

TRENDS ANALYSIS: EDI – VULNERABLE CHILDREN

FALL 2014



What does this measure & why is it important?

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is administered by kindergarten teachers, and assesses the developmental readiness of a group of children. Children are considered vulnerable when some aspect of their development (physical, social/emotional or intellectual) is delayed at kindergarten entry. Examining EDI results over time allows us to assess trends in the percentage of kindergarten children in the region’s school districts who are vulnerable (Human Early Learning Partnership, 2013). Data for this indicator were acquired from the [University of British Columbia Human Early Learning Partnership](#).

The early years are crucial in influencing a range of health and social outcomes throughout one’s life. Research shows that many challenges in adult society – mental health problems, obesity, heart disease, criminality, competence in literacy and numeracy – have their roots in early childhood. Understanding where the most vulnerable young children live allows us to allocate our resources and adjust policies to most effectively support all children in their early years.

What are the trends & current conditions?

Currently, all seven school districts¹ in the region have a lower percentage of vulnerable kindergarten students than the provincial average (32.5%), including: Revelstoke (11%), Arrow Lakes (25%), Kootenay Lake (28%), Rocky Mountain (30%), Southeast Kootenay (24%), Boundary (28%), and Prince George Rural (31%). Between 2003 and 2013 the number of kindergarten students who were vulnerable on at least one aspect of their development decreased in 2 of the 7 school districts in the region (Revelstoke and Southeast Kootenay) (Figure 1). These two school districts countered the provincial upward trend in vulnerability.

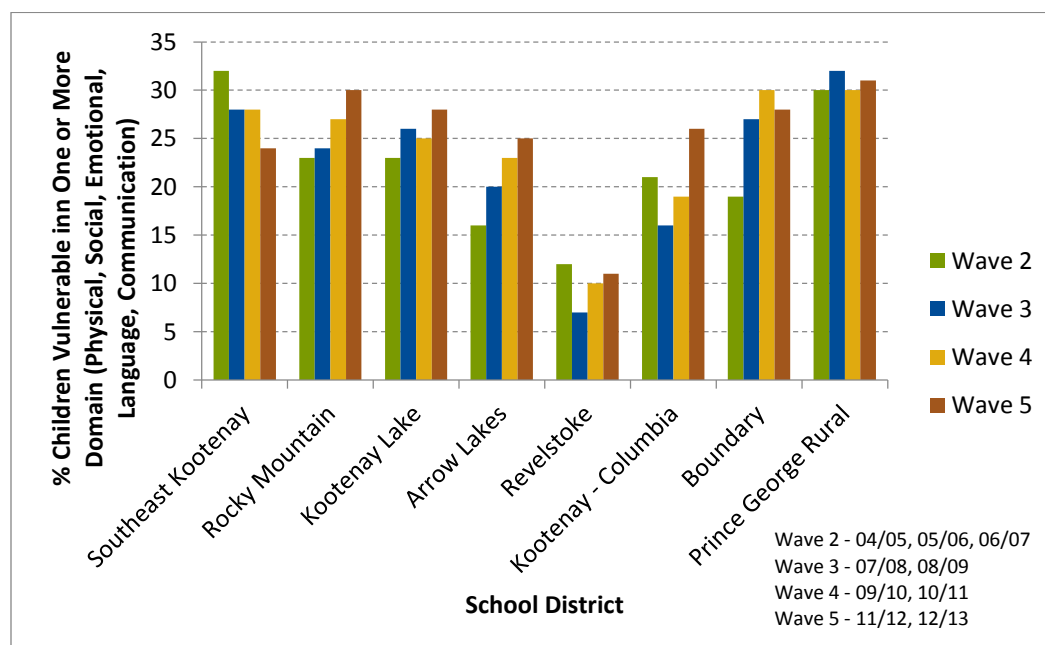


Figure 1: Early Development Index, percentage of children vulnerable in one or more domain
Source: Human Early Learning Partnership, 2014

¹ The Prince George School District ‘Neighbourhood’ of Prince George Rural was used to represent Valemount.

References

Human Early Learning Partnership (2013). *Early Development Index, All Years*. UBC – Human Early Learning Partnership. Retrieved on August 21, 2014 from: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi/>



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