

A black and white photograph of two footprints in sand, one slightly larger than the other, set against a light, textured background. The footprints are positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.

chapter 14

DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

A child's lifelong trajectory for learning, health and behaviour is determined in early life. Their early environment interacts with their genetic composition during the development of the brain and other biological systems. Although later experiences can influence outcomes, early life experiences are built into a child's biology and affect the rest of their lives.² Effective prevention programs aimed at reducing negative experiences for children can reduce the social and economic burden of illness across the lifespan. This may reduce the need for costly and potentially less effective interventions later in life.

This report has provided a picture of the health status of children in Peel. For some topics data are available to understand health status, but for others they are not. This is not meant to imply that the topic is unimportant, rather that there are no national, provincial or local data available.

This report will be used as one source of information on the health of children in Peel for the purposes of program planning and evaluation. The data gaps identified in the report lead to an incomplete picture, and therefore Peel Public Health will advocate for surveillance efforts within these areas to help provide a more complete picture of child development.