

# Peel's Children



## INTRODUCTION

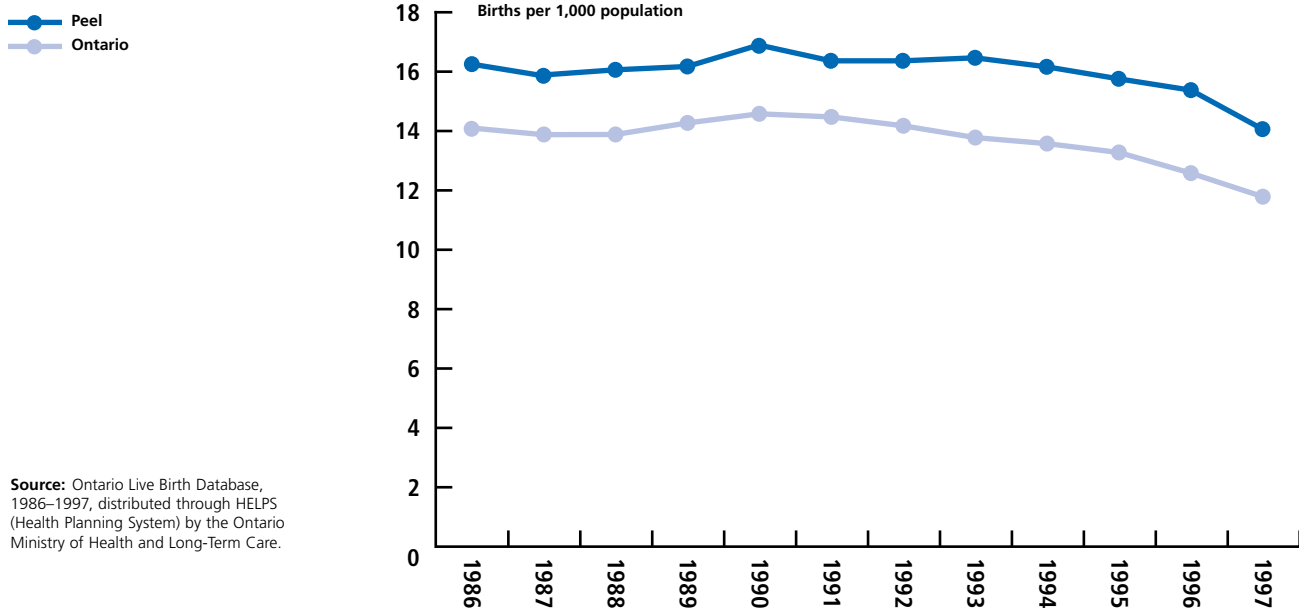
The population of children in the Region of Peel is influenced by annual numbers of births and deaths, and by migration to and from the Region. This chapter will describe births, the population structure and population growth of children and youth in the Region of Peel, with comparisons to Ontario. Infant and child mortality is described in the chapters titled *Infant Health—the First Year of Life* (see page 23) and *Leading Causes of Child Mortality and Hospitalization in Peel* (see page 79).

## BIRTHS

In 1997, the most recent year for which official data are available, there were 12,959 live births in the Region of Peel, which represented 9.8% of all live births in Ontario.

Crude birth rates\* in Peel were consistently higher than rates in Ontario over the 12-year period between 1986 and 1997. After reaching a peak in 1990, crude birth rates in Peel declined slowly to 14.1 births per 1,000 in 1997. Ontario rates also decreased over this same period (see Figure 1.1).

**Figure 1.1—Crude Birth Rates, Region of Peel and Ontario, 1986–1997**



Source: Ontario Live Birth Database, 1986–1997, distributed through HELPS (Health Planning System) by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

\* Crude birth rates are defined as the number of live births per 1,000 total population.

This difference in crude birth rates between Peel and Ontario is due to a higher proportion of women of reproductive age and higher fertility rates among women in this age group in Peel.

The number of live births in Peel increased by 35% between 1986 and 1996. Since 1996, the number of live births has declined by 4.6% to 12,959 births in 1997, as shown in Table 1.1.

The distribution of live births in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon consistently reflects the population distribution in Peel. From 1986 to 1997, approximately 63% of Peel’s population lived in Mississauga, 32% in Brampton and 5% in Caledon. On average, proportions of live births by municipality of maternal residence were 63%, 33% and 4% respectively for the same period (see Table 1.1).

**Table 1.1—Number of Live Births by Municipality of Maternal Residence, Region of Peel, 1986–1997**

Year	Mississauga	Brampton	Caledon	Peel
1986	6,177	3,445	438	10,060
1987	6,398	3,405	455	10,258
1988	6,775	3,641	462	10,878
1989	7,184	3,894	476	11,554
1990	7,826	4,195	469	12,490
1991	7,760	4,194	477	12,431
1992	8,118	4,238	495	12,851
1993	8,459	4,383	498	13,340
1994	8,736	4,333	443	13,512
1995	8,531	4,535	500	13,566
1996	8,459	4,627	494	13,580
1997	8,142	4,285	532	12,959

**Source:** Ontario Live Birth Database, 1986–1997, distributed through HELPS (Health Planning System) by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Sixty-five per cent of all live births to mothers living in the Region of Peel occurred within Peel’s borders: the highest was for mothers in Brampton (74%) and lowest for mothers in Caledon (28%) (see Table 1.2 on following page). The City of Toronto was the next most likely place of birth, with 29% of newborns in Peel delivered in Toronto. For Caledon mothers, approximately half of newborns were delivered in Toronto.

**Table 1.2—Location of Live Birth by Municipality of Maternal Residence, Region of Peel, 1997**

Location	Municipality of Residence of Mother							
	Mississauga		Brampton		Caledon		Peel	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Peel Region	5,091	62.5	3,169	74.0	147	27.6	8,407	64.9
Toronto	2,448	30.1	993	23.2	265	49.8	3,706	28.6
Halton Region	517	6.3	62	1.4	11	2.1	590	4.6
York Region	14	0.2	29	0.7	38	7.1	81	0.6
Dufferin	NR	NR	8	0.2	52	9.8	61	0.5
Hamilton-Wentworth	36	0.4	11	0.3	5	0.9	52	0.4
Other	35	0.4	13	0.3	14	2.6	62	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,142</b>	<b>100.0*</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>100.0*</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>100.0*</b>	<b>12,959</b>	<b>100.0*</b>

NR= Not released due to small numbers.

\* Per cent totals do not equal 100 due to rounding.

Source: Ontario Live Birth Database, 1997, distributed through HELPS (Health Planning System) by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

## THE CHILD POPULATION

The child population in Peel is made up of children born to Peel residents (described at the beginning of this chapter) and children who move to Peel from other cities, provinces and countries.

In 1996, there were 254,380 children and youth aged 0–19 years living in the Region of Peel, accounting for just under one-third of the population. Peel has a slightly higher proportion of young persons aged 0–19 years (30%) compared to Ontario (27%).

Table 1.3 shows that the distribution of children aged 0–19 years is similar for each of Peel's municipalities.

**Table 1.3—Number and Proportion of Children Aged 0–19 Years by Age Group and Municipality, Region of Peel, 1996**

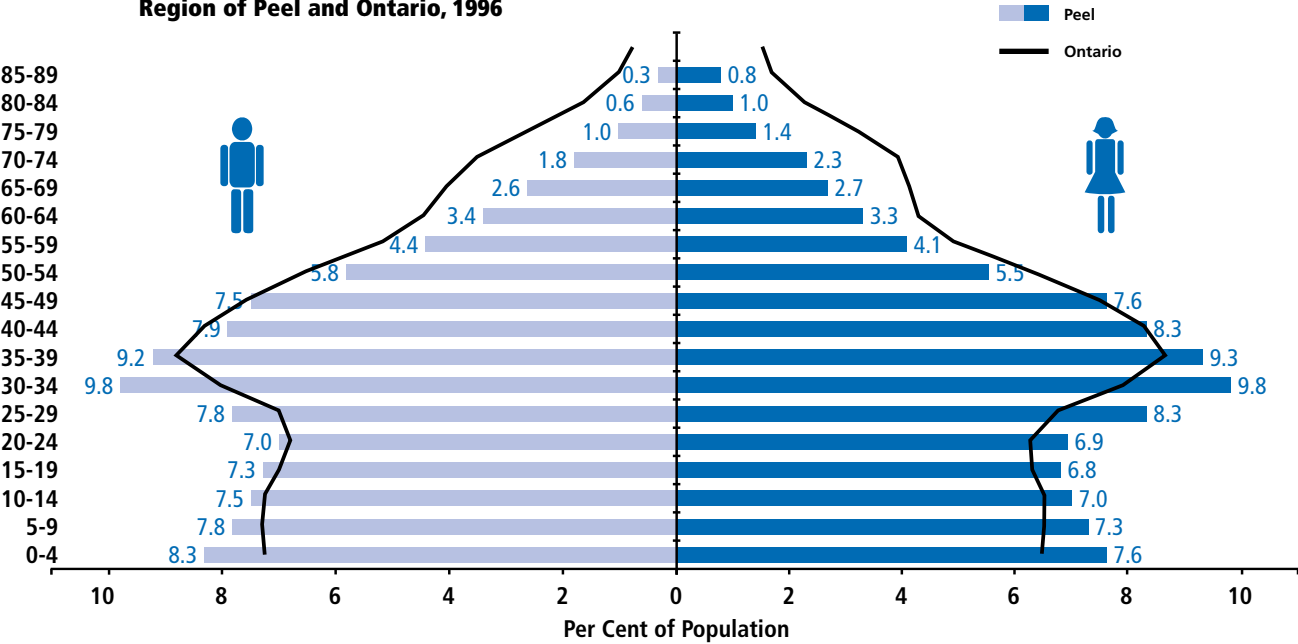
Age Group	Mississauga		Brampton		Caledon		Peel	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
0–4 years	42,580	7.8	22,380	8.3	2,740	6.9	67,715	7.9
5–9 years	40,025	7.4	21,120	7.9	3,260	8.2	64,395	7.6
10–14 years	38,820	7.1	20,190	7.5	3,140	7.9	62,150	7.3
15–19 years	37,910	7.0	19,455	7.3	2,755	6.9	60,120	7.1
<b>Total 0–19 years</b>	<b>159,335</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>83,145</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>11,895</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>254,380</b>	<b>29.8</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>544,382</b>		<b>268,251</b>		<b>39,893</b>		<b>852,526</b>	

Note: Per cent calculations based on total population by municipality.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census.

Maps 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, found at the end of this chapter, display the proportion of children aged 0–4, 5–9, 10–14 and 15–19 years by census tract for the Region of Peel in 1996. Higher proportions of children aged 0–4 years reside in the area of newly established subdivisions in the northwest of Mississauga, as well as in downtown Brampton (see Map 1.1 on page 7).

**Figure 1.2—Population by Sex and Age Group, Region of Peel and Ontario, 1996**



Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census.

Figure 1.2 is a population pyramid, which shows the age and sex distribution of Peel’s population in 1996. This population pyramid shows the relative proportion of males and females in each age group and highlights the following issues:

- The age structure of Peel and Ontario populations differ. Although the shape of the population pyramid is similar for Peel and Ontario, in Peel in 1996, there was a higher proportion of children aged 0–9 years and adults aged 25–39 years compared to Ontario. In contrast, there were lower proportions of older adults (aged 50 years and older) in Peel compared to Ontario.
- In Peel, this higher proportion of adults (25–39 years) may be explained by high numbers of new immigrants to the Region who are typically within this age category.
- Today, there would still be a higher proportion of adults in the reproductive ages (group previously aged 25–39 would now be 30–44). Persons within this age group will likely continue to influence the number of births in the Region of Peel over the next five years.

According to Statistics Canada, the number of children and youth in Peel Region aged 0–19 years is expected to grow to 331,802 by 2016, a 30% increase from 1996. Although there will be more children, their proportion of the total population will be considerably smaller, falling from 29.8% in 1996 to

only 22.9% in 2016, as shown in Table 1.4. The reasons for this include a declining fertility rate and a reduction in the proportion of the population in the reproductive age group. It is important to consider population growth for different age groups in assessing community health needs and planning for future health programs and services in the Region of Peel.

**Table 1.4—Total Population and Proportion of Population by Age Group, Region of Peel and Ontario, 1996, 2006 and 2016**

Age Group	Peel			Ontario		
	1996	2006	2016	1996	2006	2016
0–4 years	67,715 (7.9%)	68,914 (5.8%)	74,178 (5.1%)	734,170 (6.8%)	641,242 (5.1%)	627,202 (4.6%)
5–9 years	64,395 (7.6%)	77,659 (6.6%)	79,176 (5.5%)	748,065 (7.0%)	725,214 (5.8%)	669,216 (4.9%)
10–14 years	62,150 (7.3%)	86,816 (7.4%)	85,141 (5.9%)	731,980 (6.8%)	834,707 (6.7%)	722,775 (5.3%)
15–19 years	60,120 (7.1%)	81,486 (6.9%)	93,307 (6.4%)	698,005 (6.5%)	840,162 (6.7%)	805,450 (5.9%)
<b>Total 0–19 years</b>	<b>254,380 (29.8%)</b>	<b>314,875 (26.7%)</b>	<b>331,802 (22.9%)</b>	<b>2,912,220 (27.1%)</b>	<b>3,041,325 (24.4%)</b>	<b>2,824,643 (20.8%)</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>852,525</b>	<b>1,179,772</b>	<b>1,451,782</b>	<b>10,753,570</b>	<b>12,456,991</b>	<b>13,551,345</b>

**Notes:** Per cent calculations based on total population.

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, 1996 Census. Projections\* 2006 and 2016 from Statistics Canada, Demographic Division, simulations prepared for client, custom prepared projections (not official Statistics Canada projections), August 1999, distributed by the Health Planning Branch, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

\*Population projections are a way to estimate the number of people at a given year in the future, if a given set of assumptions (mortality, fertility and migration) were to prevail. The accuracy of the projections depends on the extent to which the assumptions on mortality, fertility and migration are correct.

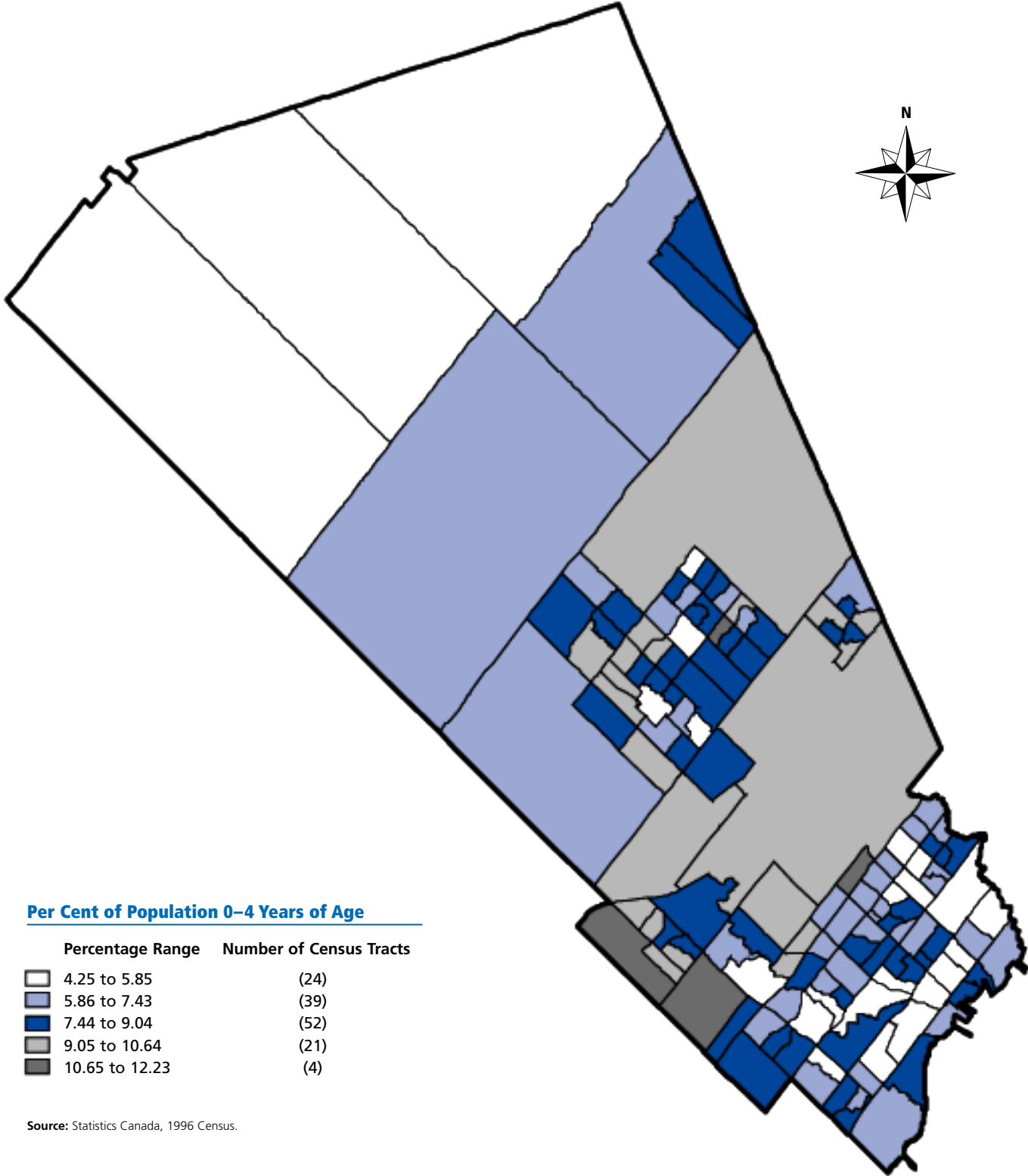
## SUMMARY

In 1997, there were 12,959 live births in Peel Region, which made up approximately 10% of all live births within the province. The majority of live births (65%) occurred within Peel Region; however, there were also many births to Peel residents that occurred in other jurisdictions, such as Toronto and Halton. Crude birth rates in Peel were 14.1 per 1,000 population in 1997; these rates have declined substantially over time.

As of 1996, there were 254,380 children and youth aged 0–19 years living in Peel Region. The proportion of children by age group was similar by municipality; however, within municipalities, there were some census tracts that had higher proportions of children and youth.

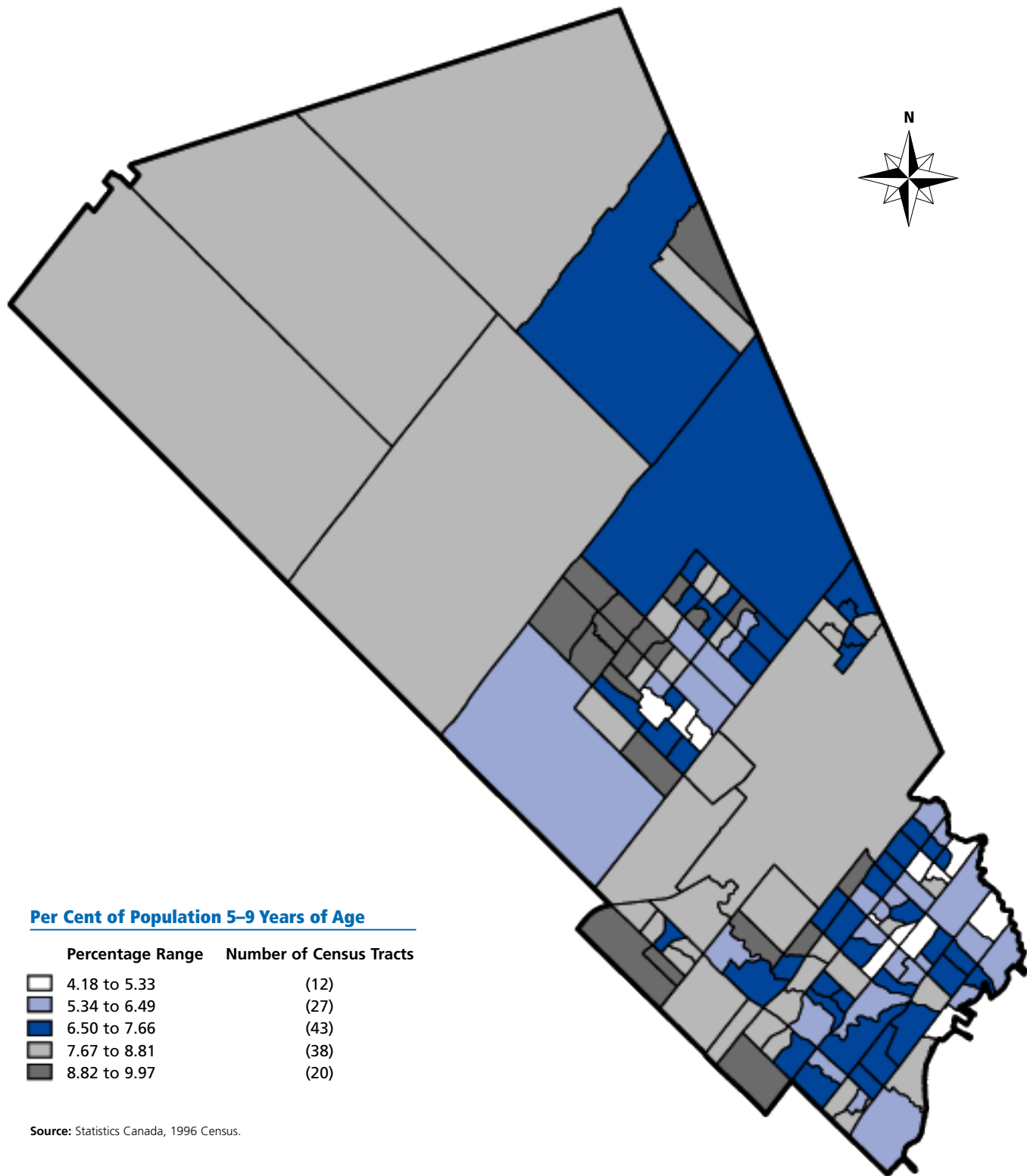
Although the proportion of the population composed of 0–19 year olds will decline over the next 20 years, the overall numbers of children in Peel will increase.

**Map 1.1—Proportion of Population Aged 0–4 Years by Census Tract, Region of Peel, 1996**

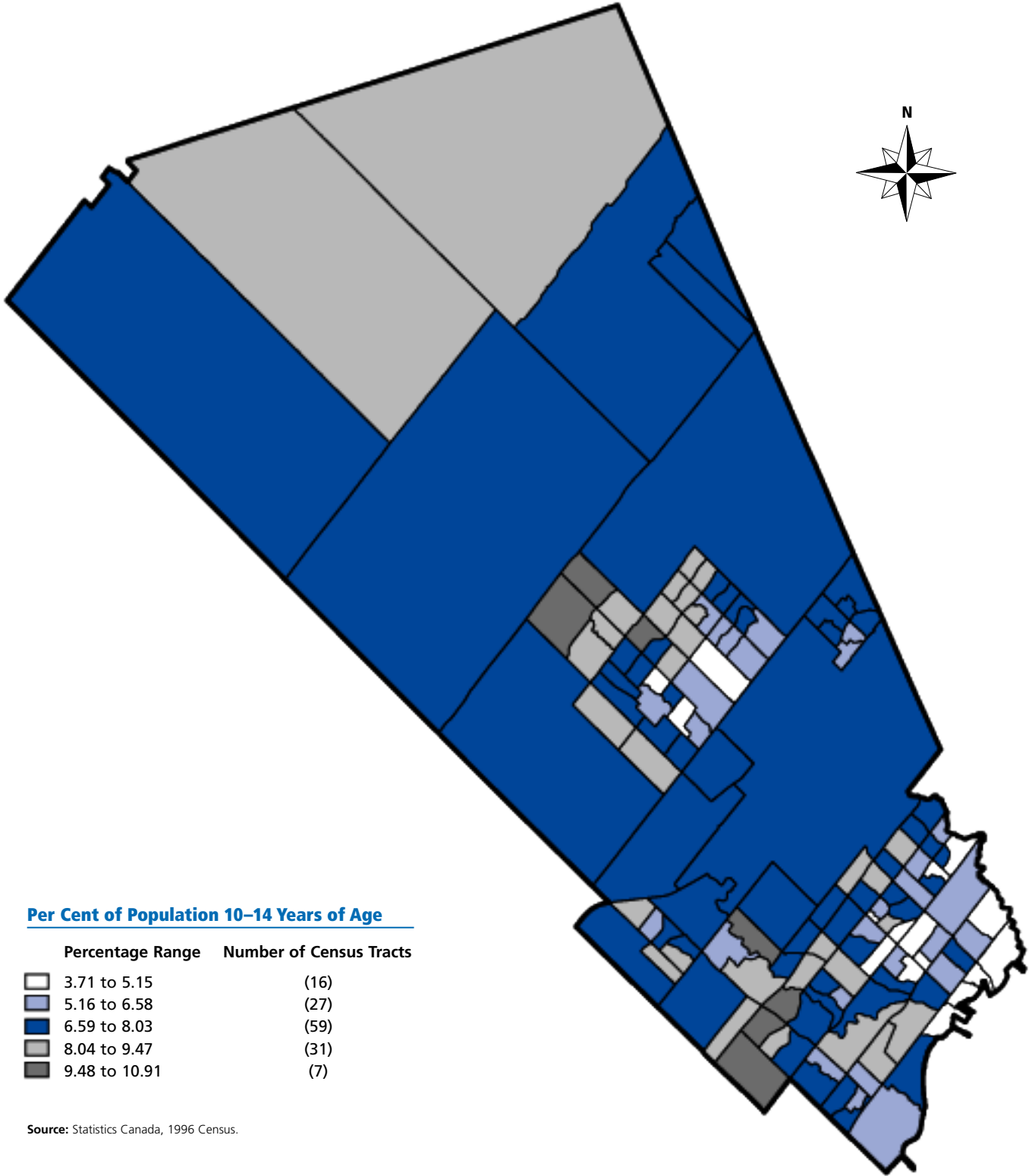


Source: Statistics Canada, 1996 Census.

**Map 1.2—Proportion of Population Aged 5–9 Years by Census Tract, Region of Peel, 1996**



**Map 1.3—Proportion of Population Aged 10–14 Years by Census Tract, Region of Peel, 1996**



**Map 1.4—Proportion of Population Aged 15–19 Years by Census Tract, Region of Peel, 1996**

