



2006 Snapshot of London's Children and Youth



The 2006 Snapshot

“The decisions we make today about where and how to invest society’s resources will affect the quality of people in our communities a generation from now.” Dr. J. Fraser Mustard

What is life like for a child growing up in London today? What do families look like in our city? How are the health and education systems faring? What types of recreation, arts and culture opportunities exist? And most importantly as we look to the future of our children, where are we shining, and where do we need to improve?

Our community is filled with data and information, collected by dozens of organizations. On their own, each represent one small image of our city. With the 2006 Snapshot, Investing in Children has collected these many sources of information into one comprehensive document.

Using the 2006 Snapshot, you can better identify the gaps and opportunities in our community, gain a stronger understanding of the London’s needs, and also see the areas where our city excels. For members of the business community, the information in the 2006 Snapshot can show potential employees the benefits of living and working in London, and help to recognize volunteer and charitable opportunities.

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Acknowledgements

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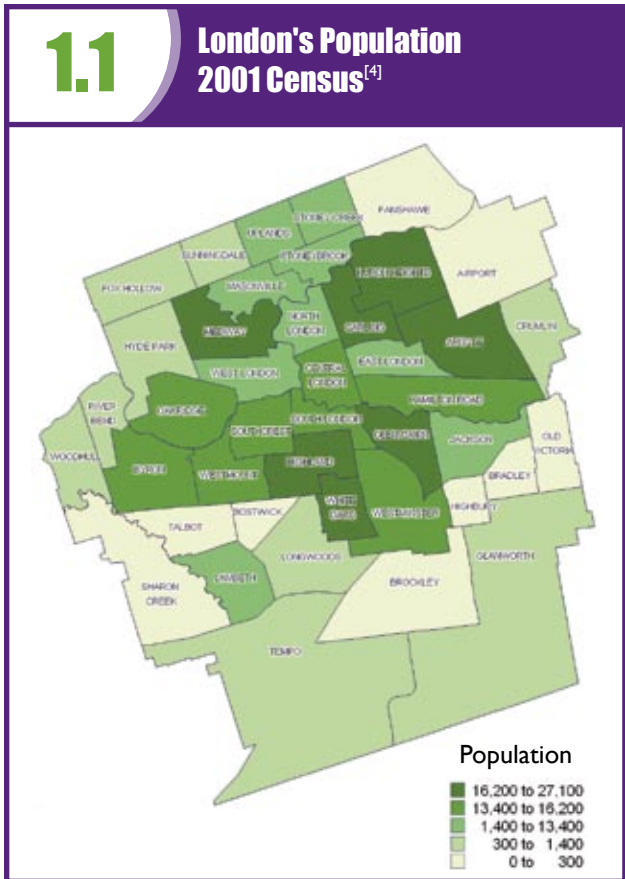
- Clyde Adkin, *Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball*
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- Debra Johnston, *Salvation Army Centre of Hope*
- Brad Jones, *Centennial Hall*
- Colleen Jones, *Westervelt College*
- Steve Killip, *Thames Valley District School Board*
- Suzi LaPorta, *London International Children’s Festival*
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Researcher: Katharine Fagan

An Aerial View of London

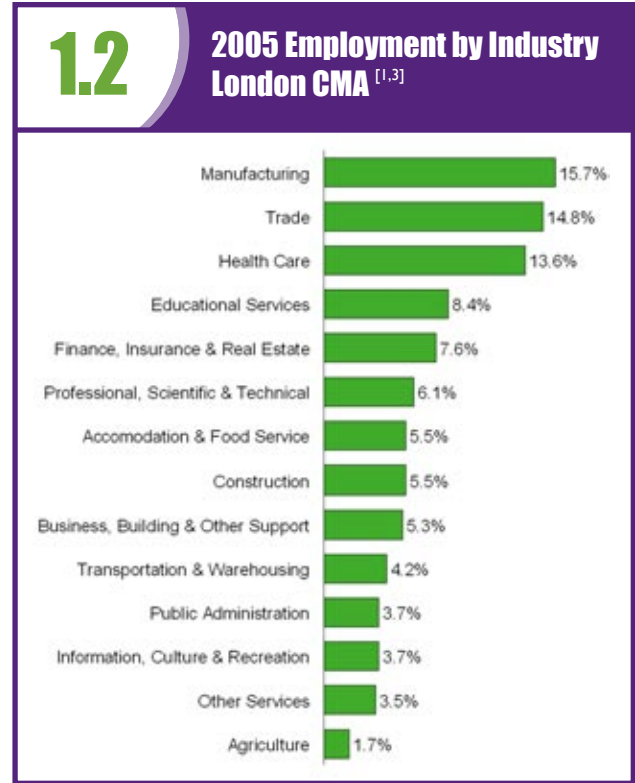
It is important to understand London as a whole in order to understand what it is like for a child growing up in the City of London and the London Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). The CMA, used by Statistics Canada, is a larger geographic area that includes parts of Middlesex and Elgin counties.

- The City of London has a population of 373,800 as of the end of 2005, an increase from 336,539 in 2001. The London CMA population is 464,300,



an increase from 432,451 in 2001.^[1]

- Approximately 2000 immigrants arrive in London annually. London has the highest per capita refugee population in Canada, most of whom were from Colombia in the last 4-5 years.^[2]
- In 2005 the labour force was 260,400 and 243,100 were employed (197,700 full-time and 45,400 part-time). The average annual seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for London was 6.8%. This is comparable to both Ontario's and Canada's 6.6% average rates, and is higher than 2004 when London's rate was 5.9%.^[1,3]
- In 2001, 46% of London's CMA lived less than 5 km (median 5.4 km) from their place of work. 86% of the working population drove to work, while 12% walked or used public transit.^[4]
- In 2001, 44% of London's CMA identified themselves as Protestant, 28% as Catholic and nearly 20% as no religious affiliation.^[4]
- Amongst religions with more than 10,000 followers in the London CMA, the Muslim population grew 163% between the 1991 and 2001 census. The number of people indicating no religious affiliation grew 50%. The Presbyterian and Anglican populations declined the most, down 33% and 12% respectively.^[4]
- In 2001, the median age for Muslims in London's CMA was 22.3. By comparison, the median for Catholics was 35.9; for Anglicans 44.8; for Jews 41.1; for no religious affiliation 28.4.^[4]

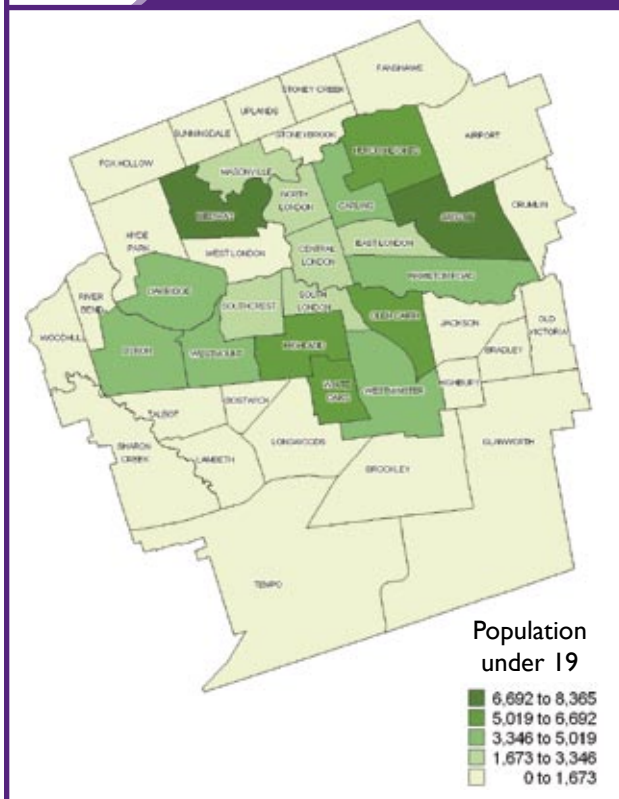


- There are more than 450 Neighborhood Watches in the City of London, with 20-250 homes per watch. There are approximately 32,000 homes involved in the program, about 38% of all homes in London.^[5]
- There are approximately 6,000 Block Parents in London.^[6]
- London hosts over 30 events and festivals annually, including the London International Children's Festival, Western Fair, Sunfest, the

An Aerial View of London

1.3

Distribution of 0-19 Population 2001 Census ^[4]



London International Blues Festival, and the London Fringe Theatre Festival. ^[7]

- London is home to at least 30 Museums, Art galleries and Historical Sites, including the London Regional Children's Museum, Museum London, the London Museum of Archaeology, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, and Banting House National Historic Site of Canada. ^[7,8]

- Sporting events hosted by London include the 2006 LPGA CN Canadian Women's Open, 2006 Scott Tournament of Hearts, 2006 World Lacrosse Championships, 2005 BMO Canadian Figure Skating Championships, 2004 Ontario Summer and Winter Games, and the 2001 Canada Summer Games. ^[7]
- The City of London has "over 280 parks, open space and environmentally significant areas totaling over 2,000 hectares of land. This includes a public pathway system that is more than 60 kilometers in length." ^[9]
- London is home to 19 hospitals and research facilities, including five hospitals run through London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care London. Robarts Research Institute is Canada's largest privately-funded research institute and Lawson Health Research Institute is one of Canada's largest hospital-based research institutes. ^[3b,11]

- In London, there are 104 elementary and 20 secondary schools in the public and Catholic systems, with an additional 21 schools that are not publicly funded. London is home to the University of Western Ontario, Fanshawe College, Westervelt College, and at least 12 other post-secondary institutions. ^[11,12,13,14,15]
- London International Airport is the 12th busiest passenger airport in Canada with over 300,000 passengers annually, and the 11th busiest airport as measured by aircraft take-offs and landings with approximately 100,000 aircraft movements

annually. Air Canada Jazz, Northwest Airlink, WestJet Airlines, Sunwing Airlines and Sunwing Vacations fly through the airport, offering direct service to Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Detroit, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Cuba. ^[16]

- The London Transit Commission has over 18 million rides annually on their 184 buses currently in service. The percentage of the population using London Transit grew from 35% to 50% from 2000-04. The percentage of people using public transit as their main method of transportation grew from 15% to 25% from 2000-04. The cash fare for a child aged 5 years to Grade 6 is \$1.25 or \$1.02 with SuperSaver Tickets. The cash fare for a student in Grade 7-12 is \$2.50 or \$1.43 with tickets. Regular adult fares are \$2.50. ^[17]

1.4

London's Top Employers ^[18]

- 1) London Health Sciences Centre
- 2) University of Western Ontario
- 3) St. Joseph's Health Care London
- 4) Ford Motor Co. of Canada
- 5) London Life Insurance Co.
- 6) TD Canada Trust
- 7) 3M Canada
- 8) Sterling Trucks
- 9) Fanshawe College
- 10) Parkwood Hospital
- 11) Lawson Health Research Institute
- 12) Sifton Properties



Where we Shine

There are approximately 32,000 homes involved in Neighbourhood Watches and 6,000 Block Parents in London.

In London-Middlesex, 81.3% of parents/caregivers with children aged 0-6 have heard about at least one parenting program, and 42.6% have used at least one of them.



Room to Grow

The emergency shelter system in London has been frequently running at or above capacity, and there has been an increase in families using emergency shelter services.

16,715 children 17 and under were living in low income families in London-Middlesex in 2001, which is 17.6% of children 17 and under. This is higher than the provincial percentage, but lower than the National percentage.

The number of children in the care of the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex is increasing annually. Investigations of child abuse and neglect are also increasing.

Family

The Family section explores the many family-related factors that can influence how a child grows up, including the structure of their family, what type of household they live in, income levels, cultural backgrounds, and the availability of services to meet family needs.

Family Structure

- There are almost 113,000 children ages 0-19 living in London-Middlesex as of the 2001 Census.^[1]
- Approximately 55,000 families in London-Middlesex have children under the age of 18.^[1]
- 17.5% of London families are lone parent families, which is above the provincial average of 15.2%. 85.6% of lone parents are females, compared to 82.5% across Ontario. Lone parents families are found throughout London, with the highest concentration in Argyle.^[1]
- In Ontario in 2001, 7,670 children under 15 years of age and 4,015 children 15-19 years of age were living with their grandparent(s) with no parent present.^[2]
- In 2000, the average employment income for a university graduate in London was \$48,152; \$34,466 for a college graduate; \$34,984 for a trade school graduate; \$25,751 for a high school graduate; and \$21,356 for a non-high school graduate.^[1]

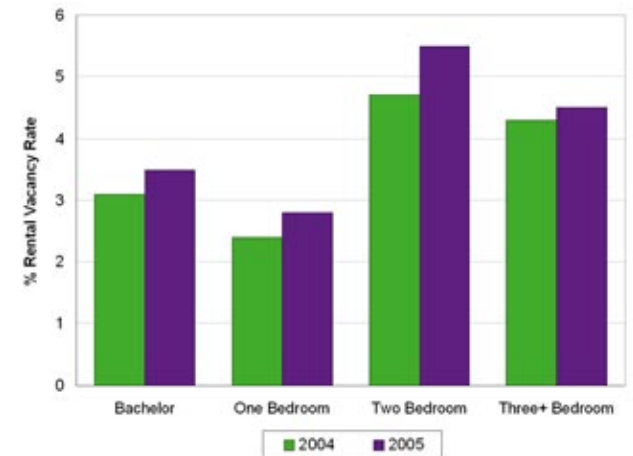
Dwellings

- In 2005, vacancy rates for apartments in buildings with three or more units were at 4.2%, which is the highest rate in the London CMA since 1988.^[3]
- In 2004, the rental vacancy rate was 3.7% in London, 4.1% in Ontario and 2.9% in Canada. These are the highest rates compared to the last 5 years. The average rent for 2-bedroom apartments in London was \$758, \$898 in Ontario and \$719 in the Canadian provinces.^[4]

- In 2005, the rental vacancy rate was 4.3% in London, and the average rent of a two-bedroom apartment was \$781.^[5]
- In 2004, the Ontario Works shelter allowance for one parent supporting two children was \$571; the average rent for a one bedroom apartment was \$602.^[6]
- In 2004, the average price of a home was \$167,344 in London, \$245,229 in Ontario and \$227,210 in Canada. The MLS (Multiple Listing Service) Total Residential Sales in London were 9,238 units.^[4]
- There were 3,078 Total Housing Starts in London in

2.1

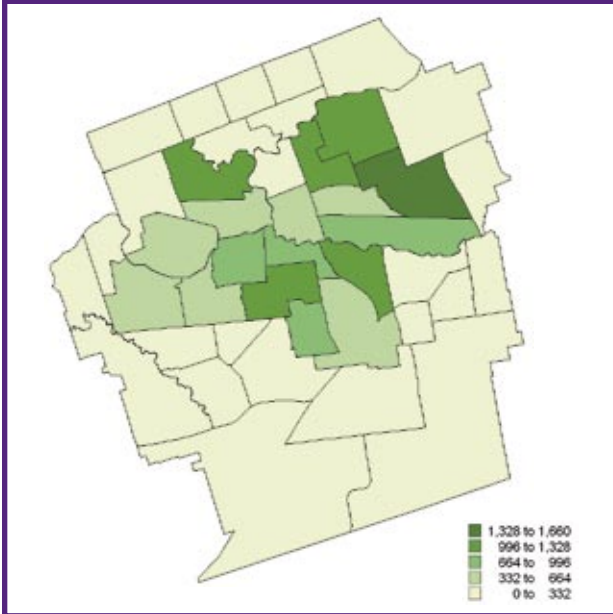
Rental Vacancy Rates 2004-2005^[3]



Family

2.2

Distribution of Lone Parent Families - 2001 Census ^[1]



2004. This number has increased in each of the last five years. ^[4]

- In August of 2005, an all-time high of 894 homes were sold in the London-St. Thomas area. Approximately 6,400 homes were sold from January to August 2005. ^[7]

Cultural Diversity

- London receives approximately 2,000 immigrants, including refugees, each year. An immigrant is a person who chooses to move to a new country, a refugee is a person who has moved due to a fear of persecution. ^[8]
- London has the highest per capita population of

refugees in Canada, representing 35% of the city's total immigrant population. The national average is 13%. ^[8]

- The largest newcomer population in London is from Colombia, with approximately 4,000 arriving in the last 4-5 years. ^[8]
- Approximately 60-75% of refugees have high or special needs – medical, physical or emotional. ^[8]
- Over 40% of immigrants arriving in Canada have at least one University degree. ^[8]
- Immigrant household incomes dropped by 10% in London from 1996-2001, and are almost 40% lower than non-immigrant households. ^[8]
- The unemployment rate for recent immigrants in London is 14.7%. ^[8]
- More than one quarter of the 1,944 immigrants who arrived in London in 2003 were children 0-16 years old. 30% of these immigrants 17 years or older had no English or French ability. ^[8]
- The most common mother tongue of immigrants to London who have received landed status by Immigration Canada from 2002-2004 was Arabic, followed closely by Spanish. ^[8]
- After Colombia, the countries of origin of the most immigrants to London who have received landed status from 2001-2004 were China, India, USA, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain, Korea, Iran, Romania and Afghanistan. ^[8]
- The London Cross Cultural Learner Centre served almost 3,400 clients from 107 countries. The most clients served from one country were 1,555 from Colombia, followed by 215 from Sudan, 147 from Afghanistan, 138 from China and 112 from Iran. ^[8]
- In 2004-2005, 222 individuals accessed London Urban Services Organization (LUSO) Centre's

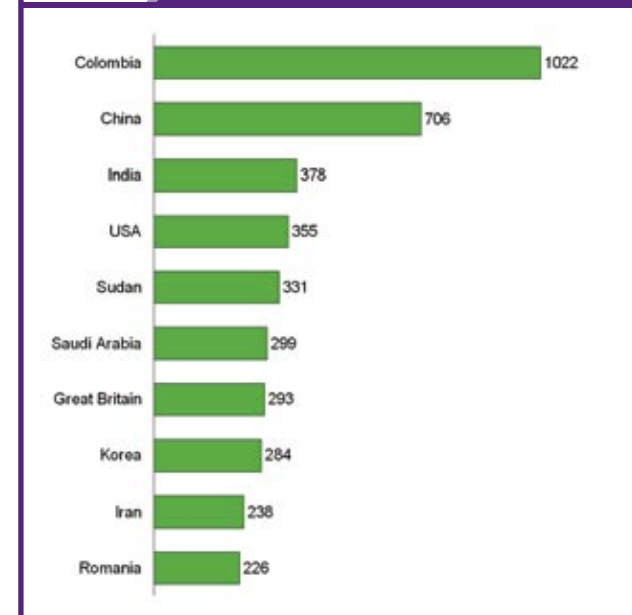
Newcomer Settlement Program for individuals and families who have been in Canada for five years or less. An increasing number of Hispanics accessed the services (76% of clients were from Colombia), reflecting a trend in local immigrant and migrant populations. ^[9]

Francophone Community

- In 2001, the Francophone population in London was 5,680 people, which is 1.7% of the total population. 5% of children in London have French as their mother tongue. London is a designated bilingual area. ^[1,10]
- 4.8% of Ontario's population was Francophone in

2.3

Landed Immigrant Country of Origin - 2001-04 ^[8]



Family

2001, which is a total of 548,940 people, and the Francophone population in South-West Ontario was 34,320 people.^[10]

Aboriginal Community

- In 2001, the Aboriginal identity population was 5,640, which is approximately 1.3% of the total population of London CMA. 31.5% of the Aboriginal population is individuals under 15 years of age.^[11]
- The unemployment rate of Aboriginal individuals in the London CMA was 15.3%, which is higher than the Ontario unemployment rate of Aboriginal individuals (14.7%).^[11]

- The median household income for the Aboriginal Identity population in the London CMA was \$35,359 in 2001. This is lower than the Ontario Aboriginal Identity median of \$40,274.^[11]

Household Income

- The average household income in London-Middlesex in 2002 was \$58,713, with a median household income of \$48,026.^[1]
- The average household income in London-Middlesex is lower than both the provincial (\$73,849) and national averages (\$66,160).^[1]
- Household incomes in London-Middlesex differ markedly by family type. The average household income of single parent families is \$36,000, common-law families have an average of approximately \$59,000, and married families have an average of approximately \$78,000.^[1]
- Ontario minimum wage as of Feb. 1, 2006 is \$7.75 for general workers, \$7.25 for students, \$6.75 for liquor servers and \$8.53 for home workers.^[112]

Poverty

- A total of 16,715 children aged 17 and under were living in low income families in London-Middlesex, which represents 17.6% of children 17 and under. In Ontario, 16.9% of children 17 and under are living in low income families, and in Canada 18.2% are.^[2]
- In 2005, an average of 6,477 children aged 0-17 were living in families participating in Ontario Works. Of these, 46% are aged 0-6, 33% aged 7-12 and 21% aged 13-17, which is the same as in 2003. There were an average of 2,627 lone parent families and an estimated 1,341 two

parent families on the caseload.^[13]

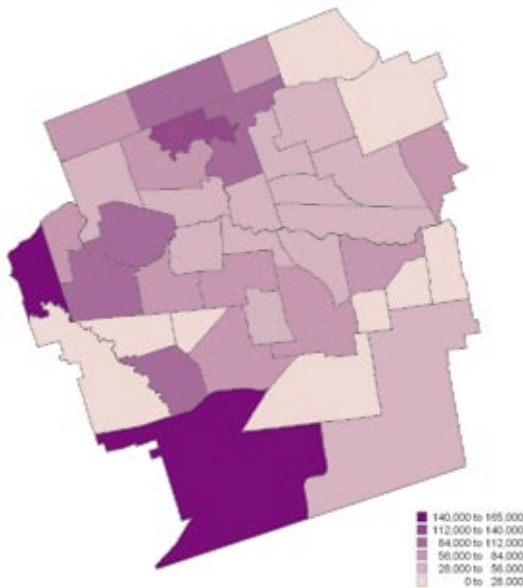
- The emergency shelter system in London has been frequently running at or above capacity. There has been an increase of single and two-parent families using emergency services.^[6]
- In the first three months of 2006, \$204,000 assisted approximately 400 families through the Heat and Warmth (THAW) Program. THAW, which is run through the Salvation Army, received a total of \$329,878 for 2006 to assist low-income families with paying their hydro bills. In 2004/05 THAW dispersed \$345,191.^[14]
- In the first three months of 2006, the Rent Bank, run through the Salvation Army, provided 39 loans totaling \$37,000 for households who are threatened by eviction. In the same period in 2005, 29 loans totaling \$30,000 were provided.^[14]
- The London Food Bank services approximately 2,500 families each month. Of the families who visited the food bank each month, 42% had children. The number of families that access the food bank 12 times a year has gone up from 1.7% to 2.2%, which is the first change in this number in at least 8 years. In 2004, 1.4 million pounds of food was collected and distributed.^[15]

Shelter Services

- The Rotholme Women's and Family Shelter had a total of 983 residents in 2004/05, of which 361 were children. The number of families staying at the shelter rose from 171 in 1999/00 to 202 in 2004/05. Four single teenage mothers (16-19 years old) were residents in 2004/05, which is down from 20 in 1999/00. In 2004/05 the shelter was over its 41 bed capacity for 327 days, with an average occupancy of 59 people per day.^[16]

2.4

Average Household Income by Neighbourhood - 2001 Census^[1]



Family

- 474 women and 398 children in total were admitted to Women's Community House's two locations in 2005. 486 women and children were referred elsewhere when the 67 beds were full.^[17]
- The Salvation Army Centre of Hope Youth Hostel services youth aged 16-21 and has 57 beds. On average, 35 beds are occupied at any one time during the year, and beds are usually close to full in summer months.^[14]
- At^Lohsa Native Family Healing Services Inc. provided shelter for 54 children in 2005 at the Zhaawanong Shelter for abused women and their children. This number is down from the 2004 and 2003 figures of 81 and 110 children respectively.^[18]
- The Youth for Christ Streetlight bus provides 30-80 youth per night with food, clothing, resource materials, and counseling. 80-100 different youth are estimated to visit the bus every week, as it makes two visits to the downtown area. Many youth visit both times.^[19]
- Street Connection's Youth Centre had 8,672 youth visits to in 2005, and the number of visits has steadily increased since 1999 when there were 4,858 visits. The Youth Centre also provides about 10,000 hot meals per year.^[20]

Parenting Practices

- In London-Middlesex, 81.3% of parents/caregivers with children aged 0-6 have heard about at least one parenting program, and 42.6% have used at least one of them. More females are aware of at least one parenting program than males (91.3% vs. 71.4%), and more females use parenting programs than males (58.7% vs. 26.7%). The Ontario Early Years Centre is the most widely

known parenting resource of parents in London-Middlesex. 46.8% of parents who use parenting resources, use the OEYCs.^[21]

Child Protection Issues

- The Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex provides protection and support services to 1,700 families every year. In 2004/05 the CAS completed 2,890 investigations of child abuse and neglect and had over 800 children in their care.^[22]

Teen Services

- Youth Opportunities Unlimited provides a variety of programs for youth in London. In 2004/05, 156 youth attended the Youth @ Work Program for high risk youth who left school prematurely, 130 completed the program and 51 completed job trials with local employers. Of the participants who completed the program, 66% were employed at a 3 month follow-up.^[23]
- The Youth Action Centre (YAC), which is a drop-in resource centre for street and at-risk youth under 24 years of age, had 7,775 drop in centre visits in 2004/05.^[23]
- In a YAC survey in April 2005, it was found that the majority of youth who use the YAC were 18-22 (67.4%), 87.7% were not attending school and most were renting an apartment or living in a shelter. Of the youth who access the YAC, 61.5% are unemployed and 27% use Ontario Works as their source of income. This was the most common main source of income, followed by employment (23.6%).^[24]
- Most of the youth accessed the YAC 4-6 times a week (55.4%), and most likely used the centre for

snacks/dinner, telephone, the food bank, personal items, hygiene supplies, the message board and support/information.^[24]

- In 2004/05, NoKee Kwe served 750 youth under 24. 450 youth participated in the annual Career Fair, and the other 300 participated in other programs. Youth Services at NoKee Kwe Occupational Skill Development Inc. provides programs and services aimed at Aboriginal youth in the London community.^[25]

Other

- There are more than 450 Neighborhood Watches in the City of London, with 20-250 homes per watch. There are approximately 32,000 homes involved in the program, which is about 38% of the homes in London.^[26]
- London has approximately 6,000 Block Parents.^[27]
- As of January 2006, Big Brothers of London had 115 active matches with 70 boys on the waiting list, and Big Sisters of London had 243 active matches with 60 girls on the waiting list.^[28,29]
- In 2005, 68 children and youth with intellectual disabilities utilized the Community Living London Respite Services.^[30]

2.5

What are the effects of positive parenting?

Positive parenting can be a protective factor for children against the negative effects of poverty, living in high risk neighbourhoods or having a psychological or physical problem.

Middle Childhood Matters
6 to 12 Eastern Ontario Task Group



Where we Shine

86.4% of 12-19 year olds in London visited a dentist or orthodontist in 2002/03, which is a higher percentage than both Ontario and Canadian teens.

65.6% of 15-19 year olds in London have never smoked, which is higher than both Ontario (62%) and Canada (58.4%).

London has 19 hospitals and research facilities including the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, as well as Lawson Health Research Institute which is Canada's 3rd largest research institute and Robarts Research Institute which is Canada's largest privately-funded research facility.



Room to Grow

London needs the equivalent of at least 63 family doctors to meet the Ontario minimum of one family doctor for every 1,380 residents.

A lower percentage of 12-14 year old females in London (78%) have never tried smoking compared to 12-14 year old males (93.5%), and females of the same age in Ontario (92%) and Canada (89.4%).

A higher percentage 12-19 year olds in London (37.0%) are drinking 5 or more alcoholic drinks at least once a month compared to teens in Ontario (25.9%) and Canada (26.6%).

The number of Chlamydia cases has more than doubled from 1997-2004 and the number of Gonorrhea cases has increased more than six times from 1996-2004. 57.9% of Sexually Transmitted Infections in 2003 were in 18-24 year olds.

Health

Good health is vitally important for children. The health of a child can be influenced by many factors, including the availability and usage of medical and dental care, eating and physical activity habits, substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, mental health and environmental health. The Health section explores these factors and the effects they are having on London's children.

Family Health

- Approximately 6,000 calls made to the Middlesex-London Health Unit annually are regarding child and youth-related issues.^[1]
- A slightly higher percentage of 15-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex (77.8%) visited a doctor in 2002/03 compared to Ontario (77.1%) or Canada (74.6%).^[2]
- Fewer 12-14-year-olds in London-Middlesex (60.9%) visited a doctor, compared to Ontario (71.1%) and Canada (68.7%).^[2]
- 37 Family Medicine Residents graduated from UWO in June 2005.^[3]
- Approximately 20,000-30,000 Londoners do not have a family doctor. London needs the equivalent of at least 63 family doctors to meet the Ontario minimum of one family doctor for every 1,380 residents. A report by the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison was submitted to the Board of Control in March 2006 recommending that the City of London apply for Designation as Underserved for Family Doctors.^[4]
- 350 family doctors are needed in Southwestern Ontario to meet needs.^[5]

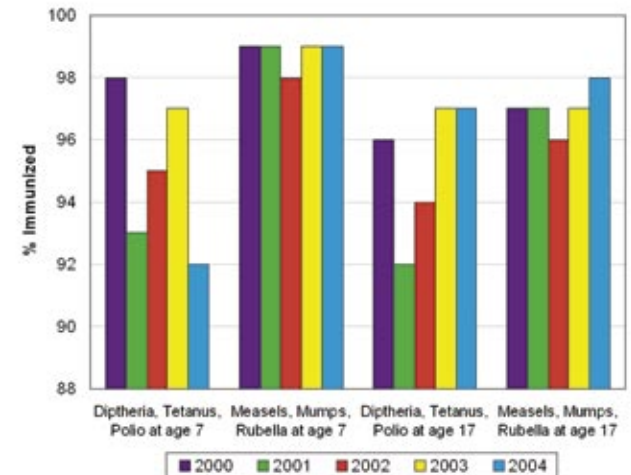
Dental Health

- In 2002/03, 86.4% of 12-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex had visited a dentist or orthodontist, compared to Ontario (80.4%) and Canada (79.3%).^[2]

- In 2004/05, 1.85% of Grade 2 students needed urgent dental treatment, and 11.44% needed treatment that was not urgent.^[1]
- In 2003/04, 0.69% of Grade 8 students needed urgent treatment, and 2.45% needed treatment that was not urgent.^[1]
- In 2002/03, 0.19% of Grade 4 students needed urgent dental treatment, and 5.25% needed treatment that was not urgent.^[1]

3.1

Immunization Coverage by ages 7 and 17^[1]



Health

Immunization

- In 2004/05, 87% of the Grade 8 graduating class received the Hepatitis B vaccine.^[1]
- The immunization rates for seven year-old students were 92% for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio, and 99% for Measles, Mumps and Rubella.^[1]
- The rates for 17 year-old students were 97% for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio and 98% for Measles, Mumps and Rubella.^[1]
- In London-Middlesex there have been no cases of Mumps since 2002, Rubella since 1999, Measles since 1997, Diphtheria since before 1994, Tetanus since before 1990, and Polio since 1978. There was an average of 47 cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) reported in London-Middlesex reported annually between 1994-2003. The highest incidence rates are in those under 9 years of age.^[6]

Healthy Eating

- About half (49.4%) of 12-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex are eating less than the recommended 5-10 servings of fruits and vegetables daily. This is comparable to those in Ontario (51.7%) and Canada (50.8%).^[2]
- 35.9% of 12-19 year olds in London-Middlesex consume fruits and vegetables 5-10 times daily, which is about the same as those in Ontario (35.2%) and Canada (36.2%).^[2]
- Children aged 2-17 who consumed less than five servings of fruits or vegetables daily were more likely to be overweight or obese. Of those who ate less than 3 servings daily, 28.9% were overweight or obese, and of those who ate 3-4 servings daily, 28.1% were overweight or obese.^[7]

School-based Nutrition Programs

- In 2005/06 the Children's Nutrition Network helped 36 schools in London-Middlesex receive funding through the Ontario Student Nourishment Program. Thirteen schools also received Breakfast for Learning funding. Aside from this, the Maycourt Club of London also provides snacks to over 85 schools in London-Middlesex.^[8]

Physical Activity

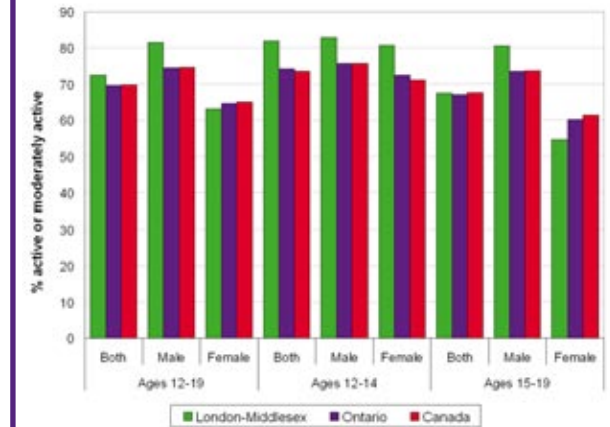
- 72.5% of 12-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex are physically active or moderately active, higher than in Ontario (69.7%) and Canada (69.9%).^[2]
- Physically active students have: higher grades and school performance, higher levels of reading, language and math, better cardiovascular fitness, healthy weights, positive self-esteem, a sense of well-being, and a healthy lifestyle.^[1]
- A general idea of the effects of the Quality Daily Physical Activity (QDPA) in schools in the Thames Valley District School Board was shown through a pilot study in several schools. All of those surveyed thought that students are more eager to participate in active/cooperative learning activities after the implementation of the QDPA and that students are more alert throughout the day.^[11]
- 71% of those surveyed believe QDPA has improved student learning, 77% think students are more fitness conscious and 80% say the QDPA makes their school a more enjoyable place for learning.^[11]

Weight Issues

- Risk factors involved in overweight and obesity

3.2

Physical Activity Levels for 12-19 year olds^[2]



in children include an unbalanced diet, skipping breakfast and long hours of TV watching and Computer use.^[9]

- A 2002 study found that approximately 30% of young children were at risk for becoming overweight or were overweight after age 3. The onset of overweight can be as early as 2 years of age.^[10]
- 9.8% of Canadians aged 2-17 from households of middle-ranged income are obese. This was higher than the obesity rates for children from lower income families (6%) and high income families (5.8%).^[16]
- In 2004 it was found that 34.8% of children 6-11 years of age who participated in more than 2 hours of screen-watching daily were overweight or obese. This is significantly higher

Health

than the average of 26.2% of children aged 2-17 being overweight or obese. Youth 12-17 years of age who participated in 20 or more hours weekly of screen time were also found to have a significantly higher percentage of overweight and obesity.^[7]

Screen-watching study

- In a 2005 study, parents and caregivers were asked questions about their preschoolers' screen-watching behaviours. The long-term goal of the study was to use the information collected to develop an intervention aimed at the prevention of obesity and promotion of healthy bodyweight in children, since it has been suggested that sedentary behaviour, such as screen-watching activities, is a major contributor to childhood obesity.^[12]

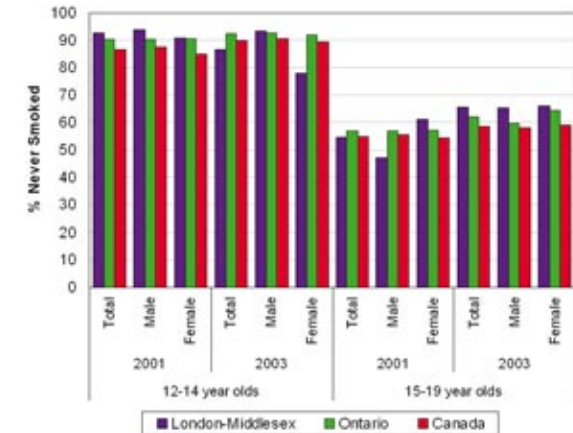
- According to participants, TV watching was the main type of screen-watching behaviour for preschoolers, with them occasionally watching videos, and older preschoolers playing video games. The estimated amount of time preschoolers spent screen-watching was 1-5 hours per day.^[12]
- Most participants were not worried about their preschoolers' screen-watching, and many pointed out that their children would not sit still while they were watching TV so it was not always a sedentary activity. A common note was also that the amount of screen-watching depended heavily on the weather; if it was cold, raining, or snowing, there was more screen-watching.^[12]

Smoking

- Approximately 16% of 12-19-year-olds and approximately 23% of 15-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex were current daily or occasional smokers. The percentage was the same for both males and females. These percentages are slightly higher than those in Ontario, where 13.6% of 12-19-year-olds and 20.4% of 15-19-year-olds were smokers, and in Canada where 14.8% of 12-19-year-olds and 21.9% of 15-19-year-olds were smokers.^[2]
- In London-Middlesex, 78% of females 12-14 years old had never smoked at the time of the 2003 CCHS, which is much lower than 93.5% of males, 92% of females in Ontario and 89.4% of females in Canada. Conversely, of London-Middlesex 15-19-year-olds, 65.6% had never smoked, compared to 62% of those in Ontario and 58.4% of those in Canada.^[2]
- Although London-Middlesex has a higher

3.4

Percentage of students who have never smoked^[2]



percentage of teen smokers than the provincial and national averages, fewer London-Middlesex teen are choosing to begin smoking.

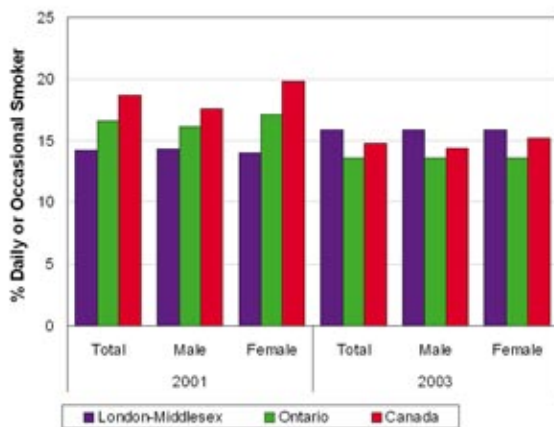
- 83.7% of 12-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex are not exposed to second-hand smoke at home, whereas 78.6% of 12-19-year-olds in Ontario and 76.2% of 12-19-year-olds in Canada had not been exposed to second-hand smoke at home.^[2]

Alcohol

- In the London-Middlesex area, 37.0% of 12-19-year-olds and 40.8% of 15-19-year-olds have 5 or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion 12 or more times annually, from the 2003 CCHS. This is compared to 25.9% of those 12-19 and 29.8% of those 15-19 in Ontario, and 26.6% of those 12-19 and 30.5% of those 15-19 in Canada.^[2]

3.3

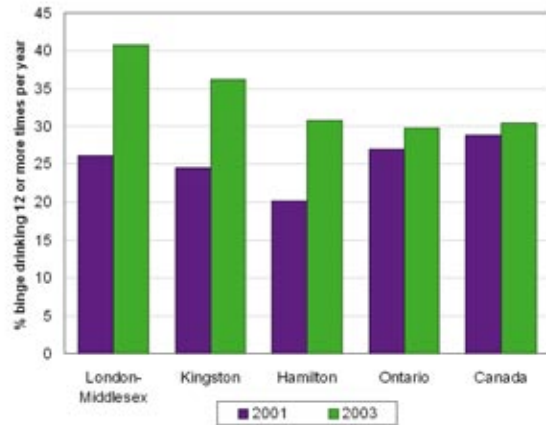
Daily and Occasional Smoking - 12-19 year olds^[2]



Health

3.5

Binge Drinking (five or more drinks) - 15-19 year olds ^[2]



Substance Abuse

- Approximately 100 women and their children participate in the Heartspace program for women who are involved in substance abuse, and about 25% of these women are pregnant. ^[11]
- In 2005, Addiction Services of Thames Valley had 195 youth clients. ^[13]

Mental Health

- In 2004/05 the Child and Adolescent Centre Mental Health Program received 1096 referrals and accepted 607 cases. This is down slightly from 2003/04 when they received 1189 referrals and accepted 645 cases. ^[14]
- From April 2004 to January 2006, there were a total of 90 referrals and 41 patients admitted to the Day Treatment Program at the Child and

Adolescent Centre at LHSC. ^[14]

- From April 2003 to December 2005, a total of 421 children were admitted as inpatients, with slightly more females than males. The most common diagnosis was Mood Disorders (approximately 41%), followed by Externalizing, Adjustment and Anxiety disorders. From April 2004 to December 2005, 38% of patients were diagnosed with more than one disorder. ^[14]
- There has been an increase in inpatients in recent years, from 118 in 2000/01 (which included eating disorder inpatients) to 183 inpatients in 2003/04 (including eating disorders inpatients). ^[14]
- The Eating Disorders Program received 107 referrals for children aged 9-18 from April 2003 to December 2005. The most diagnoses were for an Eating Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (40.5%), followed by Anorexia (27%) and Bulimia (13%). The remaining patients were assessed but were not identified as having an eating disorder. ^[14]

Environmental Health

- Approximately 12% of 12-19-year-olds in London-Middlesex have been diagnosed with Asthma, which is slightly lower to 12.9% in Ontario and 12.4% in Canada. ^[2]
- In 2005 there were 87 moderate AQI days and one poor day. In 2004 there were 43 moderate AQI days and two poor days. ^[15]

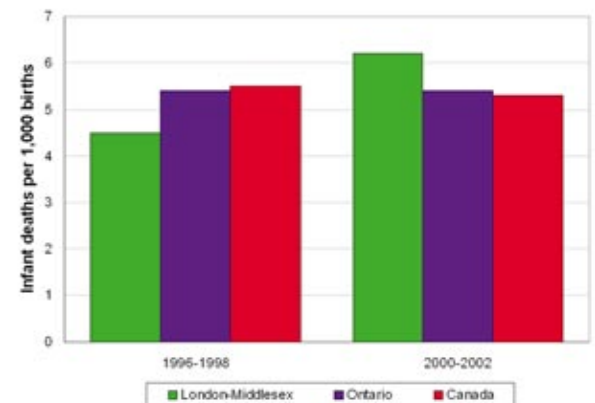
Infant Health

- The percentages of low birth-weight babies in London-Middlesex has remained about the same from 1997 (5.9%) to 2001 (5.8%), and is comparable to amount of low birth-weight babies in 2001 in Ontario (5.7%) and Canada (5.6%). ^[16]

- Infant mortality rates in London-Middlesex in 2001 were approximately 6.2 per 1,000 live births, which have increased since 1997 when the rate was approximately 4.5 per 1,000 live births, and are higher than the rate of infant mortality in 2001 in Ontario (5.4 per 1,000 live births) and Canada (5.3 per 1,000 live births). ^[16]
- Approximately 9,000 families per year attend the MLHU Well-baby clinics, and this number is on the incline. ^[1]
- In 2001, 85.5% of London-Middlesex mothers reported that they breastfed or tried to breastfeed their last child, compared to 77.1% of mothers in Southwestern Ontario and 80.5% of mothers in Ontario. According to the 2003 CCHS, 86.9% of mothers in Ontario and 84.5% of mothers in Canada initiated breastfeeding. ^[2,17]
- 91.3% of London-Middlesex residents 18-54 years of age knew that breastfeeding protects

3.6

Infant Mortality 1996-1998 & 2000-2002 ^[2]



Health

infants from ear, lung, stomach, and many other infections. In the same study, it was shown that 91.1% of London-Middlesex residents knew that allergies to cow's milk, wheat or nuts are less common in children who are breastfed.^[17]

Sexually Transmitted Infections

- The number of Chlamydia cases in London-Middlesex has more than doubled from 1997-2004, from 400 to 986, and the number of Gonorrhoea cases has increased more than six times from 1996-2004 from 30 to 204. The increase is attributed to less invasive testing procedures leading to more people being tested as well as lack of safe sex practices.^[6, 18]
- The average number of reported AIDS infections in London-Middlesex dropped from 15 from 1994-97 to 2 from 1998-2003. The average

number of reported HIV infections also dropped, from 31 from 1994-97 to 17 from 1998-2003.^[6]

Car Seat Use and Safe Car travel

- In 2002, 85.7% of children 1-3 always travelled in a forward facing car seat in the back, compared to 92.5% in 2001. Of children 4-11 years old, 66.7% always traveled in the back seat in 2002, which has gone up since 2001 when the percentage was 64.7%.^[19]

Health Facilities

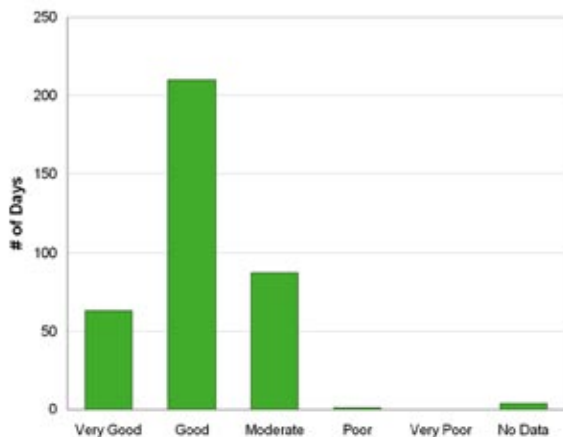
- London has 19 hospitals and research facilities.^[20]
- Robarts Research Institute is Canada's largest privately-funded research facility. Robarts focuses on a broad range of research interests including advanced imaging, autoimmunity/diabetes, gene therapy, heart/circulation and stroke/neurodegenerative diseases.^[20]
- Lawson Health Research Institute is Canada's 3rd largest research institute. Areas of interest include robotic surgery, maternal and newborn health, medical imaging, diabetes, probiotics, rehabilitation, geriatric care and wound healing.^[20]
- According to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, non-emergent illnesses and injuries are the largest percent of the patient population. Furthermore, approximately 3,200 patients need to be admitted to the hospital annually.^[21]

Other

- 248 children with physical disabilities are registered with Easter Seals of London-Middlesex. Easter Seals provides funding for basic equipment for children and youth with long-term physical disabilities where mobility is impaired. This

3.7

2005 Air Quality Index^[15]



3.8

Why is a clean and healthy environment important?

Children are at greater risk from the negative effects of exposure to unhealthy environments because their organs and bodies have not fully developed. They are also smaller in size than adults, which can result in a greater concentration of toxins in their bodies. A child's behaviour at play and in social interactions is also more likely to result in greater exposure to toxins (e.g. playing close to the ground, playing hands and objects in their mouths, etc.)

Exposure to toxins and environmental hazards has been linked to childhood leukemia and brain cancer as well as neurological and developmental disorders. Indoor air pollution (presence of chemicals, pesticides, tobacco smoke, mould, dust and poor air circulation) can affect the health of children and has been linked to throat irritation, nosebleeds, headaches, asthma, coughs, wheezing and nausea.

Middle Childhood Matters

6 to 12 Eastern Ontario Task Group

number does not reflect the total number of children and youth with physical disabilities in the London-Middlesex area, only those assisted by Easter Seals.^[22]

- In 2004, 3,340 children from London-Middlesex and their families were served by the Thames Valley Children's Centre.^[23]
- In 2004/05, TykeTALK provided 3,103 children with their first assessment or intervention services, an increase of 9% from the previous year. Approximately 10% of Thames Valley children have speech and language difficulties^[24]



Where we Shine

A higher percentage of 12-19 year olds in London-Middlesex are physically active (72.5%) than in Ontario (69.7%) and Canada (69.9%).

Since 2004, six playgrounds, two spray pads, and one skateboard park were built in London. New swings were added to four playgrounds and there was refurbishment and/or expansion of Storybook Gardens, Stronach Community Recreation Centre, South London Community Centre and Hamilton Road Seniors Centre.

Teen employment has increased since 1997, with job creation rising 21.1% and unemployment decreasing from 16.3% to 13.5%.



Room to Grow

While London offers a wide array of extra-curricular recreational opportunities, and some subsidies available, there are very few free opportunities.

The 2006 Snapshot shows what activities children are participating in, and in what numbers they are registered with the largest organizations. However, the Snapshot is not able to determine how many of London's children are not participating in any recreational activities. Anecdotal evidence suggests that in some neighbourhoods, more than 90% of students do not take part in any extra-curricular activities, though there is no research data available on that subject.

Recreation

When children aren't at school, there are many things they can do to occupy their time: sports and recreation activities, working full or part-time and even criminal activity. This section looks at how London's children are spending their extra-curricular time and the impact on their development.

Impact of Recreation Involvement

- Research done at McMaster University suggests that when families on social assistance are offered subsidized recreation for their children, their children become involved in more programs and are more competent than children in families who do not receive this service.^[1]
- Parents of children who are receive subsidized recreation activities are more likely not to need child care, counseling services, or food bank services and they also spent fewer dollars on health and social services than parents of children who do not receive such a subsidy.^[1]

Municipal Recreation

- In 2005, there were 50,703 registrants in the City of London Recreation and Neighbourhood Service Programs, compared to 2004 when there were 50,663 registrants.^[2]
- In 2004/05, six playgrounds, two spray pads and one skateboard park were built. Also, new swings were added to four playgrounds and there was refurbishment and/or expansion of four City facilities: Storybook Gardens, Stronach Community Recreation Centre, South London Community Centre and Hamilton Road Seniors Centre.^[2]
- In 2003, 2,203 low-income Londoners accessed financial assistance through the City of London to attend recreation and leisure programs. 39% of school-aged children accessed funding and an

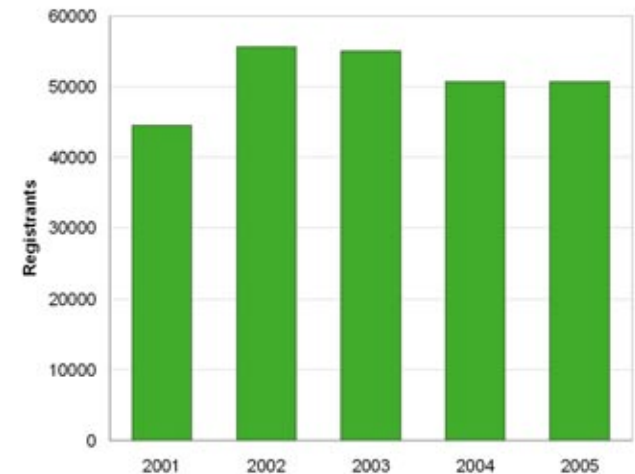
additional 14% of those who accessed funding were youth. The most common uses for financial assistance were aquatics (40%), fitness courses (26%) and day camps (12%).^[2]

Recreation and Leadership Programs

- In the 2004/05 season, there were 4,189 registrants in the Greater London Hockey Association, and 307 in the London Junior Knights. The House League registration has remained consistent in the past 5 years, and the Jr. Knights registration has continued to

4.1

Total Registrants in City of London Recreation Programs^[2]



Recreation

drop slightly every year.^[3]

- The London Sledge Hockey Club currently has a total of 25 players in two age divisions, with 15 players under 18 years of age.^[4]
- In 2005, the London and District Youth Soccer League had 304 outdoor teams with about 5,000 players and over 100 indoor teams with about 1,300 players. The number of players in outdoor soccer has remained consistent in recent years, while the number of indoor soccer players has increased because of the addition of more indoor teams.^[5]
- The London Ski Club at Boler Mountain has about 10,000 students in their weekday Ski and Snowboard school and about 20,000 students in their weeknight and weekend school.^[6]
- A total of 490 athletes are active in Ontario Special Olympics sporting activities in London.^[7]
- 4,567 children and youth were members of the YMCA of London in 2005. There were 8,115 participants in their Health, Fitness and Recreation Programs and 26,595 participants in their camping and community education programs including 12,000 participants in the

4.2

City of London Recreation Facilities

- 116 playground installations
- 90 ball diamonds
- 87 soccer pitches
- 74 tennis courts
- 41 outdoor basketball courts
- 20 wading pools
- 18 community centres
- 12 outdoor pools
- 5 spray pads
- 3 indoor pools
- 3 golf courses
- 3 skateboard parks

Children's Safety Village programs.^[8]

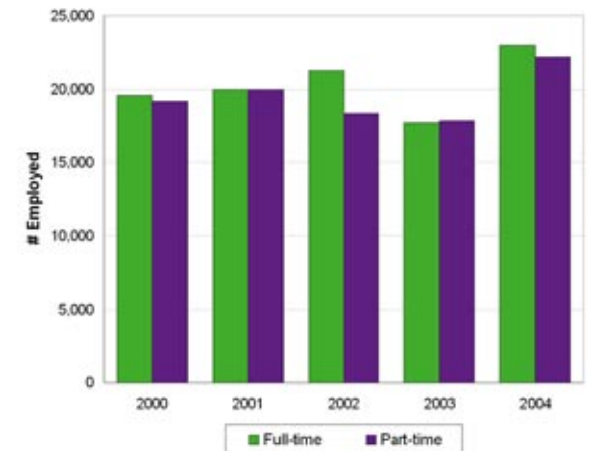
- 8,265 children were members of the Boys and Girls Club of London in 2005, which has remained about the same over the past few years. The majority of children using the Club are between the ages of 6-13, from households with an income under \$20,000.^[9]
- In 2005/06, the Girl Guides of London and Middlesex have 2,180 participants. This number has continued to decline since 2001.^[10]
- 4,926 youth participated in Scouts Canada in the Tri-shores Council area, which includes the London area, in 2005/06.^[11]

Technology Use

- Children in Ontario watch an average of 13.9 hours and youth an average of 17.3 hours of TV per week. For Children 2-11, the most commonly watched programs were drama, followed by comedy, social/recreational instruction and programs watched on the VCR. For Youth 12-17, the most common programs were comedy, followed by drama, news and public affairs, and variety and games.^[12]
- In 2003, 64.1% of households in London CMA have internet access, which has almost doubled since 1999 (32.9%). 72.2% of individuals accessed the internet from any location, which is an increase from 45.9% in 1999.^[14]
- 37% of grade 4-11 students in Canada have their own internet-connected computer, and 22% have a Webcam.^[14]
- 30% of grade 4-11 students in Canada would give their real name and address to sign up for a free e-mail account. Other unsafe activities include 12% giving their name and address to register for

4.3

Employment Levels for London CMA 15-24 Year Olds^[26]



a game site and 7% giving their name and address for a dating site.^[14]

- 23% of grade 4-11 students in Canada have their own cell phone. This percentage increases by grade, with 6% of grade 4 students and 46% of grade 11 students having their own cell phone.^[14]
- 66% of elementary schools in London-Middlesex participated in the "Turn off the Screens Week" campaign in 2005, which is an increase from 36% of schools in 2001. The campaign encourages elementary school-aged participants and their families to turn off their televisions, video games and computers for five days.^[15]

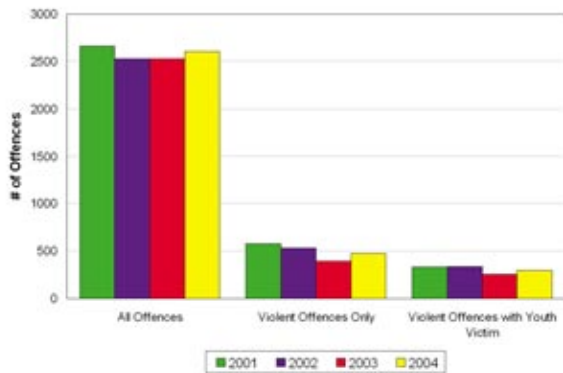
Teen Employment

- From 1997-2004 employment for Canadian teens aged 15-24 has grown faster than among adults. Job creation in youth rose 21.1%, while adult job

Recreation

4.4

Chargeable Youth Offences in London - 2001-2004^[17]



creation rose 15.8%.^[16]

- Unemployment in youths decreased from 16.3% in 1997 to 13.5% in 2004, and the proportion of youth participating in the labour force increased from 61.5% to 67.0%.^[16]
- In 2004, employment rates for teen women have increased to 46.1%, which is higher than young men (43.3%). In the past, more males than females have worked.^[16]
- More teens are employed in the retail sector than in any other sector.^[16]

Teens and the Law

- In 2004, there were 2603 chargeable youth offences, of which 470 involved violent crimes. Included in the category of “violent crime” are assault, sexual assault, criminal harassment, robbery, threats, weapons, and murder.^[17]
- The proportion of youth offences falling into the category of violent crime (18% in 2004) is lower

than the national average of 29%.^[17,18]

- In 2004, 291 violent crimes were committed by youth against other youth. The reported number of violent offences committed by youth where a youth was a victim only represents a fraction of all incidents, since it is estimated that 75% of cases are not reported.^[17]

Children with Disabilities

- In 2001-2003, a study of leisure and recreational activities of school age children and youth with physical activities in Ontario was completed. In comparison to children and youth without physical disabilities, those with physical disabilities generally participated in fewer activities overall and participated in those activities less intensely. The strongest direct influence on the participation intensity was the functional abilities of the child or youth, and those with higher levels of physical, cognitive and communicative functioning enjoyed activities more.^[19]

Bike Helmet Use

- In London-Middlesex, 84.2% of 5-8-year-olds wear a bicycle helmet all of the time. This number decreases with age, where 73.3% of children 9-12 wear a helmet all of the time, and 42.1% of youth 13-17 wear a helmet all of the time. These percentages have gone up slightly since 2001, where 82.5% of children 5-8, 72.7% of children 9-12, and 38.8% of youth 13-17 wore their helmets all of the time.^[20]

Other

- In 2005, 250,000 people attended the 130th Western Fair.^[21]

- East Park’s attendance was up significantly in 2005 because of the new Water Park.^[22]
- The “I’m Home” Program of London Children’s Connection runs an average of 25-30 programs per year with an average of 12 participants per program. This has grown since 2002-2003 when there were only 8-10 programs each year. The “I’m Home” Phone program received between 17 and 145 calls per month in the 2004-05 school year, with an average of 1.3 to 6.9 phone calls per day.^[23]

4.5

Recreation - Barriers and Benefits

Middle Childhood Matters, a report prepared by the 6 to 12 Eastern Ontario Task Group, outlined the barriers to and benefits of participation in recreation, arts and culture activities. They are:

Barriers

- High costs of supervised sports/equipment
- Poverty
- Lack of parent support
- Transportation
- Lack of role models for girls
- Neighborhood safety
- Language

Benefits

- Increased interactions with adults and peers
- Decreased stress and anxiety
- Increased self-esteem
- Enhanced social and life skills
- Enhanced familial relationships
- Improved school performance
- Protective factors fostered



Where we Shine

There has been an increase in the average number of municipal child care fee subsidy placements, available each month, from 1,993 in 2004 to 2,596 in 2005.

From 2002/03 to 2004/05 the Ontario Early Years Centres of London have seen increases in child (39%), individual child (51.2%) and adult (46%) visits.

Grade 9 students performed better than the provincial average in both applied and academic math EQAO testing.

96.5% of Fanshawe College graduates reside in Ontario with the majority (82.4%) in Southwestern Ontario.



Room to Grow

Grade 3 students performed below the provincial average in EQAO testing in writing, and Grade 6 students performed below average in all areas tested (reading, writing and math).

Data for several points of interest concerning education were unavailable. As a result, we were not able to determine any information regarding the number of students who complete their mandatory volunteer hours, and other potentially valuable statistics.

Education

Education in London includes Early Years programming, four school boards, several independent schools, and many post secondary institutions. This section looks at the availability of education services and the achievements of London's students.

The Early Years

- As of March 31, 2005, there are 7,115 licensed child care spaces in London. 4,685 are for children aged 0-5 and 2,430 are for children aged 6-12. ^[1]
- In 2005, there was an average of 2,596 municipal child care fee subsidy placements per month. This has increased since 2004 when there was an average of 1,993 placements per month. ^[1]
- The YMCA had 1,134 child care participants in 2005, including infant and preschool child care and before and after school program for 6-12-year-olds ^[2]
- Through London Children's Connection there are currently 805 children enrolled in the before school programs in London-Middlesex schools, and 1,201 in the after school program. ^[3]
- In 2004/05, the three Ontario Early Years Centres of London had a total of 59,104 child visits by 9,830 individual children, and 46,779 adult visits. Since 2002/03, the number of child visits has increased 39%, the number of individual children served has increased 51.2%, and the number of adult visits has increased by 46%. ^[4]
- Approximately 425 children with Special Needs aged 0-12 are full participants in Early Years Programs every year with support by Merrymount Children's Centre's All Kids Belong Program. ^[5]

In the Classroom

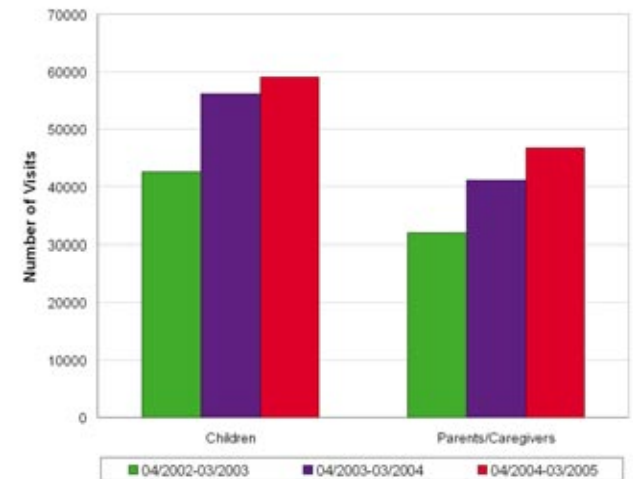
- According to the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) there will be a 10% decline in enrolment

by 2010/11. This would be a decline of about 7,000 students. ^[6]

- The Conseil Scolaire de District du Centre-Sud-Ouest's (CSDCSO) three schools in London-Middlesex have seen relative consistency in their enrollment numbers from 2002-05, with 145-220 children per school. ^[7]
- In recent years, the Conseil Scolaire du District des Ecoles Catholiques du Sud-Ouest (CSDECOS) has had increased enrollment at all of its schools.
- The current supply of teachers meets all projected

5.1

Visits to Ontario Early Years Centres in London ^[4]



Education

needs except for certain specialties. The TVDSB and the London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB) are not having difficulty filling teaching positions. The CSDECSO has also been able to fill its French first language teaching positions.^[8]

- London also has 21 schools outside the publicly-funded school systems. This includes Matthews Hall, Nancy Campbell School, London Waldorf School, five Montessori schools, London Community Hebrew Day School, two Islamic Schools, and 10 Christian schools.^[9]
- Matthews Hall currently has 250 students enrolled, which is an almost tripled enrolment in the last 10 years.^[10]
- Nancy Campbell School has 190 students, which has increased from 74 over the last 7 years.^[11]
- London Waldorf School has seen a slight drop in enrollment for the 2005/2006 school year with a

total of approximately 100 students.^[12]

- Montessori House of Children is the largest private elementary school in London. The enrollment for 2005/2006 is 375 students from 20 months to 14 years of age, which has remained consistent over the past few years.^[13]
- There are no statistics about the exact number of student who are home schooled in London but there is an estimate that 1-3% of the general school-aged population are home schooled.^[14]

Grade 3/6 EQAO Results

- Grade 3 Education Quality and Accountability Office test scores show that London children are about the same as the provincial average for reading and math, but below average in writing for the 2004/05 school year.^[15]
- Grade 6 test scores show that London children are below the provincial average in all areas tested (reading, writing and math).^[15]

Grade 9 EQAO Math Results

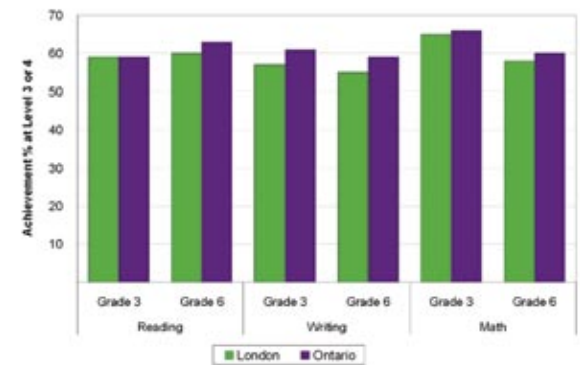
- Grade 9 students in London performed better than the provincial average in both applied and academic math testing.^[15]
- The academic math test scores for London show that 73% of students were performing at levels 3 or 4, while in Ontario 68% of students were performing at levels 3 or 4.^[15]
- The applied math test scores for London show that 33% of students were performing at levels 3 or 4, while 26% of Ontario students were performing at levels 3 or 4.^[15]

Grade 10 EQAO Literacy Results

- Grade 10 students that were eligible for the first

5.3

EQAO Results Grades 3 & 6^[15]



- time in London performed exactly the same as the provincial average in Literacy testing.^[15]
- Student with special needs in London were less likely to successfully complete the Literacy test than students with special needs in the rest of Ontario.^[15]

Graduating Class

- In the TVDSB, close to 30% of Grade 12 graduates returned for a fifth year of classes. Reasons for returning included upgrading marks, another year of sports eligibility and taking additional courses while earning money.^[8]
- At the TVDSB the high school dropout rate is about 25%. In 2003/04, the Ontario high school dropout rate rose to 32.0%, which is almost 14,000 more students than in 2002/03. Two reasons cited for this increase is the double cohort, and a more difficult curriculum because of the elimination of grade 13.^[8]

5.2

Inside London's Classrooms^[16, 17, 18, 7]

Elementary

	LDCSB	TVDSB	CSDECSO	CSDCSO
Average Class Size	24.2	24.5	21.0	21.5
Student to Computer ratio	6:1	N/A	4:1	7:1
School Internet Access	100%	100%	100%	100%

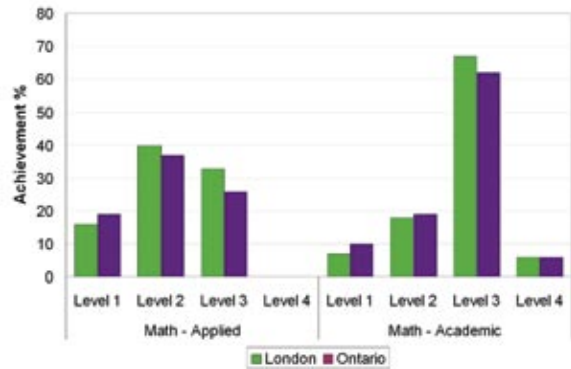
Secondary

	LDCSB	TVDSB	CSDECSO	CSDCSO
Average Class Size	22.0	22.0	15.0	13.8
Student to Computer ratio	5.1:1	N/A	2:1	4:1
School Internet Access	100%	100%	100%	100%

Education

5.4

EQAO Grade 9 Academic and Applied Math Results ^[15]



Individual Education Plans

- An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student. In elementary schools in the LDCSB and TVDSB, 7.8% and 10.7% of students have Individual Education Plans (IEPs), respectively. In secondary schools in the LDCSB and TVDSB, 12.4% and 16.6% have IEPs respectively. ^[16, 17]
- In elementary schools in London-Middlesex of the CSDECSO and CSDCSO, 8% and 4.1% have IEPs respectively, and in secondary schools, 18% and 6.8% have IEPs respectively. ^[18, 7]

Fanshawe College

- In 2004/05 Fanshawe College had a total of 15,179 full-time students, including 194 international students. ^[19]
- In 2005/06, the tuition fee for Fanshawe College

for most programs is \$2,502. ^[20]

- Fanshawe College has 1,775 full-time and 1,779 part-time apprentice program enrolments. This is down from 2003/04 when there were 1,845 full-time and 1,890 part-time enrolments. ^[19]
- The provincial government is contributing \$1.3 million over four years for the creation of 95 apprenticeship spaces at Fanshawe College. The government is contributing a total of \$13.6 million to create 26,000 apprenticeships province-wide by 2007/08. ^[8]
- Of 6,530 full-time first year enrolments at Fanshawe College, 2,780 students were from London, 287 from Middlesex, 780 from Elgin, Norfolk and Oxford, 2,580 from other regions of Ontario, 46 from other Provinces, and 57 from other countries. ^[19]
- Most Fanshawe College alumni (96.5%) reside in Ontario with the majority (82.4%) in Southwestern Ontario. ^[19]

University of Western Ontario

- In 2004/05, the University of Western Ontario (UWO) had a total of 20,098 undergraduate students, including 858 international students. ^[21]
- In 2005/06 tuition fees for the first year of studies at UWO ranged from \$5,053-6,863 for most non-specialized programs. In 2004/05, the fees ranged from \$4,989-6,849. ^[21]
- Of 6,157 full-time first year enrolments at the UWO, 1,469 students were from London-Middlesex, 669 from other Southwestern Ontario regions, 1,823 from the Greater Toronto Area, 1,506 from other regions of Ontario, 312 from other Provinces and 378 from other countries. ^[21]

- The majority of UWO alumni (66%) reside in Ontario with 30% in Southwestern Ontario. ^[21]

Westervelt College

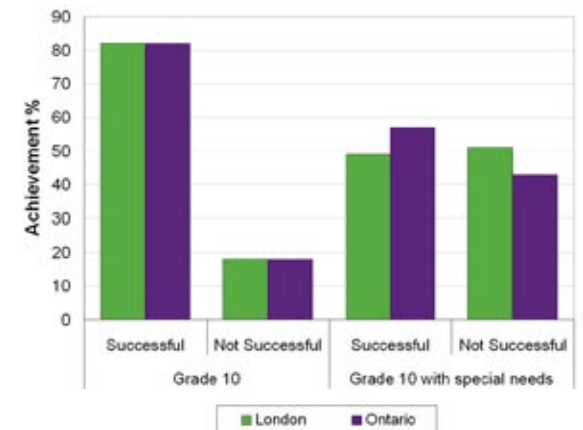
- 850-1,000 students attend Westervelt College each year. Most students live in the London area, but several international students from various countries also attend. Westervelt College offers over 20 college diploma programs in the faculties of Business, Computer/IT, Health Care, Law and Service Industry. ^[22]

Learning Disabilities

- In 2005 The Learning Disabilities Association of London served 125 children and youth aged 8-16. They provided 105 parent consultations, 219 adult consultations, 34 workshops and presentations and 130 support groups. ^[23]

5.5

EQAO Literacy - Grade 10 and Grade 10 with Special Needs ^[15]





Where we Shine

In August 2004, "Culture" was identified by London's City Council as one of the six strategic priorities that form its Community Strategic Agenda.

The John Labatt Centre is ranked #2 in the world in attendance and revenue for facilities of its size range.



Room to Grow

London offers many art and cultural opportunities and hosts a variety of events but there is a need for more free and accessible opportunities for children.

Arts and Culture

The availability of arts and culture in a community is vital to the well-rounded development of a child. In this section, we look at the broad range of cultural events available in London, and the efforts being made towards recast London as a Creative City.

Creativity in London

- In 2003, London was ranked 18th in North America in the 250,000-500,000 population category for Bohemian Index. The Bohemian Index is a measure of artistically creative people in the city. Other Canadian cities in this category were Victoria, B.C. ranked 3rd and Kitchener/Waterloo ranked 15th. ^[1]
- In 2001, 1.42% of the labour force in London was employed in a culture occupation. This is lower than 17 out of 27 Canadian cities compared, including Victoria (2.7%), Hamilton (1.49%), and Kitchener (1.48%). ^[1]
- In 2004, The City of London spent approximately \$12 per capita in arts and culture activities. Victoria spent \$32.39 per capita in 2003, and Kitchener spent \$10.78 per capita. ^[1]

LondonArts.ca

- LondonArts.ca, a new website, aims to enhance local and visiting interest in London's arts and culture community. The site includes: a comprehensive, calendar listing all artistic and cultural events in London, detailed information on venues, an interactive map of major tourist attractions, arts and cultural organizations, and event locations, and a directory of local arts organizations and artists. ^[2]

Special Events

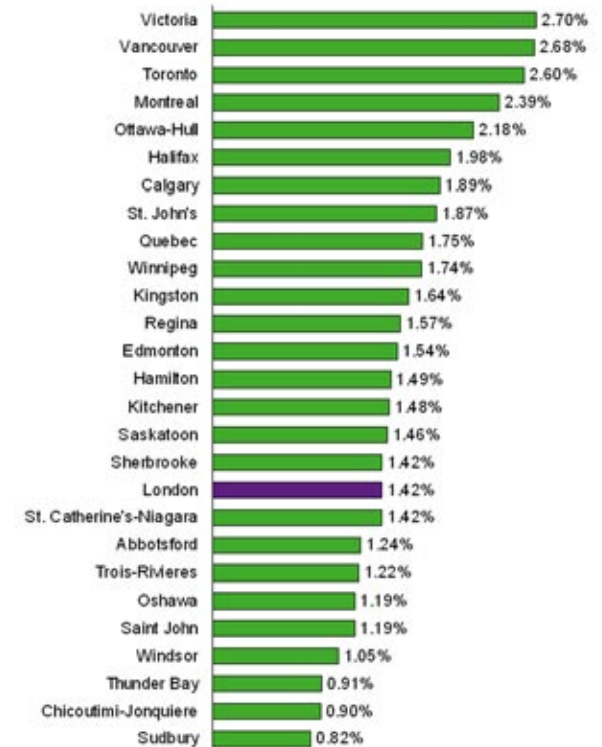
- Over four days in 2005 just over 30,000 people attended the 15th annual London International

Children's Festival which includes free activities and ticketed events. ^[3]

- Approximately 900 teams of participants aged 7 and

6.1

Percentage of London's Labour Force in Culture Occupations ^[1]



Arts and Culture

up take part in the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in London annually. London is the only stop in Canada of the Gus Macker All-World Tour of over 75 cities.^[4]

- 148 teams of five participated in the 2005 Play On! Street Hockey Tournament in London. Participation is growing by approximately 10% each year.^[5]

Theatre

- The Original Kids Theatre Company currently has 320 members in the Main Company (ages 8-18) and 50 in the Kidlets Program (ages 5-8). Approximately 25 plays and musicals are performed by the Company during the school year.^[6]
- Ten 15-30 year-olds participate in each 6-month TheatreWORKS program. The program, developed by the ARTS Project, uses creativity to

educate youth who face barriers to employment to gain life and employability skills.^[7]

- 95,397 attended performances at the Grand Theatre during the 2004-05 season.^[8]
- There are seven movie theatres in London, including Hyland Cinemas and Galleria Art House which show independent and art films.^[9]

Music

- The Amabile Choirs of London has seven choirs with a total of 250 members aged 8 and up. The Choirs perform locally, nationally and internationally.^[10]
- The All City Choir currently consists of approximately 30 children from grades 5-8.^[11]
- The 45th Annual Kiwanis Music Festival welcomed over 10,000 participants, including representatives from approximately 150-200 schools from various locations in Ontario.^[12]
- The London Youth Symphony consists of forty 13-23-year-olds in the Youth Orchestra and over fifty 9-13-year-olds in the Young Strings.^[13]
- Through Conservatory Canada, approximately 4,000 people in London-Middlesex take theory and practical music examinations annually.^[14]
- There are 16 dance studios in London, offering training in a variety of styles.^[15]

Museums

- The London Regional Children's Museum saw approximately 83,000 visitors in 2005. The Museum currently runs 17 educational programs and has 10 permanent galleries.^[16]
- Seven different art programs are run at Museum London for children of all ages.^[17]
- The Museum of Archaeology had an attendance

of 9,273 in 2005, which is about the same as in 2004.^[18]

- Fanshawe Pioneer Village had an attendance of approximately 25,000 in 2005, including about 250 groups from schools, children's groups and adult groups.^[19]

London Public Library

- Approximately 29,000 London residents aged 13 and under have a London Public Library card.^[20]
- There are 1,008,180 total items at the Library, including 293,189 children's items.^[20]
- In 2005 the Library had 14,766 visitors through 439 class visits and group tours.^[20]
- There were 948 Storytime sessions where 19,635 attended, and 78 sessions of the R.E.A.D. tutoring Program where 2,399 participated.^[20]
- The Summer Reading Program had an attendance of 20,473, and March Break Programs had an attendance of 4,713.^[20]
- In addition to the above programs, the Library is home to the CHUM Television Media Literacy Centre; Adaptive and Korean Storytimes; Assistive Services such as books in Braille, books on tape and resources for those with learning disabilities; and "Libraries for All", a new initiative which removes communication barriers for people through various Communication boards.^[20]

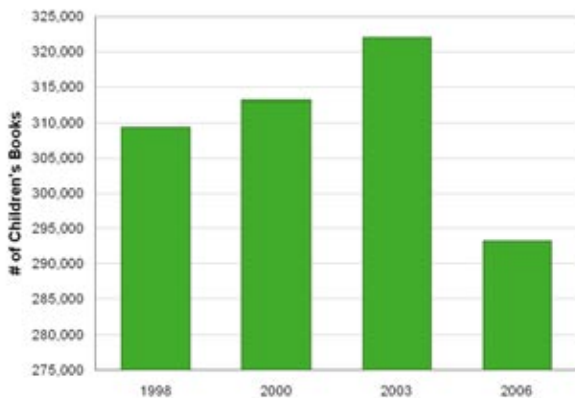
Arts for All Kids

- Each year 100-150 children aged 7-12 take part in the Arts for All Kids program at the London Food Bank.^[21]

Cultural Programs

- In 2005, approximately 150 children between

6.2 Children's Items at the London Public Library^[20]



Arts and Culture

9 and 18 years of age attended courses and workshops run through Culture Zone for the Arts, including the Childrens Choir, Spanish Lessons, Latin American Studies and Native Studies. Culture Zone also organizes “Spanish Fiesta Day” which is delivered to grade 10-12 students in 14 high schools in London. ^[22]

- In 2006/07, approximately 10,000 students in grades 4-12 from 35 schools will be presented with music and dance performances from around the world through the Sunfest Committee. ^[23]

Entertainment Venues

- The John Labatt Centre, which opened in October 2002, is ranked #2 in the world in attendance and revenue for facilities of its size range. The JLC is a multi-purpose sports and entertainment facility with a capacity of 9,000-10,000 depending on the event. ^[24]
- The JLC is the home rink for the London Knights OHL hockey team. The Knights had 34 home games in 2005 which were almost all sold out resulting in a total attendance of over 300,000. The Centre also hosted approximately 140 other sporting and entertainment events in 2005. ^[24]
- About 250 events including approximately 12 child-related events are presented at Centennial Hall annually with an attendance of approximately 147,000. ^[25]

6.3 London as a Creative City



In August 2004, “Culture” was identified as one of six strategic priorities by the City of London. One of the outcomes of this action was the formation of a Creative City Task Force in September 2004.

This group was tasked with: “studying the City of Toronto’s ‘Culture Plan for the Creative City’; considering the work that has previously occurred in London; determining how London can assume a greater role and a more aggressive approach in assisting, developing, enhancing, and championing a goal and a strategy to help London become a leader in mid-sized cities in North America; and

changing the way London thinks and making London a creative city. ^[1]











The Task Force issued its report, and the recommendations were approved by City Council in June 2005 for implementation by the City and community partners over 20 years. The lone exception was a proposed Performing Arts Centre, which was recommended separately. A copy of the report can be downloaded from www.london.ca/creativecities.

Recent implemented initiatives of the Creative City Task Force include: the establishment of a Trees Advisory Committee and funding for the planting of new trees, the approval of the Bicycle Master plan to guide the development of a long-term city-wide bicycling network, and the Ivey Student Survey of Current Students Project to gain a better understanding of how to encourage students attending UWO to remain in London. ^[26]

In June 2005, Investing in Children, in partnership with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and Orchestra Canada, hosted a Creative Cities Conference in London. Featuring keynote speakers Charles Landry and Glen Murray, the conference brought together innovative thinkers and community leaders from across the province to discuss successful initiatives and ideas from around the world.

Trends

One of the goals of the 2006 Snapshot is to identify trends. Here are some of the interesting trends we have uncovered.

CAS Cases		The number of children in the care of the CAS has almost doubled from 1995 to 2005 and the number of investigations of child abuse and neglect has grown from 2,500 in 2001 to 2,890 in 2004/05.
Rental Vacancy Rates		In 2005 the vacancy rate was 4.2% for apartments in buildings with three or more units, which is the highest rate since 1988.
Chlamydia & Gonorrhea		The number of Chlamydia cases has more than doubled from 1997 to 2004, and the number of cases of Gonorrhea has increased more than six times from 1996 to 2004.
Binge Drinking		In 2000, 26.2% of teens 15-19 years old had 5 or more alcoholic drinks at least once a month. In 2003, this percentage increased to 40.8% of teens, which is 10.3% higher than the national average and 11% higher than the provincial average.
Physical Activity in Teens		In 2003, 72.5% of teens 12-19 years of age were active or moderately physically active, which increased since 2000 when 60.9% of teens were physically active.
Internet Use		72.2% of London CMA households accessed the internet from any location, compared to 45.9% of households in 1999.
EQAO		Grade 6 EQAO test results in reading fell from being similar to the provincial average in 1999/00 to below average in 2004/05, and results in math fell from being above average in 1999/00 to below average in 2004/05. Test results for writing has been below average from 1999-2004/05.
Child Care Fee Subsidies		The number of municipal child care fee subsidy placements increased from approximately 1,900 per month in 2003 to an average of 2,596 placements per month in 2005.
OEYC visits		Since 2002/03 the number of child visits to Ontario Early Years Centres in London has increased 39%, the number of individual children served has increased 51.2% and the number of adult visits has increased 46%.
Families using Foodbank		The London Food bank serviced 2,368 families per month in 2001 and approximately 2,500 families per month in 2004.

Seeing the Big Picture

Over the past few years, more and more communities have gotten involved in producing community report cards or snapshots, in an effort to reflect what is happening in their communities. Formats have varied, but generally the reports indicate “what is happening” through statistics, tables and graphs and other visual depictions such as maps.

A provincial initiative known as Kids Grow Ontario is hoping to create an accessible and sustainable evidence-based picture of how children, youth and families are faring in communities across Ontario. Ultimately we need to be able show how Ontario is doing compared with the rest of Canada, and taking it a step further, how Canada is doing compared to the rest of the world. We live and work in a global village and our future depends on how well our children turn out and how competent they are in their adulthood.

The **2006 Snapshot of London’s Children and Youth** adds to our knowledge about children in London and the environment in which they are living and growing. It is an important tool for:

- Directing the community’s attention to critical areas and issues for action.
- Pointing out needs and service gaps, especially where we, as a community, have room to grow.
- Monitoring progress in intervention attempts.
- Formulating strategic directions for achieving a collective vision for families and children in London.

However, we also need to remember that a snapshot is just one picture, capturing one image of a community at a particular time. As much as we see can see in a single photo, there is a whole world beyond the edges of the paper.

In researching this **Snapshot**, we were able to put together a detailed view of London by answering many questions. Yet we found that just as many answers simply weren’t there to be found, whether from a lack of data, or data being spread out amongst a multitude of sources. In the end, it is not what we found, but what we didn’t find that will affect our ability to plan and act. By continuing to track trends within our community, we can begin to see the direction that we are headed.

We all share a vision for London: a community that is a great place to live, work and raise a family. We share a goal that all our children will have the opportunities they need to grow and develop into healthy and productive citizens. This is our call to action and an identification of where we are in relation to where we want to be. As a community, we need to build on our strengths and capacities by working together to reach that ultimate goal.



Questions without Answers

After our 2004 Snapshot, we were left with many unanswered questions. As we put together the 2006 Snapshot, we revisited that list of questions, and found that while some could be answered, there was still no data for many of them.

Looking ahead to our next Snapshot, we will continue to seek answers to these questions, as well as others that have come up in the course of our research.

- How many children in London of various ages are “latch key” children?
- How many families share interests in music or other cultural events?
- How many families have an elderly relative living with them?
- How many high school students are carrying out the volunteer activities that are now expected of them, and where is this taking place?
- How many high school students are not graduating when expected because they did not complete their mandatory volunteer hours?
- How many children attend organized activities outside of school time and how many have hobbies or interests they pursue at home?
- How many children are unable to participate in extra-curricular activities because they can not afford them or due to transportation issues?
- How many children attend religious school or cultural language schools on a regular basis?
- How many get formal help with literacy or school work on a regular basis?
- How many live in homes and neighborhoods where drugs are a normal part of the culture?
- How many families are adopting children from other countries?
- How many families have pets?

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London
CANADA



795 Wonderland Rd. S., Suite 103
London, Ontario
N6K 3C2
Phone: 519-433-8996
Fax: 519-433-6698
www.investinginchildren.on.ca



United Way
of London & Middlesex

