

Examining the Health and Well-being of Ontario Children 1-17 Years

Using the Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (2019)



Technical Report
April 2023

Public Health Ontario

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About this document

The 2019 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY)¹ is a nationally representative survey of children between the ages of 1 to 17 years that assesses health and well-being indicators on multiple topics including healthy growth and development, injury prevention and substance use, healthy food and food environments, and school health; health topics foundational to the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).²

This technical report is a supplement to topic-specific Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries using the CHSCY data (e.g., CHSCY: Household Food Insecurity, Injury Prevention). It aims to provide context for the importance of high-quality, representative child health data, a brief description of the CHSCY survey methods, a description of the available socio-demographic indicators and definitions, and provides descriptive statistics of the Ontario sample. Clearly defining categories for socio-demographic variable use in analyses of these data ensures consistent language and interpretation of results between public health units. Further, estimates in both this report and the individual Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries are provided by Statistics Canada Peer Group, and geographic region, for public health units with limited epidemiologic support to access estimates for their region.

Background

Optimal child health provides a foundation for a positive health trajectory across the life course.³ Ontario public health units are mandated to support Healthy Growth and Development⁴, School Health⁵, and Injury Prevention⁶ as well as multiple other topics. Early childhood development is an important social determinant of health.⁷ Children who experience prolonged periods of adversity and toxic stress in critical periods of development may have negative health outcomes into adulthood.⁸⁻¹⁰ As such, surveillance of important child health behaviours, developmental milestones, and social determinants of health allows for a better understanding of risk and protective factors that may contribute to child health, and can be used to guide public health programs based on local need.

Previous to CHSCY, there was a paucity of local data on children's health and well-being, particularly for children ages 1-11 years. Monitoring health outcomes in children in local communities is mandated in the OPHS Foundational Standards (Population Health Assessment and Surveillance),¹¹ as well as the Healthy Growth and Development, School Health and Injury Prevention Guidelines.⁴⁻⁶ However, nationally representative surveys on health outcomes in children have not been conducted since the National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth in 2008-09.¹² Additionally, existing health surveys have limitations. For example, the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) includes only individuals aged 12 years and older. Further, the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Study (OSDUHS), conducted biennially, is limited to students in grades 7 through 12 (ages 12 – 17 approximately), and only includes students who attend publicly funded schools. The Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) includes children as young as three years; however, the sample size for the younger ages is so small that even

provincial estimates are difficult to report with certainty. The CHSCY dataset fills these data gaps by collecting data on the health and well-being of children as young as one year.

The CHSCY dataset includes indicators that address specific data gaps in mental health, healthy eating, growth and development, physical activity, injury prevention, and positive parenting, some of which were identified by the locally driven collaborative project (LDCP) known as Children Count.¹³ There are multiple questions about parents' and children's perceived mental health and physician-diagnosed mental health conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, and ADHD). Additionally, some CHSCY questions allow PHUs to monitor and evaluate important determinants of health that have historically been difficult to measure in this age group (e.g., parent-child interaction, chronic conditions, and access to health care).

Access to CHSCY child health data also allows examination of health equity issues by analyzing health outcomes across its social and economic variables such as household income, educational attainment, and race and ethnic origin. These variables can be examined within and across public health units and geographic strata to help understand the distribution of health issues across populations in Ontario. Moreover, results can be used to appropriately allocate public health resources, supporting an evidence-informed decision making process to reduce unnecessary and avoidable differences in health that are unfair and unjust in order to improve health equity.¹⁴ The Effective Public Health Practice Foundational Standard and Children Count documents both describe the need for high-quality data on children to inform program planning, evaluation, and decision-making.^{2,13} The CHSCY dataset provides public health units with critical data to carry out these activities and effectively engage community partners and stakeholders, including schools and community health providers.

Finally, given the impact that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had on both the physical and mental health of children and family functioning, the 2019 CHSCY data provides the opportunity to establish baseline measures across several domains of child health prior to the pandemic. Future iterations of the survey (e.g., years 2023 and beyond) will provide insight on the impact of COVID-19 and public health policies on health outcomes in children and youth in Ontario.

Objectives

The objectives of this report are to:

1. Describe the CHSCY dataset
2. Describe and define the socio-demographic indicators that are available in the CHSCY dataset
3. Present descriptive analyses of socio-demographic indicators in the overall CHSCY sample for Ontario, by geographic region, and by Statistics Canada peer groups

Methods

Data Source

The 2019 CHSCY is a national survey of children 1 to 17 years of age. The CHSCY includes individuals living in private dwellings across ten provinces and three territories in Canada.¹ Children living on First Nation reserves or other Indigenous settlements are excluded from the survey. The survey also excludes children living in foster care and the institutionalized population. The sampling frame for the CHSCY is the Canada Child Benefit File which covers approximately 98% of the Canadian population between 1 and 17 years old in Canadian provinces, and 96% in all territories.¹ The sample was drawn from all provinces and territories in Canada and stratified by province with the exception of the territories which are grouped into one strata. In Ontario, the geographic strata are further grouped based on Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) sub-regions.¹ The sample is also stratified into three age groups: 1 to 4 years, 5 to 11 years, and 12 to 17 years. Participation in the survey is voluntary, and questionnaires are administered to the person most knowledgeable (PMK) in the household, or directly to youth between 12 to 17 years of age; some questions are asked to both the PMK and youth.

Terminology

This Technical Report and the Epidemiological Summaries reference the language and indicators developed by Statistics Canada. It is important to note that some of the socio-demographic terminology utilized is considered outdated and in some cases, harmful. We suggest updated terminology to support public health units in staying current with health equity language and reducing unintentional harms when discussing and utilizing findings of the CHSCY.

The CHSCY utilizes the following socio-demographic terms “Population Group”, “Visible Minority”, “Aboriginal Identity” and “Native American Indian”. In creating discussion using CHSCY data results, we propose these terms are replaced with the following terms, respectively: “race and ethnic origin”, “racialized groups”, “Indigenous” and to capture the diversity of Indigenous people in Canada, “First Nation, Inuit, and Métis peoples”.

In many contexts, the term “Indigenous” has replaced “Aboriginal”, recognizing the potential harms of previous terms identified by Indigenous communities.^{17,18} The term “Indigenous” is used in this report; however, it is current practice and recommended by community representatives that a distinctions-based approach is taken to understand Indigenous identity, whereby people have the option to identify as First Nations, Inuit or Métis.¹⁵

Survey respondents were also asked to identity their “Population Group”, also referred to as race and ethnic origin, for their child, themselves, and their spouse. The terms ‘ethnic origin’ and ‘race’ are used interchangeably but have evolved in health research to refer to two connected but different terms. ‘Race’ is a social construct without a biological basis and created to categorize people into different

groups based on visual traits (e.g. skin colour, facial features, hair type).¹⁶ Ethnic origin refers to communities' learned or adopted characteristics such as language, practices, and beliefs.^{14,17}

In 2022, Statistics Canada highlighted that the term “Visible Minority”, which is considered outdated and not acceptable to many communities,²⁴ is currently under review and consultation to establish suitable terminology and classification which describes populations and meets data needs. The term “racialized groups” has been suggested as a replacement.¹⁸ The categorization of people as Indigenous, Black, and other racial categories has been historically and currently used to mark certain groups for exclusion, discrimination, and oppression. Racism, racial categorization and racial discrimination; therefore, continue to shape the lives and opportunities of those who are categorized as “racialized people”.¹⁴

Response Rates

The overall response rate for the 2019 survey was 52.1%. For 1-4 year olds, 5-11 year olds, and 12-17 year olds the Canadian response rate was 58.9%, 57.8% and 41.3%, respectively.¹⁹ In Ontario, the overall response rate was 51.8%. For 1-4 year olds, 5-11 year olds, and 12-17 year olds the Ontario response rate was 57.7%, 57.4% and 40.9%, respectively.¹⁹

Socio-demographic Indicators

In this section, we provide description of the socio-demographic indicators available in the CHSCY dataset and definitions. Table 1 presents a list of the socio-demographic indicators, the corresponding variable names in the CHSCY dataset, and recoded categories, if applicable. In each individual Enhanced Epidemiological Summary, socio-demographic indicators may be collapsed to accommodate small sample sizes and highly variable estimates. In cases where most estimates are ‘reported with caution’, only data tables will be provided. No figures will be presented for these data, even if statistically significant.

Sex at Birth & Gender

Sex assigned at birth was categorized as male or female. Gender, according to the CHSCY survey, refers to “current gender which may be different from sex assigned at birth and may be different from what is indicated on legal documents.” Gender is defined as man, woman, trans man, trans woman, non-binary or gender diverse.²⁰ For those respondents identifying as gender diverse, four derived variables were created using sex at birth and gender to categorize the child (PMK reported), the PMK, the PMK’s spouse, and youth (self-reported) as cisgender or transgender. In most cases, the DHH_SEX variable used (Table 1) as the number of respondents identifying as gender diverse, is too few to report.

Age

Age was categorized as 1–4, 5–11, and 12–17 years.

Indigenous Identity

To collect information on Indigenous identity, the question asked was “*Is this person an Aboriginal person, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit)?*” First Nations includes Status

and Non-Status. Indigenous identity was provided as three derived variables for child, PMK, and PMK Spouse.

- Indigenous Identity: Categorized as 'Yes' or 'No'.

Race and Ethnic Origin

Survey respondents (PMK or youth) were asked to identify the race and ethnic origin, also referred to as Population Group, for their child, themselves, and their spouse.

Twelve options were provided: White, South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, or Other, corresponding with the Statistics Canada 'visible minority' categories.²¹ Participants who answered 'Yes' to identifying as an Aboriginal person were excluded from this block of questions, however they are captured in the 'Not a visible minority' group (referred to here as 'non-racialized groups'). Therefore, those identifying as Indigenous are excluded from this categorization. Three derived variables exist for this indicator: population group for the child, PMK and PMK spouse. For consistency across public health units and to produce reportable estimates, population group was recoded into nine categories:

- White/non-racialized groups, excluding Indigenous identity
- Black
- East Asian (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Korean)
- Southeast Asian/Filipino (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai, etc.)
- West Asian/Arab (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- Latin American
- Other/Multiple

Immigration Status

Immigration status and number of years in Canada were also captured in the CHSCY survey. There are six derived variables to assess immigration status and length of time in Canada. In order to get one variable with 'recent' vs 'long-term' immigration status, both the dichotomous immigration status variable and the continuous length of time in Canada variable are required. This variable is recoded as 'non-immigrant', 'recent immigrant' (<5 years), 'long-term immigrant' (5+ years) and 'non-permanent resident'.²² If there is an evidence-based rationale to changing the definition of recent immigrant to 10 years or less depending on the indicator; however, this will be defined in individual Enhanced Epidemiology Summaries. Statistics Canada defines the immigration variables as follows:

- Non-immigrant: This category includes persons who are Canadian citizens by birth.

- Immigrant: This category includes persons who are, or who have ever been, landed immigrants or permanent residents. Such persons have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities. Immigrants who have obtained Canadian citizenship by naturalization are included in this category.
 - Recent immigrant is defined as those in Canada for less than 5 years, and long-term immigrants are those in Canada 5 years or more.²² Excludes non-immigrants and non-permanent residents.
- Non-permanent resident: This category includes persons from another country who have a work or study permit or who are refugee claimants, and their family members sharing the same permit and living in Canada with them.

Child Living Arrangement

The PMK survey respondents were asked questions about household composition and a derived variable was created to describe who the child lives with. There were 19 options such as ‘two biological parents’, ‘biological mother/father/parent (unknown sex) and step/adoptive parent’, ‘two adoptive or step parents’, ‘two foster parents’, ‘lone parent family (biological mother/father/parent (unknown sex))’ (see Table 1 for full list). These 19 options were recoded into three categories:

- Child Living Arrangement: two parents/guardians, lone parent/guardian, other

Household Income

Household income was asked to survey participants as a whole number, not a range of income; therefore, can be used as a continuous variable recoded into quintiles, or into descriptive categories (e.g., high, low). For this report and the Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries, household income was used to create a dichotomous low income variable.

- Quintiles: income divided into five equal groups, each group is known as a quintile. Quintile one (Q1) represents the lowest 20% of the data distribution and quintile five (Q5) is the highest 20%.
- Income Categories: A seven category version adapted from the CanPath Study²³ can be used including the following income ranges: <\$24,999, \$25,000 – 49,999, \$50,000 – 74,999, \$75,000 – 99,999, \$100,000 – 149,999, \$150,000 – 199,999, \$200,000+.
- Low Income Cut-offs (LICO): A dichotomous variable (above vs. below LICO) can be reported by using the reported before tax household income variable adjusted for household size and community size (in 2019) using Statistics Canada census data.²⁴ Four cities in Ontario have populations >500,000, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, and Kitchener. This requires the use of an additional geographic variable to calculate LICO (see Table 1).

Highest Parental Educational Attainment

Survey respondents were asked to report on both PMK and PMKs spousal education. This included a choice from the following: less than high-school diploma or its equivalent, high-school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate, trades certificate or diploma, college/CEGEP/other non-university certificate or diploma, University certificate or diploma below the Bachelor’s level, Bachelor’s degree (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., LL.B), University certificate, diploma, degree above the Bachelor level. Highest Parental Educational Attainment can be recoded into three or five categories:

- High-school or less, college/vocational/University certificate or diploma, and Bachelor’s degree (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., LL.B) or more
- Less than high-school, high-school, college/vocational/University certificate or diploma, Bachelor’s degree (e.g., B.A., B.Sc., LL.B), degree above the Bachelor’s level

Marital Status (PMK)

The PMK survey respondents were asked to report on their marital status. This was defined in the survey as: married, living common law, widowed, separated, divorced, single/never married.

- Marital Status (PMK): Can be reported in three categories: married/common law, divorced/separated/widowed, single/never married

Table 1: Description of socio-demographic indicator categories and variable names

Indicators	CHSCY Variable	Categorization
Sex at Birth	DHH_SEX (child) RRS4_30 (PMK)	Male Female
Age (child)	DHH_AGE	1 to 4 years 5 to 11 years 12 to 17 years
Aboriginal Identity (Child/youth) Aboriginal Identity (PMK) Aboriginal Identity (PMK Spouse)	AEBDVAIC AEBDVAIP AEBDVAIS	Indigenous Identity Non-Indigenous Identity
Population Group (child)	PGDVPGC	Race and Ethnic Origin: White, South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, South East Asian, West Asian, Korean, Japanese, Other Recoded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Asian • Black • East Asian • Southeast Asian/Filipino • West Asian/Arab • White/Not visible minority

Indicators	CHSCY Variable	Categorization
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin American Other (other or multiple)
Immigration Status (Child/youth)		Immigrant
Immigration Status (PMK)	IMMDVISC	Non-immigrant
Immigration Status (PMK Spouse)	IMMDVISP	Permanent resident
	IMMDVISS	For PMK and PMK Spouse can be recoded (with numeric variable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-immigrant Recent immigrant (<5 years) Long-term immigrant (5+ years) Permanent resident
Number of years in Canada since immigration (Child/youth)	IMMDVICC	
Number of years in Canada since immigration (PMK)	IMMDVICP	
Number of years in Canada since immigration (PMK Spouse)	IMMDVICS	Numeric answer range 0-121
Household Income (PMK)	THI_01S	CanPath income categories ²³ Quintiles
Household size	HHSIZE	Low income cut-off (LICO)
Community size	GEODVPSZ	
Individual cities	GEODVCMA	
		Highest level of education attained
		Recoded 3 categories
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-school or less College/vocational/university certificate or diploma Bachelor's degree or more
Highest Parental Educational Attainment (PMK/PMK Spouse)	EHG1_01	Recoded 5 categories
	EHG1_02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than high-school High-school College/vocational/university certificate or diploma Bachelor's degree Graduate degree
		Relationship to child, who is the PMK completing the survey
		1 Birth parent
		2 Step parent
		3 Adoptive parent
		4 Other relative
		5 Other non-relative
Relation to Child (PMK)	DHHDVPMK	Recoded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth parent Step parent Adoptive parent

Indicators	CHSCY Variable	Categorization
Child Living Arrangement	DHHDVFMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other relative or non-relative Child lives with Two biological parents, Biological mother/father/parent (unknown sex), Two adoptive or step parents, Two foster parents, Biological parent with spouse/partner unrelated to child, Step/adoptive parent with spouse/partner unrelated to child, Lone parent family (biological mother/father/parent (unknown sex), lone parent/guardian family (female or male non-biological), two other related guardians, two other unrelated guardians, No parents/guardians in household, Other Recoded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two parents/guardians • Lone parent/guardian • Other (incl. no parents/guardians in household)
Marital Status (PMK)	MSNC_01	1 Married 2 Living common law 3 Widowed 4 Separated 5 Divorced 6 Single/never married Recoded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Married/Common law • Divorced/Separated/Widowed • Single, never married

Geographic Variables

For those public health units with small sample sizes, there is the option to roll up indicators into larger geographic strata either by geographic region or by Statistics Canada designated Peer Groups.²⁵

Geographic Region

There are seven geographic health regions in Ontario: North West, North East, Eastern, Central East, Central West, South West, and Toronto (Figure 1).

Peer Group	Public Health Units	Principal characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services • Windsor-Essex County Health Unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High proportion of people recently moved to or within these regions since last census • Very high employment rate • High proportion of newcomer and racialized populations
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algoma Public Health • Brant County Health Unit • Chatham-Kent Public Health • Eastern Ontario Health Unit • Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit • Hastings Prince Edward Public Health • Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health • Lambton Public Health • Niagara Region Public Health • North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit • Porcupine Health Unit • Peterborough Public Health Public Health • Sudbury & Districts • Thunder Bay District Health Unit • Timiskaming Health Unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparsely populated urban-rural mix from coast to coast • Low percentage of racialized populations • Very low population growth from 2011 to 2016 • Moderately high proportion of population receiving government transfer income • High population of older adults ages 65+
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey Bruce Health Unit • Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit • Huron Perth Public Health • Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit • Northwestern Health Unit • Renfrew County and District Health Unit • Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit • Southwestern Public Health • Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainly rural regions in Quebec, Ontario and the Prairies • Moderate Indigenous population • Low population growth from 2011 to 2016 • High employment rate
G&H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto Public Health • Peel Public Health • York Region Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest metro centers with an average population density of 4389 people per square kilometre • Low to very low proportion of Indigenous communities

Peer Group	Public Health Units	Principal characteristics
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate percentage of government transfer income • High to very high proportion of newcomer and racialized communities • Very high proportion of postsecondary graduates • High proportion of households spending more than 30% of the income on shelter • Mainly urban centers in Ontario and British Columbia with high Population density • High population growth from 2011 to 2016 • Very high average dwelling value

B – Mainly urban centres with moderate population density

C – Sparsely populated urban-rural mix

D – Mainly rural

G&H – Largest population centres with high population density

Data Analysis

All analyses were conducted in SAS Enterprise Guide (version 8.2).

The raw data was assessed for completeness to identify missing data patterns. Descriptive analyses were conducted for each indicator to identify outliers, errors in data entry and coefficients of variation (CVs) to assess the ability to report indicators in the face of small numbers (e.g., reporting strata by public health unit). For continuous variables, histograms were generated and means and standard deviations were assessed for normalcy. For categorical variables, frequencies and proportions were assessed. Responses consisting of “not stated” were coded as missing and valid skips were not included in denominators. In cases where the child acted as their own PMK (n=69), they are included in both the Child and PMK descriptive characteristics. Sample weights were applied to the clean data as described in chapter 7 of the CHCSY User Guide to generate weighted summary statistics for each indicator.¹⁹ Point estimates, their associated CVs and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were generated for each variable. Statistically significant differences between groups were determined using the Rao-Scott Chi-square test with a p-value <0.05.

Reportable Estimates

To ensure data remains unidentifiable, Statistics Canada provides multiple recommendations for reportable estimates. First, Statistics Canada recommends to have a minimum of 10 respondents for the indicator of interest and 20 in the domain if a proportion is being calculated.¹⁹ Second, the addition of a CV flag on data with CVs greater than 15.1%. A CV is the ratio of the standard deviation to the mean and

indicates the extent of variability in relation to the mean of the population.²⁷ The higher the CV, the greater the dispersion in the data. All estimates are identified with a quality indicator letter (A-E) in tables where applicable (estimates with a CV from 15.1% to 35.0% are identified with the letters C and D indicating to interpret the result with caution, see Table 3). Estimates with a CV greater than 35.0% (letter E) will be suppressed, and label “not reportable (NR)” due to extreme sampling variability.

Some indicators will not be reportable at the public health unit level due to small sample size or extreme sampling variability. As such, there are instances when indicators are aggregated into fewer categories or reported at larger geographic strata to ensure stable and reportable estimates.

Table 3: Sampling variability guidelines

Type of Estimate	CV (in %)	Quality Indicator	Guidelines
Acceptable	CV ≤ 0.05 0.05 ≤ 0.15	A B	Estimates can be considered for general unrestricted release. Requires no special notation.
Marginal	0.15 < CV ≤ 0.25 0.25 < CV ≤ 0.35	C D	Estimates can be considered for general unrestricted release but should be accompanied by a warning cautioning subsequent users of the high sampling variability associated with the estimates.
Unacceptable	CV > 0.35	E	Statistics Canada recommends not to release estimates of unacceptable quality. However, if the user chooses to do so the estimates should be flagged with the letter E and the following warning should accompany the estimates: “The user is advised that ... (specify the data)... do not meet Statistics Canada quality standards for this statistical program. Conclusions based on these data will be unreliable and most likely invalid. These data and any consequent findings should not be published. If the user chooses to publish these data or findings, then this disclaimer must be published with the data.”

Adapted from: Statistics Canada. 2019 Canadian health survey on children and youth (CHSCY): user guide. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada; 2020. Table 9.1, Sampling variability guidelines; p. 38. Used with permission.

Results

Ontario Sample Characteristics

Sample characteristics of children in Ontario are presented in Table 4. The total raw sample in Ontario comprised over 22,000 participants (n = 22,651). Approximately 51.3% of the children/youth were male, and 41.0% were between 5 to 11 years old. The majority of the sample were white/not racialized (63.3%), and non-immigrants (89.4%). Most PMKs were birth parents (97.5%), female (86.4%), and were either married or in a common law relationship (82.6%).

Table 4: Percentages and/or means of socio-demographic characteristics of Ontario children 1 to 17 years, person most knowledgeable (PMK), and households in the CHSCY dataset

Variable	Percent or mean	95% Confidence Intervals	CV
Child Characteristics			
Sex at Birth			
Male	51.3	51.2-51.3	0.0001
Female	48.8	48.7-48.8	0.0001
Age Group (years)			
1 to 4	23.1	23.1-23.1	0
5 to 11	41.0	41.0-41.0	0
12 to 17	35.9	35.9-35.9	0
Indigenous Identity			
Yes	3.0	2.8-3.3	0.0425
No	97.0	96.7-97.2	0.0013
Race and Ethnic Origin – Child			
White/non-racialized groups*	62.2	61.4-63.0	0.0068
South Asian	12.0	11.5-12.6	0.0242
Black	6.8	6.4-7.3	0.0356
East Asian	6.7	6.3-7.1	0.0333
Southeast Asian/Filipino	4.2	3.8-4.6	0.0456
West Asian/Arab	3.6	3.3-4.0	0.0499
Latin American	1.2	1.0-1.5	0.0888
Other (or multiple)	3.2	2.9-3.6	0.0538
Immigration Status - Child			
Non-immigrant	89.4	88.9-90.0	0.0032
Immigrant	10.1	9.5-10.7	0.0278
Non-permanent resident	0.47	0.33-0.60	0.1478
Child Living Arrangement			
Two parents/guardians family	81.1	80.4-81.9	0.0047
Lone parent/guardian family	18.1	17.3-18.8	0.0208
Other (no parent/guardian in household)	0.8	0.6-0.9	0.1088
Household Characteristics			

Variable	Percent or mean	95% Confidence Intervals	CV
Household size, mean (std)	4.3 (0.3)	4.3-4.3	0.0806
Total Household Income			
< \$25,000	8.3	7.8-8.8	0.0312
\$25,000 – 49,999	15.4	14.7-16.0	0.0217
\$50,000 – 74,999	15.4	14.7-16.0	0.0221
\$75,000 – 99,999	14.5	13.9-15.2	0.0234
\$100,000 – 149,999	21.4	20.7-22.2	0.0176
\$150,000 – 199,999	12.6	12.0-13.1	0.0229
\$200,000+	12.4	11.9-13.0	0.0229
Household Income – Quintile			
Q1	17.7	17.0-18.4	0.0202
Q2	21.3	20.6-22.1	0.018
Q3	20.9	20.1-21.6	0.0183
Q4	19.8	19.1-20.5	0.0175
Q5	20.3	19.6-21.0	0.0175
Low income cut-off (LICO)			
Above LICO	77.9	77.1-78.6	0.0049
Below LICO	22.1	21.4-22.9	0.0173
Highest Parental Educational Attainment			
Less than High-school	3.0	2.7-3.3	0.0519
High-school	11.0	10.4-11.6	0.0261
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	35.3	34.5-36.2	0.0122
Bachelor's degree	26.9	26.1-27.7	0.0152
Graduate degree	23.7	23.0-24.5	0.0167
PMK Characteristics			
Sex at Birth - PMK			
Male	13.6	13.0-14.3	0.0229
Female	86.4	85.7-87.0	0.0036
Age (mean, years) - PMK	48.0	46.4-49.6	
PMK Relation to Child			
Birth parent	97.5	97.2-97.8	0.0014
Step parent	0.5	0.3-0.6	0.1258
Adoptive parent	0.9	0.7-1.1	0.0970
Other Relative (e.g., sibling, grandparent) or other non-relative (e.g., foster parent)	1.1	0.9-1.3	0.0873
Immigration Status - PMK			
Non-immigrant	62.5	61.7-63.3	0.0066
Immigrant	36.7	35.9-37.5	0.0112
Non-permanent resident	0.8	0.6-0.9	0.1100
PMK Marital Status			
Married/Common law	82.6	81.8-83.3	0.0045
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	10.6	10.0-11.1	0.0274
Single, never married	6.8	6.3-7.3	0.0356

*Excluding Indigenous identity

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2019, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.

Geographic Analysis

There were some significant differences between geographic regions (Table 5) and Statistics Canada Peer Groups for immigrant status of the PMK and child, highest household educational attainment, household income and low income status, Indigenous identity, and race and ethnic origin (Table 6).

Table 5a: Socio-demographic characteristics, by geographic region

Variable	Toronto	Central East	Central West	South West
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Child Characteristics				
Sex at Birth				
Male	51.3 (51.0-51.5)	51.3 (51.2-51.5)	51.1 (51.0-51.2)	51.4 (51.2-51.5)
Female	48.7 (48.5-49.0)	48.7 (48.5-48.8)	48.9 (48.8-49.0)	48.6 (48.5-48.8)
Age Group (years)				
1 to 4	24.7 (24.6-24.9)	21.8 (21.6-21.9)	23.0 (22.9-23.1)	23.7 (23.6-23.9)
5 to 11	40.8 (40.5-41.0)	41.0 (40.8-41.1)	41.0 (40.9-41.1)	41.1 (40.9-41.2)
12 to 17	34.5 (34.3-34.7)	37.3 (37.1-37.4)	36.0 (35.9-36.1)	35.2 (35.0-35.4)
Indigenous Identity				
Yes	1.12 ^C (0.7-1.6)	1.8 (1.4-2.2)	1.9 (1.3-2.4)	3.4 (2.5-4.2)
No	98.9 (98.4-99.3)	98.2 (97.8-98.6)	98.1 (97.6-98.7)	96.6 (95.8-97.5)
Race and Ethnic Origin – Child				
White/non-racialized groups	41.3 (39.6-43.0)	48.7 (47.1-50.2)	72. (70.8-74.6)	84.6 (82.7-86.5)
South Asian	16.2 (14.8-17.6)	20.0 (18.7-21.2)	9.0 (7.7-10.3)	3.1 (2.3-4.0)
Black	12.4 (11.1-13.6)	7.4 (6.5-8.3)	4.5 (3.6-5.5)	2.8 (1.8-3.8)
East Asian	10.6 (9.5-11.6)	9.8 (8.8-10.9)	4.0 (3.2-4.8)	2.5 (1.7-3.4)
Southeast Asian/Filipino	8.3 (7.3-9.4)	4.8 (4.1-5.6)	3.0 (2.2-3.8)	1.6 (0.9-2.2)
West Asian/Arab	3.9 (3.1-4.6)	4.0 (3.3-4.6)	2.9 (2.1-3.6)	3.8 (2.6-4.9)
Latin American	2.2 (1.6-2.8)	1.0 (0.7-1.4)	1.2 ^D (0.7-1.7)	0.9 ^D (0.4-1.4)
Other (or multiple)	5.1 (4.4-5.9)	4.4 (3.6-5.1)	2.7 (1.9-3.4)	0.7 ^D (0.3-1.1)
Immigration Status - Child				
Non-immigrant	83.1 (81.6-84.5)	87.3 (86.2-88.5)	90.7 (89.4-92.0)	94.3 (93.0-95.5)
Immigrant	15.6 (14.2-17.0)	12.3 (11.2-13.5)	8.9 (7.6-10.1)	5.5 (4.3-6.8)
Non-permanent resident	1.3 ^C (0.8-1.8)	NR	0.4 ^D (0.1-0.7)	NR
Child Living Arrangement				
Two parents/guardians family	76.7 (75.1-78.4)	83.2 (81.9-84.5)	82.4 (80.8-84.1)	81.5 (79.5-83.5)
Lone parent/guardian family	22.2 (20.6-23.8)	16.0 (14.7-17.3)	16.8 (15.2-18.4)	18.1 (16.1-20.1)
Other (no parent/guardian in household)	1.1 ^C (0.6-1.5)	0.9 ^C (0.5-1.2)	0.8 ^C (0.4-1.1)	0.4 ^D (0.1-0.6)

Variable	Toronto	Central East	Central West	South West
Household Characteristics				
Total Household Income				
< \$25,000	12.9 (11.6-14.1)	6.9 (6.1-7.8)	7.2 (6.1-8.3)	7.8 (6.4-9.3)
\$25,000 – 49,999	21.2 (19.7-22.7)	15.0 (13.8-16.1)	12.6 (11.1-14.1)	15.8 (14.0-17)
\$50,000 – 74,999	15.3 (13.9-16.6)	16.3 (15.1-17.5)	15.3 (13.7-17.0)	15.5 (13.8-17.2)
\$75,000 – 99,999	11.3 (10.1-12.5)	14.9 (13.7-16.2)	15.0 (13.5-16.5)	17.1 (15.3-18.9)
\$100,000 – 149,999	13.4 (12.3-14.6)	23.6 (22.1-25.1)	23.8 (22.1-25.6)	22.3 (20.3-24.3)
\$150,000 – 199,999	8.0 (7.1-8.9)	12.7 (11.6-13.8)	14.3 (12.9-15.7)	12.0 (10.5-13.5)
\$200,000+	18.0 (16.7-19.2)	10.6 (9.6-11.7)	11.7 (10.4-13.0)	9.4 (8.0-10.9)
Household Income - Quintile				
Q1	26.4 (24.8-28.0)	15.4 (14.1-16.6)	15.5 (13.9-17.1)	17.4 (15.4-19.4)
Q2	22.9 (21.4-24.5)	22.8 (21.4-24.2)	19.6 (17.8-21.4)	21.8 (19.8-23.8)
Q3	16.3 (14.8-17.7)	22.3 (20.8-23.8)	20.9 (19.2-22.6)	24.3 (22.2-26.4)
Q4	11.4 (10.3-12.4)	21.4 (20.0-22.8)	22.8 (21.1-24.6)	20.5 (15.6-22.5)
Q5	23.0 (21.7-24.4)	18.1 (16.8-19.3)	21.2 (19.5-22.8)	16.0 (14.3-17.8)
Low income cut-off (LICO)				
Above LICO	65.6 (63.9-67.3)	78.4 (77.0-79.9)	81.6 (79.9-83.3)	81.7 (79.7-83.7)
Below LICO	34.4 (32.7-36.1)	21.6 (20.1-23.0)	18.4 (16.7-20.1)	18.3 (16.3-20.3)
Highest parental educational attainment				
Less than High-school	4.5 (3.6-5.3)	1.7 (1.3-2.1)	3.6 (2.7-4.5)	4.7 (3.8-5.7)
High-school	11.7 (10.5-13.0)	10.1 (9.1-11.2)	11.3 (9.8-12.7)	13.1 (11.3-14.8)
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	27.3 (25.8-28.9)	34.1 (32.6-35.7)	35.8 (33.8-37.9)	43.7 (41.3-46.2)
Bachelor's degree	26.7 (25.1-28.2)	29.2 (27.6-30.8)	27.2 (25.3-29.0)	22.5 (20.5-24.6)
Graduate degree	29.8 (28.3-31.4)	24.8 (23.3-26.3)	22.1 (20.3-23.8)	15.9 (13.9-17.9)
PMK Characteristics				
Sex at birth - PMK				
Male	15.9 (14.7-17.2)	14.7 (13.5-16.0)	13.0 (11.4-14.5)	9.7 (8.4-11.0)
Female	84.1 (82.8-85.3)	85.3 (84.0-86.5)	87.0 (85.5-88.6)	90.3 (89.0-91.6)
Age (mean, years) - PMK				
Immigration Status - PMK	52.5 (47.8-57.2)	49.0 (45.8-52.3)	44.3 (42.4-46.2)	45.4 (41.8-49.0)
Non-immigrant	42.4 (40.7-44.1)	50.4 (48.9-52.0)	69.7 (67.7-71.6)	79.6 (77.6-81.7)
Immigrant	55.7 (53.9-57.4)	48.7 (47.1-50.2)	29.8 (27.9-31.8)	20.0 (17.9-22.1)

Variable	Toronto	Central East	Central West	South West
Non-permanent resident	1.9 ^C (1.4-2.5)	0.9 ^C (0.5-1.3)	0.5 ^D (0.2-0.8)	NR
PMK Marital Status				
Married/Common law	78.8 (77.3-80.4)	84.6 (83.3-85.9)	84.0 (82.4-85.5)	82.7 (80.7-84.7)
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	12.4 (11.1-13.7)	9.5 (8.5-10.5)	10.2 (9.0-11.4)	10.7 (9.2-12.2)
Single, never married	8.8 (7.8-9.8)	6.0 (5.1-6.8)	5.8 (4.7-7.0)	6.6 (5.3-8.0)

Table 5b: Socio-demographic characteristics, by geographic region

Variable	North West	North East	Eastern
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Child Characteristics			
Sex at Birth			
Male	51.6 (50.8-52.5)	51.2 (50.9-52.5)	51.1 (50.9-51.2)
Female	48.4 (47.5-49.2)	48.8 (48.5-49.1)	48.9 (48.8-49.1)
Age Group (years)			
1 to 4	24.6 (24.2-25.1)	24.5 (24.1-24.8)	23.4 (23.3-23.5)
5 to 11	41.4 (40.8-41.4)	41.3 (41.0-41.6)	41.3 (41.1-41.4)
12 to 17	34.3 (34.0-34.6)	34.2 (33.9-34.5)	35.3 (35.2-35.5)
Indigenous Identity			
Yes	22.1 (18.7-25.4)	16.1 (13.7-18.5)	4.3 (3.5-5.1)
No	77.9 (74.6-81.3)	83.9 (81.5-86.3)	95.7 (94.9-96.5)
Race and Ethnic Origin – Child			
White/non-racialized groups	93.6 (90.9-96.3)	95.6 (94.0-97.1)	76.2 (74.0-78.4)
South Asian	NR	NR	3.5 (2.6-4.4)
Black	NR	1.6 ^D (0.7-2.6)	7.0 (5.6-8.5)
East Asian	NR	NR	3.5 (2.6-4.5)
Southeast Asian/Filipino	NR	NR	2.1 ^C (1.3-2.9)
West Asian/Arab	NR	NR	4.5 (3.2-5.8)
Latin American	NR	NR	1.2 ^D (0.5-1.9)
Other (or multiple)	NR	NR	1.9 ^D (1.1-2.8)
Immigration Status - Child			
Non-immigrant	98.1 (97.1-99.1)	99.0 (98.8-99.8)	93.1 (91.7-94.5)

Variable	North West	North East	Eastern
Immigrant	1.8 ^D (0.8-2.8)	NR	6.8 (5.4-8.1)
Non-permanent resident	NR	NR	NR
Child Living Arrangement			
Two parents/guardians family	78.9 (75.4-82.5)	77.8 (74.8-80.9)	81.0 (79.1-83.0)
Lone parent/guardian family	19.8 (16.3-23.2)	21.7 (18.7-24.6)	18.4 (16.5-20.4)
Other (no parent/guardian in household)	NR	NR	NR
Household Characteristics			
Total Household Income			
< \$25,000	8.1 (5.9-10.3)	8.5 (6.4-10.5)	7.5 (6.2-8.8)
\$25,000 – 49,999	14.5 (11.3-17.7)	13.6 (11.3-15.9)	12.9 (11.2-14.6)
\$50,000 – 74,999	13.5 (10.6-16.5)	13.9 (11.6-16.3)	13.6 (12.0-15.2)
\$75,000 – 99,999	15.9 (12.6-19.1)	13.9 (11.6-16.2)	15.0 (13.2-16.8)
\$100,000 – 149,999	22.1 (18.7-25.6)	23.7 (20.7-26.7)	21.9 (20.0-23.8)
\$150,000 – 199,999	14.4 (11.7-17.2)	16.4 (13.8-19.1)	15.4 (13.6-17.1)
\$200,000+	11.4 (8.5-14.3)	10.0 (7.8-12.1)	13.7 (12.1-15.3)
Household Income - Quintile			
Q1	16.2 (12.9-19.6)	16.9 (14.2-19.6)	15.6 (13.7-17.5)
Q2	19.9 (16.2-23.5)	19.1 (16.5-21.8)	18.5 (16.7-20.3)
Q3	21.4 (17.8-25.0)	19.9 (17.2-22.7)	20.7 (18.8-22.7)
Q4	20.3 (17.0-23.6)	21.7 (18.7-24.6)	21.4 (19.5-23.3)
Q5	22.2 (18.6-25.8)	22.4 (19.4-25.4)	23.8 (21.8-25.8)
Low income cut-off (LICO)			
Above LICO	83.5 (80.1-86.9)	84.9 (82.4-87.4)	81.6 (79.6-83.6)
Below LICO	16.5 (13.1-19.9)	15.1 (12.6-17.6)	18.4 (16.4-20.4)
Highest parental educational attainment			
Less than High-school	3.8 ^C (2.2-5.3)	2.7 ^C (1.6-3.7)	1.5 ^C (1.0-2.1)
High-school	14.1 (11.0-17.2)	12.4 (10.1-14.6)	9.0 (7.7-10.3)
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	42.4 (37.0-46.8)	47.9 (44.3-51.4)	36.4 (32.6-35.7)
Bachelor's degree	24.5 (20.7-28.3)	23.1 (20.3-25.9)	26.7 (24.7-28.8)
Graduate degree	15.3 (12.0-18.5)	14.0 (11.5-16.6)	26.3 (24.2-28.4)
PMK Characteristics			
Sex at birth - PMK			

Variable	North West	North East	Eastern
Male	9.7 ^C (96.8-12.6)	10.6 (8.4-12.7)	14.0 (12.1-15.8)
Female	90.3 (87.4-93.2)	89.4 (87.3-91.6)	86.0 (84.2-87.9)
Age (mean, years) - PMK	49.0 (39.3-58.6)	42.4 (37.7-47.1)	48.9 (43.8-54.0)
Immigration Status - PMK			
Non-immigrant	92.8 (90.4-95.3)	96.6 (95.5-97.8)	75.6 (73.4-77.8)
Immigrant	7.0 ^C (4.6-9.4)	3.4 ^C (2.2-4.5)	24.2 (22.1-26.4)
Non-permanent resident	NR	NR	NR
PMK Marital Status			
Married/Common law	80.1 (76.6-83.5)	78.4 (75.5-81.4)	82.0 (80.1-83.9)
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	11.4 (8.7-14.0)	9.6 (7.5-11.7)	11.6 (10.0-13.3)
Single, never married	8.6 ^C (5.9-11.2)	12.0 (9.7-14.2)	6.4 (5.2-7.6)

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2019, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.

C, D – This estimate should be interpreted with caution due to high sampling variability

NR – Not Reportable

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics, by Statistic Canada Peer Groups

Variable	B	C	D	G&H
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Child Characteristics				
Sex at Birth				
Male	51.2 (51.1-51.3)	51.1 (50.9-51.3)	51.0 (50.7-51.3)	51.4 (51.4-51.5)
Female	48.8 (48.7-48.9)	48.9 (48.7-49.1)	49.0 (48.7-49.3)	48.6 (48.5-48.6)
Age Group (years)				
1 to 4	22.9 (22.9-23.0)	23.7 (23.6-23.9)	23.9 (23.7-24.1)	22.8 (22.7-22.8)
5 to 11	41.1 (41.0-41.2)	41.2 (41.0-41.4)	41.1 (40.8-41.4)	40.8 (40.7-40.8)
12 to 17	36.0 (35.8-36.1)	35.1 (34.9-35.3)	35.0 (34.6-35.3)	36.4 (36.4-36.5)
Indigenous Identity				
Yes	2.2 (1.7-2.7)	8.0 (7.1-8.8)	4.6 (3.9-5.2)	1.0 (0.8-1.3)
No	97.8 (97.3-98.3)	92.0 (91.2-92.9)	95.4 (94.8-96.1)	99.0 (98.7-99.2)
Race and Ethnic Origin – Child				
White/non-racialized groups	67.2 (65.4-68.9)	91.7 (90.6-92.7)	90.5 (89.4-91.7)	38.3 (36.9-39.7)
South Asian	9.0 (8.0-10.0)	1.8 (1.3-2.4)	2.4 (1.8-3.0)	21.5 (20.3-22.6)
Black	6.6 (5.6-7.5)	2.5 (1.9-3.2)	2.1 (1.6-2.7)	10.0 (9.2-11.0)
East Asian	4.8 (4.0-5.5)	1.1 ^c (0.8-1.5)	1.4 ^c (0.9-1.8)	12.1 (11.1-13.0)
Southeast Asian/Filipino	3.4 (2.7-4.1)	0.9 ^c (0.6-1.2)	1.4 ^c (1.0-1.9)	6.9 (6.1-7.6)
West Asian/Arab	4.9 (4.1-5.7)	0.6 ^d (0.3-1.0)	0.7 ^c (0.4-1.0)	4.5 (3.9-5.1)
Latin American	1.4 ^c (1.0-1.9)	NR	0.5 ^d (0.2-0.8)	1.7 (1.3-2.0)
Other (or multiple)	2.7 (2.1-3.4)	1.0 ^c (0.6-1.5)	1.0 ^c (0.6-1.3)	5.1 (4.4-5.8)
Immigration Status - Child				
Non-immigrant	90.1 (89.0-91.1)	97.4 (96.7-98.0)	97.1 (96.4-97.7)	82.8 (81.7-83.9)
Immigrant	9.6 (8.6-10.7)	2.5 (1.8-3.2)	2.9 (2.2-3.5)	16.3 (15.3-17.4)
Non-permanent resident	0.3 ^d (0.2-0.5)	NR	NR	0.9 ^c (0.6-1.2)
Child Living Arrangement				
Two parents/guardians family	81.9 (80.5-83.4)	79.0 (77.5-80.5)	82.7 (81.3-84.0)	80.5 (79.7-82.0)
Lone parent/guardian family	17.6 (16.2-19.0)	20.2 (18.7-21.7)	16.7 (15.4-18.1)	18.1 (17.0-19.2)
Other (no parent/guardian in household)	0.5 ^d (0.2-0.7)	0.8 ^c (0.5-1.2)	0.6 ^c (0.3-0.8)	1.1 ^c (0.7-1.4)
Household Characteristics				
Total Household Income				
< \$25,000	8.0 (7.0-9.1)	7.5 (6.5-8.5)	5.5 (4.8-6.2)	9.9 (9.0-10.7)
\$25,000 – 49,999	13.0 (11.7-14.2)	14.6 (13.3-15.9)	13.4 (12.2-14.7)	18.5 (17.4-19.6)
\$50,000 – 74,999	13.6 (12.2-14.9)	15.9 (12.2-14.9)	16.6 (15.3-17.8)	16.2 (15.1-17.3)

Variable	B	C	D	G&H
\$75,000 – 99,999	14.1 (12.8-15.4)	15.6 (14.4-16.9)	18.3 (17.0-19.5)	13.1 (12.1-14.2)
\$100,000 – 149,999	22.1 (20.7-23.6)	24.3 (22.8-25.8)	24.9 (23.4-26.4)	18.4 (17.2-19.5)
\$150,000 – 199,999	15.3 (14.1-16.5)	13.9 (12.7-15.1)	12.7 (11.6-13.7)	10.0 (9.2-10.9)
\$200,000+	13.9 (12.7-15.1)	9.1 (8.1-10.1)	8.6 (7.6-9.6)	13.9 (13.0-14.8)
Household Income - Quintile				
Q1	16.4 (15.1-17.8)	16.5 (15.1-17.8)	13.2 (12.0-14.4)	21.0 (19.8-22.1)
Q2	18.1 (16.6-19.6)	21.5 (20.0-23.0)	22.3 (20.9-23.7)	23.6 (22.4-24.9)
Q3	20.3 (18.9-21.7)	21.5 (20.1-22.9)	25.7 (24.3-27.2)	19.4 (18.1-20.6)
Q4	22.1 (20.7-23.5)	22.4 (20.9-23.9)	21.4 (20.0-22.7)	16.2 (15.1-17.3)
Q5	23.1 (21.6-24.5)	18.1 (16.8-19.5)	17.4 (16.1-18.7)	19.9 (18.8-20.9)
Low income cut-off (LICO)				
Above LICO	79.7 (78.2-81.2)	84.0 (82.7-85.3)	86.7 (85.5-87.8)	70.6 (69.3-71.9)
Below LICO	20.3 (18.8-21.8)	16.0 (14.7-17.3)	13.3 (12.2-14.5)	29.4 (28.1-30.7)
Highest parental educational attainment				
Less than High-school	2.6 (1.9-3.3)	2.9 (2.3-3.4)	4.2 (3.5-4.8)	3.0 (2.5-3.5)
High-school	9.9 (8.8-11.0)	12.5 (11.3-13.7)	13.3 (12.2-14.4)	10.5 (9.6-11.4)
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	33.2 (31.4-34.9)	47.5 (45.7-49.3)	47.0 (45.7-49.3)	27.9 (26.6-29.1)
Bachelor's degree	28.8 (27.2-30.4)	23.0 (21.5-24.5)	22.4 (21.0-23.7)	28.6 (27.3-29.9)
Graduate degree	25.6 (24.0-27.1)	14.2 (12.8-15.5)	13.2 (12.1-14.4)	30.0 (28.7-31.3)
PMK Characteristics				
Sex at birth - PMK				
Male	13.7 (12.5-15.0)	10.1 (9.1-11.1)	9.1 (8.1-10.1)	16.7 (15.6-17.7)
Female	86.3 (85.0-87.5)	89.9 (88.9-90.9)	90.9 (89.9-91.9)	83.3 (82.3-84.4)
Age (mean, years) - PMK				
46.9 (44.2-49.6)	44.0 (42.0-46.0)	44.6 (42.1-47.1)	51.9 (48.6-55.1)	
Immigration Status - PMK				
Non-immigrant	64.9 (63.2-66.7)	89.9 (88.8-91.1)	87.6 (86.4-88.8)	37.7 (36.3-39.0)
Immigrant	34.6 (32.9-36.4)	9.9 (8.8-11.0)	12.2 (11.0-13.4)	60.7 (59.4-62.1)
Non-permanent resident	0.4 ^c (0.2-0.6)	NR	NR	1.6 (1.2-2.0)
PMK Marital Status				
Married/Common law	83.3 (81.9-84.7)	80.1 (78.6-81.6)	83.7 (82.4-85.0)	82.6 (81.6-83.7)
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	10.6 (9.4-11.7)	11.4 (10.2-12.5)	10.3 (9.2-11.4)	10.4 (9.5-11.3)
Single, never married	6.2 (5.2-7.1)	8.6 (7.6-9.6)	6.0 (5.2-6.9)	6.9 (6.2-7.7)

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2019, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.
C, D – This estimate should be interpreted with caution due to high sampling variability
NR – Not Reportable

Discussion

The CHSCY dataset contains socio-demographic indicators that measure multiple social determinants of health. These important variables describe the health inequities in various populations, a primary requirement of the Health Equity Guideline of the OPHS.²⁸ Analyzing key child health indicators by these socio-demographic indicators such as income, education, sex at birth, Indigenous identity, race and ethnic origin, and immigration status, allows health units to identify priority populations and develop effective strategies to decrease health inequities for children and youth.

The choice of socio-demographic variables in this Technical Report and the Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries was done in consultation with the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists of Ontario (APHEO) and content experts at Public Health Ontario. Decisions on how to categorize variables were based on balancing data granularity with the ability to report estimates with certainty. Some key child health indicators with low prevalence in the province (e.g., head injury or concussion) require less granularity in category groupings in order to present estimates without caution. As such, in this report we have provided multiple options of categorization for indicators with smaller sample sizes, or for health units who would like to report indicators at the local level.

One key social determinant of health is household income. The CHSCY data provides household income before tax as a continuous variable; therefore, can be reported in multiple ways. Often, income is reported in quintiles; however, this does not provide adequate detail or actual values of income. A seven category option, taken from the CANPath study, was used to describe the provincial data. Additionally, a low income cut-off (LICO) measure was used to adjust for household size and community size. This provides a dichotomous option to describe the proportion of children living in low income households.

Two different geographic stratifications were chosen to report the data: Statistics Canada Peer Group,²⁵ and geographic region.²⁶ Reporting by Statistics Canada Peer Groups and geographic regions provide health units with small sample sizes to have reportable estimates at a larger geographic strata. The Statistics Canada Peer Groups in particular, provides groupings of health units with similar population densities, racial and ethnic compositions, immigration patterns, employment rates, and population growth. Although health units can use the larger geographic strata, it is important to note that the lack of adequate sample sizes at the local-level creates inequities between PHUs', especially for those with fewer resources to develop, disseminate, and analyze their own survey data. The inability to report on the health of local communities may sustain inequities between health units and their populations. Increasing sample sizes at a local-level (i.e., providing oversampling) will promote equitable data access across all PHUs and address some of the barriers that disproportionately affect small, rural, or resource-limited health units.

As race is socially constructed and historically, politically, and socially informed, data collected on race should not be used to report biological differences in health outcomes.¹⁵ The categorization of people as

Indigenous, Black, and other racial categories has been historically and currently used to mark certain groups for exclusion, discrimination, and oppression. Racism, racial categorization and racial discrimination continue to shape the lives and opportunities of those who are categorized as “racialized people”.¹⁴

Recognizing the socio-political history and the ongoing misuse of race-based, ethnicity, and Indigenous identity data and working directly with impacted communities to mitigate risks associated with the analysis and reporting of data is essential. As such, while the CHSCY Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries provide a snapshot of health outcomes by socio-demographic indicators, explanation of these data requires detailed analysis to uncover the many ongoing complex structures and factors which underpin the findings. This includes but is not limited to colonialism, systemic racism, and other assimilative and oppressive policies. Lastly, it is imperative to ensure that if CHSCY data is used to inform the planning of programs and services that this is done in collaboration with impacted communities to ensure these programs are rooted in the unique experiences and needs in order to sustain action.

There are some limitations to this data. First, there are inherent limitations to survey data including recall biases, low response rates that may introduce selection biases, and sample size limitations for less prevalent indicators and outcomes. Second, due to survey length restrictions and respondent burden, only a limited number of questions were asked in each section. These data; therefore, do not provide a complete picture of child health and well-being. Data on other important child health measures such as parenting, infant feeding, and adverse childhood experiences could be collected by health units through primary data collection or from other data sources.

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