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Sault Ste. Marie District

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# **2019 Sault Ste. Marie Child Care and Early Years Environmental Scan**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Our Community Profile

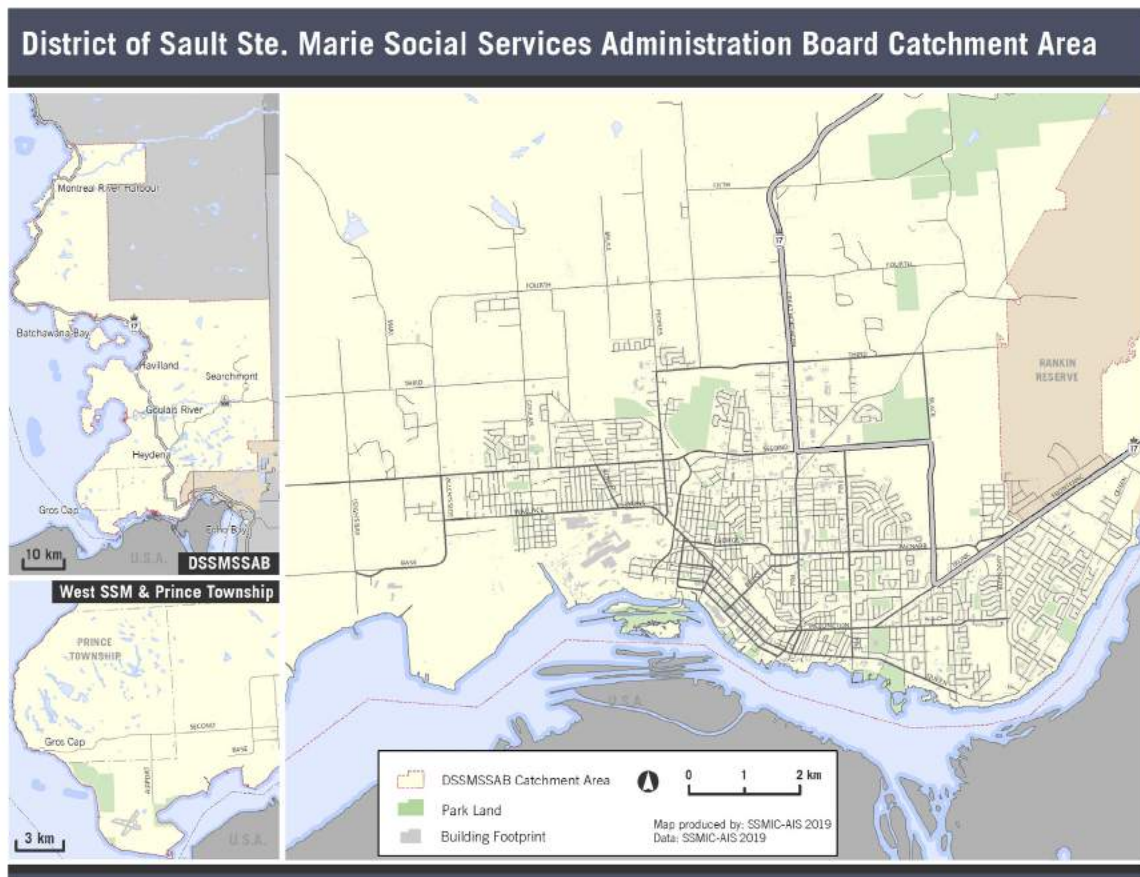
### OVERVIEW OF THE DSSMSSAB CATCHMENT AREA

The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board Catchment Area (also referred to as DSSMSSAB area) includes the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Prince Township, and a number of unorganized townships north of the City up to Montreal River Harbour. Please note that the official DSSMSSAB area does not contain the nearby First Nation Reserves of Garden River, Rankin, or Goulais Bay.

In 2016, the total population of the DSSMSSAB area was 79,077. Approximately 93% of this population lives in the City

of Sault Ste. Marie, while the remainder live in Prince Township (1%) or the unorganized townships north of the City of Sault Ste. Marie (6%) (Table 1–Appendix A).

The population of the district is projected to decline- this data includes the rest of the Algoma District (Figure 1 Appendix A). Sault Ste. Marie makes up about 65% of the population of the Algoma District. We can expect less children in the 0 to 4 and 5 to 9 age groups over the next two decades (Figure 3, Table 3 – Appendix A).



### LOCATION, NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 12

Overall, the population has dropped for the DSSMSSAB area, but the population aged 0 to 12 has remained relatively the same between 2011 and 2016. In 2016, there were 9,770 children aged 0 to 12 living in the DSSMSSAB area (Table 6 – Appendix A). Of these children, 5,215 were between the ages of 0 to 6 and 4,555 were between the ages of 7 and 12 (Table 7–Appendix A).

The 0 to 12 population is spread throughout the city, with higher concentrations in the east end of Sault Ste. Marie, specifically near Cambridge Place, Grandview Gardens and Terry Fox Place; in the Crawford Avenue area, in the urban west end near Goulais and Second Line, the rural area of Sault Ste. Marie, and the Greenfield subdivision. Lesser concentrations are seen in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Fort Creek area, near

the Sault Country Club and near Algoma Steel (Figure 6–Appendix A).

The population of children 0 to 12 remained consistent between 2011 and 2016 (45 additional children) (Table 6–Appendix A). The population 0 to 6 had a larger increase of

115 children, indicating a potential increased demand for Early Years services during this time. The population of children 7 to 12 dropped by 70 between 2011 and 2016 (Table 7–Appendix A).

## NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THAT IDENTIFY AS FRANCOPHONE AND FRENCH LANGUAGE EARLY YEARS SERVICES

### CHILDREN WHO IDENTIFY AS FRANCOPHONE

Of the population of children aged 0 to 14, 250 (or 2.2%) are Francophone (Table 8 – Appendix A). There are proportionally fewer Francophone children aged 0 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area than Ontario as a whole (4.9%) and Northeastern Ontario

(18.5%). The majority of Francophone youth live in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, specifically east of Pine Street, with higher concentrations in the P-Patch, near River View Public School and near Parkland Public School (Figure 10 – Appendix A).

### FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES

According to the Ontario government, the Algoma District (of which Sault Ste. Marie is a part) is one of the 26 French Designated Areas. This means Francophones living within the District have the right to local French services from the provincial government. As such, it is important that early years services be offered in French, as well as English.

French early years services are located near the central part of the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The École Notre-Dame-du-Sault site in the central area of Sault Ste. Marie offers French language EarlyON, licensed child care and schooling. The St. Basil EarlyON also offers weekly French language programming on Fridays. Écho-des-Rapides is the other full French school in Sault Ste. Marie and offers an after-school recreation program in French. There are also four French Immersion schools in the city: St. Francis in the west, Boreal in the north, F.H. Clergue

in the east central area, and St. Mary’s in the east (Figure 89 – Appendix A).

When visitors enter a Sault Ste. Marie EarlyON site for the first time, they are asked to register in the KEyON system. The KEyON system tracks visits to the EarlyON Centres and gathers information on the visitor’s preferred language. Between April 2018 and March 2019, 12 unique French speaking Parents/ Caregivers attended the EarlyON Centres at least once. This represents 1.1% of all parent/caregiver visitors to the EarlyON Centres in Sault Ste. Marie. Between this time, 18 unique French speaking children attended the EarlyON Centres. This represents 0.9% of all child visitors to the EarlyON Centres (Table 18 – Appendix A). The most common EarlyON site for French speaking visitors was Holy Cross, followed by Prince Township and Mountain View (Figure 90 – Appendix A).

## NUMBER AND LOCATION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THAT SELF-IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS AND INDIGENOUS EARLY YEARS SERVICES

### CHILDREN WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS

Indigenous identity refers to those persons who self-identified with at least one Indigenous group (First Nation, Métis or Inuit) and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/ or those who reported they were members of a First Nation. It is important to note that the counts of persons who self-identify as Indigenous in the Census may be under-reported.

Of the population of children aged 0 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area, 1,850 (or 17.5%) self-identify as Indigenous (Table 10 – Appendix A). There are proportionally more self-identifying Indigenous children aged 0 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area than Ontario as a whole (4.1%) and proportionally fewer than Northeastern Ontario as a whole (19.4%).

Most youth identifying as Indigenous in the DSSMSSAB area live in Garden River First Nation. As well, a vast majority live in the east part of the City of Sault Ste. Marie in the area south of Chambers Avenue between Boundary Road and Dacey Road. There is also a large population of youth identifying as Indigenous in the area north of Wellington Street, south of McNabb Street, between Black Road and Pim Street (Figure 13 – Appendix A). Please note there is no data for Rankin Reserve or Goulais Bay Reserve and these communities would be expected to have a large population of youth identifying as Indigenous.

## INDIGENOUS SERVICES

As a result of the Journey Together community planning process, the Etienne Brule Community Hub, which houses the Urban Aboriginal Alternative High School, run by the Indigenous Friendship Centre, has been selected as the lead Indigenous EarlyON Centre in the area. A key component of the Journey Together plan includes the provision of opportunities for ongoing mentoring and partnering between the Indigenous EarlyON Child and Family Centre (OEYCFC) and the non-Indigenous Early Years system. This site is scheduled to open in early 2020.

DSSMSSAB Housing Services and Early Years have been working closely with the Ontario Aboriginal Housing services to develop the innovative Homeward Bound program in Sault Ste. Marie at 462 McNabb Street (formerly St. Bernadette Catholic School). This program will offer “a holistic job readiness program that integrates key local supports to help single urban Indigenous mothers enhance their lives. In addition to the cultural supports built into the program design, mothers will be provided with a furnished housing unit, goal orientated case management, academic upgrading, life skills training, child care, after school programs for children and youth, and trauma counselling.

Participants will also earn tuition paid college diplomas, complete internships through the innovation Industry Council and begin careers within fields of study targeted to the local labour market.”<sup>1</sup> This site is currently under construction and will have 30 new child care spaces upon completion.

Waabinong Head Start Family Resource Centre runs the Shkiyaak Niigaansiawag pre-school learning centre currently located at 169 Spring Street in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. This is a free child care program for Indigenous children aged 2 years and up. The Shkiyaak Niigaansiawag classroom is licensed to accommodate 24 children in the morning and another 24 in the afternoon. Classes are held from Monday to Thursday during September to June.<sup>2</sup>

Waabinong Head Start Family Resource Centre will also provide licensed child care for both the Homeward Bound location (30 spaces) and a second Indigenous program for up to 37 children. These two new programs were developed through community consultation as part of the Journey Together Initiative. All three programs will soon be co-located at the McNabb Street location.

## NUMBER AND LOCATION OF RECENT IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND/OR FAMILIES

Overall, the number of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2011 and 2016) to the DSSMSSAB area is low. A total of 290 people are estimated to be recent immigrants to the DSSMSSAB area. The total population of the DSSMSSAB area is 79,077. Recent immigrants represent less than 0.4% of the total population.

A total of 30 children aged 0 to 14 identify as recent immigrants. According to the 2016 Census data, the DSSMSSAB area has a total population of 11,205 children aged 0 to 14. Recent immigrants aged 0 to 14 represent 0.3% of the population of children aged 0 to 14.

## EXISTING EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN 0 TO 12 AND PARENTS/ CAREGIVERS

### EARLYON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE LOCATIONS AND UTILIZATION

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide child and family centred programs and services that are consistent at all locations, but also meet the unique needs of the families who attend each program. A set of principles guide the development, delivery and evaluation of EarlyON programs and services. EarlyON Centres offer warm, welcoming environments that are inclusive, accessible, responsive, and support growth and long-term success, creating a sense of belonging, well-being, engagement and expression. These high quality programs support positive experiences and outcomes by fostering nurturing relationships between children and those who care for them. Collaboration with broader community services, school boards, early years partners, child care service providers, and parents and caregivers, is essential for a community led integrated system.

EarlyON Centres work together as part of the community to help children reach their full potential. Research has shown that

a child’s earliest experiences shape the physical development of the brain and the child’s capacity for further development. Children who have achieved their developmental milestones prior to school entry are better able to cope with, and take advantage of, all the experiences a school environment has to offer.

EarlyON Centres are dispersed throughout the DSSMSSAB area (pg.viii) and in Figure 15 in Appendix A. They are open weekdays, evenings and weekends to fit the needs of families in the community. EarlyON Centres also offer outreach opportunities, often in conjunction with other agencies, for families who could benefit from programs and services but who are not currently accessing services for a variety of reasons.

In 2018, the DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centres recorded 24,233 total visits from children (21,057 from children aged 0 to 6

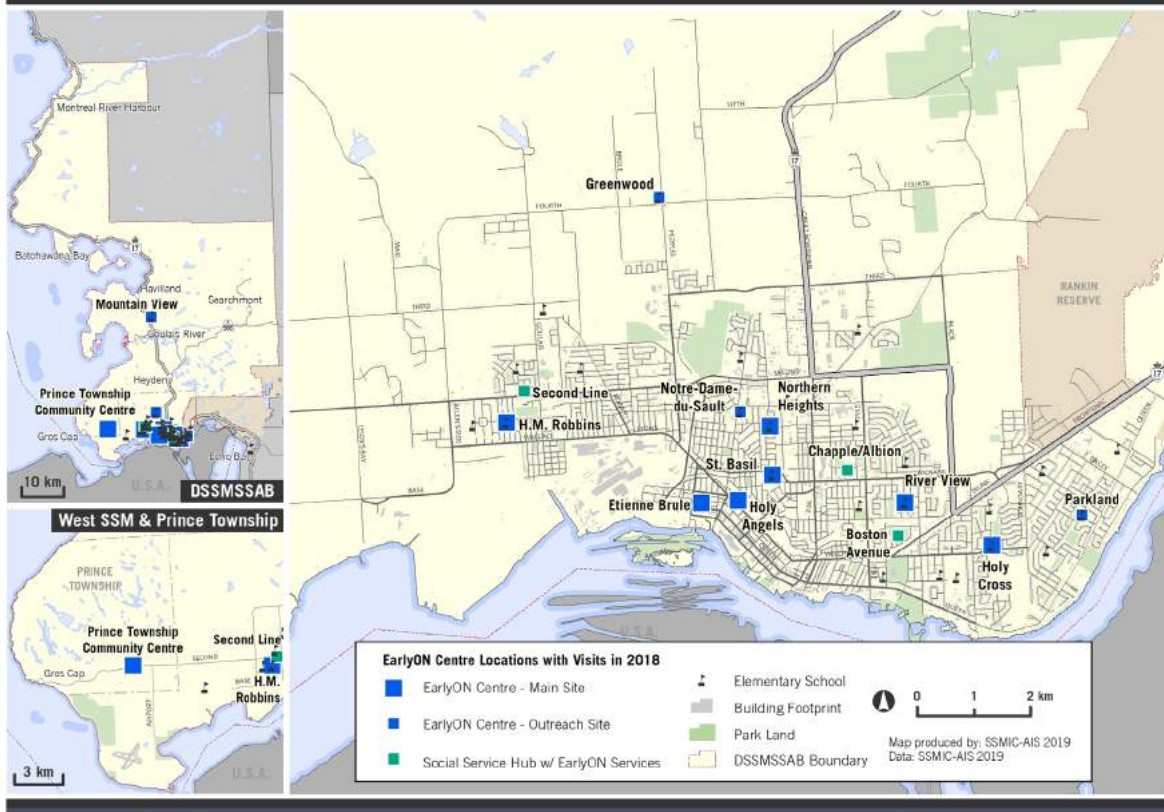
<sup>1</sup> District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board. Board Report, October 19, 2017. Accessed: [http://www.socialservices-ssmd.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/iah\\_homeward\\_bound\\_-\\_final.pdf](http://www.socialservices-ssmd.ca/documents/assets/uploads/files/en/iah_homeward_bound_-_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://oahsa.ca/ahs-sites/waabinong-ahs-sault-ste-marie/>





## Sault Ste. Marie Area EarlyON Centre Locations



and 3,176 from children aged 7-12) and 15,526 visits from parents/caregivers. There were 3,561 unique child visitors to the EarlyON Centres and 2,745 unique parents/caregivers in 2018 (Table 11 – Appendix A). 2018 saw the highest number

of recorded child drop-in visits to the DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centres between 2013 and 2018 (note exception on page 39) (Figure 16 – Appendix A).

The most attended sites in 2018 were:

- Holy Cross with 7,625 child visits in 2018. This site draws heavily from the east end of Sault Ste. Marie (Figures 17 and 19 – Appendix A).
- Prince Township with 5,269 child visits in 2018. This site draws from all over the City of Sault Ste. Marie, with heavy concentrations in the rural area west and north of Sault Ste. Marie and the urban west end (Figures 17 and 20 – Appendix A).
- Holy Angels with 3,841 child visits in 2018. This site draws heavily from downtown Sault Ste. Marie and several other neighbourhoods throughout the city. This site tends to draw proportionally more visits from socio-economically marginalized neighbourhoods than other high-use EarlyON Centres in the DSSMSSAB area (Figures 17 and 21 – Appendix A).
- Mountain View with 1,699 child visits in 2018. Given the location, this site draws almost exclusively from the northern unorganized territory of the DSSMSSAB area (Figures 17 and 22 – Appendix A).
- H.M Robbins with 1,453 child visits from Q2 to Q4 in 2018. This site draws heavily from the west end of Sault Ste. Marie (Figures 17 and 23 – Appendix A).
- St. Basil with 1,049 child visits from Q2 to Q4 in 2018. This site is a newer one and draws from several neighbourhoods throughout the City of Sault Ste. Marie (Figures 17 and 24 – Appendix A).
- River View with 977 child visits from Q2 to Q4 in 2018. This site draws mainly from the east end of Sault Ste. Marie (Figures 17 and 25 – Appendix A).

The most popular months for visits in 2018 were March and January. The least popular were December and May (Figure 28 – Appendix A). From Monday to Thursday, there were typically 7-8 EarlyON Centres open across the DSSMSSAB area,

averaging 4.5 hours per site. Fridays had slightly reduced hours of operation with 8 sites open for an average of 3.5 hours. Saturdays had 6 sites open with an average of 2.6 hours. Sundays had very limited operating hours with Prince Township

and St. Basil each open once per month for 3 hours (excluding the summers). The most popular weekday was Tuesday with 4,832 combined child visits from all centres across the DSSMSSAB area, followed by Wednesday and Thursday (Figure 29 – Appendix A). The number of child visits on Mondays was comparatively lower than the number of child visits Tuesday through Friday (Figure 30 – Appendix A). During the summer months, Fridays typically had a lesser proportion of child visits than the other times of the year (Figures 33 to 36 – Appendix A).

Breaking age down by months per site, provides detailed information on the age demographic of children attending EarlyON Centres in Sault Ste. Marie. Taken together, most children attending the DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centres are between 0 and 50 months in age (Figure 40 – Appendix A). Figure 40 to Figure 48 in Appendix A show the age breakdown for each site. Most of the children that visit Holy Angels are under 5 years of age, however this site also receives more visits from children between the ages of 6 and 12 years old (Figure 42 – Appendix A) than other sites in the area.

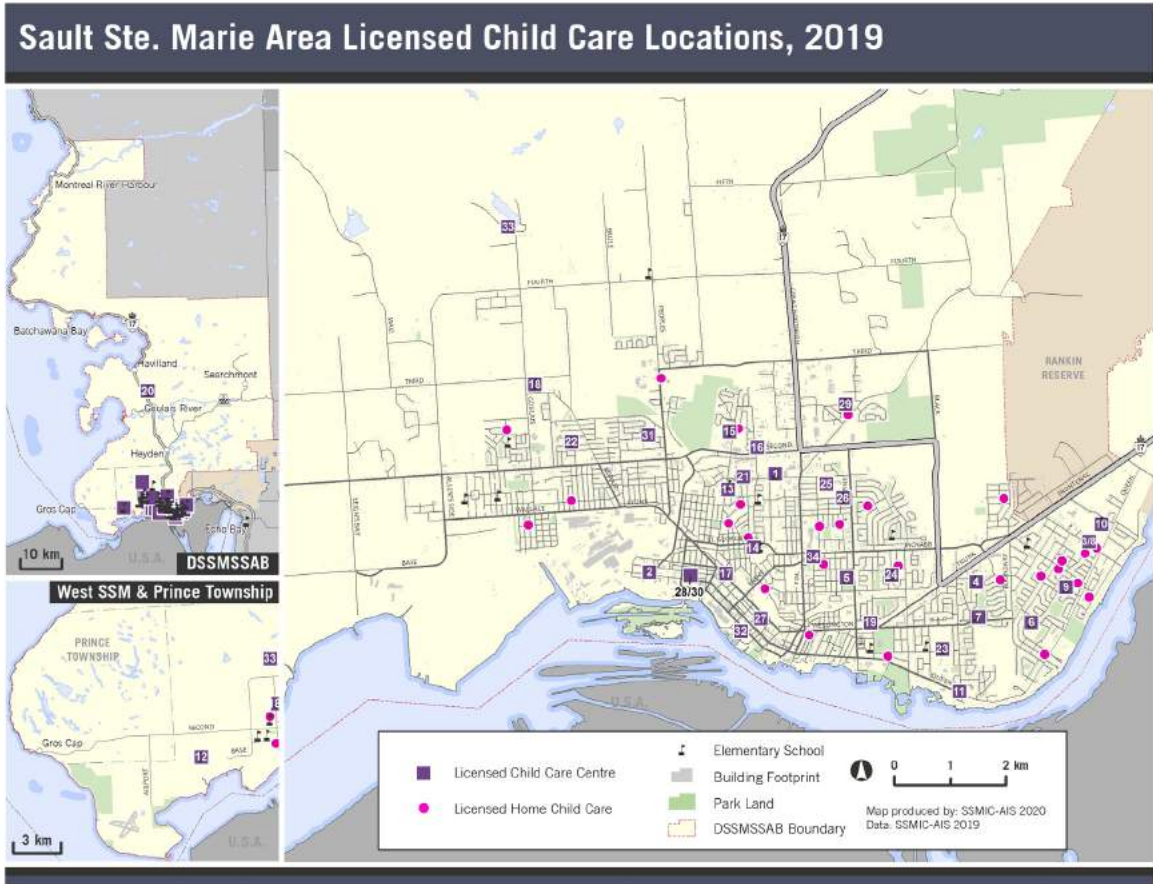
By combining the approximate population of children aged 0 to 4 for 2018 and the number of unique visitors aged 0 to 4 to the SSM EarlyON Centres, we can determine the approximate

EarlyON service uptake by this population cohort. Please note that unique visitor data is limited to those who signed in using the KEyON system (June to December 2018). The total estimated population of children aged 0 to 4 in the DSSMSSAB area in 2018 was 3,935 persons. The total number of unique children aged 0 to 4 who attended a DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centre between June and December 2018 was 1,117. This means that of the 3,935 persons aged 0 to 4 in the DSSMSSAB area, 28.4% of them attended an EarlyON Centre between June and December 2018. Figure 60 in Appendix A shows the approximate EarlyON service uptake by children aged 0 to 4 between June and December 2018 in each DA. This is calculated by dividing the unique visitors by the estimated total population aged 0 to 4 in each DA and showing the result as a percentage. Figure 61 in Appendix A highlights the neighbourhoods that have a much higher and much lower than expected EarlyON service uptake percentage than the DSSMSSAB area as a whole. Areas that stood out as having a high population of children aged 0 to 4 and low EarlyON uptake were in the Jamestown area, in the urban west end of Sault Ste. Marie (particularly Goulais/Second Line and the A-Patch), south of Second Line near the Cara Community, parts of the P-Patch, the Crawford area, Heritage Place, and parts of the urban east end (Figure 61 – Appendix A).

CENTRE-BASED LICENCED CHILD CARE

Centre-based licensed child care is located across the DSSMSSAB area (Figure 62 – Appendix A). As of March 2019, there were 33 centre-based licensed child care sites operating in the DSSMSSAB area, with a total of 1,652 licenced child care centre spaces. There was also a total of 175 licenced home

child care spaces in the DSSMSSAB. As of March 2019, there were 26 licensed home child care locations in operation in the DSSMSSAB area.





There are currently 16 child care operators with licenced child care centres in the DSSMSSAB area. The operators are: Alternative School Childcare Services, Child Care Algoma, Community Cooperative Children's Services, Corporation of the Township of Prince, Hand in Hand Daycare Centre, Huron Superior Catholic District School Board, Little Lions Waldorf Child and Family Centre, Meadow Park Montessori School Inc., Northridge Montessori School, Riverside Christian's Children's Centre, Sault College Child and Family Centre, Sault Ste. Marie Soup Kitchen, Thrive Child Development Centre, Waabinong Head Start Family Resource Centre, Waterfront Child Development Centre Incorporated, and YMCA Sault Ste. Marie.

Of these centre-based licensed spaces, there is a total of 97 infant spaces, 283 toddler spaces, 517 preschool spaces, 277 kindergarten spaces, and 478 school age spaces (Table 14 – Appendix A). The DSSMSSAB area had a population of 5,215 children aged 0 to 6 in 2016 (Table 5 – Appendix A). This would cover the child care age groups infant to JK/SK (goes to 5 Years 8 months), which accounts for 1,174 licenced child care spaces at centre-based licenced child care. This covers centre-based licensed childcare for just over 22.5% of the area's population aged 0 to 6. Please note that unlicensed child care centres, unlicensed home child care, or those on Reserves are not included in the calculations of this summary.

The DSSMSSAB area has a significant waitlist for licensed child care. As of mid-2018 the waitlist is administered through OneHSN's Sault Ste. Marie Central Child Care Application Site. In May of 2018, there were a total of 1,084 individuals on the waitlist for licensed child care. Figure 69 in Appendix A shows the residence of child care waitlist registrants aggregated by DA. Nearly all neighbourhoods in the DSSMSSAB catchment area had at least one child on the waitlist in May 2018. Higher concentrations are seen in the rural west end of Sault Ste. Marie, the Greenfield subdivision, Cambridge Place, and

several other neighborhoods around the urban area of the City. As mentioned earlier, the population of children aged 0 to 6 grew in the DSSMSSAB area between 2011 and 2016 which has increased the demand for child care.

Although there are some programs located in the west end of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, it remains somewhat underserved in terms of centre-based child care for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. In 2016, the City of Sault Ste. Marie made the decision to close their directly operated programs, and 2 of the 3 closures were in the west end. Currently, there are four licensed home child care sites in the west end of Sault Ste. Marie.

- Many infant spaces are in the central part of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, either in the downtown area or near Great Northern Road. There are no child care centres with infant spaces west of Carmen's Way, however, R.M. Moore will have infant spaces in the near future.
- Toddler spaces are spread through the central area and east end of Sault Ste. Marie. The west end has two centres that offer toddler spaces, H. S. McLellan Preschool (10 spaces) and Isabel Fletcher PS (10 spaces). Upon expansion, R.M. Moore will have 15 toddler spaces.
- Preschool spaces are located throughout the central area and east end of Sault Ste. Marie. The west end has three centres that offer preschool spaces, H. S. McLellan Preschool (24 spaces), Wild Roots/Little Lions located at St. Kateri Outdoor (16 spaces) and Isabel Fletcher PS (8 spaces). R.M. Moore has offered 21 preschool spaces in the past and will offer 24 with the current expansion.
- Kindergarten and school age spaces are plentiful and can be found throughout the urban area of Sault Ste. Marie. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School located in the west end has 26 kindergarten and 15 school age spaces, while Isabel Fletcher PS has 13 kindergarten spaces. In addition, there are 26 kindergarten and 30 school age spaces at R.M. Moore.

## **LIBRARY EARLY YEARS SERVICES**

Public libraries are key contributors to literacy and lifelong learning. Studies have shown that the public library's role in early learning is particularly important for children in rural communities and for children from low-income families.<sup>3</sup> The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library currently has two branches: the James L. McIntyre Centennial Library and Korah Branch Library. A new branch is scheduled to open beside Boreal School. Both current locations offer early years programming. Early Literacy

Programs provided by the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library include Baby Time, Baby Picasso, Toddler Time, Preschool Storytime, Get Set for School, Lego Club, Sandman Storytime, and Stories & Crafts (Tables 15 and 16 – Appendix A). Please note that Prince Township also has its own public library. This library runs a Mother Goose Reading time in conjunction with the Prince EarlyON Centre but currently does not hold a regularly scheduled time.

## **SUMMER PROGRAMMING FOR EARLY YEARS AND YOUTH**

Many paid summer programs for youth exist in Sault Ste. Marie, mostly for kindergarten and school-aged children. Table 17 in Appendix A lists the names of the programs, as well as the name of the provider and target age group. All of these programs have a cost to register. Providers include Algoma District School Board, Algoma University, Art Gallery of Algoma, Bricks 4 Kidz, Cases Music, Catalyst Fitness, Jade

Wellness Studio, Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie Gymnastics Club, Science North, Strathclair Farm, Studio Dance, The Sault Youth Theatre, YMCA, and Camp St. Kateri.

Licensed summer programming for school-aged children is more limited, with 3 programs currently operating at Child Care Algoma-Parkland site (east end), Hand in Hand Summer

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Museum and Library Services, "Nine to Nineteen: Youth in Museums and Libraries – A Practitioner's Guide" (Washington: Institute of Museum and Library Services, April 2008). Accessed: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/environmental-scan-culture-sector-ontario-culture-strategy-background-document/sector-profile-public-libraries>

program (central) and Community Cooperative Children’s Services (west-central).

The DSSMSSAB offers the Kids Being Kids summer recreation program at 6 housing locations throughout the community (Figure 73 - Appendix A). The City of Sault Ste. Marie offers two summer recreation programs at Etienne Brule Community

Hub/Greco Pool and at the Peter G. Manzo pool in the west end. The Sault Community Soup Kitchen also offers a drop in summer program at their west end location. These three programs are offered free of charge to children living in those areas.

## AVAILABLE OR POTENTIAL PROGRAM SPACE WITHIN LOCAL SCHOOLS

There are 4 school boards in the DSSMSSAB area: Algoma DSB, Huron-Superior Catholic DSB, CSD Catholique du Nouvel-Ontario, and CSD public du Grand Nord de l’Ontario. In total, there are 27 elementary schools in the area. Algoma DSB has 18 elementary schools in the DSSMSSAB area, Huron-Superior Catholic DSB has 7 schools in the area, CSD Catholique du Nouvel-Ontario has 1 school in the area, and CSD public du Grand Nord de l’Ontario has 1 school in the area.

Across the DSSMSSAB area, there are 19 licensed child care sites that are in schools. There are 7 out of 13 EarlyON sites located in schools. Currently, 6 schools have both a licensed child care site and EarlyON Centre, 3 schools have an EarlyON Centre but no child care, 5 schools have child care for school age only but no EarlyON Centre, 7 schools have child care

for multiple age groups but no EarlyON Centre, and 1 school has Board operated, unlicensed child care but no EarlyON Centre. This leaves 5 schools that currently have neither an EarlyON Centre nor child care program, and depending on space available could potentially be locations for future EarlyON Centres or child care sites. These are located at: Ben R. McMullin Public School, Queen Elizabeth Public School, Holy Family Catholic School, St. Francis French Immersion Catholic School, and St. Mary’s French Immersion Catholic School. Please note that Mountain View school is the only school that contains an EarlyON Centre and only contains child care for school-age children. All other schools that had both an EarlyON Centre and child care site had child care for multiple age groups (Figure 97 – Appendix A).







# SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA THAT MAY IDENTIFY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH ANY SOCIAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL VULNERABILITIES AND THEIR APPROXIMATE LOCATION

## ONTARIO MARGINALIZATION INDEX

The 2016 Ontario Marginalization Index (OMI) is an area based index that attempts to show differences in marginalization between areas, as well as understand inequalities in various measures of health and social well-being.<sup>4</sup> The OMI is calculated at the Dissemination Area (DA) level. A DA is a small, relatively stable geographic unit with a population of 400 to 700 persons.<sup>5</sup> The OMI is made up of four dimensions. To determine Overall Marginalization, Residential Instability, Material Deprivation, and Dependency Dimensions are used. The fourth dimension, Ethnic Concentration is of less importance to the DSSMSSAB area as the region has very few recent immigrants or persons who identify as a visible minority.

Figure 104 in Appendix A shows that the overall level of marginalization is generally higher in the DSSMSSAB area than in Ontario as a whole. 57.5% of DSSMSSAB area children aged 0 to 6 live in a marginalized neighbourhood (DA scored a 4 or 5), as compared to 27.8% in Ontario (Figure 105 – Appendix A).

The DSSMSSAB area contains proportionally more DAs in the ‘Most Deprived’ quintile than Ontario and is more deprived than the province as a whole. The downtown and urban west areas fall into the most deprived categories. The rural area within the city, in the urban area around the old hospital to the east of the Sault Country Club, the newer part of the P-Patch, and the Fort Creek area is less deprived. The Unorganized area is a mix (Figure 100 – Appendix A). The DSSMSSAB has proportionally more children aged 0 to 6 that live in deprived neighbourhoods than the province. 58.2% of DSSMSSAB area children aged 0 to 6 live in a deprived neighbourhood (DA

scored a 4 or 5), as compared to 37.6% in Ontario (Figure 101 – Appendix A).

There seemed to be somewhat of a correlation between Material Deprivation and EarlyON child visits. For the most part, neighbourhoods that had a high number of child visits to EarlyON Centres tended to be less deprived than the Ontario average. Neighbourhoods with few child visits to EarlyON Centres (100 or less), generally were more deprived than the Ontario average (Figures 18 and 100 – Appendix A). However, there are areas of the city that do not follow this trend at all. For example, the DAs in the east end of the City of Sault Ste. Marie recorded a high number of EarlyON visits but are also deprived (DA scored a 4 or 5).

Overall, there seemed to be strong correlation between Material Deprivation and EDI Neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods that had a lower percentage of children vulnerable in two or more domains of the EDI also tended to be less materially deprived than the Ontario average. These neighbourhoods are typically found in the rural parts of the city west of Allens Side Road (including Prince Township), north of Second/Third Line, and parts of the urban area including Fort Creek and the area from the old hospital neighbourhood to east of the Sault Country Club. The newer P-Patch area is an exception as this neighbourhood tended to have low levels of Material Deprivation but had a higher percentage of children vulnerable in two or more domains of the EDI (Figures 100 and 122 – Appendix A).

## SOCIOECONOMIC RISK: THE SOCIAL RISK INDEX CALCULATION

The Social Risk Index (SRI) is a measure of socioeconomic risk in communities and neighbourhoods and is derived from census data from Statistics Canada. The SRI used in this report is based on 2016 Census data. The index measures nine critical risk indicators and compares the results of each against the provincial average. If the neighbourhood is worse than the provincial average in a certain indicator, that variable is given a score of 1, if not it is given a score of 0. Adding up the scores for each indicator will result in a neighbourhood score of 0-9, where 0 indicates the lowest degree of socioeconomic risk and a 9 indicates the highest degree of socioeconomic risk. Results are generally classified by four established categories of risk: Low Risk (0 to 2), Somewhat Low Risk (3 to 4), Somewhat High Risk (5 to 6), and High Risk (7 to 9). The nine indicators used in the index are: lone-parent families, low-income, knowledge of an official language, immigration, tenancy, residential mobility, unemployment, education and government income transfers.

The DSSMSSAB area has a social risk index score of 4 and is considered to be at somewhat low socioeconomic risk (Table 20 – Appendix A). The SRI scores of the DSSMSSAB area DAs vary considerably. Many DAs in Sault Ste. Marie were deemed to be ‘High Risk’, each with a social risk index score of 7, and one with a score of 8. The majority of high-risk DAs are located in the mid-west end of the city and in the city’s downtown core. A few other high-risk DAs are found in the central and east areas of Sault Ste. Marie. Combined, these DAs had an approximate population of 1,540 children age 0 to 14 in 2016. The DAs deemed Low Risk and Somewhat Low risk tend to be in the more rural areas of the District (west of Allens Side Road including Prince Township, north of Second Line) and in the east end of the city to Dacey Road (Figure 106 – Appendix A).

There seems to be somewhat of a correlation between SRI and the percentage of children vulnerable in two or more domains

<sup>4</sup> Ontario Marginalization Index (ON-Marg), 2006, Accessed: <http://www.crunch.mcmaster.ca/ontario-marginalization-index>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/geo021-eng.cfm>

of the EDI. The more rural areas of the city (west of Allens Side Road, north of Second Line, west of Rankin Reserve) and the east end of the city around the waterfront area to the east of the Country Club tend to be low or somewhat low socioeconomic risk and also have lower percentages of children vulnerable in two or more domains of the EDI. The DAs located in the central and downtown core of the city tend to have higher percentages of children vulnerable in two or more domains of the EDI and the DAs also tend to be somewhat at risk or high risk on the SRI. Of course, there are DAs that stray from

## LONE-PARENT FAMILIES

Family structure has an important impact on a child's growth and development. Lone-parent families are more likely to be below the poverty level, rent their homes, and are not able to accumulate financial resources due to lower salaries and higher unemployment in comparison to couple families. Depending on the characteristics and parenting quality of the lone-parent, children living in lone-parent families on average

## FAMILY INCOME DATA

Tax return data can be utilized to more closely consider family income, especially as it pertains to families with children in the home. Figure 111 in Appendix A indicates that couple families with children in the home in the DSSMSSAB area had a median family income above that of Ontario in 2016, while the median income for lone-parent families (\$40,010) was significantly less than Ontario (\$46,260). The gap between the median income of couple-parent families and lone-parent families in 2016 was greater in the DSSMSSAB area (a difference of \$73,968) than that of Ontario (\$64,943). Figure 109 and Figure 111 in Appendix A indicate there were more lone-parents who had at least one child under the age of 6 in Sault Ste. Marie in 2016 and they were more likely to have a lower income in 2016 than lone-parents in other parts of Ontario. Between 2006

this trend, particularly the unorganized areas north of the city and the far east end of the city below Trunk Road. Some of this irregularity may be due to the difference in size of the EDI neighbourhoods and individual DAs, as an EDI neighbourhood may contain multiple DAs. For example, the EDI neighbourhood West Central B is about on par with Ontario's Baseline for percent of children vulnerable in 2 or more domains of the EDI. This neighbourhood is made up of a mix of DAs that range from Low Risk to Somewhat High Risk on the SRI (Figures 106 and 124 – Appendix A).

are more likely to exhibit behavioural problems and do poorer in school than children living with both parents.<sup>6</sup> As a percentage of families with children under 6 in 2016, 28.5% of families in the DSSMSSAB area were lone-parent families. This is proportionally higher than Ontario which had 17.9% of all families with children under 6 headed by lone-parents (Figure 109 – Appendix A).

and 2016, the median income of couple families with children in the home in Sault Ste. Marie remained above the Ontario average.

According to Statistics Canada's 2016 Low-Income Measure Before Tax (LIM-BT), 23% of the DSSMSSAB area's youth population (under the age of 18) lived in low-income families in 2016. 23.3% of Algoma youth and 20% of Ontario youth lived in low-income families in 2016. Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario youth living in lone-parent families were much more likely to be living in low-income situations than youth living in couple-parent families. Of the Sault Ste. Marie youth who lived in lone-parent families, 53.1% lived in low-income situations in 2016 (Figure 114 – Appendix A).

## SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

There are multiple programs providing services for children with special needs. These programs include No Wrong Door and the Early Learning Resources Program (ELR). The No Wrong Door Digital Referral System manages child referrals in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma District to Algoma Family Services, Algoma Public Health, Community Living Algoma, and THRIVE Child Development Centre. Referrals sent between these organizations are considered internal referrals. Most external referrals are made by licensed child care centres/homes but may also include EarlyON Centres and other organizations (Figure 92 – Appendix A). Referrals increased steadily between 2015 and 2017 but dropped slightly in 2018 (Figure 91 – Appendix A). Nearly half of all referrals to the systems have been closed by THRIVE (Figure 94 – Appendix A). Most referrals happen when children are between 2 and 6 years of age (Figure 95 – Appendix A).

In Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma, the ELR program is run by THRIVE. This program provides Special Needs Resourcing Supports to licenced child care and EarlyON programs in the community. ELR is a specialized program that provides Early Childhood Education Resource Consultant support for children with developmental differences who are enrolled in licensed child care or attending EarlyON programs.<sup>7</sup> The goal of THRIVE is to have the Resource Consultant, the child care staff and the family working together as a team for the successful inclusion of every child into the child care environment and activities. This goal is achieved through the provision of support, education, consultation and co-teaching to the child care centres. The ELR program also supports the therapy needs of the children to further enhance their development, socialization and readiness for school.<sup>8</sup> Between 2014 and 2016, the number of children served by the ELR program steadily increased. Between 2016 and 2018, the number of children served by the

<sup>6</sup> Anne-Marie Ambert, Vanier Institute of the Family, "One parent families: Characteristics, causes, consequences, and issues", 2006.

<sup>7</sup> THRIVE Child Development Centre, 2019. Accessed via: <https://kidsthive.ca/service/early-learning-resources/>

<sup>8</sup> THRIVE, 2019.

ELR program decreased slightly to about the 2015 level (Figure 96 – Appendix A). It is important to note that at the end of 2018, there was a waitlist of 20 children waiting for service.

## EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI) RESULTS

The EDI is commonly used to get a sense of vulnerability in a population of senior kindergarten aged children and measures five domains of a child's development: Physical Health & Well-being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development, and Communication Skills & General Knowledge. The five major Sault Ste. Marie EDI implementations took place during the 2004/05, 2008/2009, 2011/12, 2014/15, and 2017/18 school years, however this summary will only focus on the latest implementation.

In the 2017/18 cycle, the DSSMSSAB area had a vulnerability rate of 29.5% compared to the provincial baseline vulnerability rate of 29.6%. In this cycle, the Sault Ste. Marie area vulnerability rates for the Physical Health & Well-being, Social Competence

and Emotional Maturity domains were higher than those of the provincial rate, Language & Cognitive Development was on par with Ontario and Communication & General Knowledge was slightly better than Ontario (Figure 120 – Appendix A).

Compared to the 2014/15 EDI cycle, only the Emotional Maturity domain showed a statistically significant decrease in the percent of vulnerable children in Sault Ste. Marie. The Physical Health & Well-Being, Language & Cognitive Development and Communication & General Knowledge domains showed a similar percentage of vulnerable children between 2014/15 and 2017/18 and the Social Competence domain showed a decrease, however this change was not statistically significant.

## MOST VULNERABLE AREAS IN SAULT STE. MARIE

Highlighting the most vulnerable areas in the City of Sault Ste. Marie can provide the DSSMSSAB with important information on specific neighborhoods that would benefit from more program development. The most vulnerable areas may be neighbourhoods that are currently underserved and/or may benefit from additional outreach. The following indicators were used in determining the most vulnerable areas in the City of Sault Ste. Marie:

- the DA was somewhat high risk or high risk on the social risk index,
- the DA was more deprived than the Ontario average in terms of material deprivation,
- the DA was more marginalized than Ontario in terms of Overall Marginalization,
- and the DA had a higher percentage of SK children vulnerable in two or more domains of the EDI than the Ontario Baseline. In total, there were 31 DAs deemed most vulnerable.

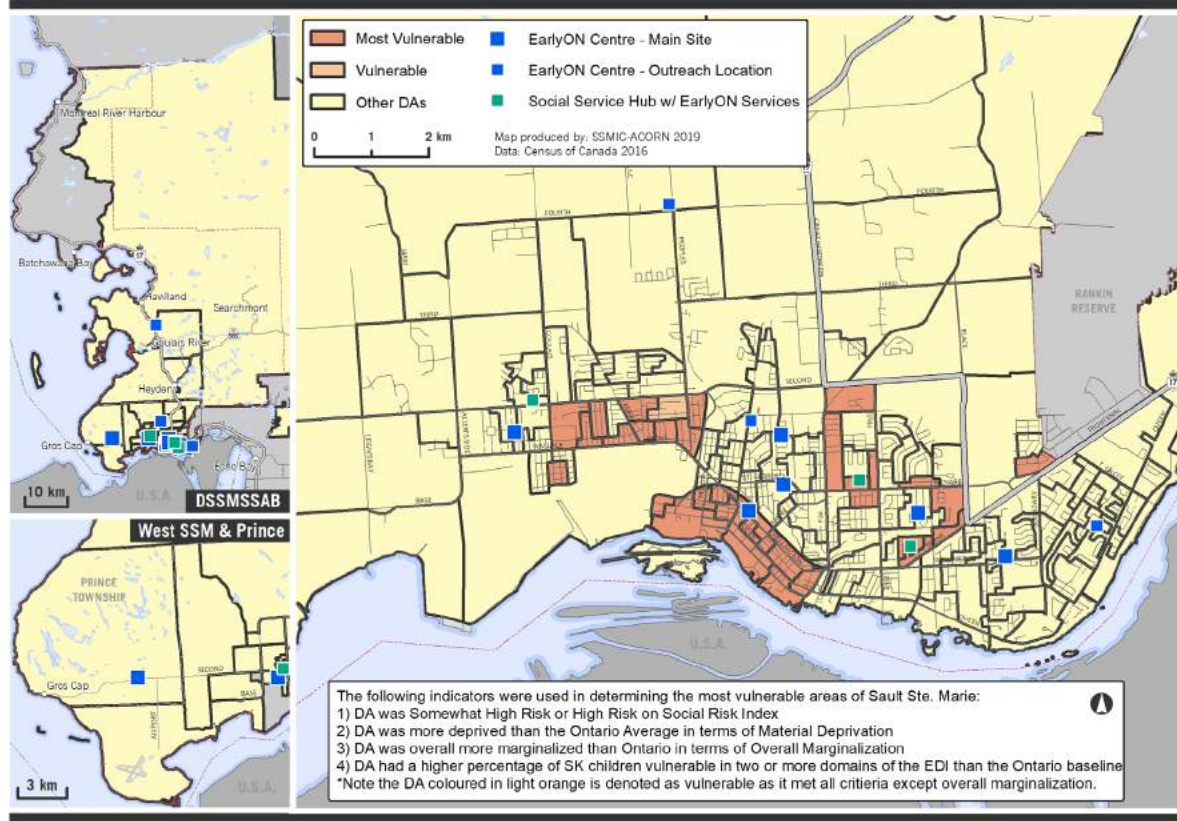
It is important to note that EDI neighbourhoods are larger than DAs, and therefore each EDI neighbourhood contains multiple DAs. Due to the size of the EDI neighbourhoods, some DAs that one might expect to show up in the most vulnerable areas did not, as they did not meet all the criteria. This is particularly true in the east end of the City of Sault Ste. Marie where social housing/low-income housing areas tend to be small and mixed in with other neighbourhoods.

Figure 157 in Appendix A shows that the most vulnerable DAs in the City of Sault Ste. Marie tend to be in clusters and are all located south of Second Line except for one DA in SSM North Unorganized where Heyden is located. One of the most vulnerable areas in the City of Sault Ste. Marie is in the central downtown area from Wellington Street down to the waterfront and from Algoma Steel east to Pim Street. Another vulnerable area is the neighbourhood along both sides of Great Northern Road, between Second Line and Wellington Street. There are four DAs in the east end that fall just south of Trunk Road. There are also two DAs towards the west end along Second Line between Goulais Avenue and Allen's Side Road.



## Most Vulnerable Areas in Sault Ste. Marie

By Census Dissemination Area (2016)



Overall, the number of unique visits by children 0 to 4 to SSM EarlyON Centres is low in these DAs (Figure 158 – Appendix A). Three of the DAs had zero visits by children aged 0 to 4 to EarlyON sites. There were 5 DAs that had 10 or more unique children aged 0 to 4 that made visits to EarlyON sites.

Generally, the most vulnerable areas of Sault Ste. Marie also had low service uptake to EarlyON Centres (Figure 160 – Appendix A). 3 DAs had no service uptake, while 17 DAs had

21% or less service uptake. One DA had a service uptake of 65.4% (between North Street, St. Georges Ave E, Bruce Street, and Wellington Street E), while the remaining 10 DAs had a service uptake of between 21.3% and 42.3%.

As a result of the EarlyON planning process in the community, many of the most vulnerable areas in Sault Ste. Marie have an EarlyON Centre or Social Service Hub with EarlyON Services located on a DA in that cluster.

## PROGRESS IN 2019

As noted above, expansion is currently underway for 67 new licensed spaces at the St. Bernadette location through the Journey Together Initiative. Twenty eight additional spaces, including 10 infant and 15 toddler, have been approved for R.M. Moore School, located in the west end of the city.

Discussions are also forthcoming with Holy Family School in the west end of the city to utilize space for a licensed child care program for up to 16 children.

In September 2019, a new school age program will be located at Queen Elizabeth School.

The Indigenous EarlyON Centre will be opening soon as construction has recently been completed.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Child Care Algoma, the DSSMSSAB is constructing a new Community Hub at the old Rosedale School location, which will incorporate a Community Hub for Social Services, Senior Housing, space for community partners, an EarlyON Centre and licensed child care for 10 infants, 15 toddlers and up to 40 preschoolers, in addition to school age programs. Plans are underway for intergenerational programming as well as extended hours of child care service.

A new Community Hub is also being constructed at the Second Line West Social Housing Complex and will offer EarlyON outreach through Prince Township EarlyON. In the meantime, they are using the existing Social Housing Hub at that location and partnering for activities at the H. M. Robbins EarlyON site.



## MOBILE OUTREACH

A new mobile outreach vehicle has been purchased and has begun providing EarlyON outreach across the community and in neighbourhoods without easy access to an existing EarlyON site. This is a partnership with Child Care Algoma, DSSMSSAB, EarlyON and multiple community partners who will work together to identify neighbourhoods to visit on a regular basis. In addition, it will be used to promote EarlyON services and be visible at family and community events and locations.

The need for a service that goes into neighbourhoods where uptake of EarlyON programming is not occurring, despite a population of children 0-6 residing in those areas, was

identified in the DSSMSSAB 2017 planning process for EarlyON service delivery. Family activities are provided and resources are available. Service providers are encouraged to be present at the same time to build relationships with families living in the area. During a number of consultations held in the community, developing relationships was identified as the key to ensuring that families participate in EarlyON activities. This mobile service provides the link needed to encourage participation at a nearby EarlyON Centre. In addition, if transportation is a barrier (and it often is identified as such), there is an opportunity to build connections and mitigate resulting isolation for families.











Photo by Travis Favretto

## POPULATION

# What you'll find: IN THIS SECTION

*Population Change between 2011-2016.....22*  
*Population Projection 2015 and 2041.....23*

- Population in the DSSMSSAB area was 79,077 in 2016 - a 2% decrease from 2011
- Overall population projection of the district is projected to decline over the next 30 years
- The population of children aged 0-9 is projected to slowly decline over the next 30 years

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

## Population

### POPULATION CHANGE 2011 TO 2016

The DSSMSSAB area includes the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Prince Township, and a number of unorganized townships north of the city up to Montreal River Harbour. Please note that the official DSSMSSAB area does not contain the nearby First Nation Reserves of Garden River, Rankin or Goulais Bay. The population of these Reserves are excluded from the following population statistics.

Table 1 shows the population change between 2011 and 2016 for the Census Subdivisions that make up the DSSMSSAB area as well as the nearby First Nation Reserves. Please note that no census data is available for the Batchewana First Nation communities (includes the Rankin 15D and Goulais Bay 15A Reserves).

**Table 1: Population Change between 2011 and 2016 for the Census Subdivisions of the DSSMSSAB area**

Place Name	Type	Total Population 2011	Total Population 2016	Change (#)	Change (%)
<b>Algoma</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>115,870</b>	<b>114,094</b>	<b>-1,776</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
<b>DSSMSSAB area*</b>	<b>DSSAB</b>	<b>80,792</b>	<b>79,077</b>	<b>-1,715</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Sault Ste. Marie	City	75,141	73,368	-1,773	-2.4
Prince	Township	1,031	1,010	-21	-2.0
Algoma, Unorganized, North Part**	Unorganized Area	4,620	4,699	79	1.7
Garden River 14	F.N. Reserve	1,107	1,125	18	1.6
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total

\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

Table 2 shows that the DSSMSSAB area had a total population of 79,077 persons in 2016, a 2.1% decrease from 80,792 in 2011. The DSSMSSAB recorded an increase of population aged 0 to 4 between 2011 and 2016. In 2016, there were 45 more children aged 0 to 4 in the area, an increase of 1.2% from the previous Census.

**Table 2: Total Population Change and Change in the 0 to 4 Population Between 2011 to 2016 in the DSSMSSAB area, Algoma District and Ontario**

	DSSMSSAB	Algoma	Ontario
Total Population - 2016	79,077	114,094	13,448,494
Total Population - 2011	80,792	115,870	12,851,821
Pop. Change 2011- 2016 (#)	-1,715	-1,776	596,673
Pop. Change 2011 - 2016 (%)	-2.1	-1.5	4.6
Population 0 to 4 - 2016	3,725	5,320	697,360
Population 0 to 4 - 2011	3,680	5,210	704,260
Pop. Change 2011 - 2016 (#)	45	110	-6,900
Pop. Change 2011 - 2016 (%)	1.2	2.1	-1.0

# POPULATION PROJECTION 2015 TO 2041

Population projections for Ontario Census Divisions (CDs) are calculated yearly by the Ontario Ministry of Finance. They are developed using a standard demographic methodology in which assumptions for population growth reflect recent trends in all streams of migration and the continuing evolution of long-term fertility and mortality patterns in each census division.<sup>1</sup>

Please note that the following projection charts contain data for the entire Algoma District (this includes the DSSMSSAB area and the rest of the Algoma District combined). Population projections are not available at the municipal level or DSSAB level, however, the territory covered by DSSMSSAB contains

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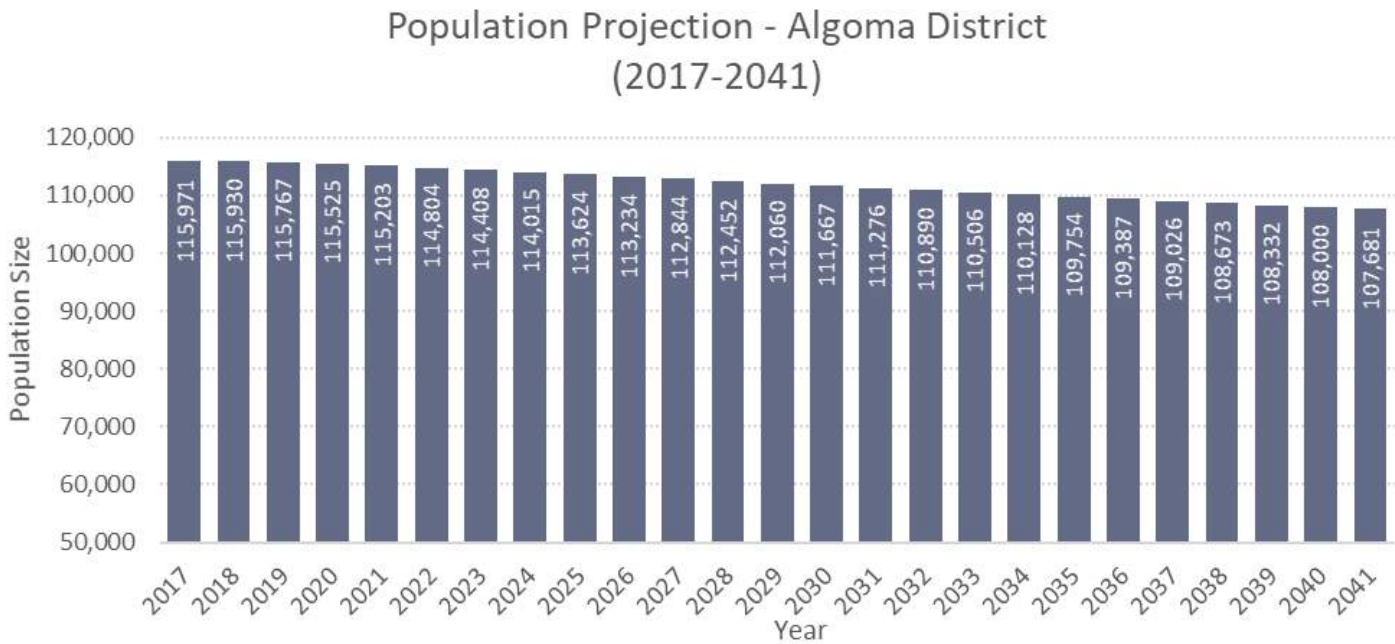
**Why is this important?**

By looking at the age distribution within a population, we can start to identify the current and future needs of this population (e.g., more child care spaces). Collectively, population age counts and population growth projections can help us to adapt to the needs of the population as it changes over time.

approximately 70% of the total population of the Algoma District.

Figure 1 shows that the population of the Algoma District is projected to steadily decline over the next twenty years, losing approximately 7,750 people between 2019 and 2041. Figure 2 shows the Algoma District population projection broken down by larger age groupings (0 to 14, 15 to 29, 30 to 64, and 65+). The 65+ age group is the only population group projected to grow over this time period as the baby boomer generation moves into their senior years. All other age groups are projected to decrease as the population of the District ages.

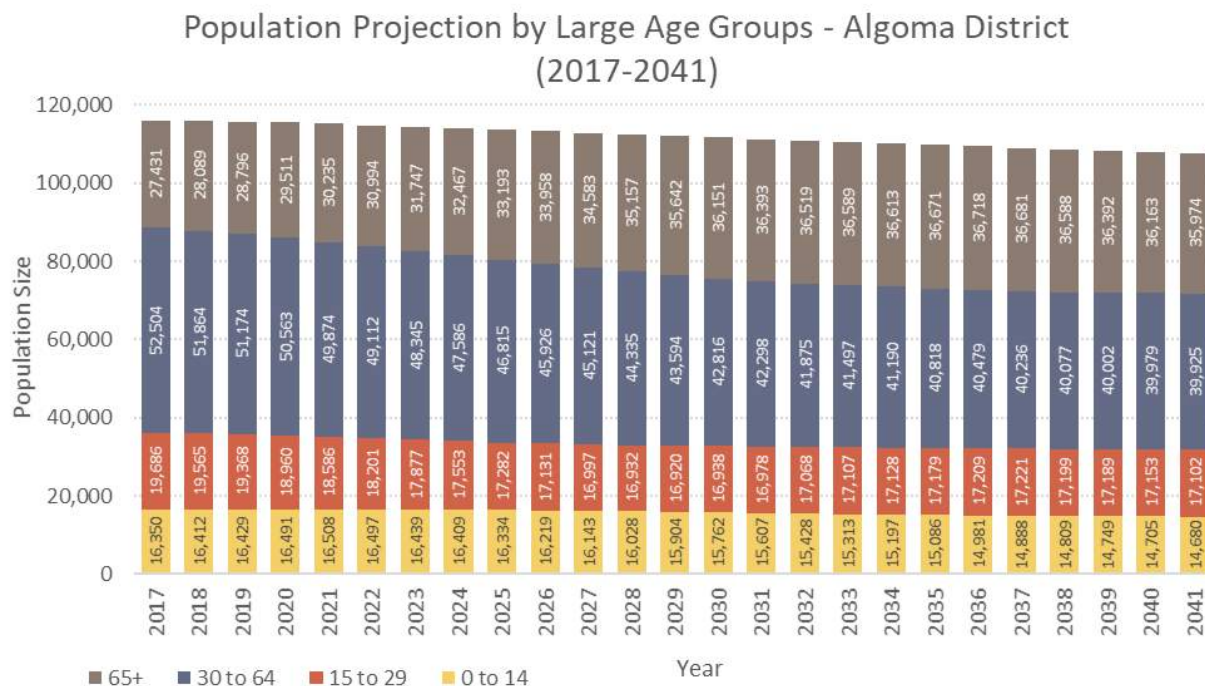
Figure 1: Population Projection for the District of Algoma (2017-2041)



<sup>1</sup> Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ontario Population Projections Update, 2017 – 2041. Accessed: <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/>



Figure 2: Population Projections for Large Age Groups of the District of Algoma (2015-2041)



### POPULATION PROJECTION BY AGE GROUPS

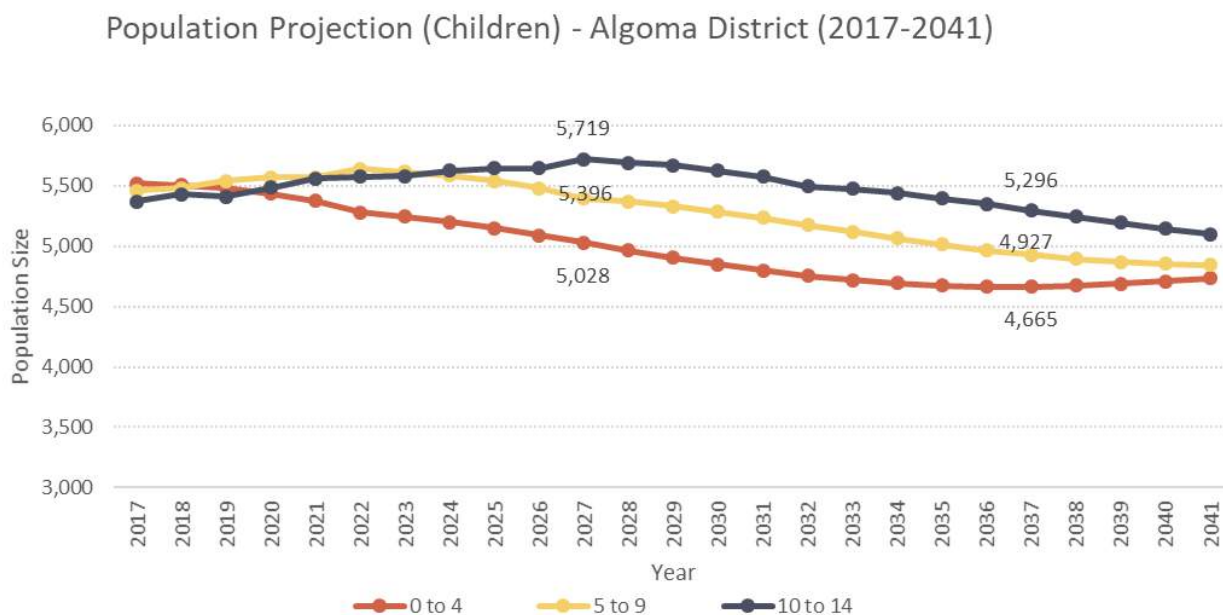
Table 3 shows the population projections for the child age groups of 0 to 4, 5 to 9, and 11 to 14 for the years 2017, 2027 and 2037. The Ministry of Finance data projects that the population of children aged 0 to 4 will decline by approximately 492 persons (or 8.9% of the total population of this age group) between 2017 and 2027.

Figure 3 shows year-by-year projections for each of the specified child age groups between 2017 and 2041. This chart shows that the 0 to 4 age group is projected to gradually decline over the next two decades. The population of the 0 to 4 age group is projected to consistently be less than the 5 to 9 and the 11 to 14 age groups.

Table 3: Population Projection for Child Age Groups of the District of Algoma (2017, 2027 and 2037)

	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14
Pop. Projection 2017	5,520	5,458	5,372
Pop. Projection 2027	5,028	5,396	5,719
Pop. Projection 2037	4,665	4,927	5,296
Pop. Change 2017-2027 (%)	-8.9	-1.1	6.5
Pop. Change 2027-2037 (%)	-7.2	-8.7	-7.4
Pop. Change 2017-2037 (%)	-15.5	-9.7	-1.4

Figure 3: Population Projection for Child Age Groups of the District of Algoma (2017-2041)





## FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

# What you'll find: IN THIS SECTION

<i>Families with Children Under 6 and 6 to 14.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Children 0-12.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Change in the Population of Children 0 to 12 - 2011 to 2016.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Francophone Children.....</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Indigenous Identity Population.....</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Recent Immigrants.....</i>	<i>36</i>

- 14% of families in SSM have a child under 6
- 0-6 population grew by 115 and 7-12 dropped by 70 between 2011-2016
- Francophone children aged 0-14 account for 2.2% of the population compared to Ontario at 4.9% and Northeastern Ontario at 18.5%
- 17.5% of Indigenous children aged 0-14 have self-identified compared to Ontario at 4.1%
- Recent immigrants represent less than 0.4% of total population

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

# Families and Children

## FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 AND 6 TO 14

Statistics Canada reports the number of families with children in given areas as captured in the Census of Canada. Families are typically broken into groups based on the ages of their children. One such group is families with children under the age of 6 and another is families with children aged 6 to 14. The latest statistics available are from the 2016 Census of Canada.

### Why is this important?

In addition to reporting the population of children aged 0 to 12, the Census counts the number of families with children (under the age of 6 and aged 6 to 14). This indicator may help determine the number of client parent/caregivers that may utilize an EarlyON centre in a given location.

Table 4 shows the total counts and percentage of families with children under the age of 6 and families with children aged 6 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area, the Census Subdivisions as well as the nearby First Nation Reserves.

Table 4: Families with Children Aged 0 to 6 and Families with Children Aged 6 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area and its Census Subdivisions, 2016

Place Name	Type	Total Families	Families with Children at Home	Families w/ Children Under 6, 2016			Families w/ Children 6 to 14, 2016		
				Count (#)	% of Total Families	% of Families with Children	Count (#)	% of Total Families	% of Families with Children
<b>DSSMSSAB Area*</b>	<b>DSSAB</b>	<b>23,230</b>	<b>12,670</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>
Sault Ste. Marie	City	21,305	11,835	3,070	14.4	25.9	3,895	18.3	32.9
Prince	Township	340	160	35	10.3	21.9	50	14.7	31.3
Algoma Unorg. N. Pt.**	Unorg.	1,585	675	175	11.0	25.9	230	14.5	34.1
Garden River 14	F.N. Reserve	310	240	70	22.6	29.2	90	29.0	37.5
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total

\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

The map in Figure 4 shows the number of families with children under the age of 6 in each DA in the DSSMSSAB area. Figure 5 shows the families with children under the age of 6 as a percent of total families with children for each DA. The areas

around Algoma Steel and, near Jamestown, Chapple/Albion, and Second Line/Goulais Avenue have a higher percentage of younger families than other areas of the DSSMSSAB area.



Figure 4: Map of Families with Children Under 6 Years of Age, 2016

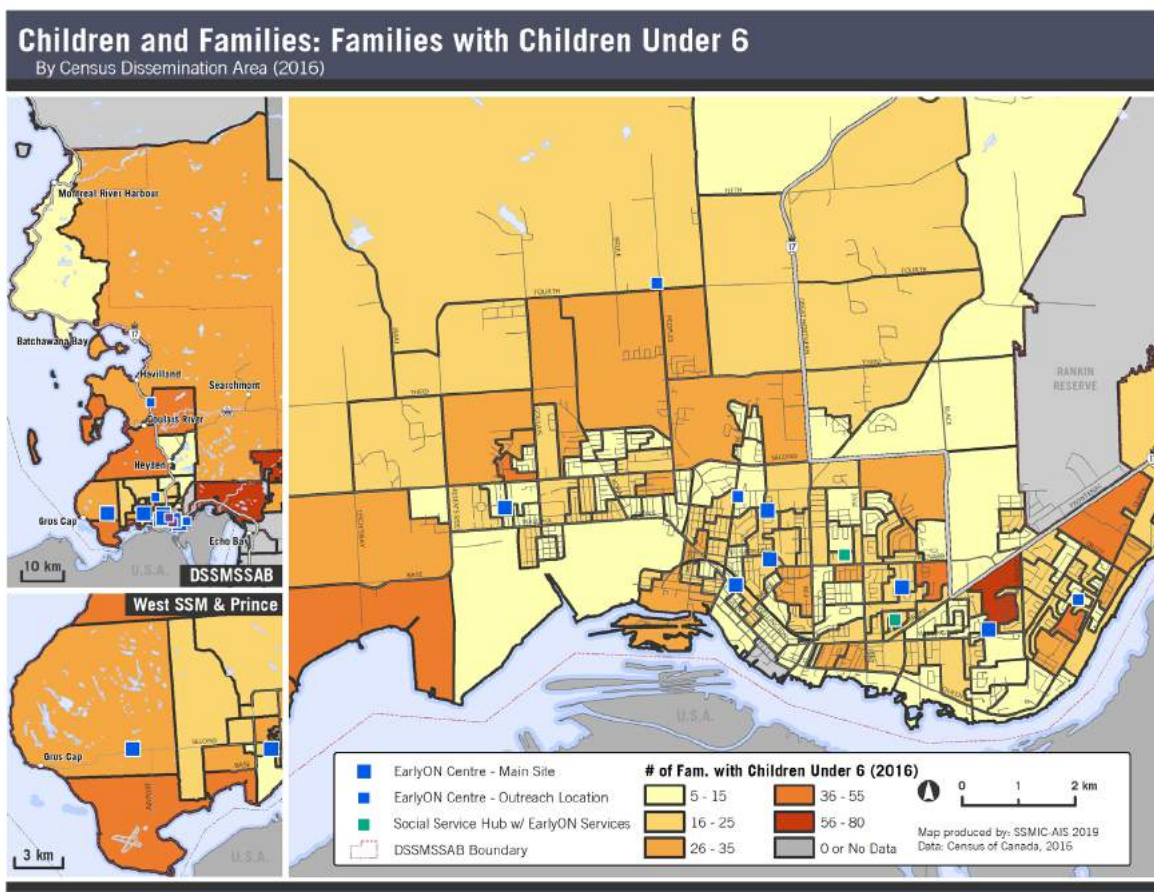
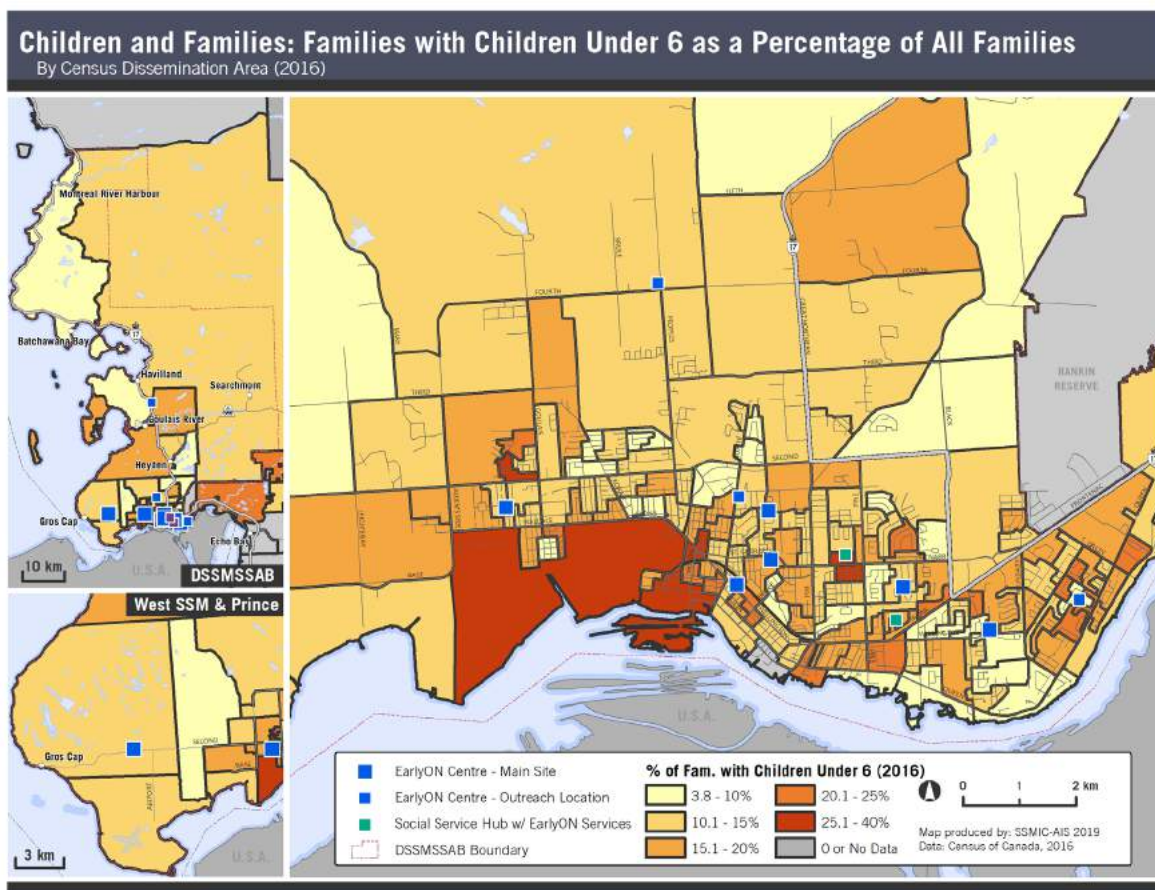


Figure 5: Map of Families with Children Under 6 Years of Age as a Percentage of All Families, 2016





## CHILDREN 0 TO 12

Statistics Canada reports the number of persons by each individual year of age as captured in the Census of Canada. The latest statistics available are from the 2016 Census of Canada (released on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017).

Table 5 shows the total counts and percentage of children aged 0 to 12, with a further breakdown of ages 0 to 6 and 7 to 12 in the DSSMSSAB area and each CSD within. Garden River Reserve is also shown for purposes of comparison. In the DSSMSSAB area in 2016, the population aged 0 to 12 was 9,770 persons which represented 12.4% of the total population of the area. Of the population aged 0 to 12, 9,110 lived in the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

### Why is this important?

By combining age related data into a custom groupings of ages 0 to 6, 7 to 12 and 0 to 12, we can get a sense of how many children are available to be served within the District. Population/Age counts are one of the most commonly available and integral pieces of census information in the calculation of funding and transfers (\$)

to provincial jurisdictions like DSSABs/CMSMs. Also, looking at the growth in the population of children over a certain time period can help agencies determine whether or not they can expect substantial increases/decreases in demand for programs and resources. A fast rate of growth in the population of children may mean that agencies may have difficulties keeping up with the increasing demands of their communities.

Table 5: Children Aged 0 to 12, 0 to 6, and 7 to 12 Count and Percent of Population, 2016

Place Name	Type	Age 0-12 (2016)		Age 0-6 (2016)		Age 7-12 (2016)	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>DSSMSSAB area*</b>	<b>DSSAB</b>	<b>9,770</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>5,215</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>4,555</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
Sault Ste. Marie	City	9,110	12.4%	4,870	6.6%	4,240	5.8%
Prince	Township	115	11.4%	60	5.9%	55	5.4%
Algoma Unorg. N. Pt.**	Unorg. Area	545	11.2%	285	5.8%	260	5.3%
Garden River 14	F.N. Reserve	225	20.0%	115	10.2%	110	9.8%
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total

\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

The map in Figure 6 displays the population of children aged 0 to 12 for each DA in the DSSMSSAB area in 2016. Figure 7 shows the children aged 0 to 12 as a percentage of total population for each DA. This map shows that the majority of DAs have percentages close to the DSSMSSAB average of 12.4%, with somewhat higher concentrations in the Second

Line/Goulais Avenue area, the Crawford area, Adrian Drive, and a few other east end areas.

Figure 8 and Figure 9 show the population of children aged 0 to 6 and 7 to 12 for each DA in the DSSMSSAB area, respectively.



Figure 6: Map of the Number of Children Aged 0 to 12 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016

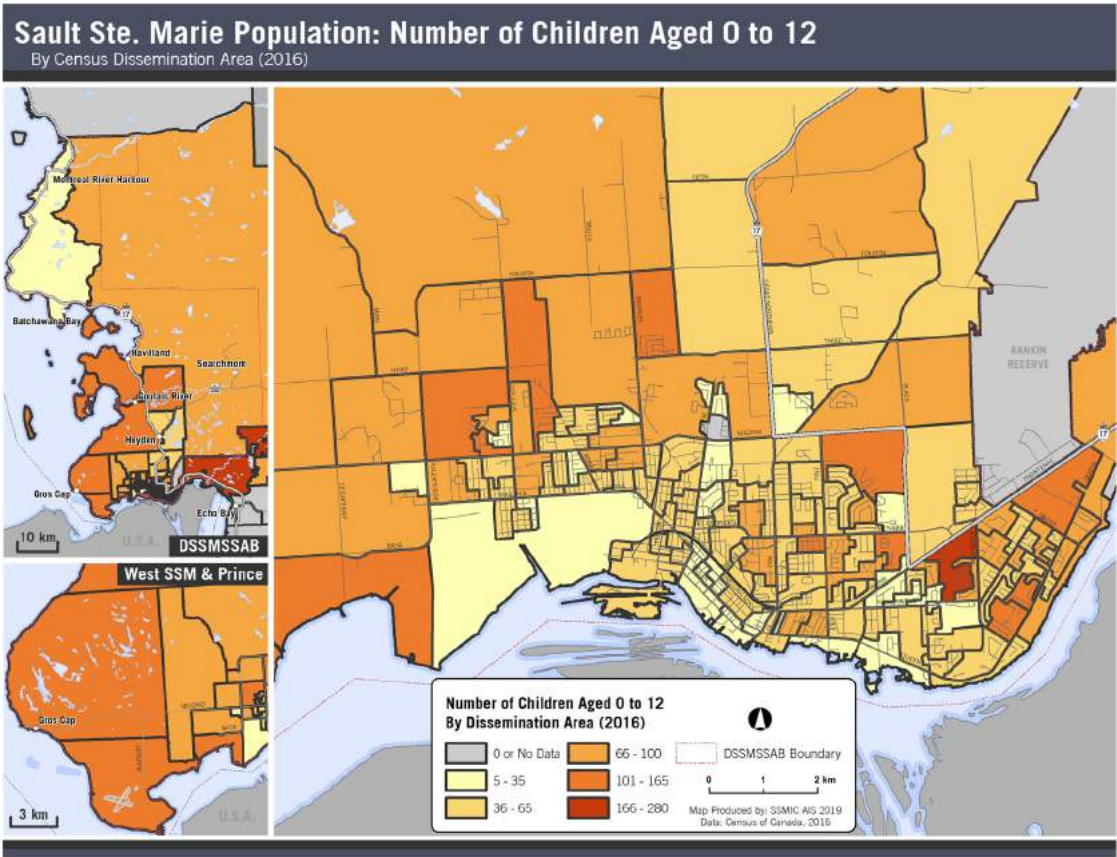


Figure 7: Map of the Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 12 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016

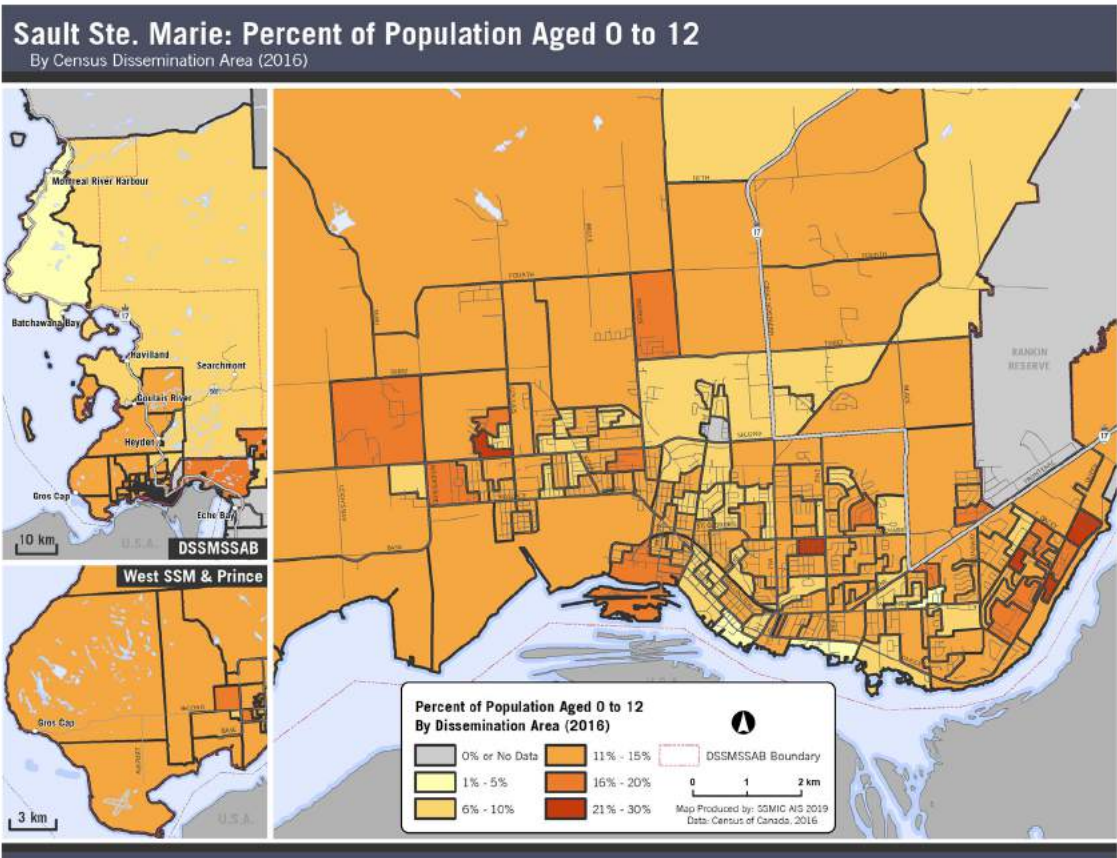




Figure 8: Map of the Number of Children Aged 0 to 6 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016

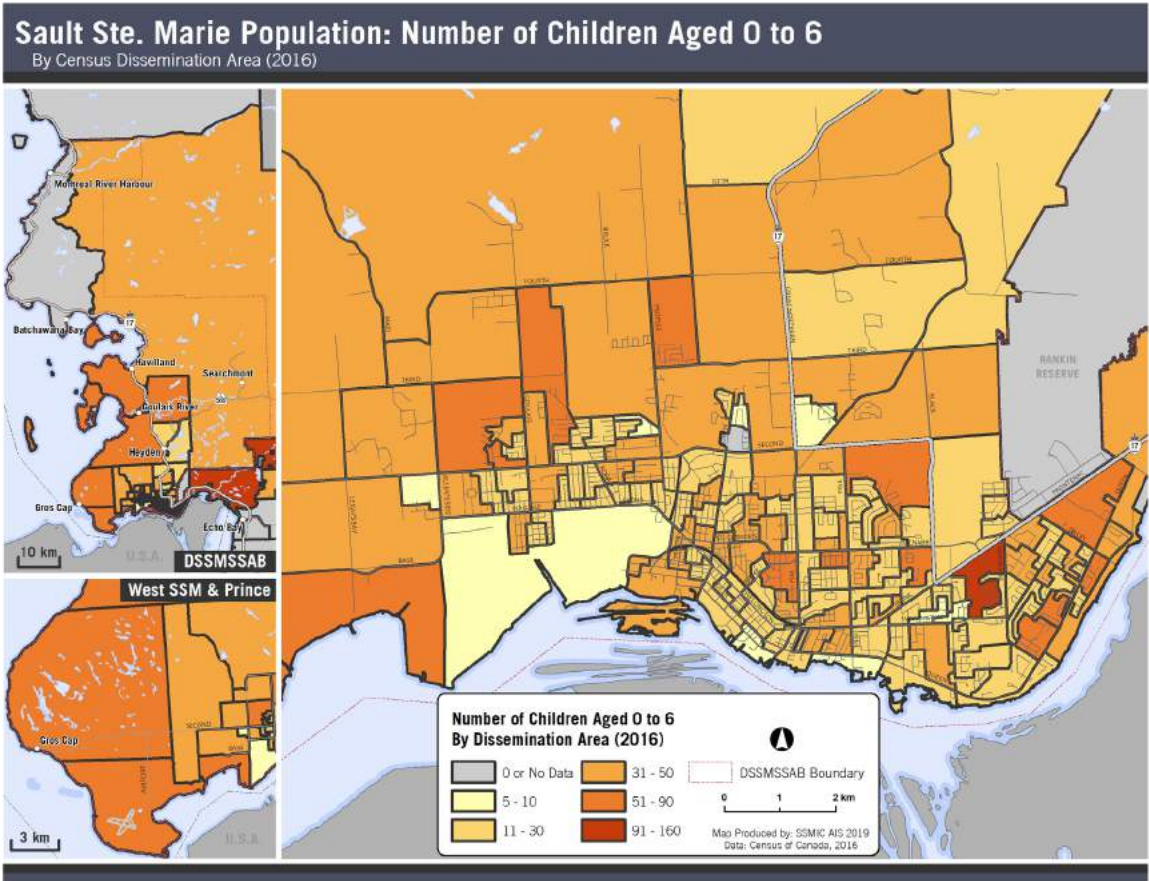
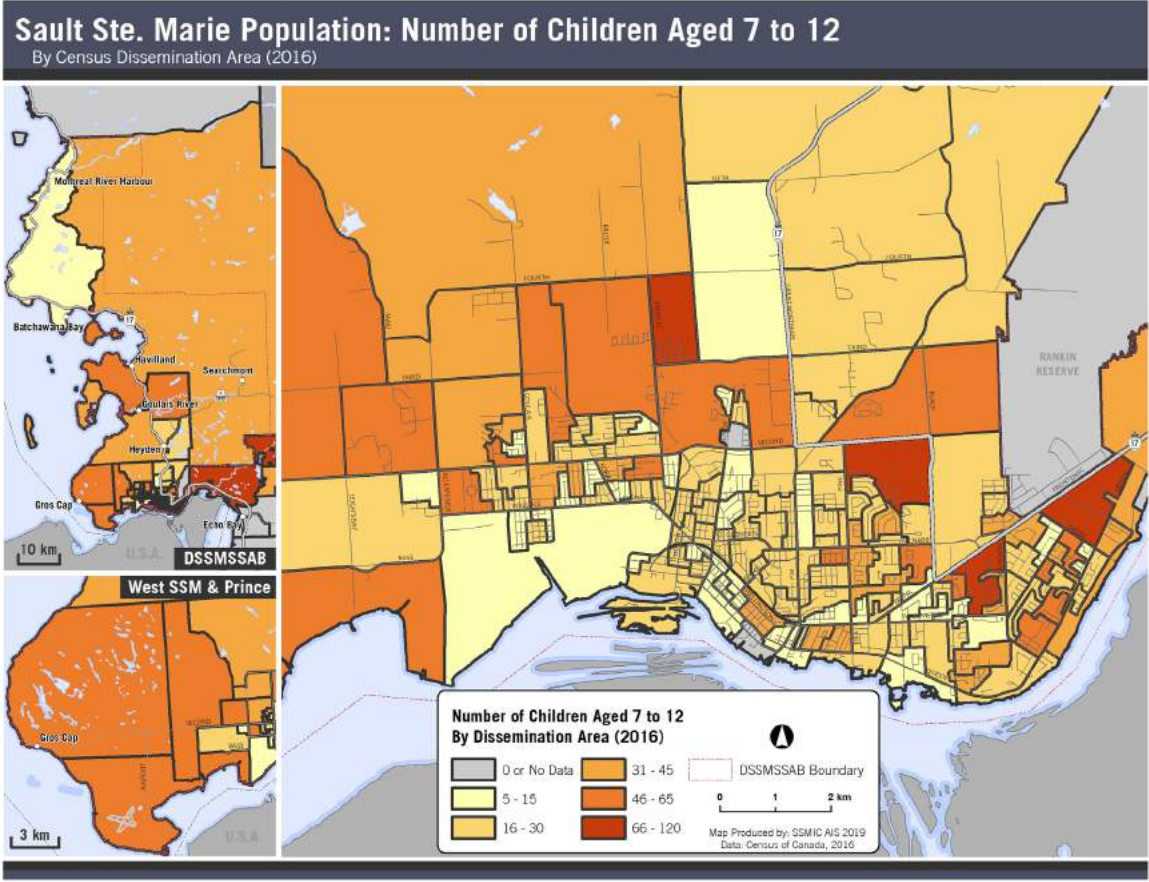


Figure 9: Map of the Number of Children Aged 7 to 12 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016



# CHANGE IN THE POPULATION OF CHILDREN 0 TO 12 – 2011 TO 2016

The following tables show the change in population of children between 2011 and 2016 for aged 0 to 12 (Table 6), aged 0 to 6 and aged 7 to 12 (Table 7) for the DSSMSSAB area and each CSD within. Garden River Reserve is also shown for purposes of comparison. Between 2011 and 2016, the population aged 0 to 12 in the DSSMSSAB area increased by 45 children. Growth was seen in the City of Sault Ste. Marie (increase of 25 children) and in the Algoma Unorganized North area (increase of 40 children). The Township of Prince had 20 less children in 2016 than in 2011.

Table 6: Change in the Population of Children Aged 0 to 12, 2011 to 2016

Place Name	Type	Pop. 0-12 2011	Pop. 0-12 2016	Change (#)	Change (%)
DSSMSSAB area*	DSSAB	9,725	9,770	45	0.5%
Sault Ste. Marie	City	9,085	9,110	25	0.3%
Prince	Township	135	115	-20	-14.8%
Algoma Unorg. N. Pt.**	Unorg. Area	505	545	40	7.9%
Garden River 14	F.N. Reserve	240	225	-15	-6.3%
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total

\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

Table 7 shows the change in population of children aged 0 to 6 and aged 7 to 12. Between 2011 and 2016, the population aged 0 to 6 in the DSSMSSAB area increased by 45 children. Growth was seen in the City of Sault Ste. Marie (increase of 75 children), Prince (increase of 5 children) and in the Algoma Unorganized North area (increase of 35 children). Between 2011 and 2016, the population aged 7 to 12 in the DSSMSSAB area decreased by 70 children. The largest decrease was seen in the City of Sault Ste. Marie (50 less children in 2016).

Table 7: Change in the Population of Children Aged 0 to 6 and Aged 7 to 12, 2011 to 2016

Place Name	Type	Pop 0-6 2011	Pop 0-6 2016	Change (#)	Change (%)	Pop 7-12 2011	Pop 7-12 2016	Change (#)	Change (%)
DSSMSSAB area*	DSSAB	5,100	5,215	115	2.3%	4,625	4,555	-70	-1.5%
Sault Ste. Marie	City	4,795	4,870	75	1.6%	4,290	4,240	-50	-1.2%
Prince	Township	55	60	5	9.1%	80	55	-25	-31.3%
Algoma Unorg. N. Pt.**	Unorg. Area	250	285	35	14.0%	255	260	5	2.0%
Garden River 14	F.N. Reserve	115	115	0	0.0%	125	110	-15	-12.0%
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total

\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

## FRANCOPHONE CHILDREN

The Francophone population refers to those who noted their language as “French” or “French and English” on the 2016 Census of Canada. According to the Ontario government, Algoma is one of the 26 French Designated Areas. This means Francophones living within the District have a right to local French services from the provincial government.

Table 8 shows the number and percent of Francophone children in the DSSMSSAB area as well as the area Census Subdivisions. In 2016, there were 250 Francophone children aged 0 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area, representing 2.2% of the total population of 0 to 14 year olds. This table also shows the counts and percentages by five year age groupings. In the DSSMSSAB area, there were 40 Francophone children aged 0 to 4, 115 Francophone children aged 5 to 9, and 100 Francophone children aged 10 to 14. The vast majority of these children lived within the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

### Why is this important?

Areas with notable populations of Francophone children may benefit from French-language specific programming.

Table 8: Number and Percent of Francophone Children in the SSM DSSAB Area and Census Subdivisions, 2016

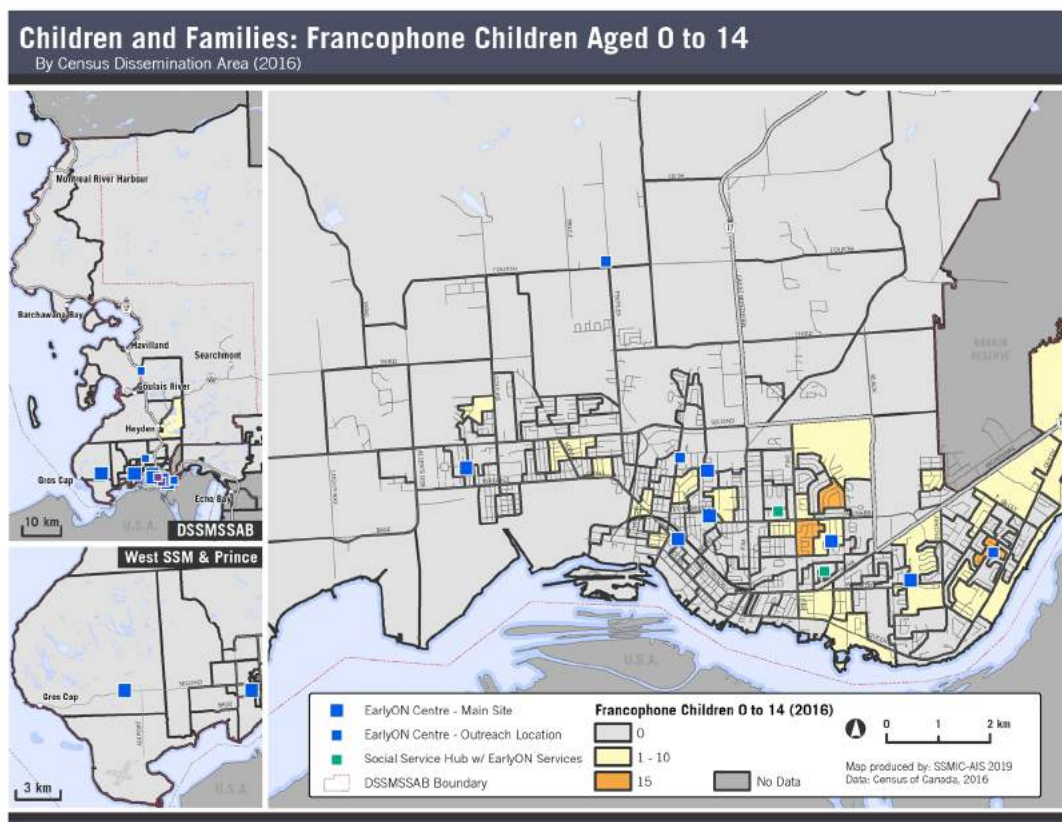
Place Name	Type	Francophones Age 0-14		Francophones Age 0-4		Francophones Age 5-9		Francophones Age 10-14	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>DSSMSSAB area*</b>	<b>DSSAB</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Sault Ste. Marie	City	240	2.3	40	1.2	105	3.0	100	2.9
Prince	Township	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Algoma Unorg. N. Pt. **	Unorg. Area	10	1.1	0	0.0	10	3.3	0	0.0
Garden River 14	F.N. Reserve	10	3.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N. Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total

\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

The following map shows the DA of residence for Francophone children aged 0 to 14. The majority of Francophone youth live east of Pine Street.

Figure 10: Number of Francophone Children Aged 0 to 14 by Dissemination Area, 2016



## INDIGENOUS IDENTITY POPULATION

Indigenous identity refers to those persons who self-identified with at least one Indigenous group, that is, First Nation, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the Indian Act of Canada, and/or those who reported they were members of a First Nation. It is important to note that the counts of persons who self-identify as Indigenous in the Census may be under-reported.

### Why is this important?

Parents/caregivers and children self-identifying as Indigenous may prefer programming specific to their culture. Noting the location of high on-Reserve and off-Reserve populations may help narrow down the most appropriate and cost-effective locations to deliver programming.



Table 9 shows the 2016 population identifying as Indigenous in the DSSMSSAB area and the CSDs within. In the DSSMSSAB in 2016, there were 8,390 persons who identified as Indigenous as reported in the Census. This represents 11.5% of the total population in the area. Of the population that identified as Indigenous, 8,120 lived in the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Table 9: Indigenous Identity, First Nation and Métis Population of the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2016

Place Name	Type	Indigenous ID Pop.		First Nations ID Pop.		Métis ID Pop.	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
DSSMSAB Catchment Area*	DSSAB	8,930	11.5	4,725	6.1	3,980	5.1
Sault Ste. Marie	City	8,120	11.3	4,310	6.0	3,615	5.0
Prince	Township	75	7.4	35	3.5	35	3.5
Algoma Unorg. N. Pt**	Unorg. Area	735	15.3	380	7.9	330	6.9
Garden River 14	F.N Reserve	1,055	93.8	1,035	92.0	20	1.8
Goulais Bay 15A	F.N Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rankin Location 15D	F.N Reserve	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*does not include the Algoma area F.N. Reserves in the total  
\*\*only the part covered by DSSMSAB area (includes Goulais River, Searchmont, Batchawana Bay)

The maps in Figure 11 and Figure 12 show the number and percent of the population identifying as Indigenous for each DA in the DSSMSSAB area, respectively.

Figure 11: Indigenous Identity Population by Dissemination Area, 2016

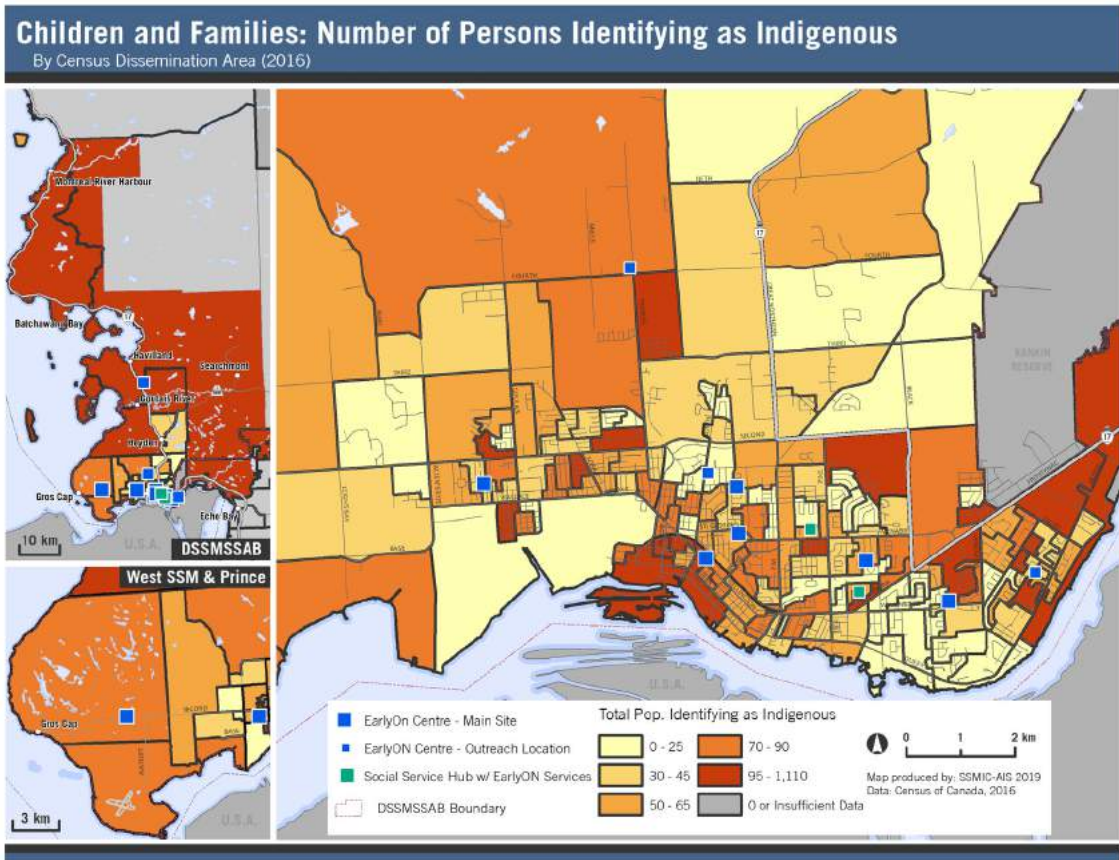
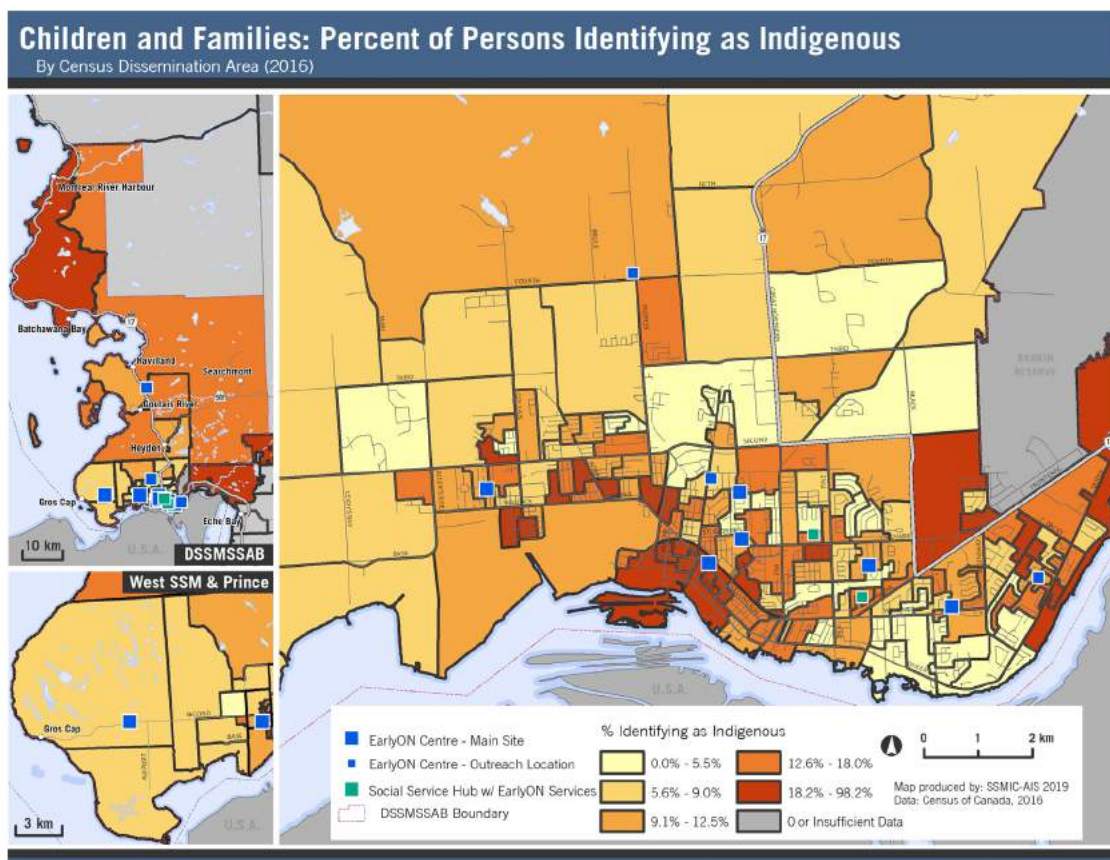


Figure 12: Percent of Persons Identifying as Indigenous, by Dissemination Area, 2016



## INDIGENOUS IDENTITY CHILDREN

The population identifying as Indigenous in the Sault Ste. Marie area can be further broken down by age group. The following table shows the population aged 0 to 14, 0 to 4, 5 to 9 and 10

to 14 identifying as Indigenous, and gives the percentage of persons who identify as Indigenous for each population group.

Table 10: Indigenous Identity Youth Population of the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2016

Age Group	Indigenous ID Pop.		First Nations ID Pop.		Métis ID Pop.		Non-Indigenous ID Pop.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Total - Age</b>	8,195	11.2	4,345	6.0	3,650	5.0	64,700	88.8
0 to 14 years	1,850	17.5	1,050	9.9	745	7.0	8,730	82.6
0 to 4 years	545	15.3	360	10.1	175	4.9	3,020	84.7
5 to 9 years	655	18.7	360	10.3	295	8.4	2,845	81.2
10 to 14 years	640	18.3	335	9.6	285	8.1	2,865	81.7

Age groupings for the population identifying as Indigenous is not available at the DA level. The smallest geographic level that this information is available at is by Census Tract. A Census Tract, or CT, is an area that is small and relatively stable. Census tracts usually have a population between 2,500 and 8,000 persons. They are located in census metropolitan areas and in census agglomerations that have a core population of 50,000 or more.<sup>2</sup> The following maps show the number and percentage of Indigenous children aged 0 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area by Census Tract.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada, Census Tract Definition <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/ref/dict/geo013-eng.cfm>



Figure 13: Map of the Number of Indigenous Children Aged 0 to 14 by Census Tracts, 2016

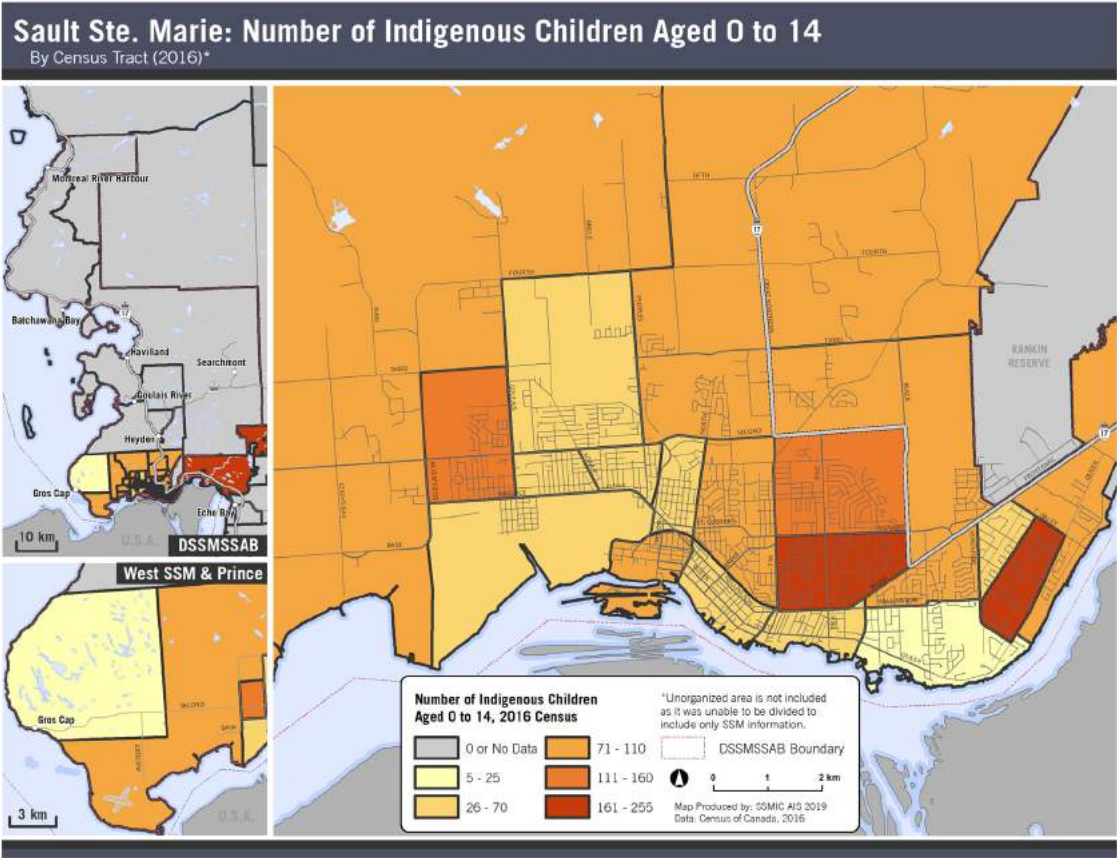
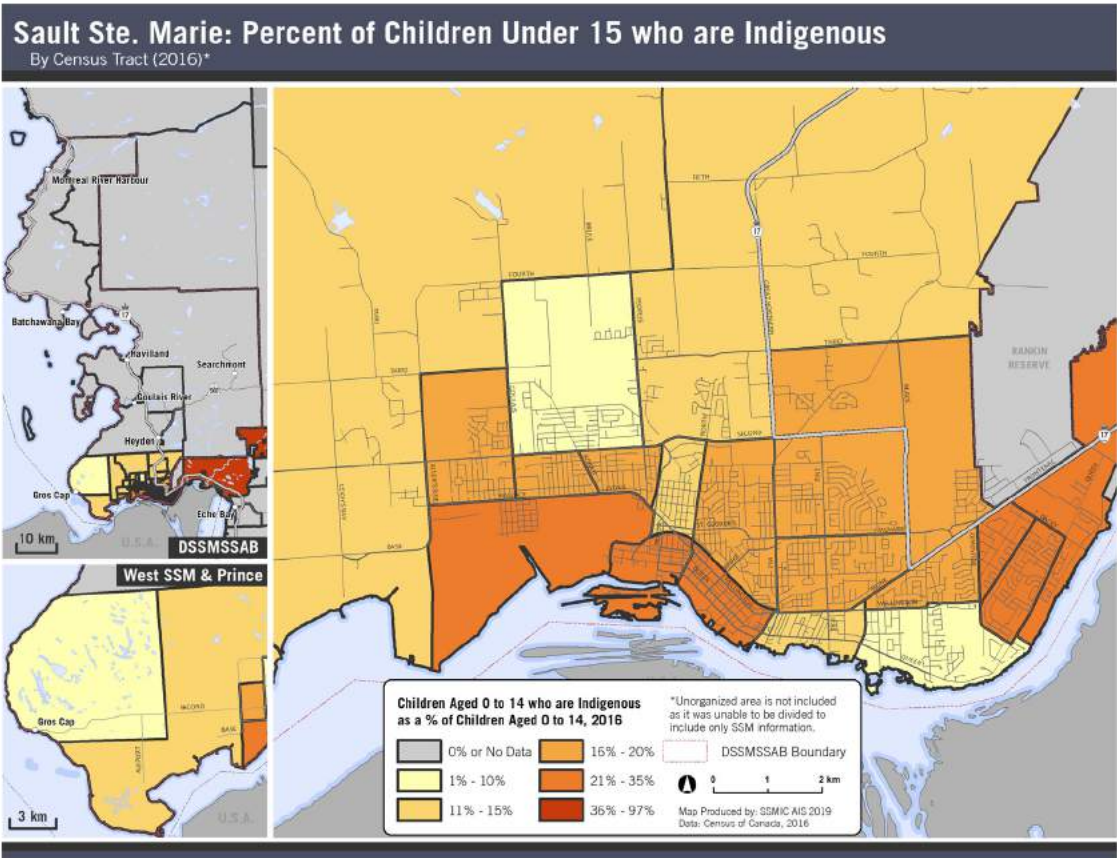


Figure 14: Percent of Persons Age 0 to 14 who Identify as Indigenous, by Dissemination Area, 2016





## RECENT IMMIGRANTS

Overall, the number of recent immigrants (immigrated between 2011 and 2016) to the DSSMSSAB area is small. A total of 290 people are estimated to be recent immigrants to the DSSMSSAB area. The total population of the DSSMSSAB area is 79,077. Recent immigrants represent less than 0.4% of the total population.

A total of 30 children aged 0 to 14 identify as recent immigrants. According to the 2016 census data, the DSSMSSAB area has a total population of 11,205 children aged 0 to 14 years. Recent immigrants aged 0 to 14 represent 0.3% of the population aged 0 to 14 years.

This information comes from the 2016 Census of Population (Statistics Canada), a mandatory survey of the population.





## PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

# What you'll find: IN THIS SECTION

<i>EarlyON Centres.....</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Licensed Child Care.....</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Playgrounds within Walking Distance.....</i>	<i>68</i>
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<i>Triple P.....</i>	<i>77</i>
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<i>Special Needs Services.....</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Potential Available Program Space.....</i>	<i>84</i>

- In 2018, 24,233 visits to an EarlyON Centre were made by children and 15,526 visits from parents/caregivers
- The top three most attended sites were Holy Cross, Prince Township and Holy Angels
- The most popular months in 2018 were in March and January; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the most popular days
- Most visits to an EarlyON Centre were children aged 31 months to 5 years
- There are 1,811 licensed child care spaces in the DSSMSSAB area and over 1,000 names on the waitlist
- There are 86 public playgrounds and over 65% of these were graded Great to Good based on visits by SSMIC staff in 2018

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

# Programs and Services for Parents and Children

## EARLYON CENTRES

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide child and family centred programs and services that are consistent at all locations, but also meet the unique needs of the families who attend each program. A set of principles guide the development, delivery and evaluation of EarlyON programs and services. EarlyON Centres offer warm, welcoming environments which are inclusive, accessible, responsive, and support growth and long-term success, creating a sense of belonging, well-being, engagement and expression. These high quality programs support positive experiences and outcomes by fostering nurturing relationships between children and those who care for them. Collaboration with broader community services, school boards, early years partners, child care service providers, and parents and caregivers, is essential for a community led integrated system.

The community driven programs support families by:

- Actively working to develop programs that cultivate authentic, caring relationships and connections that create a sense of belonging; engaging parents and caregivers through conversation about child development, parenting, nutrition, play and inquiry-based learning, and other topics that support their role; collaborating with other support programs to enhance parent and caregiver well-being, enrich adult-child interactions and to support them in their role(s); and providing targeted outreach opportunities that are responsive to community needs.
- Supporting early learning and development through drop-in programs, among other services, which build responsive adult-child relationships and encourage children's exploration, promote play and inquiry, based on the pedagogy in *How Does Learning Happen?*
- Continuously looking for opportunities to facilitate stronger relationships within the community to assist

parents and caregivers in accessing services and supports that respond to a family's unique needs including making connections for families by responding to child development concerns; referring families to other services that may be required; sharing information and facilitating connections with specialized services; providing information about programs and services available for the whole family beyond the early years; and ensuring that staff have the relationships and knowledge of community resources to allow for simple transitions for families.

EarlyON Centres work together as part of the community to help children prepare for school and reach their full potential. Research has shown that a child's earliest experiences shape the physical development of the brain and the child's capacity for further development. Children who have achieved their developmental milestones prior to school entry are better able to cope with, and take advantage of, all the experiences a school environment has to offer.

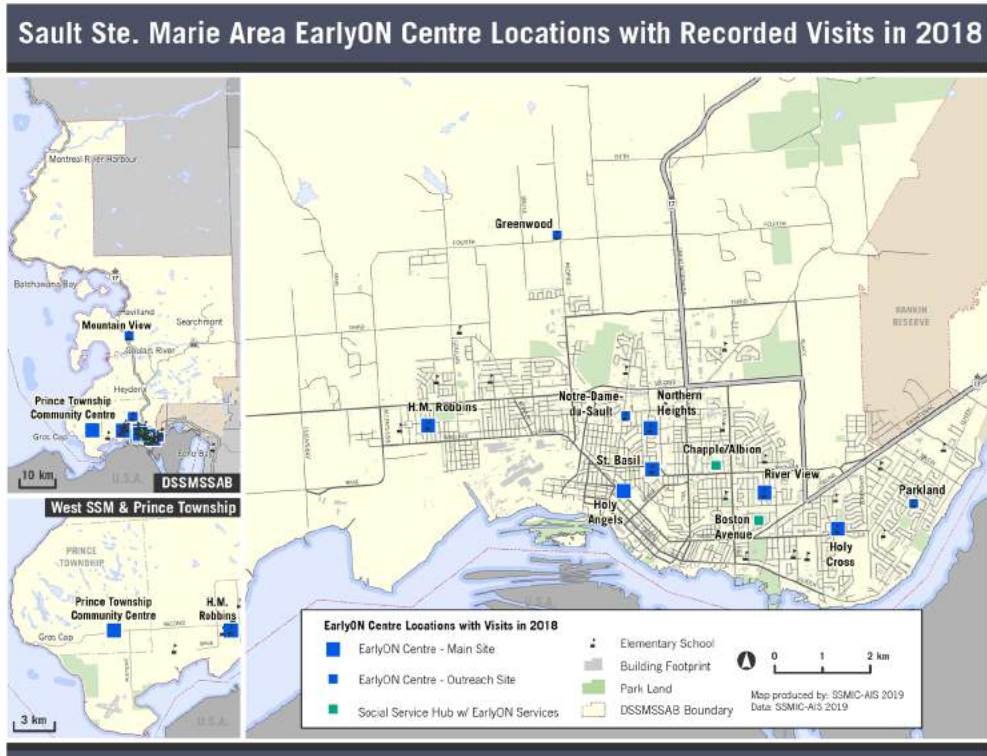
EarlyON Centres are distributed throughout the DSSMSSAB area as shown in Figure 15. They are open weekdays, evenings and weekends to fit the needs of families in the community. EarlyON Centres also offer outreach opportunities, sometimes in conjunction with other agencies, for families who could benefit from programs and services but are not currently accessing services for a variety of reasons.

### Why is this important?

EarlyON Centre utilization data is useful in planning for the future needs of the early years population of Sault Ste. Marie and Area. We can compare EarlyON Centre visits with the local population of children to determine: where gaps may exist and a new location/outreach site may be beneficial, which centres may be underutilized (and could use more promotion or a better location), and which centres may be at capacity and in need of additional staff/funding.



Figure 15: Map of the Sault Ste. Marie Area EarlyON Centre Locations with Recorded Visits in 2018



EARLYON VISITS IN THE DSSMSSAB

Table 11 shows the total visit statistics to the DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centres for the 2018 calendar year. It includes the number of unique parents/caregivers and the number of unique children who attended at least one DSSMSSAB area EarlyON site. The statistics include drop-in and event visits, as well as workshop attendance.

Because of a change in data collection methods part-way through the year, unique child visitor statistics could not be broken down into 0-6 and 7+ age categories.

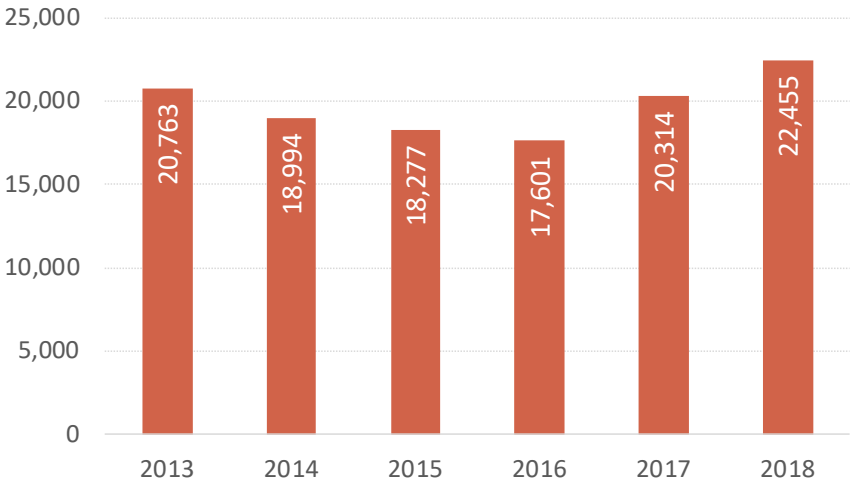
Table 11: Unique Visitors and Total Visits by Visitor Type, All EarlyON Centres Combined, 2018

Visitor Type	Unique Visitors	Total Visits
Parents \ Caregivers	2,745	15,526
Children	3,561	24,233
Children 0 to 6	-	21,057
Children 7+	-	3,176

Figure 16 shows annual child drop-in visits to the DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centres from 2013 to 2018. Please note that

event attendance was grouped with drop-in visits in 2018, so the data may not be entirely comparable to previous years.

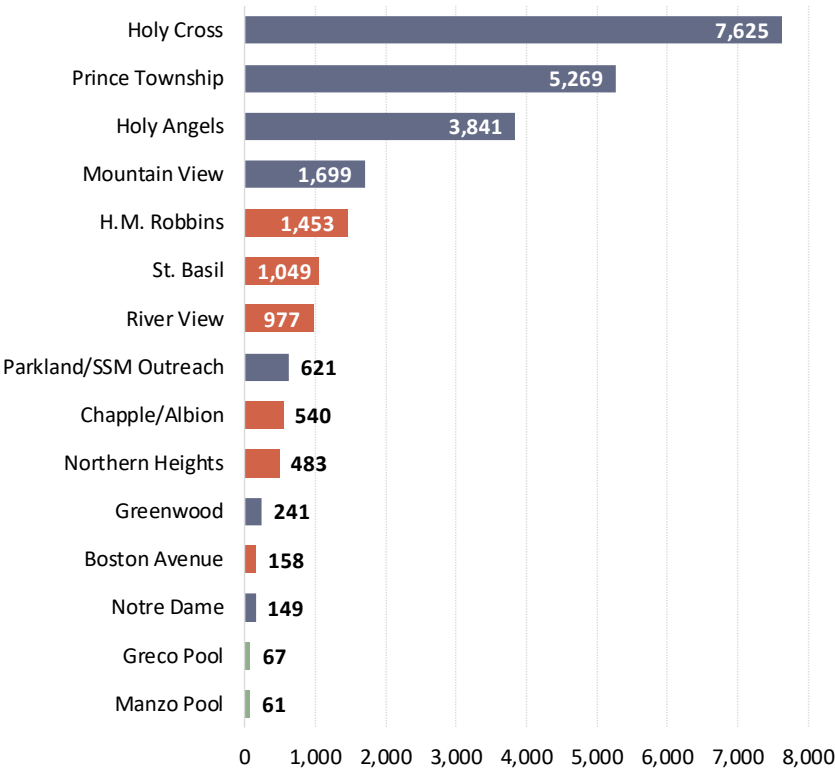
Figure 16: EarlyON Child Drop-In Visits by Calendar Year, 2013-2018



The chart in Figure 17 shows the total number of 2018 child visits broken down by EarlyON Centre location. This chart includes data from the Greco and Manzo Pools, where some outreach programming took place in the summer. Sites shown

in purple operated for the entire year, sites shown in orange began operation in quarter 2 of 2018 and sites shown in green were open during the summer months only.

Figure 17: Total Child Visits by EarlyON Centre, 2018



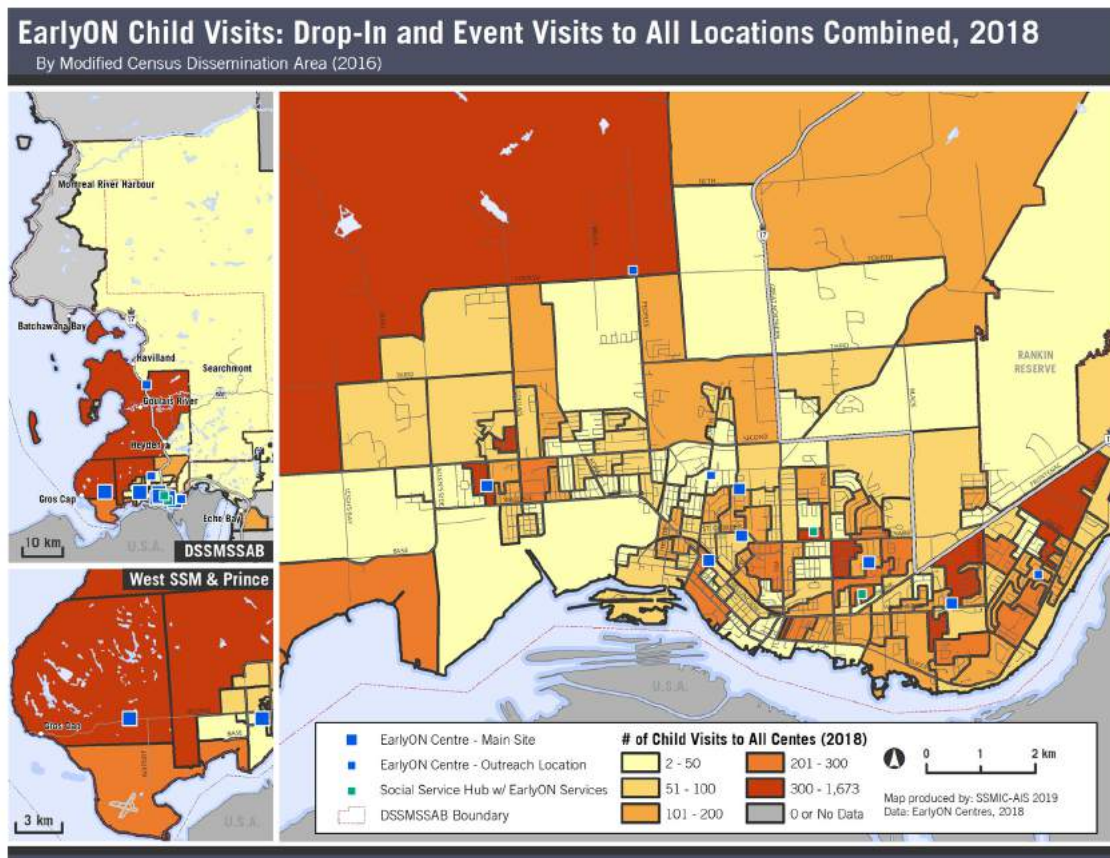
### EARLYON CENTRE VISITS BY VISITORS NEIGHBOURHOOD OF RESIDENCE

All visitors to the EarlyON Centres were asked to give a postal code of residence upon registration onto the digital sign-in application. These postal codes can be aggregated and mapped to Statistics Canada Census neighbourhood boundaries to get a sense of the geographic distribution of EarlyON Centre visitors. This provides useful information when comparing where children live and where they travel to visit EarlyON Centres.

The map in Figure 18 shows the total number of child drop-in and event visits to all EarlyON Centres by modified Dissemination Areas (DA) for 2018. It is important to note that this map shows the total number of child visits to all EarlyON Centres. Further, each visit represents a single occurrence. This means that the total number of visits could represent a single individual visiting a site many times, or multiple persons visiting a site once.



Figure 18: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to All Locations Combined by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018



The maps in Figure 19 to Figure 26 show child drop-in and event visits by individual EarlyON Centre locations. Only Centres that had at least 450 visits and were open at least 3 days a week

were included in the map series. These maps are all drawn using the same colour classifications for comparability.



Figure 19: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Holy Cross by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

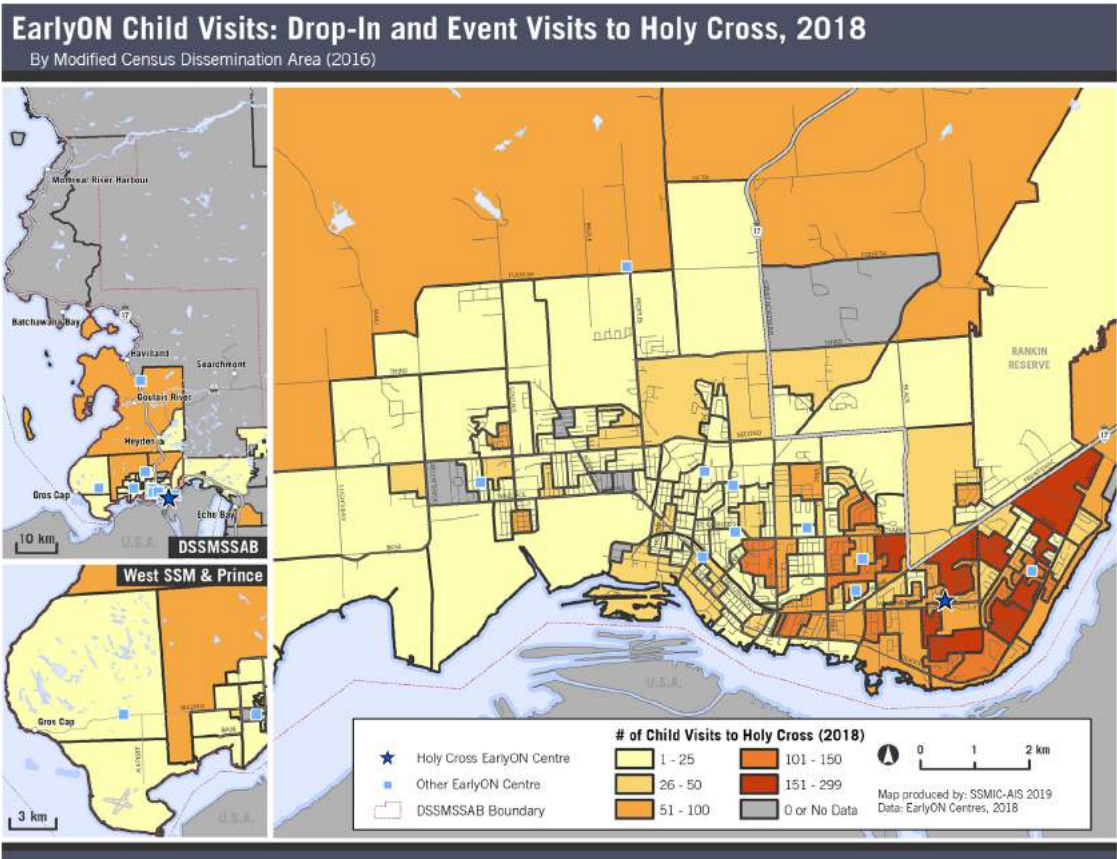


Figure 20: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Prince Township by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

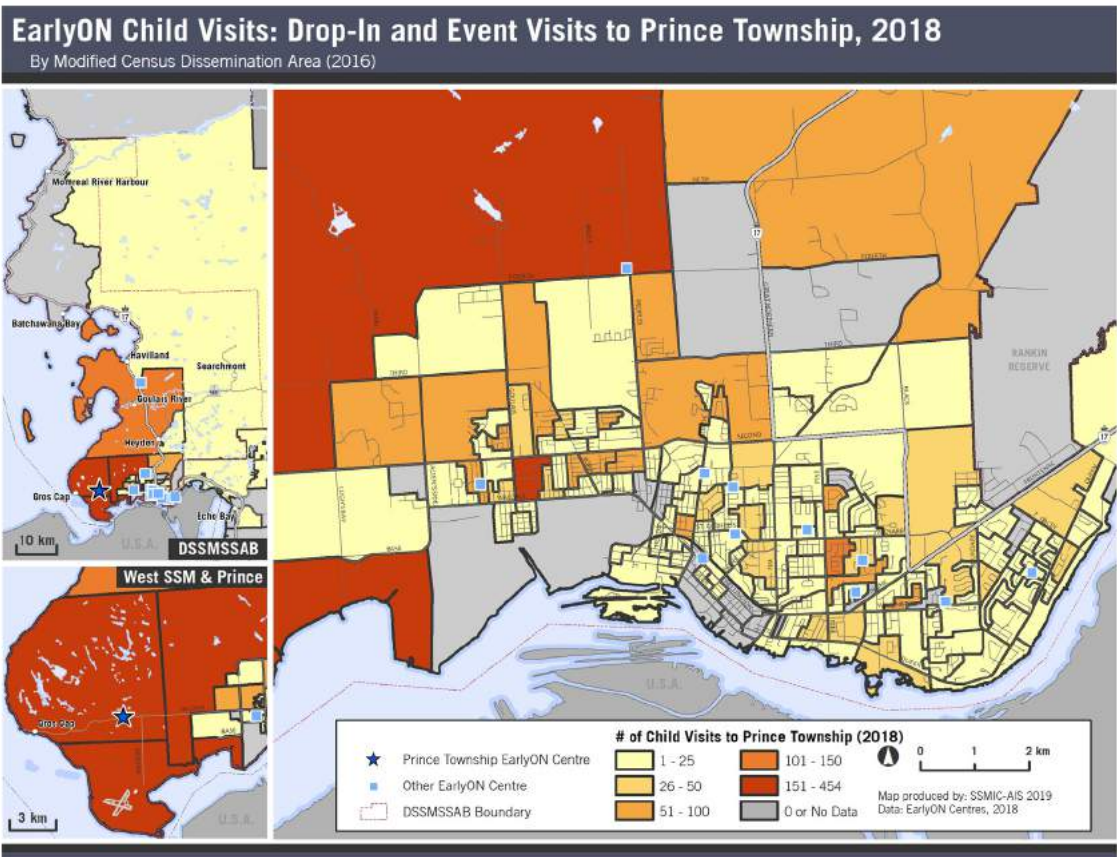




Figure 21: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Holy Angels by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

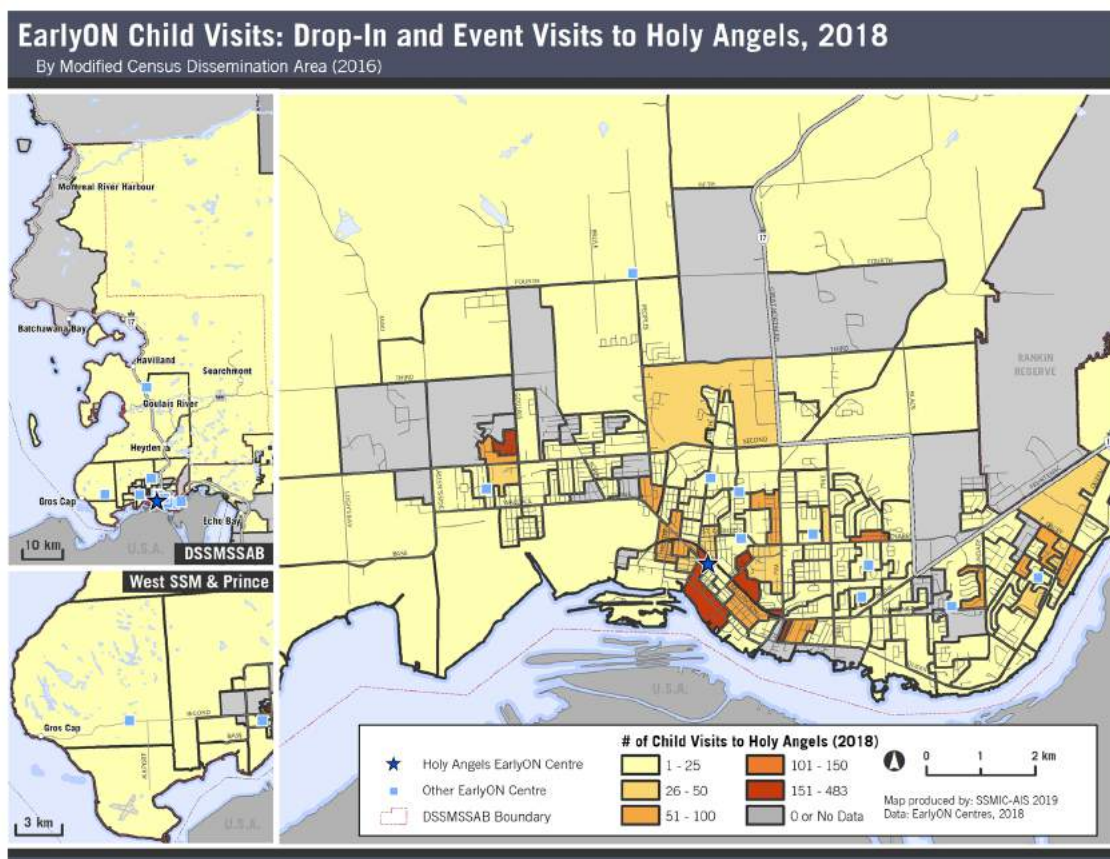


Figure 22: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Mountain View by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

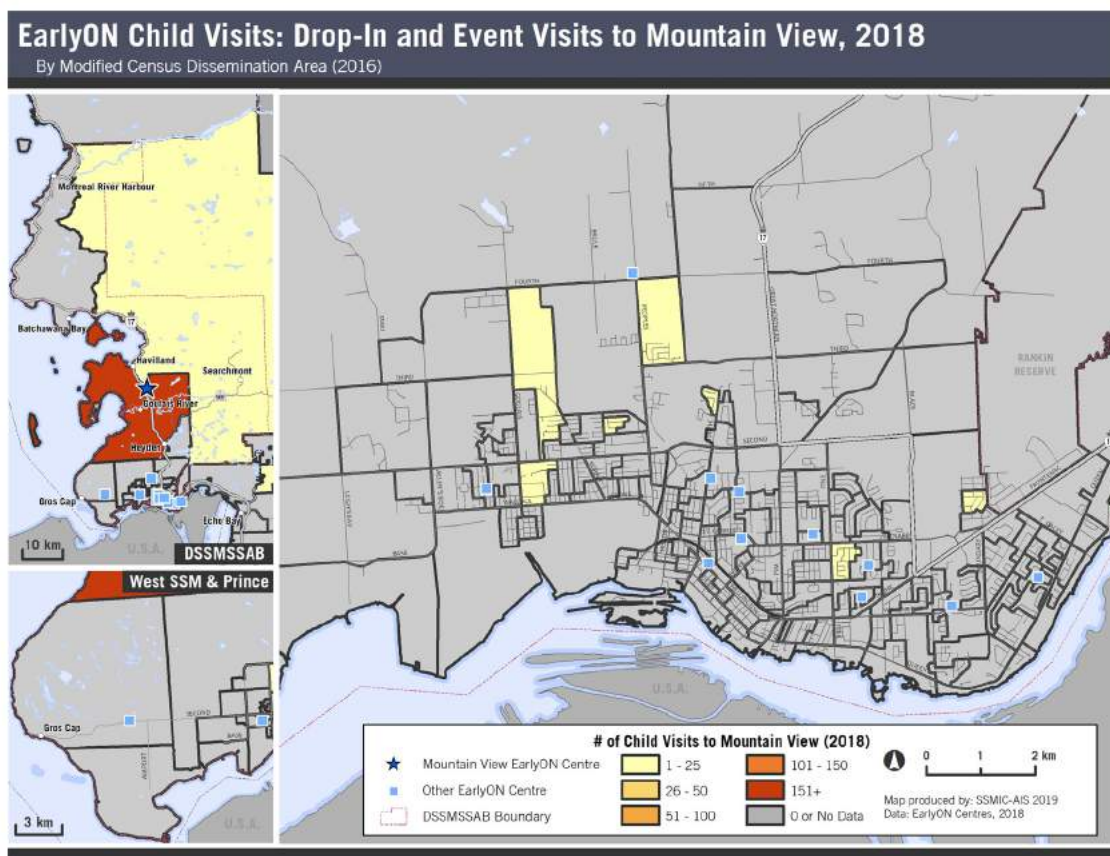


Figure 23: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to H. M. Robbins by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

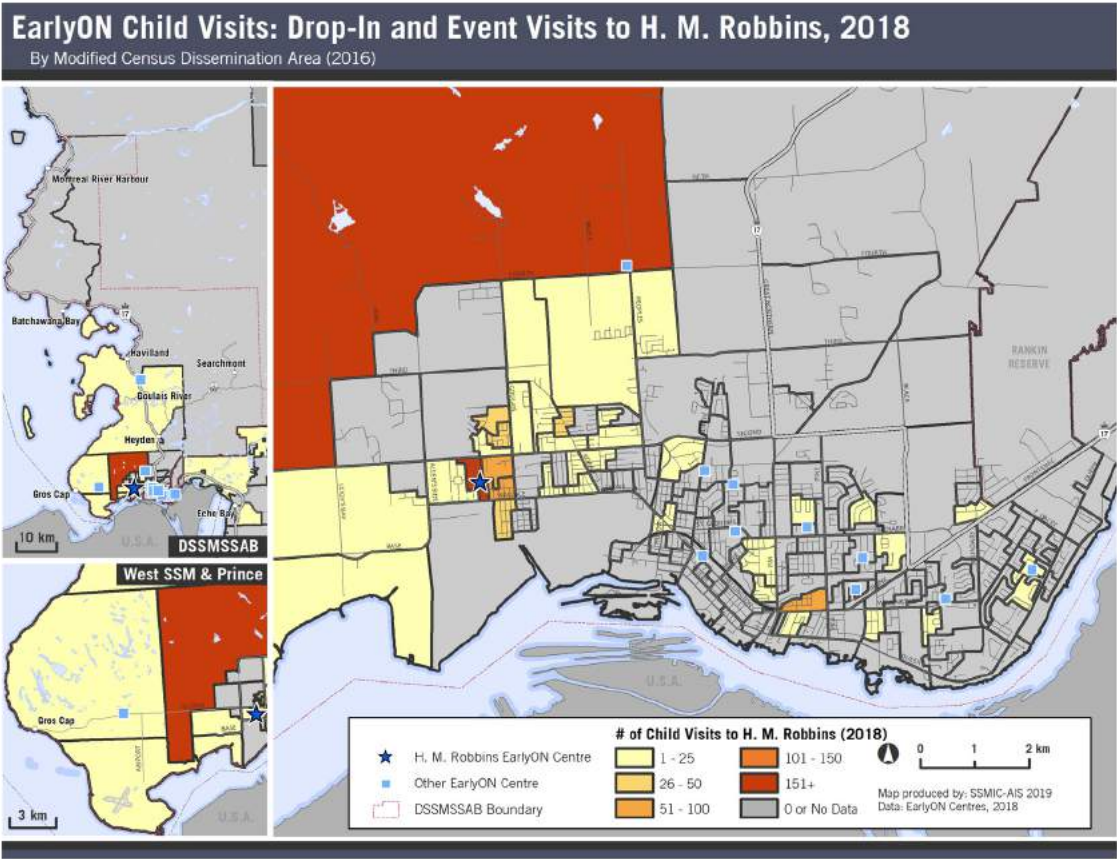


Figure 24: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to St. Basil by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

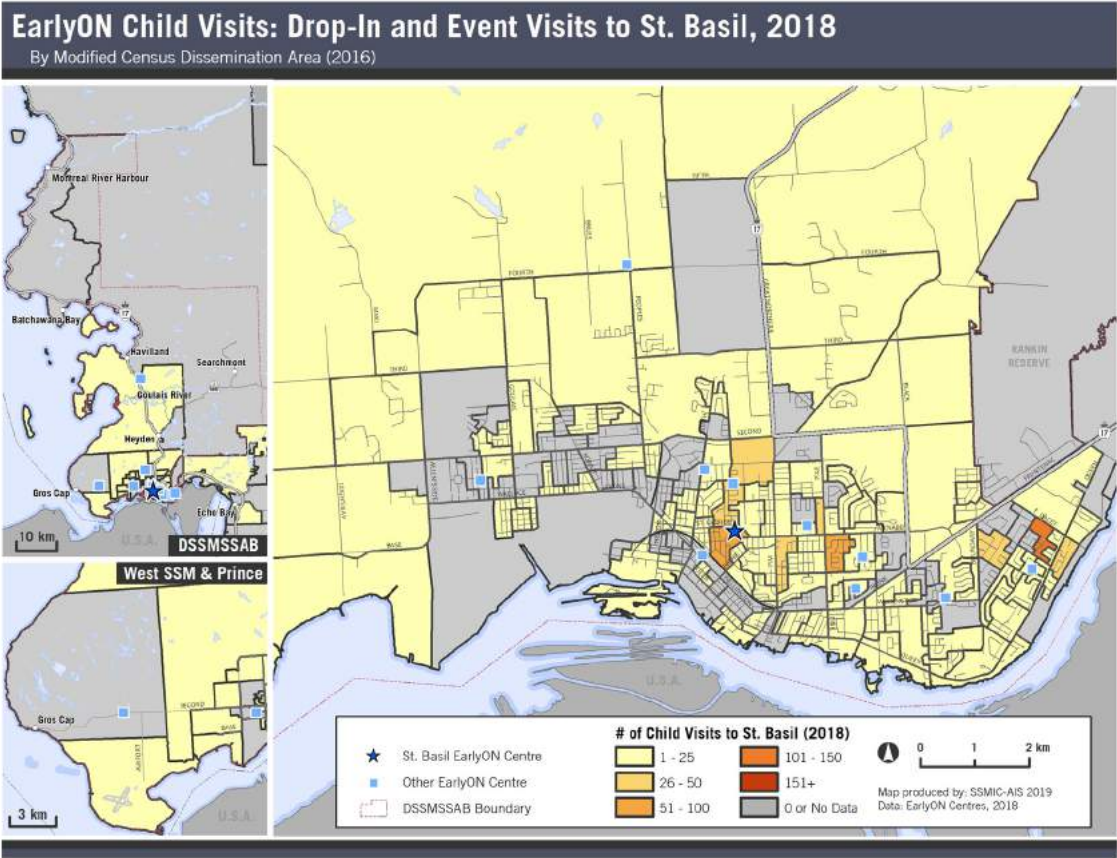




Figure 25: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to River View by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

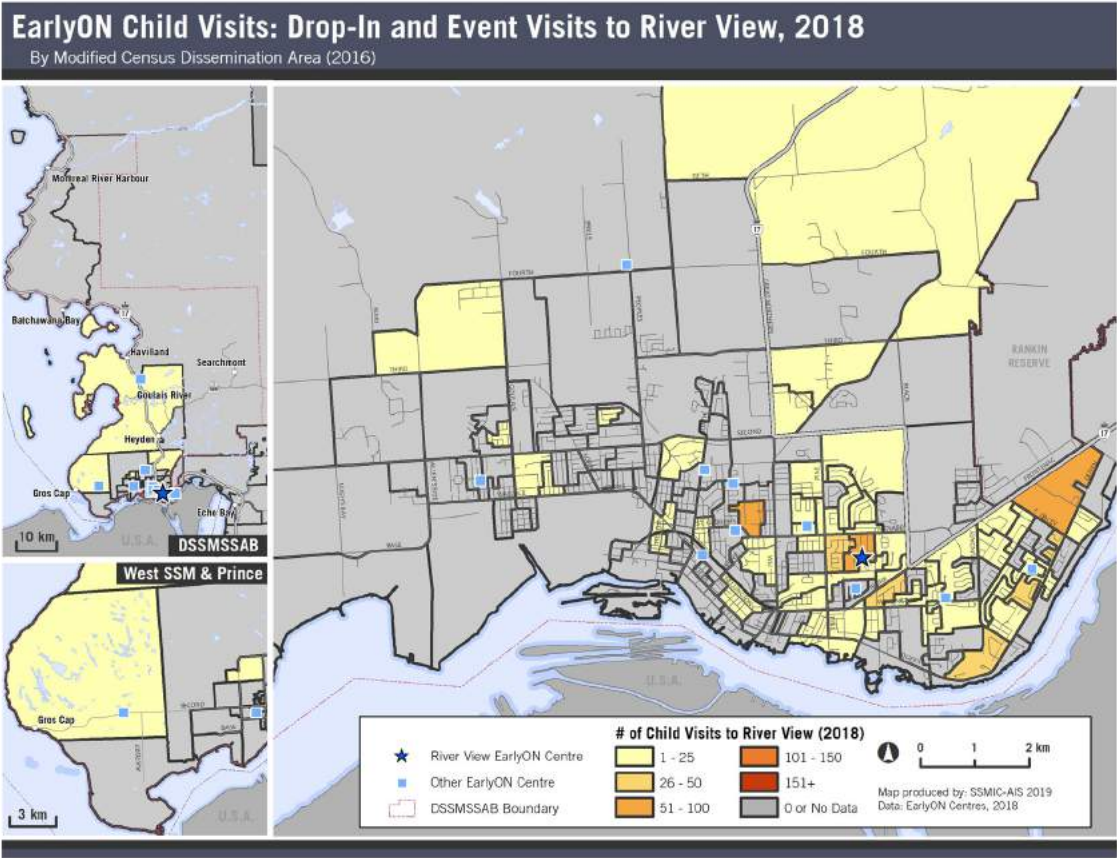
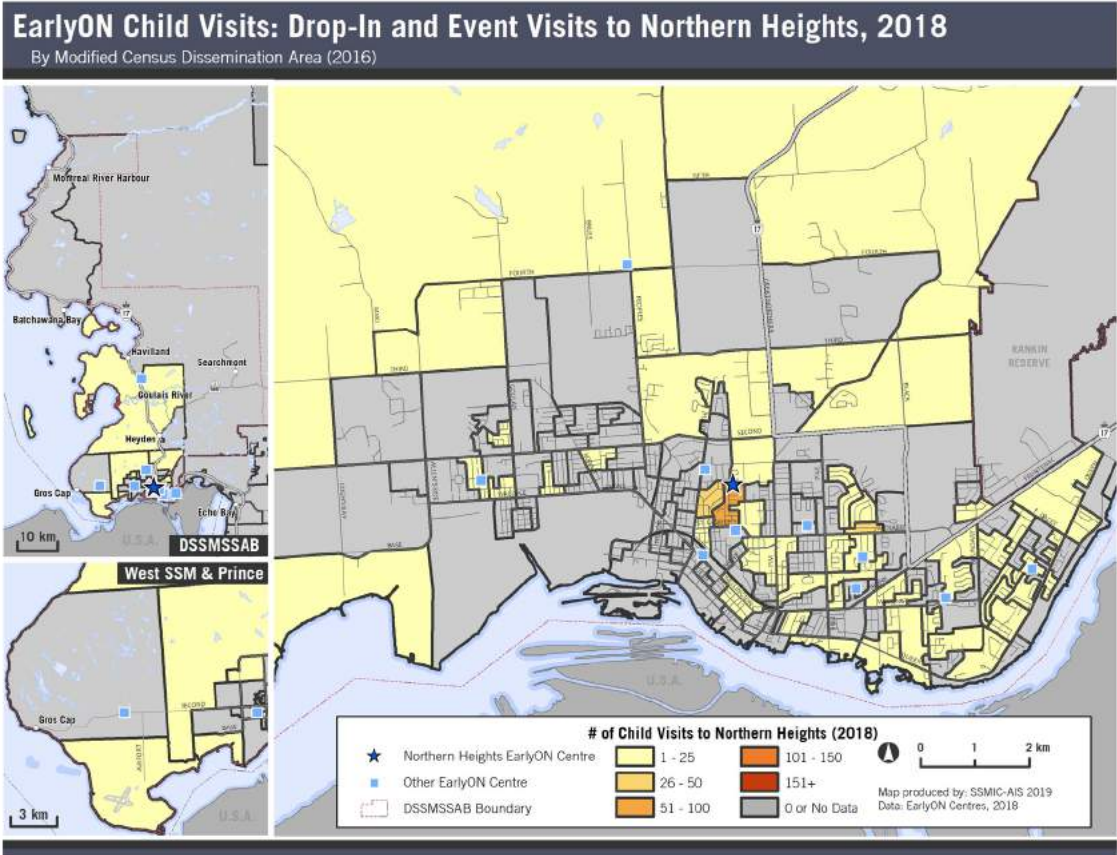


Figure 26: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Northern Heights by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

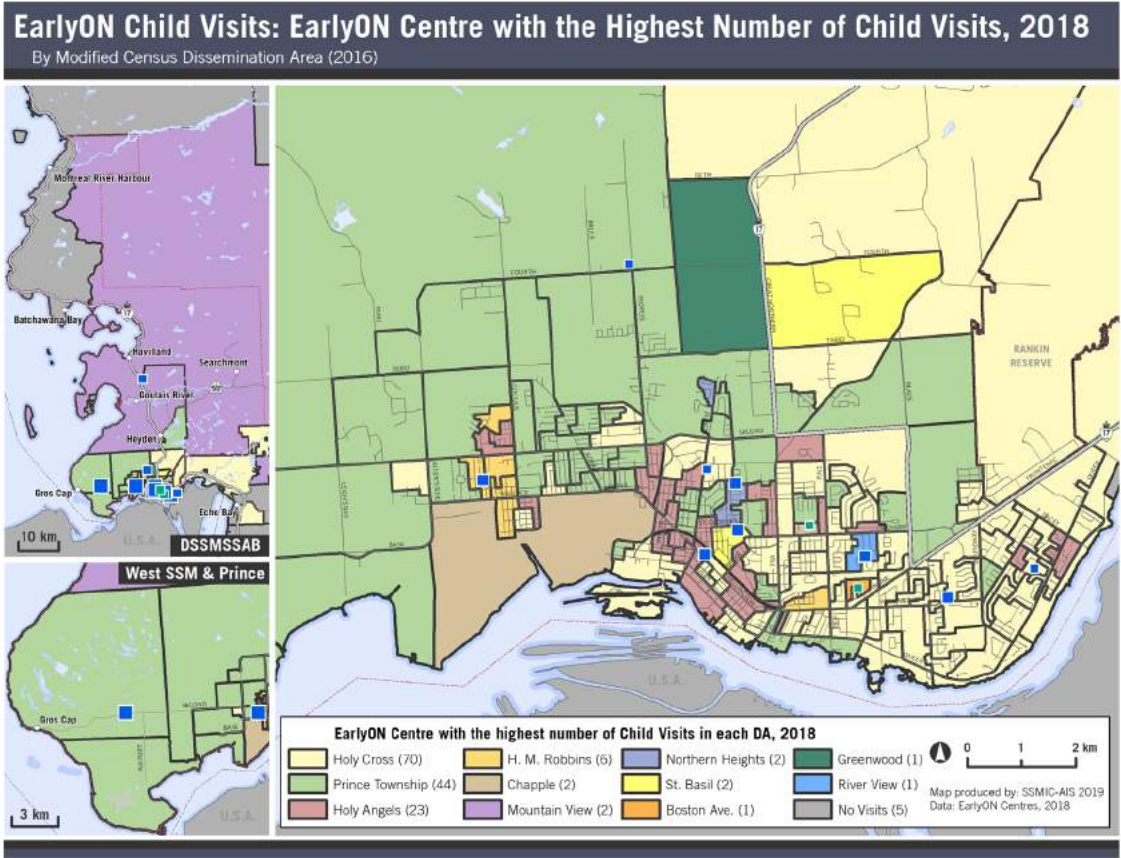




The map in Figure 27 shows, the EarlyON Centre location that received the most child visits for each modified Dissemination Area in the Sault Ste. Marie area. For example, a DA shaded in light yellow means that more children in that DA visited

the Holy Cross EarlyON location than any other location. Typically, an EarlyON Centre draws heavily from the immediate surrounding area.

Figure 27: EarlyON Centre with the Highest Number of Child Visits by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018

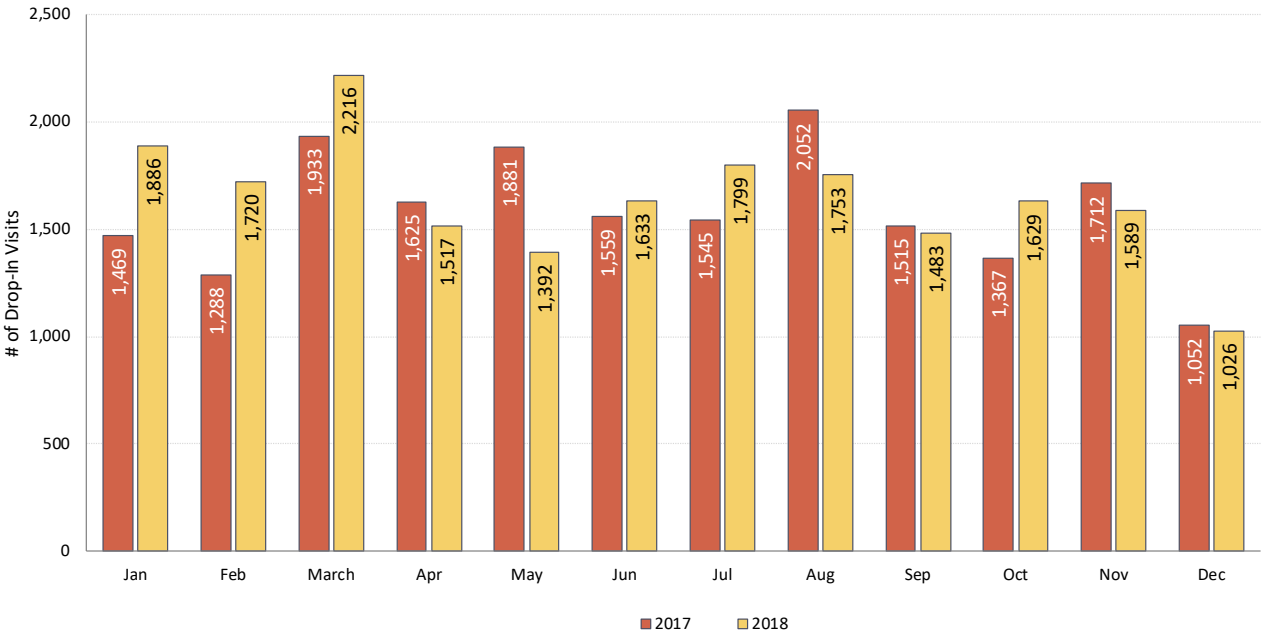


EARLYON VISITS BY MONTH

The chart in Figure 28 shows the number of child drop-in visits by month for 2017 and 2018. The most popular months in 2017 were March, May and August. The most popular months

in 2018 were January, March and July. For both years, the least popular month for visits was December. Typically, EarlyON Centres are closed over the Christmas holidays.

Figure 28: EarlyON Child Drop-in Visits by Month, 2017 and 2018



EARLYON VISITS BY DAY OF WEEK

Figure 29 and Figure 30 show the number and percent of child visits by the day of week in 2018, respectively. The most popular days to visit the EarlyON Centres were Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Sunday programming was available for several hours a month at two locations.

Figure 29: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week, All Centres Combined, 2018

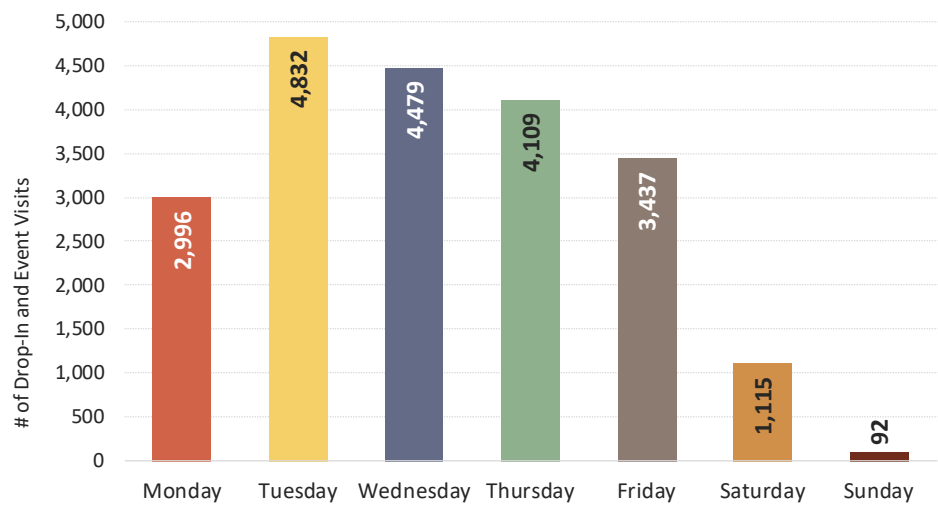


Figure 30: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage of Total Visits, 2018

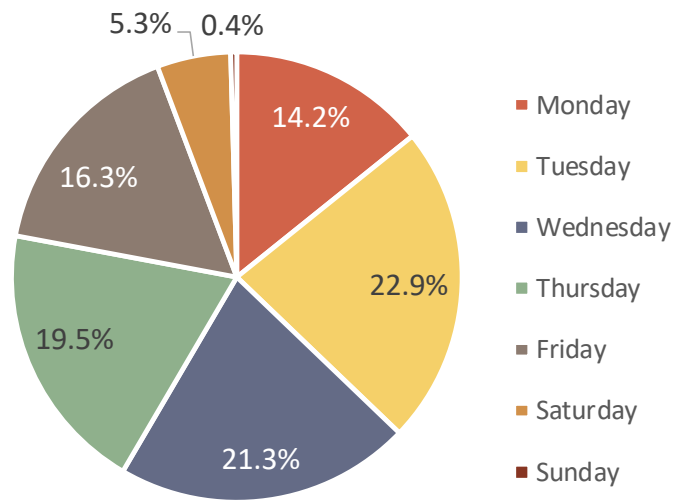


Figure 31 shows the number of child visits by day of the week for each EarlyON Centre that is open six days a week. The most popular day for each site are as follows:

- Holy Cross – Tuesday
- Holy Angels – Wednesday
- Prince – Friday
- St. Basil – Wednesday



Figure 31: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week, Centres Open Six Days a Week, 2018

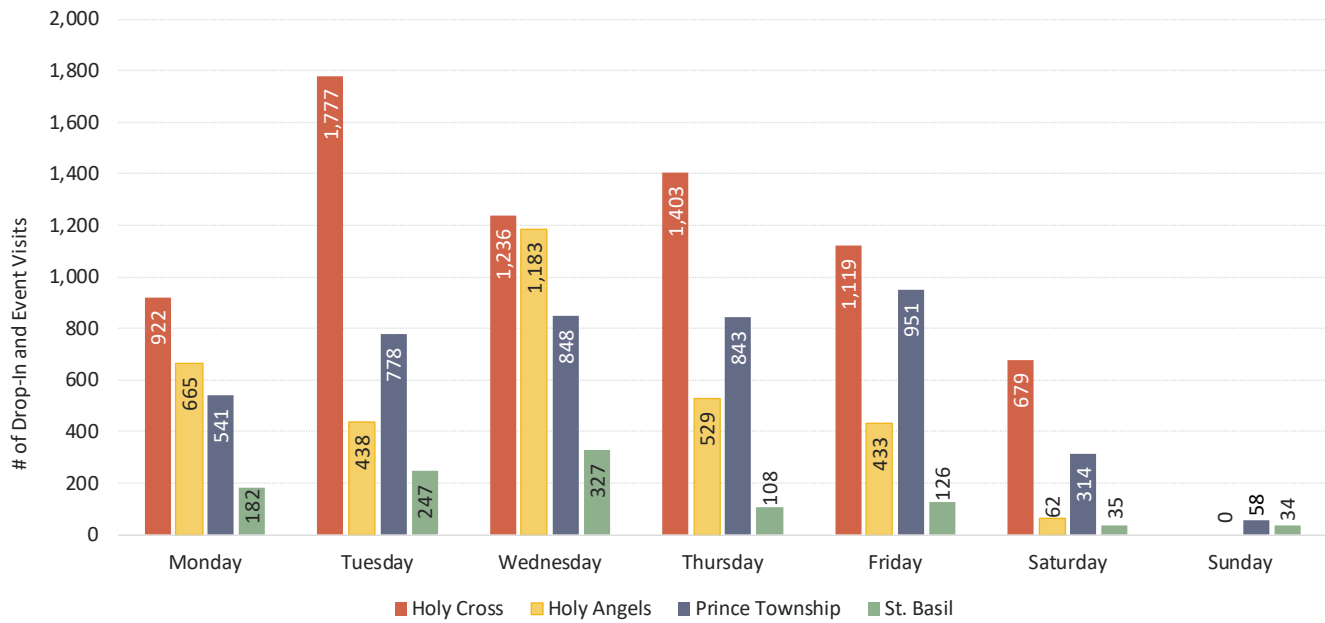


Figure 32 shows the number of child visits by day of the week for each EarlyON Centre that is open three to five days a week. The most popular day for each site are as follows:

- Mountain View – Tuesday
- H. M. Robbins – Wednesday
- Northern Heights – Thursday
- River View – Tuesday
- Notre Dame – Thursday

Figure 32: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week, Centres Open Three to Five Days a Week, 2018

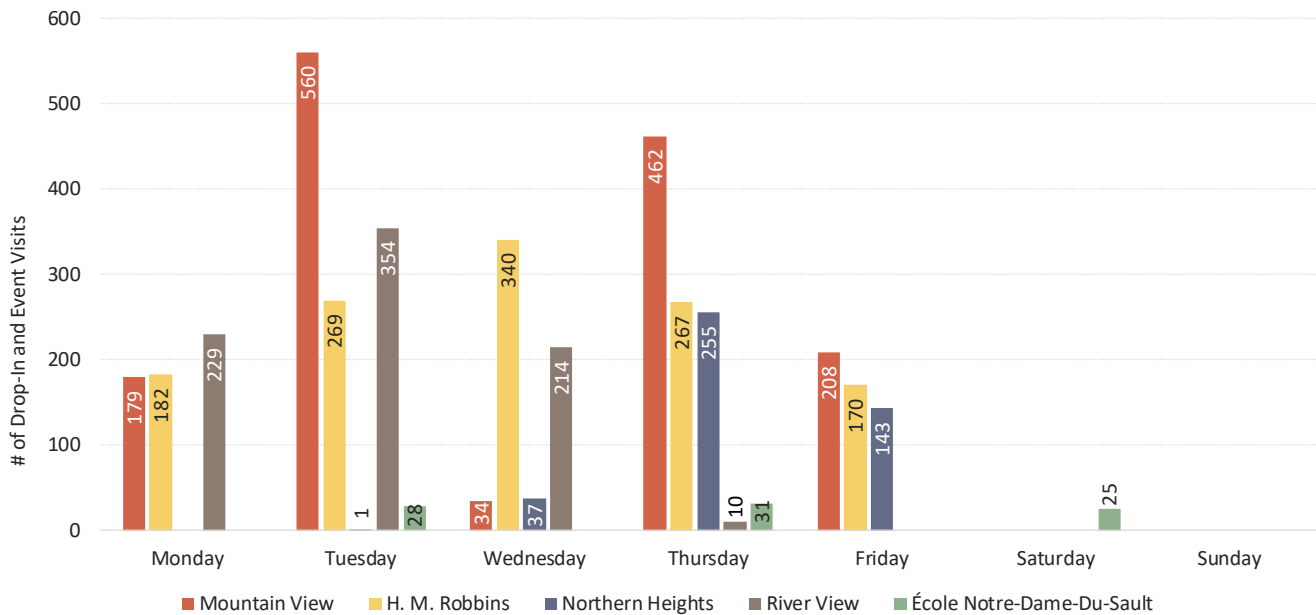


Figure 33 to Figure 36 show the breakdown of child visits by the day of the week for different times of the year. Figure 35 shows the summer break months of July and August. The summer months typically have a lesser proportion of Friday visits than the other times of the year. Many EarlyON Centres had less or no weekend hours in the July and August.

Figure 33: EarlyON Child Visits in January, February and March 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage

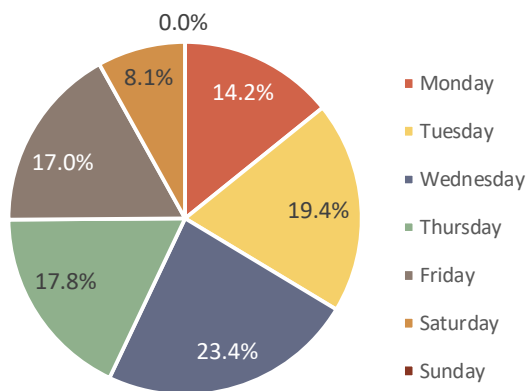


Figure 35: EarlyON Child Visits in July and August 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage

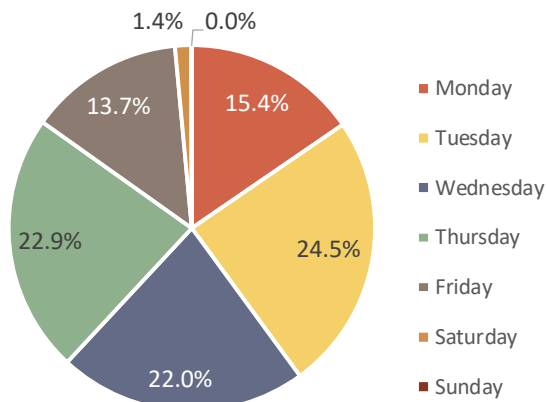


Figure 34: EarlyON Child Visits in April, May, and June 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage

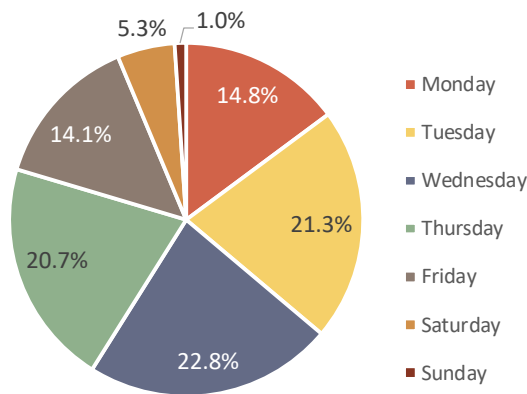
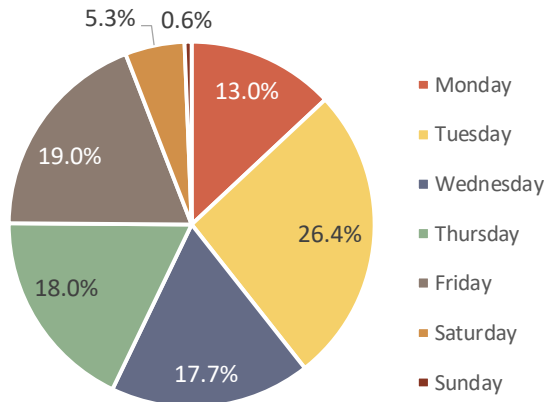


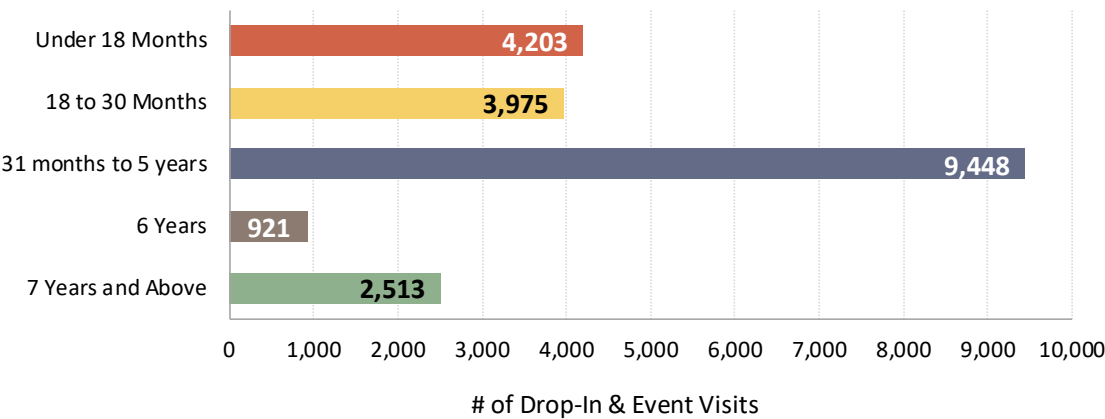
Figure 36: EarlyON Child Visits in September, October, November and December 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage



EARLYON CHILD VISITS BY BROAD CHILD CARE AGE GROUPINGS

Figure 37 shows the broad age ranges of the child visits to all the Sault Ste. Marie Area EarlyON Centres combined in 2018.

Figure 37: EarlyON Child Visits by Broad Child Care Age Grouping, All Centres Combined, 2018



The charts below show the proportion of child visits by each broad age grouping for the EarlyON Centres open six days a week (Figure 38) and the centres open three to five days a week (Figure 39). Prince Township, St. Basil and H. M. Robbins typically see a larger share of children under 18 months of age than the other Centres in the area.

Figure 38: EarlyON Child Visits by Broad Child Care Age Grouping, Centres Open Six Days a Week, 2018

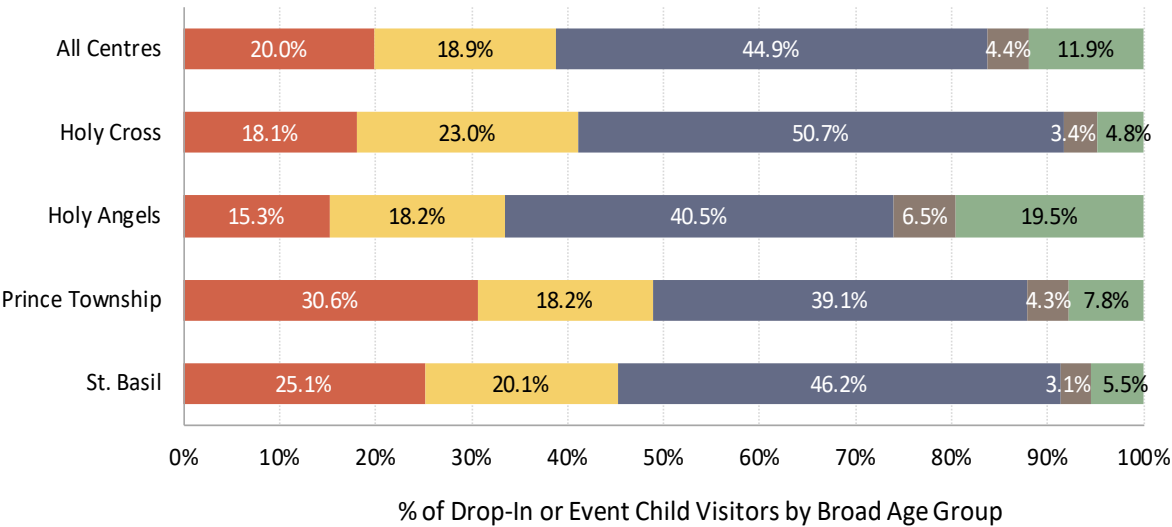
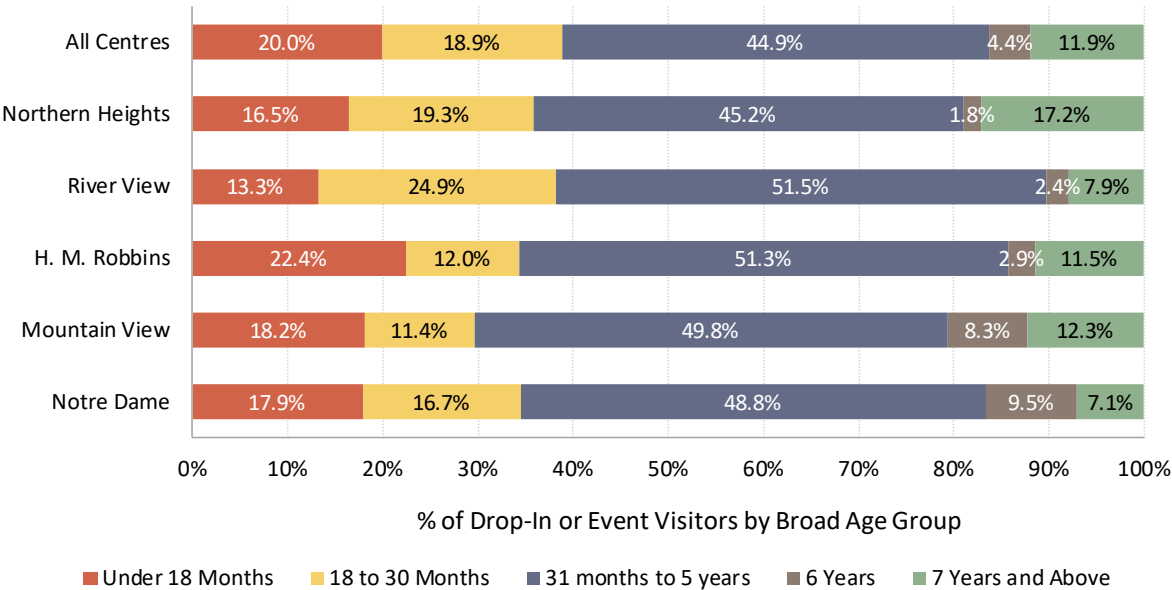


Figure 39: EarlyON Child Visits by Broad Child Care Age Grouping, Centres Open Three to Five Days a Week, 2018



EARLYON CHILD VISITS BY AGE (IN MONTHS AT THE TIME OF VISIT)

Breaking age down by months per location, provides detailed information on the age demographic of children attending EarlyON Centres in Sault Ste. Marie. Taken together, most children attending are between 0 and 50 months (Figure 40). Figure 41 to Figure 48 show the age breakdown for each site.

Most of the children that visit Holy Angels are under 5 years of age, however this site also receives more visits from children between the ages of 6 and 12 years old (Figure 42) than other sites in the area.



Figure 40: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), All Sites, 2018

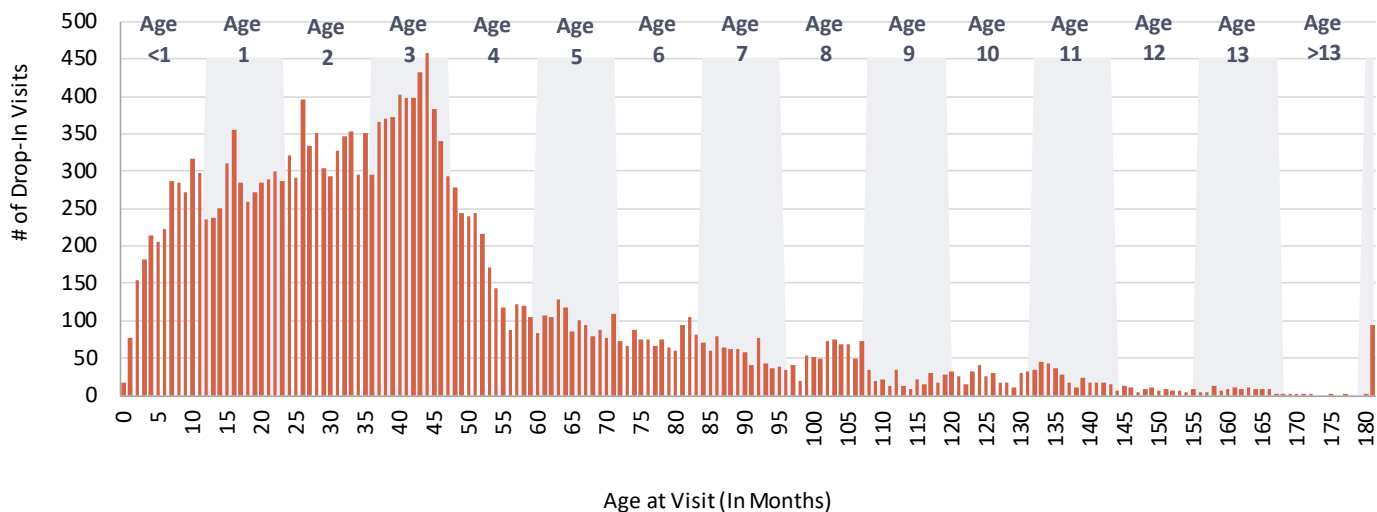


Figure 41: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), Holy Cross, 2018

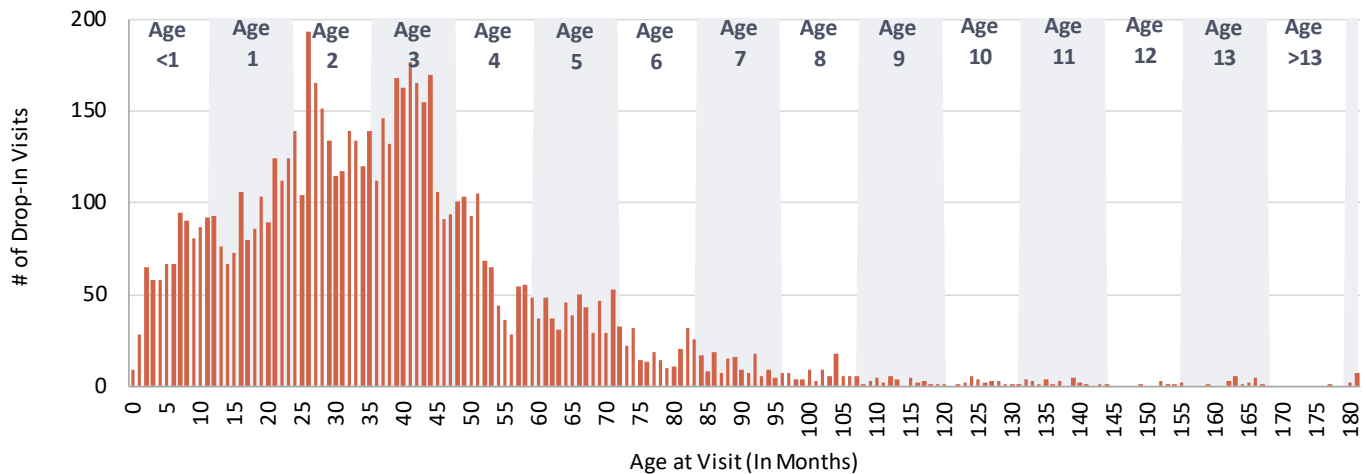


Figure 42: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), Holy Angels, 2018

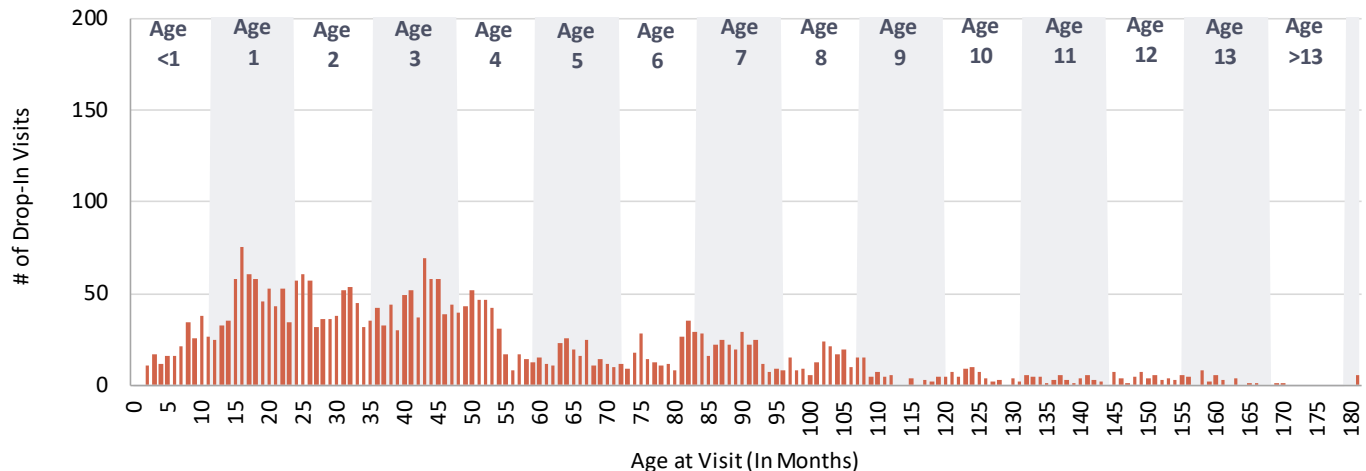


Figure 43: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), Prince Township, 2018

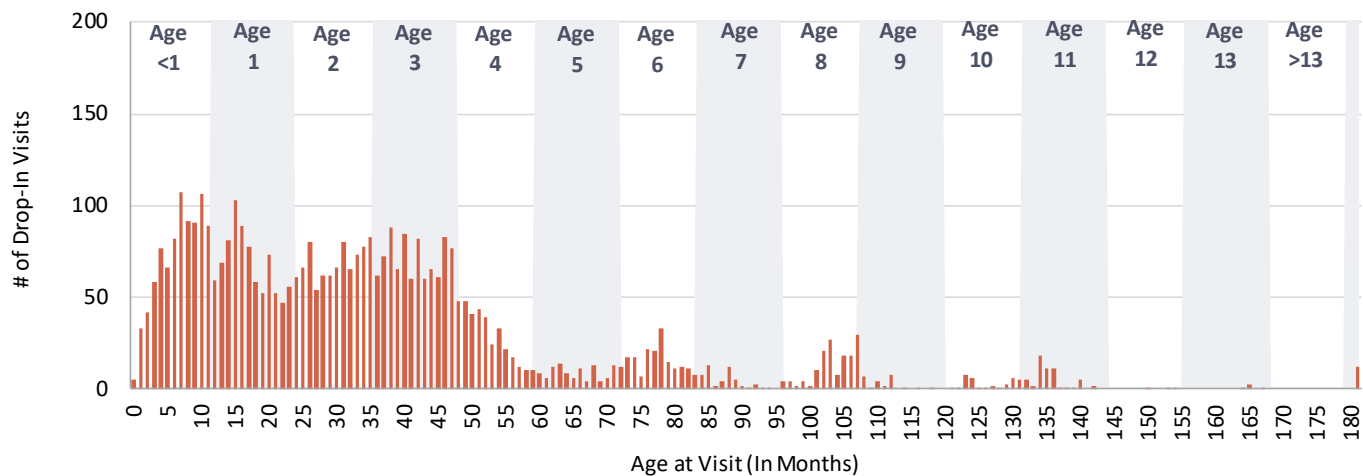


Figure 44: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), St. Basil, 2018

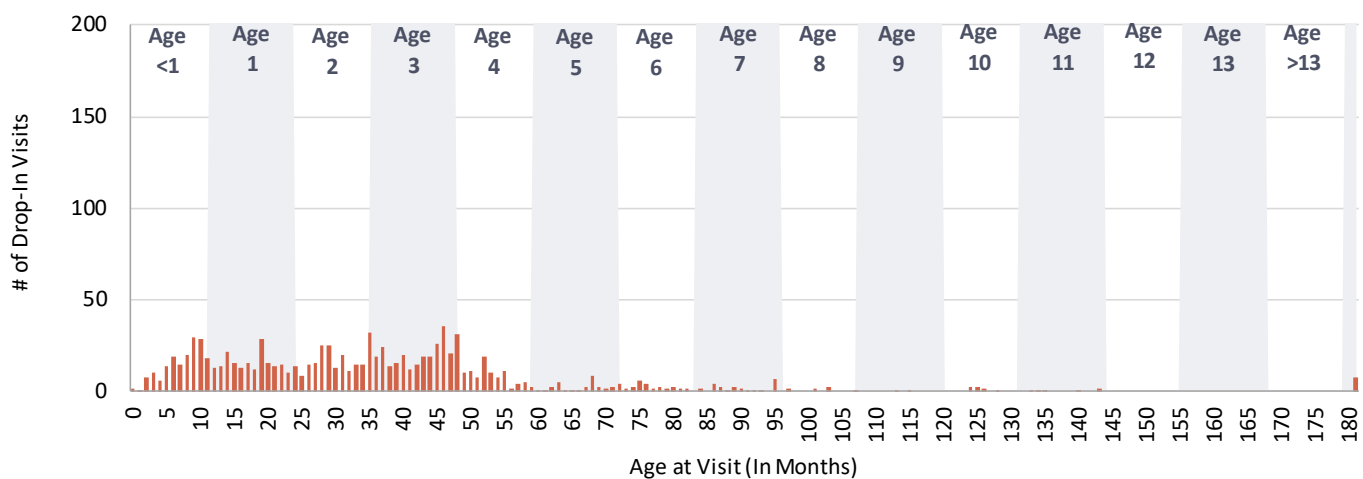


Figure 45: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), River View, 2018

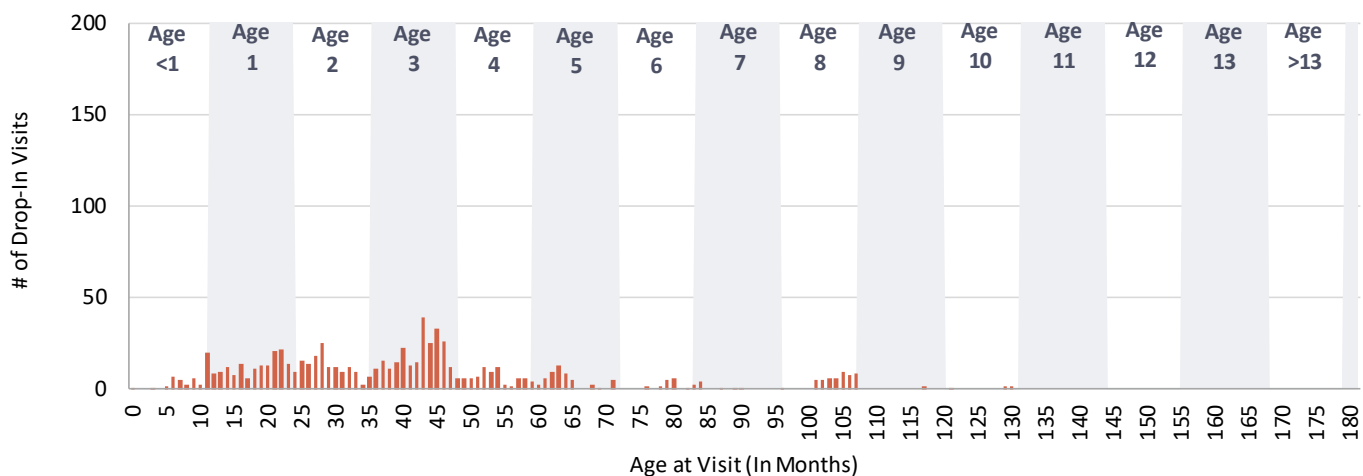


Figure 46: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), Northern Heights, 2018

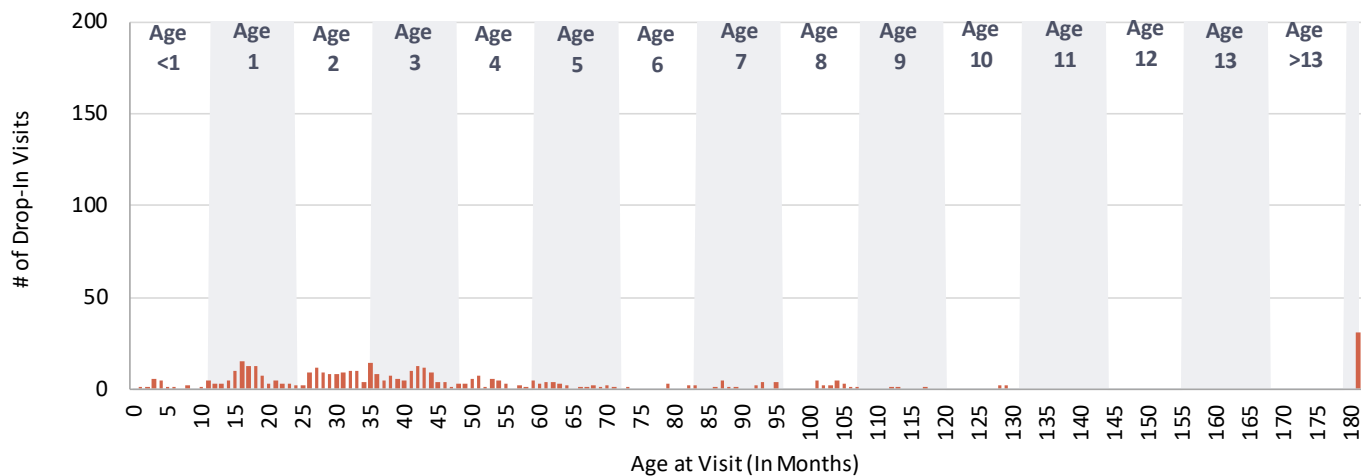


Figure 47: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), H. M. Robbins, 2018

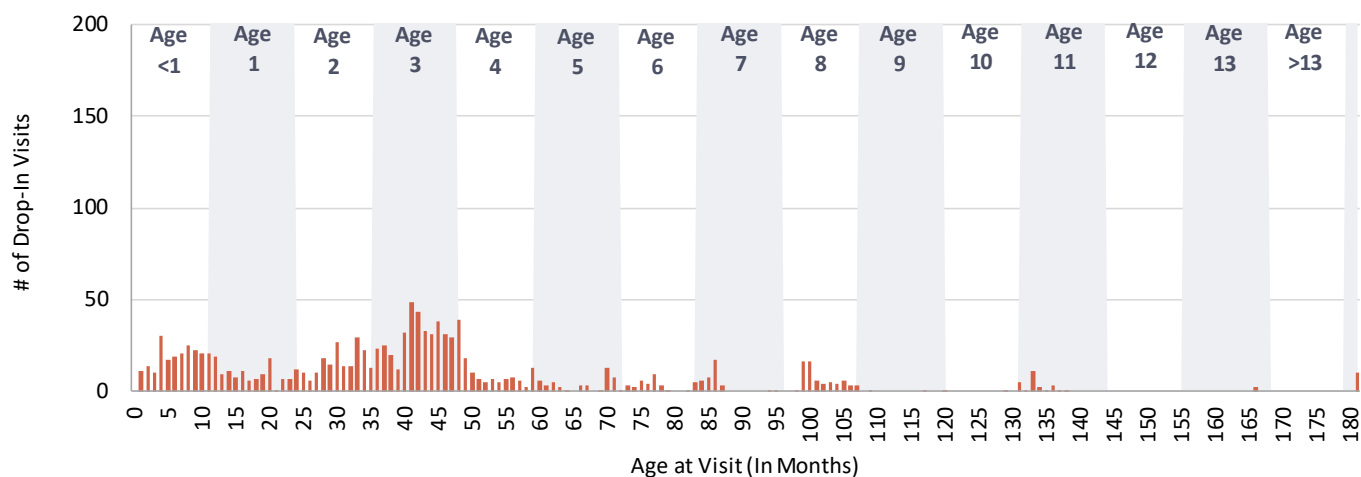
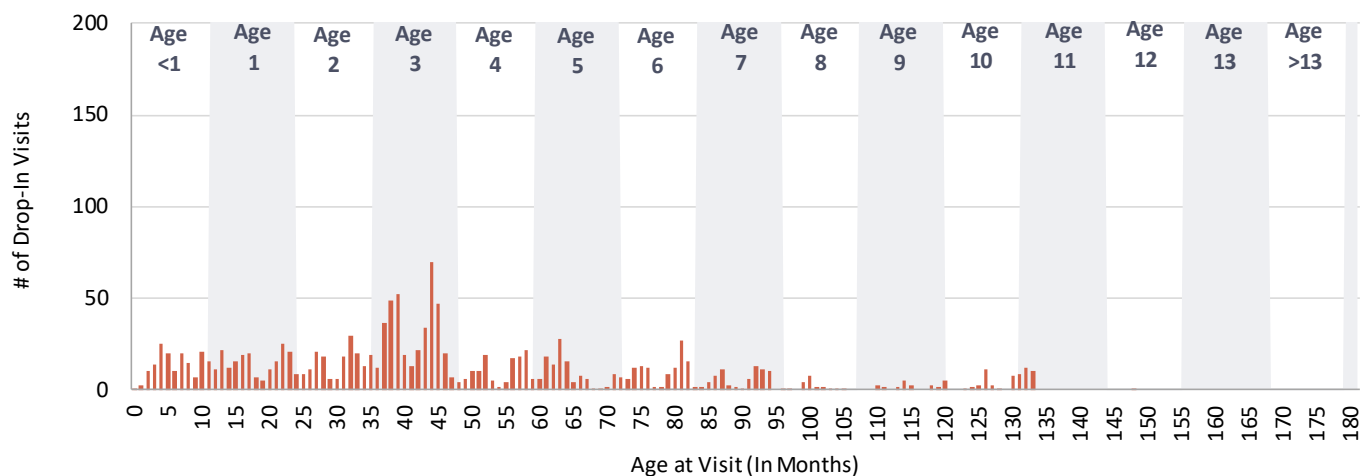


Figure 48: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), Mountain View, 2018





EARLYON CHILD VISITS BY TIME AT SIGN-IN (IN MINUTES)

Looking at all sites combined, the highest number of drop-in visits occurred between 9AM and 11AM with a smaller spike in traffic between 1:15PM and 2:15PM (Figure 49). Holy Cross saw the most child visits between 9AM and 11:30AM and again between 1:15PM and 2:15PM (Figure 50). At Holy Angels, most

visits occurred between 9AM and 11AM, and 4PM and 5PM, with few visits in between those times (Figure 51). Child visits to Prince Township taper off after 3PM with a smaller number of visits later in the evening (Figure 52).

Figure 49: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - All EarlyON sites Combined, 2018

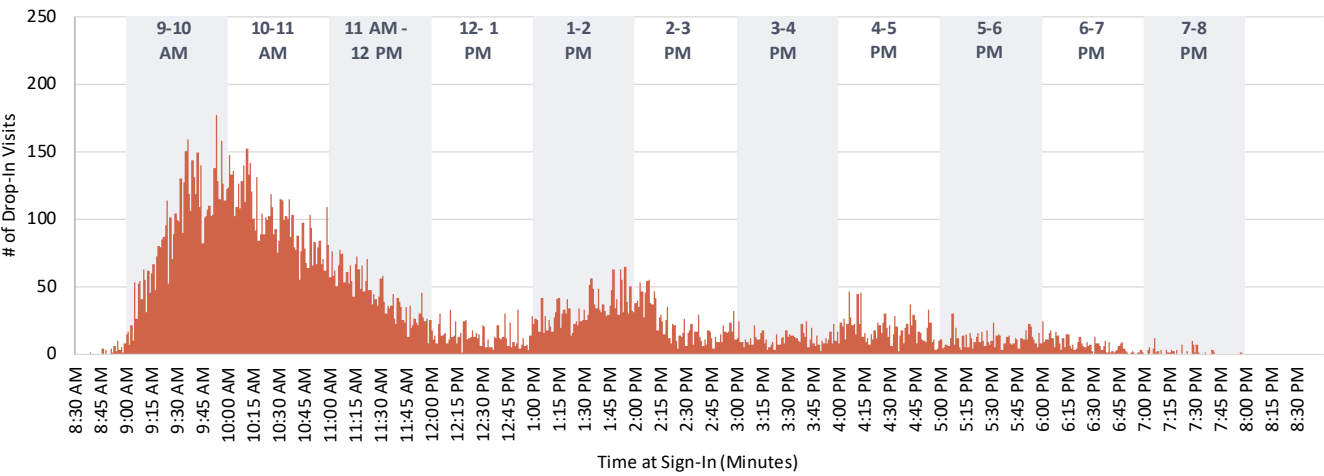


Figure 50: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - Holy Cross, 2018

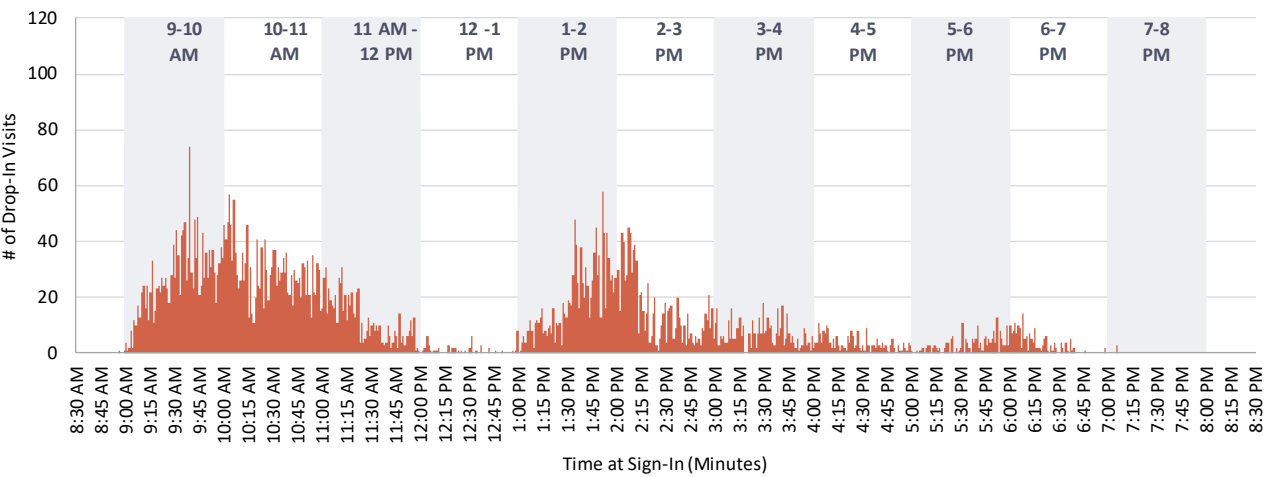


Figure 51: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - Holy Angels, 2018

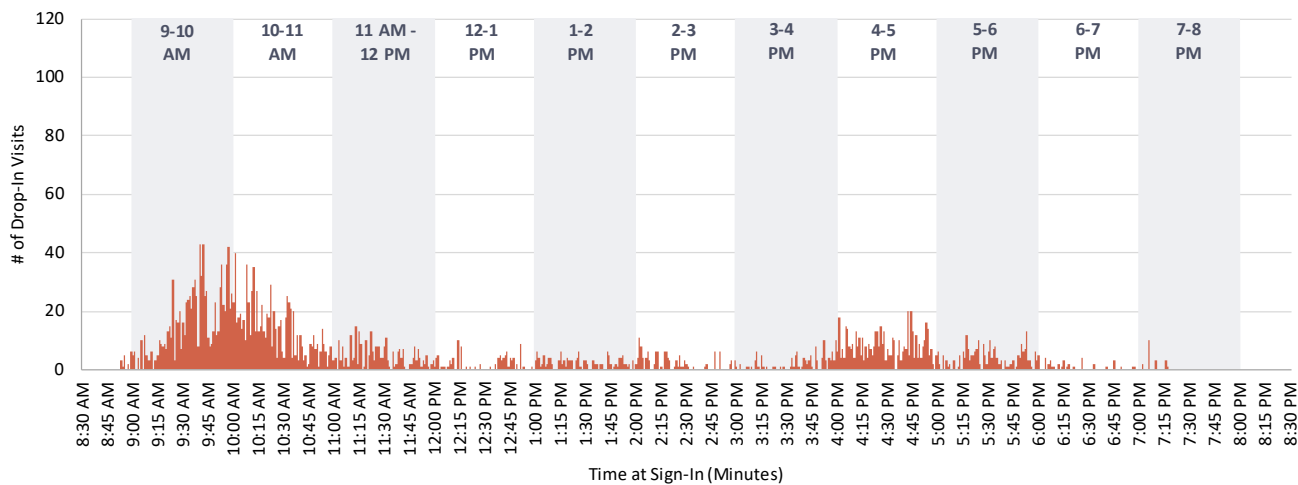


Figure 52: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - Prince Township, 2018

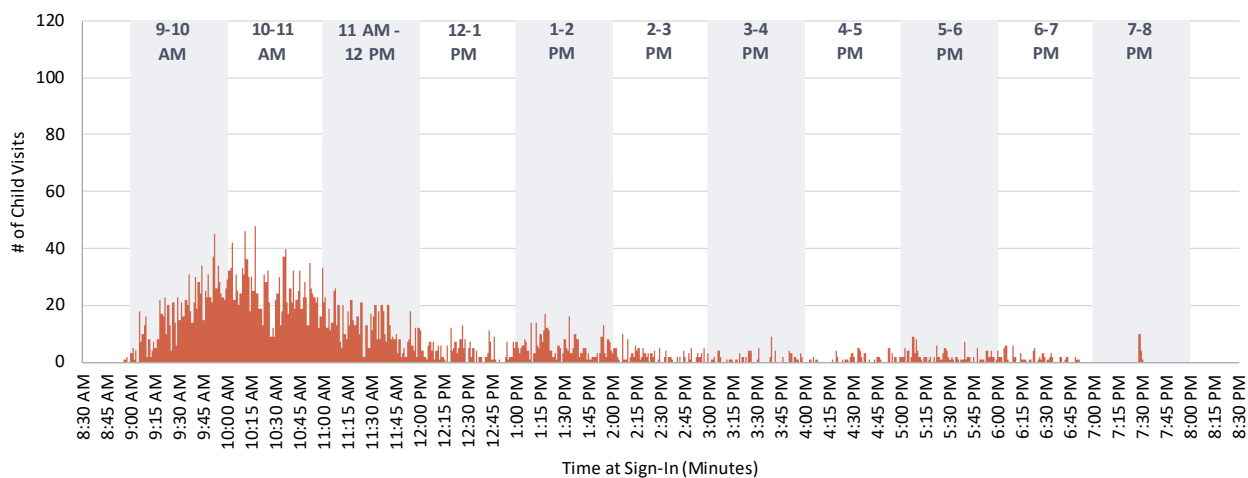


Figure 53: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - River View, 2018

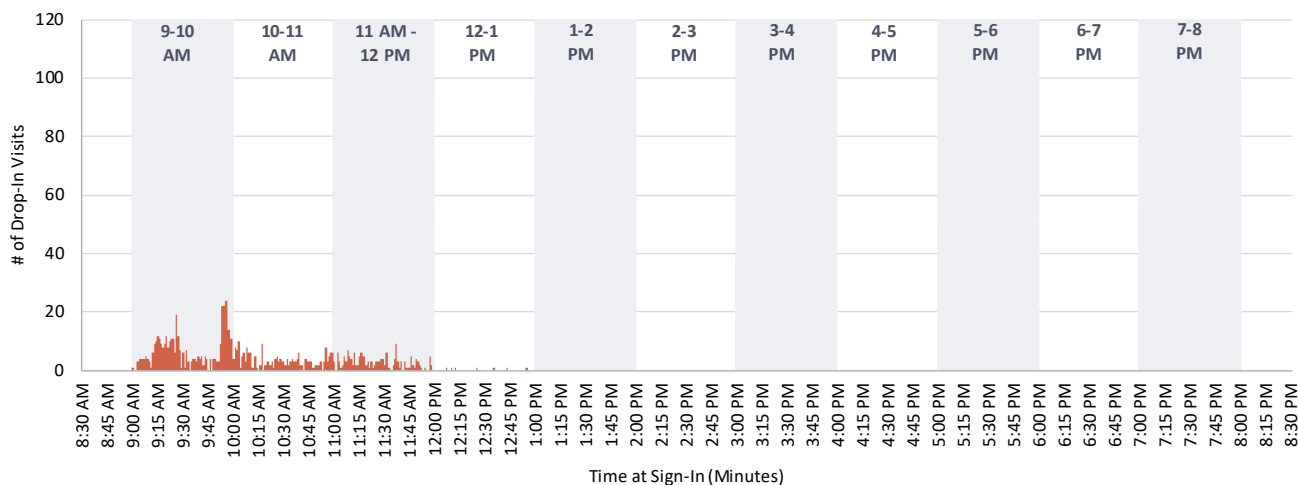


Figure 54: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - St. Basil, 2018

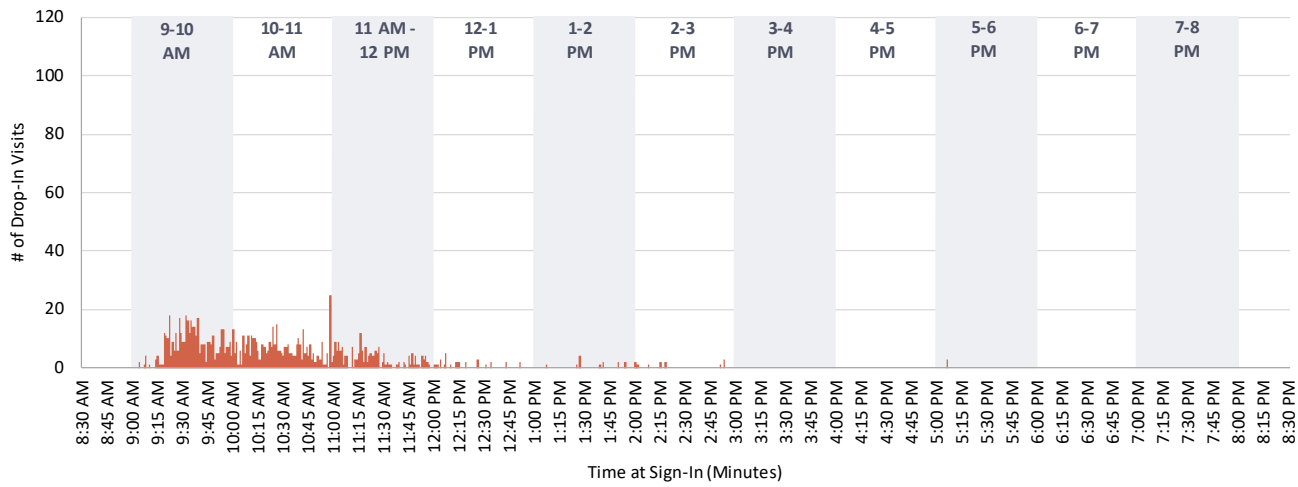


Figure 55: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - H.M. Robbins, 2018

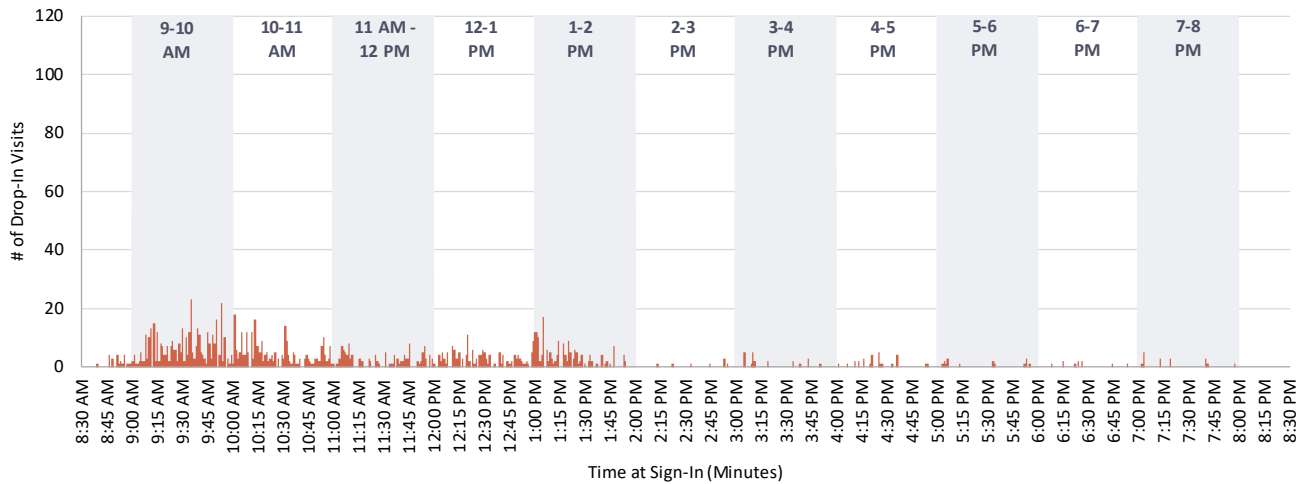
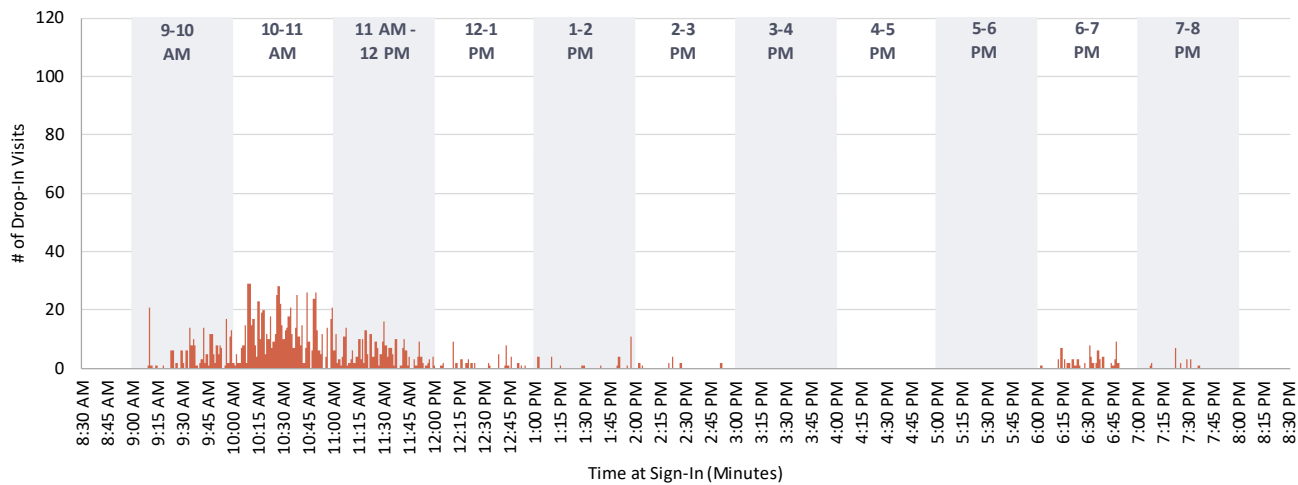


Figure 56: Child Visits by Time at Sign-In - Mountain View, 2018





FIRST TIME / UNIQUE VISITORS TO THE SSM EARLYON CENTRES

Because there was a change in data collection systems part way through 2018, it is difficult to determine whether those who visited and signed-in to the new KEyON system actually attended an EarlyON Centre earlier in the year. KEyON has logged the total number of first time visits per quarter, however this database is not suitable for in-depth analysis. The following table shows the number of first time visits per quarter and the total number of unique visitors for 2018 for all SSM EarlyON Centres combined.

Table 12: First Time Visits per Quarter and Total Unique Visitors for 2018, All EarlyON Centres Combined

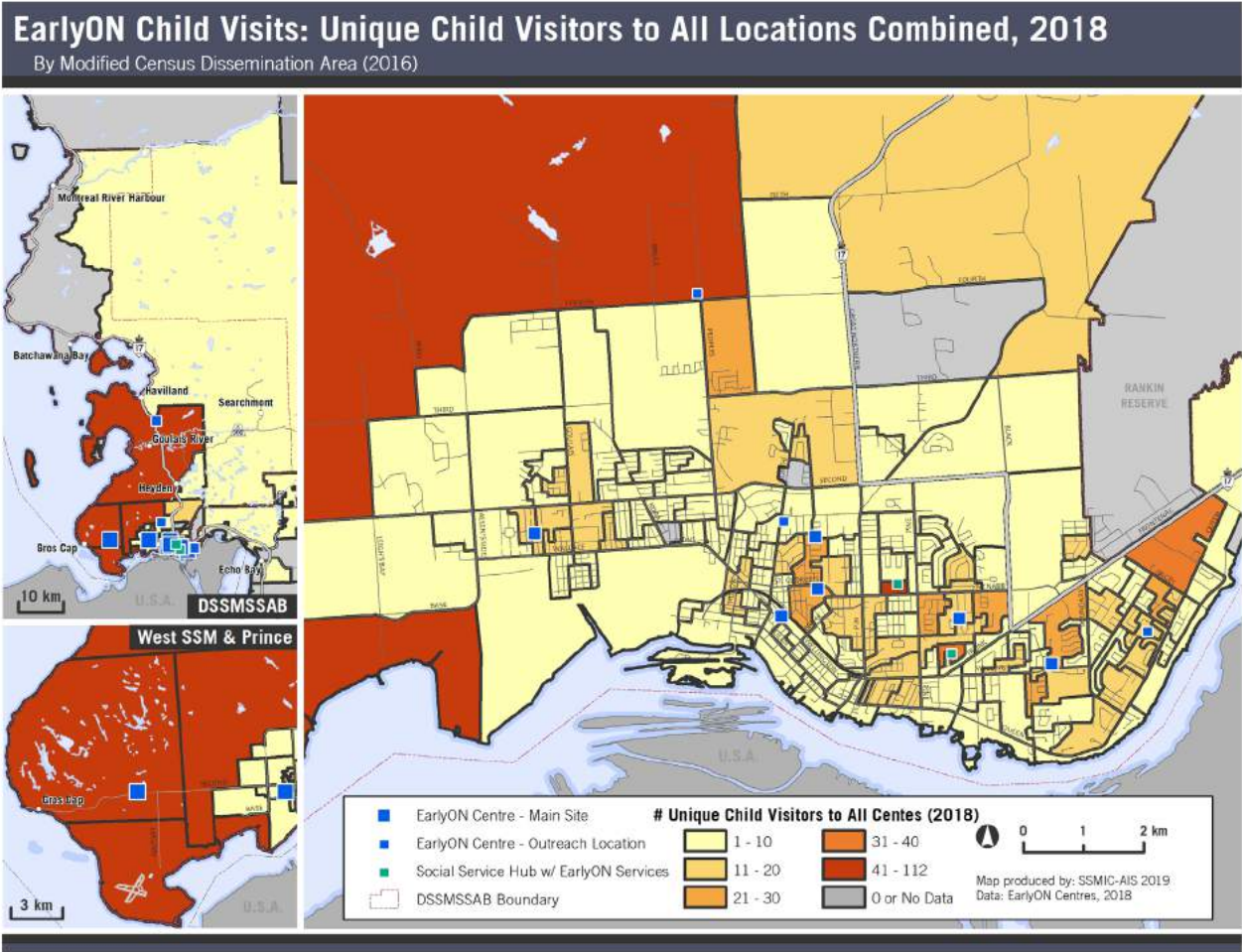
	Children	Parents \ Caregivers
First Time Visits: Q1	1,826	1264
First Time Visits: Q2	949	986
First Time Visits: Q3	569	355
First Time Visits: Q4	217	140
Total Unique Visitors	3,561	2745

UNIQUE CHILD VISITORS TO THE SSM EARLYON CENTRES (JUNE TO DECEMBER)

The following map shows the individual (unique) children who attended an EarlyON Centre and signed-in using the KEyON system (June to December). Each child is only counted once in the following map. The highest concentrations of

children are seen in Goulais River, Prince Township, the rural west end of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, the Chapple/Albion neighbourhood, Boston/Breton neighbourhood and the area east of Dacey Road near Terry Fox Place.

Figure 57: Unique Child Visits to All EarlyON Locations Combined by DA, June to December 2018



**REGULAR CHILD VISITORS TO THE SSM EARLYON CENTRES (JUNE TO DECEMBER, MEMBERS ONLY)**

The following chart shows the number of visits by individual (unique) children (aged 0 to 6 and 7+) that attended a Sault Ste. Marie area EarlyON site and signed-in using the KEyON system. Note: Guests were not included in the analysis as guest visits could not be verified to be different visitors. E.g. one child may visit multiple times, sign in as a guest, and be given a different guest visitor ID each time. As well, it was noticed

that some guests were not providing legitimate postal codes and therefore could not be mapped. In order to eliminate this uncertainty, only members were used in the analysis. Between June to December 2018, 1,520 unique member children visited an EarlyON Centre. Of these, 369 children visited an EarlyON Centre only once. Most (537) children visited an EarlyON Centre 2-4 times during the 7 month period.

Figure 58: Number of Visits by Unique Children June-December 2018, Members Only

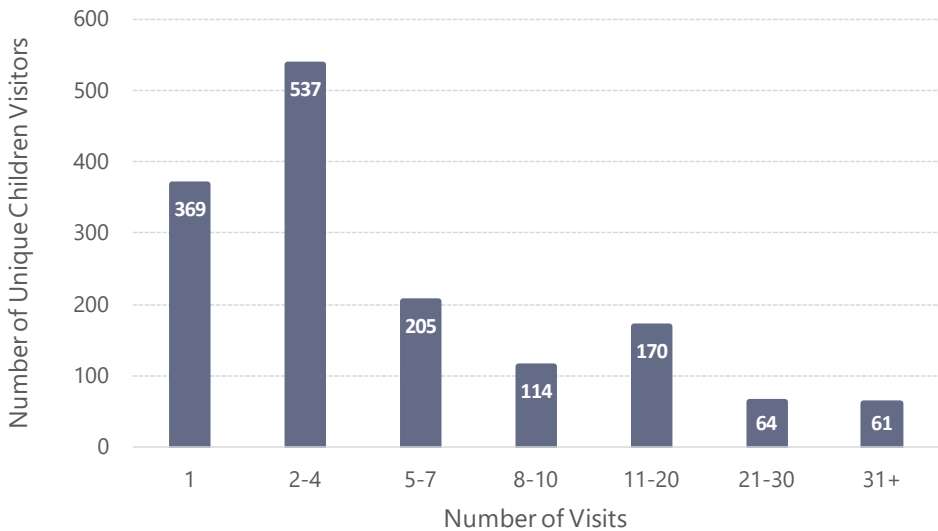


Figure 59 shows the DAs with regular child visitors to a DSSMSSAB area EarlyON site. For the purpose of this report, a regular visitor was considered to be a member that attended an EarlyON Centre an average of once per month over the time period. As the June through December time period encompassed 7 months, any child members that attended 7 or more times were considered to be regular attendees. Each DA was assigned as either having child residents that attended regularly (7 or more visits) or not having child residents that attended regularly (less than 7 visits). The number of children in each DA that are considered regular attendees varies. For example, a DA could have only 1 child that attended regularly, while the rest did not but that DA would still be denoted as having regular child visitors. DAs with regular attendees are coloured in orange and DAs without regular attendees are coloured in yellow. Note: Guests were not included in the analysis.

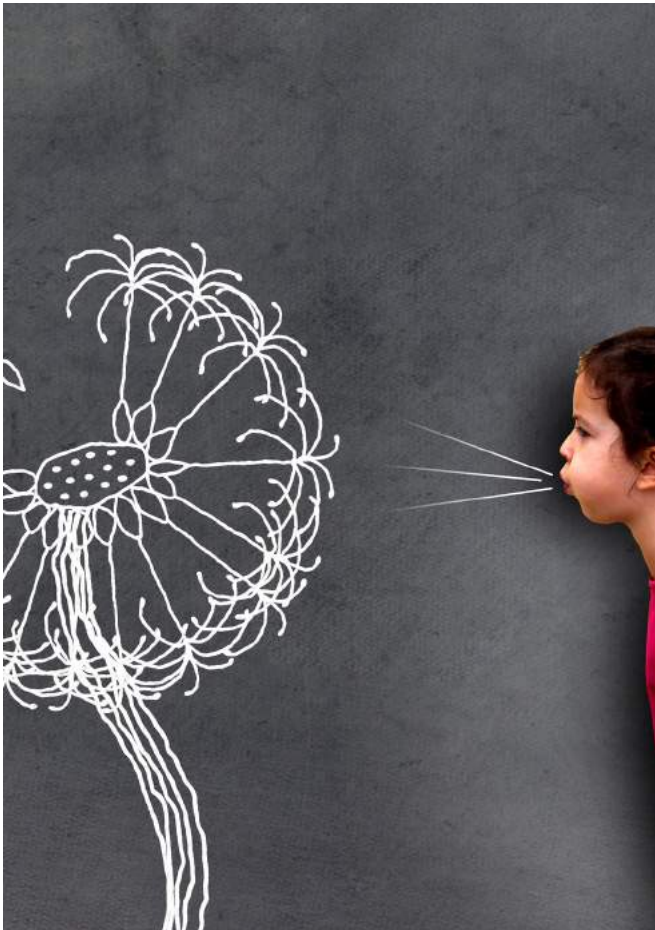
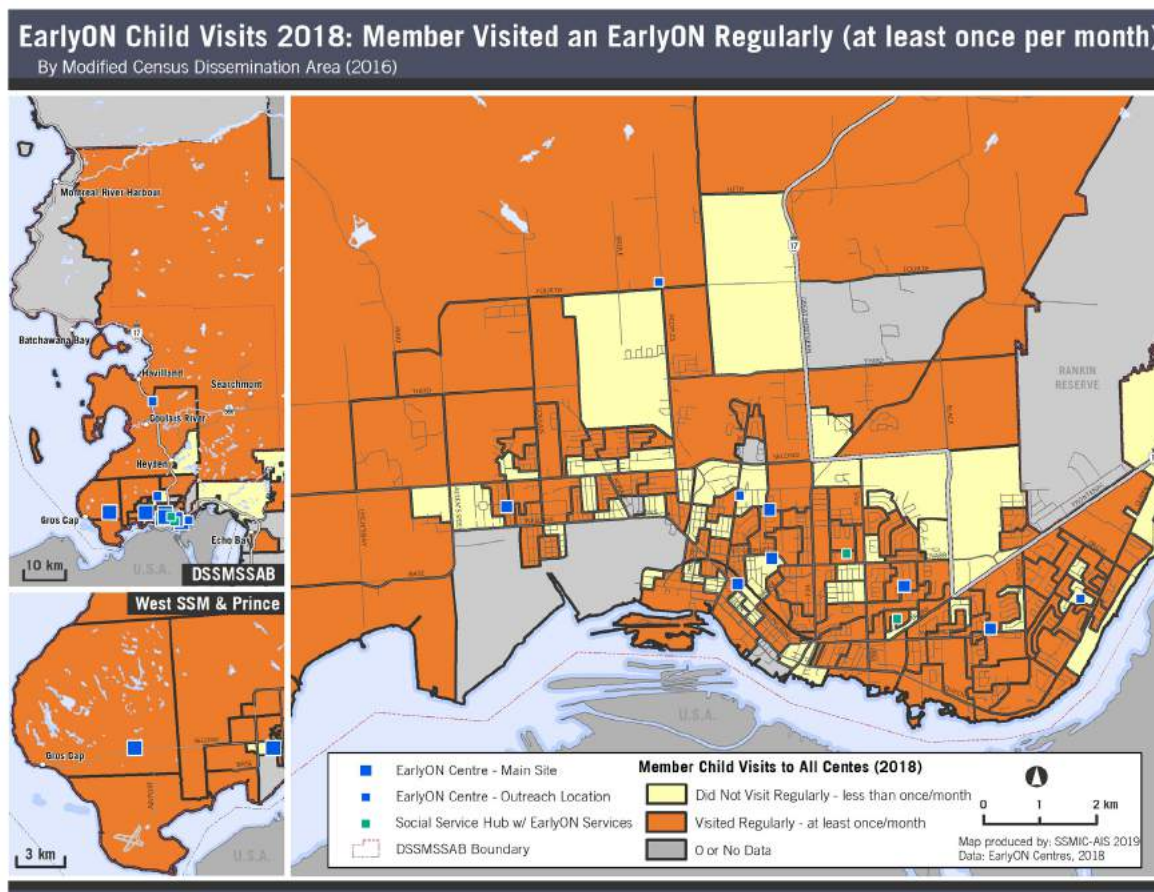


Figure 59: Regular Child Visitors to all EarlyON Locations by DA, June to December 2018 (Members Only)



### EARLYON SERVICE UPTAKE, JUNE TO DECEMBER 2018

By combining the approximate population of children aged 0 to 4 and the number of unique visitors aged 0 to 4 to the SSM EarlyON Centres, we can determine the approximate EarlyON service uptake by this population cohort. Please note that unique visitor data is limited to those who signed in using the KEYON system (June to December 2018).

The total estimated population of 0 to 4 year olds in the DSSMSSAB area in 2018 was 3,935 persons. The total number of unique children aged 0 to 4 who attended a DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centre between June and December 2018 was

1,117. This means that of the 3,935 persons aged 0 to 4 in the DSSMSSAB area, 28.4% of them attended an area EarlyON Centre between June and December 2018.

Figure 60 shows the approximate EarlyON service uptake by children aged 0 to 4 between June and December 2018 in each DA. This is calculated by dividing the unique visitors by the total population aged 0 to 4 in each DA and showing the result as a percentage. Figure 61 highlights the neighbourhoods that have a much higher and much lower than expected EarlyON service uptake percentage than the DSSMSSAB area as a whole.



Figure 60: EarlyON Service Uptake of 0 to 4 Year Olds by DA, June to December 2018

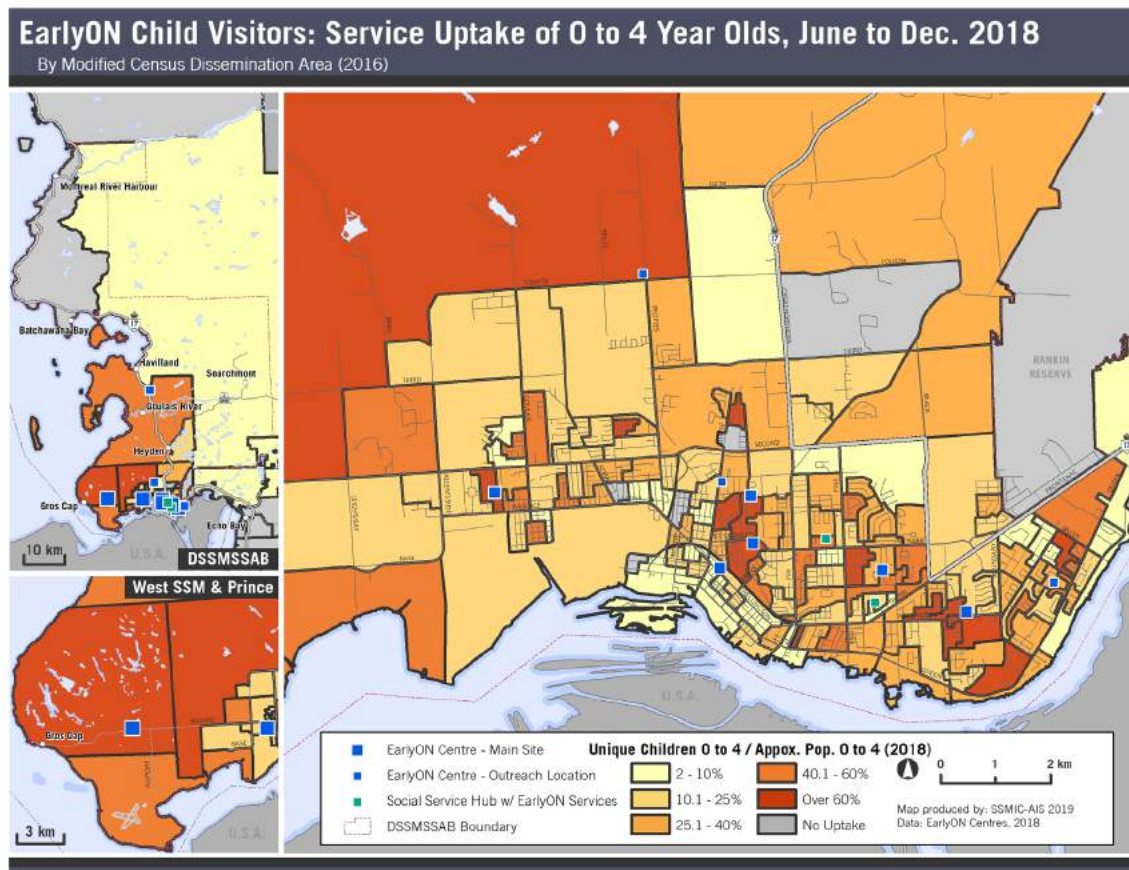
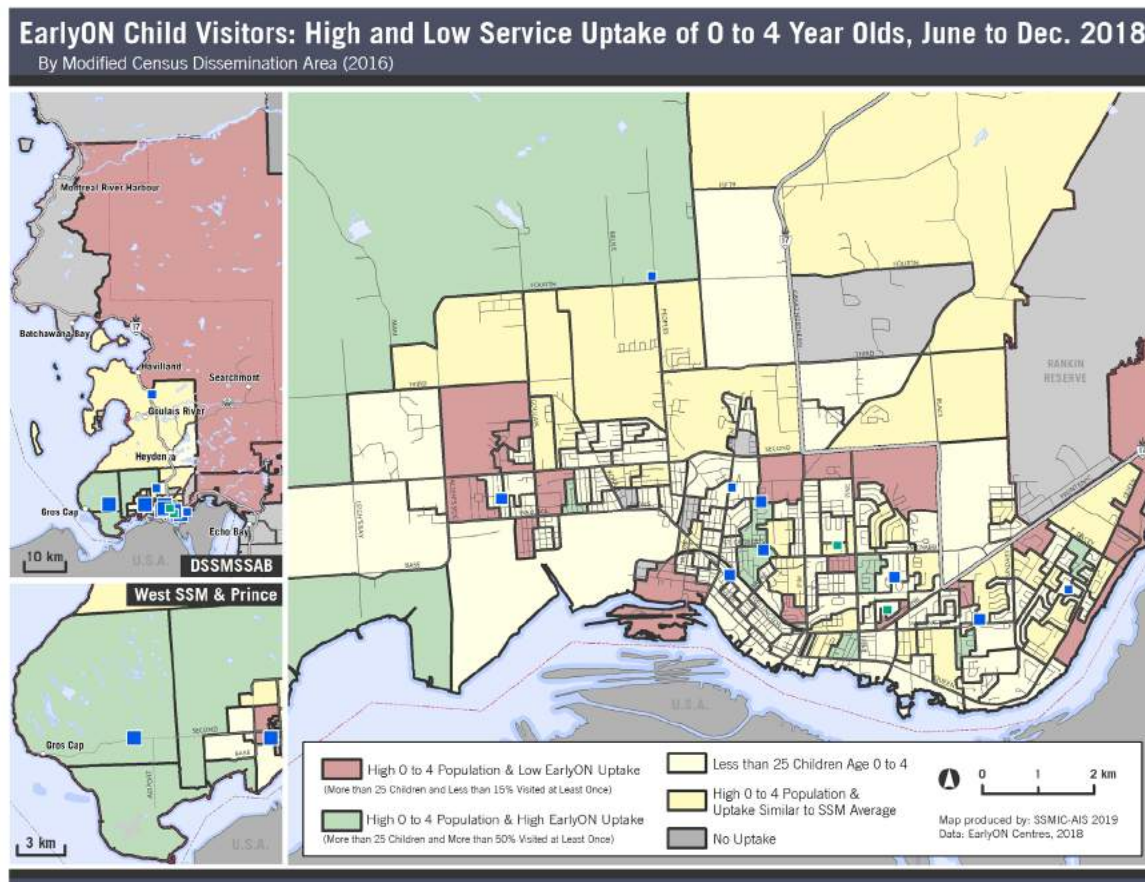


Figure 61: EarlyON High and Low Service Uptake of 0 to 4 Year Olds by DA, June to December 2018



LICENSED CHILD CARE

Licensed child care is available in the DSSMSSAB area as centre-based care and home care. Unlicensed child care centres or homes are not examined here.

LICENSED CHILD CARE LOCATIONS

Figure 62 shows all licensed centre-based and home child care locations in the DSSMSSAB area. The labels on this map correspond to the list of licensed child care centre locations shown in Table 13. All but one centre-based child care locations are within the City of Sault Ste. Marie; Mountain View (labelled as “20” in the map) is the only centre outside of the city.

Locations are spread throughout the urban area of the city, however, there does seem to be somewhat of a gap in the urban west end of the city, south of Second Line.

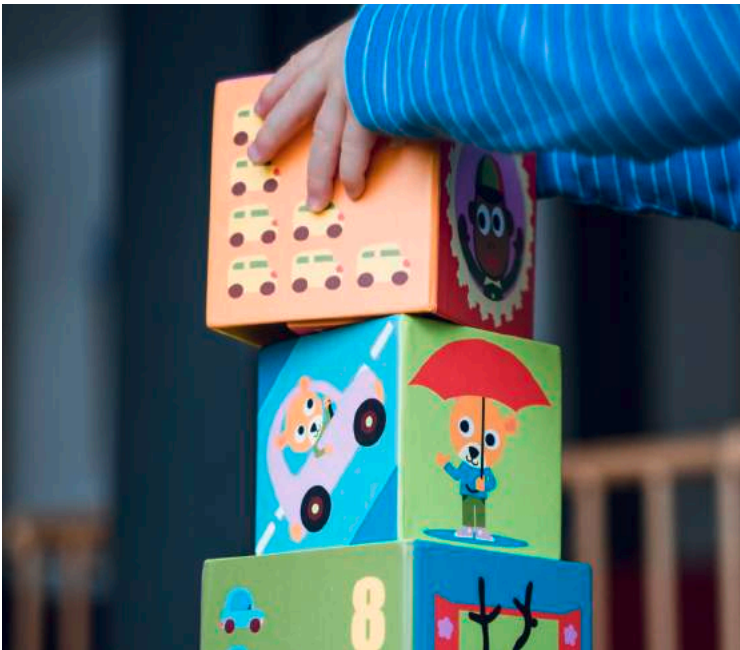
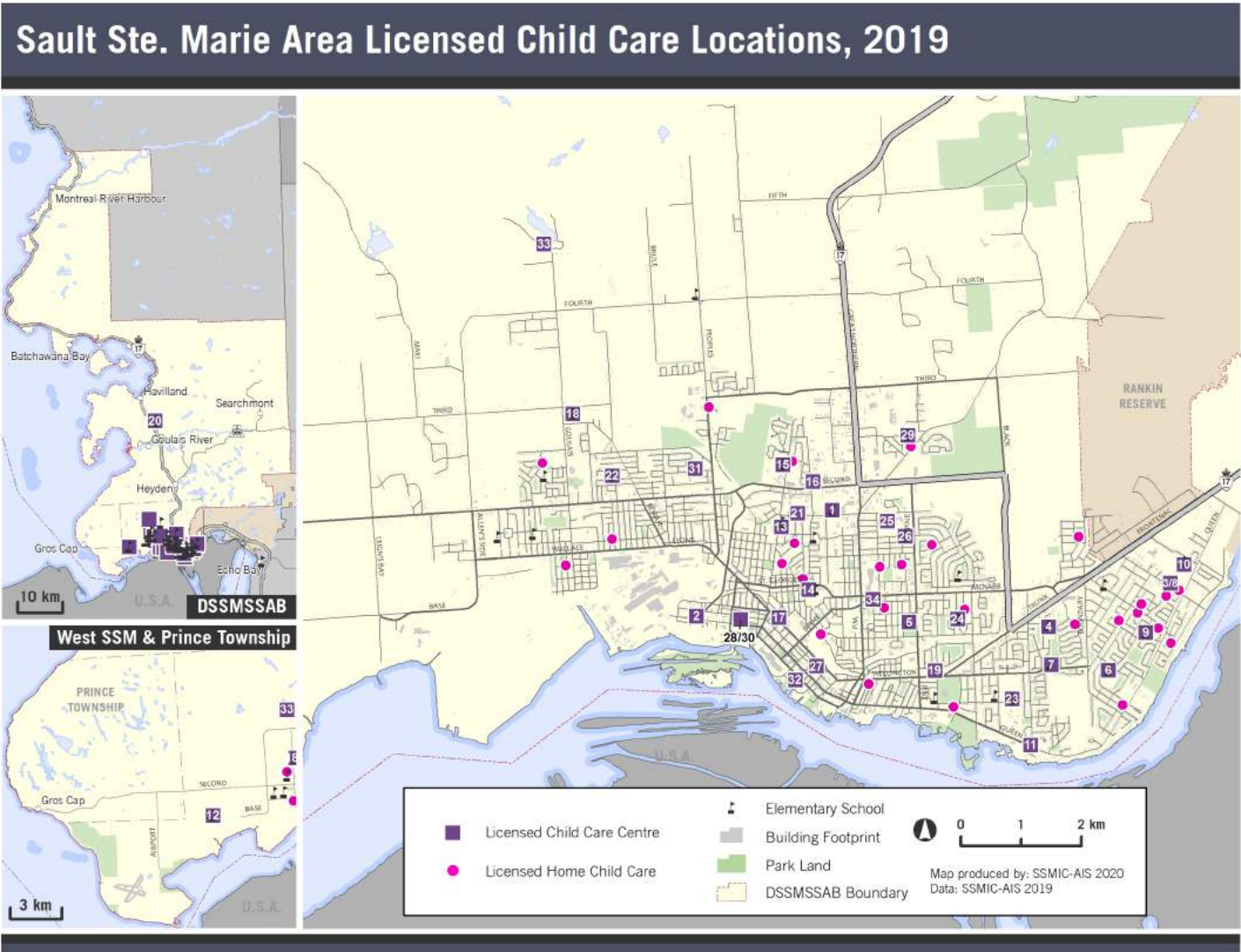


Figure 62: Licensed Child Care Locations in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019





**Table 13: List of Licensed Child Care Locations in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019**

<b>Label</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Name of School (If applicable)</b>
1	Boreal YMCA Child Care	YMCA Sault Ste. Marie	Boreal P.S.
2	Brighter Beginnings Children's Program	Sault Ste. Marie Soup Kitchen	
3	CCA - Dacey Road Child Care	Child Care Algoma	
4	CCA - Eastview	Child Care Algoma	East View P.S.
5	CCA - F.H. Clergue	Child Care Algoma	Francis H Clergue P.S.
6	CCA - Grandview	Child Care Algoma	Grandview P.S.
7	CCA - Holy Cross	Child Care Algoma	Holy Cross C.S.
8	CCA - Home Child Care	Child Care Algoma	
9	CCA - Parkland Site	Child Care Algoma	Parkland P.S.
10	CCA - Pinewood Extended Day	Child Care Algoma	Pinewood P.S.
11	CCA - Queen & Shannon	Child Care Algoma	
12	CCA - R.M. Moore	Child Care Algoma	R. M. Moore P.S.
13	CCA - Site Notre Dame du Sault	Child Care Algoma	École séparée Notre-Dame
14	CCA - St. Basil site	Child Care Algoma	St. Basil Elementary
15	Community Co-Operative Children's Centre	Community Cooperative Children's Services	Kiwedin P.S.
16	Hand in Hand Daycare	Hand in Hand Daycare Centre	
17	Holy Angels Learning Centre Preschool*	Huron Superior Catholic DSB	Holy Angels Learning Centre
18	Isabel Fletcher YMCA Childcare	YMCA Sault Ste. Marie	Isabel Fletcher P.S.
19	Meadow Park Montessori School**	Meadow Park Montessori School Inc.	
20	Mountain View Child Care Parent Child Resources Centre	Corporation of the Township of Prince	Mountain View P.S.
21	Northridge Montessori School**	Northridge Montessori School	Northridge Montessori
22	Our Lady of Lourdes YMCA Before/After School	YMCA Sault Ste. Marie	Our Lady of Lourdes C.S.
23	Riverside Christian Children's Centre	Riverside Christian Children's Centre	Anna McCrea P.S.
24	Riverview YMCA Child Care	YMCA Sault Ste. Marie	Riverview P.S.
25	Sault College Early Learning Centre	Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology	
26	Sault College Extended Day Program	Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology	St. Paul C.S.
27	Shkiyaak Niigaansiwig	Waabinong Head Start Family R.C.	
28	Soup Kitchen Back to Basics	Sault Ste. Marie Soup Kitchen	
29	Tarentorus YMCA Child Care	YMCA Sault Ste. Marie	Tarentorus P.S.
30	The Orchard Children's Centre	Alternative School Childcare Services	Etienne Brule P.S.
31	THRIVE - H.S. McLellan Preschool	THRIVE Child Development Centre	
32	Waterfront Child Development Centre	Waterfront Child Development Centre Inc.	
33	Wild Roots (Little Lions Waldorf Daycare)	Little Lions Waldorf Child and Family Centre	St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre
34	YMCA Childcare	YMCA Sault Ste. Marie	

\* Site is run by the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board – ½ day

\*\* Private child care



LICENSED CHILD CARE SPACES

The total number of licensed child care spaces in the DSSMSSAB area is shown in Table 14. There are 1,652 centre-based spaces and 175 home care spaces for a total of 1,827 licensed spaces.

Figure 63 breaks down the licensed centre-based spaces by age group. The Y-axis labels on this chart correspond to the list of licensed child care centre locations shown in Table 13 (“8” corresponds to home child care).

Table 14: Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces by Age Group, 2019

Licensed Child Care Space Type	Number of Spaces
Centre Based - Infant	97
Centre Based - Toddler	283
Centre Based - Preschool	517
Centre Based - Kindergarten	277
Centre Based - School Age	478
Centre Based - All Ages	1,652
Home Care - All Ages	175
Total Licensed Child Care Spaces	1,827

Figure 63: Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces by Age Group and Location, 2019

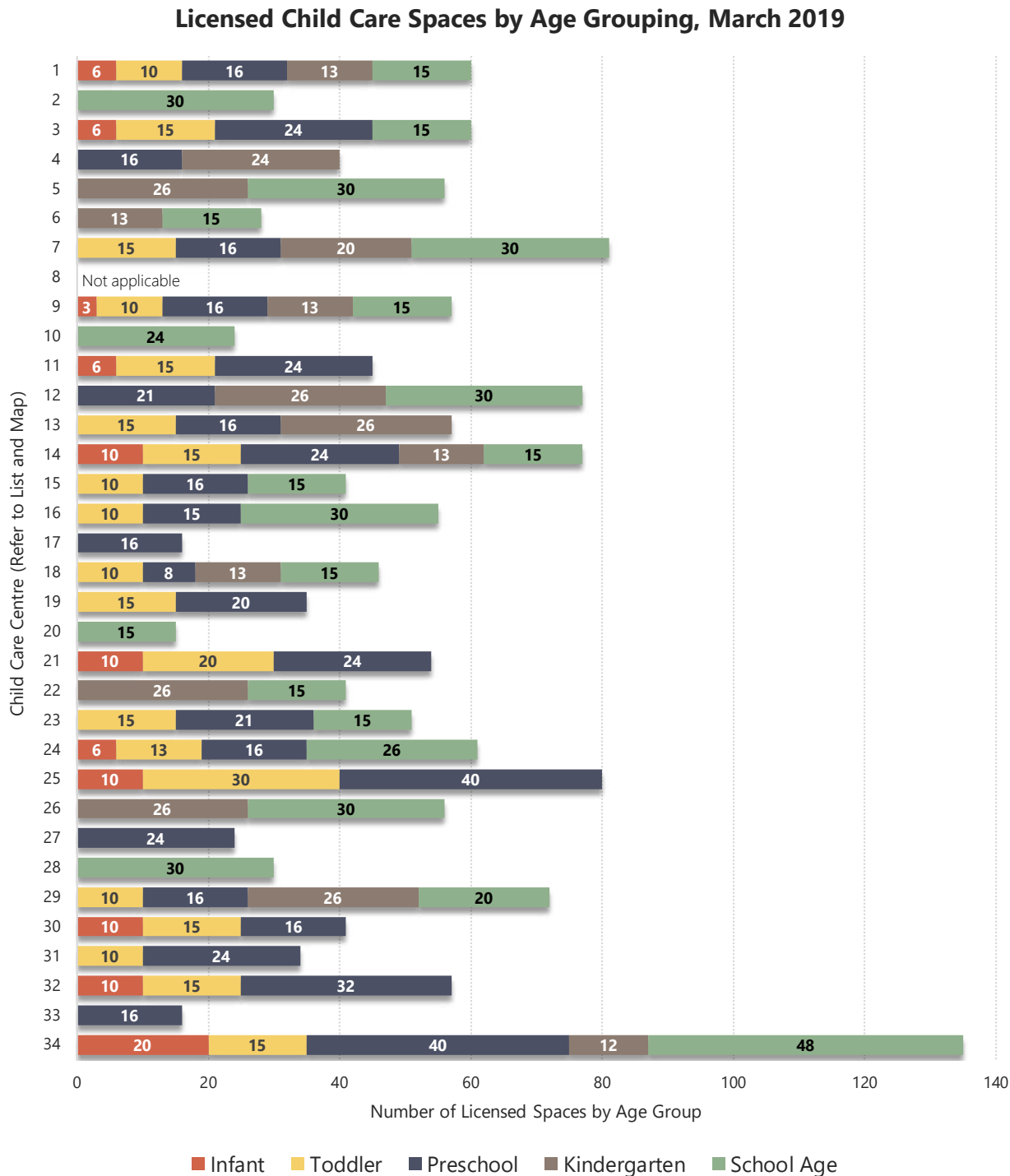


Figure 64 to Figure 68 show the locations of child care centres that have licensed spaces for each individual age grouping; infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten, and school age. The centres that have spaces for the age group shown in each map are represented as coloured squares. The size of the square corresponds to the number of spaces for that age group at that particular location.

Figure 64: Licensed Child Care Locations with Infant Spaces in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019

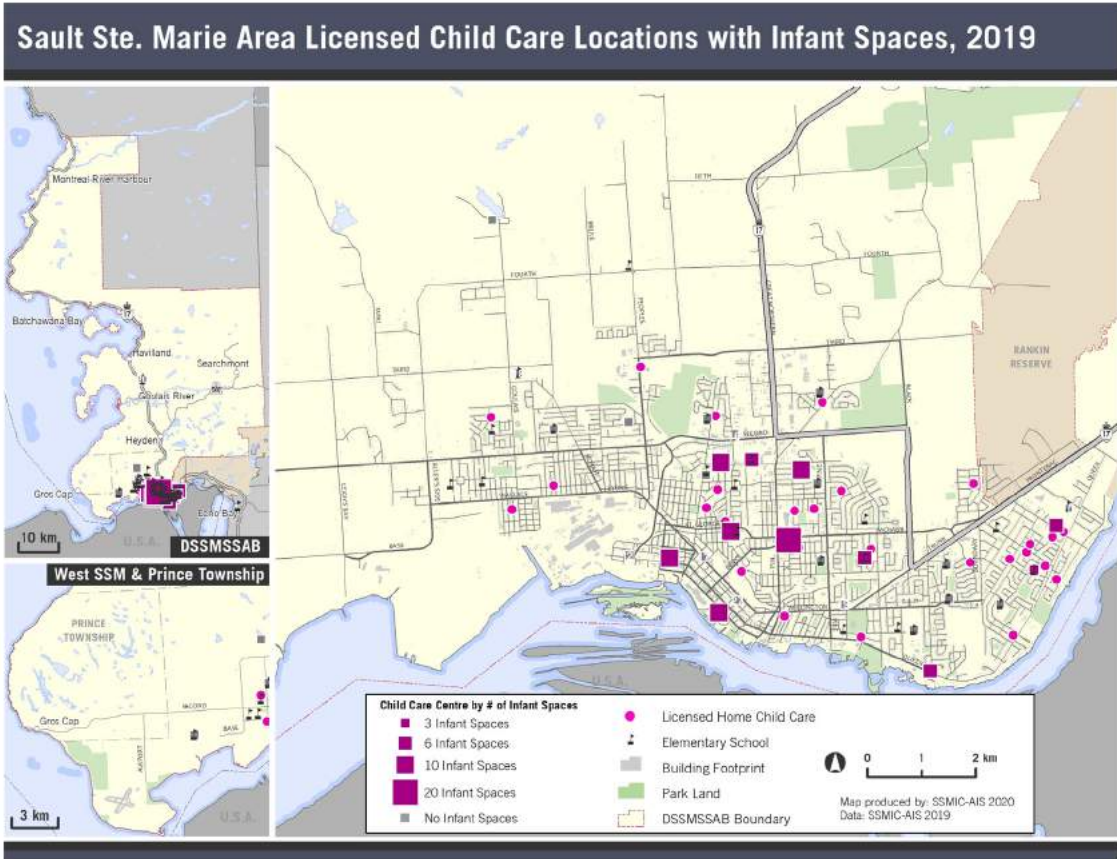


Figure 65: Licensed Child Care Locations with Toddler Spaces in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019

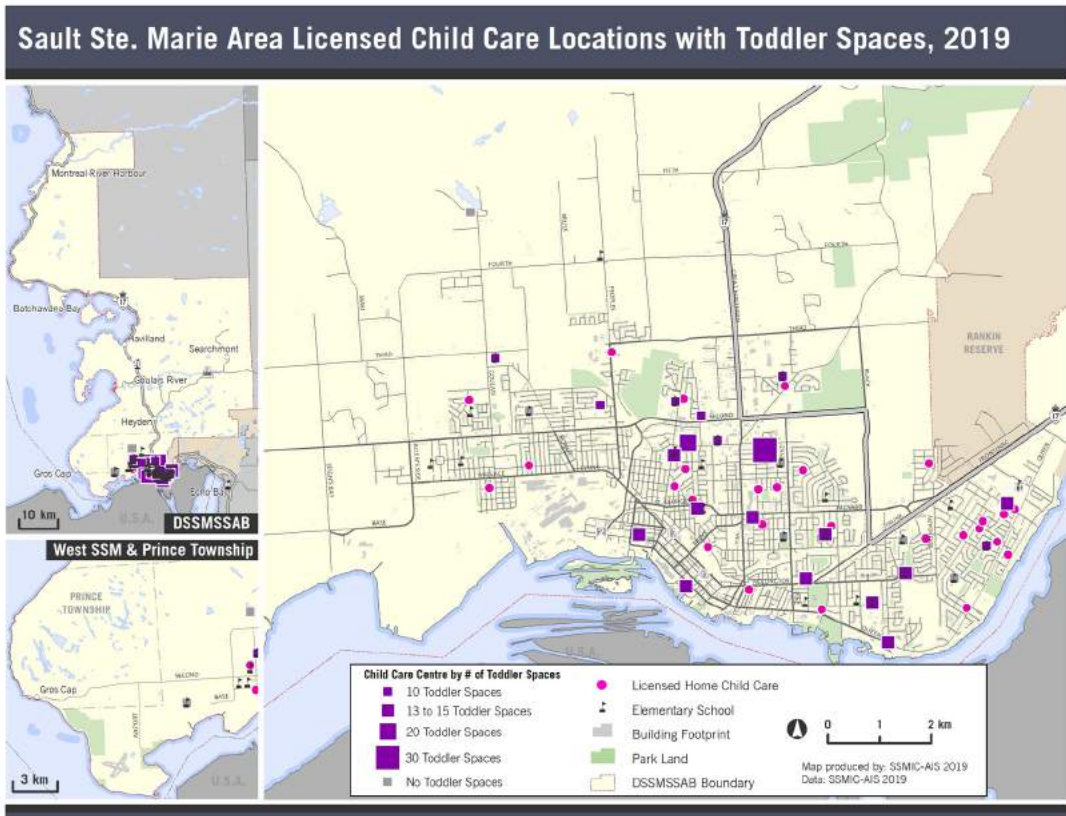




Figure 66: Licensed Child Care Locations with Preschool Spaces in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019

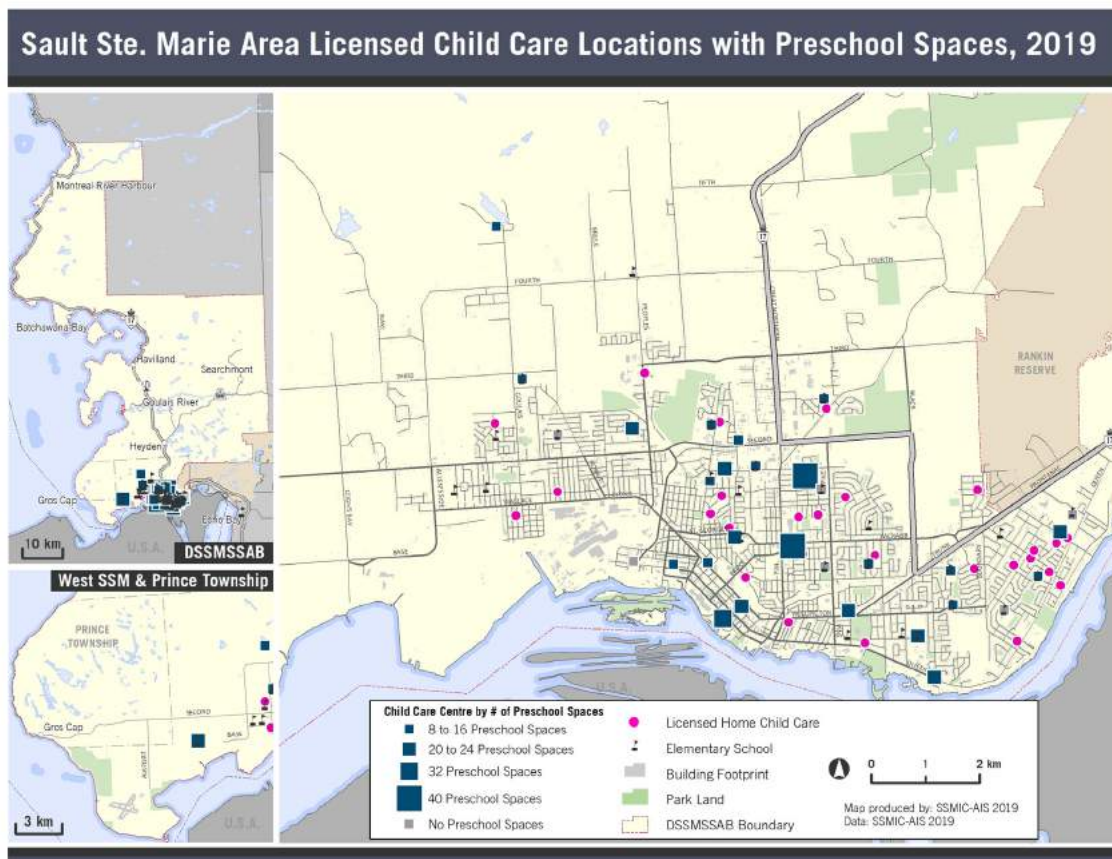


Figure 67: Licensed Child Care Locations with Kindergarten Spaces in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019

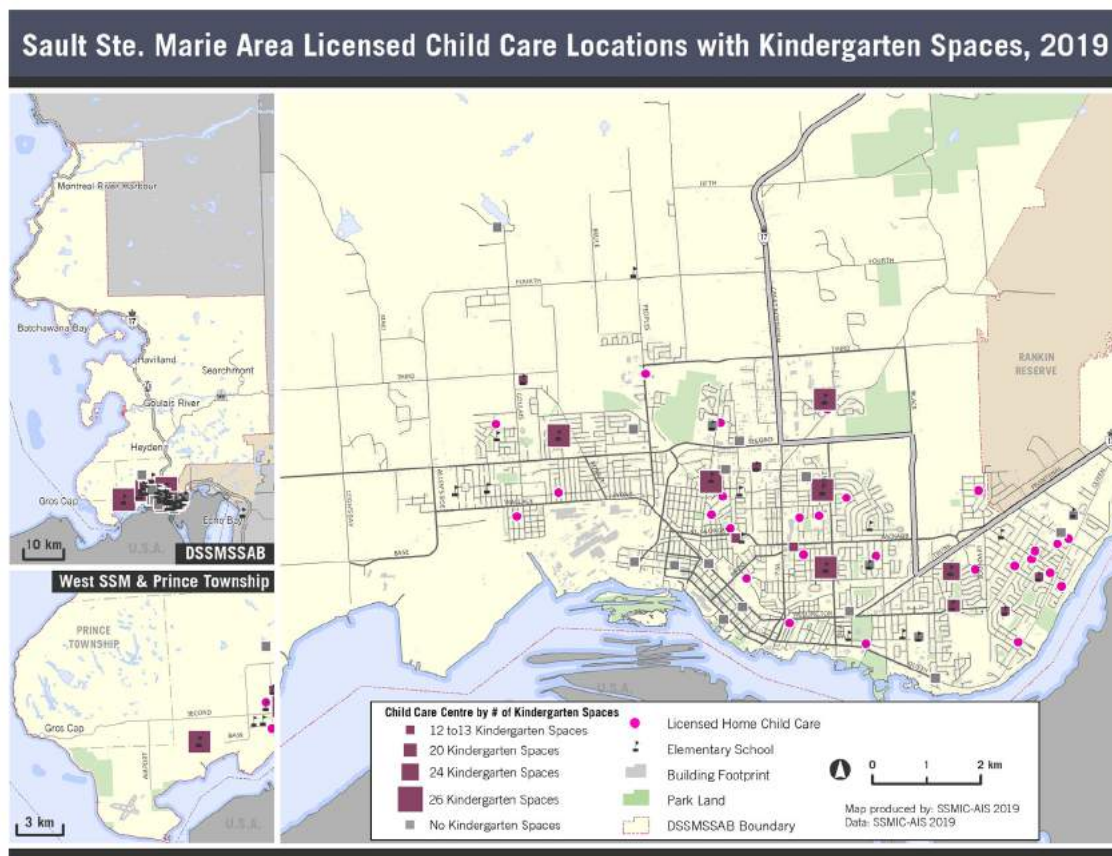
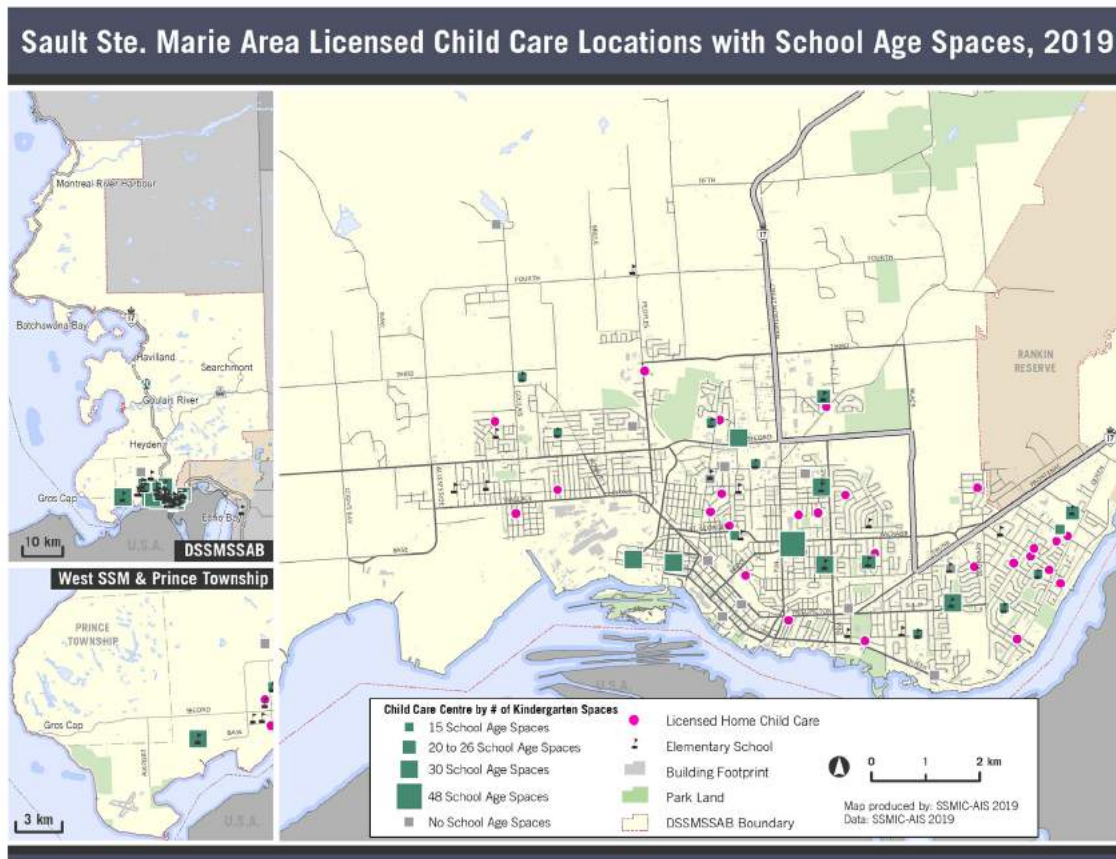




Figure 68: Licensed Child Care Locations with School Age Spaces in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019



## CHILD CARE WAITLIST

The DSSMSSAB area has a significant waitlist for licensed child care. As of mid-2018 the waitlist is administered through OneHSN's Sault Ste. Marie Central Child Care Application Site.

In May of 2018, there were a total of 1,084 individuals on the waitlist for licensed child care. It is possible that children are duplicated in that total due to some that have two different addresses in the data, or some that were signed up by two different parents, or some that may have been placed but are waiting for another spot at another child care centre.

The following map shows the residence of child care waitlist registrants aggregated by DA to protect confidentiality. Nearly all DAs in the DSSMSSAB area have at least one child on the waitlist. Higher concentrations are seen in the rural west end of Sault Ste. Marie, the Greenfield subdivision, Cambridge place, and several other neighbourhoods around the urban area of the city.



Figure 69: Child Care Waitlist Registrants in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, May 2018

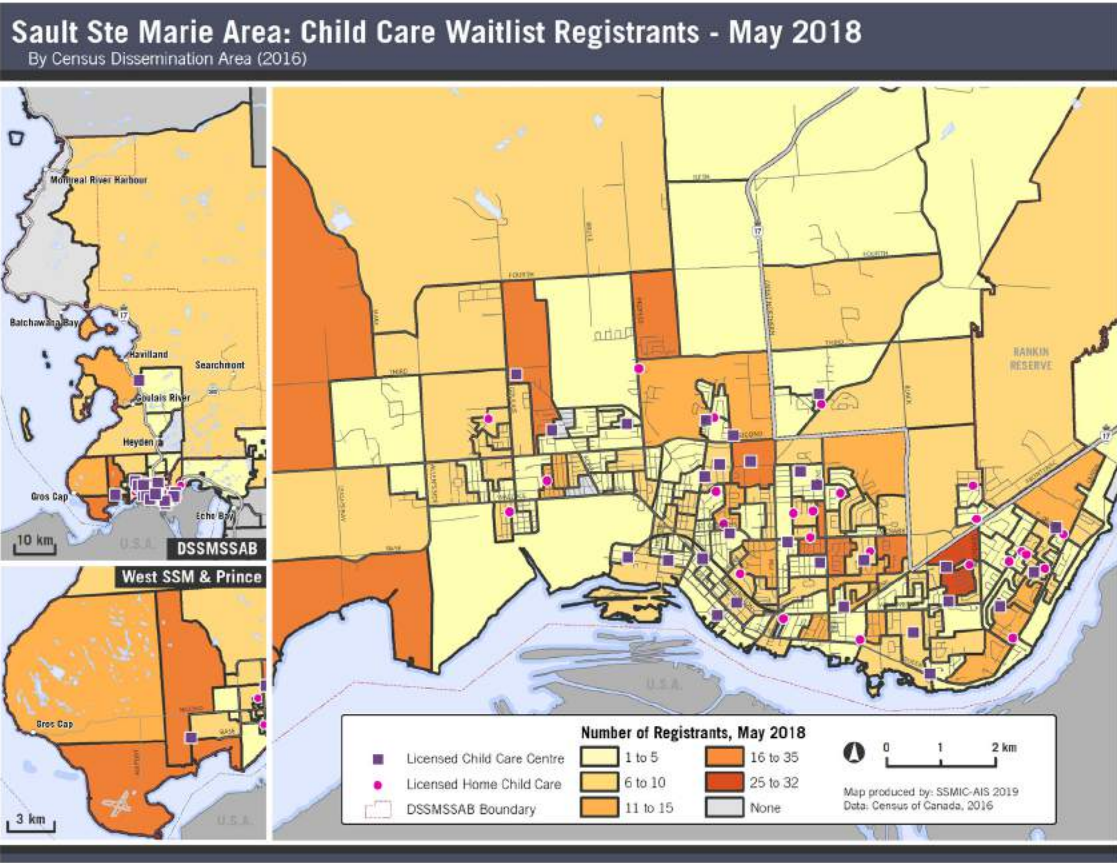
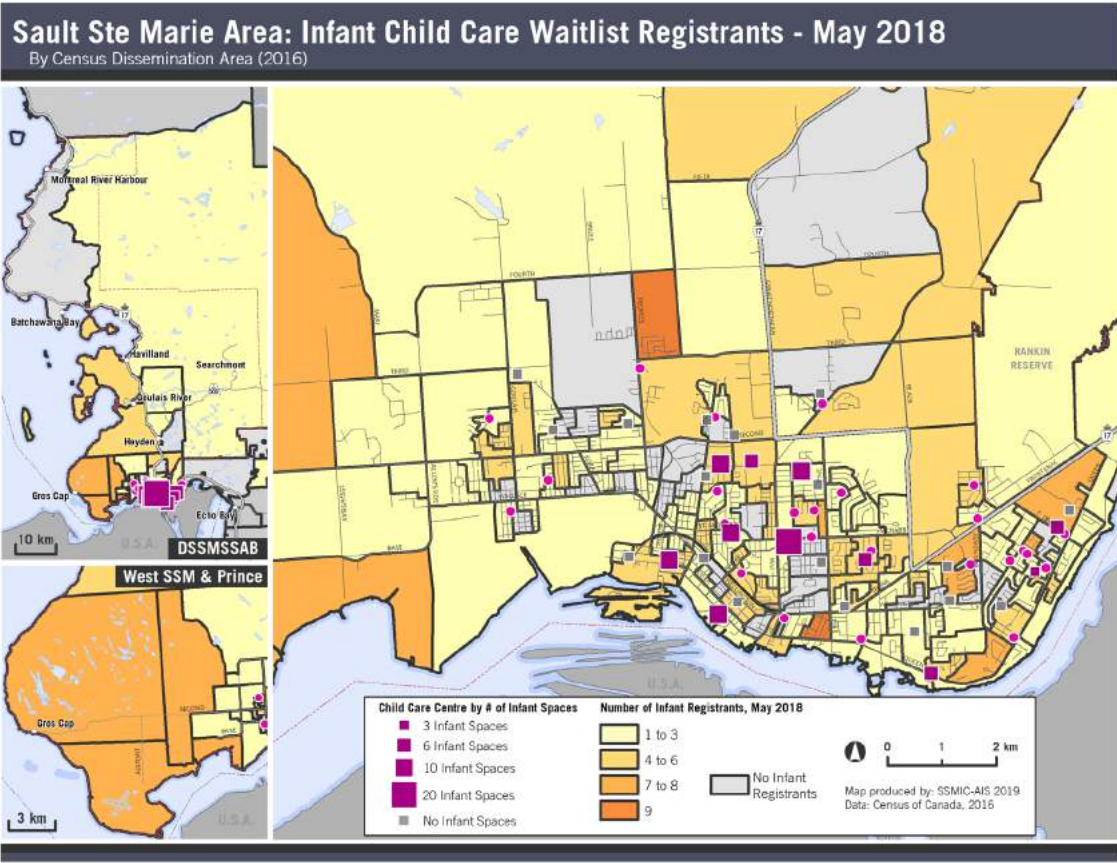


Figure 70 shows the infant child care waitlist registrants by DA and includes the location of child care locations that have infant spaces.

Figure 70: Infant Child Care Waitlist Registrants in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, May 2018





## PLAYGROUNDS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

The physical activity level of children can be partly influenced by access to playgrounds. Research has shown that playgrounds are an important environment for the healthy physical development of children and can also provide them with social, emotional and cognitive benefits.<sup>3</sup> A playground can provide the types of play that help children learn reflexes and movement control, develop fine and gross motor skills, increase flexibility and balancing skills, and learn to walk, run, jump, throw, climb, slide and swing. These activities all lead to improved physical health and fitness.<sup>4</sup>

Playgrounds also help children build self-confidence and self-esteem through risk-taking, conflict resolution and imaginative dramatic play. Children can also learn to interact with others

### PLAYGROUND “GAPS”

For the purposes of this analysis, playgrounds have been defined as any publicly accessible municipal or schoolyard park that contains playground equipment, such as swings, a climber and/or a slide. Analysis boundaries were also restricted to the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Prince Township, due to lack of available data outside of these areas.

There are 83 publicly accessible playgrounds in Sault Ste. Marie and Prince, of which 60 are operated by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and 2 by Prince Township. There are also 21 school grounds with play equipment. Private playgrounds, of

by learning to take turns and play cooperatively. Research has also shown that certain types of playground equipment facilitate cognitive learning for children. Examples include: climbers/bars assist children in learning scientific concepts such as the force of gravity and spatial awareness. Swings also help kids learn perceptual processes and body awareness through space.<sup>5</sup>

The following analysis examines the walking distance to playgrounds and the general condition and quality of playgrounds. The results can help identify the neighbourhoods that do not have a playground within a reasonable walking distance, as well as playgrounds that are in need of attention due to poor condition.

which there were 13, were not included in distance calculation results as access is normally restricted to a small population.

To determine “gaps” in playground coverage within the city, a reasonable maximum distance that a child can be expected to walk must be determined. Research has shown that the average child can reasonably be expected to walk a maximum of 800 metres (1/4 mile) to reach a playground. Assuming average adult walking speed is about 5 kilometres per hour, and a child’s walking speed is about 3 kilometres per hour (50 metres per minute), an 800 metre walk would take around 15 to 16 minutes.

### PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT EVALUATION

All 99 municipal, school and private playgrounds in the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Prince Township were visited by SSMIC staff members in the summer of 2018. Playgrounds were scored based on the following criteria:

**Age Appropriateness of Equipment:** A great playground will have equipment tailored to children aged 0 to 12. Children of different ages that live in the same neighbourhood should all be able to enjoy the playground.

**Equipment Variety:** A great playground should have a wide variety of equipment for children to play on to learn balance, build strength and interact with other children. A full park should contain multiple climbing apparatuses/bars, multiple slides, and at least one swingset or saucer/tire swing, and has other types of equipment.

**Equipment Condition:** A great playground will have equipment that is in working order, is safe to use, and does not require repairs.

**Green Space & Sportsfields** - A great playground should have space either within the playground itself or has some room outside of the playground like baseball diamonds and fields for children to run around. A great park/playground may offer a sportsfield, such as a baseball diamond or a basketball court.

Playgrounds that contained limited equipment, minimal greenspace, or hazards conditions that may cause injury (damaged equipment, corrosion, loose railings, etc.) were given successively lower scores depending on the number of infractions identified. Playgrounds were also docked points if they were strewn with litter and/or contained vulgar graffiti.

The score for each playground was tallied (out of 100) and playgrounds were then slotted into the following grades:

- Great (score of 85 to 100)
- Good (score of 70 to 84)
- Fair (score of 50 to 64)
- Poor (score of under 50)

<sup>3</sup> <http://voiceofplay.org/content.aspx?plD=14>

<sup>4</sup> <http://voiceofplay.org/content.aspx?plD=15>

<sup>5</sup> Voice of play



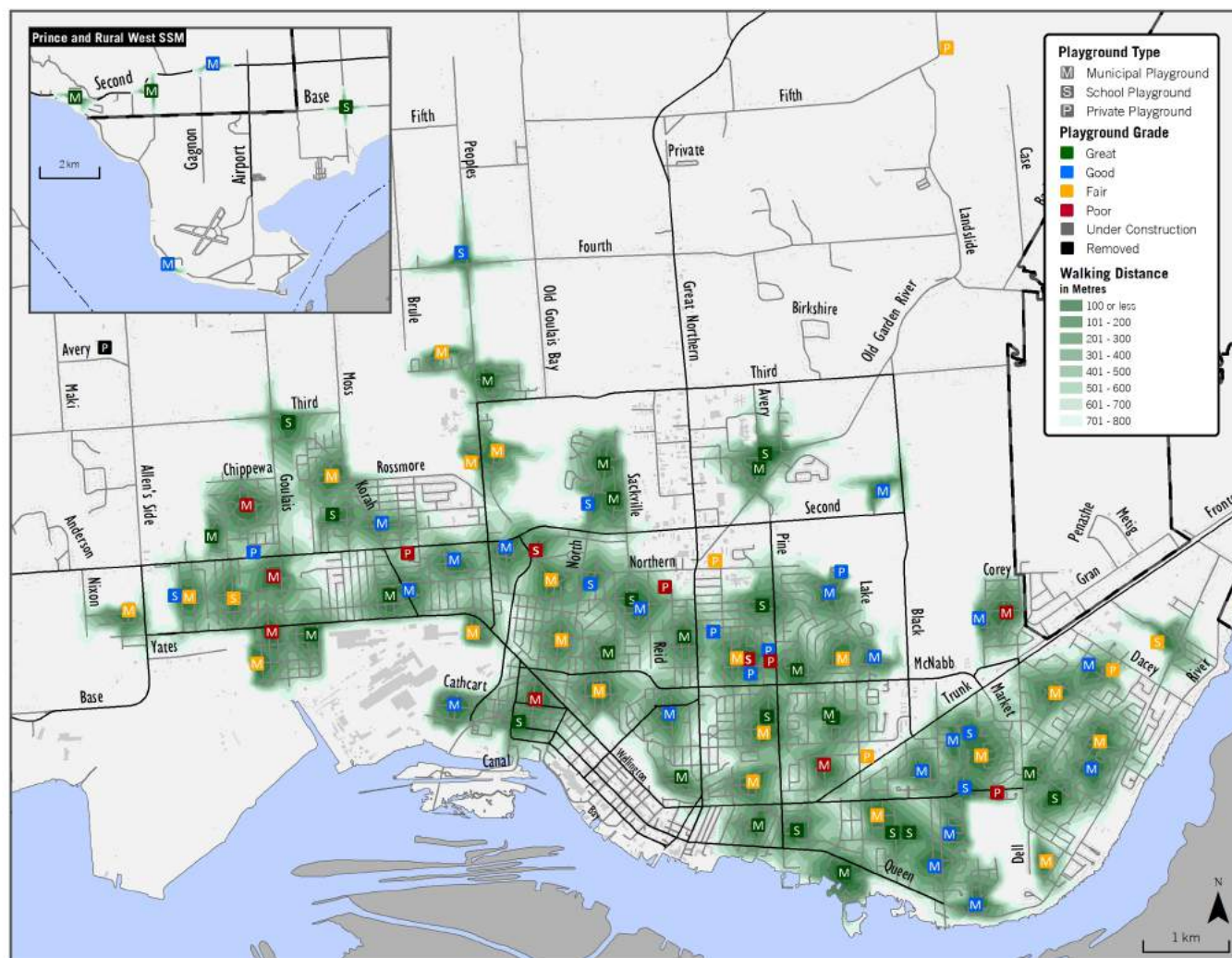
## RESULTS

The resulting map shows that the City of Sault Ste. Marie, for the most part, has suitable access to playgrounds; however, there are some neighbourhoods within the urban area of the city that do not have playgrounds within a reasonable walking distance of 800 metres (1/4 mile).

In the map below, the darker green colour indicates a playground close by, the lighter green has a playground near the limits of

a reasonable walking distance, and the light grey areas do not have a playground within an 800m walking distance. There are some areas within urban Sault Ste. Marie that do not have reasonable access to a playground. These areas include a large portion of downtown, the Bitonti/Pozzebon subdivision, the Connaught/Turner area, and the Millcreek Heights/Bianchi Estates subdivision, River Road at Dacey, and several others.

Figure 71: Walking Distance to Public Playgrounds and Playground Grades, Summer 2018



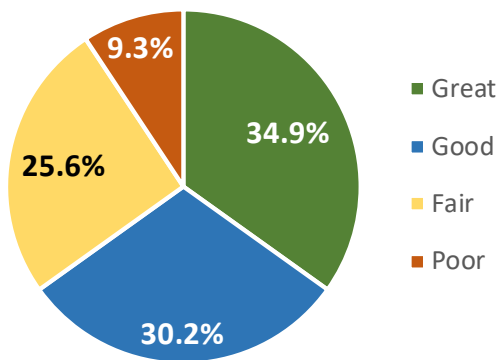
The downtown area is of particular interest as it is a mixed commercial and residential neighbourhood, with generally a lower socioeconomic status than the Sault Ste. Marie average. This includes lower levels of parental education, lower income households, a high proportion of rented dwellings, and a very mobile population. Those who live from Dennis Street, east to Kohler Street generally do not have access to a playground. In 2016, there were approximately 78 children aged 0 to 4, 89 children aged 5 to 9, and 58 children aged 10 to 14 living in this area of downtown.

The west end also has two large gaps in playground coverage. The Bitonti/Pozzebon subdivision near the Elliott Sports Complex

and the area surrounding the western half of Connaught Avenue do not have playgrounds within a reasonable walking distance. In 2016, there were approximately 33 children aged 0 to 4, 37 children aged 5 to 9, and 40 children aged 10 to 14 living in this area.

Of the 86 public access playgrounds in Sault Ste. Marie and Prince, 30 received a grade of "Great" (34.9%), 26 received a grade of "Good" (30.2%), 22 received a grade of "Fair" (25.6%) and 8 received a grade of "Poor" (9.3%). The average score for public access playgrounds for Sault Ste. Marie and Prince was "Good" (average score of 75). Results are summarized in the chart below.

Figure 72: Public Access Playground Grades (Municipal & Schools), 2018



The public access playgrounds that fell into the Poor category were spread across the city. They represented playgrounds that contained multiple hazards, signs of repeated vandalism and/or a general lack of equipment.

Of the 14 private playgrounds identified in Sault Ste. Marie and Prince, none received a grade of “Great”, 5 received a grade of “Good”, 5 received a grade of “Fair” and 4 received a grade of “Poor”. The private playgrounds that fell into the Poor category were located in different parts of the city. They generally had worn out, damaged or completely inoperable equipment.

## PROGRAMMING FOR EARLY YEARS AND YOUTH

### EVERY BREAKFAST COUNTS

Children across Sault Ste. Marie depend on programming provided during the school year to access a healthy breakfast. During the summer months when students are not in school, children in need often go without a daily breakfast.

In an effort to address this situation, the Mayor’s Office partnered with Algoma Family Services, Sault Ste. Marie District Social Services and the United Way of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District to launch Every Breakfast Counts in May 2018.

“As a community, we can pull together to address this issue,” said Mayor Christian Provenzano. “We have assembled a great team of community-minded people from Algoma Family Services, Sault Ste. Marie District Social Services and the United Way. Every child in Sault Ste. Marie deserves to have a nutritious breakfast, and I encourage people to support Every Breakfast Counts because every breakfast does count and no child should go hungry.”

“Ensuring children across our community have access to nutritious meals is an identified area of concern, and this initiative will go a long way in helping us assist children in need,” said Mike Nadeau, Sault Ste. Marie District Social Services CAO.

### LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Public libraries are key contributors to literacy and lifelong learning. Studies have shown that a public library’s role in early learning is particularly important for children in rural communities and for children from low-income families.<sup>6</sup> The Sault Ste. Marie Public Library currently has two branches: The James L. McIntyre Centennial Library and Korah Branch Library. A new branch is scheduled to open at Boreal School. Both current locations offer early years programming. Table



The Kids Being Kids program (pg. 73) has played an instrumental role in implementing the Every Breakfast Counts initiative in the six priority areas located in the family housing communities owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation.

15 lists the Early Literacy Programs provided by the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library.

Please note that Prince Township has its own public library. This library runs a Mother Goose Reading time in conjunction with the Prince EarlyON Centre but currently does not hold a regularly scheduled time.

<sup>6</sup> Accessed: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/environmental-scan-culture-sector-ontario-culture-strategy-background-document/sector-profile-public-libraries>, Institute of Museum and Library Services, “Nine to Nineteen: Youth in Museums and Libraries – A Practitioner’s Guide” (Washington: Institute of Museum and Library Services, April 2008).

**Table 15: List of Early Literacy Programs at Sault Ste. Marie Public Library (Registration Required)**

Name of Program	Ages	Child Capacity	Description
Baby Time	0 - 12 months	16	The program runs for 6 weeks and each session is 30 minutes long. Caregivers attend the program with the child. The program focuses on songs, rhymes, literacy, story time, providing the babies with library cards and ensuring parents are aware of the services the library offers. This program is always full and has a waiting list.
Baby Picasso	6 -12 months	12	The program runs for 4 weeks and each session is 1 hour long. Caregivers attend the program with the child. The program focuses on early stimulation and sensory experiences through classical music and art. This program is always full and has a waiting list.
Toddler Time	13 -29 months	12	The program runs for 6 weeks and each session is 45 minutes long. Caregivers attend the program with the child. The program focuses on early literacy skills and includes playtime, snacks, stories, art, music, and rhymes. Each child also gets a bag with the Nipissing Developmental Screen Checklist for parents to look over. This program is always full.
Preschool Storytime	30-48 months	16	The program runs for 10 weeks and each session is 1 hour long. Caregivers drop off the children in the room but stay on the library premises. The program focuses on school readiness skills and includes group time, playing with playdough, snack time, art, and music. It focuses on developing higher level skills. This program is well attended.
Get Set for School	3-4	16	The program runs during the summer months. It runs for 6 weeks and each session is 2 hours long. The program focuses on getting ready for school. Children bring their own lunch and can experience separation from their caregivers as they would at school, group play and independent play. The program focuses on the EDI Domains when applying readiness for school. Best practices and theories for child development are followed. Two Early Childhood Educators are involved in the program, and as a result the program is costly and dependent upon financing.
Dove Real Beauty	6-12	12	The program runs twice a year. The Dove Real Beauty Workshop for Girls is a fun, educational and interactive program for young girls ages 6-12 and their adult female mentors: mothers, relatives, friends, etc.
TD Summer Reading Program	3-7, 8-12	25	The program runs for 6 weeks and each session is 1 hour long. The TD Summer Reading Club is Canada's biggest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, all interests, and all abilities. This free program is co-created and delivered by more than 2,000 public libraries across Canada. It celebrates Canadian authors, illustrators and stories. It is designed to inspire kids to explore the fun of reading their way - the key to building a lifelong love of reading.

Table 16 shows the list of drop-in programs provided by the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library. These programs do not require registration.

**Table 16: Drop-In Programs Available at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library**

Program Name	Day	Time
Lego Club	Monday	6:00PM-7:30PM
Chess Club	Tuesday	6:00PM-8:30PM
Sandman Storytime - Stories & Crafts	Wednesday	7:00PM-7:30PM
Stories & Crafts	Sunday	2:30PM-3:00PM
Stories & Crafts for preschool children	Monday & Friday	10:00AM-10:30AM
Stories & variety of crafts and games	P.A. Days	10:00AM-3:00PM

## **SUMMER PROGRAMMING FOR EARLY YEARS AND YOUTH**

Table 17 shows a list of program providers, the name of summer programs available, as well as the target age group(s) of the attendees.

Licensed Summer Programming for school-aged children is limited with 3 programs currently operating at Child Care Algoma-Parkland site (east end), Hand in Hand Summer



Program (central) and Community Cooperative Children's Services (west-central). The City of Sault Ste. Marie offers two summer recreation programs at Etienne Brule Community Hub/Greco Pool and at the Manzo Pool in the west end. The

Sault Community Soup Kitchen also offers a drop in summer program at their west end location. These three programs are offered free of charge to children living in those areas.

**Table 17: List of Planned Summer Programs for Early Years and Youth, 2019**

<b>Name of Provider</b>	<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Target Age Group</b>
ADSB/White Pines Robotics	VEXIQ Summer Camp	Ages 7-13
Algoma University	Basketball Basics Camp	Ages 6 -11
	Thunderbird Day Camp	Ages 6-12
	Elite Basketball Camp	Ages 12-18
Art Gallery of Algoma	All Things Paper	Ages 4-9
	Animals in the Gallery	Ages 4-9
	Cartoons & Animation	Ages 4-9
	Disney World	Ages 4-9
	Drawing & Colouring	Ages 4-9
	Sculpture & Structure	Ages 4-9
	Unicorns & Trolls	Ages 4-9
	Animation	Ages 10-15
	Collage	Ages 10-15
	Drawing	Ages 10-15
	Mixed Media	Ages 10-15
	Painting	Ages 10-15
	Paper Art	Ages 10-15
	Sculpture	Ages 10-15
Bricks 4 Kidz	Pre-School Classes	Ages 3-5
	School Break Camps	Ages 5-12
	Bricks 4 Girlz	Ages 7 and up
Cases Music	Summer Camps	Ages 4-6, 6-8, 8-11, 7-11
Catalyst Fitness	Founder/Farmer/Tinker/Thief Summer Camp!	Ages 8-12
Jade Wellness Studio	Half Day Yoga Camp at Jade Wellness	Ages 5-9
Sault College	Junior Chef	Ages 8-12
	Junior Scientist	N/A
Sault Ste. Marie Gymnastics Club	SSMGC Summer Camp	Ages 4-12
Science North	Animal Adventures	Ages 4-5
	Mix, Make & Move	Ages 4-5
	Nature Camp	Ages 4-5
	Science Starter	Ages 4-5
	#EngineerLikeAGirl	Ages 6 -8, 9-11
	Discovery Camp	Ages 6-8
	Space Explorers	Ages 6-8
	Watertastic!	Ages 6-8
	Sensational Science	Ages 6-8, 8-11
	TechWhiz 2019	Ages 7-9
	EV3 Explorers	Ages 8 -11, 9 -11, 10-12

	Unbelievable Science	Ages 8-10, 9-11
	Media Camp	Ages 8-10, 9-11, 10-12, 11-13
Strathclair Farm	Tykes Camp	Ages 6-8
	Regular Camp	Ages 8 and up
	Variety Camp	Ages 10 and up
	Dance-Arts-Crafts-Games	Ages 3-11
Studio Dance		
The Sault Youth Theatre	Summer Theatre Camp 2019	N/A
YMCA	Daily Camp Option	Ages 4-12
	Jr Kids Club	Ages 4-5
	Arts & Discovery	Ages 6-12
	Gymnastics Camp	Ages 6-8, 9-12
	Sports & Games Camp	Ages 6-8, 9-12
	Swimming Camp	Ages 6-8, 9-12
	Leaders in Training	Ages 12-16
YMCA/Camp St. Kateri	Outdoor Adventure Camp	Ages 6-8, 9-12

## KIDS BEING KIDS PROGRAM

The Kids Being Kids (KBK) Program is a summer activity-based program designed for families and children living in social housing to have access to recreational programming in the local community. The principle goal of the KBK Program is to provide a sense of community to families residing in units owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation (SSMHC). The KBK program also allows children the ability to participate in a summer recreation program that they otherwise would not have access to. The program is available to all tenants who reside in units owned by the SSMHC and the onsite activities take place specifically in six family housing communities: Adrian Drive, Boston Avenue, Shannon/Capp, Chapple/Albion, Second Line and the Hamilton Heights area.

Kids Being Kids runs five days a week during July and August. The activities are directed at children aged 6-12 years old, but if younger children want to participate, they may if accompanied by an adult. On-site activities include: outdoor sports, small group games, arts & crafts, sing songs and storytelling. Some off-site activities include: swimming, gymnastics, as well as various local tours and field trips. It also offers educational components to the program which includes a gardening program and various presentations by community agencies.

This year, the program ran for 34 days starting July 8th, 2019 and ending on August 23rd, 2019. Children could either attend both the morning and afternoon session (full day) or just one session (half day).

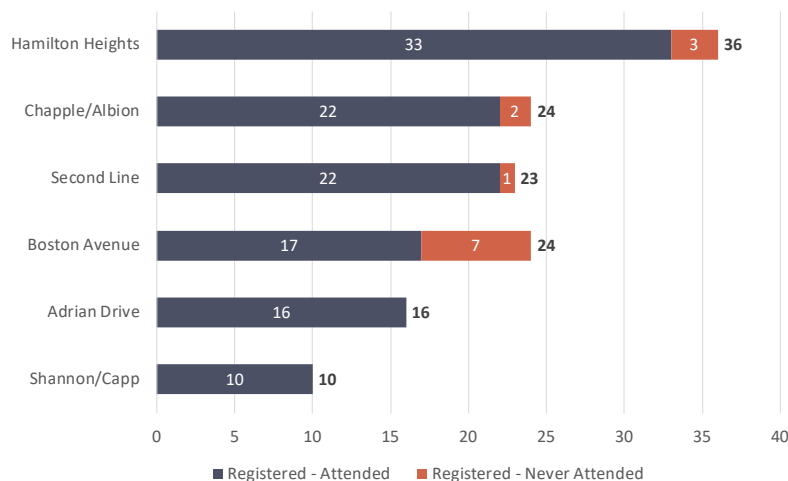
## TOTAL VISITS

A total of 133 children were registered in the KBK program. Of these registered children, 13 never attended a session. The analysis that follows focuses on the visits made by the remaining 120 children who attended at least one session over the course of the summer. Figure 73 shows the total number of children registered by site. It includes those who attended versus those who did not. Hamilton Heights had the



most registrants with 36 children; 33 of them attended at least one session while 3 of them never attended. Boston Avenue had the most children who registered but never attended - 7. Both Adrian Drive and Shannon/Capp had all children who registered attend at least one session.

Figure 73: Total Children Registered in the KBK Program by Site



Of the children who were registered and attended at least one session, 107 children were over 6 years old while 13 children were under 6 years. Figure 74 shows the percent of children in each age grouping for each of the KBK sites.

Figure 74: Percent of Children by Age Grouping

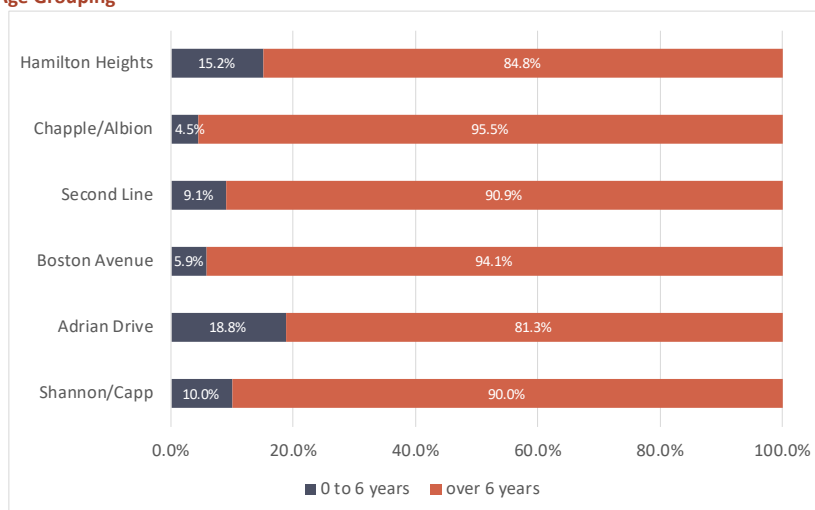


Figure 75 shows the total number of visits made separated by morning and afternoon visits. It is important to note that if a child attended both the morning and afternoon session on the same day, their visits were counted twice: once for the morning and once for the afternoon. There was a total of 2,747 visits made between July and August. Adrian Drive had the most visits at 599 despite having the second least number of registrants attended a session.

Figure 75: Total Child Visits by Time of Day (Morning or Afternoon)

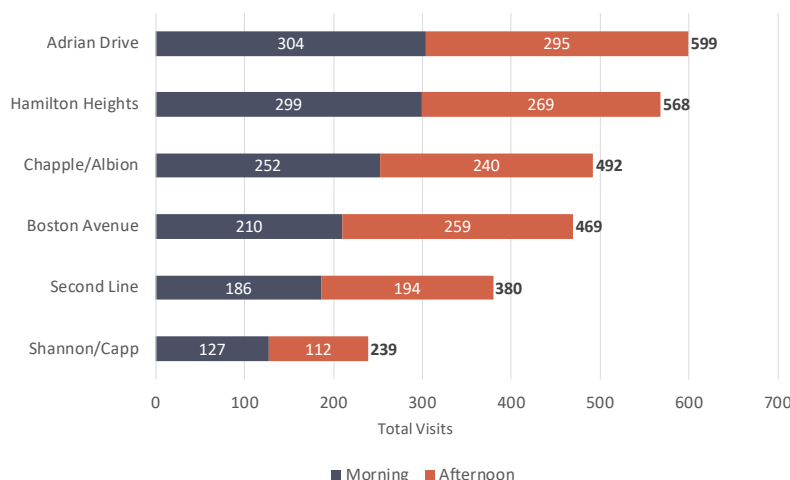
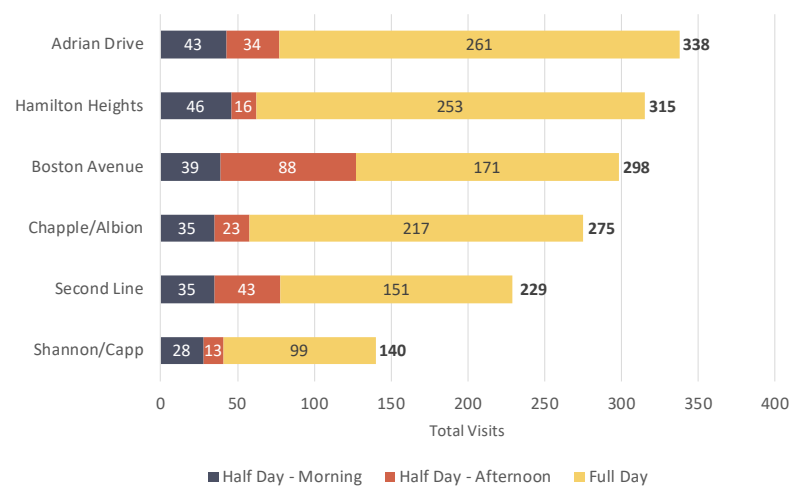




Figure 76 shows the total number of visits made to each site by the type of visit. If a child attended a morning and afternoon session on the same day, their visits were counted once as a “Full Day” visit. Children who only attended one session in a day were split into either “Half Day – Morning” or “Half Day – Afternoon”. There was a total of 1,595 visits made. At all

sites, full day attendance was the most common visit type. Boston Avenue had the most half day attendance with 39 in the morning and 88 in the afternoon. With the exception of Boston Avenue and Second Line, most half-day visits were made in the morning.

Figure 76: Total Child Visits by Visit Type



VISITS BY DAY OF WEEK

The following figures show data based on full day and half day attendance, meaning if a child attended both a morning and afternoon session, their visit was counted once as a full day visit.

sites were closed for one day on Monday, August 5th, which could partially explain the reduced attendance numbers. Figures 78 to 83 show the total number of visits made by day of week for each of the six sites. Please note, as previously mentioned, all sites were closed on Monday, August 5th, which could explain the lower visit numbers seen on Mondays.

Figure 77 shows the total number of visits made by day of week. Thursday and Friday had the most visits at 346 and 344 respectively. Monday had the lowest attendance; however, all

Figure 77: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, All Sites

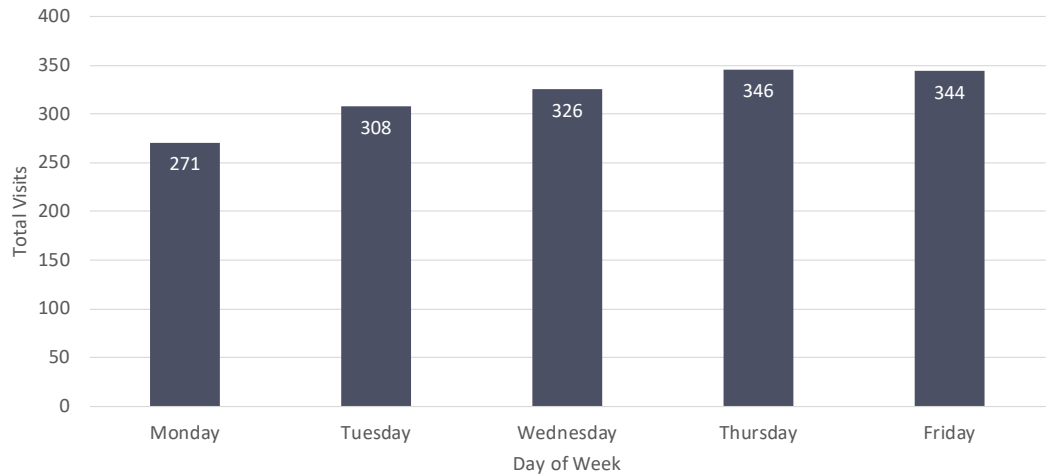


Figure 78: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, Adrian Drive Site

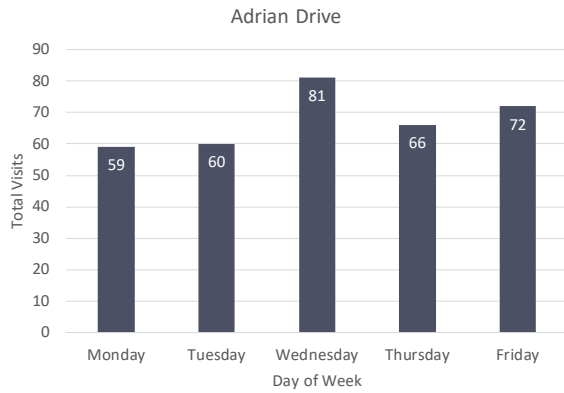


Figure 79: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, Hamilton Heights Site

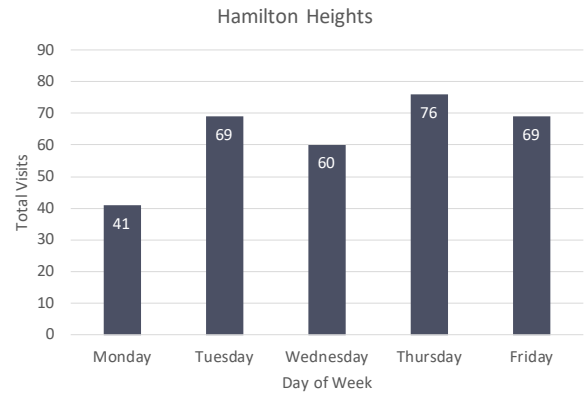


Figure 80: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, Boston Avenue Site

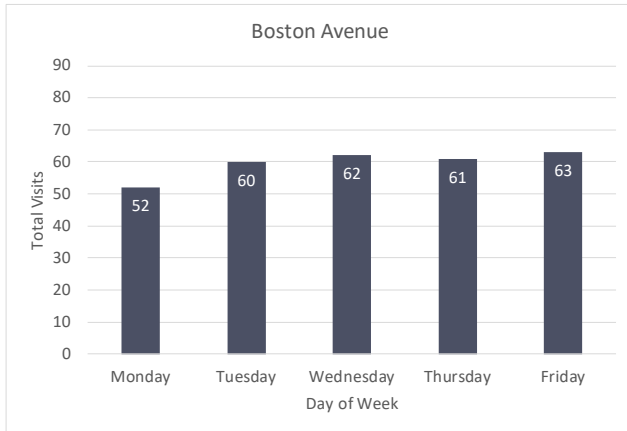


Figure 81: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, Chapple/Albion Site

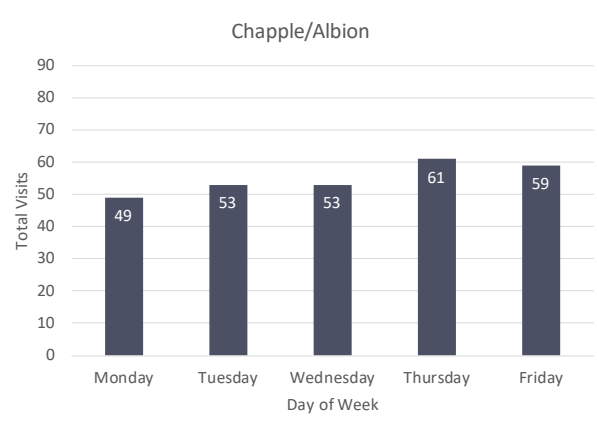


Figure 82: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, Second Line Site

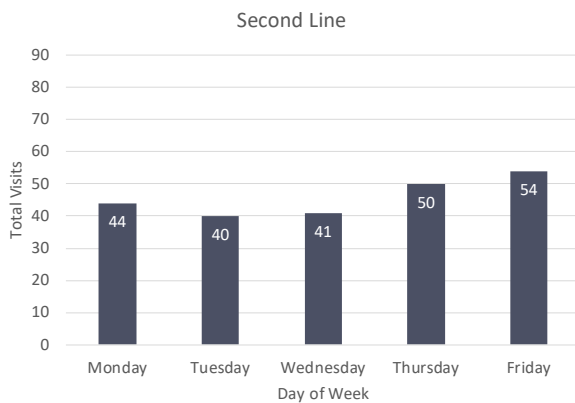
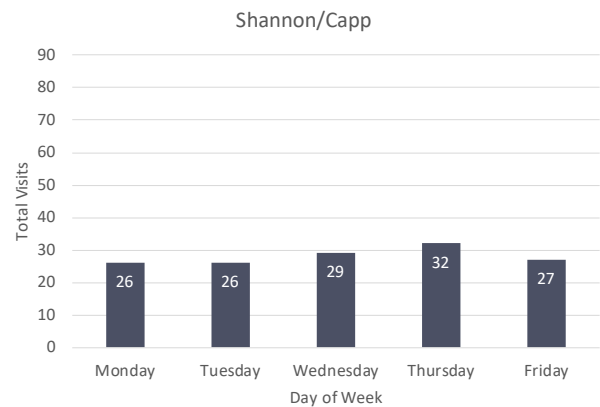


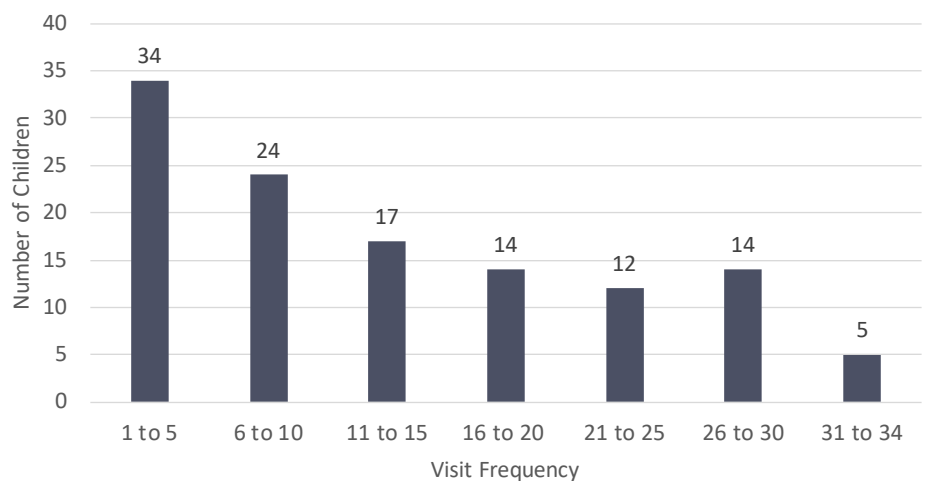
Figure 83: Total Child Visits by Day of Week, Shannon/Capp Site



## VISIT FREQUENCY

Figure 84 shows how often each child attended the KBK program. If a child attended both the morning and afternoon session (full day), their visit was only counted once. Of the 120 children that had registered and attended at least one session, 34 attended 1 to 5 sessions between July and August, 5 children attended the program 31 to 34 times which is almost the full duration of the program and only 1 child attended each day the program was offered.

Figure 84: Number of Children by Visit Frequency, All Sites



TRIPLE P

Throughout the City of Sault Ste. Marie and the District of Algoma, there are more than 100 practitioners at more than a dozen child and youth serving organizations that provide Triple P programming to their clients and families. Triple P was introduced to the Algoma District through the Community Action Program for Children (CAPC). A strong partnership between 18 community partners and a commitment to healthy and happy children enables a community of practice that provides a consistent parenting message across the area. The Triple P Positive Parenting Program has been proven to aid in the prevention and treatment of behavioural, emotional and developmental problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents. The program is designed to give parents “just enough” information to teach them skills and help them to become independent problem solvers. It focuses on five main principles:

- Ensuring a safe interesting environment
- Creating a positive learning environment
- Using assertive discipline
- Having realistic expectations
- Taking care of yourself as a parent

The services that are available include; three-part seminars, Groups for parents with children age 0 to 16, Family Transitions for parents experiencing separation and divorce, one on one sessions for parents to talk about specific issues in the home, and delivery of strategies to help parents of children with physical or developmental issues (Stepping Stones). Locally, Triple P Scores – an online scoring tool, is used by trained practitioners to enter the measures parents complete at the beginning and end of attending a group, as well as satisfaction surveys. This database allows for all data entered to be run and aggregated into reports. The following information is collected from Triple P Scores and attendance submitted each quarter by the various agencies offering Triple P programming and may not be inclusive of all attendance to all programs. Between 2014 and 2018, 6,563 parents received Triple P in Sault Ste. Marie. Figure 85 shows a breakdown of parents receiving Triple P in Sault Ste. Marie annually.

Figure 86 shows the number of parents who attended Level 2 and 3 interventions in Sault Ste. Marie. This includes one-on-one appointments and Brief Primary Care (1-2 sessions) and Primary Care (up to 4 sessions).

Figure 87 shows the number of Triple P seminars offered in Sault Ste. Marie and the total annual attendance between 2014 and 2018. Triple P seminars consists of three sessions.

Figure 85: All Parents Receiving Triple P in Sault Ste. Marie by Year, 2014 to 2018

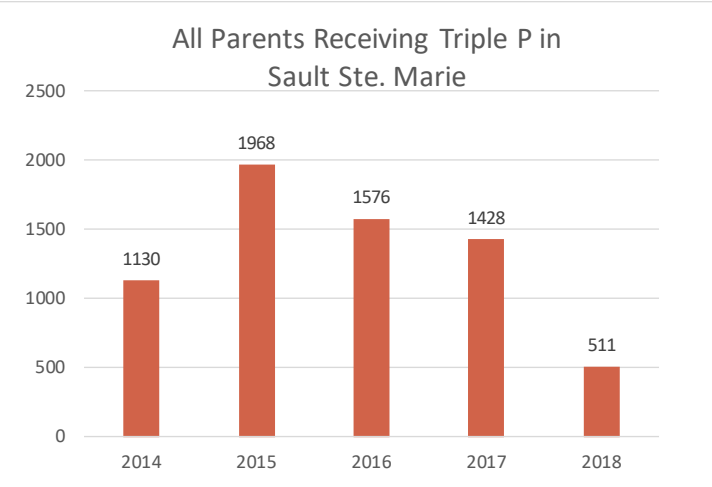


Figure 86: Parents who Attended Level 2 and 3 Intervention in Sault Ste. Marie by Year, 2014 to 2018

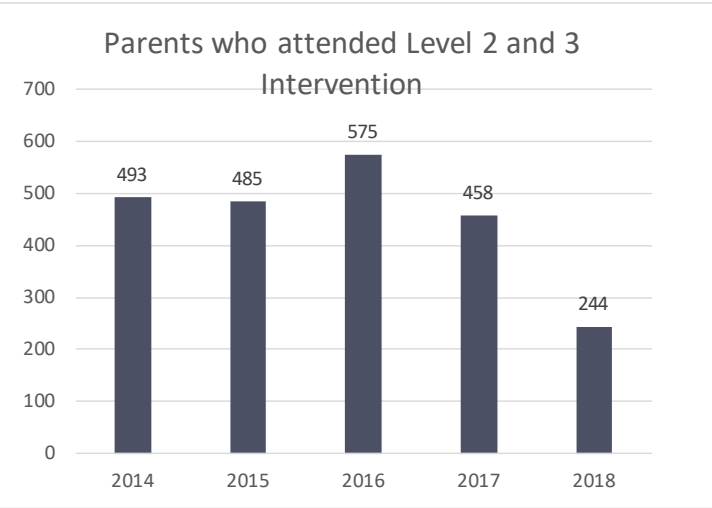




Figure 87: Number of Triple P Seminars Offered and Total Parent Attendance by Year, 2014 to 2018

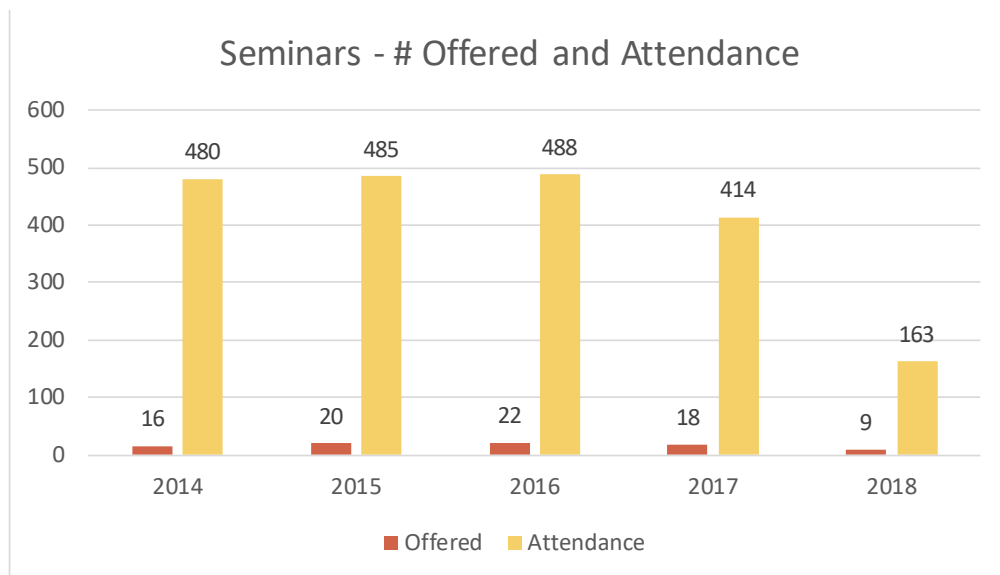
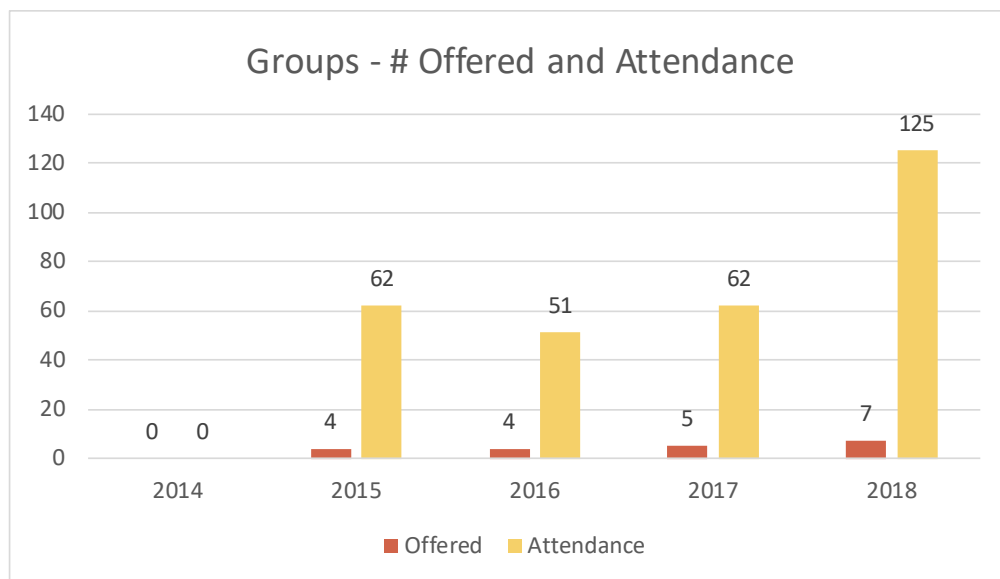


Figure 88 shows the number of Triple P groups offered in Sault Ste. Marie and the total annual attendance between 2014 and 2018. A Group is an 8-week commitment by the parent. It is a more intense program that teaches parenting strategies and how to use them. Groups have gained in popularity in 2018.

Figure 88: Number of Triple P Groups Offered and Total Parent Attendance by Year, 2014 to 2018



# FRENCH LANGUAGE EARLY YEARS SERVICE

## FRENCH LANGUAGE EARLYON CENTRES, LICENSED CHILD CARE AND SCHOOLS

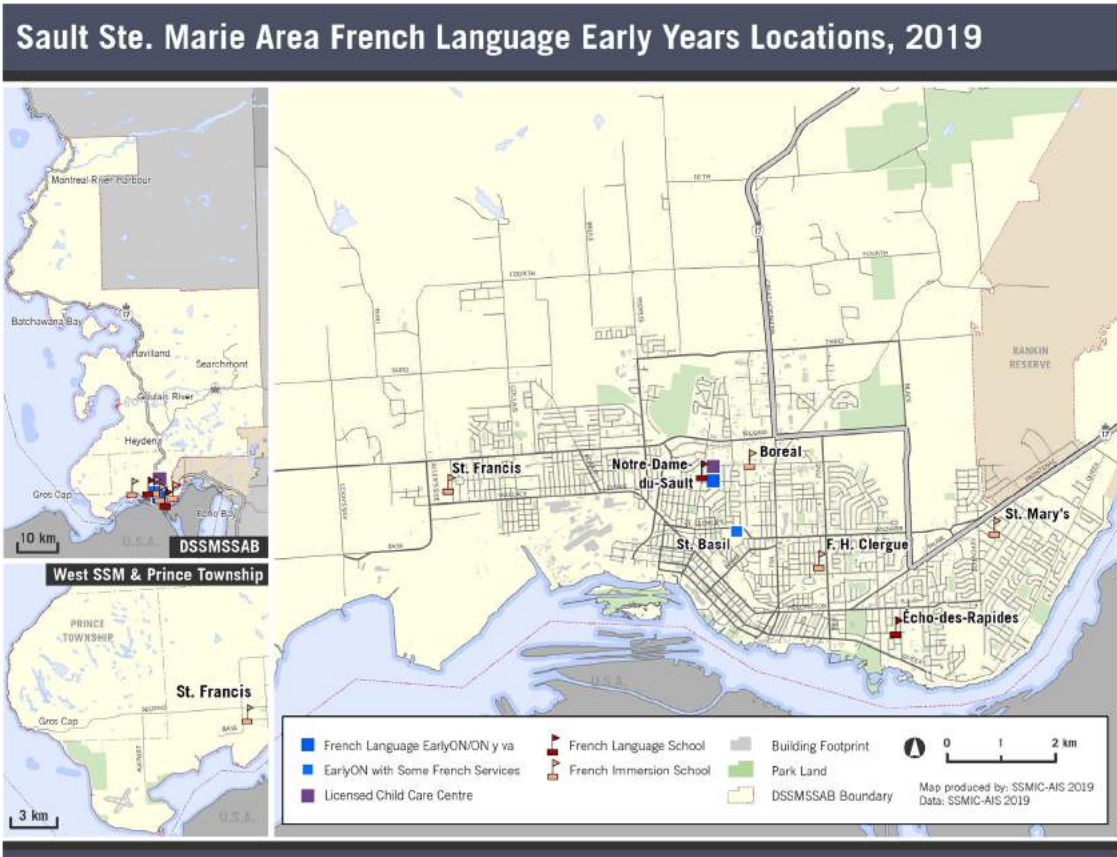
The DSSMSSAB area has French language options for EarlyON, licensed child care and schooling. The following map shows the locations of the French language Early Years services in the DSSMSSAB area.

The Ecole Notre-Dame-du-Sault site in the central area of Sault Ste. Marie offers French language EarlyON, licensed child care and schooling. The St. Basil EarlyON also offers weekly French

language services on Fridays. Echo-des-Rapides is the other full French school in Sault Ste. Marie and offers an after-school recreation program in French.

There are four French Immersion schools in the city: St. Francis in the west end, Boreal in the north, F.H. Clergue in the east central area, and St. Mary's in the east end.

Figure 89: Map of French Language EarlyON Centres, Licensed Child Care and Schools in the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2019



## NUMBER OF FRENCH SPEAKERS VISITING EARLYON CENTRES (KEYON)

When visitors enter a Sault Ste. Marie EarlyON site for the first time, they are asked to register in the KEyON system. The KEyON system tracks visits to the EarlyON Centres and gathers information on the visitors primary language. The following statistics show the visits by language for the time period between April 2018 and March 2019. Table 18 shows that 12 unique French speaking parents/caregivers attended an EarlyON Centres between this time period. This represents 1.1% of all parent/caregiver visitors to EarlyON Centres. Table 18 also shows that 18 unique French speaking children attended EarlyON Centres between this time period. This represents 0.9% of all child visitors to EarlyON Centres.

Table 18: Unique Visitors to Sault Ste. Marie EarlyON Centres by Primary Language

Language in KEyON	Parents/Caregivers		Children	
	#	%	#	%
English	1,113	98.5	1,912	98.4
French	12	1.1	18	0.9
Other	5	0.4	14	0.7

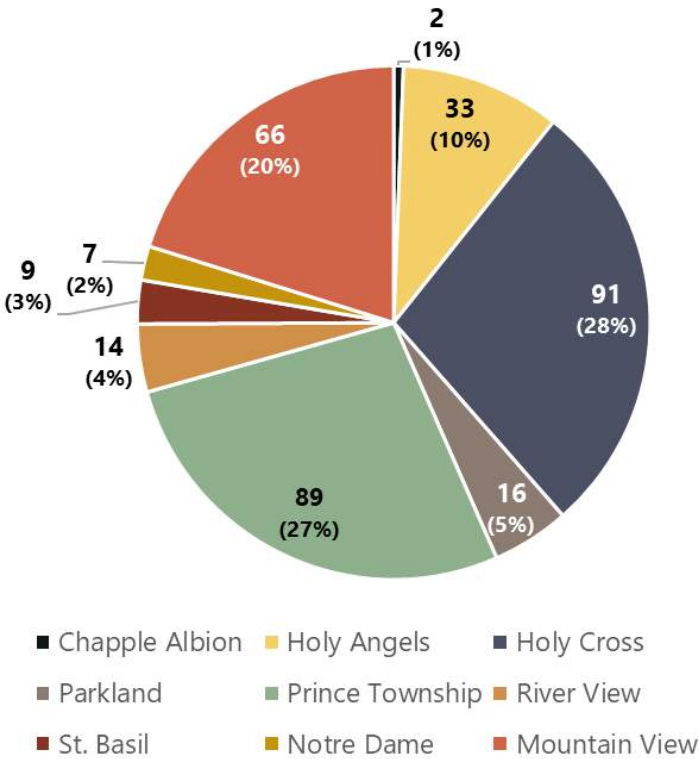
Table 19 shows the total number of visits that French speaking persons made to the DSSMSSAB area EarlyON Centres. There were 138 visits by French speaking parents/caregivers, representing 1.2% of all parent/caregiver visits to EarlyON Centres. There were 189 visits by French speaking children, representing 1.1% of all child visits to EarlyON Centres.

The following chart shows the number of visits by French speakers (parents/caregivers and children combined) to EarlyON Centres between April 2018 and March 2019. Most French speakers attended EarlyON Centres that do not offer French Services.

Table 19: Total Number of Visits to Sault Ste. Marie EarlyON Centres by the Visitors Primary Language

Language in KeyON	Parents/Caregivers		Children	
	#	%	#	%
English	11,161	97.4	17,108	97.5
French	138	1.2	189	1.1
Other	164	1.4	245	1.4

Figure 90: Total Number of Visits to the Sault Ste. Marie EarlyON Centres by French Speaking Parents/Caregivers and Children Combined



## SPECIAL NEEDS SERVICES

### REFERRALS THROUGH THE NO WRONG DOOR SYSTEM

The No Wrong Door Digital Referral System manages child referrals in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma District made to the following organizations:

- Algoma Family Services
- Algoma Public Health
- Community Living Algoma
- THRIVE Child Development Centre

to each other using the system (internal referrals) and are able to receive external referrals from licensed child care centres/ homes, EarlyON Centres and child and community resources. Please note that these statistics do not contain referrals from medical facilities or school boards.

This system has been operational since November 2014. At the present time, these four agencies are able to refer child clients



Figure 91 shows the number of referrals sent through the No Wrong Door system by year between 2015 and 2018. This information includes referrals sent in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma District.

Figure 91: Total Referrals Sent Through the No Wrong Door System (Internal and External), 2015 to 2018

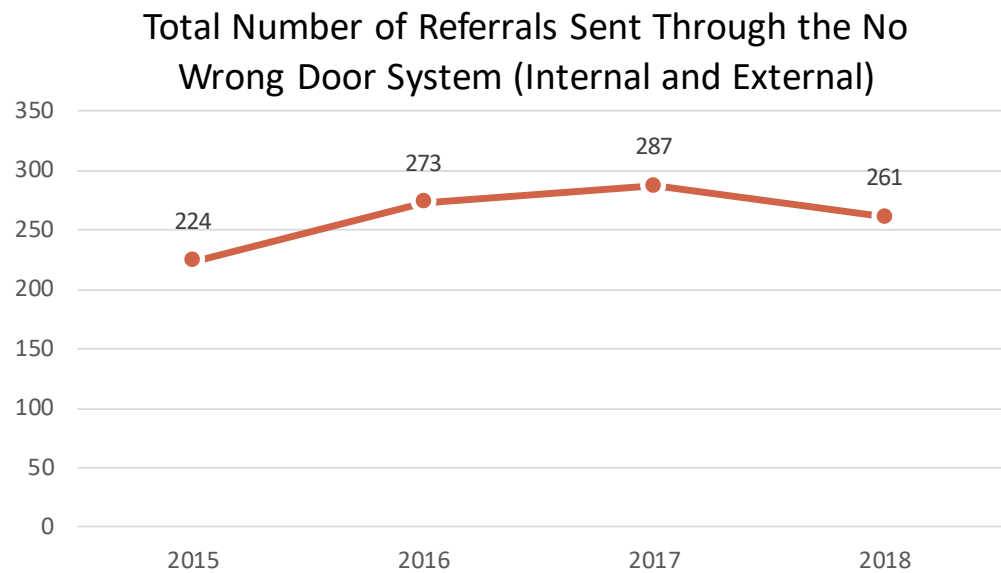


Figure 92 indicates the total number of external referrals sent through the No Wrong Door system by the type of sending organization. This data shows Sault Ste. Marie locations only. Most external referrals are sent by Licensed Child Care/Home sites.

Figure 92: Number of External Referrals Sent in Sault Ste. Marie by Organization Type, 2015 to 2018

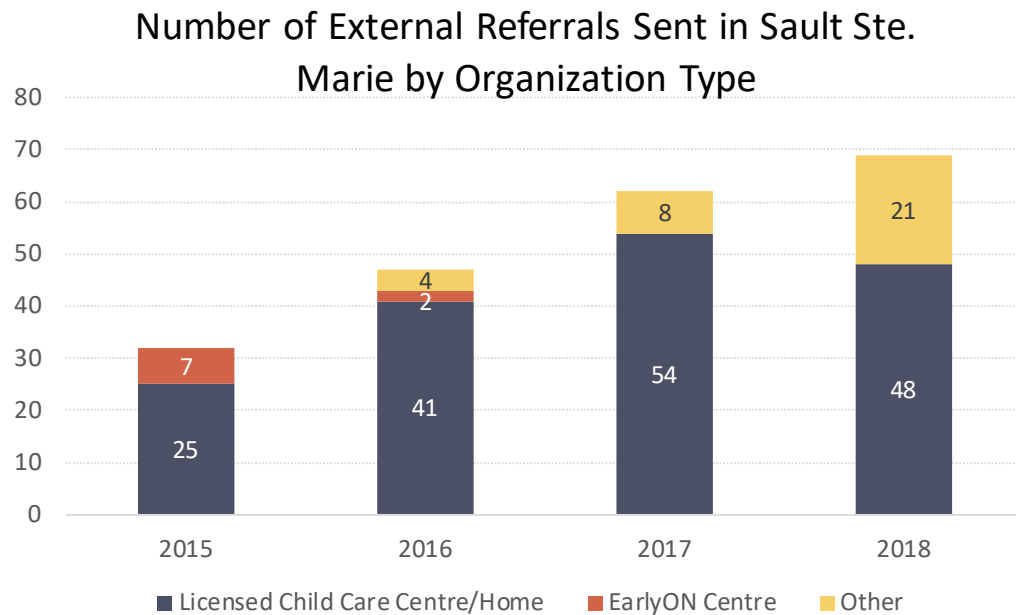


Figure 93 shows the percentage of referrals by the reason for the referral for the years 2015 to 2018 combined. The two most cited reasons for referrals are Behaviour and Concerns About Speech/Language Delay. Please note that a single referral can have multiple types of reasons listed.

Figure 93: Reasons for Referral Through the No Wrong Door System (2015 to 2018 Combined)

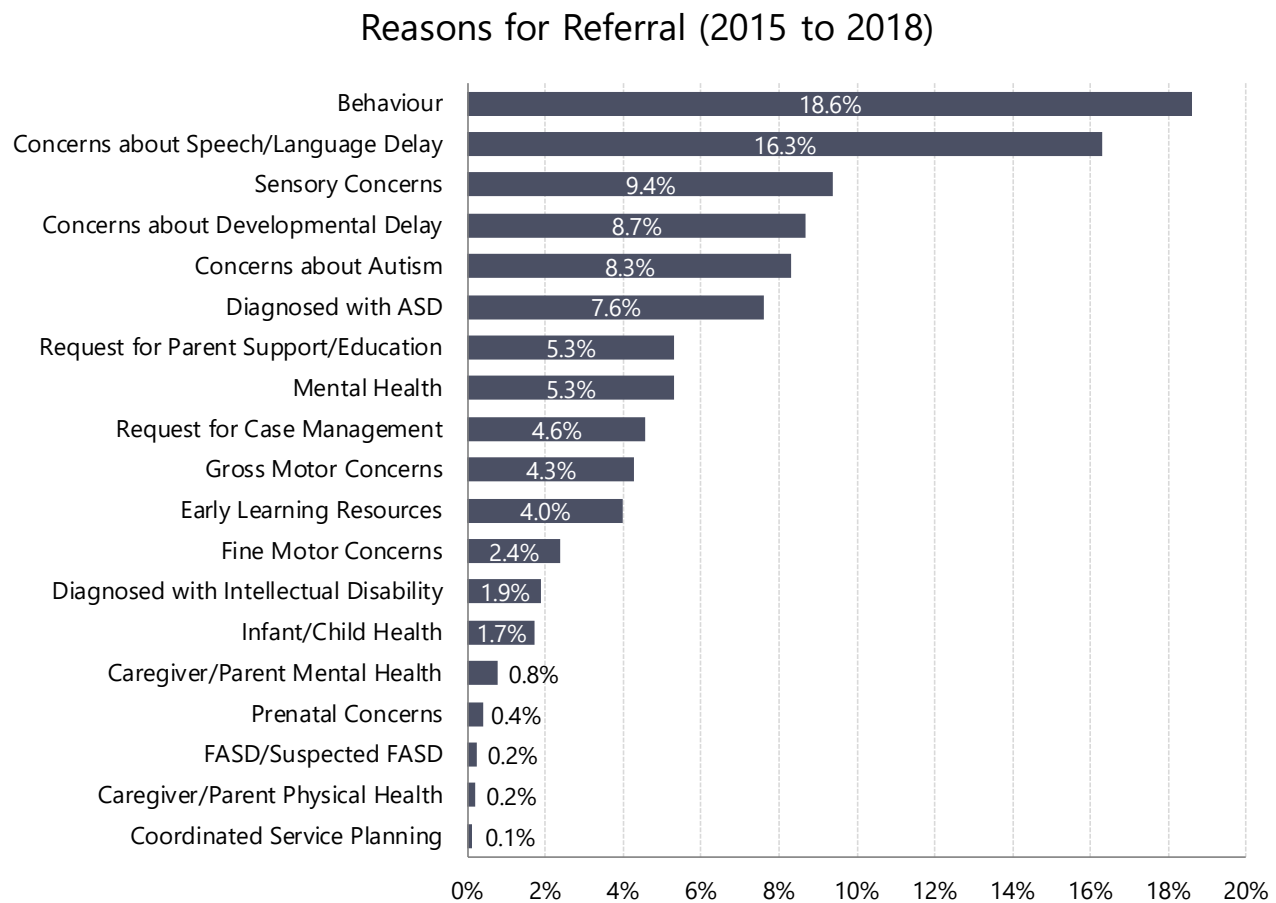


Figure 94 shows the percentage of annual referrals by closing organization. The closing organization is the agency that accepts the referral/client into their system. Nearly half of all referrals to the system have been closed by THRIVE. This information includes referrals sent in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma District.

Figure 95 shows the client's age (in one-year age groups) at the time of referral for the years 2015 to 2018 combined. Most referrals happen when children are between 2 and 6 years of age. This information includes referrals sent in Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma District.

Figure 94: Referrals by Closing Organization, 2015 to 2018

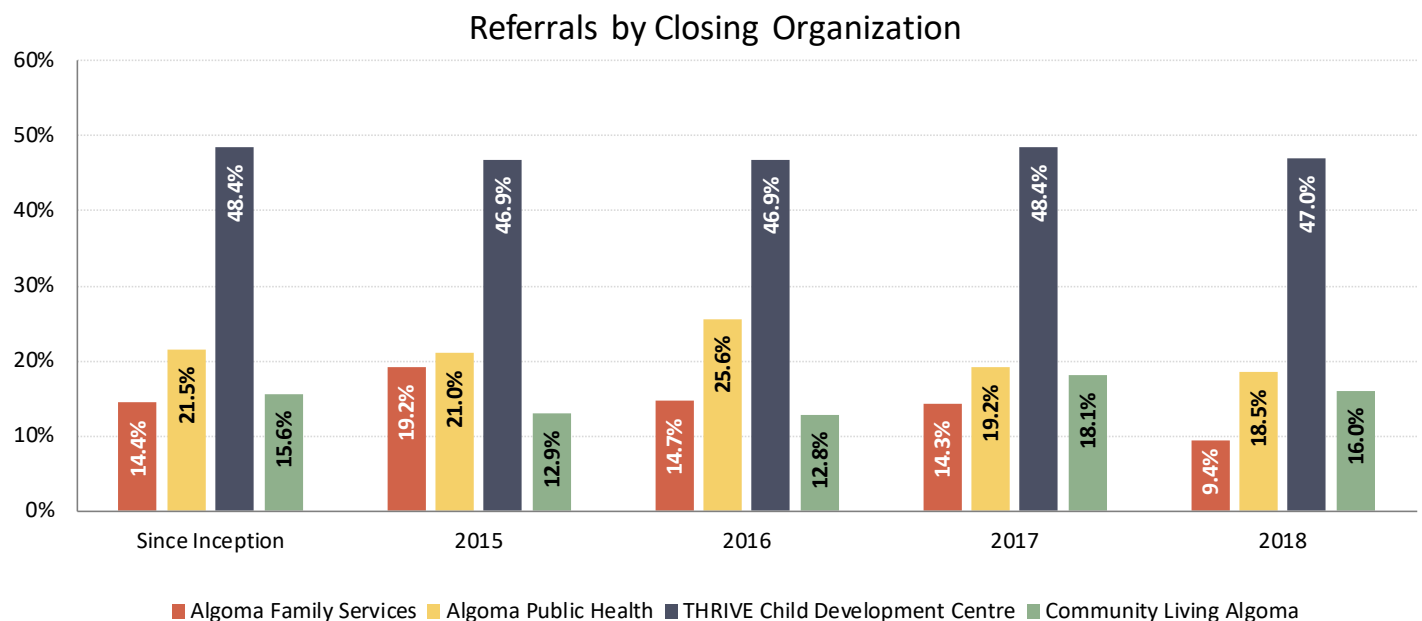
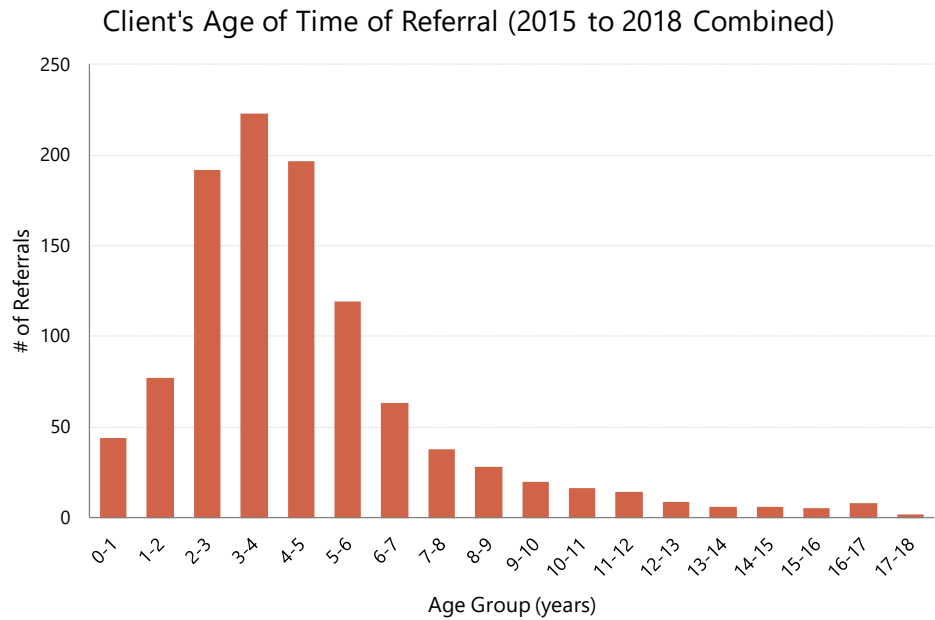


Figure 95: Client's Age at the Time of Referral (2015 to 2018 Combined)



**SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCING / EARLY LEARNING RESOURCES PROGRAM**

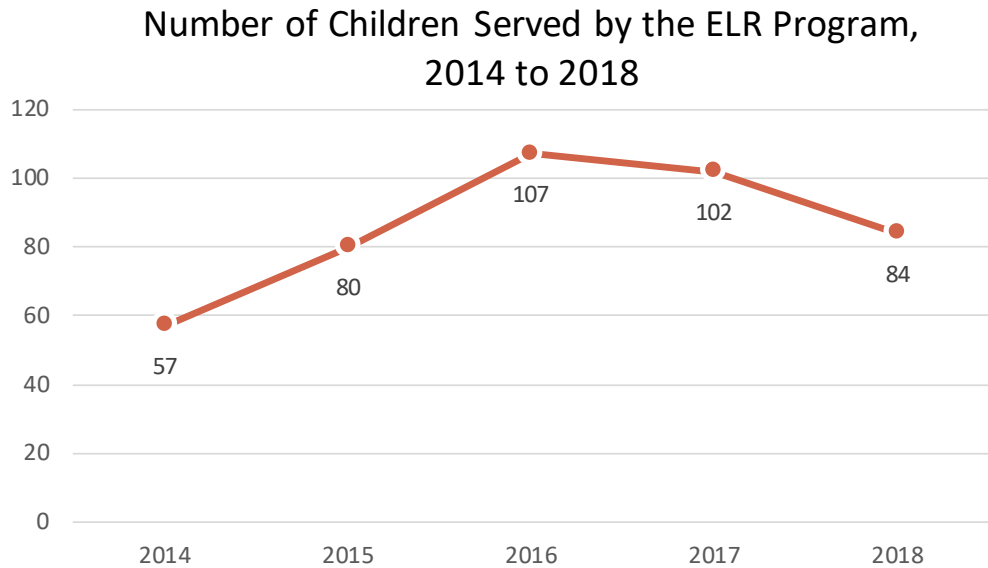
In Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma, the Early Learning Resources (ELR) program is run by THRIVE. Early Learning Resources is a specialized program that provides Early Childhood Education Resource Consultant support for children with developmental differences. In order to be eligible for this service, children must be enrolled or enrolling in a licensed child care program, including licensed before and after-school programs.<sup>7</sup>

The goal of THRIVE is to have the Resource Consultant, the child care staff and the family working together as a team for the successful inclusion of every child into the child care

environment and activities. This goal is achieved through the provision of support, education, consultation and co-teaching to the child care centres. Early Learning Resources also supports the therapy needs of the children to further enhance their development, socialization and readiness for school.<sup>8</sup>

The following table shows the number of children served by the ELR program by year between 2014 and 2018. It is important to note that there was a waitlist of 20 at the end of 2018 that were still waiting for service.

Figure 96: Number of Children Served by the ELR Program, 2014 to 2018



**CHILDREN DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)**

This data is not available through THRIVE.

<sup>7</sup> THRIVE Child Development Centre, 2019. Accessed via: <https://kidsthive.ca/service/early-learning-resources/>  
<sup>8</sup> THRIVE, 2019.



# POTENTIAL AVAILABLE PROGRAM SPACE

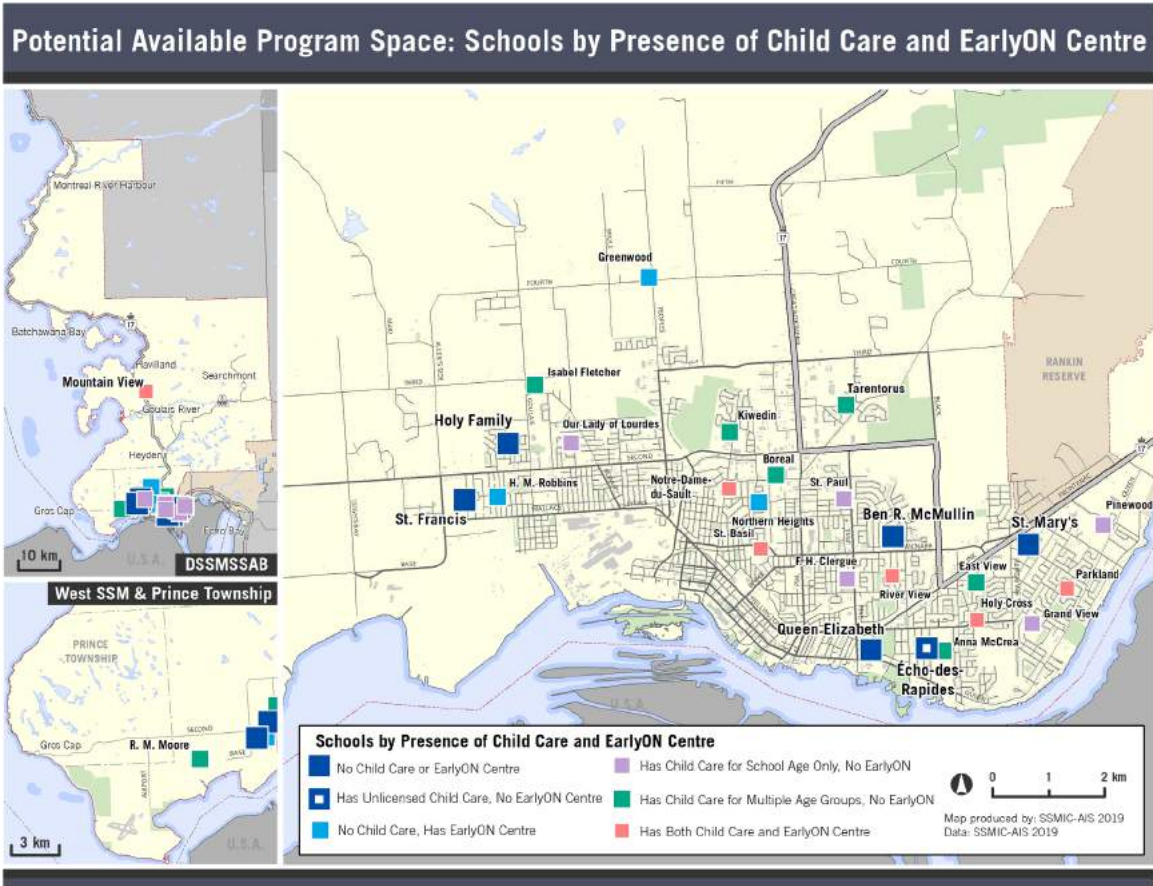
## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH AND WITHOUT CHILD CARE AND EARLYON CENTRES

The following map shows the location of DSSMSSAB area elementary schools and colour codes the points based on the presence of a child care or an EarlyON Centre located at that site. Schools with no child care or EarlyON Centre are shown in dark blue. These schools may represent potential program space provided that they have unutilized classroom space. Schools that have an EarlyON Centre but no child care are coloured in light blue. These sites may represent an opportunity to add child care on site, provided space is available. Schools that have child care on site for multiple age groups but no EarlyON Centre are coloured in green. Schools that have child care for only school age children are coloured in purple. School age includes the groups kindergarten and

primary/junior school age. Pinewood only provides child care for the primary/junior school age group.

Schools that already have both child care and an EarlyON Centre on site are coloured in pink. Please note that Mountain View is the only school that contains an EarlyON Centre and only contains child care for school-age children. All other schools that have both an EarlyON Centre and child care site had child care for multiple age groups.

Figure 97: Potential Available Program Space: Schools by Presence of Child Care and EarlyON Centre





## SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA & VULNERABLE POPULATION

# What you'll find: IN THIS SECTION

*Ontario Marginalization Index.....86*

*Socioeconomic Risk: The Social Risk Index  
Calculation.....93*

*Lone Parent Families.....94*

*Family Structure .....97*

*Family Income.....97*

*Youth Living in Low Income by Family Type.....98*

*Social Housing in Sault Ste. Marie.....99*

- 57.5% of children under 6 live in a marginalized neighbourhood compared to 27.8% in Ontario
- The DSSMSSAB area is more deprived than the province as a whole with the downtown and west end areas falling into the most deprived areas
- Families in less deprived areas tend to visit EarlyON Centres more often than families living in deprived areas with the exception of parts of the east end
- The newer area of the P-Patch is an exception when looking at the EDI neighbourhoods. This area has low levels of material deprivation but a higher percentage of children vulnerable in two or more domains

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

## Socio-Economic Data & Vulnerable Population

### ONTARIO MARGINALIZATION INDEX

**T**he 2016 Ontario Marginalization Index is an area-based index that attempts to show differences in marginalization between areas, as well as understand inequalities in various measures of health and social well-being. The index was developed by a collaboration of researchers using a theoretical framework based on previous work on deprivation and marginalization. It has been demonstrated to be stable across time periods and across different geographic areas (e.g. cities and rural areas).<sup>9</sup> Some other indices like the Social Risk Index may be less suitable for rural areas than urban areas. It has also been demonstrated to be associated with health outcomes including hypertension, depression, youth smoking, alcohol consumption, injuries, body mass index and infant birth weight.<sup>10</sup>

The Ontario Marginalization Index is multifaceted, allowing researchers and policy and program analysts to explore multiple dimensions of marginalization in urban and rural Ontario. The four dimensions of the index are:

- Residential Instability
- Material Deprivation
- Dependency
- Ethnic Concentration

The Residential Instability, Material Deprivation, and Dependency dimensions of this index are of particular importance to the DSSMSSAB area. The fourth dimension, Ethnic Concentration, is of less importance to the DSSMSSAB area as there are very few recent immigrants or persons who identify as a visible minority.

#### Why is this important?

**Marginalization is the process by which individuals and groups are prevented from fully participating in society. Marginalized populations can experience barriers to accessing meaningful employment, adequate housing, education and other social determinants of health. Both community and individual health are deeply impacted by marginalization.<sup>11</sup>**

**An area with a high degree of marginalization may require more services than a DSSAB traditionally offers including subsidized child care.**

Each dimension is calculated from Census of Canada (2016) data at the Dissemination Area (DA) geographic level. A DA is a small, relatively stable geographic unit that is composed of one or more dissemination blocks and has a population between 400 and 700 people. It is the smallest standard geographic unit for which all census data are disseminated. Because of data suppression in several key indicators, First Nation Reserves are not included in the Ontario Marginalization Index. The DSSMSSAB area contains 158 non-Reserve DAs.

For each dimension, quintiles have been created by sorting the marginalization data into five groups, ranked from 1 (least marginalized in Ontario) to 5 (most marginalized in Ontario). Each group contains a fifth of all the DAs in Ontario. For example, if an area has a value of 5 on the material deprivation scale, it means it is in the most deprived 20 percent of areas in Ontario.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Ontario Marginalization Index (ON-Marg), User Guide, Version 1.0, Accessed: [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/User\\_Guide\\_2011\\_ON-Marg.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/User_Guide_2011_ON-Marg.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> ON-Marg User Guide.

<sup>11</sup> ON-Marg User Guide.

<sup>12</sup> ON-Marg User Guide.



## RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY

The Residential Instability measure refers to area-level concentrations of people who experience high rates of family or housing instability. Residential Instability is important as it is related to neighbourhood quality, cohesiveness and support.<sup>13</sup>

The Residential Instability dimension takes the following census variables into consideration:

- Proportion of the population living alone
- Proportion of the population who are not youth (aged 16+)
- Average number of persons per dwelling
- Proportion of dwellings that are apartment buildings
- Proportion of the population who are single/divorced/widowed
- Proportion of dwellings that are not owned
- Proportion of the population who moved during the past 5 years

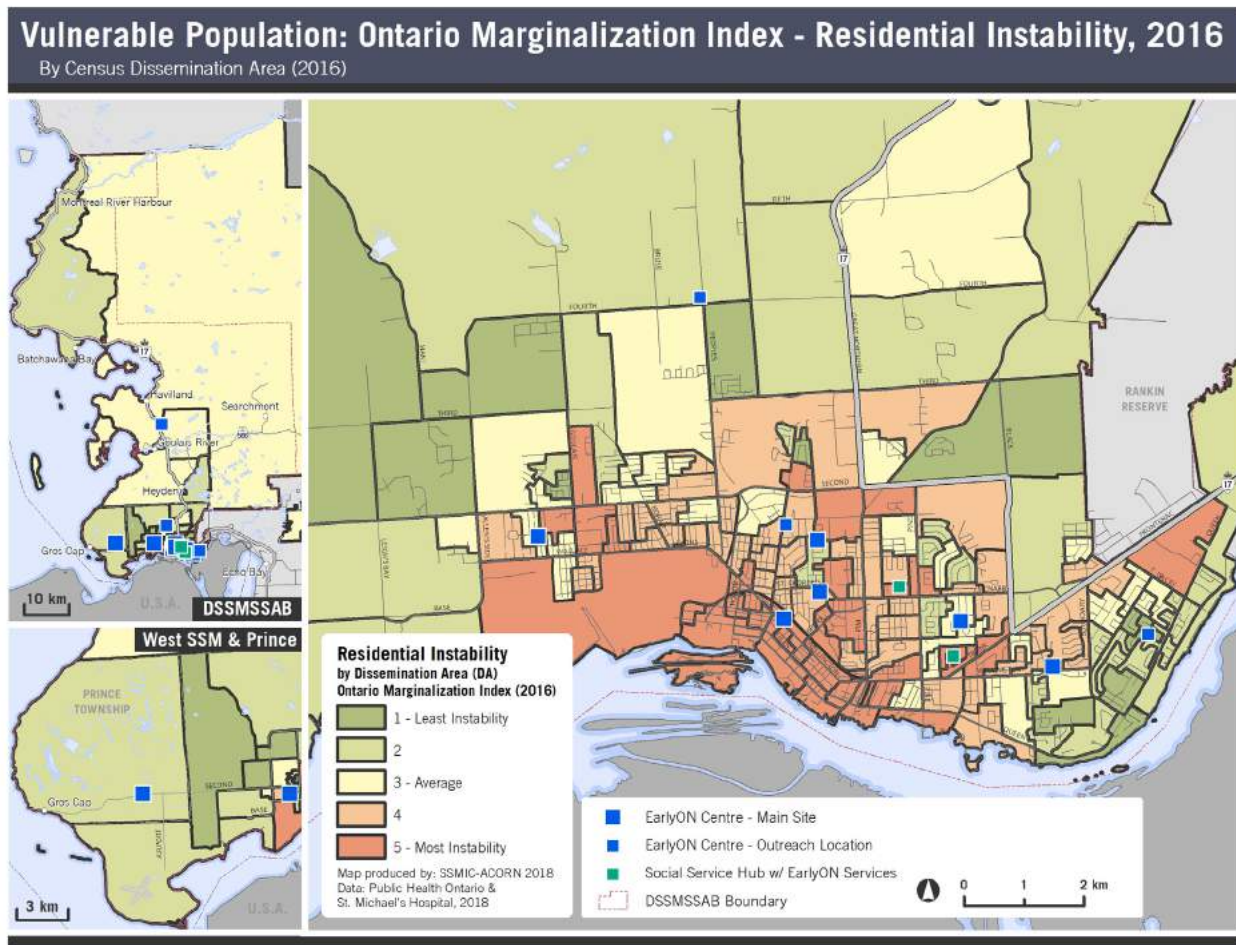
By combining these variables and ranking each DA in Ontario in terms of Residential Instability, we can determine the areas of the DSSMSSAB area that have high or low degrees of instability in comparison to the rest of Ontario. Persons living in a stable

neighbourhood (quintiles 1 and/or 2 in the following map and chart) are less likely to be marginalized than those living in an unstable neighbourhood (quintiles 4 and/or 5).

The map in Figure 98 shows that the majority of the DSSMSSAB area DAs fall into the 4<sup>th</sup> or “Somewhat Below Average” quintile, followed by the 5<sup>th</sup> quintile. The DSSMSSAB area has 36 DAs that fall into the “5 – Most Instability” quintile, which are located within the City of Sault Ste. Marie. 12 DAs fell within the “1 – Least Instability” quintile, all within the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The remainder fall in the “2” and “3” categories and are located throughout the DSSMSSAB area.

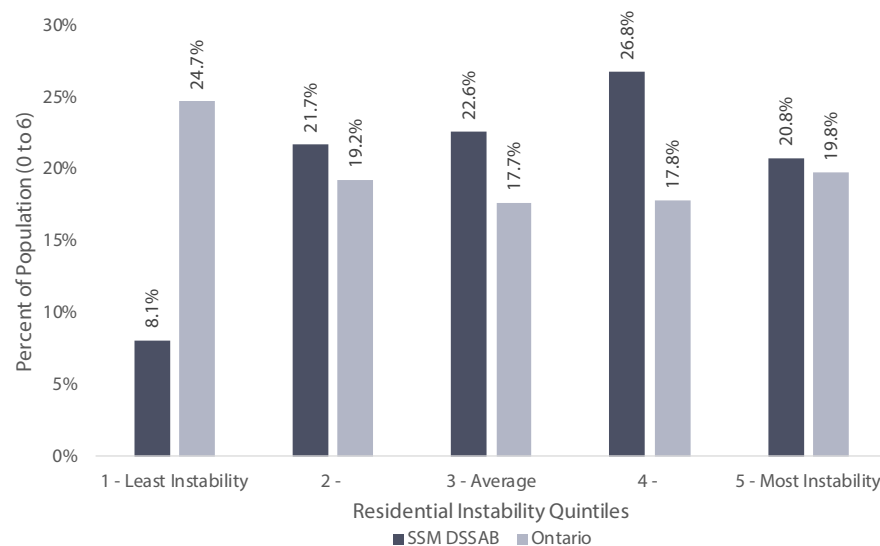
Using this information, one can calculate the 2016 population and proportion of children (aged 0 to 6) within each quintile in the DSSMSSAB area and compare this to Ontario. The majority of DSSMSSAB area children aged 0 to 6 live in neighbourhoods that are near the Ontario average or somewhat below average in terms of Residential Instability (Figure 99). Proportionally fewer DSSMSSAB area children live in the “1 - Least Instability” quintile than that of Ontario.

Figure 98: Residential Instability Dimension of the Ontario Marginalization Index for the DSSMSSAB Area, 2016



<sup>13</sup> Ontario Marginalization Index (ON-Marg), Technical Guide [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Technical\\_Document\\_2011\\_ON-Marg.pdf](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/DataAndAnalytics/Documents/Technical_Document_2011_ON-Marg.pdf)

Figure 99: Residential Instability: Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 6 in each Quintile, Based on DA Population (2016)



## MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) refers to Material Deprivation as “the inability of individuals or households to afford those consumption goods and activities that are typical in a society at a given point in time, irrespective of people’s preferences with respect to these items”.<sup>14</sup> The Material Deprivation dimension takes the following census variables into consideration:

- Proportion of the population aged 25+ without a high-school diploma
- Proportion of families who are lone parent families
- Proportion of the population aged 15+ who are unemployed
- Proportion of the population considered low-income\*
- Proportion of households living in dwellings that are in need of major repair

\* Note: “low-income” is defined as below the low-income cut-off (LICO), a Statistics Canada measure that is adjusted for community size, family size and inflation.

By combining these variables and ranking each DA in Ontario in terms of Material Deprivation, one can determine the areas of the DSSMSSAB area that have high or low degrees of deprivation in comparison to the rest of Ontario. Persons living in a less deprived neighbourhood (quintiles 1 and/or 2 in the following map and chart) are less likely to be marginalized than those living in a deprived neighbourhood (quintiles 4 and/or 5).

The map in Figure 100 shows that the DSSMSSAB area contains 55 DAs that fall into the 5<sup>th</sup> quintile (most deprived) and 35 DAs that fall within the 4<sup>th</sup> quintile (somewhat deprived). The locations of these DAs are spread throughout the urban and rural municipalities of the District. The DSSMSSAB area

contains proportionally more DAs in the 5<sup>th</sup> quintile than the province as a whole.

The areas in the DSSMSSAB area that contain DAs that are less materially deprived (quintiles 1 and 2) than the province are typically found in the rural parts of Sault Ste. Marie west of Allens Side Road (including Prince Township), north of Second/Third Line, and parts of the urban area including the P-Patch, Fort Creek, and the area from the old hospital neighbourhood to east of the Sault Country Club.

Using this information, one can calculate the 2016 population and proportion of children (aged 0 to 6) within each Material Deprivation quintile in the DSSMSSAB area and compare this to Ontario. Almost 60% of DSSMSSAB area children aged 0 to 6 live in neighbourhoods that are above the Ontario average in terms of material deprivation (more deprived). There are proportionally fewer children living in the “1 - Least Deprived” and “2” categories than Ontario as a whole (Figure 101).



<sup>14</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2007, “Material Deprivation”, Accessed: <http://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=7326>.



Figure 100: Material Deprivation Dimension of the Ontario Marginalization Index for the DSSMSSAB Area, 2016

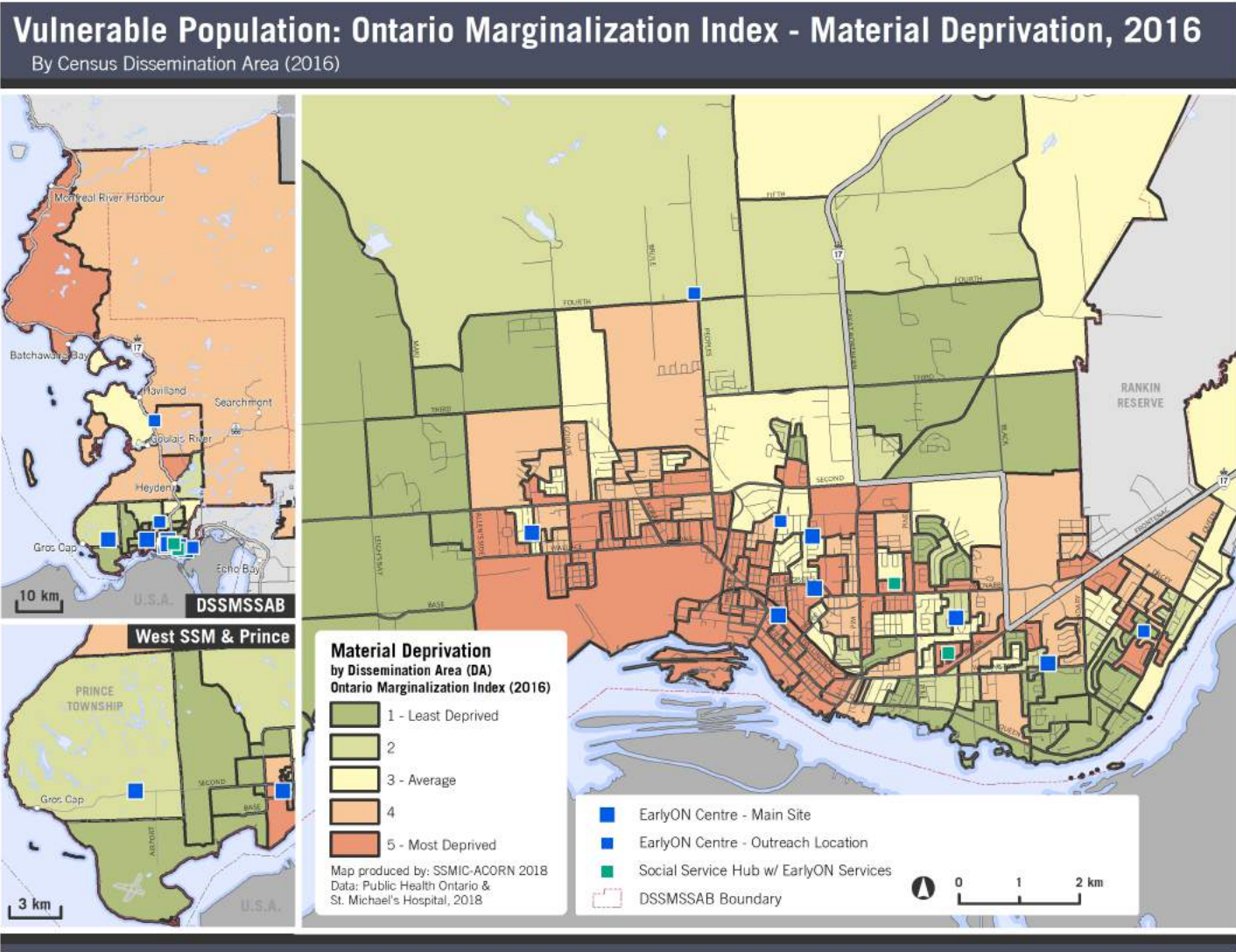
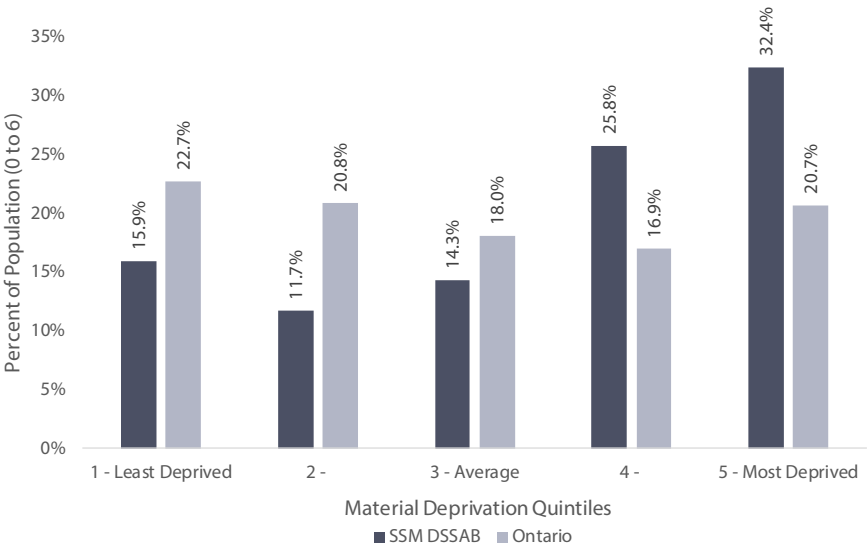


Figure 101: Material Deprivation: Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 6 in each Quintile, Based on DA Population (2016)





## DEPENDENCY

Dependency relates to the idea that the economically inactive population (typically those below the age of 15, above the age of 65, and unemployed persons) relies on the economically active population for support. The Dependency dimension takes the following census variables into consideration:

- Proportion of the population who are aged 65 and over
- Dependency ratio (total population 0 to 14 and 65+ / total population 15 to 64)
- Proportion of population not participating in the labour force (aged 15+)

By combining these variables and ranking each DA in Ontario in terms of Dependency, one can determine the areas of the DSSMSSAB area that have high or low degrees of dependency in comparison to the rest of Ontario. Persons living in a less dependent neighbourhood (quintiles 1 and/or 2 in the following map and chart) are less likely to be marginalized than those living in a more dependent neighbourhood (quintiles 4 and/or 5).

The map in Figure 102 shows that the DSSMSSAB area contains many DAs that are more dependent than the province as a whole. The DSSMSSAB area contains 66 DAs that fall into the “5 – Most Dependent” quintile and 48 DAs that fall in the 4<sup>th</sup> quintile. The locations of these DAs are widespread throughout the urban and rural municipalities of the DSSMSSAB area. There are also 33 DAs that are at the provincial average (3<sup>rd</sup> quintile) and 10 DAs that fall within the “2<sup>nd</sup>” quintile. There is only 1 DA that falls within the “1 – Least Dependent” category. This indicates that the vast majority of the DSSMSSAB area has a highly dependent population.

Using this information, one can calculate the 2016 population and proportion of children (aged 0 to 6) within each Dependency quintile in the DSSMSSAB area and compare this to Ontario. Over 65% of DSSMSSAB area children aged 0 to 6 live in neighbourhoods that are above the Ontario average in terms of dependency. There are very few (10.2%) children living in DAs that are below the Ontario average for dependency (Figure 103).

Figure 102: Dependency Dimension of the Ontario Marginalization Index for the DSSMSSAB Area, 2016

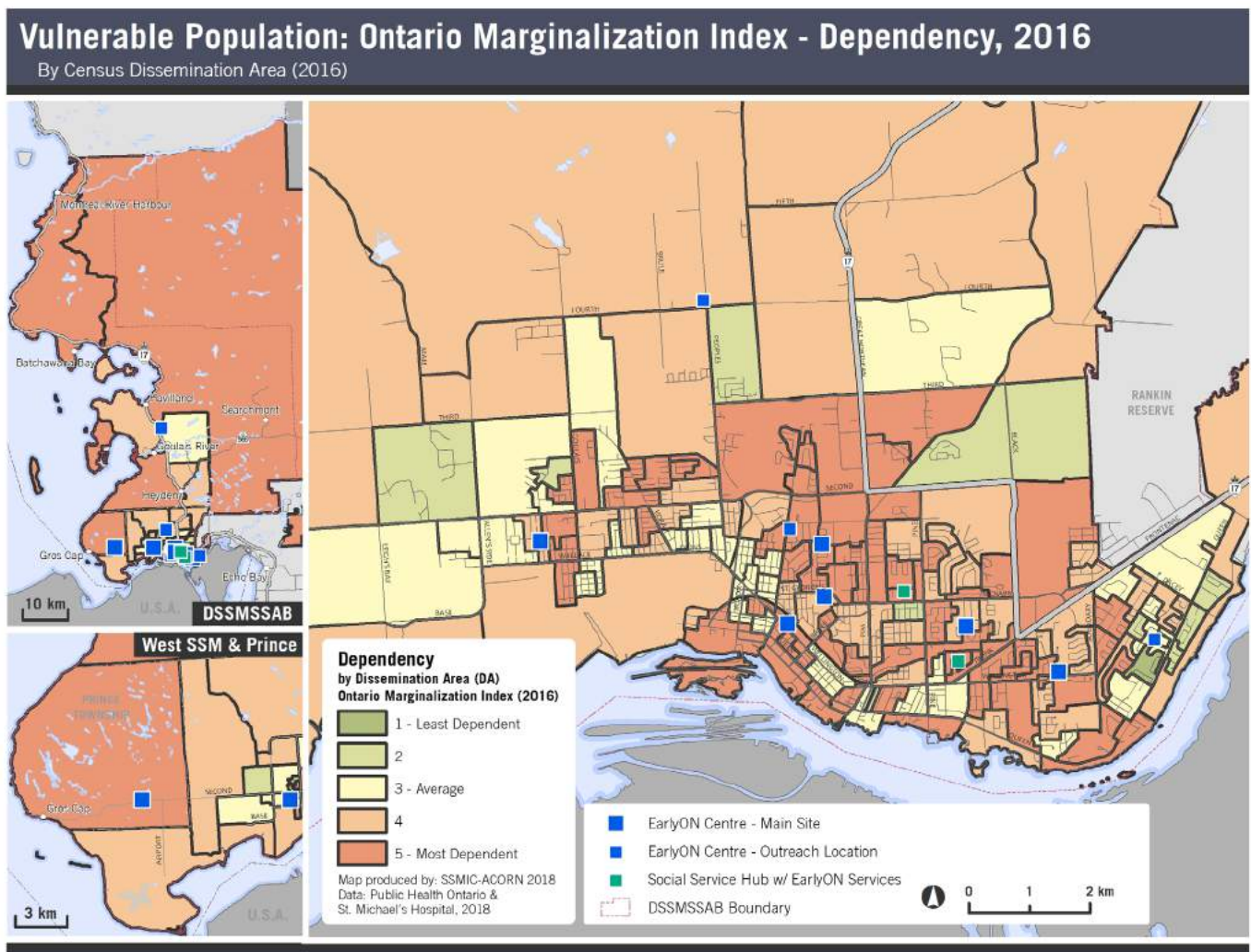
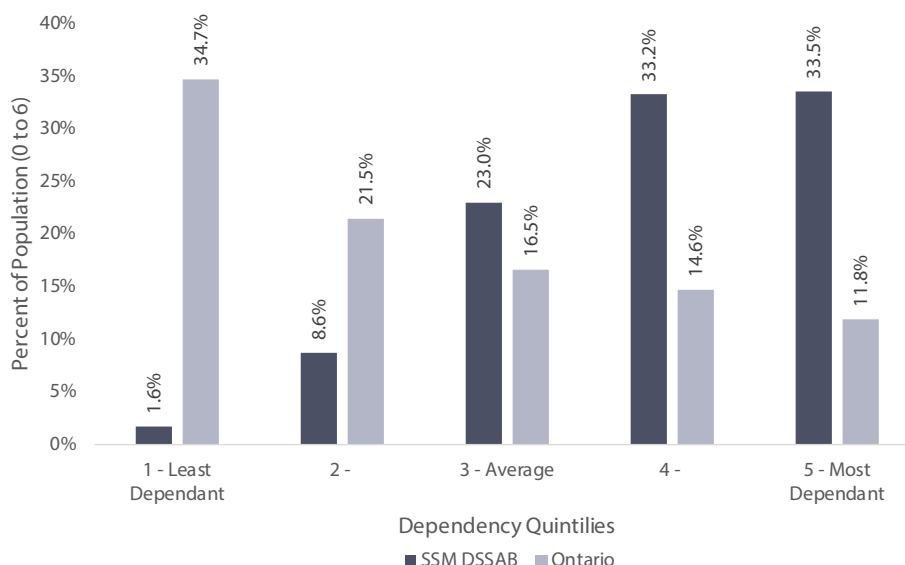


Figure103: Dependency: Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 6 in each Quintile, Based on DA Population (2016)



## OVERALL MARGINALIZATION: SUMMARY SCORE

Results from each dimension can be combined to examine the overall marginalization of each DA using a summated score. This is done by summing the individual dimension scores for Residential Instability, Material Deprivation and Dependency for each DA and dividing by 3 (the number of dimensions). These steps will produce a score ranging from one to five, where one reflects low levels of marginalization and five reflects high levels of marginalization. It is important to note that the Summary Score used in this report excludes the Ethnic Concentration dimension of the Ontario Marginalization Index.

The map in Figure 104 shows that the DSSMSSAB area contains many DAs that have a higher level of marginalization than the province as a whole. The DSSMSSAB area contains 72 DAs that scored a 4, which indicates that the DA is

somewhat marginalized. A further 25 DAs scored a 5, or “Most Marginalized”. 40 DAs scored a 3, which means they are similar to the Ontario average for marginalization. A total of 21 DAs in the DSSMSSAB area scored a 1 or 2, which means they experience less marginalization than the Ontario average. These results indicate that the level of marginalization is generally higher in the DSSMSSAB area than in Ontario as a whole.

Using this information, one can calculate the 2016 population and proportion of children (aged 0 to 6) by each summary score in the DSSMSSAB area and compare this to Ontario. 57.5% of DSSMSSAB area children aged 0 to 6 live in a marginalized neighbourhood (DA scored a 4 or 5), as compared to 27.8% in Ontario (Figure 105).





Figure 104: Overall Marginalization (Excluding the Ethnic Concentration Dimension) for the SSM DSSAB Area, 2016

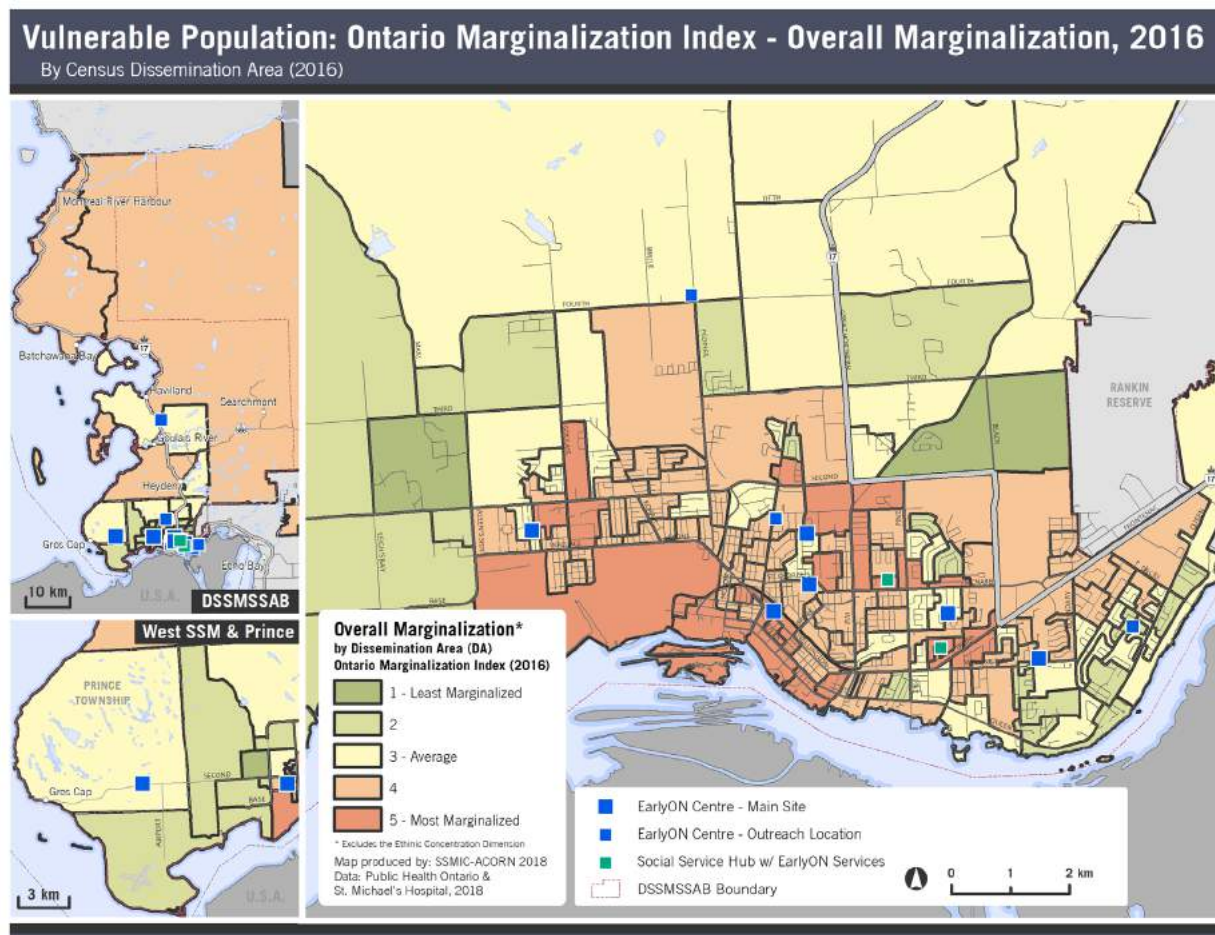
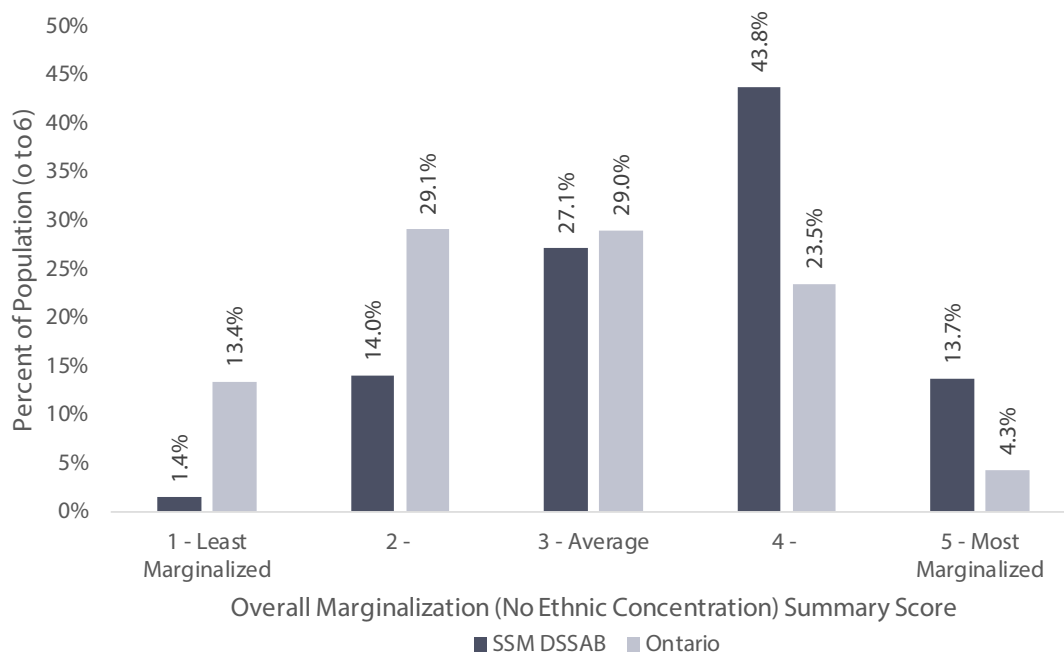


Figure 105: Overall Marginalization (Excluding the Ethnic Concentration Dimension): Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 6 in each Quintile, Based on DA Population (2016)





# SOCIOECONOMIC RISK: THE SOCIAL RISK INDEX CALCULATION

The Social Risk Index is a measure of socioeconomic risk in communities and neighbourhoods, and is derived from census data from Statistics Canada. The Social Risk Index used in this report is based on 2016 Census data.

The index measures nine critical risk indicators and compares the results of each against the provincial average. If the neighbourhood is worse than the provincial average in a certain indicator, that variable is given a score of 1. Adding up the

scores for each indicator will result in a neighbourhood score of 0-9, where 0 indicates the lowest degree of socioeconomic risk and a score of 9 indicates the highest degree of socioeconomic risk. (Please note that local neighbourhoods could also be compared to the national average which may result in slightly different final scores).

Results are generally classified by four established categories of risk:

0 to 2 Low Risk

3 to 4 Somewhat Low Risk

5 to 6 Somewhat High Risk

7 to 9 High Risk

The nine indicators used in the index are: lone-parent families, low income, knowledge of an official language, immigration, tenancy, residential mobility, unemployment, education and government income transfers. Results for the DSSMSSAB area,

the District of Algoma, and Ontario are shown in the table below. Results for Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma that are higher than the Ontario value are shown in red.

Table 20: Social Risk Indicators, DSSMSSAB Area, Algoma and Ontario

Indicators (2016)	SSM DSSAB Area	Algoma District	Ontario
Lone-Parent Families (%)	18.8	17.5	17
Low-Income Prevalence (%)	15.4	16.2	14.4
Not Speaking an Official Language (%)	0.4	0.3	2.5
Recent Immigrants (%)	0.5	0.4	3.6
Rented Dwellings (%)	29.5	28	30.2
Who Moved in the Past Year (%)	11	11.1	12.4
Adult Unemployment Rate	10.3	10.5	7.4
Adults with Less than High School Education (%)	9.7	12.2	10.4
Income from Government Transfers (%)*	18.5	18.6	11.1
<b>Social Risk Index Score</b>	4	5	-

Table 20 shows that the DSSMSSAB area has a social risk index score of 4 and is considered to be at somewhat low socioeconomic risk. Algoma has a social risk index score of 5 and is considered to be at somewhat high socioeconomic risk. Sault Ste. Marie has a higher percentage of lone-parent families, low-income, and income from government transfers, as well as a higher unemployment rate than Ontario. The only indicators that are significantly lower than the provincial average are the percentage of persons not speaking an official language, and recent immigrants, confirming that fewer recent immigrants have chosen to reside in Sault Ste. Marie, and the Algoma District, than other parts of Ontario.

For a more in depth look at the DSSMSSAB area, socioeconomic risk scores have been calculated by Dissemination Area (DA) and colour coded based on the four categories of risk.

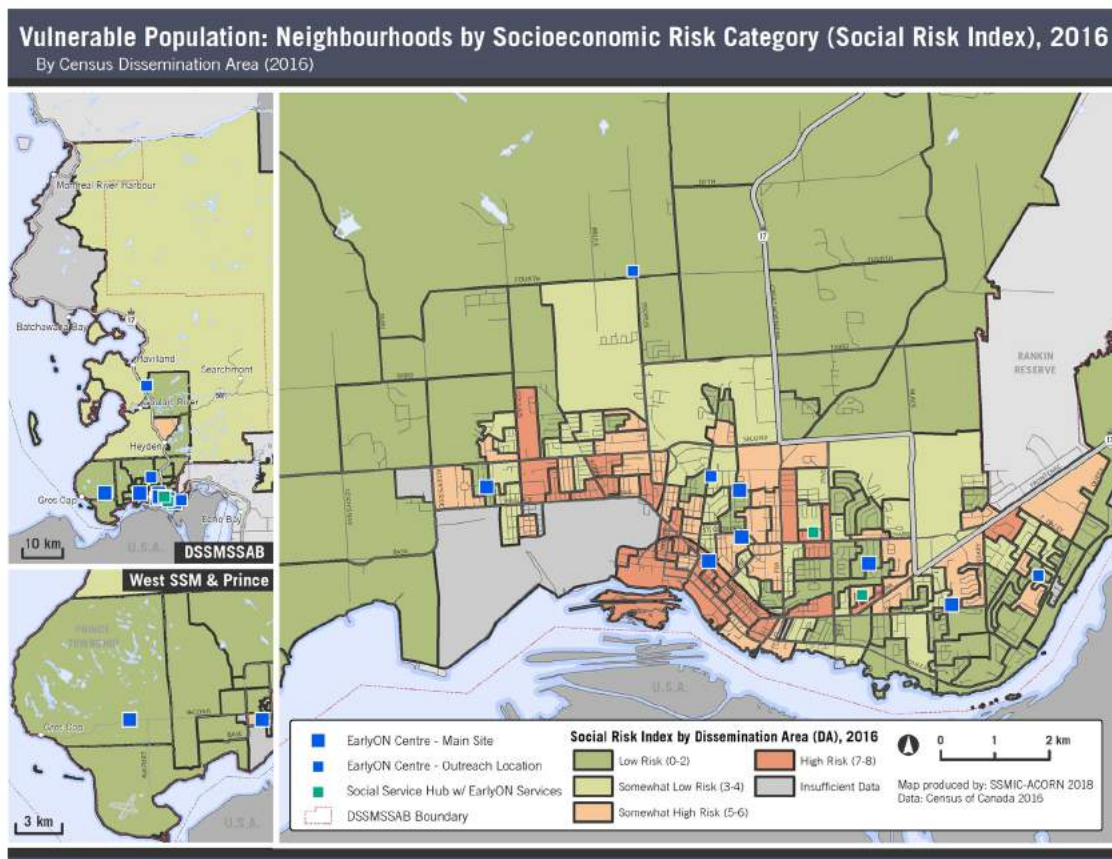
The resulting map (Figure 106) shows that the Social Risk Index scores of the DSSMSSAB area DAs vary considerably.\* Findings can be summarized as follows:

- Many DAs in Sault Ste. Marie were deemed to be ‘High Risk’, each with a social risk index score of 7, and one with a score of 8. The majority of high risk DAs are

located in the mid-west end of the city and in the city’s downtown core. A few other high risk DAs are found in the central and east areas of Sault Ste. Marie, as well. Combined, these DAs had an approximate population of 1,540 children age 0 to 14 in 2016. This is up from 1,430 in 2011 but down from 1,555 in 2006.

- Several DAs scored as ‘Somewhat High Risk’, and had a combined population of approximately 2,525 children aged 0 to 14 in 2016. This is similar to the number of children in 2011 (2,550) and 2006 (2,580).
- The ‘Somewhat Low Risk’ DAs had a combined population of approximately 2,540 children aged 0 to 14 in 2016. This is up from 2,505 in 2011, but down from 1,985 in 2006.
- The DAs deemed ‘Low Risk’, with index scores ranging from 0 to 2, are largely located in the east end up to Dacey Road and the more rural areas of Sault Ste. Marie and Prince Township. Combined, these DAs had an approximate population of 4,315 children aged 0 to 14 in 2016. This is up from 3,785 in 2011, and from 3,640 in 2006.

Figure 106: Dissemination Areas by Socioeconomic Risk Index Category (Social Risk Index), 2016



## LONE-PARENT FAMILIES

The following maps examine lone-parent families in the Algoma District. Lone-parent families are more likely to be below the poverty level, rent their homes, and are not able to accumulate financial resources due to lower salaries and higher unemployment in comparison to couple families.

Depending on the characteristics and parenting quality of the lone-parent, children living in lone-parent families, on average, are more likely to exhibit behavioural problems and do poorer in school than children living with both parents.<sup>15</sup>

### Why is this important?

Research indicates that a number of factors place children and families at risk for serious mental health problems. Children and families who live in areas with a large proportion of lone-parent families, amongst other factors including a high rate of low-birth-weight babies, a high incidence of socially isolated parents, high rates of unemployment and underemployment, and a high incidence of poverty, may be at a higher risk of serious mental health problems.<sup>16</sup>

Areas with a large proportion of lone-parent families may benefit from access to parent/child related programming and early intervention services. Research has shown that for every dollar spent on prevention and early intervention in early childhood, seven dollars are saved in future social and health care costs.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Anne-Marie Ambert, Vanier Institute of the Family, "One parent families: Characteristics, causes, consequences, and issues", 2006.

<sup>16</sup> SickKids Centre for Community Mental Health (CCMH), Prevention and Early Intervention Services, Accessed: <https://www.sickkidscmh.ca/Home/Services-to-Infants-Youth-and-Children/Prevention-and-Early-Intervention.aspx>

<sup>17</sup> SickKids CCMH.



Figure 107: Number of Lone-Parent Families by Dissemination Area, 2016

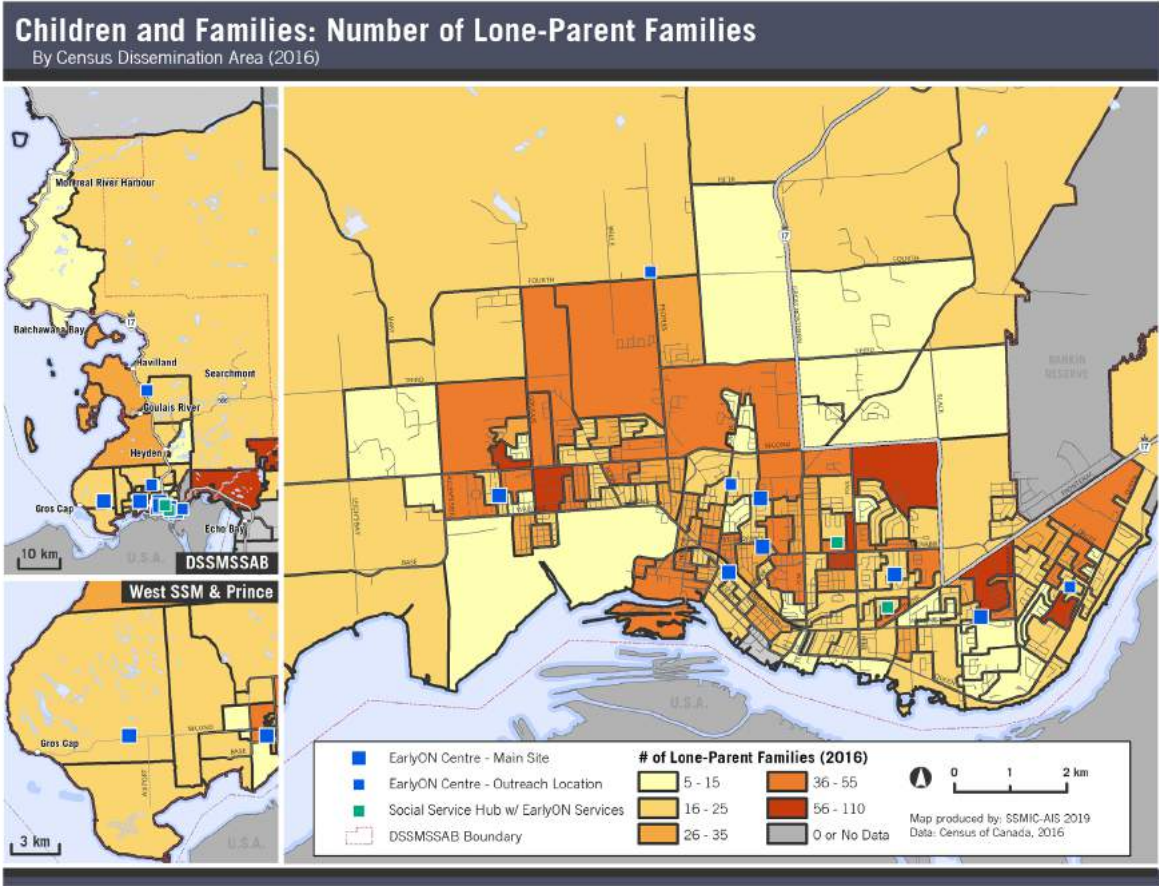
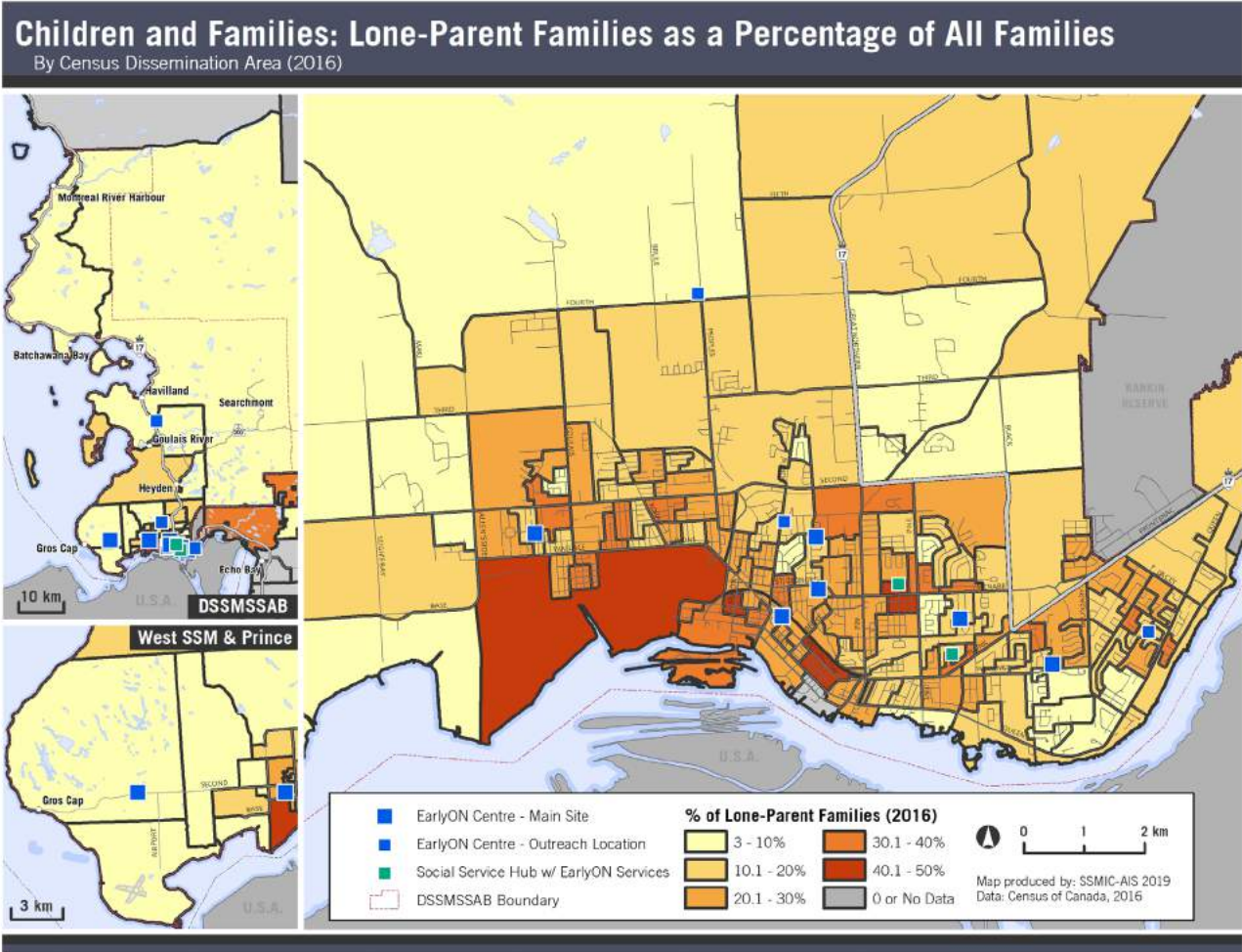


Figure 108: Lone-Parent Families as a Percentage of All Families by Dissemination Area, 2016







## FAMILY STRUCTURE – FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6

Figure 109 shows that in 2016, the DSSMSSAB area had a higher proportion of lone-parent families that had at least one child under 6 years of age than that of Ontario. In 2016, Ontario showed approximately 17.9% of all families with at least one child under 6 years of age were headed by a lone-parent, while in Sault Ste. Marie, 28.5% of families with at least one child less than 6 years of age were headed by a lone-parent.

Figure 109: Family Structure 2016 - Families with Children Under 6

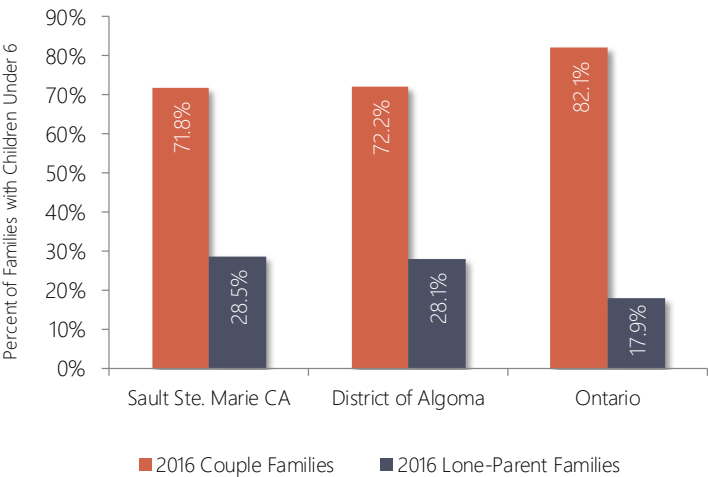
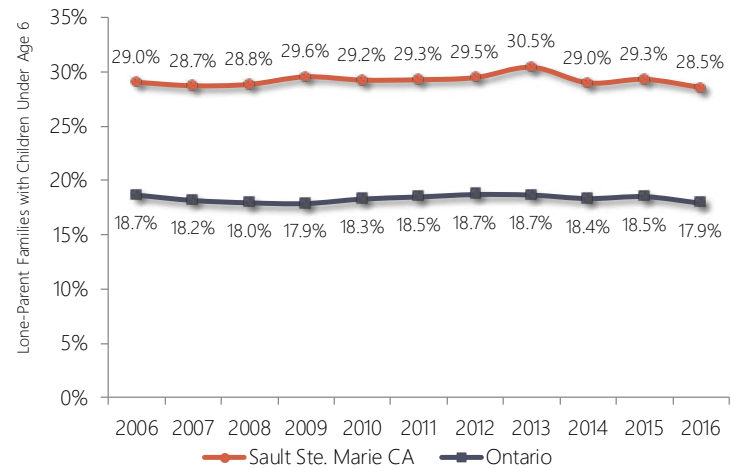


Figure 110 shows that between 2006 and 2016, the percentage of families who are headed by a lone parent fluctuated only slightly in both Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario. Sault Ste. Marie shows a very slight downwards trend in 2016.

Figure 110: Lone-Parent Families with Children Under 6, 2006-2016



## FAMILY INCOME – FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN THE HOME

Tax return data can also be used to closer consider family income, especially as it pertains to families with children in the home. Figure 111 indicates that couple families with children in the home in the Sault Ste. Marie CA had a median family income above that of Ontario in 2016, while the median income for local lone-parent families (\$40,010) was significantly less than Ontario (\$46,260). Please note that this data pertains to children who are considered “dependents” who reside in a family where the parents are considered the household maintainers. Dependent children can be of any age.

The gap between the median income of couple parent families and lone-parent families in 2016 was greater in the Sault Ste. Marie CA (a difference of \$73,968) than that of Ontario (\$64,943).

Combined, Figure 109 and Figure 111 indicate that there were more lone-parents who had at least one child under the age of 6 in Sault Ste. Marie in 2016, and they were more likely to have a lower income in 2016 than lone-parents in other parts of Ontario.

Figure 111: Median Family Income 2016 - By Family Type

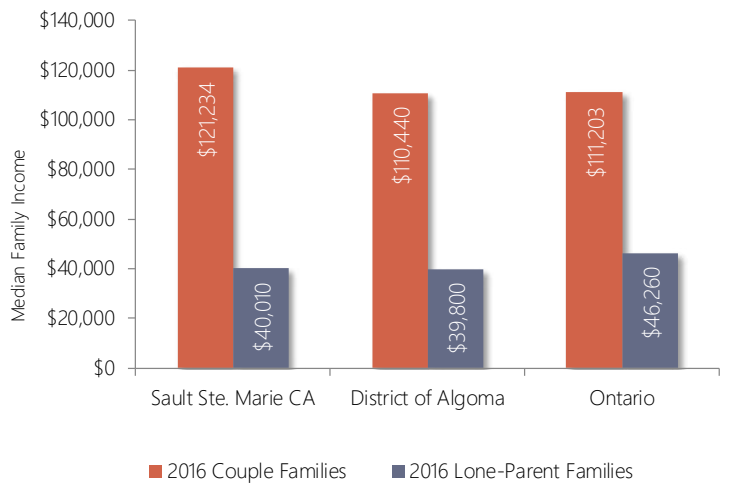


Figure 112 shows that between 2006 and 2016, the median income of couple families with children in the home in Sault Ste. Marie remained above the Ontario average. In Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario, 2009 was the only year that saw a decline in median income from the previous year.

Figure 112: Median Couple Parent Family Income 2006-2016

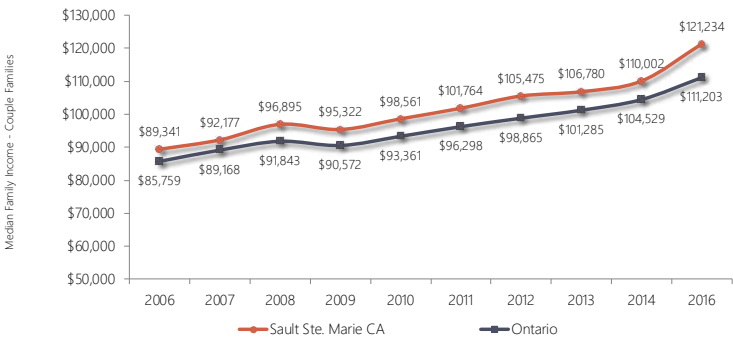
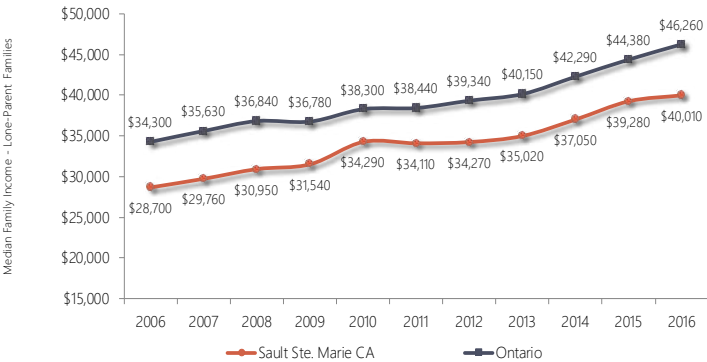


Figure 113 shows the year-over-year gap in median income of lone-parent families for Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario between 2006 and 2016. The median income of Sault Ste. Marie lone-parent families uncharacteristically increased by \$2,750 between 2009 and 2010; however, income levels lagged for the next two years.

Figure 113: Median Lone-Parent Family Income 2006-2016



YOUTH LIVING IN LOW-INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE

The Low-Income Measure Before Tax (LIM-BT) is a low-income line measured by Statistics Canada. It can be defined as a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted before-tax income of households observed at the person level, where ‘adjusted’ indicates that a household’s needs are considered.<sup>16</sup> Statistics Canada maintains that low-income lines are not measures of poverty, rather they reflect a consistent and well-defined methodology that identifies those who are substantially worse off than average. This data is available by a limited number of age groups, including youth under the age of 18. LIM-BT data is not available for children under the age of 6.

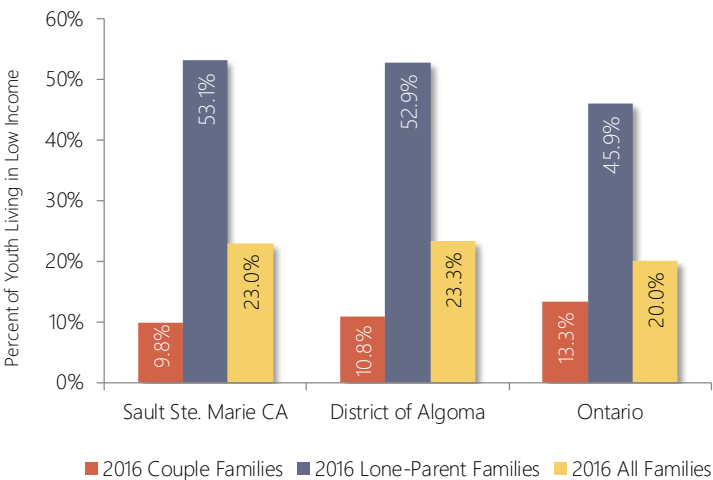
Figure 114 shows that approximately 23% of the DSSMSSAB area youth population (under the age of 18) lived in low-income families in 2016. In comparison to Sault Ste. Marie, 23.3% of Algoma youth and 20% of Ontario youth lived in low-income families in 2016. Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario youth living in lone-parent families were much more likely to be living in a low-income situation than youth living in couple families. Of the Sault Ste. Marie youth who lived in couple families, 9.8% lived in low-income families in 2016. This is lower than Ontario as a whole, where 13.3% of youth living in couple parent families were living in low-income situations in 2016.

Of the Sault Ste. Marie youth who lived in lone-parent families, 53.1% lived in low-income situations in 2016. This is higher than Ontario as a whole, where 45.9% of youth living in lone-parent families were living in low-income situations in 2016.

Figure 115 shows that between 2006 and 2016, the percentage of youth who lived in low-income couple families had declined slightly from a high of 13.3% in 2009 to 9.8% in 2016. Ontario shows a gradual downward trend as well, dropping from a high of 16.4% in 2009 to 13.3% in 2016.

Figure 116 shows that between 2006 and 2013, the percentage of Sault Ste. Marie and Ontario youth who lived in low-income lone-parent families dipped in 2010 but rose back to pre-2010 levels by 2013.

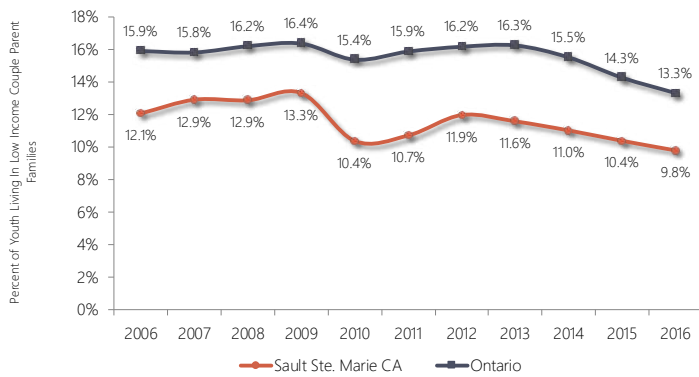
Figure 114: Youth Living in Low-Income Families 2016 - By Family Type



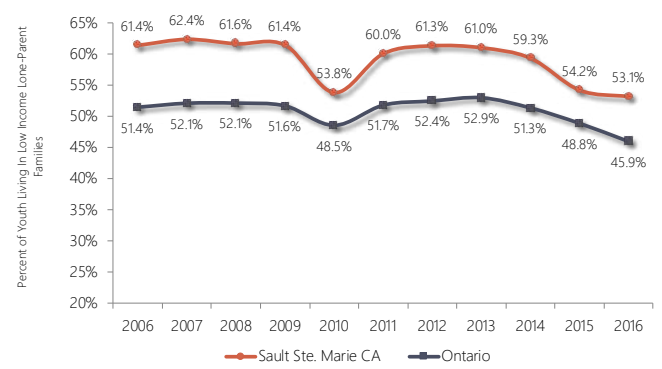
<sup>16</sup> Statistics Canada, Low-income measure, before tax (LIM-BT) definition, 2016. Accessed: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/ref/dict/fam022-eng.cfm>



**Figure 115: Youth Living in Low-Income Couple Parent Families 2006-2016**



**Figure 116: Youth Living in Low-Income Lone-Parent Families 2006-2016**



## SOCIAL HOUSING IN SAULT STE. MARIE

Social Housing is rent geared to income housing. It is available to all citizens living in Ontario. The amount of rent paid is based on the total family income (gross). Rent in Social Housing will not be more than 30% of the total family income.<sup>17</sup>

Social Housing Units are available in many neighbourhoods throughout the City of Sault Ste. Marie. They include: bachelor apartments; one, two, three, four, and five-bedroom apartments; townhouses; semi-detached; duplexes; and single family homes.

The map in Figure 117 shows the location and distribution of subsidized housing units for individuals and families. It does not include Social Housing designated for seniors. The area around McNabb Street, Pine Street, and Great Northern Road has a large proportion of Social Housing Units.

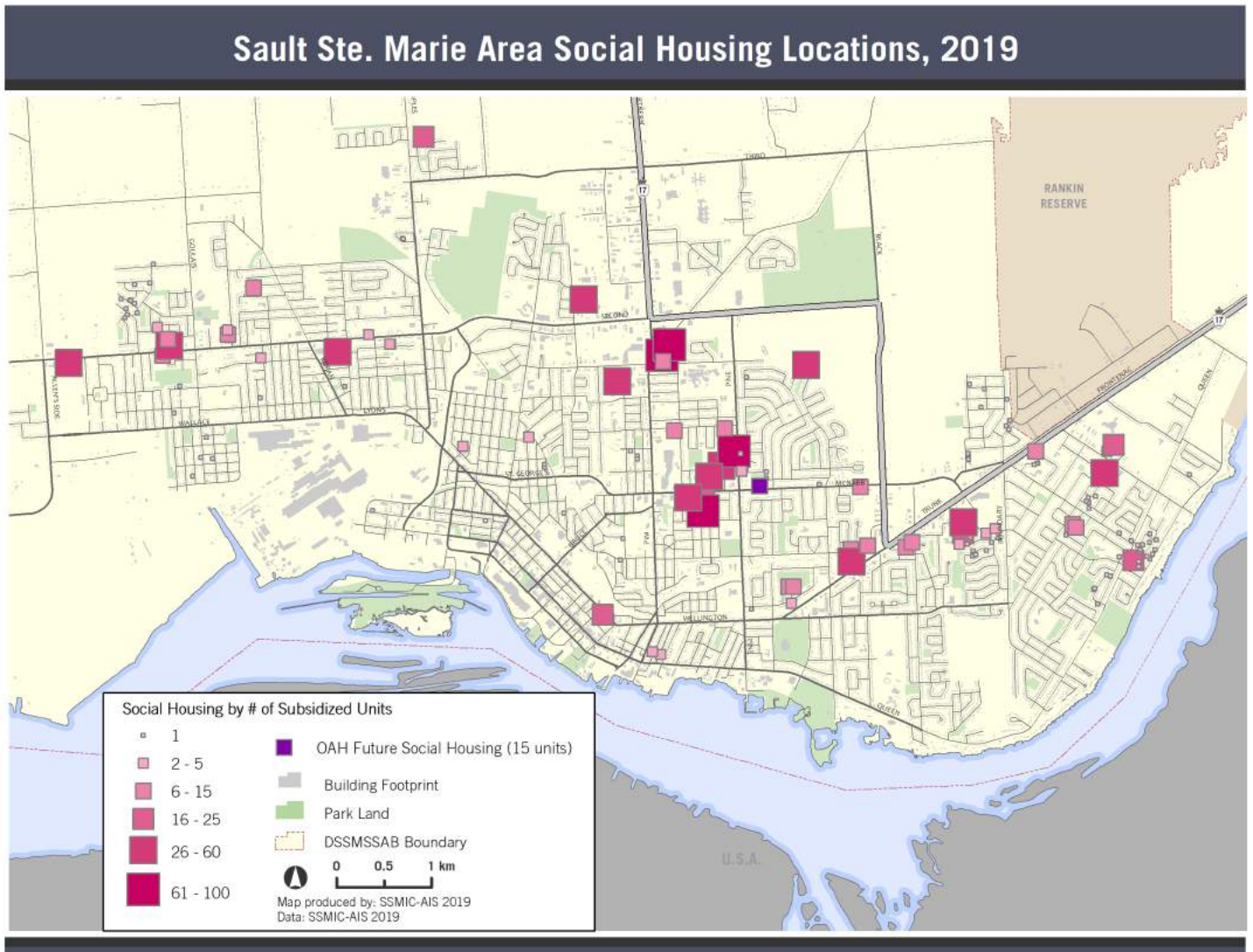
Individual address points that fell on the same parcel of land or on small adjacent parcels of land were consolidated for the purpose of this map to determine not only where Social Housing Units are located, but what areas have the most subsidized units. This will assist various community organizations, such as EarlyON Child and Family Centres, plan their outreach services.

Note: Ontario Aboriginal Housing has two additional residential land parcels that were not included in this map because one is under construction and one is not yet developed. There was no information available on when, or if, these would become available for subsidized housing in the future, or how many units would be created.



<sup>17</sup> District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board. Housing Services. Retrieved from <http://www.socialservices-ssmd.ca/index.cfm?fuseaction=content&menuid=49&pageid=1050>

Figure 117: Locations of Social Housing in Sault Ste. Marie, April 2019





## EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI) RESULTS 2017/2018

# What you'll find: IN THIS SECTION

*EDI.....102*

*Vulnerability.....104*

*Physical Health & Well-being.....108*

*Social Competence.....111*

*Emotional Maturity.....115*

*Language & Cognitive Development.....119*

*Communication Skills.....123*

*Most Vulnerable Areas.....126*

- The vulnerability rate of the EDI domains in the DSSMSSAB area are not significantly different than Ontario for Cycle 5
- The Emotional Maturity domain is showing improvement
- The general vulnerability rate of DSSMSSAB area (29.5%) is virtually identical to Ontario (29.6%). SSM has typically been several percentage points higher in the past
- There were fewer valid EDI cases in the downtown area compared to the last cycle
- The Emotional Maturity vulnerability rate of the "East Central" neighbourhood has significantly improved, particularly in the Chapple/Albion area and in the Hamilton Heights area



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

# Early Development Instrument (EDI) Results 2017/18

## EDI

The EDI is a questionnaire completed by senior kindergarten (SK) teachers that measures children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations. It is a Canadian-made research tool, developed at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University. The EDI has three main objectives: (1) to assess the strengths and deficits of students, (2) report on populations in different communities, and (3) to provide a kindergarten benchmark for monitoring child development trajectories.<sup>18</sup> However, it is important to

note that the EDI is not used to assess or diagnose individual children, nor is it used to rank teachers or schools, but rather is a population-level measure and results are grouped at a community or neighbourhood level.

The results of the EDI questionnaire are grouped into five domains of child development: Physical Health & Well-being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development, and Communication Skills & General Knowledge.



**Physical Health & Well-being:** Includes gross and fine motor skills (e.g., holding a pencil, running on the playground, motor coordination), adequate energy levels for classroom activities, independence in looking after own needs, and daily living skills.



**Social Competence:** Includes curiosity about the world, eagerness to try new experiences, knowledge of standards of acceptable public behaviour, ability to control own behaviour, appropriate respect for adult authority, cooperation with others, following rules, and ability to play and work with other children.



**Emotional Maturity:** Includes the ability to think before acting, a balance between too fearful and too impulsive, an ability to deal with feelings at the age-appropriate level, and empathetic response to other people's feelings.



**Language & Cognitive Development:** Includes reading awareness, age-appropriate reading and writing skills, age-appropriate numeracy skills, ability to understand similarities and differences, and ability to recite back specific pieces of information from memory.



**Communication Skills & General Knowledge:** Includes skills to communicate needs and wants in socially appropriate ways, symbolic use of language, storytelling, and age-appropriate knowledge about the life and world around.

## EDI PARTICIPATION

There have been five major EDI implementations in all regions of Ontario, commonly referred to as Cycles. The five major Sault Ste. Marie EDI implementations took place during the 2004/05 (Cycle 1), 2008/2009 (Cycle 2), 2011/12 (Cycle 3), 2014/15 (Cycle 4) and 2017/18 (Cycle 5) school years. The analysis in this section follows the Ontario guidelines which is to exclude children who have been diagnosed with a special need. The number of valid Sault Ste. Marie EDI records (without special needs) for this latest cycle is 698 (2017/18).

EDI results can also be broken down by neighbourhood to get a sense of regional differences within an area. The DSSMSSAB area has been divided into nine larger neighbourhoods and further broken down into nineteen smaller neighbourhoods. The boundaries of these neighbourhoods can be seen in the following maps. Both maps are coloured according to the number of 2017/18 valid cases within each neighbourhood. EDI results are mapped based on where children live, not where they go to school.

<sup>18</sup> EDI, Offord Centre (2019) What is the EDI? <https://edi.offordcentre.com/about/what-is-the-edi/>

Figure 118: Valid EDI Counts by Larger Neighbourhoods

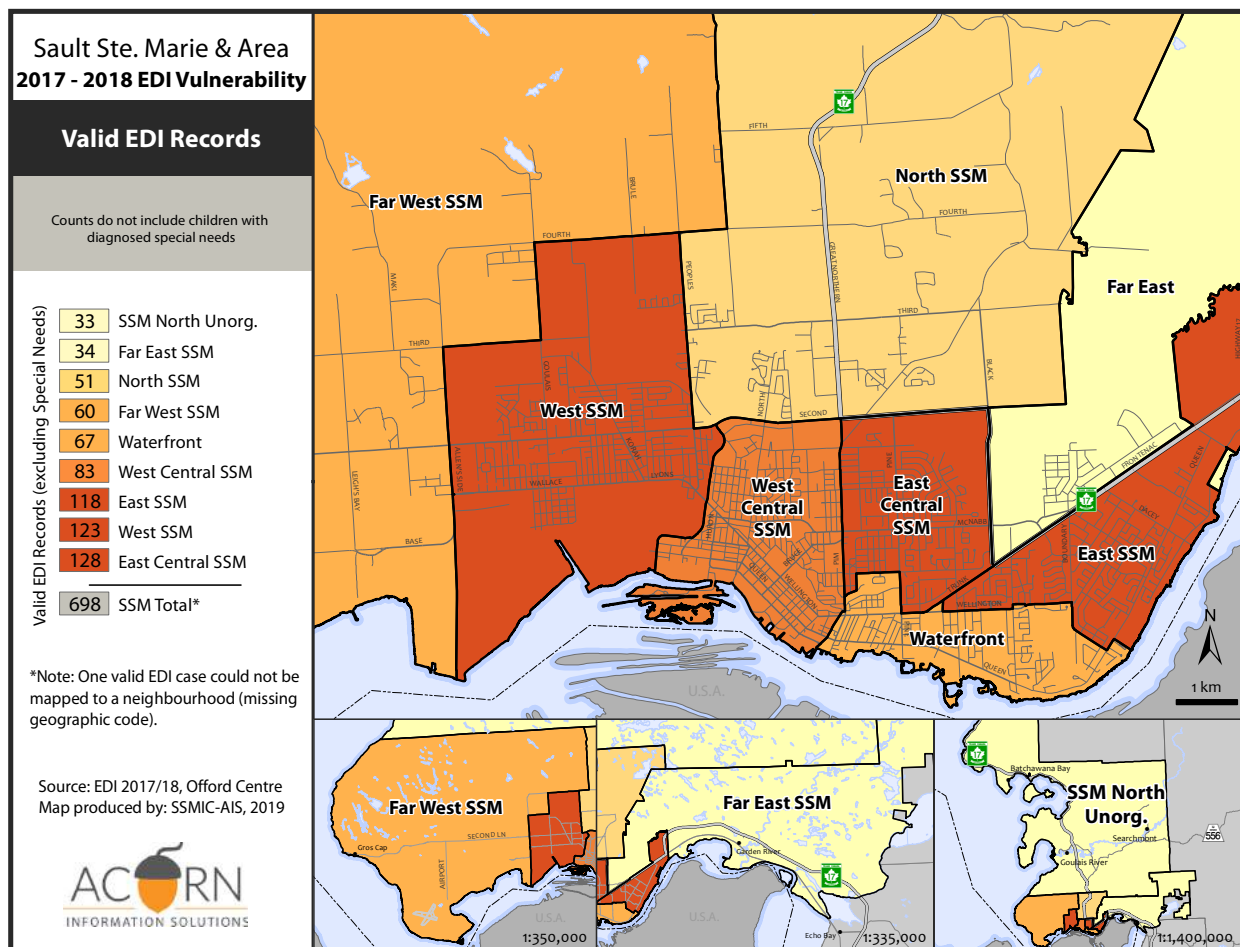
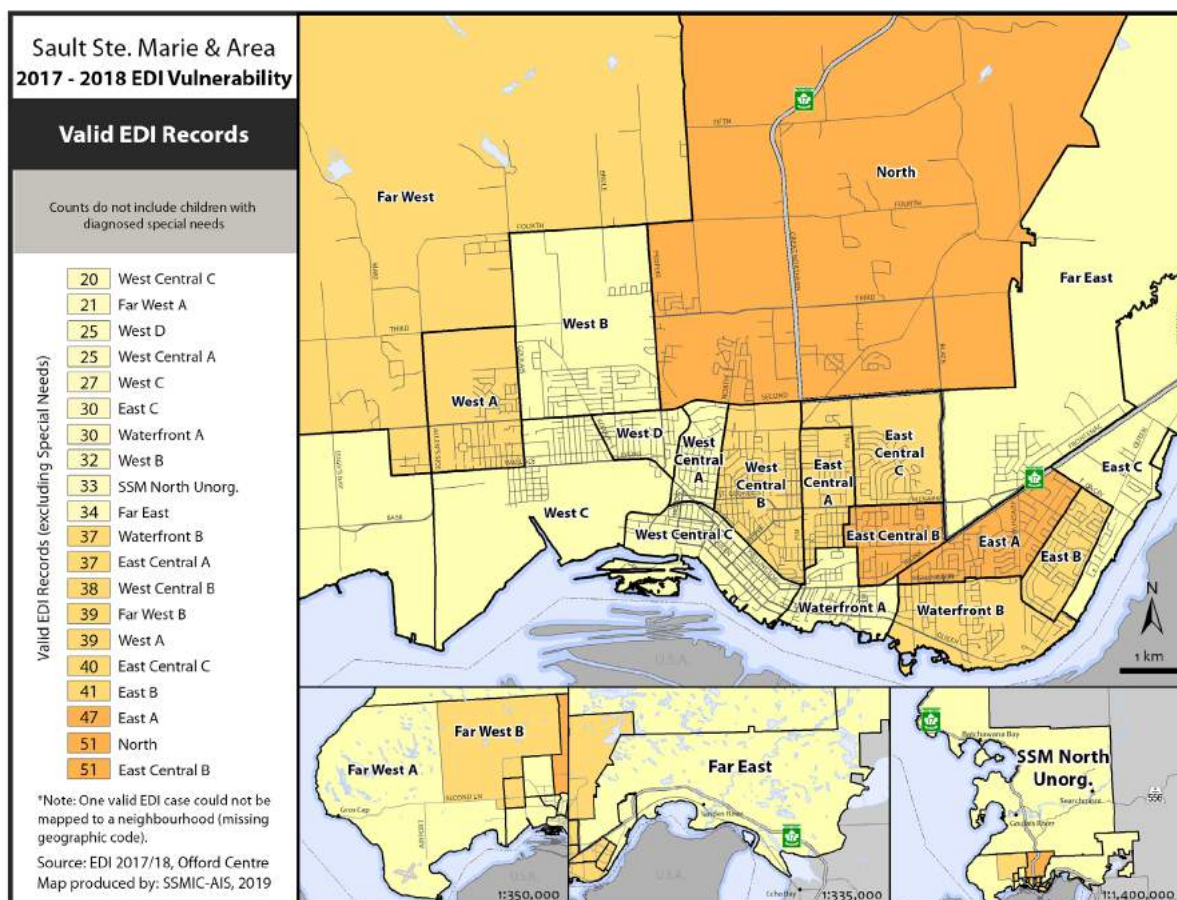


Figure 119: Valid EDI Counts by Smaller Neighbourhood



## VULNERABILITY

The EDI is commonly used to get a sense of vulnerability in a population of children. If a child scores below the 10th percentile cut-off of the site or comparison population on any of the five domains, they are said to be vulnerable on that scale of development. This captures not only the children who are visibly struggling, but also those whose vulnerabilities may be hidden. Research has shown that children's development at age 5 can predict future problems in grade 3, 6 and high school. These difficulties in school could predict problems later in life, beyond school.<sup>19</sup> These vulnerable children represent a group who may benefit from cost-effective, universal preventative programs that are likely to make a difference in their development during these critical years.<sup>20</sup>

Vulnerability can be analyzed in relation to provincial and territorial cut-offs, which allows for comparisons of regions, schools and neighbourhoods across that province or territory. For this analysis, the Ontario Baseline has been used to determine vulnerability. The Offord Centre used the first province-wide implementation of EDI to define the Ontario Baseline (or Cycle 1, completed between 2004-2006) and that data was used to determine the 10th percentile cut-offs for subsequent reporting of all EDI cycles.<sup>21</sup> This means the percentage of children who are vulnerable using the Ontario Baseline, reflects the vulnerability in the DSSMSSAB area in relation to the distribution of scores in the Ontario population, allowing comparison of different samples to each other. When

looking at vulnerability rates, a lower percentage is a more favourable result.<sup>22</sup>

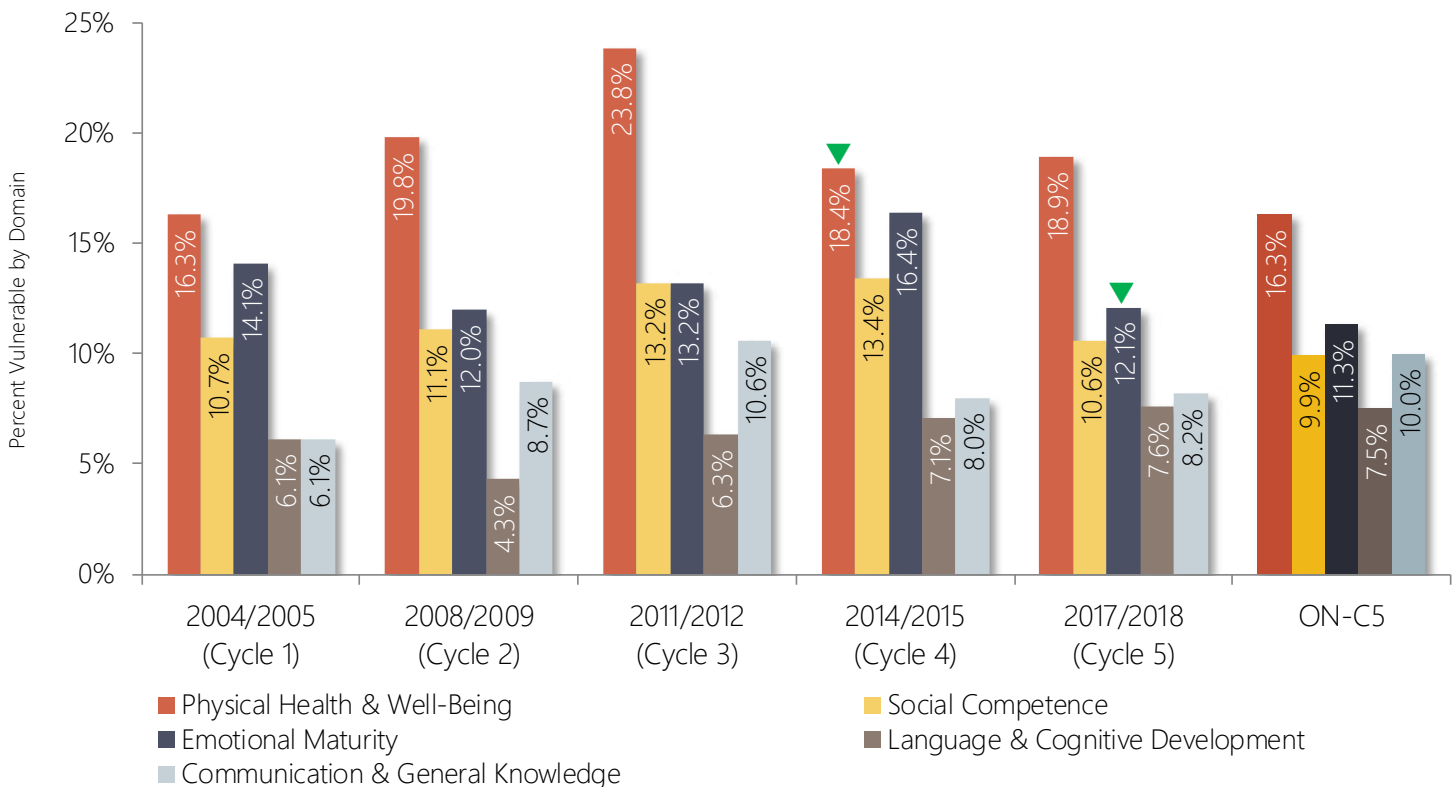
This report also examines the change in vulnerability rates between EDI cycles. This is done through statistical significance testing. This report makes note of statistical significance in two ways:

1. The changes in the DSSMSSAB area vulnerability rates between the latest two implementations (Cycle 4 vs. Cycle 5), and
2. The difference between the Cycle 5 vulnerability rates of the DSSMSSAB area and those of the Ontario Cycle 5 results.

Two-tailed hypothesis testing (p-value of less than 0.05) was used to determine statistical significance. The term 'statistical significance' means a result is unlikely due to chance; however, it does not necessarily mean practical significance. Whether or not a difference in scores between EDI implementations is meaningful can only be determined by considering the context of the change.

Figure 120 illustrates the percentage of DSSMSSAB area SK children who fell below the 10th percentile cut-off based on the Ontario Baseline for the last five EDI implementations. This figure shows that in 2017/2018 (Cycle 5) the DSSMSSAB area vulnerability rates for the Physical Health & Well-being,

Figure 120: Percent Vulnerable by EDI Domain – Sault Ste. Marie



<sup>19</sup> EDI, The Offord Centre (2019). *Early Development Instrument: Interpretation Toolkit*. <https://edi.offordcentre.com/resources/>

<sup>20</sup> EDI, The Offord Centre (2019). *How to Interpret EDI Results*. <https://edi.offordcentre.com/researchers/how-to-interpret-edi-results/>

<sup>21</sup> EDI, The Offord Centre (2019). *EDI in Ontario*. <https://edi.offordcentre.com/partners/canada/edi-in-ontario/>

<sup>22</sup> EDI, The Offord Centre (2019). *How to Interpret EDI Results*. <https://edi.offordcentre.com/researchers/how-to-interpret-edi-results/>



Social Competence and Emotional Maturity domains were higher than those of the provincial rate; Language & Cognitive Development was on par with Ontario and Communication & General Knowledge was slightly better than Ontario. Compared to the 2014/15 EDI cycle, only the Emotional Maturity domain showed a statistically significant decrease in the percent of vulnerable children in Sault Ste. Marie. The Physical Health & Well-Being, Language & Cognitive Development and Communication & General Knowledge domains showed a similar percentage of vulnerable children between 2014/15 and 2017/18 and the Social Competence domain showed a decrease; however, this change was not statistically significant.

Figure 121 illustrates the general vulnerability rate of DSSMSSAB area SK children for each of the last five EDI implementations. In Cycle 5 (2017/18), the Sault Ste. Marie area had a vulnerability rate of 29.5% compared to the previous cycle's vulnerability rate of 31.3%. This figure also shows the percentage of SK children who scored low in two or more domains, indicating the percentage of children with significant challenges. Sault Ste. Marie is on par with Ontario for Cycle 5 for both measures of vulnerability; Ontario's vulnerability rate for low in one or more domains is 29.6% and 13.9% for low in two or more domains compared to 29.5% and 14.0% in Sault Ste. Marie.

Figure 121: Percent Vulnerable in One and Two or More EDI Domains - Sault Ste. Marie



The following maps show the above results broken down into neighbourhoods in the DSSMSSAB area. Figure 122 shows the breakdown of the percent of children vulnerable in one or more domains for the larger neighbourhoods in the DSSMSSAB area and highlights East Central SSM, East SSM, West Central SSM and SSM North Unorganized as areas with increased vulnerability. Figure 123 provides the same vulnerability breakdown but at

the smaller neighbourhood level, to more accurately identify areas of concern. At this level, the neighbourhoods of greatest concern are highlighted as East Central C, East Central A, SSM North Unorganized and West Central C. These neighbourhoods had over 40% of children vulnerable in one or more domains, with West Central C having the highest at 55.0%.

Figure 122: Percent Vulnerable in One or More Domains by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18

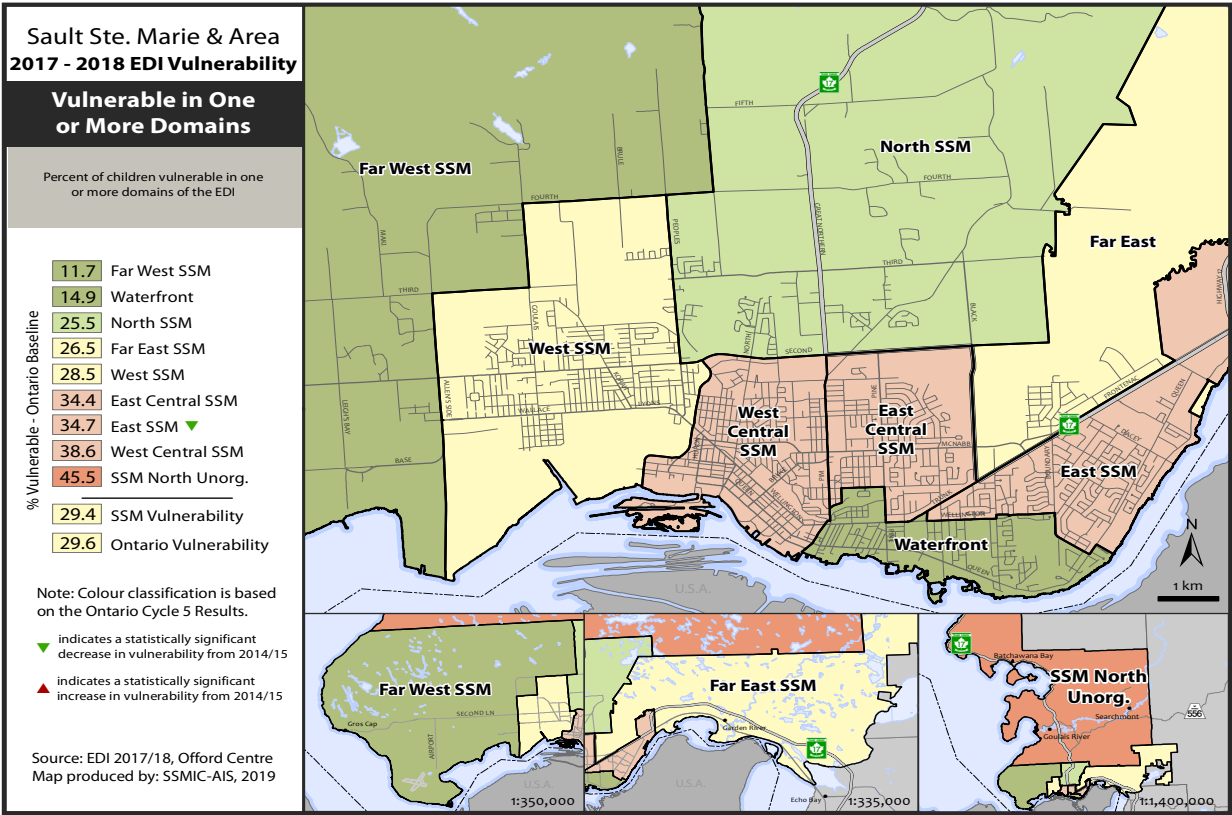


Figure 123: Percent Vulnerable in One or More Domains by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18

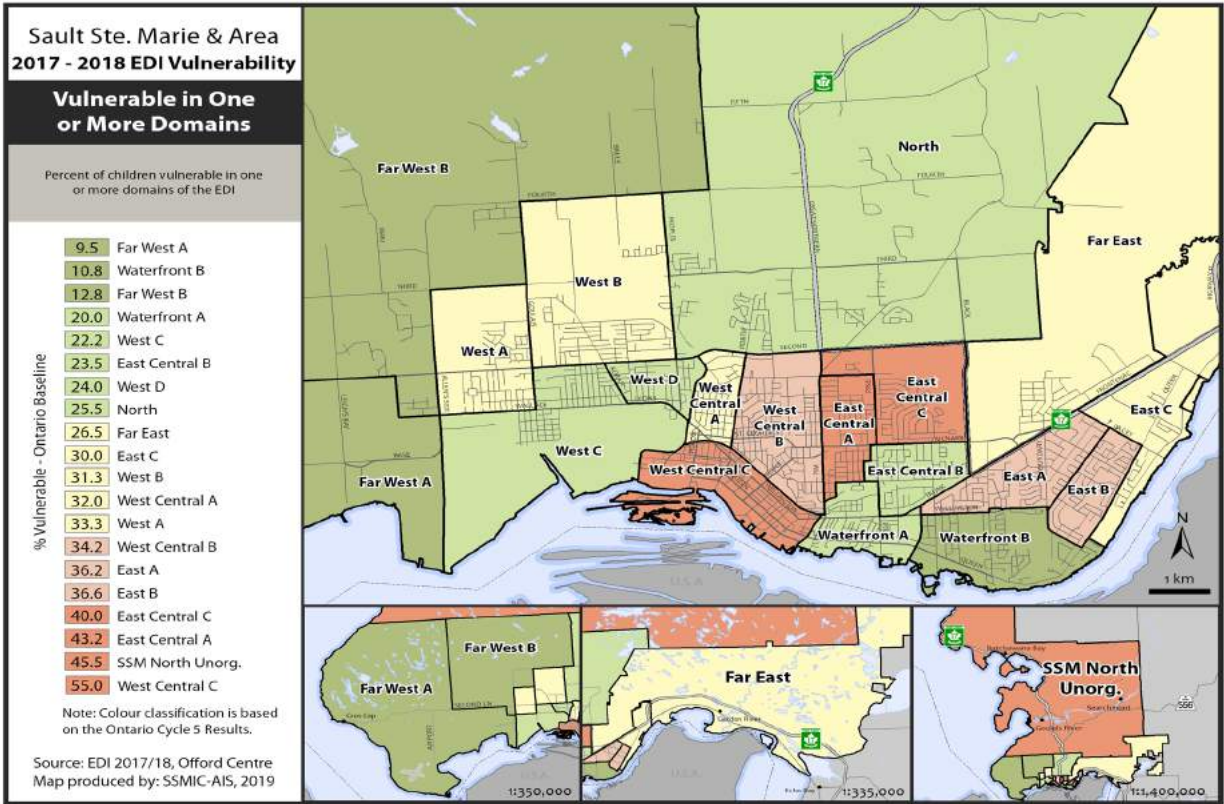




Figure 124 highlights the percentage of children that were low in two or more domains at the large neighbourhood level. The areas of concern are the West Central SSM and SSM North Unorganized neighbourhoods. At the smaller neighbourhood level, shown in Figure 125, areas where children are facing significant challenges are highlighted. Here, the West A, East Central A, West Central C, and SSM North Unorganized neighbourhoods show a higher percent of children with vulnerabilities in two or more domains, with West Central C having the highest percent at 35.0%.

Figure 124: Percent Vulnerable in Two or More Domains by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18

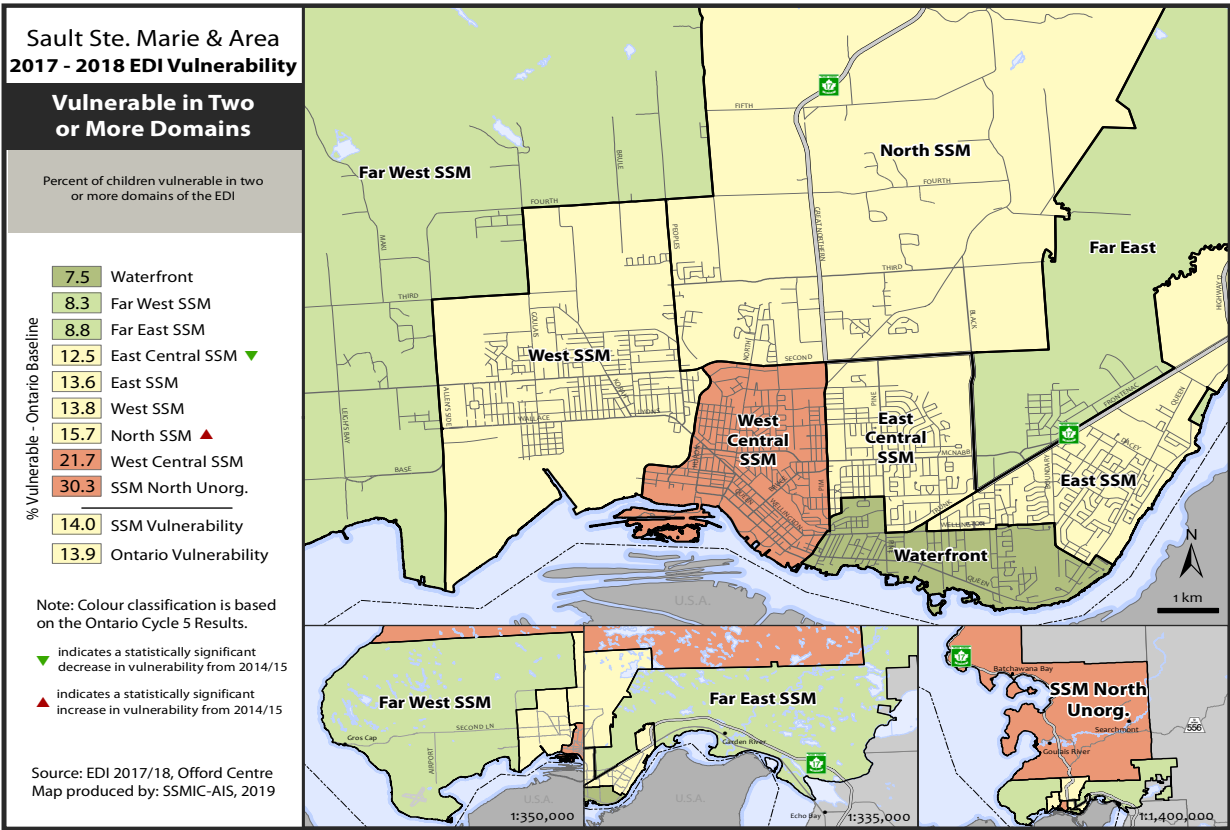
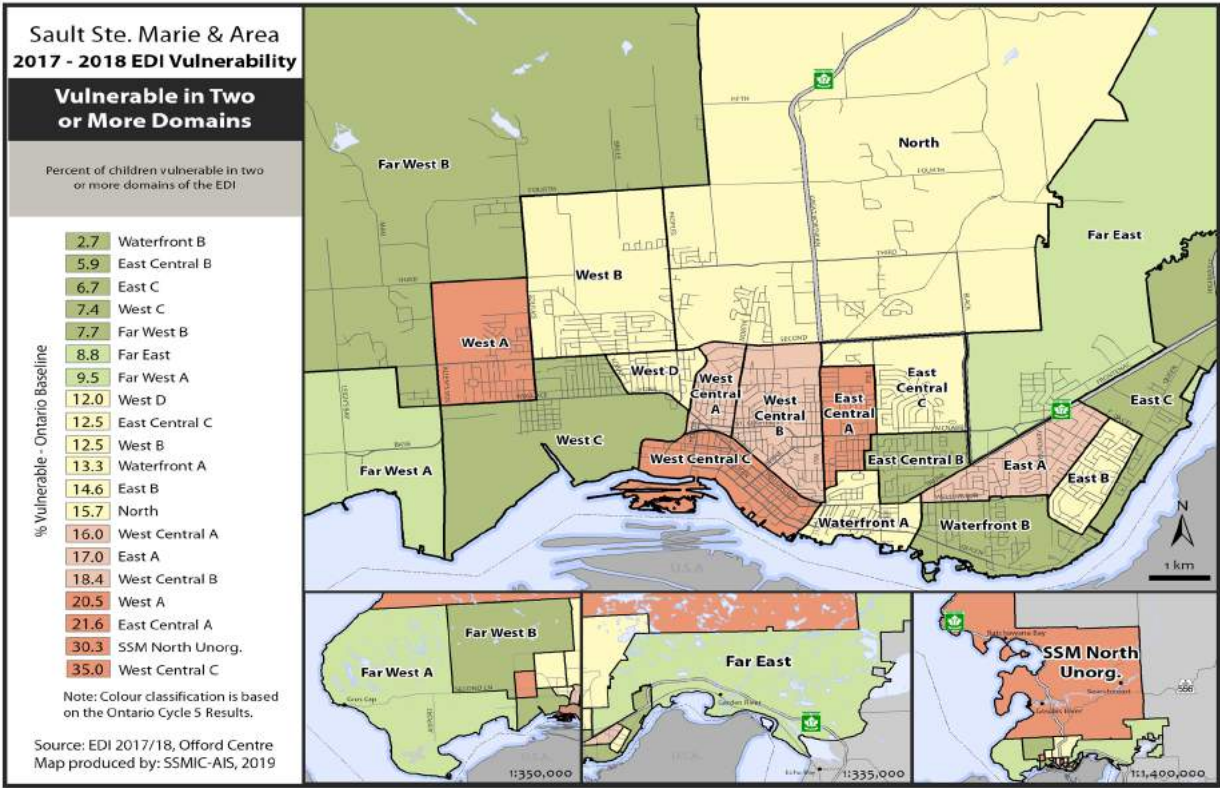


Figure 125: Percent Vulnerable in Two or More Domains by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18





# DEVELOPMENTAL EXPECTATIONS BY SUBDOMAINS

Each EDI domain is made up of several subdomains which focus on a specific skill or ability. The following sections provide detailed information about each EDI domain and its related subdomains. Rather than looking at the percent of vulnerable children as done for the core domains, subdomains are reported by the percent of children who meet all/almost all, some, or few/none of the developmental expectations for each subdomain. In the following subdomain graphs, the

percent of children meeting all or almost all expectations is shown in green, the percent of children meeting some of the expectations is shown in yellow, and the percent meeting few or none of the expectations is shown in orange. Each graph includes the latest Ontario Cycle 5 data for the purposes of comparison. Understanding these subdomains allows service providers to be specific as to what needs should be targeted in program planning.

### Why is this important?

Vulnerable children are not spread evenly throughout Sault Ste. Marie, as some neighbourhoods have a higher share of children facing difficulties. A 2017/18 vulnerability map has been included for each domain within the following sections of this report. In these maps, the EDI neighbourhoods in Sault Ste. Marie are classified from low to high vulnerability using the Ontario Baseline. Neighbourhoods with a lower percentage of vulnerable children compared to the Ontario Cycle 5 average are depicted in green, while neighbourhoods with a higher percentage of vulnerable children are depicted in orange. Yellow neighbourhoods indicate those that are at or near the Ontario average vulnerability rate.

Lowest

Low

Average

High

Highest

## PHYSICAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

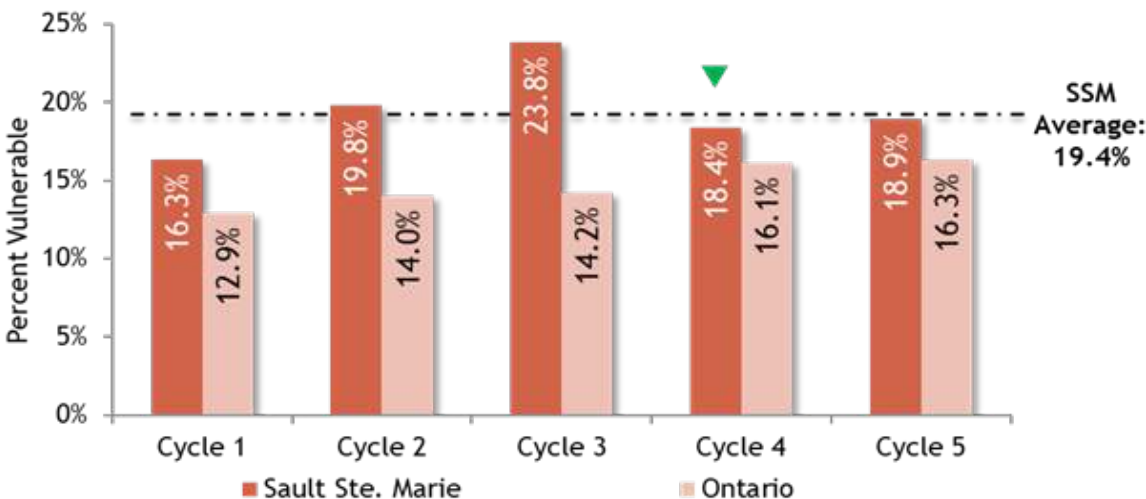
The Physical Health & Well-being domain measures gross and fine motor skills (holding a pencil, running on the playground, motor coordination), adequate energy levels for classroom activities, independence in looking after own needs, and daily living skills. A child below the 10th percentile “has inadequate fine and gross motor skills, is sometimes tired or hungry, is usually clumsy, and may have flagging energy levels”.<sup>23</sup>

In Sault Ste. Marie, 18.9% of children were deemed vulnerable in this domain, on par with Cycle 4 which was at 18.4% (Figure

126). All the large neighbourhoods showed no significant change between Cycles 4 and 5 with the exception of the North SSM neighbourhood (Figure 127). It showed a significant increase in vulnerability in this domain of 13.9 percentage points between Cycle 4 (1.8%) and Cycle 5(15.7%).

In Figure 128, the smaller neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming include West A (28.2%), East Central C (30.0%) and West Central C (55.0%).

Figure 126: Percent Vulnerable in the Physical Health and Well-Being Domain - Sault Ste. Marie



<sup>23</sup> Magdalena Janus “The Early Development Instrument: A Tool for Monitoring Children’s Development and Readiness for School”, Early Child Development from Measurement to Action: A Priority for Growth and Equity Ed. Mary Eming Young and Linda M. Richardson, World Bank Publications, 2007, pg. 188.

Figure 127: Percent Vulnerable in the Physical Health & Well-being Domain by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18

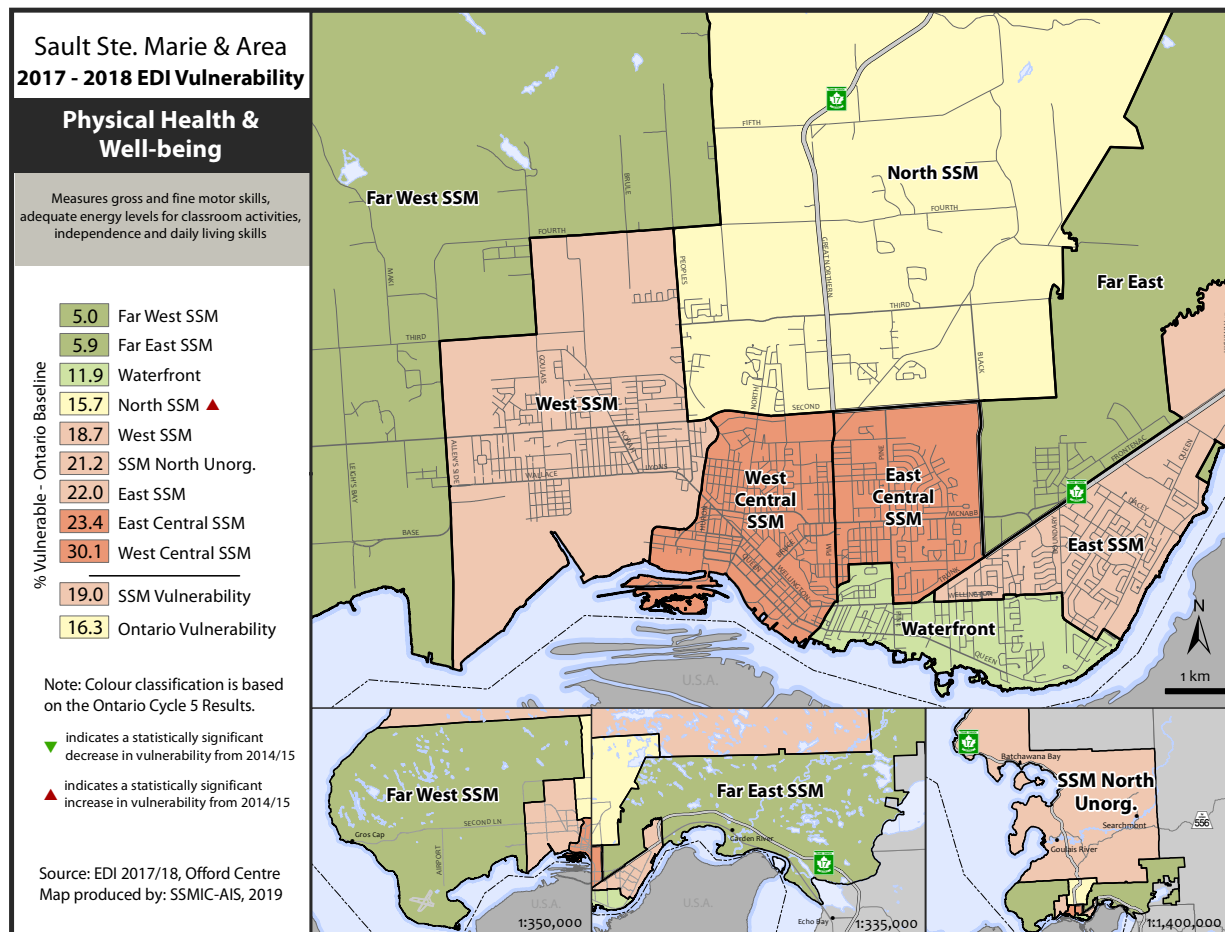
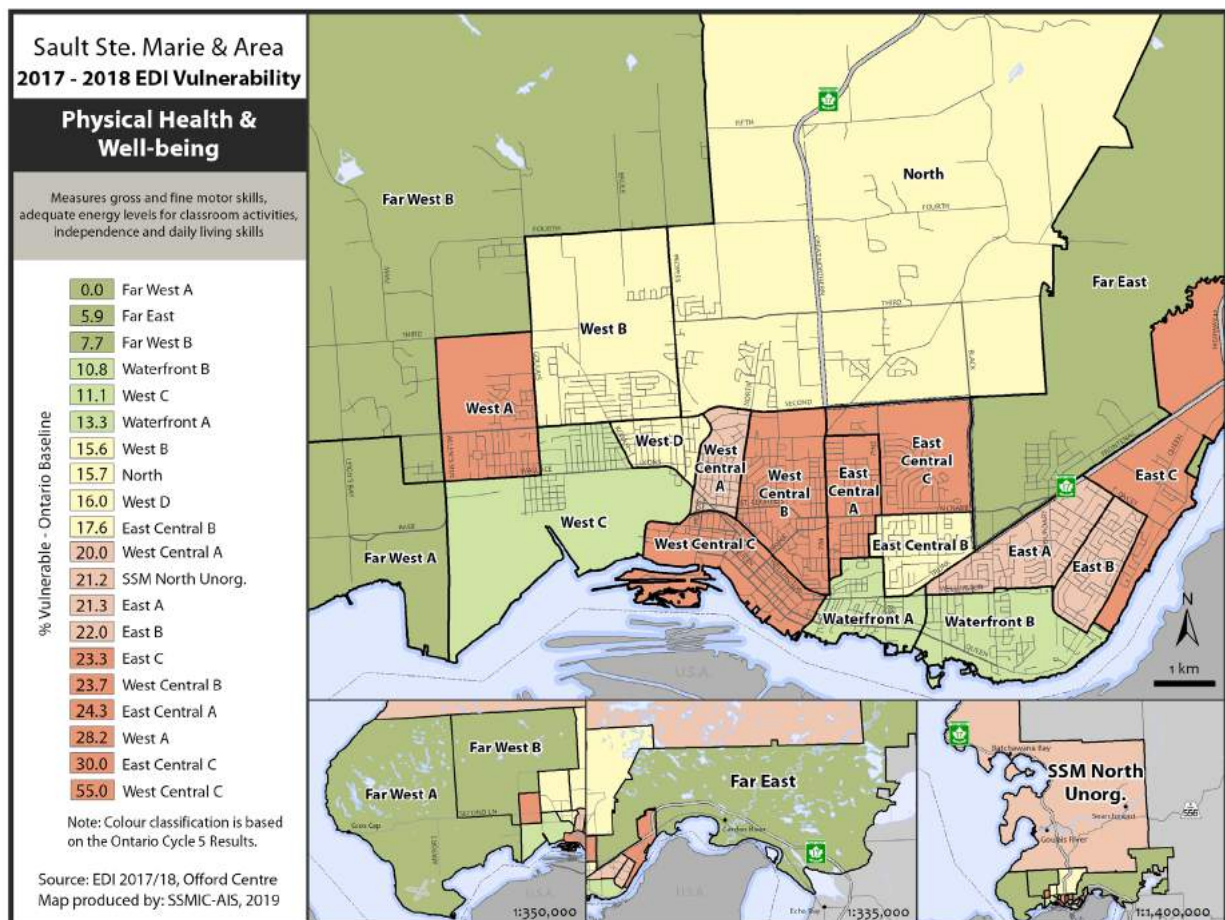


Figure 128: Percent Vulnerable in the Physical Health & Well-being Domain by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18



SUBDOMAINS

The Physical Health & Well-being domain can be further divided into three subdomains:

- Physical Readiness for the School Day
- Physical Independence
- Gross and Fine Motor Skills

PHYSICAL READINESS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has never or almost never experienced being dressed inappropriately for school activities or coming to school tired, late or hungry. The vast majority of children in Ontario meet these developmental expectations and are therefore physically ready for the school day. On the other hand, children who at least sometimes experienced being dressed inappropriately for school activities or coming to school tired, late or hungry are considered not to be meeting developmental expectations.

There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain between Sault Ste. Marie (7.4%) and Ontario (5.2%) in 2018. Sault Ste. Marie remained the same in the 2018 cycle compared to the 2015 cycle (7.5%).

The Far West neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 1.7% and the East neighbourhood had the highest rate of 10.2% for 2017/2018. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include East, SSM North Unorganized (9.1%) and West Central (9.6%).

PHYSICAL INDEPENDENCE

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain is independently looking after their needs, has an established hand preference, is well coordinated, and does not suck a thumb/finger. Children who are not meeting the developmental expectations for this subdomain range from those who have difficulties with independence, handedness, coordination, and/or suck a thumb, to those who have not developed any of these skills and suck a thumb.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (10.6%) was slightly above that of Ontario (9.5%) for this subdomain. Compared to the 2014/2015 cycle, Sault Ste. Marie as a whole improved in this subdomain by 1.8 percentage points.

The Far West neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 5.0% and the West Central neighbourhood showed the highest (14.5%). Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include East (13.6%) and West Central.

Figure 129: Physical Readiness Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

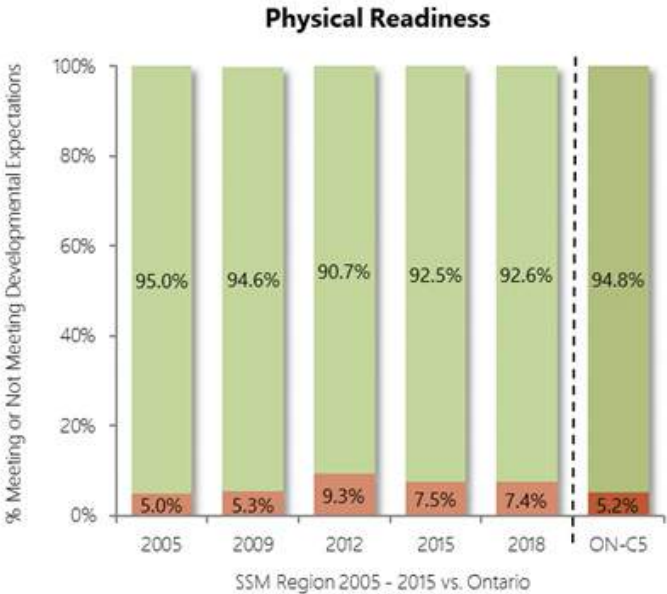
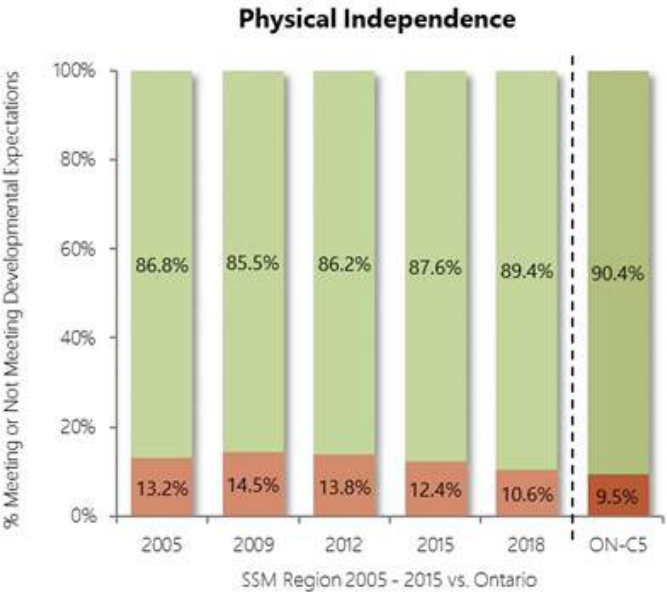


Figure 130: Physical Independence Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie





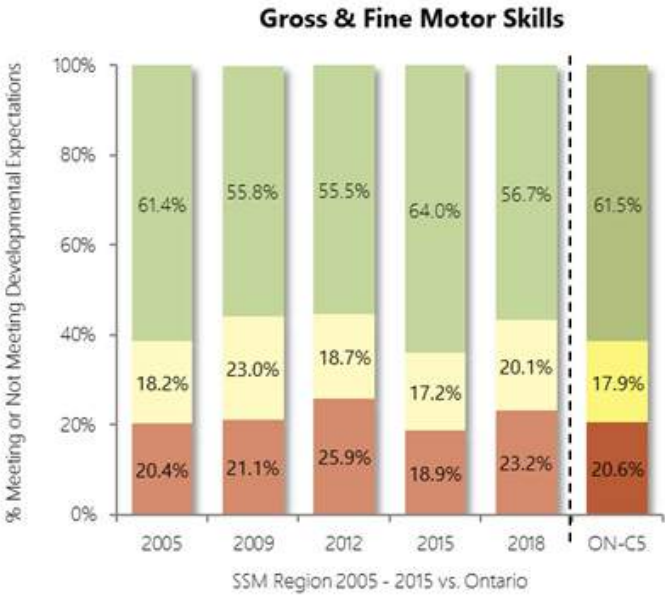
GROSS AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has an excellent ability to physically tackle the school day and has excellent or good gross and fine motor skills. Children who are not meeting the developmental expectations for this subdomain range from those who have an average ability to perform skills requiring gross and fine motor competence and good or average overall energy levels, to those who have poor fine and gross motor skills, overall energy levels, and physical skills.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (23.2%) was above that of Ontario as a whole (20.6%) but was not flagged as being a statistically significant difference. Also not flagged as statistically different was the change from 2014/15 to 2017/18— an increase of 4.3 percentage points.

The Far West neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 8.3% and SSM North Unorganized had the highest rate of 39.4%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized and West Central (33.7%).

Figure 131: Gross & Fine Motor Skills Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie



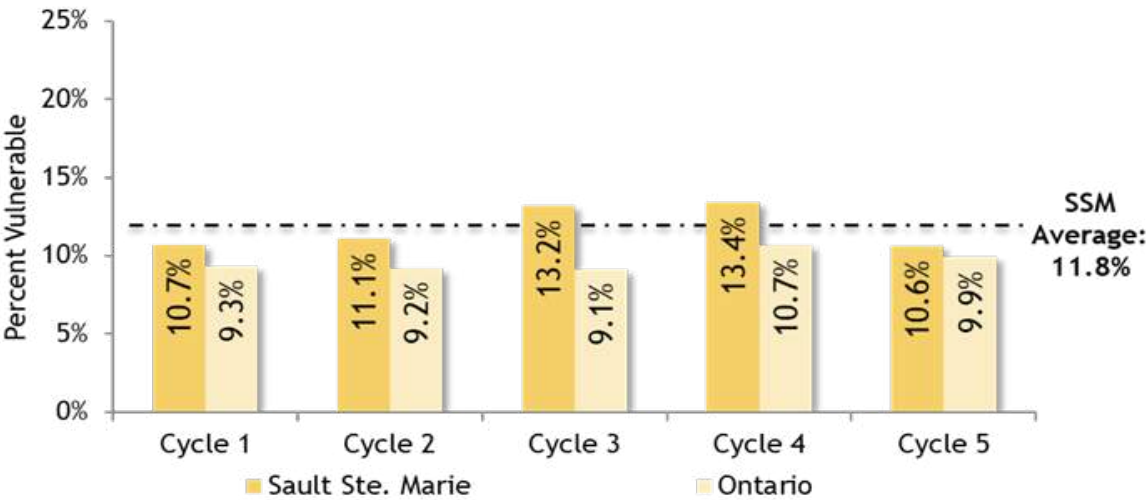
SOCIAL COMPETENCE

The Social Competence domain measures curiosity about the world, eagerness to try new experiences, knowledge of standards of acceptable behaviour in a public place, ability to control own behaviour, appropriate respect for adult authority, cooperation with others, following rules, and the ability to play and work with other children. A child below the 10th percentile “has poor overall social skills; has regular serious problems in more than one area of getting along with other children – accepting responsibility for his or her own actions, following rules and class routines, being respectful of adults, children and others’ property, having self-confidence and self-control, and adjusting to change; and is usually unable to work independently”.<sup>24</sup>

Sault Ste. Marie (10.6%) has slightly more vulnerable children than observed in Ontario (9.9%) in this domain. Compared to the 2014/15 cycle, in Sault Ste. Marie this overall domain improved by 2.9 percentage points (13.4% in 2014/15 vs 10.5% 2017/18).

The Far East SSM neighbourhood had the lowest vulnerability rate of 3.4% and SSM North Unorganized had the highest rate of 18.2%. The North neighbourhood (15.7%) did show a significant increase in vulnerability when compared to 2014/15 (1.8%). The neighbourhood of SSM North Unorganized would benefit from additional programming.

Figure 132: Percent Vulnerable in the Social Competence Domain - Sault Ste. Marie



<sup>24</sup> Janus, 2007, pg. 188.

Figure 133: Percent Vulnerable in the Social Competence Domain by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18

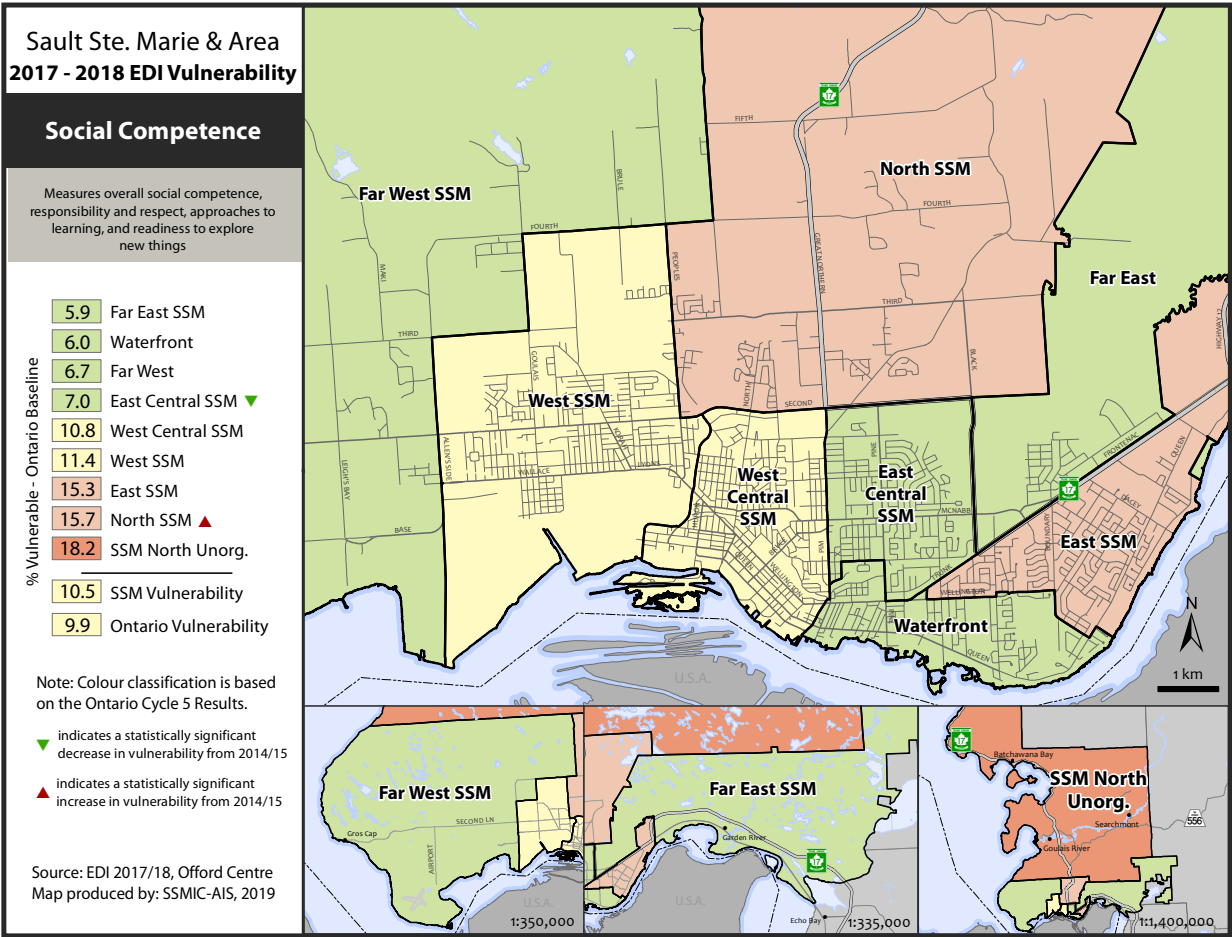
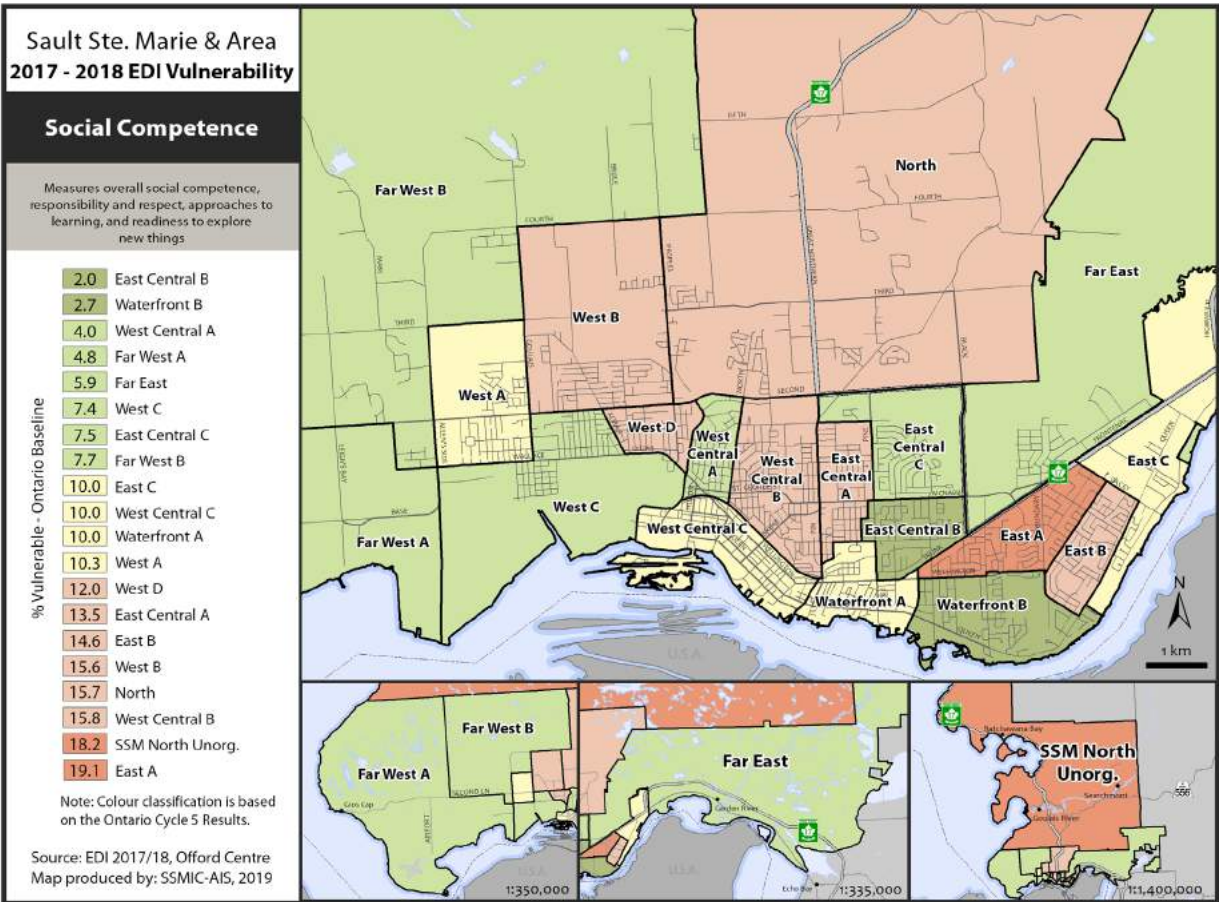


Figure 134: Percent Vulnerable in the Social Competence Domain by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18



SUBDOMAINS

The Social Competence domain can be further divided into four subdomains:

- Overall Social Competence
- Responsibility and Respect
- Approaches to Learning
- Readiness to Explore New Things

OVERALL SOCIAL COMPETENCE

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has excellent or good overall social development, a very good ability to get along with other children and play with various children and is usually cooperative and self-confident. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations have average to poor overall social skills, low self-confidence and are rarely able to play with various children and interact cooperatively.

In Sault Ste. Marie, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations improved by 3.6 percentage points between 2015 and 2018 (statistically significant) and Sault Ste. Marie (8.3%) was slightly better than Ontario (9.0%).

The Waterfront neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 1.5% and SSM North Unorganized had the highest rate of 15.2%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized and West Central (12%).

RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPECT

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this domain always or most of the time shows respect for others and for property, follows rules and takes care of materials, accepts responsibility for actions, and shows self-control. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations only sometimes or never accept responsibility for actions, show respect for others and for property, demonstrate self-control, and are rarely able to follow rules and take care of materials.

In Sault Ste. Marie, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations improved by 3.1 percentage points between 2015 and 2018 (statistically significant).

The Far West neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 3.3% and the East neighbourhood had the highest rate of 7.6%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include East and West (6.5%).

Figure 135: Overall Social Competence Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

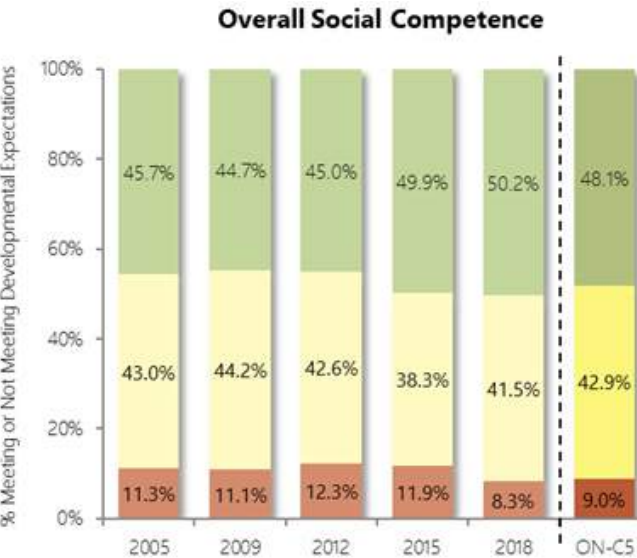
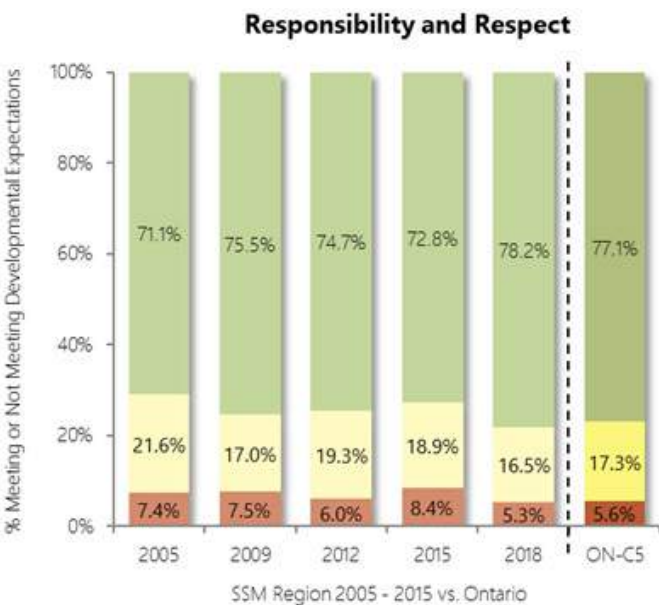


Figure 136: Responsibility and Respect Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie





## APPROACHES TO LEARNING

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain always or most of the time works neatly, independently, and solves problems, follows instructions and class routines, and easily adjusts to changes. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations only sometimes or never work neatly or independently, are rarely able to solve problems, sometimes or never follow class routines and do not easily adjust to changes in routines.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (7.9%) was on par with that of Ontario as a whole (7.3%). Compared to 2014/15 (8.9%), Sault Ste. Marie improved 1 percentage point for this subdomain.

The Waterfront neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 3% and the North neighbourhood had the highest rate of 15.7%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized (15.2%) and North SSM.

## READINESS TO EXPLORE NEW THINGS

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain are curious about the surrounding world, and are eager to explore new books, toys and games. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations only sometimes or never show curiosity about the world, and are not eager to explore new books, toys and games. Very few children are not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (2.9%) was on par with that of Ontario as a whole (3.3%) and showed no change when compared to the 2014/15 cycle (3.4%).

The West neighbourhood had the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 2.4% and SSM North Unorganized had the highest rate of 6.1%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming targeting this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized and Far East and North – both at 5.9%.

Figure 137: Approaches to Learning Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

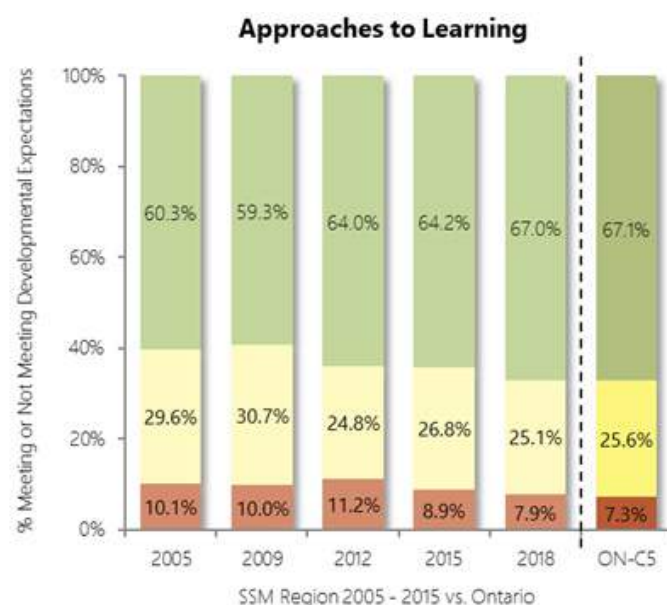
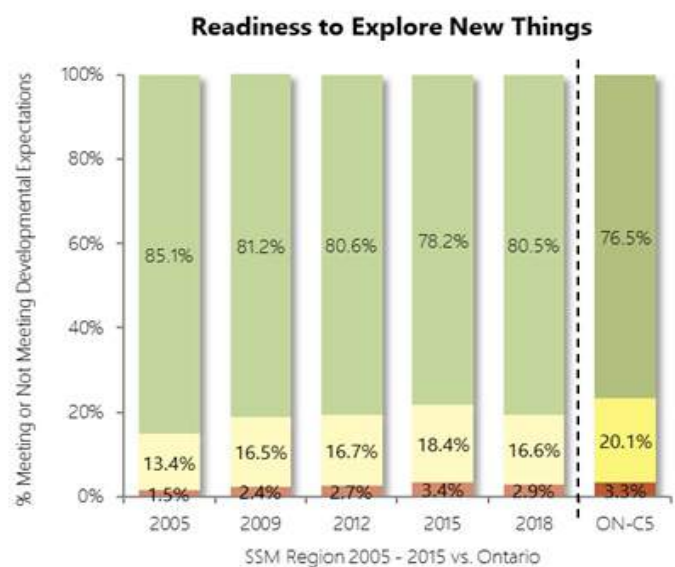


Figure 138: Readiness to Explore New Things Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie



EMOTIONAL MATURITY

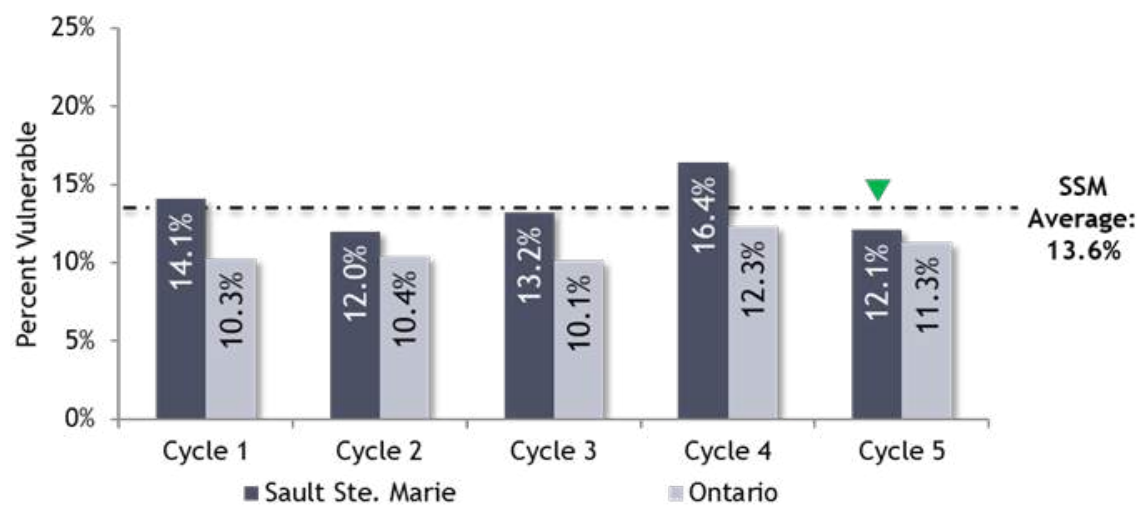
The Emotional Maturity domain measures the ability to reflect before acting, a balance between too fearful and too impulsive, ability to deal with feelings at the age-appropriate level, and empathic responses to other people’s feelings. A child below the 10th percentile “has regular problems managing aggressive behaviour; is prone to disobedience and/or easily distractible, inattentive, and impulsive; is usually unable to show helping behaviour toward other children; and is sometimes upset when left by the caregiver”.<sup>25</sup>

There was a statistical significant decrease in vulnerability in this domain for Sault Ste. Marie, from 16.4% in the 2014/15

cycle to 12.1% in the 2017/18 cycle. Compared to Ontario (11.3%), Sault Ste. Marie remains slightly higher.

The East Central neighbourhood showed a significant decrease in vulnerability in this domain when compared to 2014/15. In 2014/15, the vulnerability rate was 31% and in 2017/18, it dropped to 10.2%. The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest rate of 1.5% and SSM North Unorganized was the highest at 30.3%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming include East (15.3%), North (15.7%) and SSM North Unorganized.

Figure 139: Percent Vulnerable in the Emotional Maturity Domain - Sault Ste. Marie



<sup>25</sup> Janus, 2007, pg. 188.



Figure 140: Percent Vulnerable in the Emotional Maturity Domain by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18

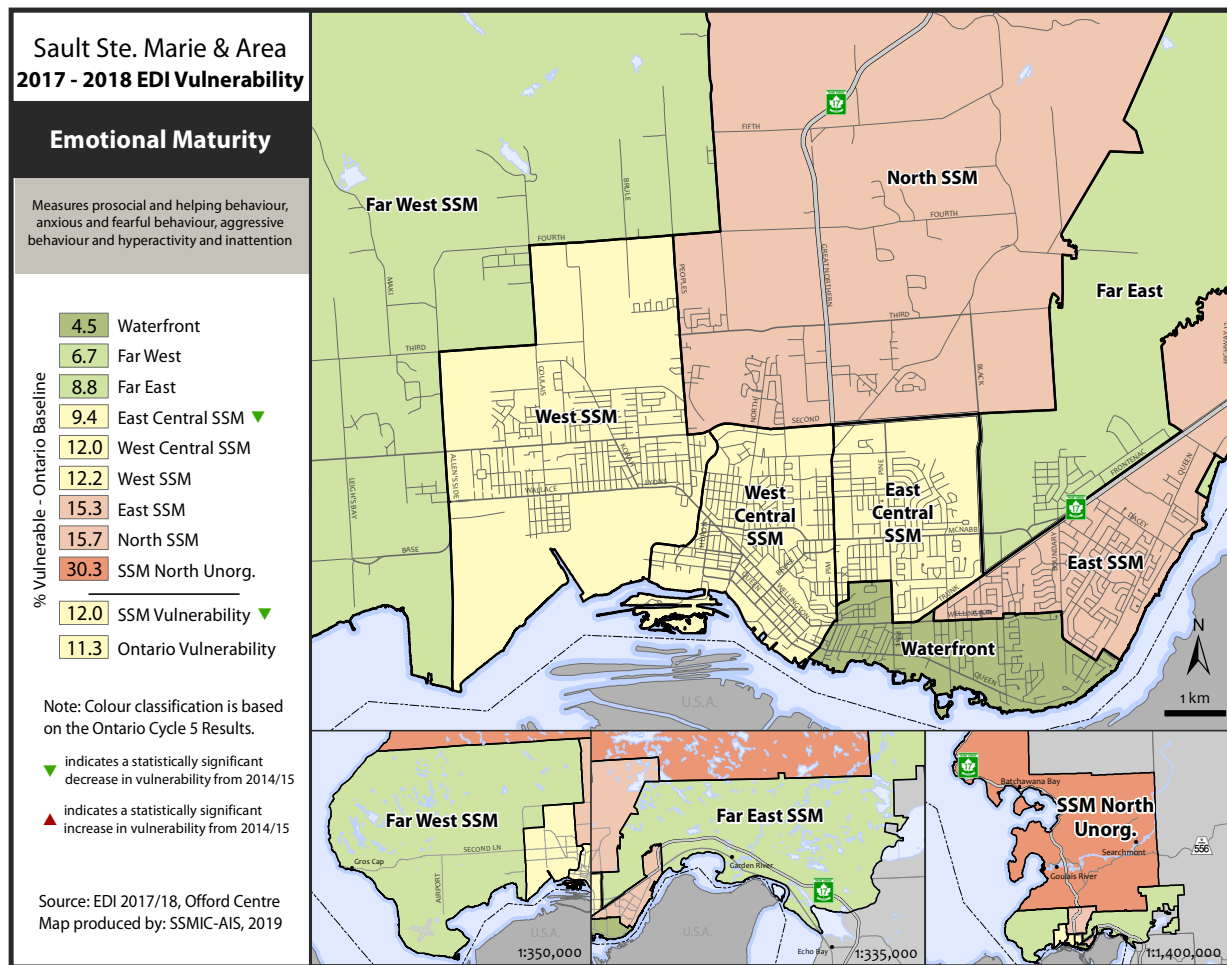
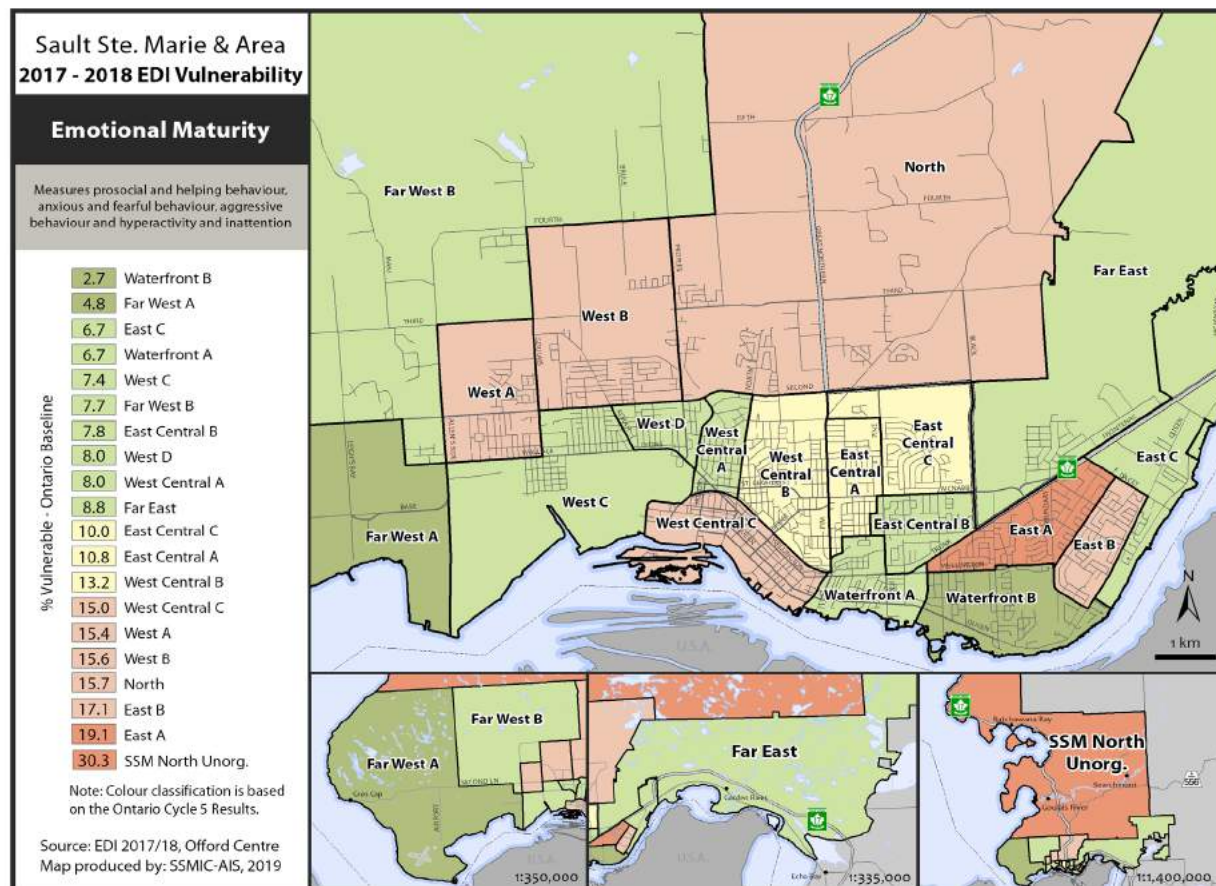


Figure 141: Percent Vulnerable in the Emotional Maturity Domain by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18





SUBDOMAINS

The Emotional Maturity domain can be further divided into four subdomains:

- Prosocial and Helping Behaviour
- Anxious and Fearful Behaviour
- Aggressive Behaviour
- Hyperactivity and Inattention

PROSOCIAL AND HELPING BEHAVIOUR

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain often shows most of the helping behaviours: helping someone hurt, sick or upset; offering to help spontaneously and inviting bystanders to join in. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations never or almost never show most of the helping behaviors: they do not help someone hurt, sick or upset; do not spontaneously offer to help and do not invite bystanders to join in.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (29.9%) was on par with that of Ontario as a whole (30.1%) and slightly lower than the 2014/15 rate of 32.0%.

The Far West neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 18.3% and North SSM was the highest at 45.1%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include Far East (35.3%), North, SSM North Unorganized (33.3%) and West Central (34.9%).

ANXIOUS AND FEARFUL BEHAVIOUR

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain rarely or never shows most of the anxious behaviours: they are happy and able to enjoy school and are comfortable being left at school by caregivers. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations could be worried, unhappy, nervous, sad, excessively shy, indecisive, and they can be upset when left at school. Very few children are not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (3.2%) was slightly higher than Ontario as a whole (2.5%). The percent of children not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain improved by 1.4 percentage points from 2014/15 (4.6%).

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 1.5% and SSM North Unorganized was the highest at 6.1%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized and West Central (6%).

Figure 142: Prosocial and Helping Behaviour Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

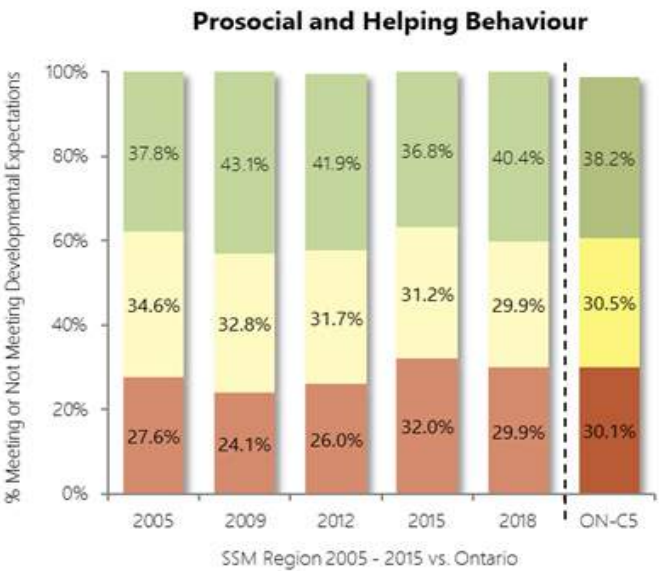
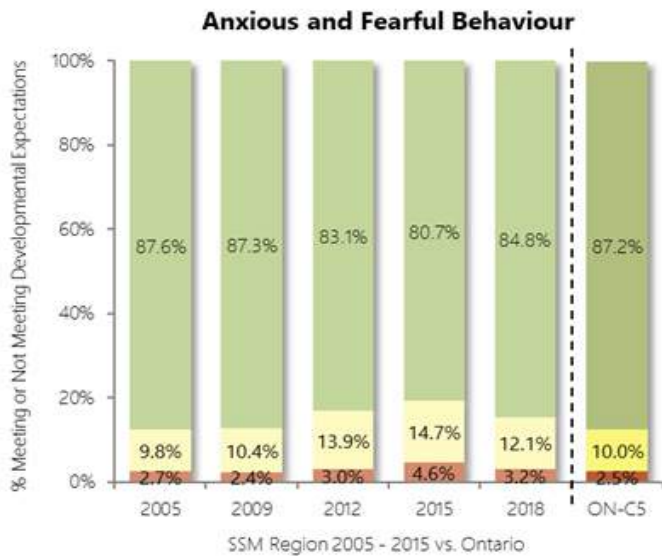


Figure 143: Anxious and Fearful Behaviour Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie



AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain rarely or never shows most of the aggressive behaviours: they do not use aggression as means of solving a conflict, do not have temper tantrums, and are not mean to others. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations get into physical fights, kick or bite others, take other people’s things, are disobedient or have temper tantrums.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (10.0%) was on par with that of Ontario as a whole (10.0%). Sault Ste. Marie improved in this subdomain by 2.9 percentage points from 2014/15 (12.9%).

The Far East neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 5.9% and the East neighbourhood has the highest at 15.3%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized (15.2%) and East.

HYPERACTIVITY AND INATTENTION

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain never shows most of the hyperactive behaviours: they are able to concentrate, settle to chosen activities, wait their turn, and most of the time think before doing something. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations could be restless, distractible, impulsive, and have difficulty settling into activities.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (13.2%) was slightly higher than Ontario as a whole (12.2%). Comparing 2014/15 (15.7%) to 2017/18, the difference marks an improvement of 2.5 percentage points.

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 6% and SSM North Unorganized was the highest at 27.3%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized, North (17.6%) and East SSM (16.9%).

Figure 144: Aggressive Behaviour Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

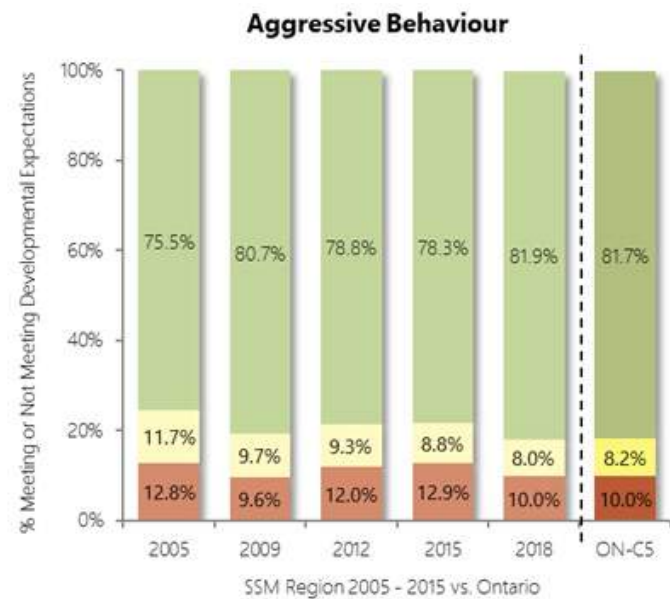
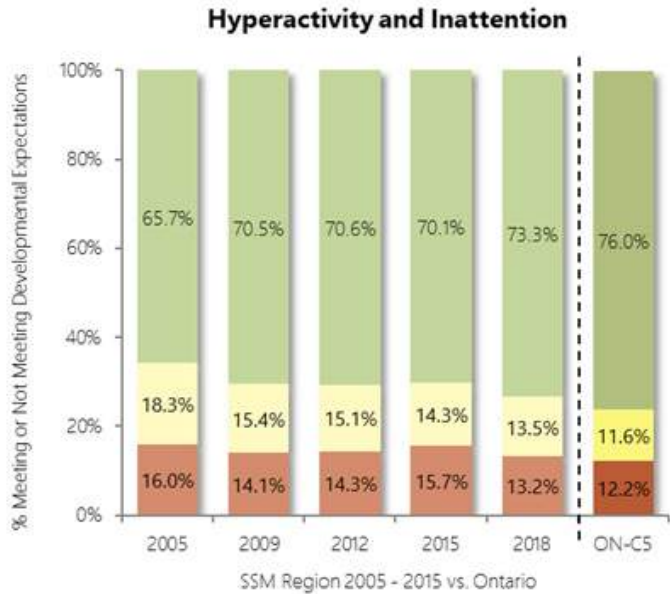


Figure 145: Hyperactivity and Inattention Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie



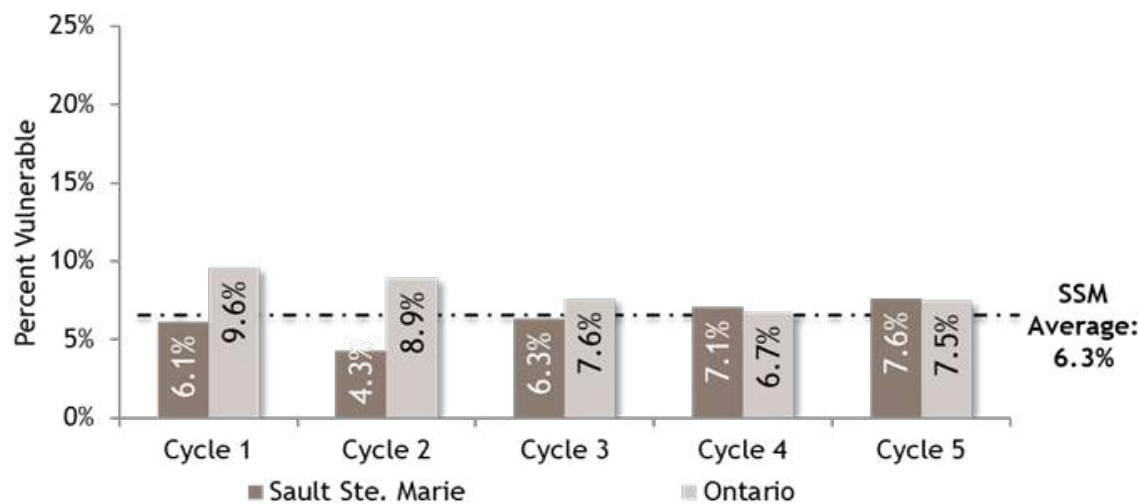
LANGUAGE & COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Language & Cognitive Development domain measures reading awareness, age-appropriate reading and writing skills, age-appropriate numeracy skills, the ability to understand similarities and differences, and the ability to recite back specific pieces of information from memory. A child below the 10th percentile “has problems in both reading/writing and numeracy; is unable to read and write simple words, is uninterested in trying, and is often unable to attach sounds to letters; has difficulty remembering things, counting to 20, and recognizing and comparing numbers; and is usually not interested in numbers”.<sup>26</sup>

For 2017/18, Sault Ste. Marie’s vulnerability rate in this domain was 7.6% compared to Ontario, at 7.5% and on par with the 2014/15 cycle at 7.1%. The North neighbourhood did see a significant increase in vulnerability from 0.0% in 2014/15 to 7.8% in 2017/18.

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest rate of 1.5% and West Central was the highest at 13.3%. The West Central neighbourhood would benefit from additional programming.

Figure 146: Percent Vulnerable in the Language & Cognitive Development Domain - Sault Ste. Marie



<sup>26</sup> Janus, 2007, pg. 188.



Figure 147: Percent Vulnerable in the Language & Cognitive Development Domain by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18

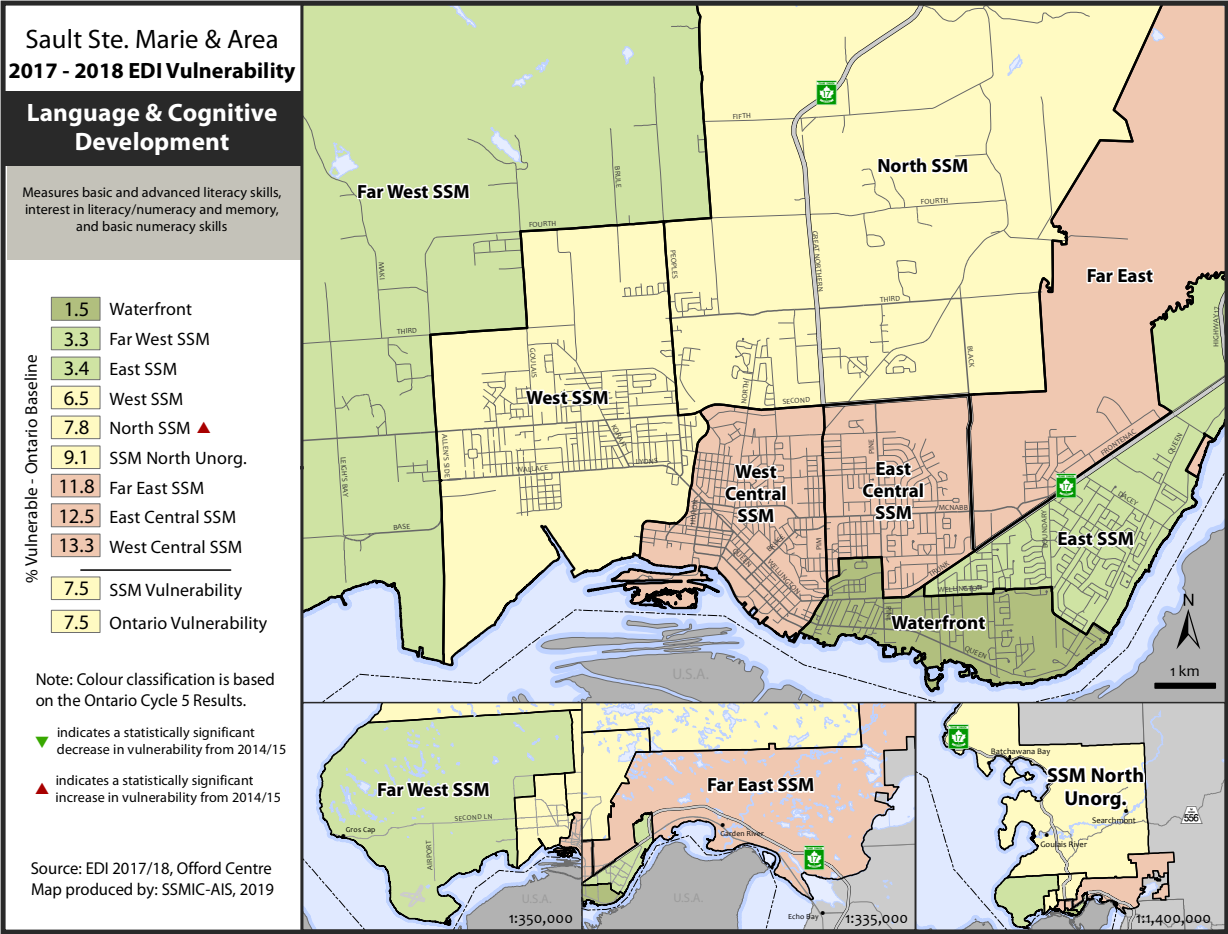
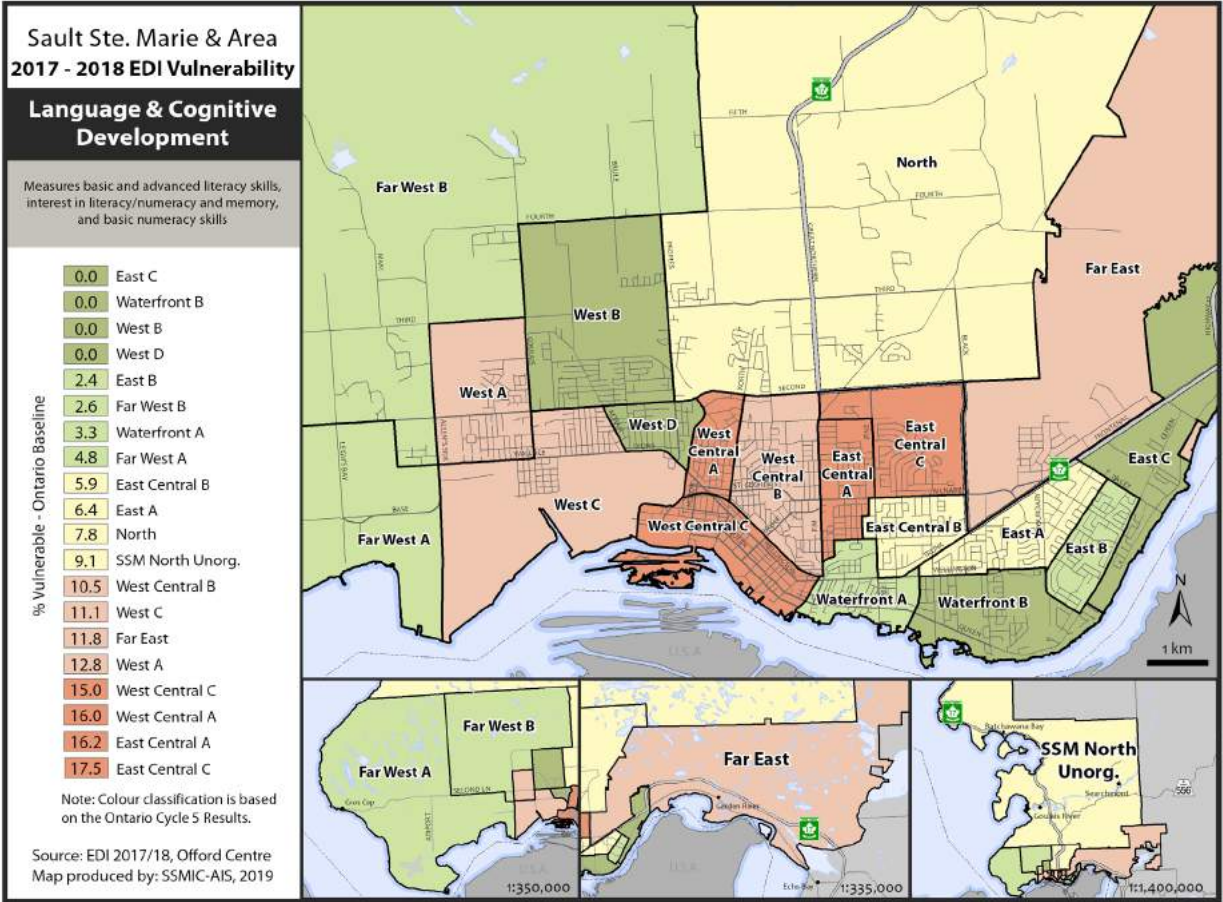


Figure 148: Percent Vulnerable in the Language & Cognitive Development Domain by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18



## SUBDOMAINS

The Language & Cognitive Development domain can be further divided into four subdomains:

- Basic Literacy Skills
- Interest in Literacy/Numeracy and Memory
- Advanced Literacy Skills
- Basic Numeracy Skills

## BASIC LITERACY SKILLS

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has all the basic literacy skills: knows how to handle a book, can identify some letters and attach sounds to some letters, shows awareness of rhyming words, knows the writing directions, and is able to write their own name. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations have problems with identifying letters or attaching sounds to them, rhyming, may not know the writing directions or even how to write their own name.

In 2018, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in Sault Ste. Marie (6.7%) was slightly lower than Ontario as a whole (7.3%) but on par with the 2014/15 rate of 6.8%.

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 1.5% and the West Central neighbourhood was the highest at 12%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include East Central (10.2%), SSM North Unorganized (9.1%), and West Central.

## INTEREST LITERACY/NUMERACY AND MEMORY

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain shows interest in books and reading, math and numbers, and has no difficulty with remembering things. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations may not show interest in books and reading, or math and number games, or both; and may have difficulty remembering things.

There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain between Sault Ste. Marie (10.9%) and Ontario (13.5%) in the 2017/18 cycle. This subdomain also saw a decrease in vulnerability from 14.2% in 2014/15 in Sault Ste. Marie but was not statistically significant.

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 6% and the Far East neighbourhood was the highest at 20.6%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include Far East, North (15.7%), SSM North Unorganized (15.2%) and West Central (14.5%)

Figure 149: Basic Literacy Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

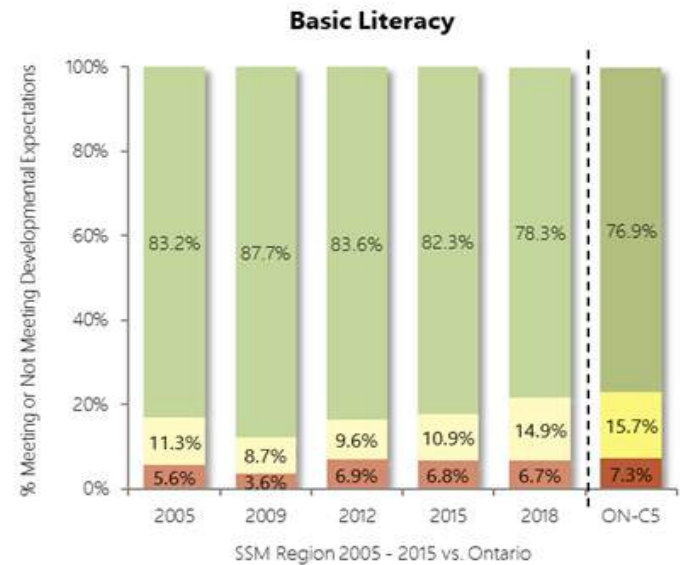
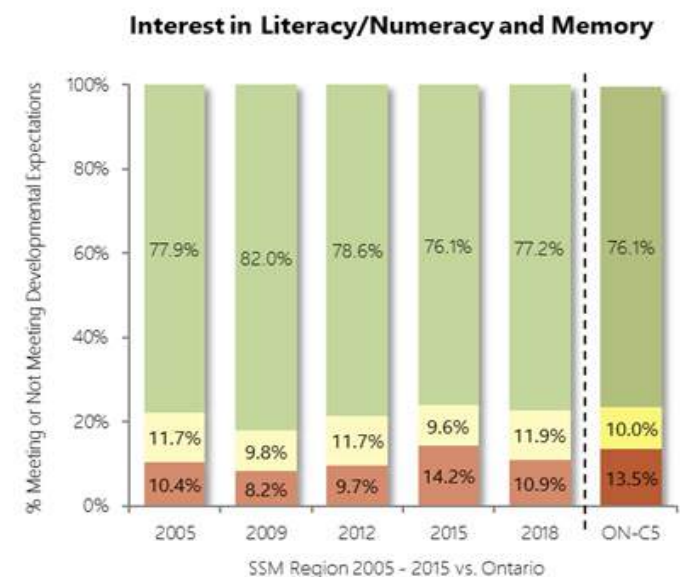


Figure 150: Interest in Literacy/Numeracy and Memory Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie





ADVANCED LITERACY SKILLS

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has at least half of the advanced literacy skills: reading simple, complex words or sentences, writing voluntarily, writing simple words or sentences. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations have only up to one of the advanced literacy skills, cannot read or write simple words or sentences, and rarely write voluntarily.

There was a statistically significant difference in the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain between Sault Ste. Marie (15.8%) and Ontario (12.3%) in the 2017/18 cycle. Sault Ste. Marie saw an increase of 2.1 percentage points from 2014/15 (13.7%).

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest percent of children not meeting developmental expectations of 7.5% and the West Central neighbourhood was the highest at 26.5%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include SSM North Unorganized (18.2%) and West Central.

Figure 151: Advanced Literacy Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie

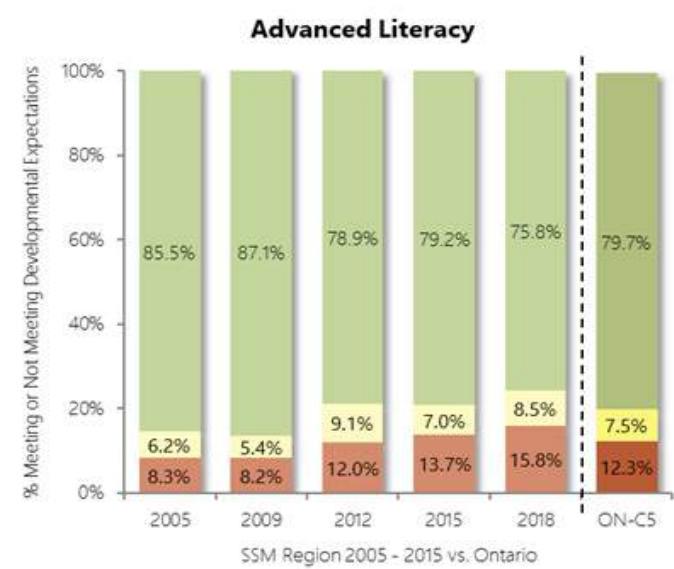
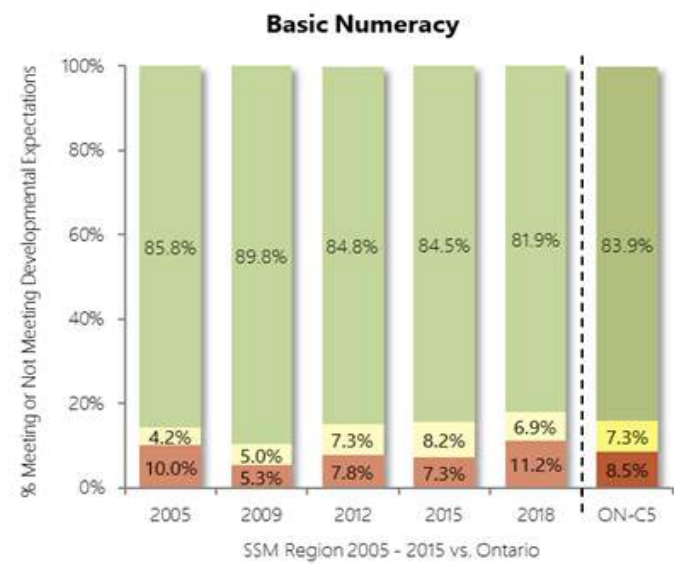


Figure 152: Basic Numeracy Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie



BASIC NUMERACY SKILLS

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has all the basic numeracy skills: can count to 20 and recognize shapes and numbers, compare numbers, sort and classify, use one-to-one correspondence, and understand simple time concepts. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations have marked difficulty with numbers; cannot count, compare, or recognize numbers; may not be able to name all the shapes and may have difficulty with time concepts.

In Sault Ste. Marie, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations increased by 3.9 percentage points between 2015 and 2018 (statistically significant). There was also a statistically significant difference in the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations in this subdomain between Sault Ste. Marie (11.2%) and Ontario (8.5%) in 2018.

The Waterfront neighbourhood showed the lowest rate of 1.5% and the West Central neighbourhood was the highest at 19.3%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include East Central (15.6%), SSM North Unorganized (15.2%) and West Central.





COMMUNICATION SKILLS & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

The Communication Skills & General Knowledge domain measures skills to communicate needs and wants in socially appropriate ways, symbolic use of language, storytelling, and age-appropriate knowledge about the life and world around. A child below the 10th percentile “has poor communication skills and articulation; has difficulties in talking to others, understanding, and being understood; and has poor general knowledge”.<sup>27</sup>

Sault Ste. Marie (8.2%) has a lower vulnerability rate than Ontario (10.0%) in this domain and remains on par with the 2014/15 rate of 8.0%.

The neighbourhood of Far West SSM had the lowest vulnerability rate of 5.0% while the West Central neighbourhood had the highest at 16.9%. West Central would be an important neighbourhood to target with additional programming.

Figure 153: Percent Vulnerable in the Communication Skills & General Knowledge Domain - Sault Ste. Marie

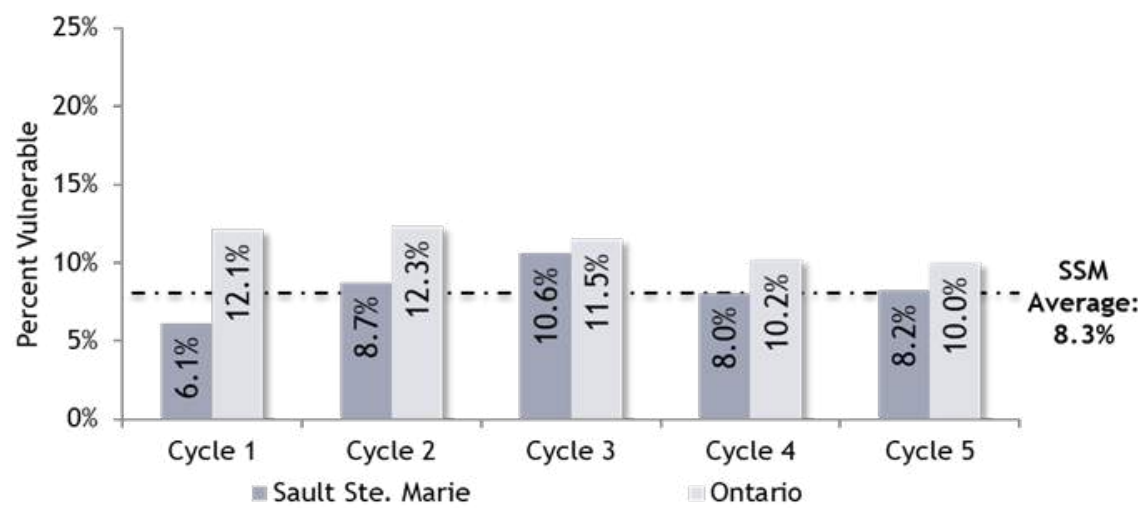
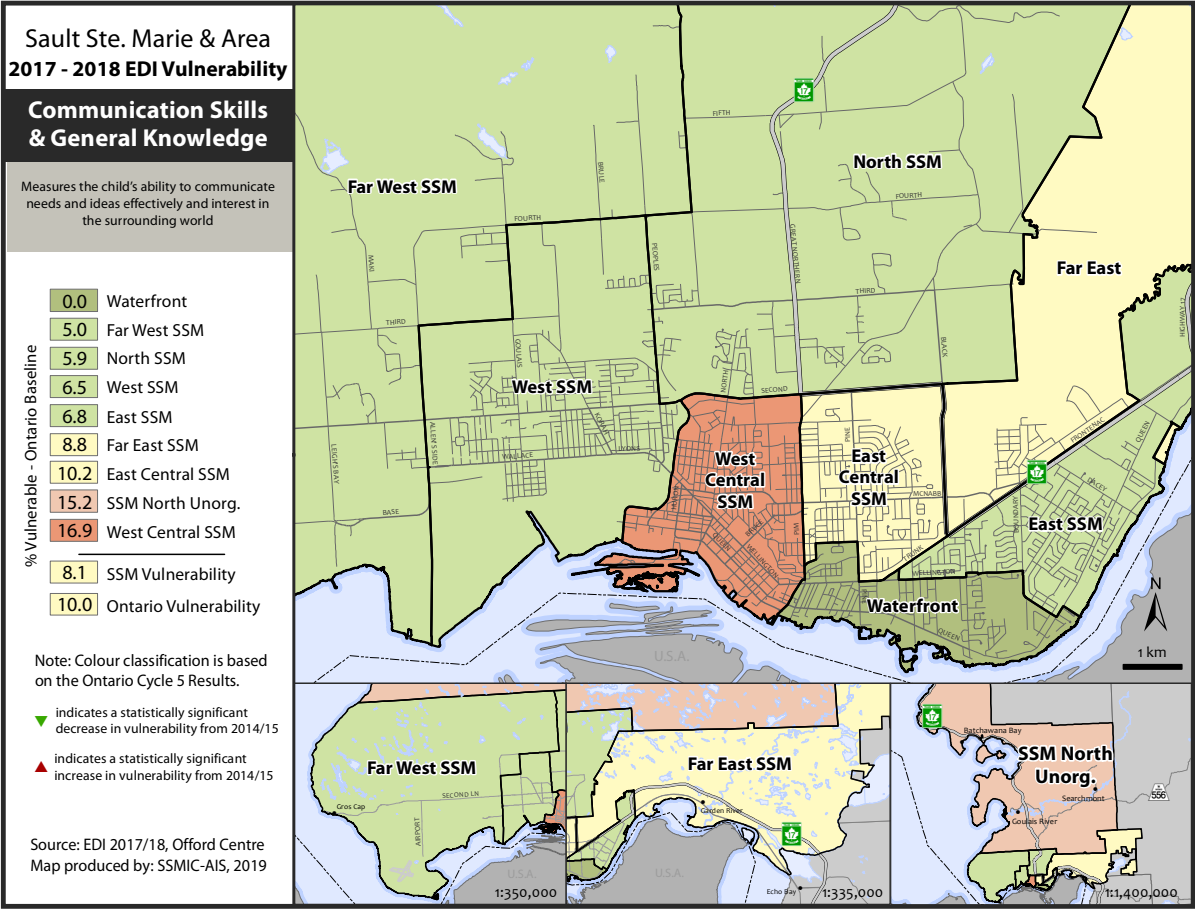
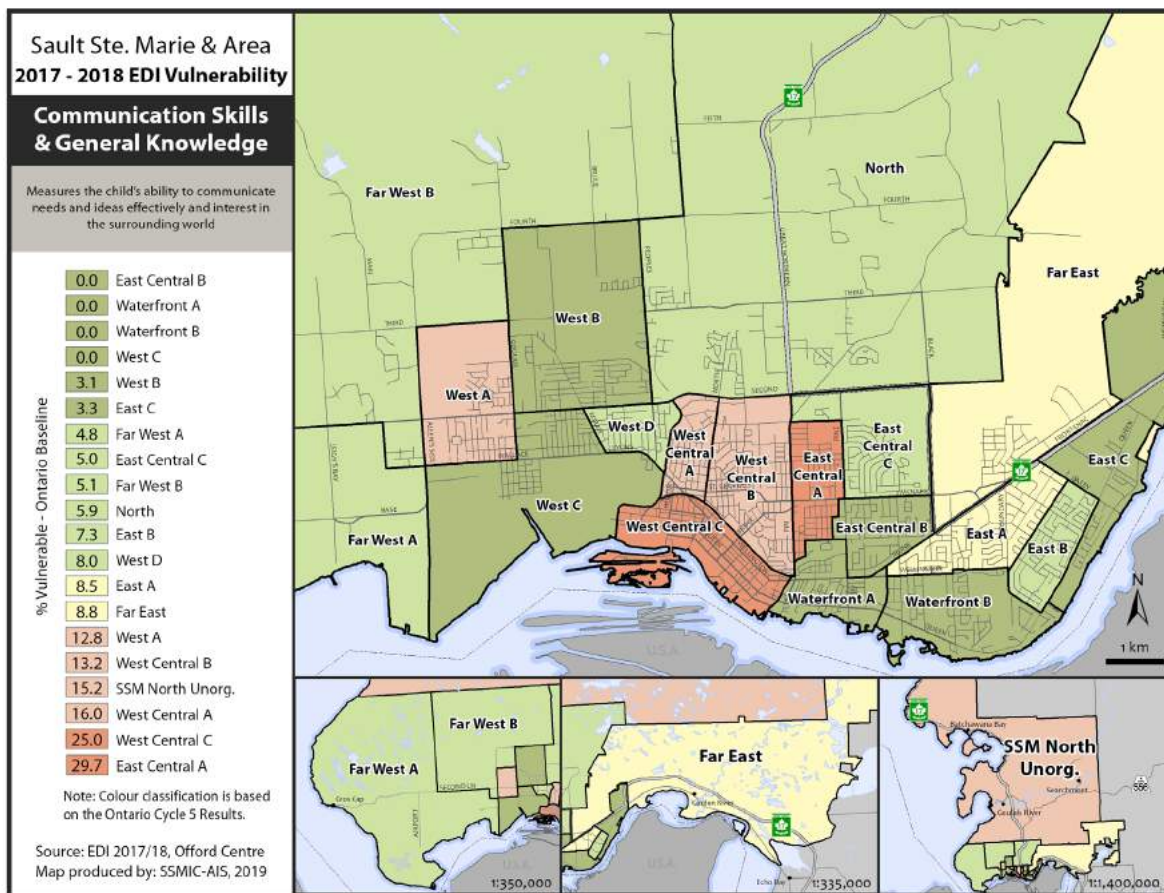


Figure 154: Percent Vulnerable in the Communication Skills & General Knowledge Domain by Large Neighbourhood, 2017/18



<sup>27</sup> Janus, 2007, pg. 188.

Figure 155: Percent Vulnerable in the Communication Skills & General Knowledge Domain by Small Neighbourhood, 2017/18



## SUBDOMAINS

The Communication Skills & General Knowledge domain has only one subdomain:

- Communication Skills and General Knowledge

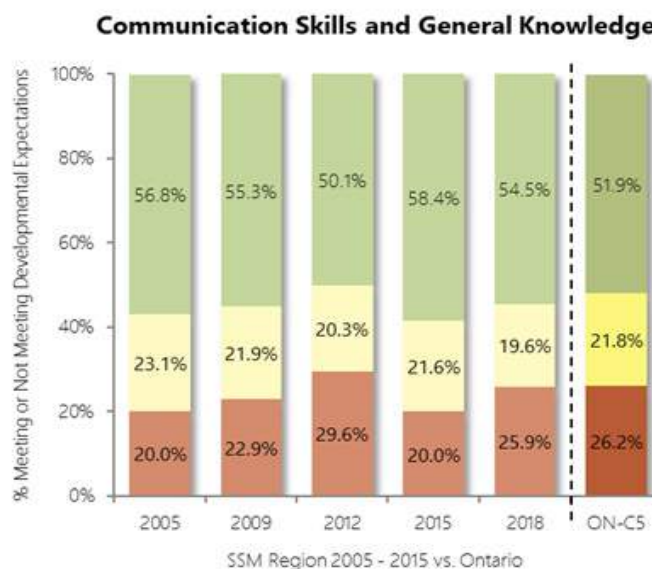
## COMMUNICATION SKILLS & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

A child who meets all or almost all of the developmental expectations of this subdomain has excellent or very good communication skills; can communicate easily and effectively, can participate in story-telling or imaginative play, articulates clearly, shows adequate general knowledge, and is proficient in their native language. Children who are not meeting developmental expectations range from being average to very poor in effective communication, may have difficulty participating in games involving the use of language, may have difficulty understanding others; may show little general knowledge and may have difficulty with their native language.

In Sault Ste. Marie, the percentage of children not meeting developmental expectations increased by 5.9 percentage points between 2015 and 2018 (statistically significant) and remains on par with Ontario (26.2%).

The Far West neighbourhood showed the lowest rate of 15% and SSM North Unorganized was the highest at 42.4%. Neighbourhoods that would benefit from additional programming in this subdomain include Far East (32.4%), West Central (34.9%) and SSM North Unorganized.

Figure 156: Communication Skills and General Knowledge Subdomain for Sault Ste. Marie









## MOST VULNERABLE AREAS

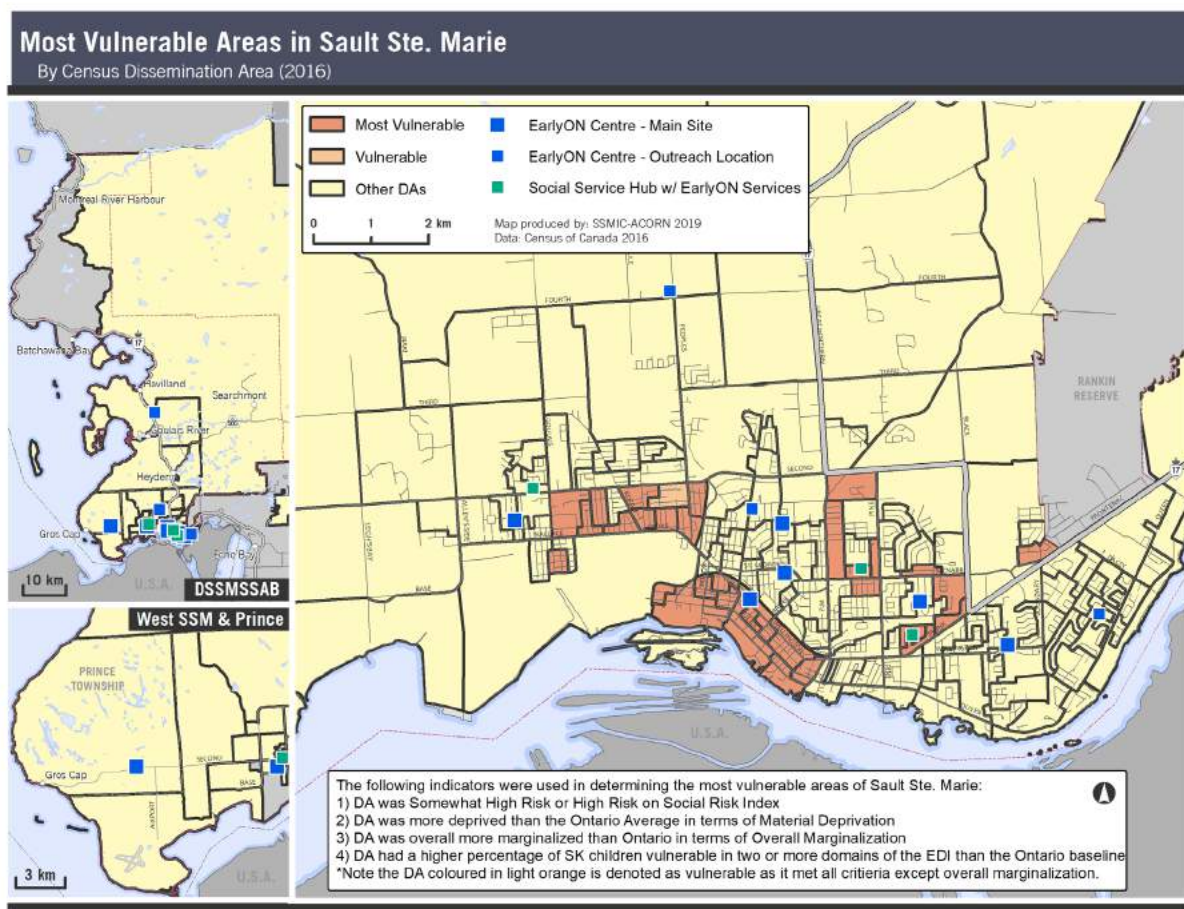
Highlighting the most vulnerable areas in the City of Sault Ste. Marie can provide the DSSAB with important information on specific areas to target. The most vulnerable areas may be neighbourhoods that are currently underserved or may be in need of more outreach. The analysis focused on identifying the most vulnerable areas at the DA level. The following indicators were used in determining the most vulnerable areas of Sault Ste. Marie:

- The DA was Somewhat High Risk or High Risk on the Social Risk Index
- The DA was more deprived than the Ontario average in terms of Material Deprivation

- The DA was overall more marginalized than Ontario in terms of Overall Marginalization
- The DA had a higher percentage of SK children vulnerable in two or more domains of the EDI than the Ontario Baseline.

On the following map, the DAs coloured in red meet the criteria outlined above and represent the most vulnerable DAs in the City of Sault Ste. Marie. It is important to note that EDI neighbourhoods are larger than DAs and each EDI neighbourhood contains multiple DAs. Due to the size of the EDI neighbourhood, some DAs that one might expect to show up in the most vulnerable areas did not, as they did not meet all the criteria.

Figure 157: Most Vulnerable Areas in Sault Ste. Marie



The following figures analyze the most vulnerable and vulnerable DAs only. The other DAs in the DSSMSSAB area were excluded from the analysis. Figure 158 shows the number of unique children aged 0 to 4 years who attended an EarlyON Centre for drop-in or event visits and signed-in using

the KEyON system (June to December 2018) from each of the most vulnerable DAs. Guests were not included in the analysis as guest visits could not be verified to be different visitors. E.g. one child may visit multiple times, sign in as a guest, and be given a different guest visitor ID each time.

Figure 158: Most Vulnerable Areas in Sault Ste. Marie - Number of Unique Member EarlyON Visitors Ages 0 to 4 Years

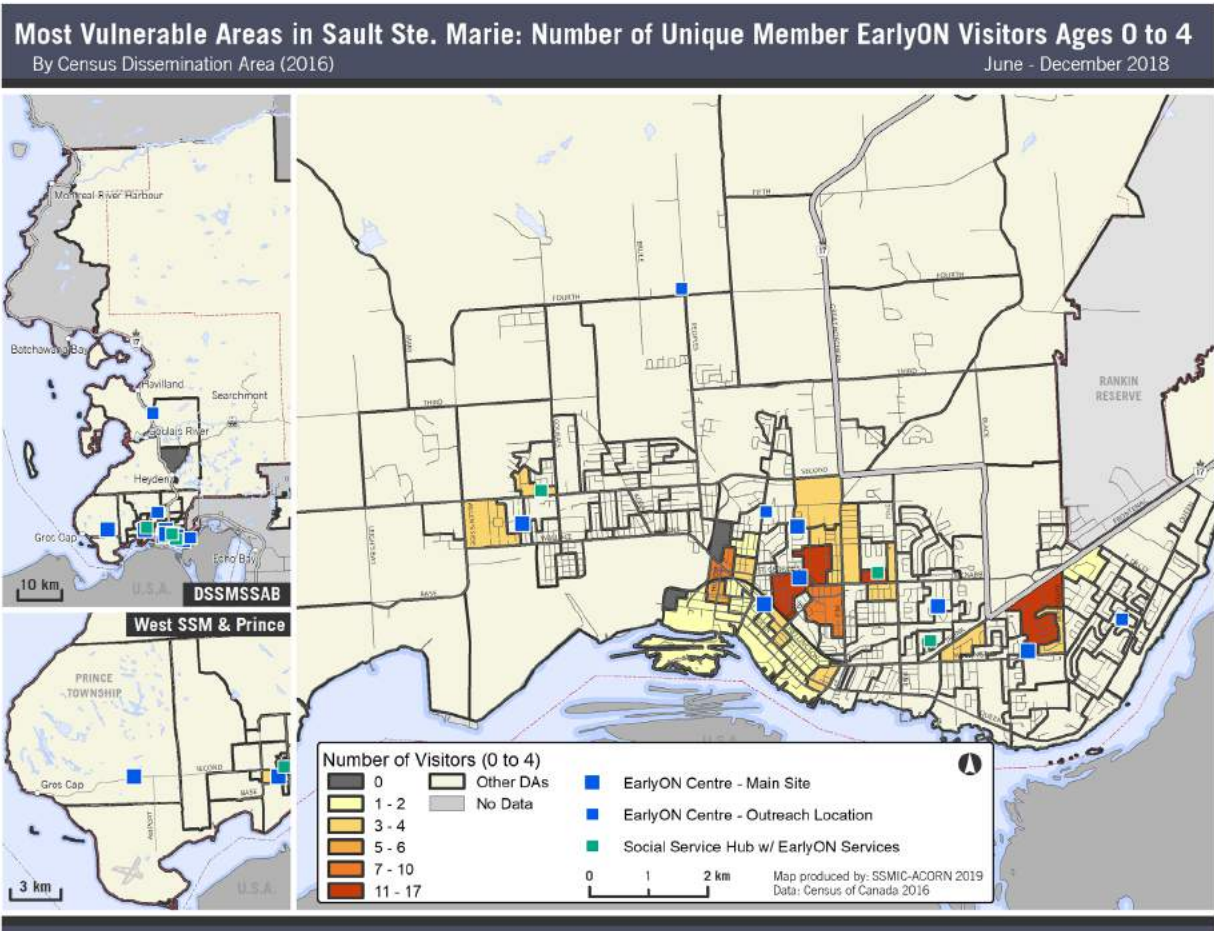




Figure 159 shows the 2018 estimated population of children aged 0 to 4 years in the most vulnerable areas of Sault Ste. Marie.

Figure 159: Most Vulnerable Areas in Sault Ste. Marie - 2018 Estimated Population Age 0 to 4 Years

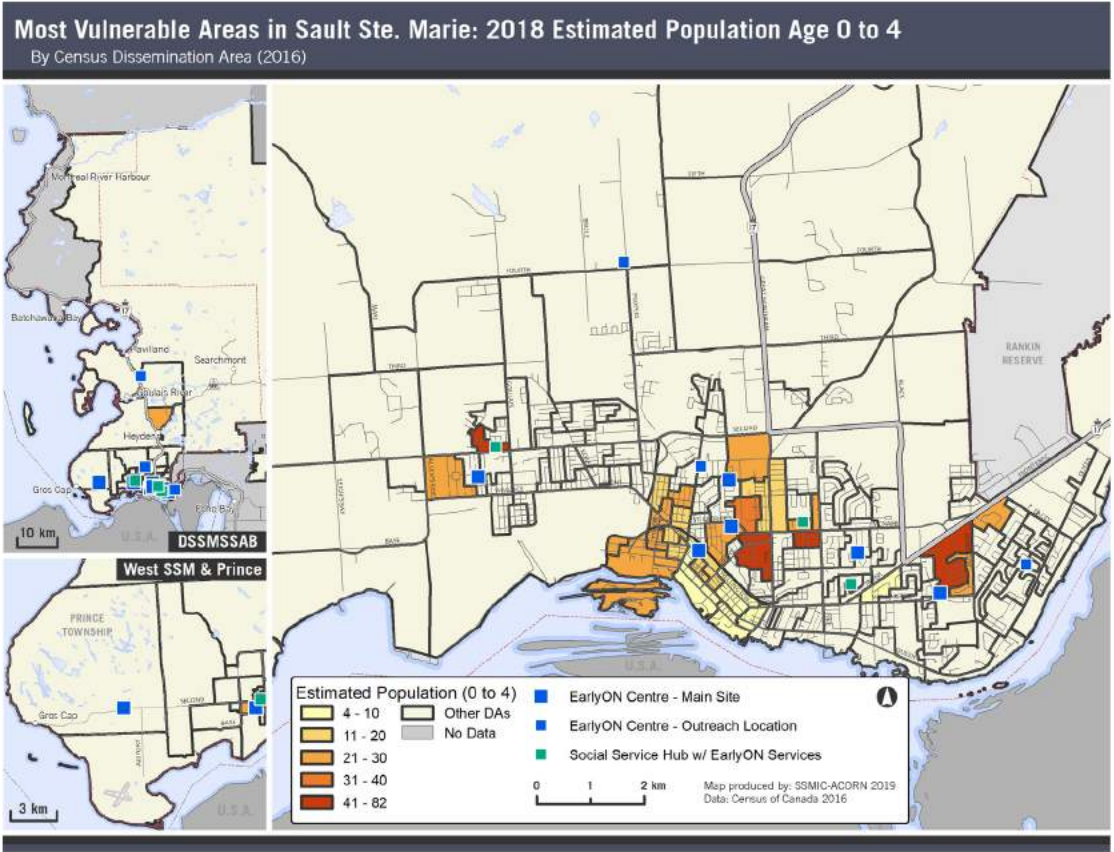
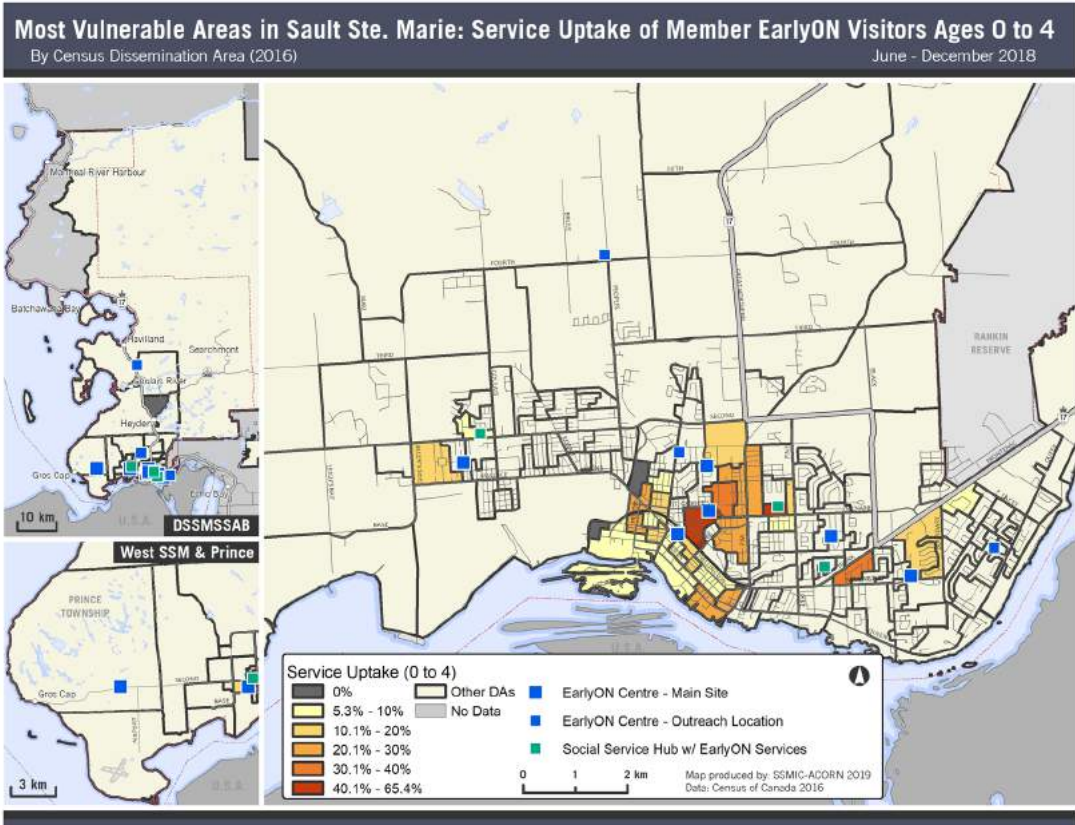


Figure 160 shows the approximate EarlyON service uptake by children aged 0 to 4 years (members only) between June and December 2018 in each of the most vulnerable DAs. This is calculated by dividing the unique visitors by the total estimated population for 2018 aged 0 to 4 years in each DA and showing the result as a percentage.

Figure 160: Most Vulnerable Areas in Sault Ste. Marie - Service Uptake of Member EarlyON Visitors Ages 0 to 4 Years







**Table 1: Population Change between 2011 and 2016 for the Census Subdivisions of the DSSMSSAB area**

**Table 2: Total Population Change and Change in the 0 to 4 Population Between 2011 to 2016 in the DSSMSSAB area, Algoma District and Ontario**

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016003; and 2011 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-311-XCB2011007

**Figure 1: Population Projection for the District of Algoma (2015-2041)**

**Figure 2: Population Projections for Large Age Groups of the District of Algoma (2015-2041)**

**Table 3: Population Projection for Child Age Groups of the District of Algoma (2017, 2027 and 2037)**

**Figure 3: Population Projection for Child Age Groups of the District of Algoma (2017-2041)**

Ontario Ministry of Finance, Ontario Population Projections, 2015-2041. © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2017. ISBN 978-1-4868-0212-8

**Table 4: Families with Children Aged 0 to 6 and Families with Children Aged 6 to 14 in the DSSMSSAB area and its Census Subdivisions, 2016**

**Figure 4: Map of Families with Children Under 6 Years of Age, 2016**

**Figure 5: Map of Families with Children Under 6 Years of Age as a Percentage of All Families, 2016**

Statistics Canada, 2011 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-312-X2011032; and Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada – Custom Order (EO2622) “Age Groups of Children at Home (15) and Census Family Structure (7) for the Census Families in Private Households of Canada, Provinces, Territories, Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions and Dissemination Areas, 2016 Census - 100% data”

**Table 5: Children Aged 0 to 12, 0 to 6, and 7 to 12 Count and Percent of Population, 2016**

**Figure 6: Map of the Number of Children Aged 0 to 12 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016**

**Figure 7: Map of the Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 12 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016**

**Figure 8: Map of the Number of Children Aged 0 to 6 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016**

**Figure 9: Map of the Number of Children Aged 7 to 12 by Census Dissemination Area, 2016**

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016003

**Table 6: Change in the Population of Children Aged 0 to 12, 2011 to 2016**

**Table 7: Change in the Population of Children Aged 0 to 6 and Aged 7 to 12, 2011 to 2016**

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016003; and 2011 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-311-XCB2011007

**Table 8: Number and Percent of Francophone Children in the SSM DSSAB Area and Census Subdivisions, 2016**

**Figure 10: Number of Francophone Children Aged 0 to 14 by Dissemination Area, 2016**

Statistics Canada, Target group profile of the Francophone population, Census, 2016; Accessed via the Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development. Data released Wednesday, December 19, 2018.

**Table 9: Indigenous Identity, First Nation and Métis Population of the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2016**

**Figure 11: Indigenous Identity Population by Dissemination Area, 2016**

**Figure 12: Percent of Persons Identifying as Indigenous, by Dissemination Area, 2016**

Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-401-X2016034

**Table 10: Indigenous Identity Youth Population of the Sault Ste. Marie Area, 2016**

**Figure 13: Map of the Number of Indigenous Children Aged 0 to 14 by Census Tracts, 2016**

**Figure 14: Percent of Persons Age 0 to 14 who Identify as Indigenous, by Dissemination Area, 2016**

Statistics Canada, Target group profile of Aboriginal Identity, Census, 2016; Accessed via the Community Data Program, Canadian Council on Social Development. Data released Friday, February 15, 2019.

**Figure 15: Map of the Sault Ste. Marie Area EarlyON Centre Locations with Recorded Visits in 2018**

**Table 11: Unique Visitors and Total Visits by Visitor Type, All EarlyON Centres Combined, 2018**

**Figure 16: EarlyON Child Drop-In Visits by Calendar Year, 2013-2018**

**Figure 17: Total Child Visits by EarlyON Centre, 2018**

**Figure 18: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to All Locations Combined by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018**

**Figure 19: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Holy Cross by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018**

Figure 20: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Prince Township by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 21: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Holy Angels by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 22: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Mountain View by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 23: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to H. M. Robbins by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 24: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to St. Basil by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 25: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to River View by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 26: EarlyON Child Drop-In and Event Visits to Northern Heights by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 27: EarlyON Centre with the Highest Number of Child Visits by Modified Dissemination Area, 2018  
 Figure 28: EarlyON Child Drop-in Visits by Month, 2017 and 2018  
 Figure 29: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week, All Centres Combined, 2018  
 Figure 30: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage of Total Visits, 2018  
 Figure 31: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week, Centres Open Six Days a Week, 2018  
 Figure 32: EarlyON Child Visits by Day of Week, Centres Open Three to Five Days a Week, 2018  
 Figure 33: EarlyON Child Visits in January, February and March 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage  
 Figure 34: EarlyON Child Visits in April, May, and June 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage  
 Figure 35: EarlyON Child Visits in July and August 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage  
 Figure 36: EarlyON Child Visits in September, October, November and December 2018 by Day of Week – Expressed as a Percentage  
 Figure 37: EarlyON Child Visits by Broad Child Care Age Grouping, All Centres Combined, 2018  
 Figure 38: EarlyON Child Visits by Broad Child Care Age Grouping, Centres Open Six Days a Week, 2018  
 Figure 39: EarlyON Child Visits by Broad Child Care Age Grouping, Centres Open Three to Five Days a Week, 2018  
 Figure 40: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), All Sites, 2018  
 Figure 41: Child Visits by Age (in Months at the Time of Visit), Holy Cross, 2018  
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Children's Coordinated Access Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre – Acorn Information Solutions, No Wrong Door Statistics, accessed via No Wrong Door Algoma ([www.nwdalgoma.ca](http://www.nwdalgoma.ca)), 2019

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The Ontario Marginalization Index 2016, Public Health Ontario, Released 2018 and Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-400-X2016003

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Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001

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District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board. Social Housing. Retrieved from <http://www.socialservices-ssmd.ca/HousingProviders/index.cfm>

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