

# Child health 2004

*Focus on  
Early Childhood*

## *Introduction*

*The Child Health Report 2004 is one of an ongoing series of health status reports published by the Region of Peel Health Department to describe the health of the region's population.*

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The first years of a child's life, from before birth to six years, are critical in the development and future well-being of a child. Healthy babies are more likely to develop into healthy children, and healthy children are more likely to grow up to be healthy adolescents and healthy adults.<sup>1</sup>

This report provides an overview of the health status of Peel's children aged 0 to 6 years, including:

- child population
- family and community
- prenatal health
- infant health
- early childhood health

The *Child Health Report 2004* also contains data on many interventions to promote and protect health.

Where relevant, this report provides updates to the *Child Health Report 2002*, a previous report produced by Peel Health. It also makes use of a variety of data to describe early childhood health in Peel, such as data from two special surveys: the *Survey of Parents of Children 0 to 2 Years—2002*,<sup>2</sup> and the *Prenatal Education Classes: Survey of Mothers—2003*.<sup>3</sup> Both surveys were conducted locally to address some of the data gaps that relate to children of these age groups in Peel. Since multiple data sources are drawn upon in this report, the years for which data are reported may vary from source to source depending on data availability.

The *Child Health Report 2004* is intended to be a resource for the Health Department, community groups, health and social service agencies, Boards of Education, elected officials, planners and residents to assist in the planning of programs and services for children and youth.