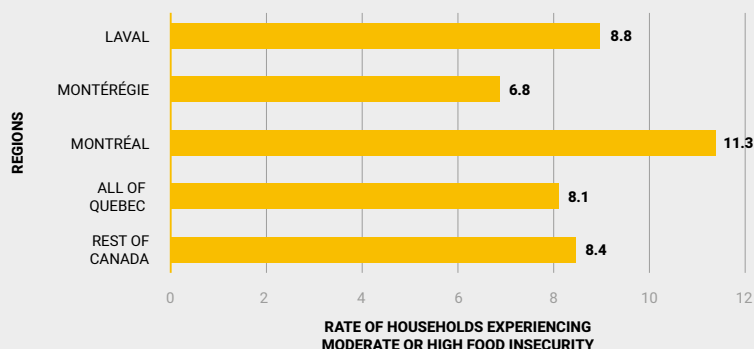


FIGURE 2.1
PREVALENCE OF MODERATE-TO-SEVERE FOOD INSECURITY AMONG HOUSEHOLDS IN 2011–2012 FOR CERTAIN REGIONS OF QUEBEC AND IN COMPARISON WITH THE REST OF CANADA

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

HALF OF ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (50%) EAT BREAKFAST BEFORE SCHOOL

- ▲ According to the Québec Health Survey of High School Students (QSHSS) conducted in 2010–2011, **54%** of high-school students have breakfast before school each morning, as compared to **62%** for all of Quebec.
- ▲ A mere **one-third of students** eat the minimum number of portions of fruits and vegetables recommended by the Canada Food Guide. 6 portions/day for ages 9–13, and 7 to 8 portions/day for ages 14–18.
- ▲ In 2010–2011, two-thirds of high school students were a normal weight. Approximately **15%** of high school students were overweight and **7%** were obese. The situation was comparable in Quebec as a whole. More boys than girls were overweight.



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.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

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

- ▲ Montréal and Laval had higher rates, at **5.1 deaths 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.

TARGET 3.4

Promote mental health and well-being.

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-19 HAVE MORE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING A DOCTOR

- ▲ In 2013-2014, **65%** of young people aged 12-19 in the **Montréal CMA** said they **had a family doctor** or a "regular doctor."

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

In all the Quebec regions, including Montréal, Laval and Montérégie, the percentage of children registered with a family doctor has been on the rise since 2013.

- ▲ According to the 2012 immunization schedule, **82%** of two-year-olds in **Montréal** received the recommended vaccinations for their age, which is 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 1 parent out of 10 said they voluntarily delayed immunization.

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 **4 for every 100,000**.

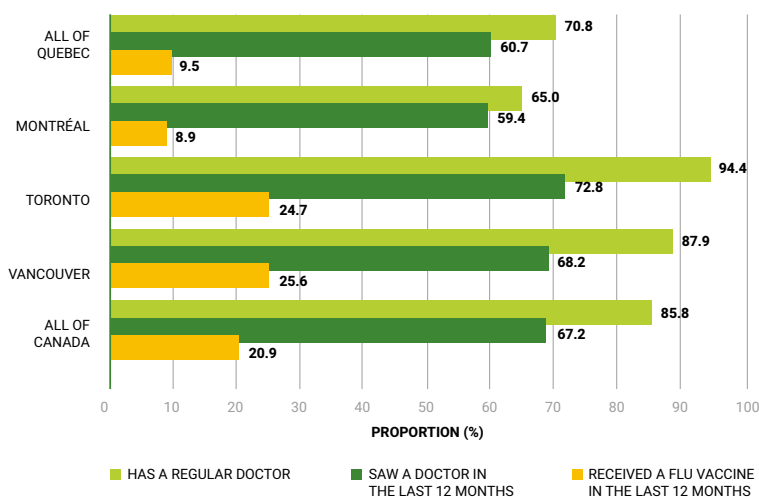
The estimated rate in the three regions making up Greater Montréal is slightly less than **3.5 deaths out of every 100,000** young people of that age.

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

FIGURE 3.1

PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY HAD ACCESS TO OR HAD CONSULTED A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL AND THE PROPORTION WHO RECEIVED A FLU VACCINE, FOR CERTAIN CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS, FOR ALL OF QUEBEC AND THE REST OF CANADA, ADOLESCENTS AGED 12-19 ONLY, 2013-2014

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Survey of Community Health, CANSIM 105-0592 Table - Health indicator profiles.



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 attributed to the fact that more children are being diagnosed with Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorders (ADD ADHD).

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

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

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

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

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 to 19-year-olds said they experienced a **high level of stress on a daily basis**.

This proportion is similar to all of Quebec (18%).

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

TARGET 3.5

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of psychoactive substance abuse, including harmful use of alcohol.

▲ In Montréal, in 2010–2011, **8.1%** of high school students said they smoked on a regular basis. This was the case for **16.9%** of high school students elsewhere in Quebec.

▲ In Montréal, in 2010–2011, an estimated **8%** of high school students had **problematic use of alcohol and drugs**, as compared to **11%** elsewhere in Quebec.

▲ In Montréal, in 2013, **32.6%** of Secondary 5 students **said they had gambled** in the 12 months prior to the survey.

This proportion was lower than for **all of Quebec**.

TARGET 3.7

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services.

FEWER TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

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

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



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 LEVELS IN THE PROVINCE'S 3,000 EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Of these students, **23%** attended an establishment located in **Montréal**, **19%** were in the **Montréal** region and **5%** were 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.

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%**.

SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF 61% AFTER 5 YEARS, BUT ALMOST 80% AFTER 7 YEARS

FOR ALL MONTRÉAL SCHOOL BOARDS, THE GRADUATION AND QUALIFICATION RATE AFTER 7 YEARS FOR STUDENTS IN THE 2008 COHORT WAS 78.1% IN 2014-2015.

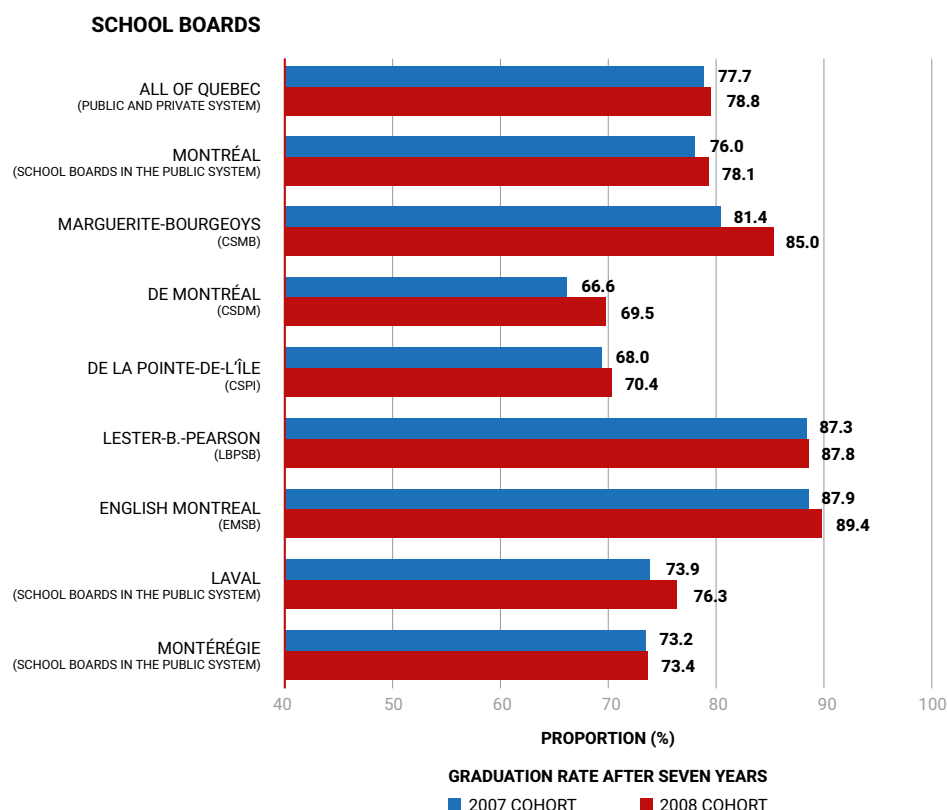
- ▲ This graduation rate was slightly lower than the **provincial one of 78.8%**.
- ▲ There are significant discrepancies in the graduation rates of Montréal's various school boards: **85%** for the schools in the CSMB, **89.4%** in the EMSB, **87.8%** in the Lester-B.-Pearson S-B, and **69.5%** in the CSDM (Figure 4.1).
- ▲ The graduation rates after 7 years in Laval and the Montréal are lower than those observed in Montréal: **76.3%** in Laval and **73.4%** in the Montréal, for the 2008 cohort.
- ▲ The graduation and qualification rates after 6 years are lower: **74.8%** for the 2008 cohort for all of Quebec and **73%** for Montréal. After 5 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 School Board was **85%**.
- ▲ The gap between girls' and boys' graduation rates is trending downward but remains significant at around 10 percentage points.

FIGURE 4.1

SECONDARY 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 secondary 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



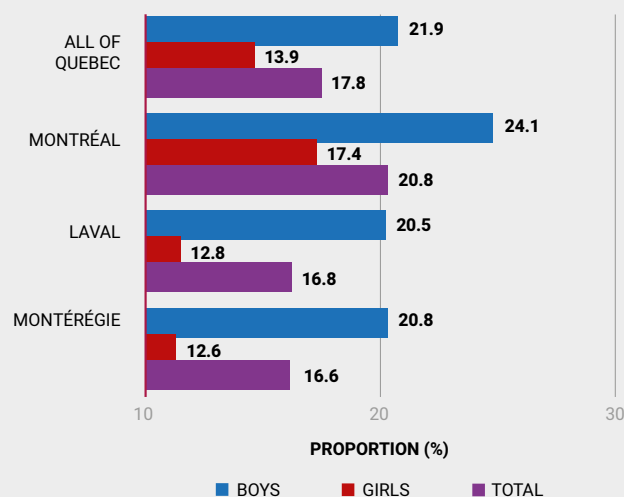
SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUT RATE

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 2008–2009.

- ▲ 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 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.

FIGURE 4.2
ANNUAL RATE OF STUDENTS LEAVING THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WITHOUT A SECONDARY 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).



EDUCATION AND ADAPTATION

IN MONTRÉAL IN 2015, MORE THAN 60% OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FRENCH- AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS WERE FROM FIRST- OR SECOND-GENERATION IMMIGRANT FAMILIES.

- ▲ **46%** of first- and second-generation students will finish their studies within the expected timeframe compared to 57% among third-generation students.
- ▲ 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 Montérégie (**19.6%**) and for Quebec overall (**20%**).
- ▲ 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.

TARGET 4.2

Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.

REDUCED-CONTRIBUTION CHILDCARE

- ▲ In Quebec the number of reduced-contribution program spots at educational childcare centres increased from **196,618** in 2006 to **232,034 spots** on March 31, 2016.

The Montréal region had about **28%** of all reduced-contribution spots in March 2017, followed by the Montérégie region, with **19%** of spots. Laval had **6%** of spots.

In 2017, nearly **70%** of spots in Quebec's unsubsidized childcare centres were located in Montréal, Laval or Montérégie.
- ▲ In 2015 in Quebec, the monthly cost of a childcare centre spot for children aged five and under was \$174.

Childcare centre costs are **considerably lower** in Quebec than in other Canadian cities, especially Toronto (\$1,128).
- ▲ In Montréal in 2012, **29%** of children in kindergarten were considered vulnerable in at least one developmental area.

This is higher than the percentage of **26%** observed for Quebec overall.

Proportionally, more boys, more children born outside Canada and more children from very economically disadvantaged areas were considered vulnerable in at least one developmental area.



QUALITY EDUCATION

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND
QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

CANADA: 8th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

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).

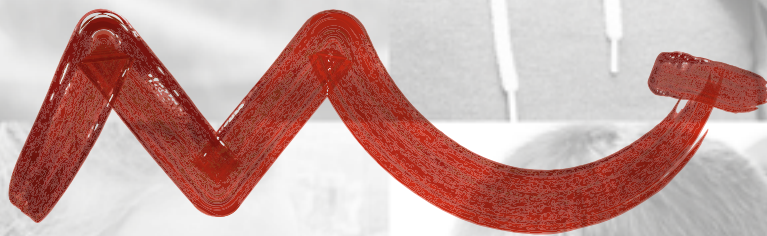
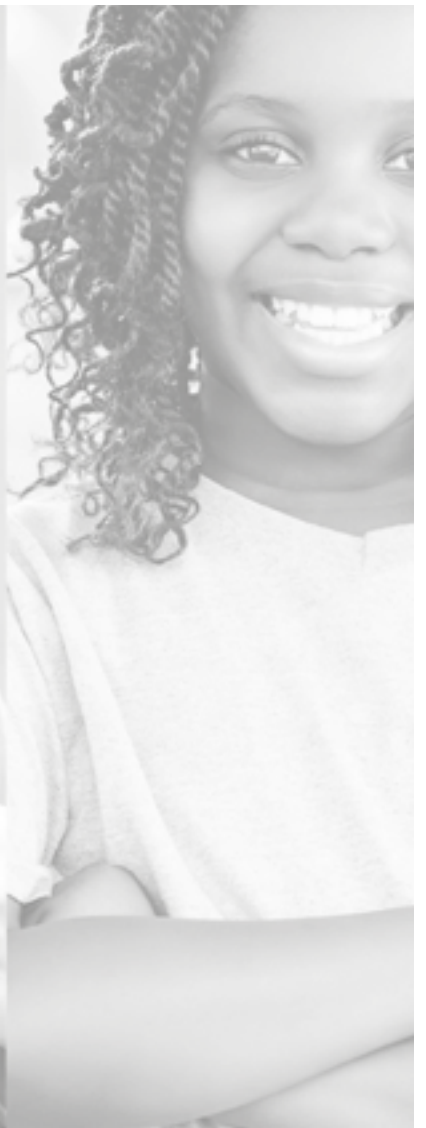
A 2015 SURVEY OF 1,000 PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 4–17 CONDUCTED BY CEFRIO SUGGESTS THAT, IN QUEBEC, THE VAST MAJORITY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO AT LEAST ONE DIGITAL DEVICE AT HOME.

- ▲ About 8 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 2 of those hours are for school work and 8 hours are for non-school-related activities.

SOURCES: Lavoie, A. et 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.

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







GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

CANADA: NO RANKING

TARGET 5.1

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

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 the chapters of 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.

YEAR AFTER YEAR, MORE WOMEN RECEIVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE THAN MEN

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

In Montréal, **8.6%** of women aged 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 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 in 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)

▲ 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
MONTRÉGIE, 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 growth rate 2011–2015	Percentage of female 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%
Montrégie	5,224	5,894	3.1%	63.3%

▲ In 2015, **29,732 new recipients of a bachelor's degree** had done 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 region 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 social sciences graduates overall, but women were the majority, with **69%** of female graduates receiving a bachelor's degree in the social sciences, compared to **56%** of men.



MORE THAN 80%

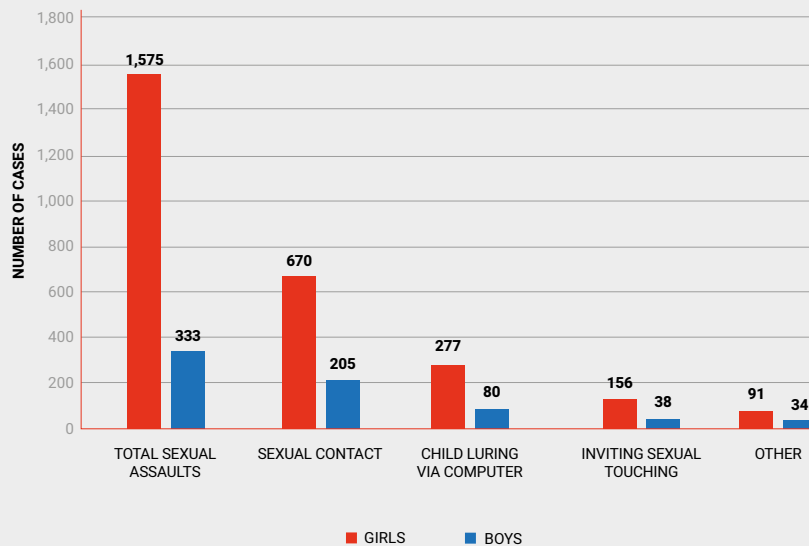
OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

VICTIMS ARE GIRLS

FIGURE 5.1

NUMBER OF SEX OFFENSE VICTIMS BY TYPE AND SEX,
YOUTH UNDER 18, 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



TARGET 5.2

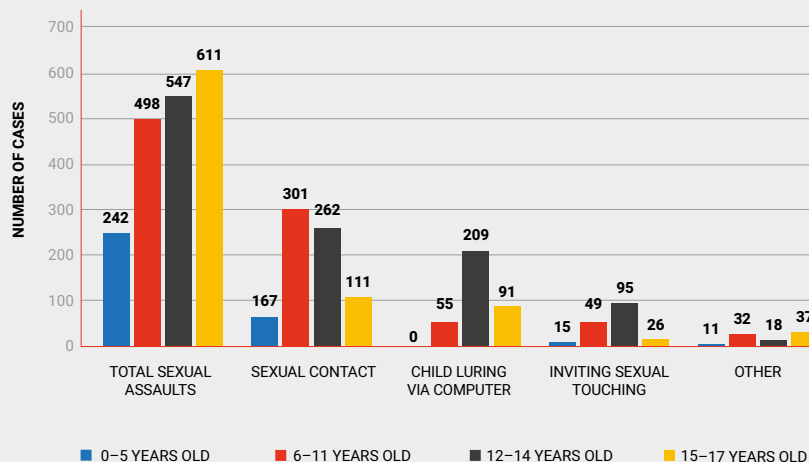
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

- ▲ 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 via computer.
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**.
- ▲ Sexual assault is the main type of sex offense against **children under six: 242 cases** of sexual assault were reported in Quebec in 2014 (Figure 5.2).
- ▲ In case of sexual contact and inviting sexual touching, the perpetrator is usually **someone the child knows**, while a stranger is typically the perpetrator only in cases of luring via computer.

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.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, 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.

PARENT PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

▲ In Quebec in 2011, according to the most recent available data, 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 6.1).

▲ **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 numbers for Quebec overall and for Laval and Montérégie.

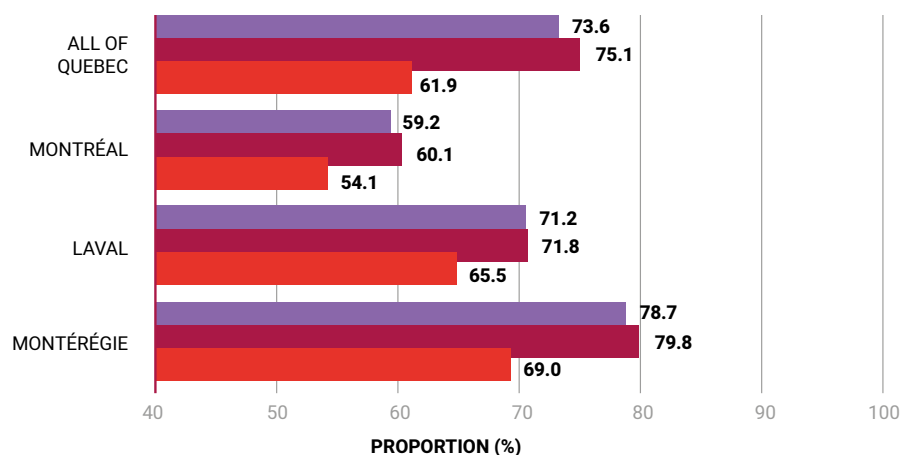
▲ Living as a couple or being a lone parent also had a significant impact on parents' employment rates. In all regions, lone-parent mothers had lower employment rates than mothers who were part of a couple. The same was true for men.

TABLE 6.1

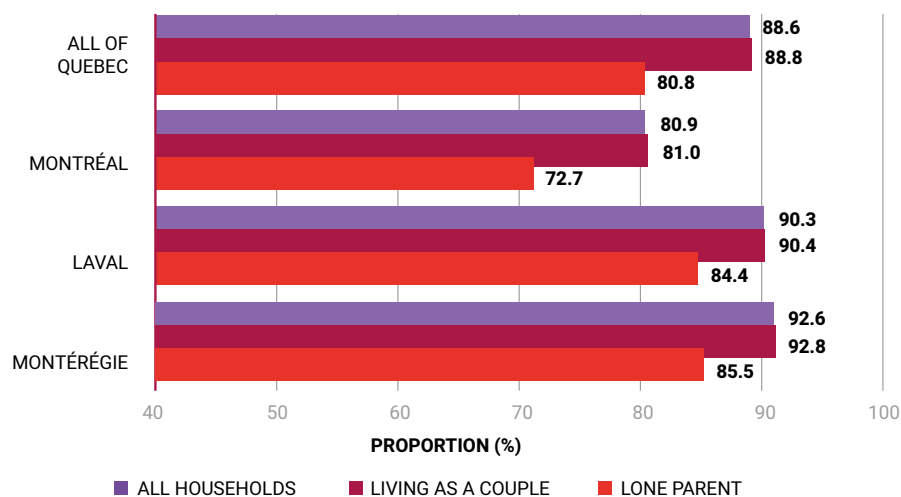
EMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PEOPLE AGED 25–54, LIVING IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF SIX, BY SEX AND FAMILY SITUATION, FOR ALL OF QUEBEC, AND FOR MONTRÉAL, LAVAL AND MONTÉRÉGIE, 2011

SOURCE: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census data, as reported in: Conseil du statut de la femme (2015). *Portrait statistique : Égalité Femmes — Hommes (Montréal, Laval et Montérégie)*

WOMEN



MEN





WORK-FAMILY

BALANCE IS

A BIG CHALLENGE

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

▲ 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 they had enough free time for themselves; the percentage was **55%** for Quebec overall.

▲ **20%** of Montréal parents said they “often or always” felt they lack time for their children—a lower percentage than the proportion of **25%** for Quebec overall.

TARGET 8.6

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

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.

▲ 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 nor attending school or a training program.

Of the **186,800** NEET youth: **17%** were aged 15–19, **38%** were aged 20–24, and **45%** were aged 25–29.

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

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

In the rest of Canada, the rates were lower than in Quebec: **12%** in 1992–1995 and **6%** in 2013–2016.

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

WORK, HEALTH AND SCHOOL DROP OUT RATES

▲ 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.

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 was more pronounced among girls.

▲ 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.



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.

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 higher than 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. and 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.

▲ In the Montréal CMA in 2015, **16.4%** of children under 18 were living in low-income households, according to the low-income measure after tax (Figure 10.1).

▲ The 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 6 were living in a low-income household, according to the low-income measure before tax, a rate higher than the **24%** rate for all of Quebec.

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.

▲ In Montréal, social mobility is lower (high elasticity) than in Toronto and Vancouver (Figure 10.1).

▲ In Quebec, social mobility is slightly higher (low elasticity) than in Canada as a whole.

▲ In Montréal in 2011, **29%** of families with children spent over **30%** of their income on housing.

This was much higher than rate of **17%** for Quebec overall.

A much higher proportion of renters and single-parent households spent over **30%** on housing.

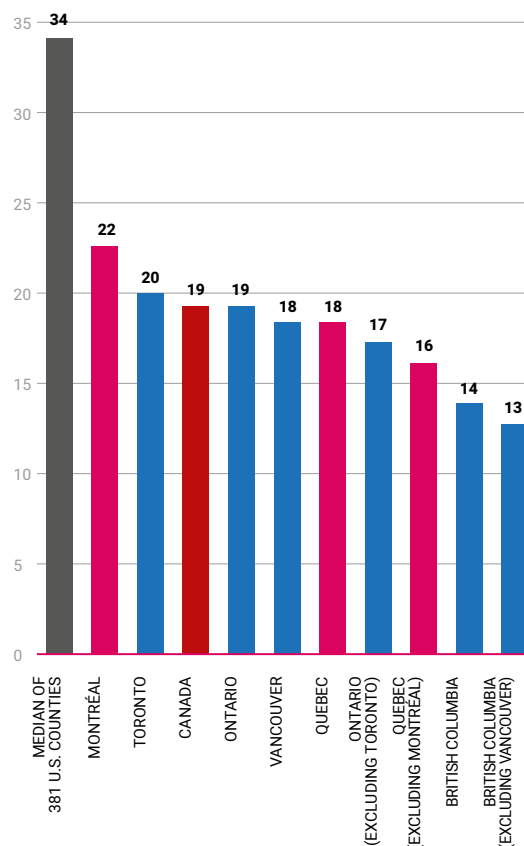
Yet the average cost of housing was lower in Montréal than in Canada's other big cities.

▲ High housing costs force some families into unsuitable housing. In Montréal in 2016, **nearly 118,000 families with children** (with one or two parents) lived in unsuitable housing, meaning that the size, quality or affordability were inadequate. This accounts for **1 in 4 families with children**.

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

FIGURE 10.1
INTERGENERATIONAL INCOME ELASTICITY IN CANADA AND SOME AMERICAN COUNTIES

SOURCE: Scarfone, S., F. Gosselin, M. Homsy and 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.



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 2011 in the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area, less than **1%** of the population identified as Indigenous. This number includes **6,150 children under 15**.

Indigenous children account for less than **1%** of all children under the age of 15 in Montréal. This percentage is the same in the Toronto CMA.

For comparison purposes, Indigenous children account for **4%** of all children under 15 in the Calgary and Vancouver CMAs. In Winnipeg, **20%** of all children under 15 are Indigenous.

- ▲ 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 as regards First Nations children living in Indigenous communities. Their education is overseen by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

CHILDREN WITH A PRECARIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS

In Montréal in 2016, there were **321,675 children** under the age of 15 who had at least one parent who was born outside Canada. This accounts for **46.6%** of all children under 15.

This proportion was much higher than the **29.4%** rate for **Quebec** overall, but lower than Toronto's **71%** and Vancouver's **63.7%**.

- ▲ 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 parents' 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), do not have private insurance or the financial means to get healthcare. Over 3,000 people benefitted from these services and activities in 2015–2016.

CHILDREN WITH A HANDICAP

- ▲ In Quebec in 2015, **35,204 families (4%** of all Quebec families) 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 benefitting from the SHC, 7,812 were living in Montréal, 7,616 in Montérégie and 1,951 in Laval.

Half of these families make **under \$50,000 per year**.



IN QUEBEC, MORE THAN
35,000 FAMILIES RECEIVED
THE SUPPLEMENT FOR
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN



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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- ▲ In 2015, the 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.
- ▲ The Montréal community's **greenhouse gas emissions** (GHG) 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, GHG emissions by the transport sector (road transport more specifically) rose **14%** between 1990 and 2013.

**THE NUMBER OF DAYS
WITH POOR AIR QUALITY
FROM 64 DAYS IN 2015
TO 29 IN 2016.**

AIR QUALITY IN MONTRÉAL

- ▲ Between 2015 and 2016, the number of days with **poor air quality in Montréal** fell **60%**, from 64 to 29 days. This was the best result since 2002 when air quality data started being collected.
- ▲ In children, exposure to tobacco smoke is responsible for **13%** of life-long asthma, **7%** of respiratory infections and **6%** of seasonal rhinitis (hay fever).
- ▲ In Greater Montréal, in 2013–2014, **12.3%** of youth aged 12–19 stated being exposed to second-hand smoke at home. This rate was **5.9%** in Toronto and **4.3%** in Vancouver.
- ▲ A survey of 1,600 households on the island of Montréal revealed that one dwelling out of five presents traces of visible mold or water infiltration or odors from mildew. This proportion jumps to **38%** when humidity and non-visible mold are included.
- ▲ Renter households, single-parent families and couples with children are more likely to be affected by this issue.

MONTRÉAL'S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT CONTRIBUTES TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- ▲ In 2011 and in general, **77%** of Montréal's boroughs had a "medium-high" to "high" pedestrian potential, as did **64%** of Laval's neighborhoods.
A neighbourhood's pedestrian potential considers the area's intersection, residential and destination densities, as well as its land-use mix. 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 neighborhoods compared to more advantaged neighborhoods.
- ▲ In 2011, more than **90%** of Montréal children under 18 lived in a sector whose central point was less than one kilometre away from a park or green space and approximately **40%** lived in a sector whose central point was less than one kilometre away from a sports or leisure infrastructure. Little difference was found in access between children living in advantaged areas and those living in disadvantaged areas. In Laval, the percentage of children under 18 living less than one kilometre away from a sports or leisure infrastructure varied between **53%** in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and **82%** in more advantaged neighborhoods.
- ▲ In 2012, **53%** of public schools in the Montréal socio-sanitary region (SSR) were within a 500-metre radius (10-minute walk) of a fast-food restaurant and **74%** of schools were within a 500-metre radius of a convenience store. These are the highest percentages in Quebec. In Montérégie, these percentages were **37%** for proximity to fast-food and **49%** for proximity to a convenience store. In Laval, these percentages were **41%** and **44%**, respectively.
- ▲ Montréal schools are also notable for their proximity to bike paths and for the pedestrian potential of the neighbourhoods: 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 "high" pedestrian potential. These percentages are the highest in Quebec. The percentage of schools located within a 500-metre radius 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%**.
- 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 11.1).
- The proportion of 10- and 11-year-olds who were driven to school 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.

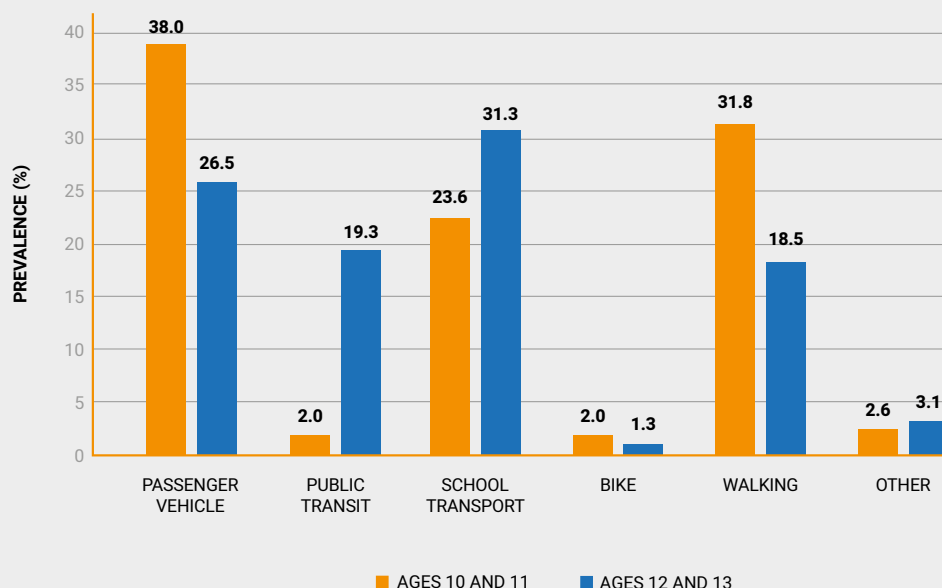
IN 2016, MONTRÉAL WAS NAMED ONE OF THE TOP NORTH AMERICAN CITIES FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, RANKING FOURTH WITH A TRANSIT SCORE OF **77.4**, AFTER TORONTO (78.1), SAN FRANCISCO (80.4) AND NEW YORK (84.1).

The Transit Score is a composite index that assesses public transit accessibility and quality, and is rated on a scale of 0 to 100.

- The most recent data collected by Vélo Québec revealed that **78%** of children in Montréal and **85%** of children in Laval (ages 3–17) rode a bike in 2015. Over half of these biked at least once a week.

FIGURE 11.1
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 the Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal.



FROM 2001 TO 2015, OVER 6,000 CHILDREN WERE INJURED OR KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

- 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).
- 41%** of collisions causing injury or death on the Greater Montréal road network occurred on the island of Montréal.



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION
AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

CANADA: 6th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 12.8

Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

"70% of youths 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.*

SINCE 2001, THE QUEBEC EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN THE OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL GUIDE TO 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.

Regarding environment and consumption, the goal is to encourage students to develop an active relationship with their environment while maintaining a critical attitude toward environment management, technological development and consumer goods.

THE PROGRAM'S DEVELOPMENT PATHS ARE:

1

PRESENCE IN THE ENVIRONNEMENT (PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY)
OR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT (SECONDARY)

3

CONSUMPTION STRATEGIES AND THE RESPONSIBLE
USE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

2

BUILDING A VIABLE ENVIRONMENT FOCUSED
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4

AWARENESS OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF CONSUMPTION



LEARNING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT SCHOOL

The school network includes, **2,686 educational establishments** that all adhere to the *Quebec Education Program*. It includes content to raise preschool, elementary and high school students' awareness of environmental issues.

- ▲ Out of a total of **108,132 children aged 4 and 5 and attending preschool** in Quebec, **23,922** attend a school in Montréal, **4,730** in Laval, and **20,446** in Montérégie.
- ▲ Out of **485,156 children attending primary school** in Quebec, **111,349** attend a school in Montréal, **25,527** in Laval and **94,716** in Montérégie.
- ▲ Out of **403,890 teenagers attending secondary school** in Quebec, **96,993** attend a school in Montréal, **20,763** in Laval and **76,914** in Montérégie.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CANADA: 37th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 16.1

Significantly reduce all forms of violence
and related death rates everywhere.

TARGET 16.2

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms
of violence against and torture of children.

IN QUEBEC IN 2014–2015,
YOUTH PROTECTION
SERVICES RECEIVED
86,861 REPORTS

- ▲ Of these, **12,795 reports** were made from **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.
- ▲ **40%** of the reports received were considered justified and were retained.
- ▲ **One-third** of retained reports affecting children under 18 were due to **neglect or risk of neglect**. Physical abuse or risk of physical abuse, and psychological mistreatment were the second and third cause of retained reports.
- ▲ In Quebec, the number of reports received regarding children under six has **increased yearly**, from **37 per 1,000** in 2007–2008 to **52 per 1,000** in 2015–2016.

The retained reports involving very young children also increased, but at a lower rate than for reports received. Neglect or serious risk of neglect are the most frequent reasons for retained reports involving children under the age of six.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDES ARE EXTREMELY SERIOUS
BUT RARE EVENTS: IN 2014 IN QUEBEC, FIVE CHILDREN
UNDER 18 WERE KILLED IN DOMESTIC HOMICIDES.
IN A 10-YEAR PERIOD, 58 CHILDREN WERE
MURDERED IN QUEBEC.

MONTREAL HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST
RATES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE TOWARD
CHILDREN AMONG CANADIAN BIG CITIES

- ▲ 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 (Figure 10.1).

These are among the highest rates for all metropolitan areas in Canada.

Rates from other metropolitan areas in Quebec are even higher than Montréal's.

REPORTS TO YOUTH PROTECTION SERVICES IN 2015–2016

- ▲ In 2015–2016, Quebec's Youth Protection Services received 87,800 reports.
- ▲ Of this number, 34,911 were retained.
- ▲ 29,856 children were involved in at least one report that was retained.

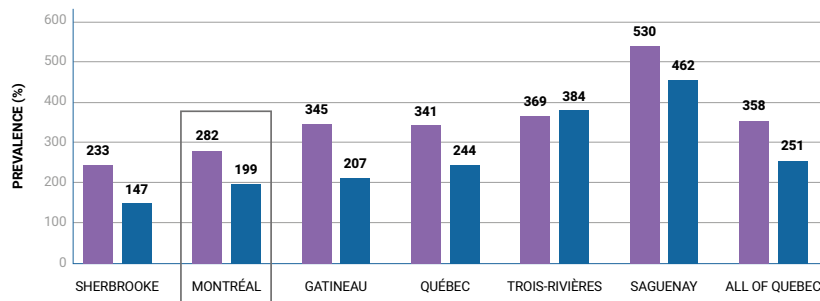
*NOTE: The reports for Montréal include data from Centre Jeunesse de Montréal providing services to a francophone clientele, and the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres providing services to the anglophone population as well as to the Jewish community.

FIGURE 16.1

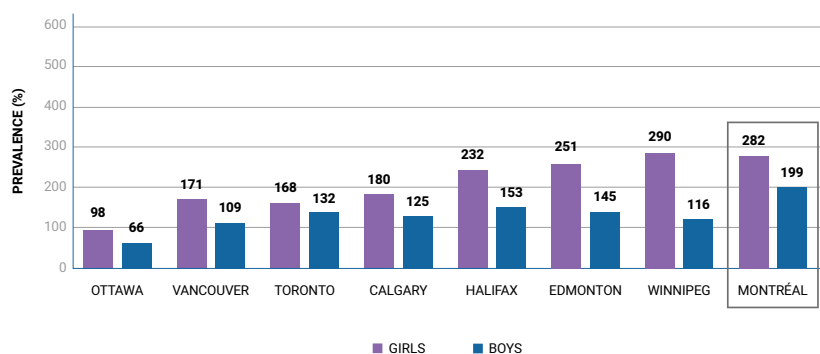
CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN UNDER 18 REPORTED TO POLICE (RATE/100,000), BASED ON CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA AND SEX, 2015

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

QUEBEC



CANADA



VIOLENCE AND BULLYING

- According to the 2010–2011 Québec Health Survey of High School Students, **40%** of high school students in Montréal declared they had been a victim of at least one form of violence either at school, on the way to school or through cyber bullying.

This is a higher rate than for all of Quebec (**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 reported having been a victim of interpersonal violence.

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

- 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.

Proportionally, more girls reported suffering a form of violence at the hands of their partner: **48% vs. 31%**.

OVER A THIRD OF
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
SAID THEY HAD BEEN
A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE



SOURCES

To produce this report, we used several sources of information and consulted a range of partners. Please visit <http://www.signesvitauxmontreal.ca> for information on all the sources.

Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal	Conseil du statut de la femme	Institut national de santé publique du Québec	Montréal Hooked on School	Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec
Batshaw Youth and Family Centres	Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal	Médecins du Monde Canada	Observatoire de la culture et des communications du Québec	Statistics Canada
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	Douglas Mental Health University Institute	Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur	Observatoire des tout-petits	UNICEF
CEFRIO	Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon	Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport	Office des personnes handicapées du Québec	Vélo-Québec
CIUSSS Centre-Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal	Food Banks Canada	Ministère de la Famille	Québec en Forme	Ville de Montréal
Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal	Food Banks of Québec	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec	Retraite Québec	World Health Organization
Conseil de gestion de l'assurance parentale	Infocentre de santé publique du Québec	Ministère de la Sécurité publique	Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal	
	Institut de la statistique du Québec	Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale	Secrétariat aux Affaires autochtones	
	Institut du Québec			

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Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.

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