



A Profile Of Young Children Under 5 In Delta

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For Delta Early Childhood Development Committee



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KEY 2006 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Population growth

- The population of Delta remained relatively unchanged between 2001 and 2006 at around 96,000 residents. Children under 6
- In 2006, there were fewer than 6,000 children in Delta under the age of 6 years, representing 4.5% of the children in this age group in Metro Vancouver.
- Nearly 60% of these children live in North Delta.
- There were 2,610 families in Delta with children under the age of six in Delta.

Families/ Households

- Almost one in eight families in the area is headed by a lone parent.
- Three quarters of all Delta households are single family households; 4% are multiple family households.

Ethnic Diversity/Mother Tongue

- 28% of Delta residents were born outside Canada compared to 40% in Surrey.
- Of the 27,000 immigrants to Delta, 57.5% arrived prior to 1991, 29% came between 1991 and 2001 and the remainder came to Canada after 2001.
- In Delta one in four (26%) did not speak English or French as their first language. Of those 25,000 people over one third (37%) spoke Punjabi. Most of those lived in North Delta, particularly in the area north of 72nd Avenue.
- In 2006 27% of the Delta population was a member of a visible minority.

Mobility

- 11% of Delta residents moved to a different address between 2005 and 2006, compared to 17% for Metro Vancouver as a whole.

Female Labour Force Participation

- The participation rate for women with children under 6 years was 75% in 2006 compared to the Metro Vancouver rate of 69.6%.

Low Income

- 10% of economic families in Delta lived in poverty in 2006 compared to 8.7% in 2001.
- In 2006, 14.1% of children under 6 lived in poverty in Delta.



INTRODUCTION

Delta is a suburban municipality in the southwest portion of Metropolitan Vancouver, bordered by the Fraser River on the north, the U.S. border and Boundary Bay on the south, the District of Surrey on the east and the Strait of Georgia on the west. Its land area is approximately 185 square kilometers and encompasses three distinct urban communities - the heritage village of Ladner and the community of Tsawwassen in the south and the area known as North Delta in the north. In addition there is a rural area which lies outside these three urban communities and includes the Tsawwassen First Nations Reserve.

The three main urban areas of Tsawwassen, Ladner, and North Delta are almost fully developed with very little land being developed or redeveloped. It is projected that Delta will have the lowest population growth of any municipality in Metro Vancouver over the next 25 years.

The Corporation of Delta Official Community Plan governs land use development on lands within municipal authority. Some lands have been identified for redevelopment to high density residential in the Tsawwassen area. There is very little residential development occurring in the Tsawwassen Area and there are no plans for the Corporation of Delta to change the Agricultural designation on the Southlands or Spetifore lands. Some lands have been identified for development and redevelopment to high density residential in the Ladner area, around Marina Garden Estates and Captain's Cove. Also the Delsom Estates development will result in significant residential growth in North Delta.

The Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, and Tsawwassen First Nations signed a Final Agreement in December 2006. The Final Agreement results in land transfers to the Tsawwassen First Nations. Land use plans and related servicing requirements have not been developed at this time.

(Source: Delta School District, 15 Year Enrolment Projection Report, 2007)

It should be noted that in this profile census information for North Delta is broken down into two geographic areas using 72nd Avenue as the north/ south divide.

Communities/ Reciprocal Census tracts, 2006 Census	
Community	Census Tracts
North Delta	
S of 72 Ave	162.01,162.04
N of 72 Ave	162.02,162.03,163.01,163.04-08
Tsawwassen	160.01-04
Ladner	161.02,161.03,161.05,161.06
Rural	161.01



POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Change in Population

The population of the province of BC grew by 5.3% between 2001 and 2006 to reach 4.1 million; in Metro Vancouver there was a 6.5% increase to bring the population of the region to just over 2.1 million.

According to the 2006 Census, the population of Delta remained steady with a count of 96,723 residents. This is a slight decline from 96,950 residents in 2001.

Children under 6

Provincially there were almost a quarter of a million children under 6 years of age in 2006 (N=245,940); in Metro Vancouver the number was 132,030 or 54% of all children under 6 in BC. In Delta there were 5,930, representing 2.4% of the provincial total and 4.5% of all children in this age group in Metro Vancouver.

Population aged 0-5 years for Delta Communities, 2006

Community	Total Population	Total 0-5	% 0-5 within community	% 0-5 within total pop
North Delta	51,625	3,535	6.8%	59.6%
S of 72 Ave	11,820	710	6.0%	12.0%
N of 72 Ave	39,805	2,825	7.1%	47.6%
Tsawwassen	20,935	1,065	5.1%	18.0%
Ladner	20,385	1,185	5.8%	20.0%
Rural	4,465	145	3.2%	2.4%
Total Delta	97,410	5,930	6.1%	100.0%
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada				

More than half (59%) lived in North Delta, the majority living north of 72nd Avenue. Ladner contributed 20% and Tsawwassen 18% of the total population in this age group. In the neighbouring municipality of Surrey and the city of White Rock there were 30,135 in this age category.

Family Structure

Of the 1.2 million children living in BC families in 2006, 78% lived in two parent families, the same as in 2001. The proportion of children living in one parent families (22%) was also the same.

Families by Type for Delta Communities, 2006							
Community	Total families	No. couple families		No. lone-parent families		Lone parents	
						Female	Male
North Delta	14,765	12,720	86.1%	2,020	13.7%	1,590	425
S of 72 Ave	3,430	3,065	89.4%	365	10.6%	290	75
N of 72 Ave	11,335	9,655	85.2%	1,655	14.6%	1,300	350
Tsawwassen	6,315	5,680	89.9%	625	9.9%	450	180
Ladner	5,835	5,010	85.9%	840	14.4%	665	180
Rural	1,290	1,180	91.5%	110	8.5%	95	15
Total Delta	27,995	24,430	87.3%	3,565	12.7%	2,765	795
*Couple families include married couples and common-law families Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada							

The majority of families in Delta are couple families (87%); almost 13% are lone parent families. In the urban communities this ranges from nearly 10% in Tsawwassen to 14.6% in the areas north of 72nd Avenue in North Delta.

In Delta as a whole there were 2,610 families with children under 6. Of those 2,290 lived in couple families and 320 lived in lone parent families.

(Unpublished 2006 census data, Canadian Council on Social Development)

Number of Children under 6 Living at Home

In Delta there were 33,580 children living at home of whom 6,005 (17.9%) were under the age of 6. In the urban communities this ranged from a low of 16.1% south of 72nd Avenue to 19.4% north of 72nd Avenue. Only 12.7% of all children living at home in the rural area were under the age of 6.

Number of Children under 6 years of age living at home in Delta Communities, 2006				
Community	Total number of children at home	Children at home under six years of age	% of all children living at home who are under 6	Average number of children at home
North Delta	19,475	3,625	18.6%	1.3
S of 72 Ave	4,620	745	16.1%	1.4
N of 72 Ave	14,855	2,880	19.4%	1.3
Tsawwassen	6,295	1,080	17.2%	1.0
Ladner	6,625	1,235	18.6%	1.2
Rural	1,105	140	12.7%	0.9
Total Delta	33,580	6,005	17.9%	1.2
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada				



Household Types

Three quarters of all households in Delta were single family households in 2006 and 21% were non-family households. For the municipality as a whole 1,320 or 3.9% were multiple family households. Three quarters of all multiple family households (1,005) were in North Delta, reflecting the multi-generational nature of the South Asian community in that area.

Families by Type for Delta Communities, 2006

Community	Total households by type	Single family		Multiple-family		Non-family	
North Delta	16,200	12,625	77.9%	1,005	6.2%	2,575	15.9%
S of 72 Ave	3,640	3,190	87.6%	110	3.0%	345	9.5%
N of 72 Ave	12,560	9,435	75.1%	895	7.1%	2,230	17.8%
Tsawwassen	8,395	6,130	73.0%	85	1.0%	2,180	26.0%
Ladner	7,430	5,425	73.0%	195	2.6%	1,800	24.2%
Rural	1,800	1,220	67.8%	30	1.7%	545	30.3%
Total Delta	33,550	25,190	75.1%	1,320	3.9%	7,040	21.0%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

Foreign Born Population

In 2006 approximately two out of three foreign born residents living in Metro Vancouver were from Asia (including the Middle East). In addition, approximately one in five foreign born residents were from European countries. The remaining 13% of foreign born residents were from elsewhere in the world including the U.S., South America, Central America, Africa and other countries.

In Delta as a whole, 28% of residents were born outside Canada with over one-third in North Delta.

Foreign Born Population for Delta Communities, 2006				
Community	Total population	Non-immigrants	Immigrants	% Foreign Born
North Delta	51,450	34,100	17,175	33.4%
S of 72 Ave	11,705	7,530	4,160	35.5%
N of 72 Ave	39,745	26,570	13,015	32.7%
Tsawwassen	20,860	16,140	4,590	22.0%
Ladner	20,175	15,600	4,460	22.1%
Rural	4,265	3,370	895	21.0%
Total Delta	96,075	68,655	27,020	28.1%
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada				

By comparison, foreign born residents in some of the neighbouring municipalities were much higher: Richmond 57%, Burnaby 51%, Vancouver 46%, Coquitlam 39% and Surrey 38%.

Period of Immigration

Of the approximately 27,000 immigrants to Delta, 57% arrived prior to 1991, 29% in the period 1991-2000 and 13.7% from 2001 to 2006. North Delta had the highest proportion of recent immigrants (namely, those arriving between 2001 and 2006) at 15% whereas Tsawwassen had only 12% of its immigrant population arriving since the beginning of this decade.

Immigrant Population by Period of Immigration for Delta Communities 2006

Community	Total immigrants	Before 1991		1991 to 2000		2001 to 2006	
North Delta	17,180	8,520	49.6%	6,060	35.3%	2,575	15.0%
S of 72 Ave	4,155	1,780	42.8%	1,700	40.9%	675	16.2%
N of 72 Ave	13,025	6,740	51.7%	4,360	33.5%	1,900	14.6%
Tsawwassen	4,590	3,220	70.2%	825	18.0%	540	11.8%
Ladner	4,460	3,075	68.9%	815	18.3%	560	12.6%
Rural	895	775	86.6%	100	11.2%	25	2.8%
Total Delta	27,020	15,535	57.5%	7,790	28.8%	3,695	13.7%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

In other municipalities the proportions of immigrants arriving between 2001 and 2006 was much higher: Burnaby 21%, Coquitlam, 20%, Surrey and Richmond 19% and Vancouver 17%.

Recent immigrants face a number of challenges including recognition of educational achievement, securing quality employment, linguistic isolation and cultural diversity. Together these challenges place great stress on children and families. Young children of recent immigrants are also more likely to struggle in school.

Immigration by Age

The following table shows that more than one third of all immigrants arrived during the years in which they were forming families, namely in the age group 25-44 years. It is understandable, therefore, that another one-fifth are likely the child dependants of their parents. Only 12% of all immigrants to Delta arrive after the age of 45 years.

Immigrant Population by Age at Immigration for Delta Communities, 2006

Community	Total immigrants	Under 5 yrs	5-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25-44 yrs	45+ yrs
North Delta	17,175	1,285 7.5%	2,895 16.9%	4,485 26.1%	6,135 35.7%	2,355 13.7%
S of 72 Ave	4,155	375 9.0%	955 23.0%	875 21.1%	1,520 36.6%	420 10.1%
N of 72 Ave	13,020	910 7.0%	1,940 14.9%	3,610 27.7%	4,615 35.4%	1,935 14.9%
Tsawwassen	4,595	430 9.4%	730 15.9%	1,085 23.6%	2,010 43.7%	325 7.1%
Ladner	4,455	480 10.8%	910 20.4%	1,110 24.9%	1,550 34.8%	405 9.1%
Rural	895	105 11.7%	160 17.9%	260 29.1%	300 33.5%	65 7.3%
Total Delta	27,020	2,300 8.5%	4,680 17.3%	6,930 25.6%	9,950 36.8%	3,160 11.7%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census

The table below gives an indication of the number of Delta residents who do not have English as their first language (26%). In North Delta that proportion is 36% whereas in the south Delta communities of Ladner and Tsawwassen it is 15.4% and 13.6% respectively and in the rural area it is 17.9%

Mother Tongue for Delta Communities, 2006							
Community	Total population	English		French		Non-official languages	
North Delta	50,365	31,860	63.3%	280	0.6%	18,220	36.2%
<i>S of 72 Ave</i>	11,590	7,680	66.3%	95	0.8%	3,815	32.9%
<i>N of 72 Ave</i>	38,775	24,180	62.4%	185	0.5%	14,405	37.2%
Tsawwassen	20,695	17,650	85.3%	230	1.1%	2,810	13.6%
Ladner	20,015	16,650	83.2%	280	1.4%	3,075	15.4%
Rural	4,255	3,465	81.4%	25	0.6%	760	17.9%
Total Delta	94,665	69,045	72.9%	830	0.9%	24,785	26.2%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census



The predominant non-official language is Punjabi at 37.3% in Delta overall and 44% in North Delta. North of 72nd Avenue one in two residents speak Punjabi rather than English and French.

Top Non-official languages for Delta Communities, 2006							
Community	North Delta	S of 72 Ave	N of 72 Ave	Tsawwassen	Ladner	Rural	Total Delta
Non-official languages	18,220 (100%)	3,815 (100%)	14,405 (100%)	2,810 (100%)	3,075 (100%)	760 (100%)	24,785 (100%)
Punjabi	7,980 43.8%	685 18.0%	7,295 50.6%	100 3.6%	815 26.5%	345 45.4%	9,240 37.3%
German	720 4.0%	205 5.4%	515 3.6%	515 18.3%	300 9.8%	130 17.1%	1,655 6.7%
Mandarin	1,220 6.7%	995 26.1%	225 1.6%	335 11.9%	85 2.8%	15 2.0%	1,640 6.6%
Chinese	1,025 5.6%	445 11.7%	580 4.0%	240 8.5%	145 4.7%	10 1.3%	1,410 5.7%
Hindi	1,190 6.5%	50 1.3%	1,140 7.9%	20 0.7%	30 1.0%	30 3.9%	1,275 5.1%
Cantonese	820 4.5%	300 7.9%	520 3.6%	140 5.0%	215 7.0%	10 1.3%	1,190 4.8%
Tagalog (Filipino)	725 4.0%	85 2.2%	640 4.4%	70 2.5%	270 8.8%	10 1.3%	1,080 4.4%
Spanish	570 3.1%	105 2.8%	465 3.2%	105 3.7%	85 2.8%	0 0.0%	775 3.1%
Other	3,970 21.8%	945 24.8%	3,025 21.0%	1,285 45.7%	1,130 36.7%	210 27.6%	6,520 26.3%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

Children who do not learn English or French in the home before school entry may experience difficulties in school. This is especially true of immigrant children who may live in a home where no one over the age of 13 speaks English very well. In addition, parents may have difficulty communicating with health professionals and/ or challenges participating in children's education.

(Hernandez, Donald. "Demographic Change and the Life Circumstances of Immigrant Families", *Future of Children*, 2004)



VISIBLE MINORITY POPULATION

In BC, 24.7% of the population was a member of a visible minority group in 2006, whereas in Metro Vancouver the proportion was 42%. In Delta 27% of the residents were members of a visible minority group. This is a growth of almost 10% since 2001.

South Asian is the predominant visible minority group in Delta (54.7%). By community it represents 59.5% of all visible minorities in North Delta (69% north of 72nd Avenue), 53% in Tsawwassen and 43% in Ladner.

Chinese is the predominant group south of 72nd Avenue at almost 53% and represents nearly 21% in Ladner.

The following table presents a breakdown of the visible minority population in Delta.

Visible Minority Population in Delta Communities, 2006							
Community	North Delta	S of 72 Ave	N of 72 Ave	Tsawwassen	Ladner	Rural	Total Delta
Total pop	51,440	11,705	39,735	20,860	20,165	4,270	96,075
Total VM pop	20,525	4,600	15,925	1,785	3,105	590	25,975
% VM	39.9%	39.3%	40.1%	8.6%	15.4%	13.8%	27.0%
S. Asian	12,210	1,265	10,945	940	1,335	445	14,215
	59.5%	27.5%	68.7%	52.7%	43.0%	75.4%	54.7%
Chinese	4,220	2,415	1,805	225	650	55	5,835
	20.6%	52.5%	11.3%	12.6%	20.9%	9.3%	22.5%
Filipino	1,265	165	1,100	50	450	45	1,860
	6.2%	3.6%	6.9%	2.8%	14.5%	7.6%	7.2%
Japanese	555	290	265	100	220	30	945
	2.7%	6.3%	1.7%	5.6%	7.1%	5.1%	3.6%
Latin Amer.	555	95	460	65	85	0	710
	2.7%	2.1%	2.9%	3.6%	2.7%	0.0%	2.7%
Korean	280	130	150	25	65	0	500
	1.4%	2.8%	0.9%	1.4%	2.1%	0.0%	1.9%
Black	325	75	250	0	115	0	495
	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%	1.9%
S.E. Asian	335	45	290	25	30	10	415
	1.6%	1.0%	1.8%	1.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.6%
W. Asian	120	0	120	145	35	0	180
	0.6%	0.0%	0.8%	8.1%	1.1%	0.0%	0.7%
Arab	110	70	40	135	0	0	95
	0.5%	1.5%	0.3%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
Other	40	0	40	10v	10	0	70
	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Multiple VM	505	50	455	30	95	0	645
	2.5%	1.1%	2.9%	1.7%	3.1%	0.0%	2.5%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census



ABORIGINAL POPULATION

In Metro Vancouver as a whole there were 40,000 people who identified as Aboriginal in 2006; of those, there were 1,700 in Delta. This number is up from 1,485 in 2001 and 895 in 1996; over the decade 1996-2006 there has been a near doubling of absolute numbers.

By community in 2006, there were 985 (58%) in North Delta, 440 (26%) in Ladner, 220 (13%) in Tsawwassen and 250 (15%) in the rural area. Although the Tsawwassen First Nations Reserve is located in Delta it is clear that those who identify themselves as Aboriginal are scattered throughout the municipality.

The Aboriginal population is much younger than the non-Aboriginal population with the median age in BC being 28 years compared to 41 years for the non-Aboriginal population in 2006. Five years ago children under the age of six represented 9% of the Aboriginal population but only 5% of the non-Aboriginal population. (Note that this data is not yet available for 2006).

In 2006, the majority of Aboriginal children in BC aged 14 and under (58%) lived with both parents, while 28% lived with a lone mother and 6% with a lone father. In addition, 3% of Aboriginal children lived with a grandparent (with no parents present) and 5% lived with another relative. In contrast, 13% of non-Aboriginal children in BC lived with a lone mother, 3% with a lone father, 0.5% with a grandparent (with no parent present) and 1% with another relative.

More Aboriginal peoples choose to live in cities instead of remote rural areas. In BC, 60% of the Aboriginal population lived in urban areas while 26% lived on Indian Reserves. Aboriginal children living off reserve have a poverty rate that is almost twice as large as for non-aboriginal children.



In Delta four out of five residents (81%) own their own home; in the area south of 72nd Avenue the rate is as high as 93%. In comparison, the rate of home ownership in Vancouver was 48% in 2006.

Housing Tenure for Delta Communities, 2006					
Community	Total occupied dwellings	Owned		Rented	
North Delta	16,195	13,405	82.8%	2,790	17.2%
<i>S of 72 Ave</i>	3,645	3,390	93.0%	250	6.9%
<i>N of 72 Ave</i>	12,550	10,015	79.8%	2,540	20.2%
Tsawwassen	8,400	6,860	81.7%	1,545	18.4%
Ladner	7,425	5,905	79.5%	1,525	20.5%
Rural	1,800	1,325	73.6%	465	25.8%
Total Delta	33,550	27,265	81.3%	6,290	18.7%
Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census					

The allocation of 30% or more of a household's income to housing expenses provides a useful benchmark for assessing trends in housing affordability. In 2006 20% of owners and 41% of renters spent more than 30% of their income on housing in Delta; the comparative figures for Vancouver were 29% and 45% respectively.

High levels of mobility may be stressful for families and young children. This may affect the degree to which families know their neighbours, or are familiar with the resources around them. Families in neighbourhoods with high mobility are less likely to connect with other families for informal support and information. In general, Canadian families tend to be quite mobile, particularly within more urban neighbourhoods.

On average, 11% of Delta residents changed homes in the year prior to the census, unchanged from the 2001 census. In Metro Vancouver as a whole 17% of the population had moved from 2005 to 2006.

Mobility Status (Those who moved to a different address from previous year), for Delta communities, 2006					
Community	Total Pop	Non-movers		Movers	
North Delta	50,850	45,160	88.8%	5,690	11.2%
<i>S of 72 Ave</i>	11,610	10,450	90.0%	1,160	10.0%
<i>N of 72 Ave</i>	39,240	34,710	88.5%	4,530	11.5%
Tsawwassen	20,740	18,260	88.0%	2,480	12.0%
Ladner	19,965	17,745	88.9%	2,220	11.1%
Rural	4,255	3,740	87.9%	520	12.2%
Total Delta	95,145	84,330	88.6%	10,815	11.4%
Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census					

In addition to being socially disruptive, this level of transience is a huge challenge for community development approaches to child development and to the continuity of care for children with special needs. When children reach school age, it becomes a further challenge for educational momentum and continuity. Increasing family residential mobility has been associated with higher levels of behavioural vulnerability in middle childhood. It is reasonable to infer that the high rates of residential transience in inner city neighbourhoods complicate efforts to build social cohesion that impacts children in those areas.

(Source: Hertzman et al., *Early Development in Vancouver: Report of the Community Asset Mapping Project*. Vancouver: Human Early Learning Partnership, 2002.)

Overall, just under 10% of Delta residents have less than a high school education, with a low of 3.4% in Tsawwassen and as high as 14% north of 72nd Avenue in North Delta. Almost three quarters of South Delta residents in Tsawwassen have a post-secondary education.

Educational Attainment (25-64 yrs) by Delta Communities, 2006							
Community	Total aged 25 to 64	Less than high school graduation		High school graduation certificate or equivalent		Post secondary degree, certificate or diploma	
North Delta	28,455	3,545	12.5%	8,180	28.7%	16,705	58.7%
S of 72 Ave	6,585	480	7.3%	1,650	25.1%	4,450	67.6%
N of 72 Ave	21,870	3,065	14.0%	6,530	29.9%	12,255	56.0%
Tsawwassen	11,020	380	3.4%	2,760	25.0%	7,865	71.4%
Ladner	11,010	975	8.9%	3,260	29.6%	6,760	61.4%
Rural	2,380	235	9.9%	580	24.4%	1,560	65.5%
Total Delta	52,465	5,100	9.7%	14,715	28.0%	32,645	62.2%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

Higher parental education is positively related to the language development of children. Studies have shown that the education level of the primary caregiver, often the mother, is of particular significance to the child's readiness for school. Mothers with at least a high school diploma talk more often to their children (resulting in higher oral language skills) and provide more enriching learning environments as well as more positive parenting.



Commuting to and from work has implications for the time that is taken away from family. In Delta 54% of the labour force worked outside their community with a high of 63.4% south of 72nd Avenue and a low of 43.4% in Tsawwassen. One in eight (12.2%) work from home in Tsawwassen and one in five (21%) in the rural area of Delta.

Place of Work for Delta residents, 2006

Community	Total Labour Force 15+ yrs	Within same community		Outside community		Working at home		Outside Canada		No fixed workplace address	
North Delta	27,520	4,805	17.5%	16,795	61.0%	1,760	6.4%	200	0.7%	3,955	14.4%
<i>S of 72 Ave</i>	6,295	1,045	16.6%	3,990	63.4%	555	8.8%	90	1.4%	610	9.7%
<i>N of 72 Ave</i>	21,225	3,760	17.7%	12,805	60.3%	1,205	5.7%	110	0.5%	3,345	15.8%
Tsawwassen	10,550	3,135	29.7%	4,580	43.4%	1,290	12.2%	100	0.9%	1,435	13.6%
Ladner	10,760	3,520	32.7%	5,215	48.5%	835	7.8%	55	0.5%	1,130	10.5%
Rural	2,235	530	23.7%	900	40.3%	460	20.6%	10	0.4%	340	15.2%
Total Delta	50,635	11,950	23.6%	27,235	53.8%	4,275	8.4%	350	0.7%	6,825	13.5%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

Women in the Labour Force

The participation rate of women in the labour force, particularly those with young children remains high. In BC the participation rate for women with children under the age of six was 68.5%; in Metro Vancouver it was 69.6%. For women who had children both under and over 6 years the rates were 68.4% and 67.4%.

Participation rates of Women in the Labour Force, Delta, 2006

Community	Females 15 yrs + with children under 6 years only			Females 15 yrs + with children under 6 years and over 6 years		
	No. Females	In labour force	Partic rate	No. Females	In labour force	Partic rate
North Delta	1,520	1,130	74.3%	1,205	905	75.1%
<i>S of 72 Ave</i>	300	210	70.0%	250	205	82.0%
<i>N of 72 Ave</i>	1,220	920	75.4%	955	700	73.3%
Tsawwassen	440	320	72.7%	355	240	67.6%
Ladner	540	420	77.8%	340	220	64.7%
Rural	60	55	91.7%	50	30	60.0%
Total Delta	2,560	1,915	74.8%	1,950	1,395	71.5%

Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census

The rates for Delta are higher than those of the province as a whole. Three quarters of women with children under the age of six were in the labour force; the participation rate of women with children under and over 6 years of age was 71.5%.



LOW INCOME

Low Income

Low income is related to poorer outcomes in children's health, development and achievement. Children may eat less nutritious food, have decreased access to health services, have fewer learning materials in the home, participate in fewer learning opportunities outside the home, experience harsher and less nurturing parenting and have fewer role models in the neighbourhood.

(Brooks-Gunn, J. Neighbourhood Poverty: Context and Consequences for Children, 1997)

In 2006, BC had the highest child poverty rate in Canada for the fifth year in a row, despite the strong provincial economy. The proportion of children living in poverty in BC was 21.9 %, (estimated at 181,000 children), well above the national child poverty rate of 15.8%. BC is the only province where the child poverty rate was actually higher in 2006 than in 1997 despite increases in child benefits.

(BC Campaign 2000, Child Poverty Report Card, 2008)

The 2006 poverty line released by the Canadian Council on Social Development for a family of four in this area was \$39,399.

In 2006, there were 26,775 families in Delta, of whom 10% were living in or near poverty compared to 17.1% in Metro Vancouver overall and 13.3% provincially. In 2001 the Delta rate was 8.7%.

Proportions living in Low Income Situations in Delta, 2006				
	Delta		Metro Vancouver	
	No.	% LICO	No.	% LICO
Total Economic Families	26,775	10.0%	557,270	17.1%
Male lone parent	670	17.8%	14,420	22.2%
Female lone parent	2,440	29.5%	64,080	35.0%
Children less than 6	6,055	14.1%	126,105	21.5%
Source: Statistics Canada 2006 Census Note this data is not available for sub-communities in Delta				

The poverty rate for BC children living in families headed by lone-parent mothers was 50.3% in 2006, while the poverty rate for BC children in two-parent families was 16.3%.

(BC Campaign 2000, Child Poverty Report Card, 2008)

Amongst lone parent families in Delta the 2006 census reported that almost 18% of male single parents and 29.5% of single mothers lived in poverty. In Delta 14% of children less than 6 years were poor. Across Metro Vancouver the proportion was 21.5%; for the province as a whole it was 19.6%.



Income Assistance

For recipients of income assistance considered employable, shelter and support allowances have remained virtually the same since 2001, even though some individuals and families saw a \$50 increase to both in 2007. This increase only returned some, for example the lone parent family, to the support rate of 2001.

The increases fall short of what groups such as BC Campaign 2000 and the BC Raise the Rates coalition have demanded. They have been campaigning to increase the welfare rates to reflect Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's Market Basket Measures. The current welfare income for a family of four in BC is \$20,451. The Market Basket Measure for Metro Vancouver updated to 2007 would be \$32,099.

The following table shows the breakdown of all children less than 19 years of age in Delta who lived in families on income assistance in September 2008. This represents approximately 214 children in this age group in Delta. Most are living in single parent homes.

Living Arrangements of Children Under 19 Years of Age Receiving Basic Income Assistance*--September 2008					
Local Health Area	Total Population Under 19	Children on Basic Income Assistance As a Percent of all Children under 19			
		Total	Living in 2 Parent Families	Living in 1 Parent Families	Not Living With Parent
Delta	23,835	0.9	0.1	0.8	-
British Columbia	896,769	2.1	0.3	1.8	0.0
Source: Ministry of Employment & Income Assistance Administrative Files and BC Stats. Population Estimates. Prepared by BC STATS. November 18, 2008.					

* These figures include only a subset of those receiving Income Assistance. INCLUDED are those on Temporary Assistance. EXCLUDED are those on Continuous Assistance (Disabled or with persistent multiple barriers to employment), Children in the Home of a Relative, and OAS/Seniors. A recipient is defined in these reports as 'each person living in a family or living alone that is receiving basic Income Assistance'. Data do not include aboriginal people living on reserve.

The **Cost of Eating** in BC 2007 report also demonstrates that income assistance is too low to pay rent and buy healthy food. Each year, dietitians throughout BC price a basket of food at a number of grocery stores using a standardized food costing tool called the National Nutritious Food Basket (NFB). The basket contains 66 basic foods that require preparation. The cost of the food basket is then compared to disposable income for a number of family scenarios. For those on income assistance, or with a low earned income, shelter and food costs consume an unreasonable proportion.

Cost of Eating in BC, 2007				
Monthly Costs	Family of 4 on I.A.	Single parent, 2 children on I.A.		Family of 4 average income
Disposable income	\$1,711	\$1,671	\$2,274	\$4,289
Cost of shelter	\$1,104	\$1,104	\$1,104	\$1,427
% income needed for shelter	65%	66%	49%	33%
Cost of food	\$715	\$521	\$715	\$715
% income needed for food	42%	31%	31%	17%
% income (\$) left for all other costs	-7% (-\$108)	97% (\$46)	80% (\$455)	50% (\$2,147)
Source: Dietitians of Canada, The Cost of Eating in BC, 2007				

Food Banks

More than 78,000 British Columbians used food banks in 2008; 31% (over 24,000) were children. Equally alarming is the number of employed people standing in food bank lines. In 2008 14.4% of food bank clients in BC were working, a 26% increase over last year.

(Source: Canadian Association of Food Banks, Hunger Count, 2008).

At the Surrey Food Bank nearly 14,000 people are fed every month; nearly half of them are babies and children. At the time that this report was completed there were no definitive numbers on the number of Delta children using food banks in 2008.

The Tiny Bundles is a very special program offered by the Surrey Food Bank to pregnant moms and families with babies up to one year old. In December 2008 this program had 263 babies up to the age of one year registered in it. Tiny Bundles "moms" receive a food hamper every week (instead of every two weeks) as well as eggs & milk while pregnant or nursing. Hampers are supplemented with fresh vegetables and other nutritious foods. Diapers, formula (if needed), pabulum and baby food are also provided. New parents also receive a layette upon birth of their child.



HEALTH OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Live Births

There were 866 births in Delta in 2007 (BC Vital Statistics Agency, Quarterly Digest 4, 2007). The live birth rate per 1,000 population for 2001-5 in Delta was 9.5 compared to 13.7 in Surrey. In the province overall the highest rate was 15.7 and the lowest 4.9.

The number of live babies born to women aged 35 years and older per 1,000 live births for 2001-5 was 241.4 in Delta. The highest in BC was 438.2 and the lowest 75.0. (Fraser Health Decision Support Services and Office of Medical Health Officer. Health Profile 2007, p. 71, December 2007.)

Teen Pregnancies are the sum of live birth, stillbirths and abortions to females aged 15 to 19 years old. The teen pregnancy rate in Delta was the lowest in the Fraser Region at 14.7, compared to 27.7 for BC as a whole. From 2000 to 2005 the teen pregnancy rate for the Fraser Health Region dropped from 34.5 to 25.9. (Fraser Health Decision Support Services and Office of Medical Health Officer. Health Profile 2007, p. 76, December 2007.)

Low Birth Weight

Low birth weight (less than 2,500 grams) has been linked to infant mortality, physical disability and long term health problems including heart disease and diabetes. Low birth weight also increases the risk of chronic respiratory problems, learning difficulties and has long-term health consequences for health and quality of life.

Smoking, poor nutrition during pregnancy and drug and alcohol use all contribute to low birth rates.

Over the last 10 years the low birth weight rate in the Fraser Health Region has remained higher than the BC rate and in the 2001-5 period the rates were 55.1 and 53.5 respectively. In Delta the rate was 50.5. (Fraser Health Decision Support Services and Office of Medical Health Officer. Health Profile 2007, p. 72, December 2007.)

The low birth weight rates in 2005 by the age of the mother are highest among mothers aged 45 years and older in the Fraser Region (125.0).

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is considered to be an indicator of the level of social and economic development and the level of health care, as well as the preventive care and attention paid to the health of mother and child.

The infant mortality rate (the number of deaths among infants under one year of age) has been steadily declining and in BC the 2001-5 rate was 4.23. In Delta the rate was lower at 3.71.



Family Resource Centres and Family Drop-In Programs

There are several programs available in Delta for young children and their families.

Family Resource Centres provide a place for Parents/Caregivers and children to interact in a warm, nurturing environment. They provide support and information to young families that enhance parenting skills and literacy awareness as well as information on parenting, child development and community networking. Some of the programs are also provided at local libraries, schools and churches. Between April and October 2008 there were 230 different families using the North Delta Family Resource Centre and 234 using the South Delta Family Resource Centre.

The Family Place Drop-In is a place to meet other parents / caregivers of young children with the possibility for networking and sharing parenting and family ideas. It also gives children a chance to play, interact and socialize with other children. Parents can enjoy activities with their children, as well as access information and resources. In Delta 269 families used the drop-in facilities between April and October 2008.

Family Resource Centre Drop-In Statistics, April-October, 2008		
Location	# Registered Families	Average Attendance (# of families per session)
Total Drop In , North Delta	171	
Main Centre: New Hope Church Drop In	151	37
Gibson School Drop In	20	7
Total Drop In, South Delta	158	Average of 367 child visits & 263 adult visits per month.
Drop In: Ladner Early Childhood Hub	134	40
Young Parents Group Drop In	9	6
Pebble Hill School Drop In	15	12
Source: Boys and Girls Club Community Services, Statistics, April-October 2008		

Parent-Child Mother Goose

The **Parent-Child Mother Goose** program is a group experience for parents and their babies and young children focusing on the pleasure and power of using rhymes, songs and stories together. The parents gain skills and confidence which can enable them to create positive family patterns during their children's crucial early years and give their children healthy early experiences with language and communication. This program, offered by Boys and Girls Club Community Services, almost always has a waitlist so the agency has been offering additional programs over the last 3 months.



Parent Child Mother Goose Statistics, April-October, 2008

	# Registered Families	Aver. Attendance/ Session
Total Mother Goose	82	
George Mackie Library	17	15
NDFRC	10	8
Punjabi	10	7
Ladner Health Unit <i>(moved to Hub as of July, 2008)</i>	12	9
Ladner Health Unit	10	7
Pebble Hill	5	4
Tsawwassen Library	9	9
Ladner HUB	9	7
Wait List	8	Not applicable

Source: Boys and Girls Club Community Services, Statistics, April-October 2008

Family Empowerment Program

The Family Empowerment program is an ongoing, weekly facilitated support group for parents / caregivers wanting to improve their parenting skills by exploring their options in a nurturing, non-judgmental environment. While the parents / caregivers meet with a facilitator in one room the children are also facilitated in a separate children's program of their own with developmentally appropriate preschool activities to enhance their development. In the Mom's Time group, we are currently serving two special needs children.

Some of the issues addressed in the parents' group might include parenting concerns raised by the participants, self-esteem building, stress and anger management and health and nutrition.

Family Empowerment Statistics, April-October, 2008

Family Empowerment Programs	28 Registered Families	Aver. Attendance/ Session
Family Empowerment	8	7
South Asian	9	7
FEP (Mom's Time)	8	5
Grandparents	3	2

Source: Boys and Girls Club Community Services, Statistics, April-October 2008

There is a separate South Asian Family Empowerment program in North Delta that is facilitated in both English and Punjabi. Information is provided on parenting, child development, community networking and other issues common to parents of young children. There is also a children's component to the program where content is developmentally appropriate to encourage skill development and the use of the English language. This program provides a wonderful opportunity for children before they enter Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Readiness Program

The **Kindergarten Readiness** program is offered in specific schools each spring and offers developmentally appropriate activities for children while assisting with needed Kindergarten skills. Parents spend time with the children learning ways to encourage their child's development. Visits to the library are part of this time limited program for children who have not attended pre-school and will begin Kindergarten in September. Mothers, fathers, grandparents and caregivers are all welcome to take part.

Participation in Kindergarten Readiness Programs, April-October, 2008		
Kindergarten Readiness Program	111 Registered Families	Aver. Attendance/ Session
Gibson	16	14
Chalmers	15	13
Delta Manor	13	11
Jarvis	19	Not applicable
Hellings	19	Not applicable
McCloskey	17	Not applicable
Richardson	12	Not applicable
Wait List	0	Not applicable
Source: Boys and Girls Club Community Services, Statistics, April-October 2008		

School District Early Learning Programs

As part of the new provincial literacy plan, the Delta School Board initiated a number of early learning programs.

StrongStart centres at Hellings elementary and McCloskey elementary began in 2007 and offered a free drop-in program for parents or caregivers and their children. Qualified early childhood educators lead activities, including stories, music and arts, to help children grow linguistically, physically and socially, and become comfortable in a school-like setting. Rarely did those programs have less than 10 children and on some days there were more than 20 in attendance. In 2008 three new centres opened at Chalmers, Jarvis and Ladner elementary schools.

Ready, Set, Learn introduces three years olds to the local school, where the program is meant to encourage parents to read to their preschooler. Between January and March 2008 26 different events were held, which attracted 278 youngsters.

A program called **Starting with Stories** was held at 20 schools, each holding 4 sessions from February to April 2008. Parents and grandparents of 4 year olds were invited to learn about the importance of reading and sharing stories.

(Delta School Board, Early Learning and Early Literacy)



ParentConnect Program

Boys and Girls Club Community Services is also starting a program called **Parent Connect**, which will serve both Surrey and Delta. It is an outreach program for high risk families pregnant or with children under 6 years. Currently there is capacity for about 6-8 client families per cycle, and the program duration is maximum one year. At this time there are no available figures. As the program has only recently begun accepting referrals, there are no available figures.

Nobody's Perfect Program

Deltassist Family and Community Services offers the **Nobody's Perfect** program. This is a free six week parenting program offered to parents with children from birth to five years of age. It provides useful information about children's health, safety, development and behaviour, as well as supporting and encouraging confidence in positive parenting. There was no program in July to September but there were 10 parents recruited for the November/ December group. Seven have started the program and 6 have completed it.

(Deltassist Family and Community Services)

The **Young Parent Outreach Program** helps teen and young parents with support, parent education and mentoring to enable them to meet personal development goals and encourage the healthy development of their children. From July to September 2008 there were four clients *(Deltassist Family and Community Services)*

Healthiest Babies Possible

This program provides support during pregnancy for high risk pregnant women, their partners and families with babies up to 6 months old in the communities of Surrey, Delta and White Rock.

Through prenatal nutrition and lifestyle counseling, the aim is to decrease the incidence of low birth weight and babies affected by prenatal substance abuse. Services include assessment, individual health counseling, referrals, peer support, nutritional education, food supplements, and support groups for women who are pregnant or up to six months post-partum.

The program offers one-to-one visits and a weekly support group which includes lunch, guest speakers, childcare and social time. Grocery store gift certificates and prenatal vitamins are provided for those in financial need. All services are free, confidential and are available in Cantonese, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi, and Spanish.

Statistical information for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 is as follows:

Program Statistics Healthiest Babies Possible, Delta April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008	
Total participants *	63
Number of infants born	33
Number of low birth weight babies born	4 (2 were multiple births)
% of singleton low birth weight births	6.5%
* Total participants: participants involved with HBP to delivery and/or up to 8 months postpartum. Source: Healthiest Babies Possible Program,, OPTIONS	

Waiting List Statistics Healthiest Babies Possible, Delta April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008	
Number of participants on Waiting List (Monthly average)	6
Average number of days on Waiting List	26
Source: Healthiest Babies Possible Program,, OPTIONS	

Child Care Services

There are increasing numbers of women with children under the age of 6 in the labour force. In 2006 the participation rate Delta was 75%.

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) program offers free consultation, support, assistance with child care subsidy applications, and referral services to parents seeking child care in Delta. The program supports child care providers through information, outreach, resource library, networking and learning opportunities.

Child Care Statistics For Delta, January – September 2008					
Type of Facilities	Ladner	Tsawwassen	North Delta	Total Delta Total Facilities	Total Capacity
Licensed Family Child Care	13	9	41	63	441
CHILD CARE					
Family Child Care, License not reqd.	2	0	6	8	16
Preschool (32 mths – 5 yrs)	10	10	14	34	659
Licensed Multiple	7	3	7	17	707 SAC = 473 GRP= 234
Group Care Over 3 yrs	0	1	3	4	65
In Home Multi (birth – 12 yrs)	1	1	4	6	48
Total Child Care Spaces for Children up to 5 yrs	33	24	75	132	1,936
School Age Care	2	2	6	10	180
Source: Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program					

In the first nine months of 2008 there were 132 spaces for children up to the age of 12 years in Delta, the bulk of which were in licensed family facilities. The total capacity in these facilities was 2,116.



During the same period the Child Care Resource and Referral program received 414 requests for referrals.

Delta Families Requests For Referrals January – September 2008			
Ladner	Tsawwassen	North Delta	Total
72	38	304	414
Source: Child Care Options Resource and Referral Program			

Mobile Child Care Services

This service provides child care to programs such as community kitchens, parent support groups and parent workshops and meetings. Having a service to care for children reduces barriers to participation and increases access to services/programs.

In 2007/8

- There were 561 children served in this program, which was an increase of 200 (35%) from the previous year.
- 439 adults used the program, up by 137 (31%) from the year before.

Source: Mobile Child Minding, OPTIONS, Surrey, November 2008

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS

Reach Child and Youth Development Society

Reach provides a range of programs to support families of children with special needs from birth to eighteen years of age. These programs include:

Reach Society's Infant Development Program

The Infant Development Program is family centred and developed for children from birth to age 3 who are at risk for, or who are presenting a delay in development.

The following statistics reflect the period April 1 2007 to March 31, 2008 in Delta. (Sherrie Jamieson, Reach Child and Youth Family Development Society)

- 182 children served
- 8 of children on waitlist
- 611 home visits; average of 18 home visits per IDP consultant per month
- 65 families discharged from program
- 25 (38%) because child turned 3
- 13 (20%) as child had caught up in their development
- 40 children were discharged and went to preschool/ daycare; 30 with supported child development

- There were 3 Mother Goose programs offered during this time period; the average number in attendance was 34
- There were 2 playgroup session offered per week, with 780 in attendance in the north end of Delta and 733 in the south

In 2007/8 the program increased the number of consultants and the ability to offer ongoing Mother Goose sessions. The Ministry of Children and Family Development in the Fraser Region has prioritized children in care for service from the Infant Development Program. The reasoning for this was that children in care often do not stay in a setting for long periods of time so they may be placed in a different foster home in a different community before a consultant can have a chance to see them. If a child continues to move they may continue to be put on a waitlist or they may not get a file transferred from one program to another if the information of the child's relocation is not provided to IDP. Studies have shown the children in care are at a higher risk for developmental delay so it is vital that they have access to this program.

The opening of the Play and Learn Centre has allowed IDP to improve service to families living in North Delta through the facilitation of the playgroup as well as offering a meeting location in their own neighborhood.

Reach Society's Supported Child Development Program

In order to be effectively included within a child care setting it is recognized that some children may require extra support. Supported Child Development programs (SCD) serve children from birth to 12 years of age who require extra support and are, or will be, attending a child care setting.

Some children may be identified as needing support due to a delay or difficulty in some area of development. Other children may demonstrate some need for support that has not been identified. In these situations, supported child development works with families and child care providers to meet the individual needs.

The SCD consultant will make visits to the child care setting as well as home visits with families. Team meetings are arranged to address individual needs and a range of other supports are also available through the program.

From April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 supported child care was offered to 157 children, of which 122 (78%) were under 6 years of age. There were 100 children in preschool with the remainder in child care settings. (Sherrie Jamieson, Reach Child and Youth Family Development Society)

During that time period the programs at Reach and K'la How Eya signed a protocol agreement which outlined procedures for the delivery of Supported Child Development for aboriginal children in Delta. In August 2007 the Ministry of Children and Family Development transferred administration of the SCD funding for the Medically Fragile children and youth in Delta, Surrey and Langley to Reach. There were 4 children who are receiving this funding from Reach.

Reach Society's Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention (EIBI) Program

EIBI is an interdisciplinary program which provides children with an autism spectrum diagnosis with 20 hours of one-to-one behavioural intervention per week. Programming and supervision of the program is provided by an interdisciplinary team consisting of a behaviour consultant, associate behaviour consultant, speech-language pathologist and occupational therapist.

The program is available to children up to the age of six years who live in Delta, Surrey, or Langley. The Ministry of Children and Family Development fully funds 21 spaces in this program and that is generally the caseload.

For children waiting for EIBI services, REACH offers a waitlist support program (EIBI-IF). Families can use their individualized funding to purchase a behavioural intervention program. Children in this program receive approximately 10 hours of behavioural intervention per week. Programming and supervision of the program is provided by a behaviour consultant and an associate behaviour consultant. Children are eligible to receive community speech-language pathology and occupational therapy services.

The EIBI-IF caseload varies depending on staffing. In general there are 6-14 children enrolled in the EIBI-IF program.

(Eva Major, Reach Child and Youth Development Society – EIBI Program),

Reach Society's Positive Behavioural Support Program

Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) is a provincially funded in-home support program for families with children with special needs, including children with autism, ages 3 to 19 who present with behavioural challenges. Individualized assessments, plans, and strategies for supporting children are developed and then implemented by families in their home. Between April 2007 and March 2008 6 children used this program.

(Carol Ywan, Reach Child and Youth Development Society)

Reach Society's Early Intervention Therapies Program

The Reach Therapies Program provides speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy to children from birth to kindergarten entry age who are attending Reach programs. Therapists work as team members with families, early childhood educators and other professionals to provide individualized programs.

There were 119 children served from April 2007 to March 2008.

- 87 children received speech and language therapy with 31 waitlisted
- 62 received occupational therapy; 36 on a waiting list
- 55 were in physiotherapy programs; 39 waitlisted.

It should be noted that some children are referred to more than one form of therapy.

(Sherrie Jamieson, Reach Child and Youth Family Development Society)

The Centre for Child Development Early Intervention Therapies Program – Delta

The Centre provides Communication Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy to children from birth to school age in Delta.

April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

Occupational Therapy

- Number of individual clients seen – 22
- Number of client visits – 539
- Average number of children on the waitlist each month – 14
- As of March 31, 2008 there were 13 children on the waitlist.

We started dividing the waitlist by district in May, 2007. June 2008 was the beginning of a combined waitlist between The Centre and REACH for Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Prior to this time, the same child was often on both waitlists.

Physiotherapy

- Number of individual clients seen – 24
- Number of client visits – 736
- Average number of children on the waitlist each month – 2
- As of March 31, 2008 there were 2 children on the waitlist.

Communication Therapy

- Number of individual clients seen – 23
- Number of client visits – 455
- Average number of clients on waitlist each month – 7
- As of March 31, 2008 there were 4 children on the waitlist.

(The Centre for Child Development)

SOCIAL RECREATION PROGRAMS

Delta Parks Recreation & Culture Programs

Delta's department of Parks, Recreation and Culture offers opportunities for participation at pools, ice arenas, seniors' centres, community centres, Delta Museum and at its harbour and park facilities.

Not including aquatics the number of programs offered for pre-schoolers up to age 5 was 806 in 2007 and 803 in 2008.

The numbers below do not include drop-in programs such as drop-in swimming; skating; and gymnasium programs. Also, it should be noted that registration numbers could include Surrey, Richmond and New Westminster residents.

Registration in Delta Pre-school (0-5 yrs) Parks and Recreation Programs			
2007 Registration	2007 Waitlists	2008 Registration Jan 1-Oct 24	2008 Waitlists Jan 1-Oct 24
12,304	675	11,671	730
Source Delta Parks and Recreation, October 2008			



Leisure Access Passes

Delta Parks, Recreation & Culture offers 6 month family passes to Delta residents of any age, for admission to drop-in programs at Delta Parks, Recreation & Culture facilities. It is issued free of charge by local agencies to families in need and passes can be activated at any time. In 2007, 201 six month leisure access passes were issued for children 6 yrs and under. From January to October 21, 2008 161 six month leisure access passes were issued for children 6 years and under.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The George Mackie in North Delta, Ladner Pioneer and Tsawwassen libraries are part of the Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) system.

Library programs & services for Delta children 0-6 years & their families		
	# of programs	attendance
George Mackie Library (North Delta):		
2007	133	5,344
2008 (Jan-Sept)	105	3,689
Ladner Pioneer Library		
2007	105	1,992
2008 (Jan-Sept)	95	2,253
Tsawwassen Library		
2007	108	2,641
2008 (Jan-Sept)	93	1,984
DELTA LIBRARIES TOTAL		
2007	346	9,977
2008 (Jan-Sept)	293	7,926
Source; Community Librarian, George Mackie Library, Delta		

In 2007 there were 346 programs offered across the three Delta libraries with a total attendance of 9,977 children under 6 years of age and their families. For the first 10 months of 2008 these numbers were 293 and 7,926 respectively.

Preschoolers took out over 80,000 picture and board books over 2007.

Circulation of picture books & board books, 2007	
George Mackie (North Delta):	36,423
Ladner Pioneer Library	22,403
Tsawwassen Library	21,275
Delta Libraries TOTAL	80,101
Source; Community Librarian, George Mackie Library, Delta	

DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Delta Kindergarten Children

In 2008/09 there were 1,015 children in public school kindergarten classes in Delta, down from 1,173 in 2003/04. There were an additional 125 kindergarten children in five independent schools (Boundary Bay Montessori House, Delta Christian School, Immaculate Conception School, Sacred Heart and Southpointe Academy) (BC Ministry of Education, Student Statistics, 2003/04 – 2007/08, Full Year Summary – District 37, Delta). This represents approximately 3% of the provincial kindergarten population.

Of those 1,015 pupils, 224 (22%) are in full day kindergarten; the remainder attend kindergarten for half a day.

The provision of English as a Second Language (ESL) is a significant issue for young children and in Delta 239 (23.5%) kindergarten children receive ESL instruction. In addition there were 23 (2%) kindergarten students identified as having special needs.

In the Delta School District there were 24 (2%) students in kindergarten identified as Aboriginal.

MINISTRY FOR CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Children in Care/ Child Protection

Under the Child, Family and Community Services Act, the Minister designates the Director of Child Protection, who in turn delegates the provision of child protection services across the province to child protection social workers.

The Act requires that anyone who has reason to believe that a child may be abused, neglected, or is for any other reason in need of protection, must report it to the Director or a delegated social worker. These reports are investigated by social workers, who take the most appropriate action that is least disruptive for the child. These actions may include:

- providing or arranging the provision of support services to the family;
- supervising the child's care in the home;
- protecting the child through removal from the family and placement with relatives, a foster family or specialized residential resources.

Social workers also have the delegated authority of the Director to approve foster homes for children who come into the care of the ministry. Resources such as group homes, specialized residential facilities, assessment resources, and respite resources are developed to serve children and youth in care.

Child protection services across the province are provided through 429 ministry offices in 5 regions and a number of delegated Aboriginal agencies. The child protection staff are supported by the provincial office of the Child Protection Division.

The number of children in care in Delta has stayed the same from 2005 to 2008. In September 2008 there were 96 children in care. Of those 12 (12.5%) were under three years of age, 8 (8.3%) were 3-6 years of age and 76 (79.2%) were between 7 and 18 years.

Child protection files for Delta show that in September 2008 there were 189 families, in which there were a total of 252 children.

(Community Services Manager, Delta and White Rock, Adoptions South Fraser)

Child and Youth Mental Health

Research shows that the average overall community prevalence rate for mental disorders in children and youth is 15%. This means that in BC, approximately 140,000 children and youth experience mental disorders causing significant distress and impairing their functioning at home, at school, with peers, or in the community.

These mental disorders include any anxiety disorder, conduct disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, any depressive disorder, substance abuse, pervasive development disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, Tourette's disorder, any eating disorder and bipolar disorder.

Child and youth mental health services are offered throughout British Columbia by the Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD).

These services provide a wide range of community-based specialized mental health services to mentally ill children and their families.

In Delta there were 5 children aged 3- 6 years and 161 from 6-18 years using mental health services in 2008.

(Community Services Manager, Delta and White Rock, Adoptions South Fraser)





CRIME

"Children with learning difficulties whose parents have little education and whose inner-city schools offer inadequate remedial programs may get less help with their problems than similar children with better-educated parents in more affluent neighbourhoods with better schools. This can result in more children from poor backgrounds doing badly at school, and it has been established that there is a strong association between school failure and the likelihood of becoming a repeat offender, to the point where school performance in adolescence is one of the best predictors of both juvenile delinquency and adult criminality."

(Source: National Council on Welfare. Justice and the Poor. Report No. 111. Spring, 2000.)

Unfortunately, information regarding juvenile crime is not available for Delta specifically.



MAPPING ECD IN DELTA

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), operating out of UBC, brings together academic, government and community partners to better understand early childhood development.

A key component of the ECD Mapping Project is the Early Development Instrument (EDI), a research tool that assesses the state of children's development in kindergarten. This measurement, taken as they enter school, reflects children's early experiences and it can predict their performance later in life.

Kindergarten teachers complete a checklist for each child about six months into the kindergarten year. Five areas of a child's development are measured: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development and communication skills and general knowledge.

The vulnerability threshold or cut-off is the EDI score that distinguished the bottom 10% of children in the province from the other 90%. In Delta the EDI has been conducted twice, once in 2001-4 (Wave 1) and again in 2005-7 (Wave 2).

EDI Results

Vulnerable on at Least one Domain of Development

- District wide, 21.7% of children were vulnerable on at least one domain of their development in Wave 1 and 30.1% in Wave 2. This is an increase of 8.3%.
- At the level of the district, Delta has a higher proportion of vulnerability than 38 of the 59 school districts in the province.
- The neighbourhood with the highest proportion of vulnerability on at least one domain of development was Nordel (42.1%) in Wave 2. Four other neighbourhoods had more than 30% of children vulnerable.
- Tsawwassen South (9.5%) had the lowest proportion of vulnerability and was the only neighbourhood with less than 10% vulnerability.
- Nine out of eleven neighbourhoods had an increase in vulnerability since Wave 1. The largest of these was in Nordel (+28.4%).
- Anniesville/Sunbury (-0.20) and Tsawwassen South (-2.67) both had small decreases in vulnerability since the last sample.

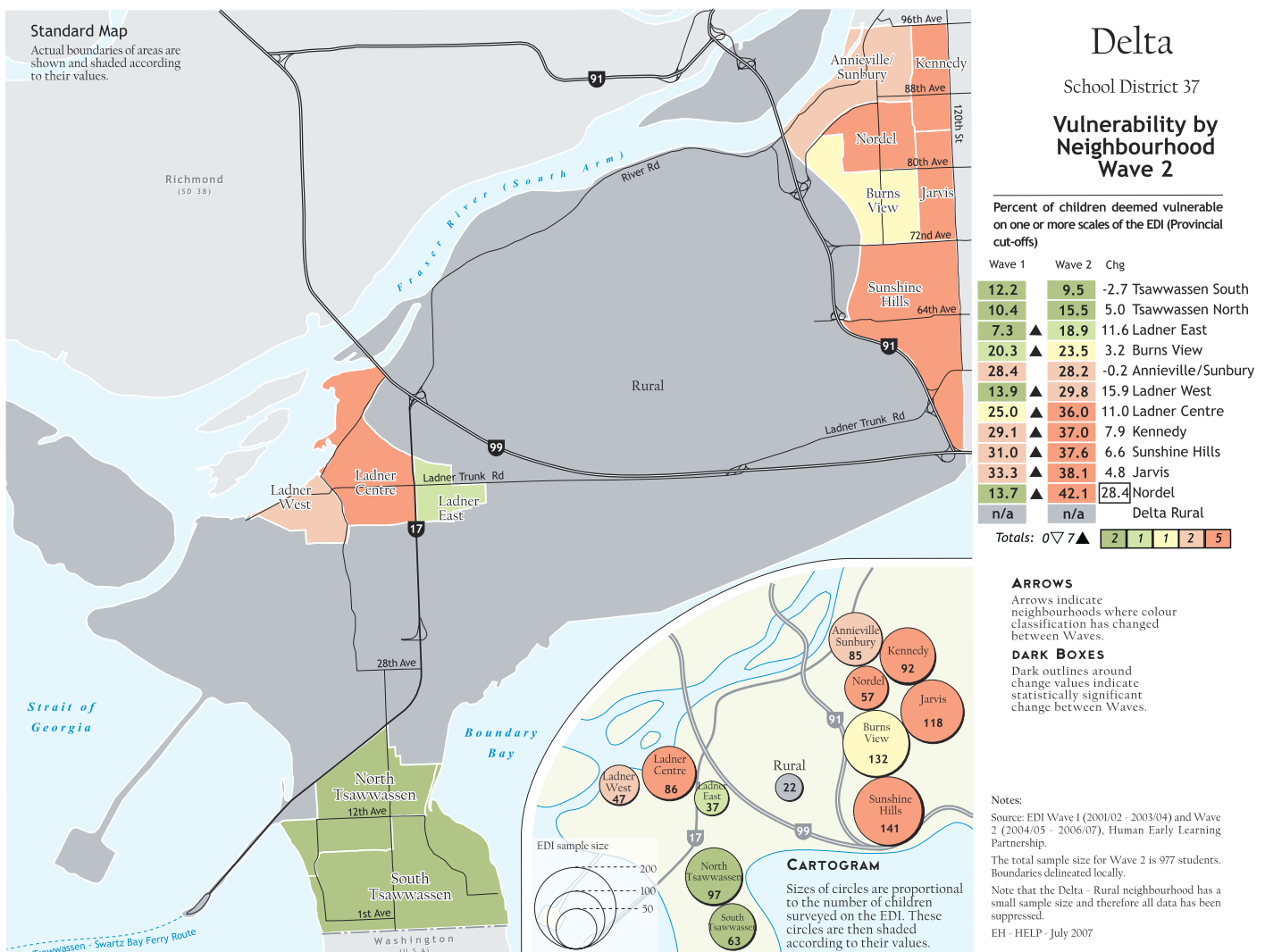
Considerations for Community Planning

EDI results can be used as one tool to guide planning for young children and families in the community. The results must be considered within the context of changing socio-economic conditions within the community. Some of the results to take note of in Delta are:

- Delta is among the more vulnerable districts in the province and overall vulnerability increased between Wave 1 and Wave 2.
- All domains of development had an increase in vulnerability between Wave 1 and Wave 2.

- Five neighbourhoods had more than 35% of children vulnerable. Of particular note is Nordel where 42% of the children were vulnerable on at least one domain of their development.
- Tsawwassen South is among the least vulnerable neighbourhoods in B.C. What are the existing strengths in this area that may have contributed to these outcomes?
- The highest proportion of children vulnerable was on the Communication Skills and General Knowledge domain and the largest increase between the samples was on the Social Competence domain.
- The lowest proportion of children vulnerable was on the Physical Health and Well-being domain and the smallest increase between samples was on the Language and Cognitive Development domain.
- The results do indicate considerable disparity or difference between neighbourhoods, reflecting that children within the district have had disparate qualities of experience before school entry. These are the “differences that make a difference” to children’s futures.

Source: HELP, Community Summary, Delta School District #37, Fall 2007.





GLOSSARY

Average income is calculated by dividing the aggregate income of families by the number of families.

Census Family: Refers to a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners) or a lone parent of any marital status, with at least one child living in the same dwelling. The total income of a census family is the sum of the total incomes of all members of that family in 2005.

Economic Family: Refers to a group of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and are related to each other by blood, marriage, common-law or adoption.

Fertility Rate: The number of live births occurring in a given time period divided by the number of women of child-bearing age for residents of a geographic area. B.C. rates are per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. Canadian rates are per 1,000 women aged 15 to 49.

The total fertility rate (TFR) indicates the number of births that a group of 1,000 women would have if they experienced, during their childbearing years (i.e., age 15 to 44 years), the age-specific birth rates observed in a given calendar year. It is a hypothetical measure that shows the implications of current levels of fertility by age for completed family size.

Birth Rate For live births: the crude rate is the number of births divided by the mid-year population and converted to a rate per 1,000 population.

Government Transfers: Refers to total income from all transfer payments received from federal, provincial or municipal governments during calendar year 2005.

Incidence of Low Income is the percent of the population who fall below the low income cut-offs (LICO) before tax. LICO's are a consistent and well-defined method that identifies those who are substantially economically worse off than the average. They represent levels of income where people spend on average 20% more of their money than most Canadians for food, shelter and clothing. LICO's are calculated based on family size and where they live.

Median income of families is that amount which divides their income size distribution into two halves, i.e. the incomes of the first half of families are below the median, while those of the second half are above the median.

Household: Refers to a person or a group of persons (other than foreign residents), who occupy the same dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. A non-family household consists either of one person living alone or of two or more persons who share a dwelling, but do not constitute a family (e.g., a couple with or without children). Family households are divided into two sub-categories: one-family households and multiple-family households. 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.

Mobility: movers are defined as persons aged one year and up who, on Census Day, were living at a different address than the one at which they resided one year earlier.

photography by Sue Philips



Sub-committee of Delta Child & Youth Committee

Supporting the Development of Delta's Young Children

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