



chapter 1

PEEL CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS



Key Messages

- The life expectancy of children in Peel has improved dramatically over the past century.
- The majority of Peel parents are immigrants, most of whom immigrated to Canada as adults.
- One in five Peel children speaks a language other than English or French most often at home.
- Peel has a higher proportion of multiple-family households than Ontario.

Within this chapter are demographic data that provide the context needed to understand children in Peel. Additionally, since programs and services aimed at influencing the health status of children are typically provided to parents and not directly to the children themselves, data about Peel parents are also provided.

The data in this chapter do not present a complete picture of children and parents in Peel. Rather, they reflect data available from the Canadian census on some of the determinants of health for children and their parents. For more information about the determinants of health in Peel, see *Health in Peel: Determinants and Disparities* (2011) at peelregion.ca/health/reports.



Definition

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average age at death for a group or cohort at birth. Life expectancy is calculated based on the current mortality rates experienced by all age groups in the population.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth in Peel has increased by approximately 20 years for both males and females over the past eight decades. A significant reduction in infant mortality is responsible for the initial increase. The increase seen in recent years is due to an increase in life expectancy beyond 65 years of age as a result of improvements in medical treatment.^{3,4}

Life expectancy in Peel is 84 years for females and 81 years for males.^c



Age and Sex

There are 318,605 children and youth aged one to 18 years living in Peel (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1
Population by Age Group and Sex,
Peel, 2011

Age Group (years)	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1 to 4	64,915	5.0	33,470	5.3	31,440	4.8
5 to 9	84,465	6.5	43,695	6.9	40,770	6.2
10 to 14	90,820	7.0	47,080	7.4	43,740	6.6
15 to 18	78,405	6.0	40,750	6.4	37,660	5.7
1 to 18	318,605	24.6	164,995	25.9	153,610	23.3
Total population	1,296,815	100.0	637,175	100.0	659,640	100.0

Source: 2011 Census, Statistics Canada.

There has been a noticeable shift in the age of parents in Peel over the past 20 years. This is consistent with trends seen in the rest of Canada and other parts of the world. Fertility rates have declined among younger women and increased in older age groups as more women focus

their attention on education and career development and delay pregnancy and parenthood until later in life.

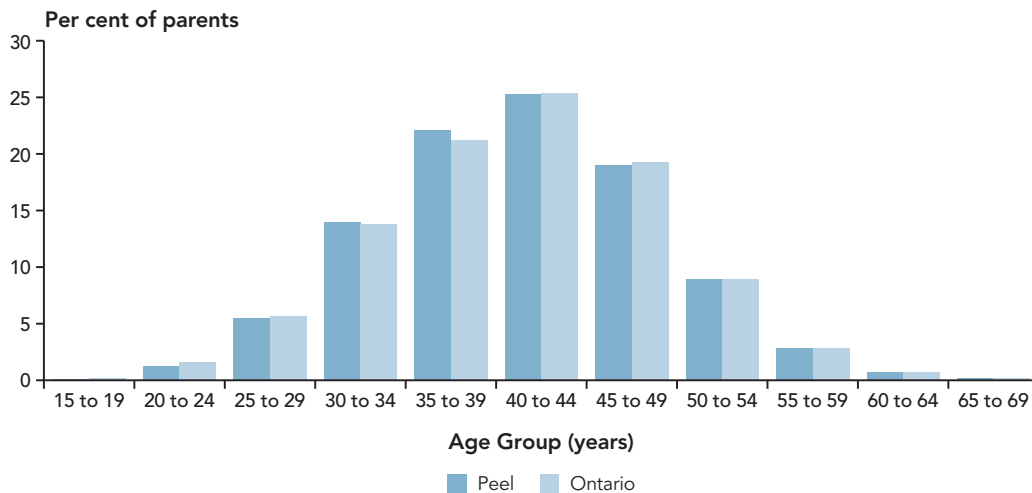
There were 308,480 parents in Peel in 2006 (Table 1.2). Peel parents tend to be younger than Ontario parents (Figure 1.1).

Table 1.2
Number of Parents by Age Group,
Peel and Ontario, 2006

Age Group (years)	Peel Number	Ontario Number
15 to 19	410	5,190
20 to 24	3,725	43,240
25 to 29	16,825	157,630
30 to 34	43,330	377,185
35 to 39	68,090	581,150
40 to 44	78,070	696,990
45 to 49	58,610	529,425
50 to 54	27,495	244,455
55 to 59	8,635	76,560
60 to 64	2,035	19,630
65 to 69	670	6,405
Total	308,480	2,743,040

Note: Includes parents with a child one to 18 years of age.
Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.

Figure 1.1
Age Group of Parents,
Peel and Ontario, 2006



Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.

Immigrant Status



Definition

Immigrant refers to those who have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by immigration authorities.

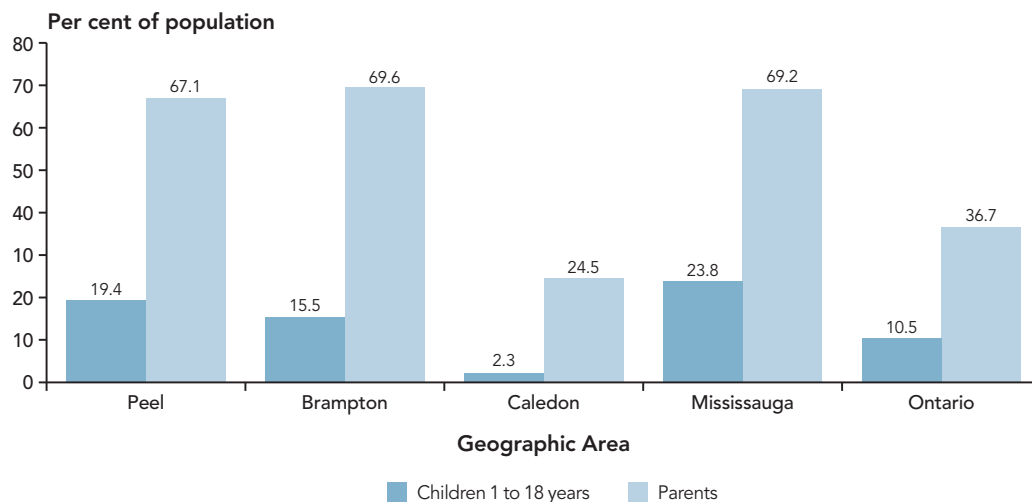
Recent immigrant refers to those who immigrated to Canada between 2001 and 2006 (within five years of the 2006 Census).



Most children in Peel were born in Canada (non-immigrants). However, the majority of their parents are immigrants (Figure 1.2). A higher proportion of parents are immigrants compared to the overall Peel population (67% vs. 49%).^{A2}

Figure 1.2

Proportion of Children and Parents who are Immigrants, Peel, Brampton, Caledon, Mississauga and Ontario, 2006



Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.

Southern Asia, West Central Asia and the Middle East, and Southeast Asia were the regions of the world where the highest proportion of immigrant children were born (data not shown).^{A2}

One in five immigrant parents in Peel is a recent immigrant.^{A2} The majority of immigrant parents in Peel came to Canada as adults (Table 1.3), and may have been raised in a different context than that in which they are raising their own children.

Ethnic Origin and Language

The most common ethnic origins among Peel children were European, South Asian and the British Isles (Figure 1.3). Peel has a very small proportion of children who identify as Aboriginal when compared to Ontario and Canada.

Table 1.3

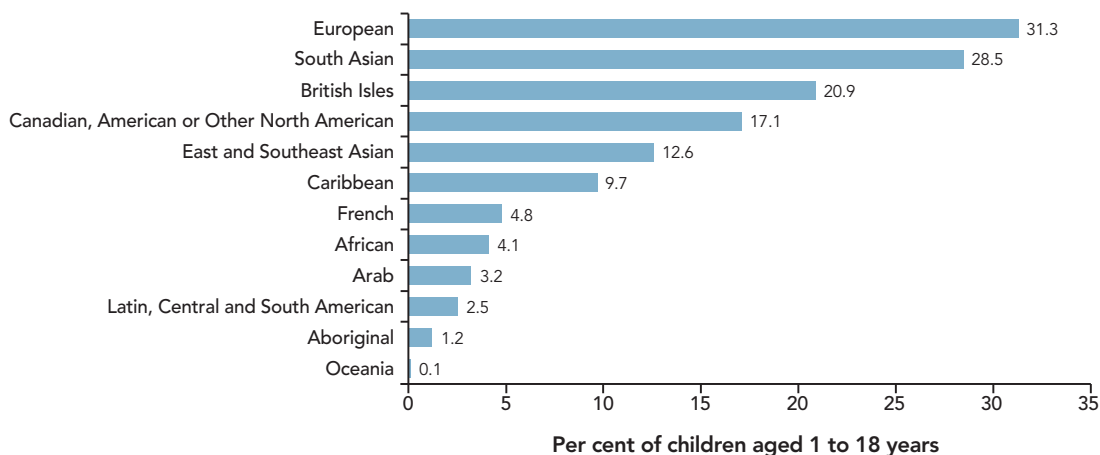
Age at Immigration among Parents who are Immigrants, Peel and Ontario, 2006

Age at Immigration (years)	Peel (%)	Ontario (%)
Under 5	3.8	5.5
5 to 14	10.3	12.2
15 to 24	26.5	23.1
25 to 44	55.5	55.5
45 and over	3.9	3.7

Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.

Figure 1.3

Ethnic Origin of Children, Peel, 2006



Note: Percentages sum to more than 100% because individuals may have multiple responses (total responses used as denominator). The categories used above reflect the categories used by Statistics Canada.
Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.



Definition

Home language refers to the language spoken most often or on a regular basis at home by the individual at the time of the census.

Mother tongue refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

Non-official languages in Canada include any language other than English or French.

Most parents and children speak English most often at home.^{A2} Over one-third of parents speak a non-official language most often at home (Figure 1.4). Punjabi (25,075), Urdu (11,070) and Polish (6,630) are the most common non-official languages spoken by Peel parents.^{A2}

Not shown in Figure 1.4 are the 5% of children in Peel who speak more than one language most often at home – most commonly being English and a non-official language.^{A2} For information on how languages spoken by children impacts school readiness, refer to the School Readiness section of Chapter 3.

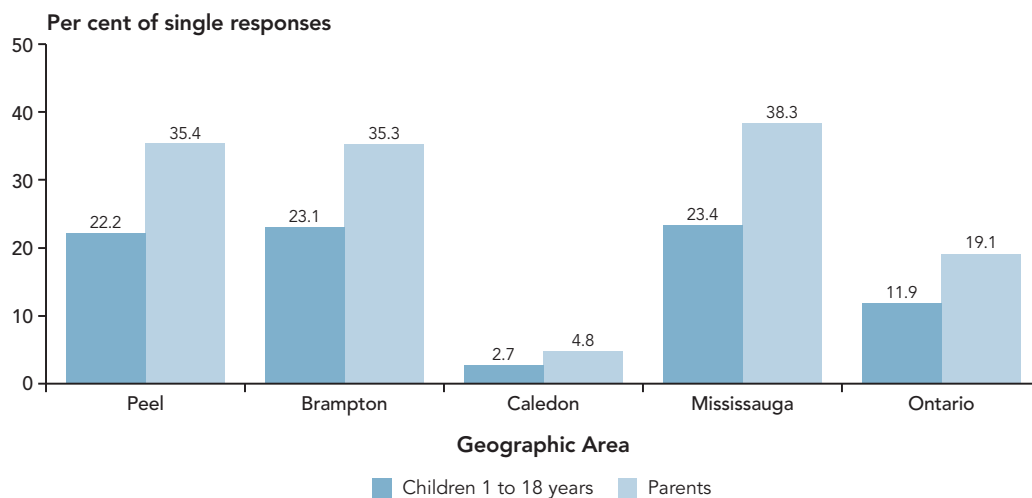
Over 5,000 Peel parents have no knowledge of either English or French.

More than one in ten young children in Peel do not have knowledge of either English or French (Table 1.4). By the time children have entered school (age four to eight years), virtually all know either English or French.

A larger proportion of Peel parents have no knowledge of English or French compared to all Ontario parents. This has implications for those providing parents with information or services only in English or French.

Figure 1.4

Proportion of Children and Parents who Speak Non-Official Languages Most Often at Home, Peel, Brampton, Caledon, Mississauga and Ontario, 2006



Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.

Table 1.4

Proportion of Children and Parents with No Knowledge of Either English or French, Peel and Ontario, 2006

	Age Group (years)	Peel		Ontario	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Children	1 to 3	5,710	12.4	25,705	6.4
	4 to 8	900	1.1	5,950	0.8
	9 to 11	140	0.3	1,315	0.3
	12 to 14	75	0.1	1,075	0.2
	15 to 18	130	0.2	1,585	0.2
Parents	All ages	5,155	1.7	39,715	1.4

Source: Custom Profile, 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.

Household Characteristics

The number of people within a household, as well as the relationship between those people, impacts the children and parents that live in that household. For example, having additional adults (e.g., grandparents) within a household may provide additional caregivers for children, but may also affect the level of autonomy parents have when making decisions about their children.

There is a higher proportion of multiple-family households in Peel compared to Ontario (Figure 1.5). The relationships between these multiple families, their household structure, and how the families function (e.g., who provides child care) is not known.



Definition

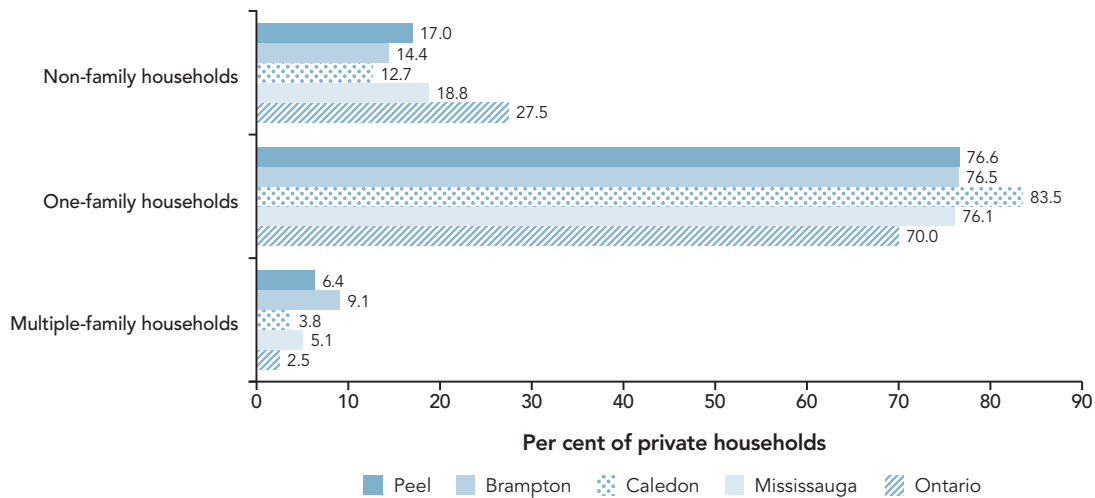
A **non-family household** consists either of one person living alone or two or more persons who share a dwelling, but do not constitute a family in terms of their relationship with the others in the dwelling.

A **one-family household** consists of a single family (e.g., a couple with or without children).

A **multiple-family household** is made up of two or more families occupying the same dwelling.



Figure 1.5
Household Type of Private Households,
Peel, Brampton, Caledon, Mississauga and Ontario, 2006



Source: 2006 Census, Statistics Canada.



Definition

A **census family** is a couple living together, with or without children, or lone-parents living with their children (not including foster children).

A **non-census family** includes persons living with relatives (other than spouse, common-law partner or children), persons living with non-relatives only and persons living alone.

The majority of children in Peel and Ontario live in a census family (i.e., with at least one of their parents) (data not shown).^{A2} Of those who do not, most live with relatives.

There were over 40,000 female lone-parent families in Peel in 2006.

The proportion of families led by female lone-parents in Peel has increased over the past 15 years – from 9% in 1991 to almost 13% in 2006 (Table 1.5).



Table 1.5
Male and Female Lone-Parent Families,
Peel, 1991-2006

Year	Male Lone-Parent		Female Lone-Parent	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
1991	4,290	2.2	17,915	9.0
1996	5,095	2.2	25,155	10.8
2001	7,205	2.6	32,740	11.9
2006	8,985	2.8	40,615	12.5

Sources: 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses, Statistics Canada.



Did You Know

Living Arrangements of Canadian Children

After the separation or divorce of a child's parents, arrangements are usually made (formal or informal) regarding where the child will live and how much time they will spend with each parent. Fourteen per cent of recently divorced or separated Canadian parents have shared living arrangements for their children with their ex-partner (meaning an equal amount of the child's time is spent living with each parent).⁵

An additional 5% of parents had split living arrangements, where some children live with one parent and others live the other parent. When living arrangements were not shared or split, most children lived with their mother. Most parents who do not live with their child remain involved in their child's life through contact with the child and/or participating in recreational or regular care activities.⁵