

Our Health Counts London

The first inclusive, community-driven health survey for Indigenous peoples in London

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES & PERFORMANCE

Early childhood education (ECE) programs have been linked to improved childhood intellectual, verbal and cognitive development, higher educational attainment, and better social and health outcomes.^{1,2} Indigenous specific ECE programs, such as Aboriginal Head Start, have been operating for over a decade. Aboriginal Head Start, other Indigenous ECE programs, and school curriculums have the potential to address the legacy of residential school by providing Indigenous children with culturally grounded education.³ The number of Indigenous-led schools are increasing across the country, yet funding and resources are inadequate.^{4,5} Some accounts indicate that First Nations children receive \$2,000 less for education compared to non-Indigenous children in Canada.⁵

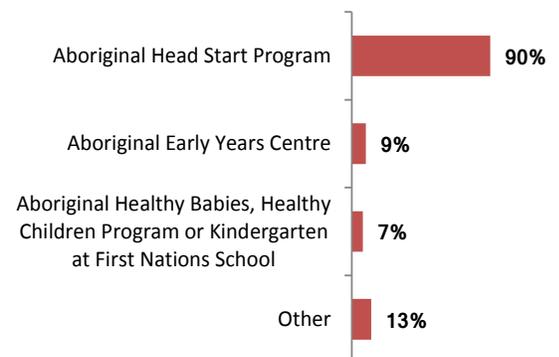
Early Childhood Learning

60% of Indigenous children in London over the age of 2 have attended an early childhood development or preschool program.

63% of Indigenous children in London between 2 and 4 years of age have attended an early childhood development or preschool program. Based on UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) recommendations, Canada is trying to ensure that 50% of 2-4 year old children regularly attend early childhood programs.⁶

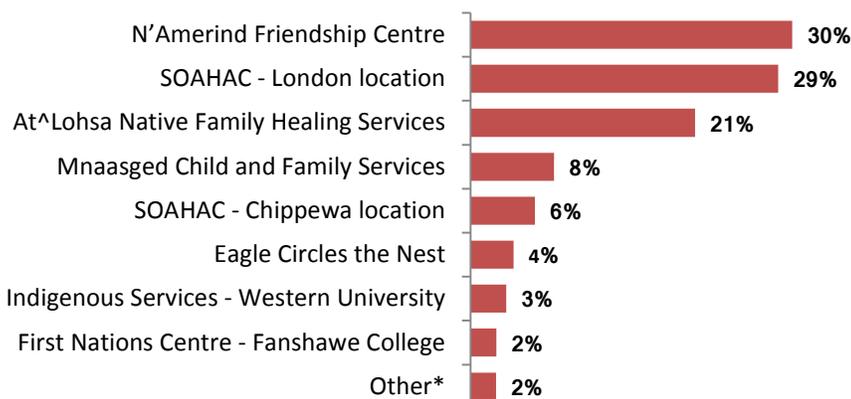
1 in 4 children who attended an early childhood program went to a program designed specifically for Indigenous children.

Indigenous-specific early childhood programs attended by Indigenous children in London:



Child Programs and Services

Indigenous children in London have participated in events, programs, or services at the following places:



90% of Indigenous children that attended an early childhood learning program attended the Aboriginal Head Start Program.

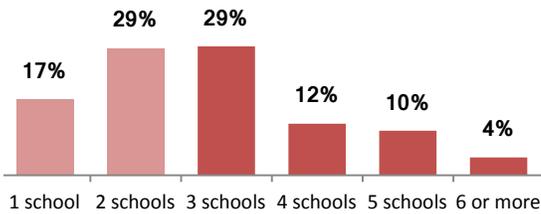
80% of Indigenous children in London attended events, programs, or services at the N'Amerind Friendship Centre, SOAHAC and/or At^Lohsa Native Family Healing Services.

52% of Indigenous adults said that community resources for Indigenous children are inadequate in London.

*includes : Nimkee Nupigawagan Healing Centre and Kiikeewanniikaan Southwest Regional Healing Lodge/Shelter

School Mobility and Performance

Over half of Indigenous children in London (5 years+) have attended 3 or more different schools since preschool or kindergarten.



Of the children that changed schools, the most recent change of schools was due to the following reason:

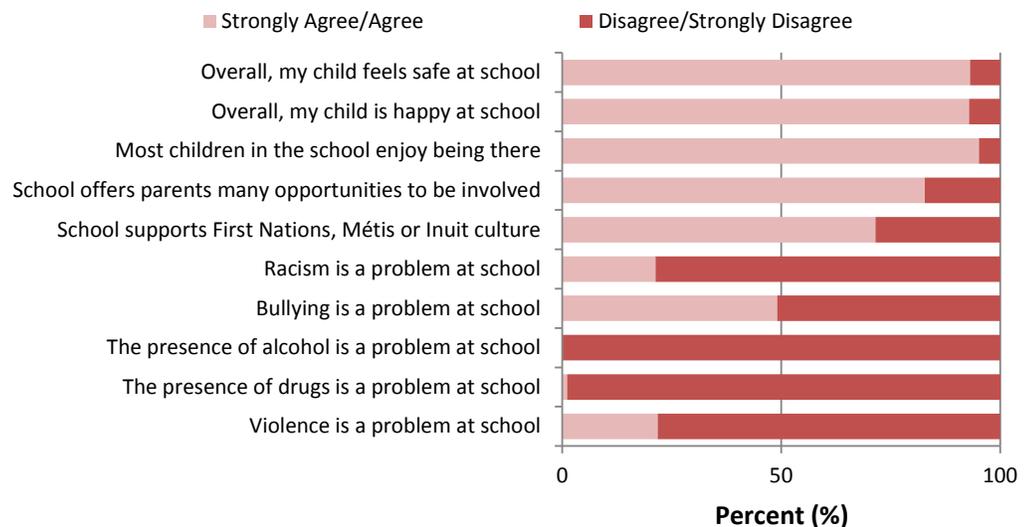
- Family or child moved (42%)
- Regular progression through the school system (41%)
- New school was located closer to home (9%)
- Other* (9%)

*Includes: not getting along with students, concerns about standards/quality of teaching, wanted a specific program, safety concerns at school

96% of Indigenous children in London have never repeated a grade.

Most Indigenous parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child felt safe and happy at school.

9% of Indigenous children have been told by a health care professional that they have a learning disability.



Population based estimates were created using respondent driven sampling (see Project Overview and Methods Factsheet)

Definitions

Indigenous children: persons aged 1 to 14 years identified as Indigenous such as First Nations, Métis, Inuit or other Indigenous nations by their parent/guardian and living or using services in the City of London

Sources

1. Sarlo (2016); 2. Melhuish et al. (2008); 3. Truth and Reconciliation Canada (2015); 4. McCue (2006); 5. Canada Standing Senate Committee (2011); 6. McCain (Hon.) et al. (2011)

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Funding for this publication was provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors/researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the MOHLTC