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SECOND EDITION ERRATA

Please take note that the following corrections were made to the 2017 Vital Signs report. In the second edition of the report:

- **Page 10, title** now reads “35,000 children in Greater Montréal depend on food assistance programs offered by food banks.” This replaces “35,000 in Greater Montréal depend of food banks.”

- **Page 10, third paragraph** now reads “Nearly 35,000 children under 18 received help from food assistance programs each month from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud (Table 2.1).” This replaces “Nearly 35,000 under 18 received food assistance each month from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud. They represented over one half (59%) of the children receiving food bank support in Quebec in March 2016 (Table 2.1).”

- **Page 10, fourth paragraph** has been removed. (“In Montréal, in 2015, one parent in five with a least one child under age 6 stated that they had used food banks, clothing banks or other forms of material assistance ‘often’ in the previous 12 months. This proportion was similar to that for the province of Quebec as a whole.”)

- **Page 20, Table 6.1**: The purple in the legend is now associated with “All households” not “Single.”
ABOUT VITAL SIGNS™

The Vital Signs™ report, conducted by several community foundations under the coordination of Community Foundations of Canada, draws on local data to measure the vitality of our communities and support actions that improve quality of life.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

START CONVERSATIONS. TAKE ACTION. If you or your organization is moved or motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

PASS IT ON. Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, neighbours, library, community centre or an elected official at any level.

FIND OUT MORE. Learn about the many organizations in our community working to improve it, and see how you too can help.

CONTACT US. We know about the issues of our community as well as the organizations working to improve them. If you would like to make a difference, we can help and guide you. www.fgmtl.org

A UNIQUE OUTLOOK ON GREATER MONTRÉAL’S CHILDREN

The Foundation of Greater Montréal presents a special edition of Vital Signs™ for 2017. In this year of anniversary celebrations—Montréal’s 375th and Canada’s 150th—we decided to focus this report on children: our community’s future. The story of this accomplishment deserves to be told.

The Foundation of Greater Montréal launched the Vital Signs™ project in December 2016, inviting three dozen or so children’s rights organizations to share their data on young people and tell us about the most crucial issues our children face. This report would not exist without their contribution. From the very start of this process, we laid out conditions for success, and one of them—getting children involved in the reflection process—had a huge impact on how the project evolved. Six groups of young people from different neighbourhoods and various situations (children of Syrian refugees, children with physical disabilities, etc.) joined the Vital Signs™ conversation. Their contribution was so great, in fact, that we decided to hold a forum on the importance of listening to our community’s children.

The publication last June of UNICEF’s Report Card 14 had a major influence on the Vital Signs™ project. This report compares the situation of Canada’s children aged 0–17 with that of children from 40 other industrialized countries. Its basis is the sustainable development goals that 193 United Nations member countries adopted in September 2015. The results of Report Card 14 confirmed our hunch: when compared to descriptions in past UNICEF reports, the current situation of Canada’s children has noticeably deteriorated. Today, Canada ranks 25th overall for children’s well-being; in 2007, it came in 12th. Out of the 41 countries evaluated for the sustainable development goals, Canada is 32nd for the No poverty goal, and 37th for both the Zero hunger and Peace, justice and strong institutions goals. Naturally, we had to adapt the indicators, which were designed for countries, to make them applicable at the regional level. We also had to look for studies on the situation of children, which are unfortunately rare.

The findings in this portrait of children in Greater Montréal were sometimes those we were expecting; others were surprising or worrisome.

A FEW FINDINGS

Although 35.8% of Canada’s disadvantaged neighbourhoods can be found in Montréal, tax breaks and social transfers mitigate the major impacts of this poverty. Nearly 50% of high school students do not eat before school. Despite progress in retention at the high school level, Montréal still lags behind other regions. Girls succeed best at university, receiving 59.2% of bachelor’s degrees. Regarding access to a family doctor, only 85% of young people aged 12–19 in the Montréal metropolitan area have regular access, as compared to 94% in Toronto and 88% in Vancouver. Most schools in Quebec teach about sustainable development, but many children experience problems caused by mold in their schools and substandard apartments.

Vital Signs™ does not offer an analysis of these observations; instead, it is intended to stimulate debate in the community of Greater Montréal. Several organizations have already announced major initiatives and we hope to see a wave of innovative projects to benefit our children. Vital Signs™ describes a multidimensional reality engaging the whole community including the children.
## The 10 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Used for the Vital Signs™ Report

### Goal 1: No Poverty
- **Target**: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. (by 2030, unless otherwise indicated)
- **FGM Indicators**:
  1. Rate of children living in a low-income household
  2. Disadvantaged neighbourhoods
  3. Social Assistance Program beneficiaries
  4. Reduction of the child poverty rate by social transfers

### Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- **Target**: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **FGM Indicators**:
  1. Food bank use
  2. Food insecurity in Montreal
  3. Children under age 15 living with a person who reports being affected by food insecurity (%)

### Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being
- **Target**: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- **FGM Indicators**:
  1. Infant death rate
  2. Neonatal death rate
  3. Indicators of mental health and suicide
  4. Participants in organized learning activities (one year before officially kindergarten entry)

### Goal 4: Quality Education
- **Target**: Ensure inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning.
- **FGM Indicators**:
  1. School retention and success in high school students
  2. Participation in organized learning activities (one year before officially kindergarten entry)

### Goal 5: Gender Equality
- **Target**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- **FGM Indicators**:
  1. Proportion of adults who agree with the statement that "university studies are more important for boys than for girls"
  2. Difference between the daily participation of girls and boys in household chores, by age

### Additional Notes
- Available data was insufficient to incorporate results into the table summarizing UNICEF’s Report Card 14.
EXPLANATORY NOTE: This special edition of Vital Signs™ paints a picture of the situation of children in the Greater Montréal area. Like UNICEF’s Report Card 14 evaluating 41 developed countries, this report focuses particularly on the economic, social, educational and environmental aspects affecting children from a sustainable development perspective. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed on by the international community in 2015 aim to set a global agenda for development that is both equitable and sustainable socially, economically and environmentally. Reaching the SDGs could help future generations enjoy better prospects. The capacity to ensure the well-being of our children is the best way to guarantee future collective success.

The research framework used in this edition of Vital Signs consists of goals for collective efforts to improve the situation of children. The Vital Signs report presents several indicators to evaluate the data available for Montréal, Laval and Montérégie. To allow analysis and a better understanding of this data, Canada’s ranking among 41 countries is given for each goal at the beginning of every chapter.

### GOAL

#### CHAPTER 6
**SDG8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
**CANADA: 21st OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES**
Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET (by 2030, unless otherwise indicated)</th>
<th>FGM INDICATORS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men.</td>
<td>1. Parents’ participation in the labour force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.</td>
<td>1. Children living in households without employed adults (%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CHAPTER 7
**SDG10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES**
**CANADA: 14th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES**
Reduce inequality within and among countries

| 10.1 Achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average. | 1. Families social mobility |
| 10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. | 2. Housing costs |
| 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard. | 1. Palma ratio: Relationship between the income of the wealthiest 10% of households with children and that of the poorest 40% |

#### CHAPTER 8
**SDG11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
**CANADA: 19th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES**
Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

| 11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality. | 1. Air quality |
| 11.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. | 2. Environments favourable to healthy living habits |

#### CHAPTER 9
**SDG12. RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION**
**CANADA: 6th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES**
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

| 12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. | 1. The Quebec school system’s training program |
| 12.8 Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. | 1. Fifteen-year-old students with knowledge of at least five environmental issues (%) |

#### CHAPTER 10
**SDG16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
**CANADA: 37th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES**
Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

| 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. | 1. Safety, insecurity, crime |
| 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. | 1. Death of children aged 0–19 due to being hit or harmed voluntarily, per 100,000 inhabitants |

| 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. | 1. Children aged 11–15 who reported having been victim to harassment at least twice in the previous month (%) |
| 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. | 2. Women aged 16–29 who reported having been victim to physical violence before age 15 (%) |
GREATER MONTRÉAL, OR THE GREATER MONTRÉAL REGION, ENCOMPASSES 82 MUNICIPALITIES, BROKEN DOWN INTO 5 TERRITORIES, AND INCLUDES THE ISLAND OF MONTRÉAL AT ITS CENTRE AND THE CITIES OF LONGUEUIL AND LAVAL ALONG THE NORTH AND SOUTH SHORES.

According to the 2016 Census, the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) had 4,098,930 inhabitants, up 4.2% from 2011. The Toronto CMA’s population rose 6.2% and the Vancouver CMA’s population rose 6.5% over the same period.

OVER 800,000 CHILDREN UNDER 18 IN MONTRÉAL

A total of 821,275 children under age 18 were living in the Montréal CMA in 2016. While the number of children under 18 rose between 2001 and 2016, their weight relative to the total population has gradually fallen, from 21.6% in 2001 to 20.9% in 2006, to 20.3% in 2011 and, finally, to 20% in 2016.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC WEIGHT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN MONTRÉAL IS HIGHER THAN ELSEWHERE IN QUEBEC, IN VANCOUVER AND IN HALIFAX, BUT IS LOWER THAN IN CALGARY AND EDMONTON.

DEMOGRAPHIC FIGURE 1.1
BREAKDOWN OF THE POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 BY AGE AND INTO THREE AGE GROUPS (%), MONTRÉAL CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA, 2016

IN 2016, THE BIRTH RATE WAS 10.8 FOR EVERY 1,000 INHABITANTS, DOWN FROM 2008 AND 2009. THE FERTILITY RATE IN THE MONTRÉAL CMA WAS 1.43 CHILDREN PER WOMAN IN 2018, LOWER THAN THE RATE FOR ALL OF QUEBEC (1.59), AND THOSE IN MONTÉRÉGIE (1.67) AND IN LAVAL (1.56).

BIRTHS ON THE RISE IN MONTRÉAL AND NEIGHBOURING REGIONS
EVOLUTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

In 2016, private households in the Metropolitan Montréal Region included 451,875 couples with children and 172,240 single-parent families. Most of the couples had two children while most of the single-parent families had only one child. Over three-quarters of single-parent families were headed by a woman.

IN 2016, THE VAST MAJORITY OF CHILDREN UNDER 15 LIVED WITH 2 BIOLOGICAL OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS.

- Families with common-law parents now make up 29% of families with children. The percentage of single-parent families has also risen steadily over the decades, accounting for 25% of families in 2011 and 29% in 2016.
- Montréal and Laval had the lowest rate of live births to unmarried women (approximately 37%) in 2016, while Montérégie had a significantly higher rate (68%).
- In the Montréal CMA in 2016, among those with at least one child aged 15 or under, 685 people were part of a same-sex married couple, up from 180 people in 2006. In 2016, 1,265 people were part of a common-law same-sex couple, also up from 675 people in 2006.

Children’s mother tongue reported in the various cities within Montréal CMA varied considerably, though French remained the most common. The percentage of children under age 15 with French as their mother tongue was 47.5% in Montréal, 56.9% in Laval, 71.7% in Longueuil and 86.3% in the rest of the CMA.

The proportion of children under age 15 whose mother tongue was neither French nor English was 25.6% in Montréal, 23.3% in Laval, 15.1% in Longueuil and a mere 4.4% in the rest of the CMA.

Arabic was the main mother tongue among immigrants of all ages living in the Montréal CMA in 2016. It was followed, in order, by Spanish, Italian, Creole languages and Mandarin. An “immigrant language” refers to a non-Aboriginal language whose presence in the province is initially due to immigration after colonization by the French and English.

MONTRÉAL IS BY FAR THE LEADING REGION FOR INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRATION IN QUEBEC

The Montréal region is one of the top three destinations in Canada for international immigration: 62% of immigrants admitted into Quebec between 2010 and 2014 lived in Montréal in January 2016. In 2016 in Montréal, 321,675 children under 15 had at least one parent born outside Canada. This accounted for 46.6% of the total population of children under age 15.

This percentage was distinctly higher than the percentage of 29.4% for Quebec overall, but was still lower than the percentages for Toronto (71%) and Vancouver (63.7%).

AN AGING POPULATION

THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE MONTRÉAL CMA’S POPULATION IS 40 YEARS, WHILE NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULATION IS BETWEEN 35 AND 65 YEARS OF AGE.

Population aging can be seen in Montréal and neighbouring areas.


CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY ACCORDING TO STATISTICS CANADA’S AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE

In the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area in 2015, 16.4% of children under 18 were living in a low-income situation (Figure 1.1). This percentage is lower than in Vancouver (17.7%), Toronto (18.7%) and all of Canada (17.4%).

In the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area in 2015, 37.3% of children in a single-parent family were living in a low-income situation (Figure 1.2).

ACCORDING TO COMPILATIONS BY THE INSTITUT DE LA STATISTIQUE DU QUÉBEC (ISQ) AND THE AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE (LIM):

- In the Montréal administrative region, 30% of single-parent families were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 33% in 2010. In comparison, 11% of couples with two children were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 13% in 2010.

- In Laval, 21% of single-parent families were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 22% in 2010. In comparison, 5% of couples with two children were in a low-income situation in 2014, the same as in 2010.

- In Montérégie, 22% of single-parent families were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 24% in 2010. In comparison, 3% of couples with two children were in a low-income situation in 2014, down from 4% in 2010.

TARGET 1.2
Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

FIGURE 1.1
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING IN LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BASED ON THE AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE (LIM), ALL FAMILY TYPES, 2015.

FIGURE 1.2
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING IN LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BASED ON THE AFTER-TAX LOW-INCOME MEASURE (LIM), SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES ONLY, 2015.
In Quebec in 2015, 14.4% of children under age 18 were living in poverty. This percentage is the lowest of all the Canadian provinces. Manitoba has the highest rate of children under 18 living in poverty, at 27.5%.

35.8% of Canada's low-income neighbourhoods are in Montréal.

Another aspect of poverty is the concentration of low-income individuals in certain neighbourhoods, and how this impacts the outlook of children who grow up there. Statistics Canada defines a low-income neighbourhood as “one in which 30% or more of its residents have low income,” that is, an income below the threshold of the after-tax low-income measure (LIM).

In Canada in 2011, most of the low-income neighbourhoods were in the greater metropolitan areas of Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver. Montréal had the highest number of low-income neighbourhoods. Of the 478 low-income neighbourhoods in Canada, 171 (35.8%) were in Montréal. Toronto and Vancouver had 15.7% and 7.1% of these neighbourhoods, respectively.

Families benefit from taxes and transfers.

One useful measure for assessing the contribution of taxes and social transfers to poverty reduction is the low-income cut-off (LICO), which is calculated before or after taxes and transfers.

In the Montréal census metropolitan area, taxes and transfers brought the proportion of children under 18 living in poverty down from 22% to 14%.

Taxes and transfers brought the proportion of children in two-parent families living in poverty down from 20% to 11%.

For children living in a single-parent family headed by a woman, the situation was more worrisome: 38% were living in a low-income household, and taxes and transfers brought this figure down to 30%.

Two indicators of poverty were used:

1. Low income cut-off (LICO): A family is considered low-income if it spends more of its after-tax income on food, shelter and clothing than the average family. The LICOs are income thresholds below which a family spends 20 percentage points more of its budget on these essential goods than the average Canadian family. It is an absolute measurement.

2. Low-income measure (LIM) before or after taxes: A family is considered low-income if its income is less than half the median family income of all families, adjusted for household size and composition. This is a relative measurement.

TARGET 1.3
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
35,000 CHILDREN IN GREATER MONTRÉAL DEPEND FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY FOOD BANKS

Families with children accounted for 43% of food bank users in Quebec in March 2016, of which 23% were two-parent families and 20% were single-parent families.

The Montréal region is noteworthy for having the largest number of beneficiaries of food assistance programs, as of March 2016, with some 150,000 people assisted each month.

Nearly 35,000 children under 18 received help from food assistance programs each month from Moisson Montréal, Moisson Laval or Moisson Rive-Sud (Table 2.1).

When we add in the beneficiaries of other programs offered by the food banks, such as meal and snack distribution, cooking workshops and collective kitchens, then the number of children receiving assistance rises above 35,000.

RELIANCE ON FOOD BANKS IS INCREASING

CANADA: 36% OF USERS ARE UNDER 18

Of the people who rely on food banks, children and young people make up a disproportionate number. More than a third of Quebecers who received food assistance in March 2016 were under 18. Nearly 60,000 children were served by food banks in Quebec, and over 300,000 in all of Canada. The proportion of children assisted in Quebec is comparable to the national trend (Table 2.2).

TABLE 2.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADMINISTRATIVE REGION</th>
<th>No. of users</th>
<th>% of children among those assisted</th>
<th>Trend since 2015 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Island of Montréal (Moisson Montréal)</td>
<td>24,649</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>↓ 3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of children under 18 benefitting</td>
<td>24,649</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>↓ 3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of households benefitting</td>
<td>26,902</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montérégie (Moisson Rive-Sud)</td>
<td>7,297</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>↑ 1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of children under 18 benefitting</td>
<td>7,297</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>↑ 1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of households benefitting</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laval (Moisson Laval)</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>↑ 2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of children under 18 benefitting</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>↑ 2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of households benefitting</td>
<td>2,744</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


NOTE: The data, compiled from March 1 to 31, 2016, was collected from affiliated community organizations and food counters served by Moisson members. Moisson Rive-Sud is the largest food bank in Montérégie, covering 60% of its territory.

TABLE 2.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES</th>
<th>No. of people assisted</th>
<th>Trend (%) since 2015</th>
<th>Trend (%) since 2008</th>
<th>Children under age 18 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>103,464</td>
<td>↑ 3.4</td>
<td>↑ 32.5</td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>79,293</td>
<td>↑ 17.6</td>
<td>↑ 136.1</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>31,395</td>
<td>↑ 17.5</td>
<td>↑ 78.9</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>61,914</td>
<td>↓ 2.9</td>
<td>↑ 53.0</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>335,944</td>
<td>↓ 6.4</td>
<td>↑ 6.9</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>171,800</td>
<td>↑ 5.3</td>
<td>↑ 34.7</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick</td>
<td>19,769</td>
<td>↑ 4.1</td>
<td>↑ 28.4</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>23,840</td>
<td>↑ 20.9</td>
<td>↑ 40.9</td>
<td>30.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>26,366</td>
<td>↑ 5.3</td>
<td>↓ 3.3</td>
<td>37.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEI</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>↑ 6.9</td>
<td>↑ 16.5</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territories</td>
<td>6,337</td>
<td>↑ 24.9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>863,492</td>
<td>↑ 1.3</td>
<td>↑ 27.8</td>
<td>35.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


NOTE: The data, compiled from March 1 to 31, 2016, was collected from community organizations and food counters.
Food insecurity is more extensive in Montréal: 11.3%

In 2011–2012, approximately one Greater Montréal household in 10 experienced moderate to severe food insecurity, meaning that they consumed food of insufficient quantity or quality, mainly due to a lack of financial resources. This was the highest proportion of food insecurity in Quebec (Figure 2.1).

The most affected populations are families with children, low-income individuals and renter households.

According to the Québec Health Survey of High School Students (QHSHSS) conducted in 2010–2011, 54% of high-school students have breakfast before school each morning, as compared to 62% for all of Quebec.

A mere one-third of students eat the minimum number of portions of fruits and vegetables recommended by the Canada Food Guide. 6 portions/day for ages 9–13, and 7 to 8 portions/day for ages 14–18.

In 2010–2011, two-thirds of high school students were a normal weight. Approximately 15% of high school students were overweight and 7% were obese. The situation was comparable in Quebec as a whole. More boys than girls were overweight.

**TARGET 2.2**
End all forms of malnutrition.

**UNHEALTHY EATING HABITS AND OBESITY PROBLEMS IN MANY CHILDREN**

**HALF OF ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (50%) EAT BREAKFAST BEFORE SCHOOL**
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
ENABLE EVERYONE TO BE HEALTHY AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING
CANADA: 29th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 3.2
Eliminate avoidable deaths of newborns and children under five.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

IN QUEBEC IN 2009-2013, THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE (BABIES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE) WAS 4.8 FOR EVERY 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

† Montréal and Laval had higher rates, at 5.1 deaths out of every 1,000 live births, equivalent to the rate for all of Canada, which ranks 22nd out of the 30 countries studied.
† Montérégie had a lower rate, with 3.6 deaths out of every 1,000 live births.
† Three of the world's wealthiest developed countries occupy the lower third of the infant mortality ranking: Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

TARGET 3.4
Promote mental health and well-being.

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-19 HAVE MORE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING A DOCTOR

† In 2013–2014, 65% of young people aged 12–19 in the Montréal CMA said they had a family doctor or a “regular doctor.”

This percentage is markedly lower than for all of Canada (85.6%), Toronto (94.4%) and Vancouver (87.9%).

In all the Quebec regions, including Montréal, Laval and Montérégie, the percentage of children registered with a family doctor has been on the rise since 2013.

† According to the 2012 immunization schedule, 82% of two-year-olds in Montréal received the recommended vaccinations for their age, which is below the 95% target.

In one out of every four cases, difficulty obtaining an appointment was given as the main reason for the delay in the child’s first vaccination visit. Only 1 parent out of 10 said they voluntarily delayed immunization.

MORTALITY RATE FROM SUICIDE IN YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12–17

† In Quebec in 2010-2012 the mortality rate from suicide in young people aged 12-17 was 4 for every 100,000.

The estimated rate in the three regions making up Greater Montréal is slightly less than 3.5 deaths out of every 100,000 young people of that age.

† In Canada in 2012, the suicide rate among 15-to 19-year-olds was 10.2 deaths out of every 100,000 and was 1.8 deaths out of 100,000 among 10-to 14-year-olds.

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This percentage is markedly lower than for all of Canada (85.6%), Toronto (94.4%) and Vancouver (87.9%).

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INCREASE IN MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES

In Quebec, the prevalence of mental disorders in children doubled between 2001 and 2015, from 5% in 2001–2002 to 10% in 2014–2015. This is mainly attributed to the fact that more children are being diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders (ADD ADHD).

In Montréal, the rate jumped from 5% in 2001–2002 to 7% in 2014–2015. Although the overall rate was 7% for all ages together in 2014–2015, it was 9% for 15 to 19-year-olds and 6% for 1 to 4-year-olds.

In Montréal, in 2013–2014, 77% of 12 to 19-year-olds rated their mental health as “very good” or “excellent.” This percentage was higher than in Toronto (72%) and Vancouver (69%). A higher proportion of boys than girls (82% vs. 72%) said their mental health was “very good” or “excellent.”

In Montréal, in 2010–2011, 9% of high school students were diagnosed with ADHD by a medical professional. This proportion was lower than the 13% reported for all of Quebec. More boys were diagnosed with ADHD than girls: 12% vs. 7%.

TARGET 3.5
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of psychoactive substance abuse, including harmful use of alcohol.

In Montréal in 2010–2011, 8.1% of high school students said they smoked on a regular basis. This was the case for 16.9% of high school students elsewhere in Quebec.

In Montréal, in 2010–2011, an estimated 8% of high school students had problematic use of alcohol and drugs, as compared to 11% elsewhere in Quebec.

In Montréal, in 2013, 32.6% of Secondary 5 students said they had gambled in the 12 months prior to the survey. This proportion was lower than for all of Quebec.

TARGET 3.7
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services.

FEWER TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

In Montréal, between 1998 and 2012, the average annual number of teenage pregnancies fell by nearly half, from 960 in 1998–2000 to 477 in 2010–2012. This may be attributed to better access to frontline services adapted to this specific clientele.

25% OF GIRLS EXPERIENCE INTENSE STRESS

In Montréal in 2013–2014, 19% of 16 to 19-year-olds said they experienced a high level of stress on a daily basis. This proportion is similar to all of Quebec (18%). More girls reported experiencing “intense” stress daily than boys: 25% vs. 14%.
QUALITY EDUCATION
ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL
CANADA: 8th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

IN QUEBEC IN 2013-2014, THERE WERE NEARLY ONE MILLION STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY OR SECONDARY LEVELS IN THE PROVINCE’S 3,000 EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Of these students, 23% attended an establishment located in Montréal, 18% were in the Montérégie region and 5% were in Laval.

In the early 1970s, there were over 400,000 students attending primary or secondary schools on the island of Montréal. This illustrates the significant demographic changes that have occurred in the last 40 years.

The decrease in the number of enrolled students between 1971 and 2013 was greater in Montréal than for the province of Quebec as a whole: 46% vs. 39%.

SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF 61% AFTER 5 YEARS, BUT ALMOST 80% AFTER 7 YEARS


This graduation rate was slightly lower than the provincial one of 78.8%.

There are significant discrepancies in the graduation rates of Montréal’s various school boards: 85% for the schools in the CSMB, 89.4% in the EMSB, 87.8% in the Lester-B.-Pearson S-B, and 69.5% in the CSDM (Figure 4.1).

The graduation rates after 7 years in Laval and the Montérégie are lower than those observed in Montréal: 76.3% in Laval and 73.4% in the Montérégie, for the 2008 cohort.

The graduation and qualification rates after 6 years are lower: 74.8% for the 2008 cohort for all of Quebec and 73% for Montréal. After 5 years, the graduation rates decline to 66% in Quebec and 61% in Montréal. For comparison purposes, in 2015, the graduation rate for Ontario and for the schools of the Toronto District School Board was 85%.

The gap between girls’ and boys’ graduation rates is trending downward but remains significant at around 10 percentage points.

FIGURE 4.1


NOTE: The rate reported for all of Quebec is an overall rate that includes both public and private schools. However, the rates by school board include only public schools because the method used to calculate graduation rates cannot be applied to private schools due to their small size. The rate includes the secondary school graduation rate for that period and the qualification rate for students in the Work-Oriented Training Path. The data in this table shows the progression of the 2007 and 2008 student cohorts up to their graduation in 2013–2014 and 2014–2015.

TARGET 4.1
Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.
SECONDARY SCHOOL DROP OUT RATE


- The dropout rate in Montreal is higher than the province-wide rate of 17.8%.
- The annual dropout rates for the Laval and Montérégie regions are lower than the Montreal and provincial averages: 16.8% in Laval and 16.6% in Montérégie.
- The dropout rate for young Montrealers in the public school system was 24.1% for boys and 17.4% for girls. For Quebec overall, the rates were 21.9% for boys and 13.9% for girls. This shows that dropping out of school is more prevalent among girls in Montreal than in the rest of the province. In fact, in some Montreal schools, the dropout rate is higher for girls than for boys.

EDUCATION AND ADAPTATION

IN MONTREAL IN 2015, MORE THAN 60% OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN FRENCH- AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS WERE FROM FIRST- OR SECOND-GENERATION IMMIGRANT FAMILIES.

- 46% of first- and second-generation students will finish their studies within the expected timeframe compared to 57% among third-generation students.
- In Montreal in 2014–2015, students with handicaps, social maladjustments or learning disabilities (also known under the French initialism EHDAA) accounted for 19.4% of the school population, which is lower than for the regions of Laval (22.8%) and Montérégie (19.6%) and for Quebec overall (20%).

TARGET 4.2
Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.

REDUCED-CONTRIBUTION CHILDCARE

- In Quebec the number of reduced-contribution program spots at educational childcare centres increased from 196,618 in 2006 to 232,034 spots on March 31, 2016.
- The Montréal region had about 28% of all reduced-contribution spots in March 2017, followed by the Montérégie region, with 19% of spots. Laval had 8% of spots.
- In 2017, nearly 70% of spots in Quebec’s unsubsidized childcare centres were located in Montréal, Laval or Montérégie.
- In 2015 in Quebec, the monthly cost of a childcare centre spot for children aged five and under was $174.

- In Montreal in 2012, 29% of children in kindergarten were considered vulnerable in at least one developmental area.
- This is higher than the percentage of 26% observed for Quebec overall.
- Proportionally, more boys, more children born outside Canada and more children from very economically disadvantaged areas were considered vulnerable in at least one developmental area.
PARENTING PRACTICES IN THE AREAS OF CULTURE AND DIGITAL CONSUMPTION

DATA FROM THE 2015 QUÉBEC SURVEY ON THE EXPERIENCE OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 5 SHOWS THAT, FOR QUEBEC OVERALL, PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED FIVE AND UNDER DID CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR CHILDREN AT LEAST ONCE A DAY:

- 80% played with their children (83% for Montréal).
- 50% sang songs or recited nursery rhymes to their children (57% for Montréal).
- 41% read or told them stories (48% for Montréal).

A 2015 SURVEY OF 1,000 PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 4–17 CONDUCTED BY CEFROID SUGGESTS THAT, IN QUEBEC, THE VAST MAJORITY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO AT LEAST ONE DIGITAL DEVICE AT HOME.

- About 8 out of 10 students have either a smartphone (81%), a laptop computer (79%) or an e-tablet (76%) at their disposal.
- The parents of school-aged children estimate that their children use the Internet an average of 10 hours a week. About 2 of those hours are for school work and 8 hours are for non-school-related activities.

IN MONTREAL, QUEBEC AND THE REST OF CANADA, INEQUALITIES PERSIST BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, AND GIRLS AND BOYS. Among children, inequality comes in many forms and is often attributed to persistent gender stereotypes at home, at school, in sports and recreation, or in relationships. Throughout the chapters of this report, we have paid particular attention to gender differences. For the sustainable development goal on gender equality, we are focusing on two issues tied directly to UNICEF’s targets: girls’ and boys’ access to higher education and violence committed against girls and boys.

YEAR AFTER YEAR, MORE WOMEN RECEIVE A BACHELOR’S DEGREE THAN MEN

In 2016 in Quebec, 11% of women and 14.7% of men aged 25–64 did not have any kind of diploma, attesting to how women have significantly closed the gap in education.

In Montreal, 8.6% of women aged 25–64 did not have any kind of diploma, compared to 8.9% of men, a non-significant statistical difference.

Gender differences were statistically significant in Laval and Montérégie.

In Laval, 8.4% of women did not have any kind of diploma, compared to 16.4% of men. In Montérégie, 10.2% of women did not have diploma, compared to 15.4% of men.

Following a temporary drop between 2011 and 2012 in the number of new holders of a bachelor’s degree in general education in the youth sector surged by 13% the next year (2012–2013), creating an average annual increase of 2.4% for 2011–2015. (Table 5.1)

Throughout Quebec, women represented the majority of bachelor’s degree recipients in general education in the youth sector.

TABLE 5.1
HOLDERS OF A BACHELOR IN GENERAL EDUCATION IN THE YOUTH SECTOR WHO COMPLETED THEIR HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES IN QUEBEC, ALL OF QUEBEC, MONTREAL, LAVAL AND MONTEREGIE, 2011 AND 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of graduates in 2011</th>
<th>Number of graduates in 2015</th>
<th>Average annual growth rate 2011–2015</th>
<th>Percentage of female graduates in 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of Quebec</td>
<td>27,058</td>
<td>29,732</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>6,804</td>
<td>7,469</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laval</td>
<td>1,533</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montérégie</td>
<td>5,224</td>
<td>5,894</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015, 29,732 new recipients of a bachelor’s degree had done their high school studies in Quebec, and 62.2% of them were women.

Despite some progress in diversifying programs of study, there are still proportionally more men than women receiving a bachelor’s degree in pure and applied sciences, regardless of region of residence.

In Quebec in 2015, 34% of new male bachelor graduates received a degree in pure and applied sciences, compared to only 10% of new female graduates.

There were more social sciences graduates overall, but women were the majority, with 69% of female graduates receiving a bachelor’s degree in the social sciences, compared to 56% of men.
TARGET 5.2
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres.

In Quebec, approximately 3,500 sex offenses were reported to the police in 2014 (Figure 5.1).

The most frequent offenses are sexual assault, sexual contact and child luring via computer.

In every category of sex offense, girls are more likely to be victims than boys.

The difference between girls and boys is quite significant for sexual assault: 80% of sexual assault victims are girls; or 1,575 girls compared to 333 boys.

Sexual assault is the main type of sex offense against children under six: 242 cases of sexual assault were reported in Quebec in 2014 (Figure 5.2).

In case of sexual contact and inviting sexual touching, the perpetrator is usually someone the child knows, while a stranger is typically the perpetrator only in cases of luring via computer.

FIGURE 5.1
NUMBER OF SEX OFFENSE VICTIMS BY TYPE AND SEX, YOUTH UNDER 18, ALL OF QUEBEC, 2014


FIGURE 5.2
NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF SEX OFFENCES BY TYPE AND AGE, ALL OF QUEBEC, 2014


NOTE: Sexual contact and inviting sexual touching only concern children under 16. This is the age of the victim when the offense is reported. The victim may have been younger when the sexual acts were committed.
PARENT PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

In Quebec in 2011, according to the most recent available data, employment rates for people aged 25–54 with at least one child under the age of six was 88.6% for men and 73.6% for women (Table 6.1).

Employment rates for women with young children have increased considerably over the last 35 years, and as a result, the gap between male and female employment has strongly decreased.

A comparison of parents' employment rates in the regions that make up Greater Montréal shows that significant regional differences exist: in Montréal, the number of women and men aged 25–54 with at least one child under six and who had a paid job was lower than the numbers for Quebec overall and for Laval and Montérégie.

Living as a couple or being a lone parent also had a significant impact on parents' employment rates. In all regions, lone-parent mothers had lower employment rates than mothers who were part of a couple. The same was true for men.

### TABLE 6.1
EMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PEOPLE AGED 25–54, LIVING IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF SIX, BY SEX AND FAMILY SITUATION, FOR ALL OF QUEBEC, AND FOR MONTRÉAL, LAVAL AND MONTÉRÉGIE, 2011

**SOURCE:** Statistics Canada, 2011 Census data, as reported in: Conseil du statut de la femme (2015). Portrait statistique : Égalité Femmes — Hommes (Montréal, Laval et Montérégie)
According to l’Observatoire des tout-petits, in 2014 in Quebec, 129,190 parents benefitted from Quebec’s parental insurance plan—up 25% from 2006. This increase was especially pronounced among fathers, with a 57% hike, as compared to 6% for mothers.

According to the 2015 Québec Survey on the Experience of Parents of Children Aged 0 to 5, 54% of Montréal parents said they “never or rarely” felt they had enough free time for themselves; the percentage was 55% for Quebec overall.

20% of Montréal parents said they “often or always” felt they lack time for their children—a lower percentage than the proportion of 25% for Quebec overall.

According to the 2010–2011 Québec Health Survey of High School Students, 15% of secondary school students who had a paid job during their studies reported having a high level of psychological distress, without however reporting having been diagnosed with anxiety or depression.

This percentage was higher among students working 16 or more hours per week (27%), as compared to 20% among those working under 11 hours a week or those who did not have paid work.

This applied to both boys and girls, but was more pronounced among girls.

Among youth in secondary school, 21% of boys working 1–10 hours per week showed a high risk of dropping out of school. This proportion was 41% in those working over 21 hours. For girls, these percentages were 13% and 24%, respectively.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

IN QUEBEC IN 2013–2016, THERE WERE 1,487,500 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15–29. A LITTLE OVER 800,000, OR 54% OF THEM, WERE NO LONGER IN SCHOOL.

Of the approximately 800,000 youth who were no longer in school, 186,800 were considered “neither enrolled nor employed” (NEET), meaning they did not have a job and did not attend school or a training program.

In other words, in 2013–2016 in Quebec, 12% of youth aged 15–29 were neither working nor attending school or a training program.

Of the 186,800 NEET youth: 17% were aged 15–19, 38% were aged 20–24, and 45% were aged 25-29.

Of the youth aged 15–29 who were no longer in school, 9% did not have a secondary school diploma (DES).

This is an improvement over 1992–1995 when 15% of youth were out of school and without a secondary school diploma.

In the rest of Canada, the rates were lower than in Quebec: 12% in 1992–1995 and 6% in 2013–2016.

The rates in Quebec and Canada are lower than the average rates observed in OECD countries.
REDUCED INEQUALITIES
REDUCING INEQUALITIES WITHIN
AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES

TARGET 10.1
Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population.

PALMA RATIO OF INEQUALITIES

In Report Card 14, UNICEF presents economic inequalities using the Palma Ratio. This index compares the income share of the richest 10% of households with children to the income share of the poorest 40%.

A ratio higher than 1 means that the poorest 40% earn less than the richest 10%. In 2014, UNICEF estimated that among households with children, Canada’s ratio was of 1.12, which ranked the country 24th out of 41 countries.

An analysis of the Palma Ratio in Quebec and in Canada from 1969 to 2009 shows that in the 2000s, the Palma Ratio increased more significantly in Canada than in Quebec.


WEAKER SOCIAL MOBILITY IN MONTREAL FAMILIES

For some families, poverty has a lasting effect: children who grew up in a low-income family end up in a vulnerable situation when they reach adulthood. For others, it is a temporary situation. The degree of social mobility in a country or region can be measured by estimating the “intergenerational income elasticity,” which is the correlation between the parents’ and children’s adult income. The lower the elasticity, the more socially mobile the person is.

- In Montreal, social mobility is lower (high elasticity) than in Toronto and Vancouver (Figure 10.1).
- In Quebec, social mobility is slightly higher (low elasticity) than in Canada as a whole.
- In Montreal in 2011, 29% of families with children spent over 30% of their income on housing.

This was much higher than rate of 17% for Quebec overall.

A much higher proportion of renters and single-parent households spent over 30% on housing.

Yet the average cost of housing was lower in Montreal than in Canada’s other big cities.

High housing costs force some families into unsuitable housing. In Montreal in 2016, nearly 118,000 families with children (with one or two parents) lived in unsuitable housing, meaning that the size, quality or affordability were inadequate. This accounts for 1 in 4 families with children. Again, single-parent families are the most affected by this issue.

- In the Montreal CMA in 2015, 16.4% of children under 18 were living in low-income households, according to the low-income measure after tax (Figure 10.1).
- The rate in Montreal is higher than Quebec’s 14.4% and lower than Canada’s 17.4%.

Poverty affects more single-parent families, especially those headed by a woman. In Montreal, 37.3% of children living in a single-parent family were living in a low-income situation in 2015.

39% of parents with children under 6 were living in a low-income household, according to the low-income measure before tax, a rate higher than the 24% rate for all of Quebec.

FIGURE 10.1
INTERGENERATIONAL INCOME ELASTICITY IN CANADA AND SOME AMERICAN COUNTIES

UNDERFUNDING OF INDIGENOUS SCHOOLS

In 2011 in the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area, less than 1% of the population identified as Indigenous. This number includes 6,150 children under 15.

Indigenous children account for less than 1% of all children under the age of 15 in Montréal. This percentage is the same in the Toronto CMA.

For comparison purposes, Indigenous children account for 4% of all children under 15 in the Calgary and Vancouver CMAs. In Winnipeg, 20% of all children under 15 are Indigenous.

In the 2016 report Federal Spending on Primary and Secondary Education on First Nations Reserves, the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer reported on the significant shortfall between the funding provided to Indigenous schools and that received by provincial schools throughout Canada.

In Canada, education is each province’s responsibility, except as regards First Nations children living in Indigenous communities. Their education is overseen by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

CHILDREN WITH A PRECARIOUS IMMIGRATION STATUS

In Montréal in 2018, there were 321,675 children under the age of 15 who had at least one parent who was born outside Canada. This accounts for 46.6% of all children under 15.

This proportion was much higher than the 29.4% rate for Quebec overall, but lower than Toronto’s 71% and Vancouver’s 63.7%.

Children born in Canada to parents with a precarious immigration status do not automatically receive healthcare. Children, until the age of majority, are admitted to Quebec’s health insurance program (Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec [RAMQ]) based on their parents’ status. They must meet specific criteria to be covered by the RAMQ.

Since 2011, Médecins du Monde has been running Projet Migrants, a project to improve healthcare access for child and adult immigrants not covered by the RAMQ who are also not eligible for the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), do not have private insurance or the financial means to get healthcare.

Over 3,000 people benefitted from these services and activities in 2015–2016.

CHILDREN WITH A HANDICAP

In Quebec in 2015, 35,204 families (4% of all Quebec families) received the Supplement for Handicapped Children (SHC) from the child assistance measure. This supplement is paid out to parents of children with an impairment or a functional disability that significantly limits their daily activities.

Of the families benefitting from the SHC, 7,812 were living in Montréal, 7,618 in Montérégie and 1,951 in Laval.

Half of these families make under $50,000 per year.

IN QUEBEC, MORE THAN 35,000 FAMILIES RECEIVED THE SUPPLEMENT FOR HANDICAPED CHILDREN
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE
CANADA: 19th OUT OF 41 COUNTRIES

TARGET 11.6
Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality.

CLIMATE CHANGE

▲ In 2015, the daily drinking water production was 823 litres per person on the island of Montréal, 26% less than in 2001. This is noteworthy, as Quebec’s potable water savings goal in its Stratégie québécoise d’économie d’eau potable was 20% for 2017.
▲ The Montréal community’s greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) were reduced by 25% between 1990 and 2013. This is in line with the objective to achieve a 30% reduction in emissions by 2020. However, GHG emissions by the transport sector (road transport more specifically) rose 14% between 1990 and 2013.

AIR QUALITY IN MONTRÉAL

▲ Between 2015 and 2016, the number of days with poor air quality in Montréal fell 60%, from 64 to 29 days. This was the best result since 2002 when air quality data started being collected.
▲ In children, exposure to tobacco smoke is responsible for 13% of life-long asthma, 7% of respiratory infections and 6% of seasonal rhinitis (hay fever).
▲ In Greater Montréal, in 2013–2014, 12.3% of youth aged 12–19 stated being exposed to second-hand smoke at home. This rate was 5.9% in Toronto and 4.3% in Vancouver.
▲ A survey of 1,600 households on the island of Montréal revealed that one dwelling out of five presents traces of visible mold or water infiltration or odors from mildew. This proportion jumps to 38% when humidity and non-visible mold are included.
▲ Renter households, single-parent families and couples with children are more likely to be affected by this issue.

MONTRÉAL’S PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT CONTRIBUTES TO HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS IN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

▲ In 2011 and in general, 77% of Montréal’s boroughs had a “medium-high” to “high” pedestrian potential, as did 64% of Laval’s neighborhoods.

A neighbourhood’s pedestrian potential considers the area’s intersection, residential and destination densities, as well as its land-use mix. Pedestrian potential is rated on a four-point scale: low, average, medium-high or high.

In Montréal and Laval, the pedestrian potential is higher in disadvantaged neighborhoods compared to more advantaged neighborhoods.

▲ In 2011, more than 90% of Montréal children under 18 lived in a sector whose central point was less than one kilometre away from a park or green space and approximately 40% lived in a sector whose central point was less than one kilometre away from a sports or leisure infrastructure. Little difference was found in access between children living in advantaged areas and those living in disadvantaged areas. In Laval, the percentage of children under 18 living less than one kilometre away from a sports or leisure infrastructure varied between 53% in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and 82% in more advantaged neighborhoods.

▲ In 2012, 53% of public schools in the Montréal socio-sanitary region (SSR) were within a 500-metre radius (10-minute walk) of a fast-food restaurant and 74% of schools were within a 500-metre radius of a convenience store. These are the highest percentages in Quebec. In Montérégie, these percentages were 37% for proximity to fast-food and 49% for proximity to a convenience store. In Laval, these percentages were 41% and 44%, respectively.

▲ Montréal schools are also notable for their proximity to bike paths and for the pedestrian potential of the neighbourhoods: in 2012, 85% of public schools in Montréal were within a 500-metre radius of a bike path and 84% were in a neighbourhood with a “high” pedestrian potential. These percentages are the highest in Quebec. The percentage of schools located within a 500-metre radius of a bike path were 24% in Montérégie and 30% in Laval.

THE NUMBER OF DAYS WITH POOR AIR QUALITY FROM 64 DAYS IN 2015 TO 29 IN 2016.
From 2011 to 2015, 6,308 children under 18 were injured or killed in a traffic accident involving a motor vehicle in Montréal, Laval and Montérégie (excluding on highways).

41% of collisions causing injury or death on the Greater Montréal road network occurred on the island of Montréal.

In 2016, Montréal was named one of the top North American cities for access to public transportation, ranking fourth with a transit score of 77.4, after Toronto (78.1), San Francisco (80.4) and New York (84.1).

The Transit Score is a composite index that assesses public transit accessibility and quality, and is rated on a scale of 0 to 100.

The most recent data collected by Vélo Québec revealed that 78% of children in Montréal and 85% of children in Laval (ages 3–17) rode a bike in 2015. Over half of these biked at least once a week.
"70% of youths in Canada are aware of environmental issues, a large number compared to other countries. Canada ranks sixth in the world for awareness of environmental problems."


Regarding environment and consumption, the goal is to encourage students to develop an active relationship with their environment while maintaining a critical attitude toward environment management, technological development and consumer goods.

THE PROGRAM’S DEVELOPMENT PATHS ARE:

1. PRESENCE IN THE ENVIRONNEMENT (PRESCHOOL AND PRIMARY) OR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENVIRONMENT (SECONDARY)
2. BUILDING A Viable ENVIRONMENT FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
3. CONSUMPTION STRATEGIES AND THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF GOODS AND SERVICES
4. AWARENESS OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF CONSUMPTION
LEARNING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT SCHOOL

The school network includes, 2,886 educational establishments that all adhere to the Quebec Education Program. It includes content to raise preschool, elementary and high school students’ awareness of environmental issues.

- Out of a total of 108,132 children aged 4 and 5 and attending preschool in Quebec, 23,922 attend a school in Montréal, 4,730 in Laval, and 20,446 in Montérégie.
- Out of 485,156 children attending primary school in Quebec, 111,349 attend a school in Montréal, 25,527 in Laval and 94,716 in Montérégie.
- Out of 403,890 teenagers attending secondary school in Quebec, 96,993 attend a school in Montréal, 20,783 in Laval and 76,914 in Montérégie.
TARGET 16.1
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

TARGET 16.2
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

IN QUEBEC IN 2014–2015, YOUTH PROTECTION SERVICES RECEIVED 86,861 REPORTS

- Of these, 12,795 reports were made from Montérégie and 12,223 from Montréal. To compare populations, 296,680 children under 18 lived in Montérégie and 355,851 in Montréal.
- In Laval, 3,098 reports were received for a population of 85,184 children.
- 40% of the reports received were considered justified and were retained.
- One-third of retained reports affecting children under 18 were due to neglect or risk of neglect. Physical abuse or risk of physical abuse, and psychological mistreatment were the second and third cause of retained reports.

MONTRÉAL HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE TOWARD CHILDREN AMONG CANADIAN BIG CITIESThe retained reports involving very young children also increased, but at a lower rate than for reports received. Neglect or serious risk of neglect are the most frequent reasons for retained reports involving children under the age of six.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDES ARE EXTREMELY SERIOUS BUT RARE EVENTS: IN 2014 IN QUEBEC, FIVE CHILDREN UNDER 18 WERE KILLED IN DOMESTIC HOMICIDES. IN A 10-YEAR PERIOD, 58 CHILDREN WERE MURDERED IN QUEBEC.

MONTRÉAL HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF FAMILY VIOLENCE TOWARD CHILDREN AMONG CANADIAN BIG CITIES

- In the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area in 2015, 1,852 cases of domestic violence against children under 18 were reported to the police, representing 282 cases per 100,000 involving girls and 199 per 100,000 involving boys (Figure 10.1).
- These are among the highest rates for all metropolitan areas in Canada.
- Rates from other metropolitan areas in Quebec are even higher than Montréal’s.

REPORTS TO YOUTH PROTECTION SERVICES IN 2015–2016

- In 2015–2016, Quebec’s Youth Protection Services received 87,800 reports.
- Of this number, 34,911 were retained.
- 29,856 children were involved in at least one report that was retained.

*NOTE: The reports for Montréal include data from Centre Jeunesse de Montréal providing services to a francophone clientele, and the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres providing services to the anglophone population as well as to the Jewish community.
According to the 2010–2011 Québec Health Survey of High School Students, **40%** of high school students in Montréal declared they had been a victim of at least one form of violence either at school, on the way to school or through cyber bullying.

This is a higher rate than for all of Quebec (**36%**).

Boys reported higher numbers of interpersonal violence than girls: **48% vs. 33%**.

Proportionally more students in Secondary 1 and 2 than in Secondary 3–5 stated reported having been a victim of interpersonal violence.

Students in disadvantaged areas were more likely to be victims of violence or to demonstrate indirect aggressive behaviours.

In Montréal in 2010–2011, **40%** of high school students stated they had suffered violence in their love relationship in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Proportionally, more girls reported suffering a form of violence at the hands of their partner: **48% vs. 31%**.

**OVER A THIRD OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SAID THEY HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE**
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