

CHILDREN & YOUTH in Guelph and Wellington County *Demographics, Education & Employment*

This fact sheet highlights select trends and issues related to children and youth in the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington.

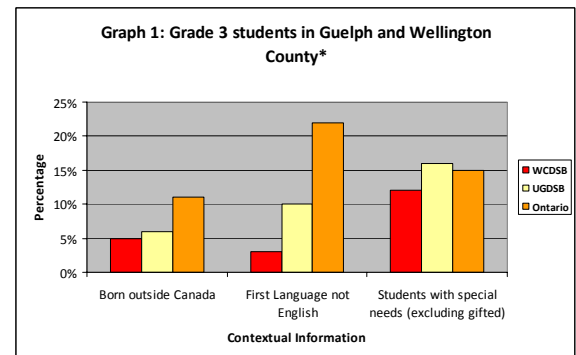
DEMOGRAPHICS

- Approximately 8.6% of the population of the City of Guelph and the County of Wellington are children aged 7-13 and 15.6% of the Guelph and Wellington population are youth aged 14-24 (see Table 1). These proportions are similar to the proportions of children and youth in Ontario.^{1,2}

Table 1: 2009 population projections for children aged 7-13 and youth aged 14-24^{3,4}

Population Counts	City of Guelph	County of Wellington	Ontario
Total population	123,099	91,290	13,069,182
Total 7-13 years	9,786	8,636	1,053,133
% of 7-13 year olds in Total Population	8%	9.5%	8%
Total 14-24 years	19,670	13,751	1,962,543
% of 14-24 year olds in Total Population	16%	15%	15%

- In 2009/2010, 6% of grade 3 students in the Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) and 5% of grade 3 students in the Wellington Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) were born outside of Canada. In addition, 10% of grade 3 students in the UGDSB did not speak English as their first language compared to only 2% of grade 3 students in the WCDSB (see Graph 1). These trends are similar among grade 6 students in both school boards.^{5,6}
- Eighteen percent of grade 3 students in the UGDSB and 12% of grade 3 students in WCDSB have special needs (see Graph 1). There are similar percentages in both school boards of grade 6 students with special needs.^{7,8}



EDUCATION

Class Size

- Small class sizes allow teachers to provide students with more individualized attention to meet their learning needs. In 2009/2010, all primary classes in the UGDSB had 23 students or fewer and 90.5% of classes had 20 students or fewer.⁹ This meets the Ministry of Education's targets for class size.

Testing

- The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) annually assesses reading, writing and math skills of Ontario's grade 3 and grade 6 students. Each year, EQAO also assesses the math skills of grade 9 students and the literacy skills of grade 10 students.
- Grade 3:** Results of the 2009 EQAO tests showed that 60% of grade 3 students in the WCDSB and UGDSB met or exceeded the provincial standard in reading. In writing, 67% met or exceeded the provincial standard, and 69% met or exceeded the provincial standard in math. This means that 31-40% of local grade 3 students did not meet the provincial standard in one of these areas. These results are similar to the Ontario-wide EQAO results.^{10,11}
- Grade 6:** Among grade 6 students in the WCDSB and UGDSB in 2009, 72% met or exceeded the

provincial standard in reading. In writing, 66% met or exceeded the provincial standard and 61% met or exceeded the provincial standard in math. This means that 28-39% of grade 6 students did not meet the provincial standard in one of these areas. When compared to Ontario, local students performed slightly better in reading and slightly lower in writing and math than the average student in Ontario.^{12, 13}

- **Grade 9:** Students in grade 9 enroll in either an applied or academic level math course. Different versions of the EQAO math test are administered to students based on their course enrollment. In the UGDSB and WCDSB, 49.3% of grade 9 students enrolled in applied math met or exceeded the provincial standard. This is higher than the provincial average of 43%. Of grade 9 students in the UGDSB and WCDSB enrolled in academic math, 85.3% met or exceeded the provincial standard. This is higher than the provincial average of 83%.¹⁴
- **Grade 10:** The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) determines if students can read and write at an acceptable level to succeed in the classroom, explore career options, and prepare for a promising future.¹⁵ In 2008/2009, 87% of grade 10 students in the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board successfully completed the OSSLT. This is higher than the provincial average of 85%.¹⁶
- An Ontario-wide study that examined grade 3 students' socioeconomic status and school achievement, found that children from very low income households had lower achievement on most school achievement measures than children from affluent households.¹⁷ Additionally, a significantly higher percentage of children from low income families had repeated a grade than children from higher income families.¹⁸

Attendance & Drop-Out Rates

- In Guelph and Wellington County, as many as 450 children ages 4 to 17 did not attend school regularly during the 2006/2007 school year. The largest percentages of these children were youth ages 14-16 missing high school.¹⁹
- Youth drop-out rates are decreasing across Ontario.

Over the period from 2001/2002 to 2004/2005, the drop-out rate for youth (defined as 20-24 year olds with no high-school diploma and not in school) was 9.1%, which is about half of the drop-out rate at the start of the 1990s.²⁰

- The majority of students who drop-out are young men. Of the 212,000 youth who dropped-out in Canada in 2004/2005, 63.7% (135,000) were men.²¹

EMPLOYMENT

- The May 2010 Labour Force Survey of Canada, indicated that there was a national employment rate of 55.4% for youth aged 15-24 years compared to an employment rate of 61.8% for the whole population 15 years of age and older. This number is adjusted seasonally.²²

*This graph do not include data from the two other school boards in Wellington County (Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest and Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud)

¹ Statistics Canada (2009). *CANSIM Table 051-0001: Estimates of population by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces, territories, annual (persons unless otherwise noted)*. Retrieved from <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/CNSMCGI.PGM>

² Original Source: Statistics Canada; 2006-2009 WDG Population Estimates (adjusted for undercounting). Prepared by P. Seliske WDG Public Health. April 9, 2010.

³ Statistics Canada (2009). *CANSIM Table 051-0001: Estimates of population by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces, territories, annual (persons unless otherwise noted)*. Retrieved from <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca/cgi-win/CNSMCGI.PGM>

⁴ Original Source: Statistics Canada; 2006-2009 WDG Population Estimates (adjusted for undercounting). Prepared by P. Seliske WDG Public Health. April 9, 2010.

⁵ Education Quality and Accountability Office. (2009). *Upper Grand DSB (66117)*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=79&Lang=E

⁶ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *Wellington Catholic DSB (67130)*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=27&Lang=E

⁷ Education Quality and Accountability Office. (2009). *Upper Grand DSB (66117)*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=79&Lang=E

⁸ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *Wellington Catholic DSB (67130)*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=27&Lang=E

⁹ Ontario Ministry of Education (2010). *School Board Progress Reports: Results for Upper Grand DSB & Wellington Catholic DSB*. Retrieved from <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/bpr/boardIndicator.asp?chosenBoard=34&chosenIndicator=7>

¹⁰ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *School Board Report. Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Upper Grand DSB & Wellington Catholic DSB*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/Download.aspx?rptType=PBS&_Mident=66117&YEAR=2009&assessmentType=6&orgType=B&nF=ijUdCGrzusGu9FNPmOQ33mRXPkjRNBTrTDWZRq6oNo=&displayLanguage=E

¹¹ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *School Board Report: Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics: Upper Grand DSB & Wellington Catholic DSB*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/Download.aspx?rptType=PBS&_Mident=67130&YEAR=2009&assessmentType=3&orgType=B&nF=ijUdCGrzusGu9FNPmOQ33vkhgf~plus~kRQkWCy85ZYHpGBk=&displayLanguage=E

¹² Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *School Board Report. Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics: Upper Grand DSB & Wellington DSB*. Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/Download.aspx?rptType=PBS&_Mident=66117&YEAR=2009&assessmentType=6&orgType=B&nF=ijUdCGrzusGu9FNPmOQ33mRXPkjRNBTrTDWZRq6oNo=&displayLanguage=E

¹³ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *School Board Report. Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics: Upper Grand DSB & Wellington Catholic DSBi*). Retrieved from http://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/Download.aspx?rptType=PBS&_Mident=67130&YEAR=2009&assessmentType=3&orgType=B&nF=ijUdCGrzusGu9FNPmOQ33vkhgf~plus~kRQkWCy85ZYHpGBk=&displayLanguage=E

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¹⁴ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2010). *School Board Report. Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics: Upper Grand DSB & Wellington Catholic DSB*. Retrieved from: <http://www.eqao.com/results/?status=logout&Lang=E>

¹⁵ Ontario Ministry of Education (2010). *School Board Progress Reports*. Retrieved from [Http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/bpr/boardIndicator.asp](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/bpr/boardIndicator.asp): retrieved June 6, 2010.

¹⁶ Education Quality and Accountability Office (2009). *School Board Report: First Time Eligible Students. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, Upper Grand DSB & Wellington Catholic DSB*. Retrieved from

https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/pbs/DownloadPublic.aspx?RptType=5&_Mident=66117&RptLang=E&_BatchID=1&_ApplySuppression=1&_OrgType=B

¹⁷ Thomas, E. (2009) Statistics Canada. *Children and Youth Research Paper Series. Canadian Nine-year-olds At School*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-599-m/89-599-m2009006-eng.pdf>

(EQAO 2008; Logerfo et al. 2006)

¹⁸ Thomas, E. (2009). Statistics Canada. *Children and Youth Research Paper Series. Canadian Nine-year-olds At School*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-599-m/89-599-m2009006-eng.pdf>

(EQAO 2008; Logerfo et al. 2006)

¹⁹ Welstead, S. (2009). *Children Not Attending School Regularly in Guelph & Wellington County: Child Characteristics & Risk Factors Associated with Absenteeism. Final Report*. 1-98.

²⁰ Statistics Canada (2008). *Provincial Drop-out Rates – Trends and Consequences*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-004-x/2005004/8984-eng.htm#b>

²¹ Statistics Canada (2008). *Provincial Drop-out Rates – Trends and Consequences*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/81-004-x/2005004/8984-eng.htm#b>

²² Statistics Canada (2010). *Labour Force Characteristics by Age and Sex 2010*. Retrieved from <http://www40.statcan.ca/l01/cst01/labor20a-eng.htm>