

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

Using the 2023 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth



Technical Report
April 2026

Public Health Ontario

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Background

The Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY)¹ is a nationally representative survey of children aged 1 to 17 years that assesses health and well-being indicators across key areas aligned with the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).² First conducted in 2019, CHSCY fills a longstanding gap in Canadian health monitoring by collecting data on younger children often excluded from previous surveys. Further, the survey enables sub-Ontario reporting through its sampling design and provincial oversamples in both cycles. Due to the smaller overall sample in 2023, the robustness of sub-provincial estimates varies and is more limited than in 2019.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) produced a technical report for the 2019 CHSCY dataset, titled *Examining the Health and Well-being of Ontario Children 1-17 Using the Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth (2019)*.² This first CHSCY technical report provides an introduction for public health practitioners in Ontario to CHSCY and acts as a supplement to the topic-specific Enhanced Epidemiological Summaries published by PHO using 2019 CHSCY data. It describes in detail the history of health surveillance in children in Ontario, the importance of high-quality, representative data for public health planning, the relevance of CHSCY indicators to OPHS, and limitations and strengths of CHSCY. It also provides a comprehensive overview of survey methods, terminology, and socio-demographic indicators, and presents descriptive statistics for Ontario children and youth across Ontario, the public health unit (PHU) regions, and peer group levels.

Objectives

This current technical report builds on the foundational content of the first edition by focusing on the 2023 CHSCY dataset, associated methods, and socio-demographic reporting for Ontario. It acts as a supplement to the topic-specific Enhanced Epidemiologic Summaries published by PHO using 2023 CHSCY data.

The objectives of this report are to:

1. Describe the 2023 CHSCY methodology, including the new Statistics Canada guidance on reportability.
2. Define the socio-demographic indicators available in the 2023 CHSCY dataset and describe their categorization.
3. Present descriptive analyses of the 2023 CHSCY sample (full sample and wave 2 only), at the level of Ontario and seven PHU regions, across the defined sociodemographic indicators.

2023 CHSCY Methods

The 2023 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY) is a cross-sectional and longitudinal survey designed to collect data on the health and well-being of children and youth in Canada.¹ Detailed information on the CHSCY survey can be found in the 2023 CHSCY User Guide, including its background, sample design, data collection and processing, weighting and variance estimation, and Statistics Canada's guidelines for data quality and release.³

This technical report focuses on interpretation and use of the Ontario share file of the cross-sectional component of the 2023 dataset; it is a complement to Statistics Canada's 2023 CHSCY User Guide.

Target Population and Coverage

The 2023 CHSCY cross-sectional component covers children and youth aged 1 to 17 years as of January 31, 2023, living in the ten Canadian provinces. The survey excludes children and youth living on First Nations reserves, in foster homes, in institutions, and those residing in the territories. With these exclusions, the CHSCY achieves coverage of approximately 98% of the Canadian population aged 1 to 17 in the provinces.

Sample Design

The cross-sectional sample was selected from the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) file, which provides near-complete coverage of children and youth in Canada, specifically, 98% of the Canadian population aged 1 to 17 in the provinces. The sampling frame was stratified by province, with Ontario further sub-stratified by Health Regions (HR) (i.e., PHU), and by age groups: 1–4 years, 5–11 years, and 12–17 years. This stratification aims to provide adequate representation across geographic and age domains, and to support the production of estimates at both the provincial level and for PHU regions in Ontario.

Ontario received the largest allocation of sample units in CHSCY 2023, reflecting not only its population size but particularly due to the purchase of an oversample to support sub-Ontario reporting.

Questionnaire Administration

There is a dual-response structure to the CHSCY survey administration, which is especially important for analysis and interpretation of indicators that rely on youth self-report versus parent-reported information. CHSCY used two questionnaires to collect data:

- One administered to the person most knowledgeable (PMK) about the child or youth; this is typically a parent or guardian. This respondent is referred to as **PMK1**, and they completed the PMK1 questionnaire.
- For youth aged 12 to 17, a second questionnaire was administered directly to the youth. Youth respondents were referred to as **PMK2**, and they completed the PMK2 questionnaire.

Module inclusion in the PMK1 and PMK2 questionnaires varied by the age of the child/youth. A summary of modules in both questionnaires, by age of the child/youth, is available in section 3.2 of the 2023 CHSCY user guide. Briefly:

- **Children aged 1 to 11**, the entire survey was completed by the parent or guardian in the PMK1 questionnaire, which included questions on general health, household composition, family functioning, childhood maltreatment experiences, childcare, and parent-child interaction.
- **Youth aged 12 to 17**, the survey was split, where youth completed a substantial portion of the survey via the PMK2 questionnaire, which included topics such as mental health, substance use, eating behaviours, and social experiences. The parent or guardian completed selected modules in the PMK1 questionnaire, primarily those related to household structure, parental characteristics, family functioning, and childhood maltreatment experiences.

In some cases, youth aged 15 to 17 who lived independently or without a parent were designated as their own PMK1. In these instances (rounded n=20, <1% of weighted sample), the youth completed both the PMK1 and PMK2 questionnaires. However, certain modules such as household composition, parent/guardian general health, and labour market activities were not administered to youth acting as their own PMK1.

As with CHSCY 2019, CHSCY 2023 collected questionnaires using an electronic format that respondents could self-complete online or complete with an interviewer over the telephone (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing, CATI).

Response Rates

Response rates are a critical consideration when interpreting CHSCY data. The share file includes only complete records, meaning both the parent/guardian questionnaire (PMK1) and the youth questionnaire (PMK2, applicable only for youth aged 12 to 17) were completed. It excludes PMK1-only records for youth aged 12 to 17, which are cases where the youth did not complete their own questionnaire. This exclusion affects both youth-reported indicators and parent-reported indicators for this age group, reducing the available sample size and potentially limiting representativeness.

In Ontario, the overall response rate for complete records was 36.3%, slightly higher than the national rate of 32.8%. Age-specific response rates in Ontario were:

- 40.8% for children aged 1–4 years
- 55.2% for children aged 5–11 years
- 20.5% for youth aged 12–17 years

These figures reflect the proportion of selected individuals for whom complete data were collected and included in the share file. The notably low response rate for youth aged 12–17 is particularly important when interpreting estimates based on youth self-report data, such as mental health, substance use, or eating behaviours.

Low response rates can introduce nonresponse bias, especially if the characteristics of nonrespondents differ systematically from those who participated. For example, youth who declined to complete their own questionnaire may differ in terms of health status, household context, or other key variables. Analysts should exercise caution when generalizing findings and consider the implications for data quality, especially for subpopulations with lower participation.

Weighting

The CHSCY sample is stratified by age groups and health regions within Ontario, and sample sizes vary across sociodemographic characteristics, as such, all analyses must apply the appropriate survey weights to ensure estimates accurately reflect the Ontario population. Users of the 2023 CHSCY share file will rely on two specific weight variables: **WTS_S** and **WTS_S2**. The WTS_S weight should be used for analyses involving data collected in both waves, which is most CHSCY content. A small number of questions were added in wave 2 that did not appear on the wave 1 survey. For this wave-2 specific content, the WTS_S2 weight is required for analyses. Wave 2-specific content is flagged in section 3.2 of the 2023 CHSCY user guide and includes the eating habits module (EAH), the food guide use module (FGU), and a question on electronic device use during mealtime (OHL_030). When using WTS_S2 data, it is essential to exclude all Wave 1 records to ensure accurate representation of the Wave 2 population. Note that corresponding bootstrap weight files (*chscy23_bootstrap_wts_s* or *chscy23_bootstrap_wts_s2*) should be used for all estimates.

Reportability Guidelines

To ensure reliability and protect confidentiality, Statistics Canada categorizes estimates into three release categories:

- **Category A:** Estimates are considered reliable and can be released without warnings. Users should still report the 95% confidence interval as a quality indicator.
- **Category E:** Estimates are less stable and should be released with a cautionary note. Confidence intervals must be included to help assess quality.
- **Category F:** Estimates are deemed too unreliable for release due to high variability or insufficient sample size. These must be suppressed or accompanied by a disclaimer if released.

Statistics Canada has recently introduced new release rules for their social surveys, including CHSCY. Previously, release guidelines were based primarily on coefficient of variation (CV) thresholds, while also requiring a minimum of 10 observations with the characteristic of interest (i.e., numerator) and 20 observations in the domain (i.e., denominator) if a proportion was being calculated. New release guidelines are more complex as they are differentiated by estimate type (proportions and counts versus means and totals), and dependent on the level of estimate (national, provincial/territorial, age group, health region). The new release guidelines continue to require a minimum of 10 observations with the characteristic of interest (i.e., numerator), while the previous 20-observation domain minimum is now irrelevant under the updated n-based thresholds. Figures 1 and 2 provide a visual representation of

Statistics Canada release guidelines for Ontario and its health regions, as outlined in the 2023 CHSCY User Guide.

When reporting or comparing CHSCY 2019 and 2023 estimates, analysts may apply either the 2019 or the updated 2023 reportability guidelines to the 2019 data. Statistics Canada has indicated that, for its own analytical purposes, it has adopted a simplified approach by applying the newer effective sample size rules to older cycles or pooled data (Statistics Canada, email communication). This approach may help maintain internal consistency within an analysis but can result in differences from previously published estimates. There is no single recommended approach, and the choice of reportability guidelines remains at the analyst’s discretion.

Figure 1. Statistics Canada release guidelines for categorical estimates for Ontario from CHSCY 2023.

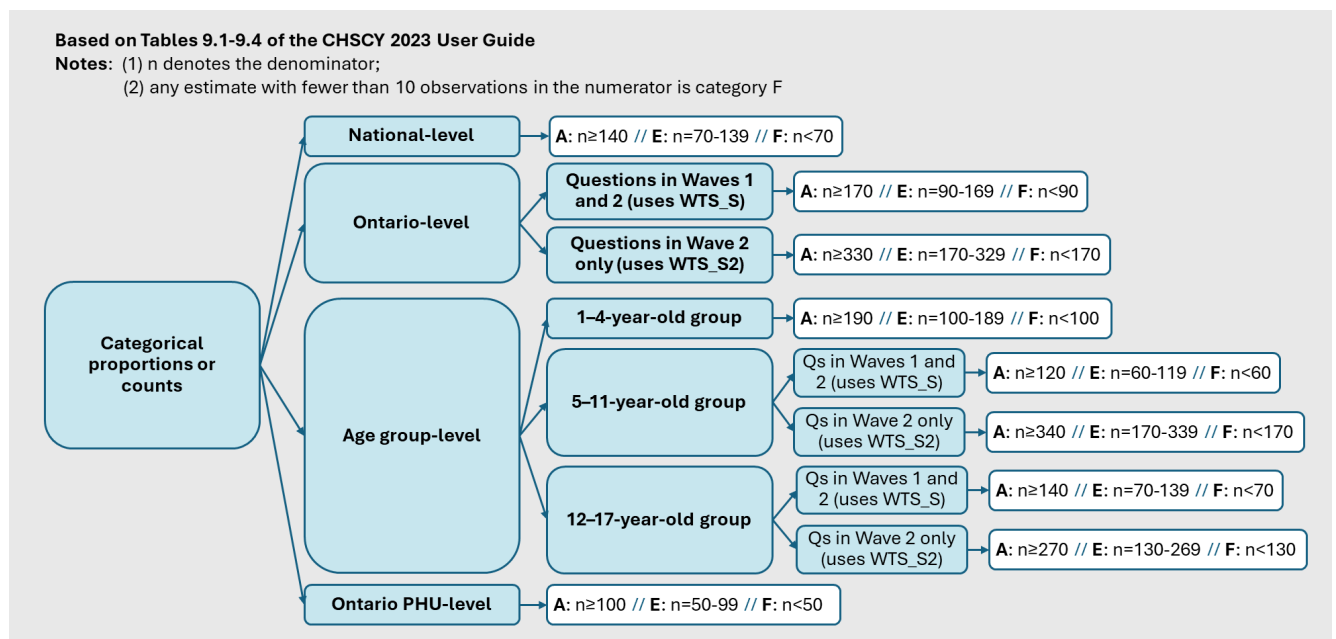
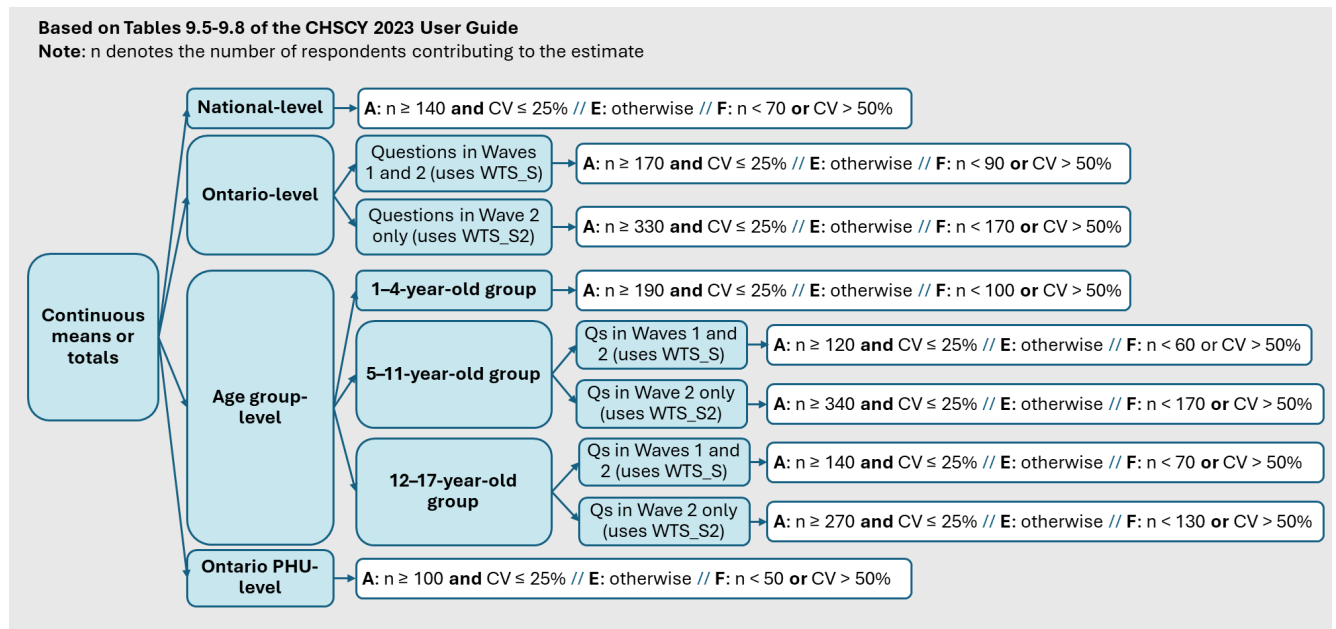


Figure 2. Statistics Canada release guidelines for continuous estimates for Ontario from CHSCY 2023.



Determining thresholds for other types of estimates

Estimates for sub-Ontario geographies other than PHU

For geographic regions within Ontario that cross PHU (also known as Health Region) boundaries, it is recommended that the provincial level thresholds be applied. For sub-PHU geographic regions, where boundaries are within a single PHU, it is recommended that PHU thresholds be applied.

Provincial or PHU level estimates at the age-group level

For provincial or PHU estimates at the age group level, it is recommended that the less restrictive table be applied. For example:

- For Ontario-level estimates of the 1-4 year old age-group, using WTS_S weights, the provincial thresholds should be applied
- For Ontario-level estimates of the 5-11 year old age group, using WTS_S weights, the age-group thresholds should be applied
- For PHU-level estimates of any age group, using WTS_S or WTS_S2 weights, the PHU thresholds should be applied

Estimates for combined age groups

For estimates of combined age groups, it is recommended that the thresholds corresponding to the geography be used. For example,

- For Ontario-level estimates of a 1-11 year old age group, using WTS_S or WTS_S2 weights, the provincial thresholds should be applied

- For PHU-level estimates of a 1-11 year old age group, using WTS_S or WTS_S2 weights, the PHU-level thresholds should be applied

Considerations for PHU-Level Interpretation and Comparability with 2019 CHSCY

While the CHSCY 2023 sample design supports reporting at the PHU level in Ontario, several features of the cross-sectional share file have important implications for how PHU-level estimates should be interpreted and used in practice. These considerations do not preclude PHU-level analysis, but they do affect the strength of inferences that can be drawn for certain indicators and subpopulations.

First, effective sample sizes at the PHU level vary considerably across age groups and indicator types, particularly for outcomes that rely on youth self-report among those aged 12 to 17 years. Even with Ontario's oversample, PHU-level estimates may fall near or below Statistics Canada's reportability thresholds, particularly for less prevalent outcomes or when further stratified by age group, gender, or other sociodemographic characteristics. In these cases, PHUs should expect wider confidence intervals and more frequent Category E or F estimates and should interpret small differences with caution.

Second, PHU analysts should distinguish between situations where PHU-level estimates are informative but imprecise and those where broader geographic estimates may be more appropriate for interpretation or comparison (whether cross-sectionally or for trends). For indicators with limited PHU-level precision, regional-level or provincial-level Ontario estimates may provide important contextual information, particularly when the analytic objective is situational awareness, benchmarking, or broad prioritization rather than precise local prevalence.

Third, PHU-level interpretation should be guided not only by statistical reportability rules but also by epidemiological judgment and transparency in communication. Estimates that meet minimum release criteria but are accompanied by wide confidence intervals should be presented with appropriate contextual language, emphasizing uncertainty and avoiding over-interpretation of small differences. Where PHU-level estimates cannot be released, PHUs may consider using higher-level geographic estimates (i.e., regional or provincial), or complementary data sources to inform local planning.

While keeping in mind the above listed considerations, CHSCY 2023 remains a valuable data source for PHU-level child and youth health surveillance in Ontario.

Socio-Demographic Indicators for Equity Analyses

In this section, we describe a recommended list of socio-demographic indicators that can be used to describe differences across health indicators. As much as possible, these indicators align with Ontario Health’s *Guidance for the Collection and Use of Sociodemographic Data for Equity Analytics*,⁴ and PHO’s 2019 CHSCY technical report and enhanced epidemiologic summaries. Because the 2023 CHSCY sample size is smaller than in 2019, some sociodemographic categories were combined to ensure estimates met minimum reportability standards.

The socio-demographic indicators described here are the standard set that will be used throughout PHO’s 2023 CHSCY enhanced epidemiologic summaries. However, individual summaries may collapse levels of certain socio-demographic indicators to maximize reportability where small sample sizes and/or highly variable estimates are otherwise prohibitive.

Table 1 presents a list of the socio-demographic indicators and recommended reported categories. Below Table 1 is a more detailed description of each socio-demographic indicator, including details on the variables and coding used to derive the categories.

Table 1: Socio-demographic indicator categories and variable names for CHSCY 2023

2023 Indicator	Reported Categories
Age group (child/youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 4 years • 5 to 11 years • 12 to 17 years
Gender (child/youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys+ • Girls+
Indigenous Identity (child/youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Indigenous Identity • Indigenous Identity
	<p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>
Race and Ethnic Origin (child/youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White • South Asian • Black • East Asian • Southeast Asian/Filipino • West Asian/Arab • Another or multiple racialized identities
	<p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>

2023 Indicator	Reported Categories
Immigration status (Child/youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-immigrant • Immigrant/Permanent resident/non-permanent resident <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>
Child living arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two parents/guardians • Lone parent/guardian or another living arrangement <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>
Household income - quintiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 (lowest) • Q2 • Q3 • Q4 • Q5 (highest)
Household income-Low Income Measure (LIM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In low income • Not in low income
Highest household educational attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-school or less • College/vocational/university certificate or diploma • Bachelor's degree or more
Parent immigration status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-immigrant • Immigrant/non-permanent resident <p>Notes: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest. Status is classified as immigrant/non-permanent resident if PMK or their spouse is identified as either.</p>

Age (child/youth)

Age was categorized as 1–4, 5–11, and 12–17 years. These are standard age groups representing early life stages and incorporated into the CHSCY survey sampling design.

Table 2: Details of age (child/youth) variable and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details
Variable name	DHH_AGE
Answer categories	01-17 (age in years)
Recorded categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 4 years (1<=DHH_AGE <= 4) • 5 to 11 years (5<=DHH_AGE<= 11) • 12 to 17 years (12<=DHH_AGE<= 17)

Gender (child/youth and PMK)

Gender may differ from a person’s sex at birth or what appears on legal documents, and it can change over time. Some individuals do not identify with a specific gender. While sex at birth is based on biological traits, gender is shaped by cultural norms and personal identity.⁵ Beginning in 2021, Statistics Canada recommends using the gender variable by default in most census standard data tables and analyses, in accordance with the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat’s *Policy Direction to Modernize the Government of Canada’s Sex and Gender Information Practices*.⁶ PHO will report CHSCY 2023 data by gender, whereas PHO’s CHSCY 2019 reporting used sex at birth. Gender questions in CHSCY all have three response options: man/boy, woman/girl, and non-binary.

Given that the small number of non-binary (where respondents identify as neither a man/boy or woman/girl) respondents often prohibits separate analysis, Statistics Canada derives two-category gender variables where respondents in the “non-binary persons” category are randomly distributed into the other two gender categories, referred to as Gender+ categories (e.g., “Boys+” and “Girls+”). PHO reports will use this Gender+ variable when reporting health indicators by child/youth gender.

In CHSCY, child/youth gender is reported both by parents/guardians in the PMK1 questionnaire (RRS4_030) and by youth themselves in the PMK2 questionnaire (SBG_010). PHO reports by child/youth gender using PMK-reported gender for ages 1-11 and youth self-reported gender for ages 12-17. While analyses of health indicators by gender will use Gender+, this Technical Report provides estimates for all three reported gender categories to help describe the sample.

In the PMK1 questionnaire, PMKs are also asked to report their own gender. While child/youth health indicators are not analyzed by PMK gender in PHO reports, this information is included in the Technical Report to help describe the sample and PMK survey respondents.

Table 3: Details of gender variables and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details
Variable names	GDR_2CH, GDR_2YO, RRS4_030, SBG_010, RRS4_050
Answer categories	<p>GDR_2CH (based on PMK report of child/youth gender)</p> <p>1: Boys+</p> <p>2: Girls+</p> <p>GDR_2YO (based on youth self-report of gender)</p> <p>1: Boys+</p> <p>2: Girls+</p> <p>6: Valid skip</p> <p>RRS4_030 (PMK report of child/youth gender)</p> <p>1: Man</p> <p>2: Woman</p> <p>3: Non-binary person</p>

Attribute	Details
	<p>9: Not stated <i>Note: The wording for RRS4_030 reflects terminology used in the data dictionary. Conceptually, options 1 and 2 correspond to “boy” and “girl,” respectively.</i></p> <p>SBG_010 (youth self-report of gender) 1: Male 2: Female 3: Or please specify 6: Valid skip 9: Not stated <i>Note: The wording for SBG_010 reflects terminology used in the data dictionary. Conceptually, options 1 and 2 correspond to “boy” and “girl,” respectively.</i></p> <p>RRS4_050 (PMK gender) 1: Man 2: Woman 3: Non-binary person 6: Valid skip 9: Not stated</p>
<p>Recoded categories – binary for child/youth health indicator analyses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys+ (where age is 1-11 years, GDR_2CH = 1; where age is 12-17 years, GDR_2YO = 1) Girls+ (where age is 1-11 years, GDR_2CH = 2; where age is 12-17 years, GDR_2YO = 2)
<p>Recoded categories – three-level to describe sample in this technical report</p>	<p>Child/youth gender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys (where age is 1-11 years, RRS4_030 = 1; where age is 12-17 years, SBG_010 = 1) Girls (where age is 1-11 years, RRS4_030 = 2; where age is 12-17 years, SBG_010 = 2) Non-binary (where age is 1-11 years, RRS4_030 = 3; where age is 12-17 years, SBG_010 = 3) <p>Excluded: Not stated (where age is 1-11 years, RRS4_030 = 9; where age is 12-17 years, SBG_010 = 9; <0.1% of the weighted sample)</p> <p>PMK gender:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men (RRS4_050 = 1) Women (RRS4_050 = 2) Non-binary person (RRS4_050 = 3) <p>Excluded: Not stated (RRS4_050 = 6 or 9; <1% of the weighted sample)</p>

Indigenous Identity (child/youth)

Survey respondents were asked a block of questions on Indigenous identity. These questions were administered to parents/guardians through the PMK1 questionnaire, with a small number of youth self-reporting as their own PMK. This question block asks if the child/youth identify as First Nations, Métis, or Inuk/Inuit.

The CHSCY question refers to these collective identities as “Aboriginal”, and CHSCY 2023 documentation also uses the term “Aboriginal”. PHO reports use the term “Indigenous” as the more recently recognized and preferred term, in alignment with the language and practices of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation,⁷ international standards such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP),⁸ and more recent Statistics Canada and Government of Canada guidance.⁹ The term “Indigenous” is increasingly used in public health and policy contexts because it better reflects the self-identification and preferences of many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. “Indigenous” is derived from the Latin *Indigena*, meaning “sprung from the land”, and emphasizes a connection to land and origin. In contrast, “Aboriginal,” has been critiqued for its etymology (‘ab-’ meaning “away from”) and for being a colonial legal construct.¹⁰

Table 4: Details of Indigenous identity (child/youth) variable and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code and description)
Variable name	AEBDVAIC
Answer Categories	1: Aboriginal* identity (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit) 2: Non-Aboriginal* identity 9: Not stated *See text above for discussion of using “Indigenous” as the preferred collective noun for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and communities
Recorded categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Indigenous Identity (AEBDVAIC = 2) • Indigenous Identity (AEBDVAIC = 1)
	Excluded: Not stated (AEBDVAIC = 9; <0.1% of the weighted sample)
	Notes: (i) Ordered based on prevalence in the weighed sample, from highest to lowest. (ii) There were insufficient respondents with “Not stated” to report separately in the sample description in this technical report.

Race and Ethnic Origin (child/youth)

Survey respondents were asked a block of questions to identify the race and ethnic origin of the child/youth, also referred to as their Population Group. These questions were administered to parents/guardians through the PMK1 questionnaire, with a small number of youth self-reporting as their own PMK.

Within the block of questions, twelve options were listed for respondents with the following terminology and order: 'White', 'South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)', 'Chinese', 'Black', 'Filipino', 'Arab', 'Latin American', 'Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai)', 'West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)', 'Korean', 'Japanese', or 'Other—specify other'. These categories align with the Statistics Canada's current classifications for 'Visible Minority and Population Groups'.¹¹ Children/youth who were identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit were excluded from the Population Group question block.

Statistics Canada coding of Population Group

Statistics Canada uses responses to the question block described above, along with responses to Indigenous identity, to derive their Population Group variables. To support interpretation of categories in Statistic Canada's derived variable on Population Group and PHO reporting of race and ethnic origin, here is a summary of how question responses were used to categorize respondents (in PGDVPGC - Population group of person – child and selected youth):

1. If a respondent did not answer one or more questions in the block, they were classified as 'Not Stated' [PGDVPGC = 99]
2. If a respondent identified as South Asian and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'South Asian' [PGDVPGC = 1] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
3. If a respondent identified as Chinese and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Chinese' [PGDVPGC = 2] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
4. If a respondent identified as Black and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Black' [PGDVPGC = 3] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
5. If a respondent identified as Filipino and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Filipino' [PGDVPGC = 4] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
6. If a respondent identified as Arab and no other visible minority or 'White', they were classified as 'Arab' [PGDVPGC = 5]
7. If a respondent identified as Latin American and no other visible minority or 'White', they were classified as 'Latin American' [PGDVPGC = 6]
8. If a respondent identified as Southeast Asian and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Southeast Asian' [PGDVPGC = 7] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
9. If a respondent identified as West Asian and no other visible minority or 'White', they were classified as 'West Asian' [PGDVPGC = 8]
10. If a respondent identified as Korean and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Korean' [PGDVPGC = 9] whether or not they also indicated 'White'

11. If a respondent identified as Japanese and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Japanese' [PGDVPGC = 10] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
12. If a respondent identified as a visible minority not indicated elsewhere (derived by Statistics Canada from write-in responses) and no other visible minority, they were classified as 'Visible minority n.i.e.' [PGDVPGC = 11] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
13. If a respondent identified as more than one visible minority, they were classified as 'Multiple visible minorities' [PGDVPGC = 12] whether or not they also indicated 'White'
14. A respondent was classified as 'Not a visible minority' [PGDVPGC = 13] in cases of any of the following responses:
 - If they identified as Indigenous (AEBDVAIC = 1). Note that these respondents were not asked the Population Group question block.
 - If they identified only as 'White'
 - If they identified as 'West Asian' and 'White', but no other visible minority
 - If they identified as 'Arab' and 'White', but no other visible minority
 - If they identified as 'Latin American' and 'White', but no other visible minority
 - If they identified only as 'Other' and were coded as being not a visible minority based on their write-in answer.
 - Specifically, Statistics Canada determined they were "not European and not a visible minority" (page 182 of the 2023 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth (CHSCY) - Derived Variable Specifications (DV): Cross-sectional File)

PHO coding of race and ethnic origin

In keeping with current best practice, PHO reports Indigenous identity separately and excludes respondents identifying as Indigenous from the 'not a visible minority' category. With Indigenous identity being reported separately, respondents identifying as Indigenous are excluded from the Race and Ethnic Origin demographic.

To support reportability, PHO reporting using 2023 CHSCY data collapses the 13 Statistics Canada population groups into seven Race and Ethnic Origin categories. Note that PHO reporting using 2019 CHSCY data used eight categories. This change reflects the overall small sample size in the 2023 CHSCY and the lower prevalence of children and youth identifying as Latin American, resulting in too few respondents in this group to meet the reportability threshold for inclusion as a separate category.

All CHSCY share file data users are reliant on the Population Group derived variables for estimates by race and ethnic origin. These derived variables (coding outlined above), categorize respondents as "Not a visible minority" if they identify as 'White' only, 'White' and 'West Asian' only, 'White' and 'Arab' only, or

‘White’ and ‘Latin American’ only. PHO reports “Not a visible minority” as “White”, despite these limitations, because it is not possible to separately report on those solely identifying as ‘White’ nor any of the aforementioned dual identities. Of note, respondents identifying as ‘White’ and one of ‘South Asian’, ‘Black’, ‘Chinese’, ‘Filipino’, ‘Southeast Asian’, ‘Korean’, ‘Japanese’, or open-ended responses deemed to be racialized in ‘Other—specify’, are classified into the respective racialized identity.

Due to the inclusion of ‘West Asian’, ‘Arab’, and ‘Latin American’, into “Not a visible minority” in cases when they are indicated along with ‘White’, PHO will refer to this group as “White” instead of “not a visible minority” or “non-racialized”. This approach is in keeping with recommendations from Statistics Canada as they continue to review and update their measurement and reporting of ethnocultural diversity in Canada.¹²

Table 5: Details of Race and ethnic origin (child/youth) variable and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Variable name	PGDVPGC, AEBDVAIC
Answer Categories	<p>PGDVPGC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: South Asian 2: Chinese 3: Black 4: Filipino 5: Arab 6: Latin American 7: Southeast Asian 8: West Asian 9: Korean 10: Japanese 11: Visible minority not indicated elsewhere 12: Multiple visible minorities 13: Not a visible minority 99: Not stated <p>AEBDVAIC (see Table 4)</p>
Recoded categories - for child/youth health indicator analyses	<p>Excluded from coding if AEBDVAIC = 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White (PGDVPGC = 13) • South Asian (PGDVPGC = 1) • East Asian (PGDVPGC = 2, 9, or 10) • Black (PGDVPGC = 3) • Southeast Asian/Filipino (PGDVPGC = 4 or 7) • West Asian/Arab (PGDVPGC = 5 or 8) • Another or multiple racialized identities (PGDVPGC = 6, 11, or 12) <p>Excluded: Not stated (PGDVPGC= 99; ~2% of the weighted sample)</p>

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
	<p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>
<p>Recoded categories - detailed to describe sample in this technical report</p>	<p>Excluded from coding if AEBDVAIC = 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White (PGDVPGC = 13) • South Asian (PGDVPGC = 1) • East Asian (PGDVPGC = 2, 9, or 10) • Black (PGDVPGC = 3) • Southeast Asian/Filipino (PGDVPGC = 4 or 7) • West Asian/Arab (PGDVPGC = 5 or 8) • Another or multiple racialized identities (PGDVPGC = 11 or 12) • Not Stated (PGDVPGC = 99) • Latin American (PGDVPGC = 6) <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>

Immigration Status (child/youth and parent)

CHSCY includes a survey module to capture the place of birth, immigration status, and citizenship of respondents (children/youth), PMKs, and PMK spouses. Statistics Canada produces a derived variable for each, to categorize immigration status into ‘Non-immigrant’, ‘Immigrant’, and ‘Non-permanent resident’. Statistics Canada defines these as:

- **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.
- **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.

Given that both the child/youth respondents, PMKs and PMK Spouses include very few non-permanent residents, with fewer than 1% in each group, PHO CHSCY 2023 reports combine the ‘Immigrant’ and ‘Non-permanent resident’ categories. This is necessary to produce estimates that meet reportability guidelines, which are designed to support the reliability of estimates and protect respondent confidentiality.

Parent immigration status was classified as “Immigrant/Non-permanent resident” if either the PMK or PMK Spouse were identified as “Immigrant” or “Non-permanent resident”.

Table 6: Details of Immigration Status (child/youth) variable and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Variable name	IMMDVISC, IMMDVISP, IMMDVISS
Answer Categories	<p>IMMDVISC</p> <p>1: Non-immigrant 2: Immigrant 3: Non-permanent resident 9: Not stated</p> <p>For both IMMDVISP and IMMDVISS</p> <p>1: Non-immigrant 2: Immigrant 3: Non-permanent resident 6: Valid skip 9: Not stated</p>
Recoded categories – for child/youth health indicator analyses	<p>Child/youth immigration status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-immigrant (IMMDVISC = 1) • Immigrant/Non-permanent resident (IMMDVISC = 2 or 3) <p>Excluded: Not stated (IMMDVISC = 9; ~2% of the full weighted sample)</p> <p>Parent immigration status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-immigrant (IMMDVISP = 1 or IMMDVISS = 1, and IMMDVISP ≠ 2 or 3 and IMMDVISS ≠ 2 or 3) • Immigrant/Non-permanent resident (IMMDVISP = 2 or 3 or IMMDVISS = 2 or 3) <p>Excluded: Not stated or valid skip for both PMK and PMK Spouse (IMMDVISP = 6 or 9 and IMMDVISP = 6 or 9; ~1% of the full weighted sample)</p> <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>
Recoded categories – detailed to describe sample in this technical report	<p>Child/youth immigration status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-immigrant (IMMDVISC = 1) • Immigrant (IMMDVISC = 2) • Non-permanent resident (IMMDVISC = 3) • Not stated (IMMDVISC = 9) <p>Parent immigration status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-immigrant (IMMDVISP = 1 or IMMDVISS = 1, and IMMDVISP ≠ 2 or 3 and IMMDVISS ≠ 2 or 3) • Immigrant/non-permanent resident (IMMDVISP = 2 or 3 or IMMDVISS = 2 or 3) • Not stated (IMMDVISP = 9 and IMMDVISS = 6 or 9)

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
	<p>Excluded: Valid skip for PMK and PMK Spouse (IMMDVISP = 6 and IMMDVISS = 6; <1% of the full weighted sample)</p> <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>

Child Living Arrangement

The PMK1 questionnaire contained a block of questions on household composition, defined as all people living or staying at the address. Using answers to this block, Statistics Canada produces a derived variable to describe the parents and guardians living with the child/youth (DHHDVFMS). Most children/youth respondents lived with their two biological parents, with the next largest proportion living with a lone mother.

In PHO 2019 CHSCY-based reports, child living arrangements were grouped into three categories: two parents/guardians, lone parent/guardian, and other living arrangements. Due to the lower sample size of the 2023 CHSCY, child living arrangements will be grouped into two categories: two parents/guardians, and lone parents/guardians and other living arrangements.

Table 7: Details of Child Living Arrangement variable and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Variable name	DHHDVFMS
Answer Categories	<p>1: Two biological parents</p> <p>2: Biological mother and step/adoptive parent</p> <p>3: Biological father and step/adoptive parent</p> <p>4: Biological parent (unknown sex) and step/adoptive parent</p> <p>5: Two adoptive or stepparents</p> <p>6: Two foster parents</p> <p>7: Biological parent with spouse/partner unrelated to child</p> <p>8: Step/adoptive parent with spouse/partner unrelated to child</p> <p>10: Lone parent family (biological mother)</p> <p>11: Lone parent family (biological father)</p> <p>12: Lone parent family (biological parent, unknown sex)</p> <p>13: Lone parent/guardian family (female, non-biological)</p> <p>14: Lone parent/guardian family (male, non-biological)</p> <p>16: Two other related guardians</p> <p>17: Two other unrelated guardians</p> <p>18: No parents/guardians in household</p> <p>19: Other</p> <p>99: Not stated</p>
Recoded categories – for child/youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two parents/guardians (DHHDVFMS = 1-8, 16, or 17)

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
health indicator analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lone parent/guardian or another living arrangement (DHHDVFMS = 10-14, 18, or 19) <p>Excluded: Not stated (DHHDVFMS = 99; <1% of the full weighted sample)</p> <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>
Recoded categories – detailed to describe sample in this technical report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two parents/guardians (DHHDVFMS = 1-8, 16, or 17) Lone parent/guardian (DHHDVFMS = 10-14) Another living arrangement (DHHDVFMS = 18 or 19) Not stated (DHHDVFMS = 99) <p>Note: Ordered based on prevalence in the full weighed sample, from highest to lowest.</p>

Household Income

CHSCY data include total family income for the most recent complete calendar year at the time of the survey. For the 2023 CHSCY, this corresponds to family income in 2022. Total family income is defined as income before tax, as per Statistics Canada’s standard income concept.¹³ Unlike the 2019 CHSCY, where household income was reported directly by the person most knowledgeable (PMK), total family income in 2023 was primarily obtained through linkage to administrative tax data.¹⁴ Because consent for data linkage and data sharing could not be obtained for all family members in all cases, the 2022 total family income variable incorporates both linked administrative data and modelled values.

For reporting purposes, PHO refers to total family income as household income and examines income using two complementary approaches: adjusted household income quintiles and the Low Income Measure (LIM).

- Income quintile (adjusted):** Household income quintiles were derived from the weighted distribution of adjusted household income within the analytic sample, with separate quintile cut-points calculated for the full sample and for Wave 2 respondents only. To account for differences in household composition, household income was adjusted using the square root equivalence scale, which divides total household income by the square root of household size to reflect economies of scale in larger households. This approach is consistent with Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) guidance for equity stratification using income quintiles.¹⁵
- Low Income Measure (LIM):** LIM was used as a low-income indicator for equity-focused analyses. LIM is a relative measure of low income and is widely used in population health and health equity analyses to examine socioeconomic gradients and relative disadvantage across populations and over time.¹⁶ Because CHSCY collects total household income on a before-tax basis, analyses using the Low Income Measure (LIM) applied the before-tax LIM threshold. For this analysis, LIM status was derived using the 2022 before-tax LIM thresholds,¹⁷ where the one-person LIM value is

defined as 50% of the median adjusted income and thresholds for larger households are obtained by multiplying this base value by the square root of household size, following Statistics Canada’s standard LIM methodology.¹⁶ Consistent with the use of income quintiles, LIM emphasizes relative position within the income distribution rather than absolute income thresholds.

Table 8: Details of household income variables and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Variable names	INC_021S, HHSIZE
Answer Categories	-91357-3980215 (amount in dollars)
Recoded categories - Quintiles	<p>Adjusted household income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adjIncome = INC_021S / \sqrt{HHSIZE} <p>Income quintiles, full sample</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q1 [adjIncome < 34711] Q2 [34711 ≤ adjIncome < 53583] Q3 [53583 ≤ adjIncome < 73555] Q4 [73555 ≤ adjIncome < 104316] Q5 [104316 ≥ adjIncome] <p>Income quintiles, Wave 2 only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q1 [adjIncome < 33030] Q2 [33030 ≤ adjIncome < 55614] Q3 [55614 ≤ adjIncome < 78270] Q4 [78270 ≤ adjIncome < 110610] Q5 [110610 ≥ adjIncome] <p>Note: quintiles are based on the weighted distribution.</p>
Recoded categories – LIM (before tax)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In low income [$INC_021S < (34623 * \sqrt{HHSIZE})$] Not in low income [$INC_021S \geq (34623 * \sqrt{HHSIZE})$]

Highest Parental Educational Attainment

The PMK was asked to report their own highest educational certificate, diploma, or degree (EHG1_01) and, if applicable, that of their spouse (EHG1_02). Youth who acted as their own PMK were not asked these two questions and were therefore excluded from any analyses involving highest household educational attainment. The CHSCY provides seven response categories for both the PMK and their spouse. PHO consolidates these into a three-level variable and assigns the higher level reported by either the PMK or, if applicable, their spouse.

Table 9: Details of highest parental educational attainment coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Variable names	EHG1_01, EHG1_02
Answer Categories	<p>For both EHG1_01 and EHG1_02:</p> <p>1: Less than high school diploma or its equivalent</p> <p>2: High school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate</p> <p>3: Trades certificate or diploma</p> <p>4: College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma (other than trades certificates or diplomas)</p> <p>5: University certificate or diploma below the bachelor’s level</p> <p>6: Bachelor’s degree, e.g., B.A., B.A. (Hons), B. Sc., B.Ed., LL.B.</p> <p>7: University certificate, diploma, degree above the bachelor’s level</p> <p>96: Valid skip</p> <p>99: Not stated</p>
Recoded categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-school or less (EHG1_01 = 1-2 or EHG1_02 = 1-2, and EHG1_01 ≠ 3-7 and EHG1_02 ≠ 3-7) • College/vocational/university certificate or diploma (EHG1_01 = 3-5 or EHG1_02 = 3-5, and EHG1_01 ≠ 6-7 and EHG1_02 ≠ 6-7) • Bachelor's degree or more (EHG1_01 = 6-7 or EHG1_02 = 6-7) <p>Excluded: Not stated or valid skip for both PMK and PMK Spouse (EHG1_01 = 96 or 99 and EHG1_02 = 96 or 99; <1% of the full weighted sample)</p>

PMK Relation to Child

The PMK1 questionnaire contained a block of questions on household composition that identifies all people living with the child/youth respondent and their relationship to the child/youth respondent. Using answers to this block, Statistics Canada produces a derived variable to describe PMK relationship to the child/youth respondent (DHHVPMK). The vast majority of PMKs are birth parents (birth mothers and birth fathers).

Table 10: Details of PMK relation to child/youth and coding for CHSCY 2023

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Variable name	DHHVPMK
Answer Categories	<p>1: Birth parent</p> <p>2: Step parent</p> <p>3: Adoptive parent</p> <p>4: Foster parent</p> <p>5: Sibling</p> <p>6: Other relative</p> <p>7: Non-relative</p> <p>96: Valid skip</p> <p>99: Not stated</p>

Attribute	Details (Code: description)
Recoded categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth parent (DHHDVPMK = 1) • Step parent (DHHDVPMK = 2) • Adoptive parent (DHHDVPMK = 3) • Sibling (DHHDVPMK = 5) • Another relative or non-relative (DHHDVPMK = 4, 6, or 7) • Not stated (DHHDVPMK = 99)
<hr/> Excluded: Not stated (DHHDVPMK = 96; <1% of the full weighted sample)	

CHSCY 2023 Sample Characteristics

Purpose

This section provides a description of the 2023 CHSCY weighted sample, both the full sample and the wave 2 only sample. These data complement topic-specific enhanced epidemiological summaries released by PHO using this data. Where possible, increased granularity for sociodemographic characteristics is provided. For example, for child living arrangement, categories for lone parents/guardians and other living arrangements are recommended to be combined for analyses of health indicators, however, they can be disaggregated when describing the sample. Further, additional sociodemographic characteristics are provided to help describe the sample, specifically PMK gender and relationship of PMK to child/youth respondent.

Methods

SAS 8.2 Enterprise Guide was used to conduct all statistical analysis. PROC SURVEYFREQ was used to obtain prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals, with all procedures incorporating survey weights and 1,000 bootstrap replicate weights provided by Statistics Canada, applied appropriately for the full sample or Wave 2. Reportability guidelines from Statistics Canada were followed, as detailed above in this technical report. Indicators were coded as detailed in the section above.

Results

Ontario sample

Sample characteristics of Ontario children and youth from the 2023 CHSCY are presented in Table 11 (full sample, rounded n=11,700) and Table 12 (Wave 2 only, rounded n=3,380). These estimates are adjusted using survey weights to approximate the provincial population of children and youth. In the full sample, there was an even balance of boys (52.2%) and girls (48.1%), with less than 1% identifying as a non-binary gender. Respondent ages were spread 22.1%, 40.9%, and 37.0% across 1 to 4 years, 5 to 11 years, and 12 to 17 years, respectively. Most children/youth in the sample were white (55.7%), non-immigrant (87.7%), and lived with two parents/guardians (83.0%). Most households were above the LICO (90.3%) and had a parent/guardian with a bachelor's degree or more (58.5%). Most PMKs were birth parents (96.0%), female (71.1%), and non-immigrants (56.5%). Sample characteristics for wave 2 were similar.

Table 11: Socio-demographic characteristics of Ontario children 1 to 17 years, person most knowledgeable (PMK), and households in the 2023 CHSCY dataset, full dataset

Variable	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Unweighted N, rounded
Gender (child/youth)		
Boy	51.2 (51.0-51.4)	5970
Girl	48.1 (47.7-48.4)	5650
Non-binary	0.7 (0.5-1.0)	70
Age Group (child/youth)		
1 to 4 years	22.1 (22.1-22.1)	3260
5 to 11 years	40.9 (40.9-40.9)	5440
12 to 17 years	37.0 (37.0-37.0)	2990
Indigenous Identity (child/youth)		
Non-Indigenous identity	97.1 (96.7-97.5)	11060
Indigenous identity	2.9 (2.5-3.3)	630
Race and Ethnic Origin* (child/youth)		
White	55.7 (53.8-57.6)	8410
South Asian	13.6 (12.5-14.7)	790
East Asian	8.7 (7.8-9.7)	510
Black	6.3 (5.3-7.3)	420
Southeast Asian/Filipino	5.0 (4.3-5.8)	280
West Asian/Arab	4.5 (3.8-5.2)	270
Another or multiple racialized identities	2.8 (2.2-3.4)	170
Not stated	2.1 (1.5-2.7)	130
Latin American	1.2 (0.8-1.5)	90
Immigration Status (child/youth)		
Non-immigrant	87.7 (85.1-90.3)	10990
Immigrant	9.9 (7.6-12.3)	520
Not Stated	2.0 (1.5-2.5)	170
Non-permanent resident	0.4 (0.1-0.7)	20
Child Living Arrangement		
Two parents/guardians	83.0 (81.7-84.3)	9970
Lone parent/guardian	15.0 (13.8-16.2)	1530
Another living arrangement	1.2 (0.8-1.6)	110
Not stated	0.8 (0.6-1.1)	90
Household Income – Quintile		
Q1	20.0 (18.3-21.6)	1900
Q2	20.0 (18.8-21.3)	2310
Q3	20.0 (18.8-21.2)	2530
Q4	20.0 (18.8-21.3)	2740
Q5	20.0 (18.7-21.3)	2220
Household income – LIM		
Not in low income	80.1 (78.4-81.7)	9800
In low income	19.9 (18.3-21.6)	1890
Highest Household Educational Attainment		
High school or less	10.0 (9.0-10.9)	1160

Variable	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Unweighted N, rounded
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	31.6 (30.1-33.0)	4270
Bachelor's degree or more	58.5 (56.9-60.0)	6240
Gender (PMK)		
Woman	71.1 (69.6-72.5)	8920
Man	28.9 (27.5-30.3)	2730
Non-binary	0.0 (0.0-0.1)	10
PMK Relation to Child		
Birth parent	96.0 (95.3-96.8)	11260
Not stated	1.5 (1.0-2.0)	140
Another relative (e.g., grandparent) or non-relative (e.g., foster parent)	1.0 (0.7-1.3)	130
Adoptive parent	0.9 (0.6-1.2)	100
Stepparent	0.3 (0.1-0.4)	30
Sibling	0.3 (0.2-0.5)	30
Parent Immigration Status		
Non-immigrant	50.3 (48.2-52.3)	8290
Immigrant	48.9 (46.9-50.9)	3290
Not stated	0.8 (0.5-1.1)	90

*Excluding all respondents that identified as Indigenous

Note: Other than for age group, income quintiles, and household education, indicator categories are ordered based on prevalence in the full weighted sample, from highest to lowest.

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2023, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.

Table 12: Socio-demographic characteristics of Ontario children 1 to 17 years, person most knowledgeable (PMK), and households in the 2023 CHSCY dataset, Wave 2 only

Variable	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Unweighted N, rounded
Gender (child/youth)		
Boy	49.6 (45.5-53.6)	1710
Girl	49.7 (45.6-53.7)	1650
Non-binary	0.7 (0.0-1.5)	20
Age Group (child/youth)		
1 to 4 years	22.1 (22.1-22.1)	1620
5 to 11 years	40.9 (40.9-40.9)	680
12 to 17 years	37.0 (37.0-37.0)	1080
Indigenous Identity (child/youth)		
Non-Indigenous identity	97.4 (96.5-98.2)	3160
Indigenous identity	2.6 (1.8-3.5)	220
Race and Ethnic Origin* (child/youth)		
White	58.6 (54.7-62.4)	2560
South Asian	11.9 (9.1-14.8)	160
East Asian	9.5 (6.9-12.1)	100
Black	5.6 (3.6-7.6)	120

Variable	Weighted Percent (95% CI)	Unweighted N, rounded
Southeast Asian/Filipino	4.0 (2.3-5.7)	60
West Asian/Arab	3.8 (2.5-5.2)	70
Another or multiple racialized identities	3.5 (1.5-5.5)	40
Not stated	1.9 (0.4-3.4)	30
Latin American	1.1 (0.5-1.8)	30
Immigration Status (child/youth)		
Non-immigrant	85.6 (82.1-89.0)	3180
Immigrant	11.8 (8.6-15.0)	140
Not stated	2.2 (0.8-3.6)	40
Non-permanent resident	NR	NR
Child Living Arrangement		
Two parents/guardians	82.4 (79.1-85.7)	2850
Lone parent/guardian	14.0 (11.3-16.8)	460
Another living arrangement	2.4 (0.6-4.1)	50
Not stated	1.2 (0.0-2.3)	20
Household Income – Quintile		
Q1	19.9 (16.5-23.4)	540
Q2	20.0 (17.3-22.8)	820
Q3	20.0 (17.2-22.8)	800
Q4	19.7 (16.7-22.8)	740
Q5	20.3 (16.9-23.7)	480
Household income – LIM		
Not in low income	78.2 (74.8-81.6)	2790
In low income	21.8 (18.4-25.2)	590
Highest Household Educational Attainment		
High school or less	9.8 (7.6-12.0)	350
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	29.1 (25.8-32.5)	1330
Bachelor's degree or more	61.1 (57.4-64.8)	1680
Gender (PMK)		
Woman	67.8 (64.2-71.4)	2520
Man	32.2 (28.6-35.8)	840
Non-binary	NR	NR
PMK Relation to Child		
Birth parent	92.3 (89.6-95.0)	3220
Not stated	3.2 (1.1-5.3)	40
Another relative (e.g., grandparent) or non-relative (e.g., foster parent)	2.3 (0.5-4.1)	50
Stepparent	0.4 (0.1-0.8)	20
Adoptive parent	0.8 (0.1-1.5)	30
Sibling	1.0 (0.0-2.1)	10
Parent Immigration Status		
Non-immigrant	53.4 (49.8-57.1)	2580
Immigrant	45.5 (41.8-49.2)	750
Not stated	1.0 (0.3-1.8)	30

*Excluding all respondents that identified as Indigenous

Note: Other than for age group, income quintiles, and household education, indicator categories are ordered based on prevalence in the full weighted sample, from highest to lowest.

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2023, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.

PHU region samples

Tables 13a and 13b describe the CHSCY 2023 sample for each PHU region. Regions are defined as:

- **North West:** Northwestern Health Unit and Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- **North East:** Algoma Public Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Northeastern Public Health, and Public Health Sudbury & Districts
- **South West:** Chatham-Kent Public Health, Grey Bruce Public Health, Huron Perth Public Health, Lambton Public Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit, Southwestern Public Health, and Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- **Central West:** City of Hamilton Public Health Services, Grand Erie Public Health, Halton Region Public Health, Niagara Region Public Health, Region of Waterloo Public Health and Paramedic Services, and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
- **Toronto:** Toronto Public Health
- **Central East:** Durham Region Health Department, Lakelands Public Health, Peel Public Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and York Region Public Health
- **East:** Ottawa Public Health, Eastern Ontario Health Unit, Renfrew County and District Health Unit, and South East Health Unit

Table 13a: Socio-demographic characteristics of Ontario children 1 to 17 years, person most knowledgeable (PMK), and households in the 2023 CHSCY dataset, full dataset, by geographic region

Variable	North West % (95% CI; rounded n)	North East % (95% CI; rounded n)	South West % (95% CI; rounded n)	Central West % (95% CI; rounded n)
Gender (child/youth)				
Boy	51.8 (51.0-52.6; 320)	50.9 (50.3-51.5; 640)	50.8 (50.5-51.2; 1180)	51.3 (50.9-51.7; 1280)
Girl	47.4 (46.2-48.6; 300)	48.3 (47.6-48.9; 630)	48.7 (48.2-49.2; 1090)	48.0 (47.4-48.6; 1260)
Non-binary	NR	NR	NR	0.7 (0.3-1.2; 20)
Age Group (child/youth)				
1 to 4 years	22.5 (22.5-22.5; 230)	21.0 (21.0-21.0; 560)	22.6 (22.6-22.6; 710)	22.0 (22.0-22.0; 670)
5 to 11 years	40.6 (40.6-40.6; 250)	41.8 (41.8-41.8; 430)	41.1 (41.1-41.1; 990)	41.0 (41.0-41.0; 1210)
12 to 17 years	36.9 (36.9-36.9; 150)	37.2 (37.2-37.2; 290)	36.3 (36.3-36.3; 590)	37.0 (37.0-37.0; 670)
Indigenous Identity (child/youth)				
Non-Indigenous identity	79.9 (76.5-83.4; 480)	84.6 (82.0-87.1; 1080)	97.4 (96.5-98.4; 2230)	97.9 (97.1-98.6; 2490)
Indigenous identity	20.1 (16.6-23.5; 140)	15.4 (12.9-18.0; 190)	2.6 (1.6-3.5; 60)	2.1 (1.4-2.9; 60)
Race and Ethnic Origin* (child/youth)				
White	92.1 (88.9-95.3; 450)	91.7 (89.4-94.0; 1010)	74.4 (71.4-77.4; 1890)	65.5 (62.3-68.7; 1840)
South Asian	2.5 (0.9-4.1; 10)	1.4 (0.5-2.4; 10)	4.9 (3.4-6.4; 80)	11.4 (9.6-13.2; 210)
East Asian	NR	0.5 (0.2-0.8; 10)	2.9 (1.7-4.1; 40)	5.3 (4.0-6.5; 110)
Black	NR	2.9 (1.5-4.4; 30)	5.7 (3.9-7.4; 70)	5.7 (4.3-7.0; 110)
Southeast Asian/Filipino	NR	1.4 (0.4-2.5; 10)	2.0 (1.0-3.0; 30)	3.5 (2.4-4.5; 80)
West Asian/Arab	NR	NR	5.5 (4.0-7.0; 60)	4.1 (2.8-5.4; 60)
Another or multiple racialized identities	NR	NR	1.6 (0.8-2.5; 20)	1.8 (1.1-2.5; 40)
Not stated	NR	0.7 (0.1-1.3; 10)	0.7 (0.2-1.3; 10)	1.5 (0.8-2.1; 30)
Latin American	NR	NR	2.3 (1.1-3.5; 20)	1.3 (0.7-2.0; 30)
Immigration Status (child/youth)				
Non-immigrant	96.1 (94.1-98.2; 610)	97.5 (96.3-98.6; 1250)	89.7 (86.6-92.8; 2150)	88.7 (85.8-91.6; 2380)
Immigrant	2.0 (0.6-3.3; 10)	1.4 (0.5-2.3; 10)	8.8 (5.7-11.8; 100)	9.3 (6.7-11.9; 130)
Not stated	NR	0.9 (0.2-1.6; 10)	1.2 (0.6-1.8; 30)	1.4 (0.8-2.0; 40)
Non-permanent resident	NR	NR	NR	NR
Child Living Arrangement				
Two parents/guardians	78.3 (73.9-82.8; 520)	74.7 (71.5-77.9; 1030)	81.1 (78.7-83.5; 1950)	83.6 (81.7-85.6; 2210)
Lone parent/guardian	19.7 (15.4-24.0; 100)	23.0 (19.9-26.2; 220)	16.3 (14.1-18.6; 290)	13.6 (11.8-15.5; 310)
Another living arrangement	NR	1.5 (0.5-2.5; 10)	1.8 (0.9-2.8; 20)	1.4 (0.7-2.0; 20)
Not stated	NR	0.7 (0.1-1.4; 10)	0.7 (0.3-1.2; 20)	1.4 (0.7-2.0; 20)

Variable	North West % (95% CI; rounded n)	North East % (95% CI; rounded n)	South West % (95% CI; rounded n)	Central West % (95% CI; rounded n)
Household Income – Quintile				
Q1	12.8 (9.5-16.2; 70)	18.5 (15.7-21.2; 200)	21.9 (19.1-24.8; 390)	18.2 (16.1-20.4; 400)
Q2	22.6 (18.2-26.9; 120)	17.8 (15.2-20.4; 220)	23.2 (20.7-25.7; 530)	19.3 (17.3-21.3; 510)
Q3	20.6 (16.6-24.6; 140)	20.3 (17.6-22.9; 260)	22.5 (20.0-24.9; 530)	20.8 (18.7-23.0; 530)
Q4	25.4 (21.5-29.2; 180)	23.9 (21.0-26.8; 330)	18.8 (16.8-20.9; 490)	19.8 (17.8-21.9; 590)
Q5	18.7 (14.9-22.5; 110)	19.5 (16.9-22.1; 260)	13.6 (11.6-15.6; 340)	21.8 (19.6-23.9; 530)
Household income – LIM				
Not in low income	87.2 (83.8-90.5; 550)	81.6 (78.8-84.3; 1080)	78.1 (75.3-80.9; 1890)	81.8 (79.7-84.0; 2160)
In low income	12.8 (9.5-16.2; 70)	18.4 (15.7-21.2; 200)	21.9 (19.1-24.7; 390)	18.2 (16.0-20.3; 400)
Highest Household Educational Attainment				
High school or less	10.7 (7.5-13.8; 60)	13.4 (11.1-15.8; 160)	13.9 (11.7-16.1; 280)	9.4 (7.8-11.0; 220)
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	36.9 (32.0-41.8; 240)	43.3 (40.0-46.7; 530)	38.9 (36.1-41.7; 930)	31.9 (29.5-34.2; 860)
Bachelor’s degree or more	52.4 (47.4-57.4; 330)	43.2 (39.9-46.6; 580)	47.2 (44.4-50.1; 1070)	58.7 (56.3-61.2; 1470)
Gender (PMK)				
Woman	77.9 (73.5-82.2; 490)	82.3 (79.6-84.9; 1040)	75.8 (73.4-78.3; 1790)	72.7 (70.4-75.1; 1930)
Man	22.0 (17.6-26.3; 130)	17.6 (15.0-20.2; 230)	24.1 (21.6-26.5; 490)	27.3 (24.9-29.6; 620)
Non-binary	NR	NR	NR	NR
PMK Relation to Child				
Birth parent	96.2 (94.3-98.1; 600)	94.5 (92.6-96.3; 1220)	94.0 (92.4-95.7; 2180)	95.1 (93.9-96.3; 2460)
Not stated	NR	0.9 (0.2-1.6; 10)	1.9 (1.1-2.8; 30)	2.0 (1.1-2.8; 30)
Another relative (e.g., grandparent) or non-relative (e.g., foster parent)	2.3 (0.8-3.8; 10)	3.4 (1.9-4.8; 30)	2.2 (1.1-3.3; 30)	1.3 (0.7-2.0; 30)
Adoptive parent	NR	NR	1.2 (0.7-1.8; 30)	0.7 (0.3-1.1; 20)
Stepparent	NR	NR	NR	NR
Sibling	NR	NR	NR	0.6 (0.2-1.0; 10)
Parent Immigration Status				
Non-immigrant	89.0 (85.8-92.1; 560)	90.4 (88.3-92.5; 1160)	67.8 (64.6-71.1; 1770)	59.0 (55.9-62.1; 1700)
Immigrant	10.1 (7.1-13.2; 50)	8.9 (6.8-10.9; 100)	31.0 (27.8-34.2; 480)	40.3 (37.2-43.4; 830)
Not stated	NR	0.7 (0.2-1.2; 10)	1.1 (0.5-1.8; 30)	0.7 (0.3-1.1; 20)

*Excluding all respondents that identified as Indigenous

Note: Other than for age group, income quintiles, and household education, indicator categories are ordered based on prevalence in the full weighted sample, from highest to lowest.

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2023, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.

Table 13b: Socio-demographic characteristics of Ontario children 1 to 17 years, person most knowledgeable (PMK), and households in the 2023 CHSCY dataset, full dataset, by geographic region

Variable	Toronto % (95% CI; rounded n)	Central East % (95% CI; rounded n)	East % (95% CI; rounded n)
Gender (child/youth)			
Boy	51.3 (50.8-51.8; 230)	51.4 (50.9-51.8; 1220)	51.0 (50.4-51.5; 1100)
Girl	47.9 (46.7-49.0; 240)	47.9 (47.3-48.5; 1120)	48.2 (47.7-48.7; 1020)
Non-binary	NR	0.7 (0.2-1.1; 20)	0.9 (0.4-1.4; 20)
Age Group (child/youth)			
1 to 4 years	22.9 (22.9-22.9; 60)	21.7 (21.7-21.7; 440)	22.0 (22.0-22.0; 600)
5 to 11 years	40.7 (40.7-40.7; 310)	40.7 (40.7-40.7; 1340)	41.2 (41.2-41.2; 920)
12 to 17 years	36.4 (36.4-36.4; 100)	37.6 (37.6-37.6; 580)	36.8 (36.8-36.8; 610)
Indigenous Identity (child/youth)			
Non-Indigenous identity	98.5 (97.1-99.8; 460)	98.5 (98.0-99.0; 2290)	95.7 (94.5-96.8; 2020)
Indigenous identity	NR	1.5 (1.0-2.0; 70)	4.3 (3.2-5.5; 110)
Race and Ethnic Origin* (child/youth)			
White	38.3 (32.8-43.8; 190)	39.4 (36.8-42.1; 1340)	73.4 (70.0-76.9; 1690)
South Asian	14.7 (10.5-18.9; 70)	22.4 (20.1-24.7; 340)	6.0 (4.2-7.9; 80)
East Asian	12.2 (8.4-16.0; 60)	14.5 (12.5-16.4; 230)	3.9 (2.5-5.3; 50)
Black	10.1 (6.6-13.7; 40)	5.8 (4.3-7.3; 100)	5.2 (3.3-7.2; 70)
Southeast Asian/Filipino	10.2 (7.1-13.3; 50)	6.1 (4.6-7.7; 90)	2.4 (1.3-3.4; 30)
West Asian/Arab	3.2 (1.4-5.1; 20)	5.4 (3.9-6.9; 80)	5.1 (3.4-6.8; 50)
Another or multiple racialized identities	4.9 (2.6-7.2; 20)	3.5 (2.4-4.5; 60)	2.1 (0.9-3.3; 20)
Not Stated	5.0 (2.1-7.8; 20)	2.2 (1.3-3.1; 40)	0.9 (0.2-1.6; 10)
Latin American	NR	0.7 (0.4-1.1; 20)	0.9 (0.1-1.7; 10)
Immigration Status (child/youth)			
Non-immigrant	81.3 (75.0-87.5; 400)	86.4 (83.7-89.1; 2170)	91.9 (89.5-94.2; 2030)
Immigrant	16.2 (9.8-22.6; 50)	10.5 (8.4-12.7; 150)	5.7 (3.6-7.8; 70)
Not Stated	2.5 (0.8-4.2; 10)	2.5 (1.5-3.5; 40)	2.4 (1.3-3.5; 30)
Non-permanent resident	NR	NR	NR
Child Living Arrangement			
Two parents/guardians	79.5 (74.5-84.5; 390)	85.6 (83.5-87.7; 2030)	84.5 (81.9-87.0; 1850)
Lone parent/guardian	18.3 (14.1-22.5; 80)	12.7 (10.7-14.6; 290)	14.7 (12.2-17.2; 260)
Another living arrangement	NR	1.0 (0.5-1.6; 20)	0.4 (0.2-0.7; 20)
Not stated	NR	0.7 (0.2-1.2; 20)	NR

Variable	Toronto % (95% CI; rounded n)	Central East % (95% CI; rounded n)	East % (95% CI; rounded n)
Household Income – Quintile			
Q1	24.4 (19.5-29.2; 100)	20.4 (17.9-23.0; 430)	15.3 (12.8-17.8; 300)
Q2	20.2 (15.6-24.7; 90)	20.2 (17.8-22.6; 440)	17.8 (15.5-20.2; 400)
Q3	15.5 (11.5-19.5; 70)	20.7 (18.3-23.0; 520)	20.2 (17.7-22.8; 470)
Q4	16.3 (12.3-20.2; 80)	20.7 (18.2-23.3; 530)	22.9 (20.3-25.5; 540)
Q5	23.7 (19.1-28.3; 120)	18.0 (15.8-20.1; 440)	23.7 (20.9-26.5; 430)
Household income – LIM			
Not in low income	75.8 (70.9-80.7; 370)	79.6 (77.0-82.1; 1920)	84.7 (82.2-87.2; 1840)
In low income	24.2 (19.3-29.1; 100)	20.4 (17.9-23.0; 430)	15.3 (12.8-17.8; 300)
Highest Household Educational Attainment			
High school or less	10.0 (6.6-13.4; 40)	9.4 (7.6-11.1; 230)	7.6 (6.0-9.3; 170)
College/vocational/university certificate or diploma	23.2 (18.3-28.2; 110)	30.9 (28.2-33.6; 790)	32.8 (30.0-35.7; 820)
Bachelor’s degree or more	66.8 (61.8-71.8; 320)	59.7 (56.8-62.7; 1330)	59.5 (56.4-62.6; 1140)
Gender (PMK)			
Woman	64.1 (58.6-69.6; 310)	70.0 (67.3-72.6; 1750)	71.8 (68.9-74.8; 1610)
Man	35.9 (30.4-41.4; 160)	30.0 (27.3-32.7; 600)	28.1 (25.2-31.0; 510)
Non-binary	NR	NR	NR
PMK Relation to Child			
Birth parent	95.7 (93.1-98.2; 460)	97.4 (96.5-98.3; 2280)	97.0 (95.9-98.1; 2060)
Not stated	NR	1.3 (0.7, 1.9; 30)	0.8 (0.4-1.2; 20)
Another relative (e.g., grandparent) or non-relative (e.g., foster parent)	NR	0.4 (0.1-0.7; 10)	0.4 (0.1-0.7; 10)
Adoptive parent	NR	0.4 (0.1-0.7; 20)	1.1 (0.4-1.8; 20)
Step parent	NR	NR	NR
Sibling	NR	NR	NR
Parent Immigration Status			
Non-immigrant	31.3 (25.8-36.9; 150)	34.3 (31.8-36.9; 1280)	67.6 (64.2-71.0; 1660)
Immigrant	67.5 (61.8-73.1; 310)	65.1 (62.6-67.6; 1060)	31.4 (28.0-34.8; 450)
Not stated	NR	0.6 (0.1-1.0; 10)	1.0 (0.3-1.7; 20)

*Excluding all respondents that identified as Indigenous

Note: Other than for age group, income quintiles, and household education, indicator categories are ordered based on prevalence in the full weighted sample, from highest to lowest.

Data Source: Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, 2023, Statistics Canada. Ontario Ministry of Health.

NR – Not Reportable

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