



Children and Youth Agenda Community Forum

Discussion Document

March 2007

PARTNERS / PARTENAIRES :

SUPPORTERS / APPUYÉ PAR :



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1. INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

The City of Ottawa and United Way/Centraide Ottawa have partnered to facilitate a Children and Youth Agenda (C&YA) for children and youth. The C&YA is a community-led process to improve access, availability, and coordination of services for children, youth, and their families through a public agenda for action.

By leveraging existing partnerships, building new ones and fostering collaboration the goal is to:

- adopt a community-supported Children & Youth Agenda vision, guiding principles, outcomes and framework,
- recognize and build on our strengths,
- identify priority outcomes for collective action,
- develop and implement a community-supported action plan, and
- develop and implement an evaluation framework to report on our progress

In addition to the goals stated above, the Pre-Community Forum Consultation and the Community Forum (being held on March 26,27 and April 2,3, 2007) will enable initiatives such as the Understanding the Early Years Project to meet its objective to gather community input and feedback for an early years community action plan, and the Children's Aid Society to receive input on priorities for action for children and youth at risk.

BACKGROUND

Over the past several months' members of the C&YA Project Team have been meeting with the various community networks involved in programs and services for children and youth as well as many of the community agencies serving this population to introduce and create support for this exciting initiative. The feedback has been extremely positive and supportive. The two initiating partners, the City of Ottawa and United Way/Centraide Ottawa, are looking forward to the next steps, which include the Community Forum and the creation of a community-led Children and Youth Agenda.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

As the first step in the consultation process, the C&YA Project Team conducted a pre-forum consultation in February 2007, which sought input from community networks, community agencies, school boards, and branches of the City of Ottawa's Community and Protective Services Department who are involved and/or have an interest in programs and services for the children and youth living in our city.

Results from the pre-forum consultation have been synthesized in this Discussion Paper and will be reported at the Community Forum. The Appendices contain a summary of additional input into the consultation process, demographic profiles of children and youth in Ottawa as well as a summary of other successful initiatives supporting healthy child and youth development to better inform Forum participants.

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO IN PREPARATION OF THE COMMUNITY FORUM

The C&YA Project Team would like you to review this document in order to:

- review the community input during the pre-forum consultation,
- be informed of the current demographic profile of children and youth in Ottawa, and
- to read about other successful initiatives supporting healthy child and youth development.

Building on the findings from the pre-forum consultation phase, the Community Forum's primary focus will be on action planning.

Note: An electronic copy of this Discussion Document is available on United Way/Centraide Ottawa's website www.unitedwayottawa.ca/cya-pea and the City of Ottawa website at http://ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/children_youth/index_en.html

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Children and Youth Agenda's Project Team would like to acknowledge and thank all the individuals who gave of their time and expertise to participate in the Consultation process. The Ottawa community will be richer because of your contribution.

PROJECT TEAM

Pauline Daling, Project Manager, City of Ottawa
Peggy Austen, Senior Director, Community Impact and Investment, United Way/Centraide Ottawa
Jane Joy, Project Lead, Early Years, City of Ottawa
Kimberley Murray, Project Lead, Middle Years, City of Ottawa
Deborah Dillon, Project Lead, Youth, City of Ottawa
Kelly Paolozzi, Director, Success By 6

COMMUNITY FORUM PLANNING GROUP

Pauline Daling, Project Manager, City of Ottawa
Peggy Austen, Senior Director, Community Impact and Investment, United Way/Centraide Ottawa
Jane Joy, Project Lead, Early Years, City of Ottawa
Kimberley Murray, Project Lead, Middle Years, City of Ottawa
Deborah Dillon, Project Lead, Youth, City of Ottawa
Kelly Paolozzi, Director, Success By 6
Eleanor Heap, Ottawa School Day Nursery
Andrew Rhéaume, Vanier Community Service Centre
Kim Chadsey, Executive Director, Operation Go Home
Tracey Saikaley, Children's Services Division, City of Ottawa
Jacquie Woodward, Children's Aid Society

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Children and Youth Agenda Project Team conducted a consultation during February 2007 with networks, coalitions, community agencies and City of Ottawa staff providing services to children and youth. The consultation process included meetings with networks and coalitions (approximately 80 people), an on-line survey and the ability to complete the consultation document in hard copy (71 responses in total).

The key messages received during the consultation process are highlighted below.

- 75% supported the proposed vision and 25% indicated they could support the vision with amendments.
- 97% expressed support for utilizing the conceptual framework developed and adopted by the Middle Childhood Matters Network for the early years and youth as well; and also agreed that further work be undertaken to identify key elements for the early years and youth age groups.
- Themes arising in response to questions relating to priority outcomes at a systems- and service-level, and relating to priority strategies to address the needs of children and youth at risk are summarized in the table below.

Priority Outcomes at Systems-Level	Priority Outcomes at Service-Level	Priority Strategies to Address Needs – High Risk Children & Youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved planning and collaboration across the age continuum by both City and Community players • Increased focus on addressing social determinants of health • Improved communication, advocacy and promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved collaboration, communication and advocacy • Improved knowledge of and access to services • Increased engagement in school and learning • Expanded engagement of families, children and youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate planning, collaboration and building linkages • Improve knowledge of and access to services • Focus on prevention • Engage parents / caregivers, families and youth • Focus on education, learning and training

Additionally, the consultation process yielded suggestions for:

- indicators to measure what difference we have made in two years;
- successful initiatives that could inform the Children and Youth Agenda from across the city of Ottawa as well as from other jurisdictions; and
- how to make the most of the Community Forum.

We received a lot of information about successful initiatives in Ottawa and in other jurisdictions that will inform the continuing work of the Children and Youth Agenda.

The valuable suggestions on how to make the most of the Community Forum will be used in the planning of the Forum as well as future events.

The appendices contain additional information to serve as reference material for the Community Forum. Information includes: data from early years, middle years and youth initiatives; demographic information on children and families; data on ethno-cultural diversity, disabilities, Aboriginal and Inuit peoples; and data on languages spoken in Ottawa.

3. FINDINGS FROM PRE-FORUM CONSULTATION PROCESS

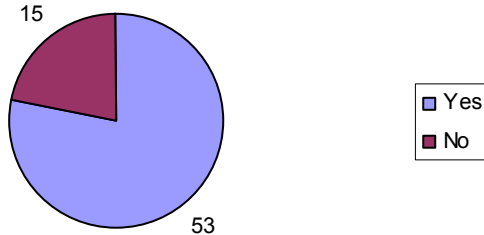
3.1 Proposed Vision

From the Consultation document -

A committed Ottawa community working together to make children and youth (0 to 18 years) our first priority.

Brief summary of feedback:

- Liked the 'community working together'
- Concern about term 'first priority'
- 'First priority' for what outcome, to what end?
- Need to include 'family'



Proposed New Vision

The Vision of the Children and Youth Agenda is *'a committed Ottawa community* working together to maximize opportunities for all of Ottawa's children and youth to reach their full potential'.*

* What we mean by '*community*' – the various groups of people living / working in Ottawa that have a direct or indirect interest in our children and youth. Therefore, the term is intended to be broad and encompass families, neighbourhood groups, service agencies, business, educators, government, etc.

3.2 Proposed Principles

From the Consultation Document

1. Supporting healthy development of children and youth is a shared community responsibility.
2. Our children have a positive start in life.
3. Our children and youth experience healthy development through positive play.
4. Our children and youth are safe and well cared for.
5. Our children and youth experience success at school.
6. Our children and youth practice healthy and safe behaviours.
7. Our children and youth make successful life transitions through to adulthood.

Brief summary of feedback:

- Only #1 is a principle
- # 2 through #7 are more appropriate to outcomes or goals
- Agree with the notion of 'shared responsibility'

One of the goals of the Children and Youth Agenda is to develop agreed upon community priority outcomes for children and youth. Therefore, the identification of priority outcomes will be a part of the Community Forum process.

Proposed New Guiding Principles

The work of the Children & Youth Agenda will be guided by the following principles:

- *Supporting healthy development of children and youth is a shared community responsibility*
- *Children and youth have a unique and essential voice in the community*
- *Collaboration*
- *Open communication*
- *Spirit of continuous improvement*
- *Inclusion and respect for diversity*
- *Guided by evidence-based research*
- *Optimize resources through sharing ideas, experience and knowledge*
- *The Agenda is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- *Engagement – government, service providers, educators, parents / care givers, and business*

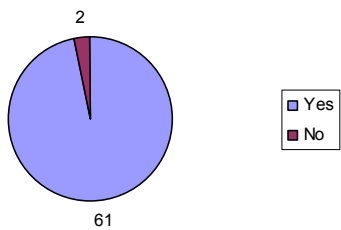
3.3 Proposed Conceptual Framework for Healthy Child / Youth Development

The Pre-Consultation Document proposed the question to “*support or not support the proposed framework for the healthy development of children and youth ages 0-18 yrs based on the framework created by Middle Childhood Matters Network*”.

Should the community adopt the proposal to utilize and build on the Middle Childhood Matters framework, the plan is that further work would be undertaken to develop key elements relevant to healthy development for the early years and for youth.

Question asked on Consultation Document

I support the creation of a Conceptual Framework for the healthy development of children and youth based on the Middle Childhood Matters Network Framework, which includes the early years, 0–6 years of age and youth, 12–18 years of age.



97% of the people who completed the on-line Consultation document supported the creation of a conceptual framework for healthy development of children and youth based on the Middle Years Matters Framework for children 6-12 years.

Out of the 4 Network consultations completed within the three age networks, all groups supported using this framework and the proposal to develop “key elements” for the early years, 0 – 6 age group and the youth, 12 – 18 age group.

The teams undertaking the development of key elements will consider the suggestions provided during the consultation process.

3.4 Priority Outcomes for Children & Youth Agenda

The following table contains the main themes in response to “Please list your top two priority outcomes at a systems-level and at a service-level to achieve a committed Ottawa working together to make children and youth our first priority”.

Summary of Themes – System-Level	Summary of Themes – Service-Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved planning and collaboration across the age continuum by both City and Community players • Increased focus on addressing social determinants of health • Improved communication, advocacy and promotion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved collaboration, communication and advocacy • Improved knowledge of and access to services • Increased engagement in school and learning • Expanded engagement of families, children and youth

Below is a synthesis of responses from the consultation process at a System- & a Service-level, along with suggested actions where they were provided.

3.4.1 Priority outcomes at the system-level

Improved planning and collaboration across the age continuum by City and Community

- Improve planning, communication and information sharing across the age groups by the City and community to: reduce duplication of services, address gaps and increase collaboration
- Organize age specific issues, core services and programs along a continuum that allows entry to the system at any age, not age specific "silos", which may include making some services available to people older than 18 should circumstances require it
- Provide a cohesive continuum of services for francophone children, youth and their families
- Fully integrate comprehensive planning and delivery of public and community-based children and youth services

Suggested Actions

- Standardize formats and processes for funding applications and ensure provision is seamless rather than competitive
- Develop and share common inter-agency protocols
- Develop and share policies and service delivery standards that promote inclusion of special needs and diverse children and youth
- Increase planning among agencies to provide supportive environments and relationships for children and youth outside of the family unit
- Create system-wide tool to increase service coordination and conduct system-wide audit / services analysis
- Work with existing successful initiatives to ensure there is no duplication in services

Increased Focus on Social Determinants of Health

- Deal with systemic barriers that affect poverty, health, education, childcare, social determinants of health
- Increased focus on prevention of poverty
- Increased focus on building greater resiliency in children and youth at risk
- Improved overall health through accessible health promotion and injury prevention programs
- Remove barriers to inclusion for children and youth with disabilities in our community

Suggested Actions

- Improve access to quality community-based programs/services with appropriate Supports.
- Equal opportunity to enjoy sports, cultural, artistic and other activities regardless of ability to pay
- Make system level changes to improve access to crisis, mental health, addiction services and special needs population.
- Focus on parent education and parent engagement
- More focus on providing youth with opportunities within the employment sectors

Improved Communication, Advocacy and Promotion

- System in place to engage parents (focus groups; community discussion)
- Create a communication system between/within community agencies to minimize duplication; identify needs and gaps and improve collaboration
- Advocate for policy/services that address the social determinants of health
- Increase advocacy role at all levels of government for appropriate services for children and families
- Communications and marketing regarding critical importance of child and youth development
- Increased communication and engagement between children and youth stakeholders leading to proactive delivery of services

Suggested Actions

- School boards promote youth involvement within their community
- Establish a promotional campaign on the healthy development of children and youth
- Improve awareness of existing services offered to all in the City of Ottawa
- Create a common website

3.4.2 Priority outcomes at the service-level

Improved Collaboration, Communication and Advocacy

- Agencies collaborate to create joint models of service delivery to maximize benefits for families
- Utilize existing service agencies, libraries, schools and community centers for dissemination of information and resources

- Advocacy – informed community will respond and become engaged

Suggested Actions

- Reach out to parents to increase awareness regarding the availability of parent education opportunities / supports in their community

Improved Knowledge of and Access to Services

- Access to affordable, clean, safe housing
- Increased support to families and within schools and communities to improve opportunities for healthy behaviors
- Outreach and increased supports to the hardest to serve and highest risk families.
- Diversify our programs and clientele to reflect Ottawa's diverse population

Suggested Actions

- Accessible, affordable, public / community- based services for all children and their families
- Youth specific substance abuse treatment and family services are funded and available through integration/partnerships with existing youth substance abuse service providers
- Increased access to francophone mental health programs for children, youth and their families
- Easier access to services for children and youth with special needs
- Improve access to subsidized programs for low-income and disadvantaged families
- Diversify our programs and clientele to reflect Ottawa's diverse population

Increased engagement in school and learning

- Increase integration of school programs that focus on building resiliency in children and youth.
- Increase opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with all four Ottawa school boards
- Increase engagement of youth in a range of learning, supported employment opportunities and alternative educational programs.
- Increase supports to look at Early School Leaving to engage children and youth in school including varied school options in secondary school to encourage staying in school and supports in place at elementary level recognizing learning style of children and special needs supports
- Increased levels of basic skills for all children and youth including those with learning disabilities, developmental delays, and mental health issues.

Suggested Actions

- Increased support to school staff and students to create healthy learning and development environments
- Provide for nutritional needs for children in school for both breakfast and lunch.
- Develop programs to engage disenfranchised youth beginning in the school settings.
- Promote safe activity / behaviour through a variety of methods including enforcement of safe policies within our city and all of it's facilities.... education through schools
- Design services to prepare youth for successful transition to adulthood.
- Allow city recreation personnel to go into the schools and help with making children active

Improved Engagement of Families, Children and Youth

- Community-based activity to engage the different ages of children and youth and their interests
- Increased social engagement for children and youth
- Youth engagement and leadership opportunities

Suggested Actions

- Engage the communities as much as possible in determining what they need and how to implement the agenda in the context of their community/culture/situation etc.
- Increase support to children of all ages through community / stakeholder engagement.
- Include “client” (family, community) in program formation

3.5 Priority Strategies to Address Children and Youth at Risk

From the Consultation Document: Briefly outline what you would identify as one or two priority strategies to address the needs and issues of children and youth at risk.

Summary of responses from the consultation process are captured below, along with suggested actions where they were provided.

Coordinate Planning, Collaboration, Building Linkages

- Bring together service providers to work across sectors rather than in silos
- Bring together service providers to work across the age groups and assess the impact of services provided to one age group on the next age group
- Expand and improve linkages among prevention programs, addictions programs, children’s and youth mental health programs, educational system, child welfare, justice and health
- Establish broad planning tables but ensure that they address strategies to meet the specific needs of various populations (e.g. Francophone; First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities; immigrants and new Canadians; and vulnerable families etc)
- Facilitate collaboration among all adults present in the child’s life – e.g. Involve parents / caregivers, teachers, community agencies, health care professionals, recreation / leisure providers

Suggested Actions

- Introduce a multi-disciplinary team that goes beyond the mandates of individual service providers to address the needs of children and youth at high risk
- Develop one comprehensive network of service providers across all age groups to identify the continuum of services available and needed from prevention, through early intervention to intensive intervention
- Funders establish multi-year funding arrangements with service providers working towards agreed upon outcomes, requiring multi-sectoral planning and service coordination, – e.g. 5 to 10 years
- Improve accessibility and coordination / collaboration by moving multiple services into store-front operation in neighbourhoods

Improved Knowledge of and Access to Services

- Improve access to services by rural, urban and suburban families through:
 - reducing or eliminating user fees for low-income families for recreation, leisure, cultural, school programs;
 - increasing access to and availability of choices for recreation, leisure, cultural, school programs for disadvantage families and their children; and
 - improving supports to parents / caregivers to be able to get their children to recreation, leisure, cultural, school programs
- Analyze the need for services by different language / cultural groups, establish appropriate cross-sectoral planning tables based on language / culture
- Ensure that children and youth with special needs are included in whatever strategies / programs are developed

Suggested Actions

- Create safe places in local areas through partnering with school boards to provide easily accessible programs with extended hours, structured youth-directed activities, and youth mentors
- Outreach to high risk groups and offer local community integrated programming that would address such issues as: identifying and dealing with mental health issues, stress management, building self-esteem and positive social skills, healthy eating, sex education, etc.

Focus on Prevention

- Refocus program funding on early detection and prevention strategies for children and youth at risk, followed by long-term support
- Education programs for parents, educators, community agents on early detection, early intervention strategies
- Expand and improve access to programs that strengthen the development of healthy attachment during the early years, as healthy attachments lay the foundation for lifelong mental health
- Provide better information to parents / caregivers on how to help their children / adolescents through difficult times
- Provide more aid to low income families with housing, food, access to recreation, school related fees

Engage Parents / Caregivers, Families and Youth

- Include families with children and youth at risk in the process; include them in identifying and implementing solutions
- Provide youth at risk with opportunities to engage in new experiences in a safe environment – let them explore their options; gain valuable work and life skills experience.
- Reach out to youth that are marginalized and ask their opinions on: what they are interested in, what their needs are, and what works for them / doesn't work for them
- Parents / caregivers raise children – therefore, begin with providing services to the parents / caregivers
- Poverty - prevention as well as providing supports to families living in poverty

Suggested Actions

- Provide more information / tools / supports to parents / caregivers on how to help their children anticipate and deal effectively with difficult situations
- Provide programs that focus on leadership, community involvement, and personal growth

- Engage youth at risk by offering them leadership opportunities on coalitions, networks, committees
- Intervention programs such as courses, counselling, basic household maintenance, parenting skills, budgeting, healthy food preparation

Focus on Education, Learning and Training

- Create a wider range of learning opportunities for children and youth with different learning needs, cultural backgrounds and life circumstances
- Encourage education / skills training to increase self-esteem and introduce new possibilities to youth
- Increase educational supports to encourage staying in school

Suggested Actions

- Introduce technical training programs for youth who are not “book readers and prefer to work their hands”
- After school programs to assist with homework / school projects
- Introduce a marketing campaign demonstrating the consequences of risk-taking behaviours

3.6 Evaluating our Progress

The following is a synthesis of the responses to the consultation question – “How will we know we have made a difference in two years?”

The responses can be categorized into two groups – how and what

How we should proceed

- Use evidence-based data, research
- Focus on measurable outcomes
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and raise awareness

What we should measure

- There is a reduction in early school leaving rates
- Positive feedback from parents / caregivers who see the continuum of services working for their children and youth
- Increased participation and referrals in programs for children and youth
- Reduction of teenage pregnancy
- Reduction in youth crime and gang related activities
- Improved healthy behaviours and mental health
- Increased level of services for children and youth
- Decrease in the number of children / youth and families who live in poverty
- Improved school readiness
- Improved access to all services for this age group (e.g. one listing to access all services)

APPENDICES

4.1 Additional input into Discussion Document

4.1.1. POPCORN Network of Youth Service Providers

In 2006, the POPCORN Network of Youth Service Providers held two conferences, which brought together youth serving agencies during the first conference and youth during the second conference to create a framework of themes and solutions around positive youth strategies.

The Ottawa Youth Commission partnered with the POPCORN Network to hold the second Youth conference, which provided a Youth's perspective.

Summary of the outcomes from the “Youth Matters” youth-serving agency conference

- Develop a community framework for youth
- Increase efforts to collaborate around best practices
- Increase youth involvement and youth input
- Increase schools in the role of serving youth
- Work to include parents, caregivers and improve inter-generational linkages
- Develop support for youth through improved volunteering and mentoring
- Investigate and develop strategic, longer-term program and funding plans

Summary of the outcomes from the “See...Hear...Speak” Youth Conference

- Youth need to be more involved and better informed on how to get involved
- Youth need a central place to find information on engagement (e.g. website)
- Positive youth actions need to be showcased – not just youth problems and negative youth issues
- Media needs to be a strong partner in showcasing the good and in informing youth
- A yearly gathering of youth (Youth Fair) is needed
- An on-going, mobile Youth Engagement Team would be effective in reaching youth in all areas of the City
- Create a strategic plan on how to serve youth from all backgrounds and circumstances to deal with issues concerning them.

The full report for the two conferences can be found at www.bgcottawa.org/assets/forum.pdf

4.1.2. Ottawa Youth Justice Services Network

In January 2007 the Ottawa Youth Justice Services Network held a conference to bring together a variety of sectors to look at what has occurred in the Ottawa community since the implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Common themes identified as areas requiring attention are summarized below:

- Engage the educational system with other community partners to more effectively address youth needs;
- Address the challenge of providing appropriate services to youth with mental health issues and complex needs;
- Address the need for more resources to service youth with addiction problems; and
- Address the area of youth victimization and the need for preventative strategies.

4.1.3 The Ottawa Police Services Child/Youth Strategy Initiative

The Ottawa Police are focusing on the following outcomes of their Child/Youth Initiative

- Enhancing community capacity by building on integrated training opportunities.
- Participation on community boards and advisory committees, such as the City of Ottawa, the United Way, Youth Services Bureau, Boys & Girls Club etc, which seek to address current gaps in services.
- Ongoing evaluation of the current Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program as it relates to Ottawa Police Services ability to appropriately screen youthful offenders for meaningful diversion.
- Ongoing research on best practices and the development of same as it relates to programs both delivered or designed by the Ottawa Police Service.
- Ongoing training for front line officers on the developments of community capacities servicing youth and families.
- Increasing capacity of the Ottawa Police Service in timely, meaningful and appropriate responses to Child/Youth crime, both at the pre and post charge level.
- Ongoing efforts in establishing unique, sustainable funding opportunities with community partners at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels of government.

4.2 Current Initiatives Underway - Early Years

4.2.1 Success By 6: Understanding the Early Years (UEY) Ottawa Project

Understanding the Early Years (UEY) is a national initiative that enables members of communities across Canada to better understand the needs of their young children and families so that they can determine the best programs and services to meet those needs. The focus of UEY is community capacity building using local research related to our young children.

Success By 6 Ottawa was selected to manage and lead the Ottawa UEY project. Success By 6 Ottawa has been working with key stakeholders such as the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario's Early Years and Best Start Initiatives, the four local school boards, policy makers, politicians, researchers and direct service providers in establishing baseline data that will move us forward – working together towards a common vision for the children and their families in our community.

Goals:

- Increased understanding of the importance of the first 6 years in child development
- Increased understanding of the community factors that influence early development
- Support community learning and success – in using research evidence to achieve progressively better outcomes for children

Overall Objective:

Each local UEY project has two overall objectives:

- carrying out community-based research and
- enabling community members to use the research-generated information to improve decision-making on children's issues.

The community-based research can be further divided into:

A) Gathering Information

- Children's development, family and community experiences
 - Using the Early Development Instrument (EDI) the school readiness of kindergarten children prior to grade one is measured. The instrument is completed by kindergarten teachers for each child in their classes and measures five domains of children's development: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, communication skills and general knowledge.
 - Parent Interviews and Direct Assessments of Children Survey (PIDACS) examine the relationship between children's development and various family and community factors that could influence that development. The PIDACS is based on the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) for five year olds. The survey interviews the person most knowledgeable (PMK) about the child, usually a parent or guardian, to obtain information on the family, the child's development and the child's experiences in the community. The survey also carries out three direct assessment activities with the child which look at children's receptive or hearing vocabulary, copying and printing skills related to early literacy, and number knowledge.
- Inventory of Community Programs and Services
 - Each UEY community is responsible for developing an inventory of the local programs and services available to young children and their families; this is sometimes called an inventory of community assets. The purpose of this exercise is to see how the availability and distribution of community resources is linked to young children's developmental outcomes and whether there are gaps in provision of services and programs to support children and their families. As part of the Ontario Early Years Initiative, the Data Analysis coordinators have undertaken a detailed Community Services Inventory (CSI).
- Local socio-economic characteristics
 - Knowledge about the economic, social and cultural conditions in which young children grow up is essential to understanding how the early years are shaped.

B) Building Knowledge

- Community Research Report: children's development, community and family influences
 - The Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Parent Interviews and Direct Assessments of Children Survey (PIDACS) provide a balance between the collection of subjective data, via questionnaires completed by the parent and teacher, and objective data through direct assessment of children's skills and abilities. For each community, this multi-source data forms the basis of the Community Research Report that presents rich information about the community's young children.
- Community Mapping Report:

- EDI and PIDACS results will be combined with an inventory of programs and services. These maps will identify potential community resource gaps, and give us useful information upon which to build a plan to ensure our children and their families have the supports they need.

C) Enabling Communities

- Transferring knowledge: increasing community understanding of the research
- Enabling community members to work together to act on the research
- Strengthening capacity to make informed decisions to address needs of their young children and families

Community Action Plan

Using the information collected through the research, Success by 6 will work with the community to create an evidence-based Community Action Plan that identifies ways we can work together to improve the lives of children and families in our community.

4.2.2 Best Start

Best Start is Ontario's strategy to expand quality and affordable child care and invest in children's healthy early development. This collaborative approach works with community partners, school boards, public health units, child care, children's services providers, and municipalities.

Goals of Best Start are to have:

- Many more children and parents have access to services and supports, regardless of individual economic or social circumstances
- Pre-school, junior kindergarten, senior kindergarten, quality child care, public health and parenting programs integrated into a seamless system that supports families and children
- Early and on-going screening of Ontario's children to identify potential issues, needs and risks is strengthened
- Early learning and care hubs established in Ontario's communities to provide families with a single, integrated, seamless point of access to services and supports based on local needs and available resources.

In January 2006, the City of Ottawa submitted our communities Best Start Plan outlining our plans to support families with children aged 0-6 by enhancing access to services that will help maximize children's readiness to learn when they enter Grade 1. These services include more licensed child care spaces and greater access to subsidized spaces. They also include the concept of service hub areas to enhance access for families with children aged 0-6 to a range of services including early identification and intervention programs, parenting programs, child care programs and drop-in programs.

Needs assessment and analysis was done with available information and provided information on the City of Ottawa neighbourhoods where families and children specifically aged 0-6 years live in the city. It also identified where there are concentrations of families at risk or who may require specialized services due to language, culture or socio-economic status. It was identified that there would be further analysis at the neighbourhood level to identify gaps in services based on the Community Services Inventory, other local data from the UEY project and through community consultation.

The planning group adopted the principle of establishing Best Start Hub areas based on an existing boundary system in order to facilitate data collection, planning and evaluation. It was determined that groupings of census neighbourhoods could provide appropriate sized areas for services and provide access to reliable data. There are 50 census neighbourhoods in the City of Ottawa. Many factors were examined to determine the best groupings of census neighbourhoods to create the new hub areas. Factors that were considered included:

- Locations of the 0-6 year old population
- Births and teen births
- Low birth weight babies
- Low income families
- Single parents
- Settlement of recent immigrants with children

Neighbourhood characteristics, people's traditional transportation routes and established patterns of community interaction were also considered in the combining of census neighbourhoods to create Best Start Hub areas.

Seven geographic based neighbourhood hub areas have been identified and two planning bodies focused on specific population groups- Francophone and Aboriginal.

Community planning tables for each geographic hub area and specific population group have been created and have been tasked with completing a planning document which will provide feedback and insight into the needs of their community.

Working with community stakeholders these groups will provide input in to the Community Action Plan for the Early Years. The research and information collected from the UEY project will also serve to inform the decisions made in developing priorities and strategies for action.

4.3 Learning from other Communities

Several cities in Canada have created similar initiatives for children and youth across age groups or within specific age cohorts. Below are a few examples of initiatives similar to the Children and Youth Agenda.

Leeds and Grenville – “Every Kid in Our Community”

The proceeding is a summary of: A Public Agenda for Action - Every kid in our Community
www.brockville.com/safety/Web/Ekioc.htm

Summary: A community-wide investment in ensuring healthy starts, reducing risk while strengthening resiliency, and mobilizing the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville regarding the well being of children and families both today and in generations to come. “Every Kid” began with the recognition that more focus was needed on child development at the system level to identify and address the best practices for nurturing and supporting the development of children and youth.

A partnership of more than 30 organizations, agencies, governments, and individuals work together to build both internal and external assets for children and youth. Organized into four Focus Windows - Birth to Age 6, Age 6 to Age 12, and Age12 to Young Adulthood and an Intersection Focus, each of which have Action Groups to carry out specific projects.

The 6 goals outlined are:

- All children are born healthy
- All children are cared for and safe
- All children are ready for school
- All children and youth are successful at school
- All children and youth are practicing safe and healthy behaviours
- All youth are making successful transitions to adulthood

“Every Kid in Our Communities” of Leeds and Grenville is dedicated to results in all areas, because success in each of them is necessary to achieve the overall vision. Through research, co-operation, and dissemination of knowledge and skills in each unique but interconnected stage of development, the goal is to have a positive effect throughout a child’s life.

Calgary Children’s Initiative

The proceeding is a summary of: Calgary’s Children’s Initiative www.childrensinitiative.ca/

Summary: Calgary Children’s Initiative (CCI) is a collaborative community voice committed to ensure that every child in Calgary can become caring and responsible adults. Formed by United Way of Calgary and with over 70 partners, citizens, researchers and a Council of Champions have invested in long term planning, research and action to achieve their high level outcomes.

Vision: Calgary community committed to all children and youth reaching their full potential.

Our Mission: The Calgary Children’s Initiative of United Way of Calgary and area is committed to changing the course of history for Calgary’s children, within a generation. Six expected outcomes were developed and shared by its partners and key stakeholders and will be achieved through: strategic collaborations; targeted action; effective investments; leveraging of the community’s resources of time, money and knowledge; committed volunteers; and a visionary staff. The Six outcomes outlined are:

- All children have a positive start in life
- All children are well cared for and safe
- All children are ready for school
- All children and youth experience success at school
- All children and youth are practicing healthy behaviours
- All youth are making successful transitions to adulthood

A Framework for action was established in 2001 based on the initial Children’s Initiative. Research was completed through community consultations, with a purpose to provide a community-driven, research-based foundation for a community action agenda for service providers, funders, planners, researchers and others who work to foster positive child and youth development. Guiding principles were developed for this framework based on the research and literature on child and youth development.

Action Strategies were broken down into three spheres of Influence to help mobilizes the community to seek innovative and non-traditional solutions that get at root conditions impacting children and youth. The three action areas are:

1. Families and Community

2. Individual child and youth development
3. Risk and Protective Factors, which.

The Calgary Children's Initiative today continues to take the main role in:

- **Leading** – Priority action plans requiring CCI – led efforts in collaboration and partnerships.
- **Supporting**- CCI provides support, communicate information on behalf of various organizations/service providers, consult and advertise. Provide some funds and/or support for short-term project.
- **Network / Links** – Assist numerous partners by participating in various boards and committees

Status Reports on Calgary's Children's Initiative are provided four times a year outlining current initiatives and partnership which can be found at:

www.childrensinitiative.ca/media/Status%20Report%20Nov%2029%202006.pdf

City of Sherbrooke

A summary of City of Sherbrooke's Vision can be found at this link-

http://ville.sherbrooke.qc.ca/fr/accueilFamille/rapportProjet_eng.pdf

Summary: The vision of the city of Sherbrooke is "To make Sherbrooke a City that provides families with an outstanding living environment that assists parents in their goal of helping every child grow into an adult citizen of tomorrow".

Other municipalities in countries such as Italy, Switzerland, France and the province of Quebec, have taken responsibility for the well-being of families and children in their cities and have adopted similar initiatives.

City of Vancouver-Civic Childcare Strategy

A summary of Vancouver's - Civic Childcare Strategy can be found at this link -

www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/childcare/ccstrategy1.htm

Summary: In 1990 a Civic Childcare Strategy set the framework for the City's mandate and involvement in childcare. The City does not directly deliver childcare services to its population. Therefore, in consideration of these limitations, the City prioritizes its investments in childcare through a limited direct operating Childcare Grants Program, capital grants, facilities development through Development Cost Levies (DCL) and Community Amenity Contributions (CAC), infrastructure support and community capacity building. Currently, of the 9,200 licensed childcare spaces in Vancouver, almost half (approximately 4,500) are located in civic facilities.

The Childcare Strategy includes:

- Vancouver's Childcare Policy
- Goals for a Comprehensive Childcare System
- A Childcare Action Plan

Vancouver's Civic Youth Strategy

A summary of Vancouver's Civic Youth Strategy can be found at this link -

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/cys/current.htm#Civic>

<http://www.vancouveryouth.ca/>

Summary: The Civic Youth Strategy passed by Vancouver's Council in March 1995, commits the City of Vancouver to working in partnership with youth and the larger community to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure that youth have "A PLACE" in the city
- Ensure a strong youth VOICE in decision-making
- Promote youth as a RESOURCE to the City
- Strengthen the SUPPORT BASE for youth in the city

The Civic Youth Strategy is a policy document expressing Vancouver's commitment to supporting youth and involving them in decision-making. The City of Vancouver engages youth and youth-driven organizations as active partners in the development, assessment, and delivery of civic services having direct impact on youth; and including youth in broad-spectrum consultations and initiatives on civic issues. The implementation of the Strategy is ongoing work that involves translating policy, objectives, and principles of the Civic Youth Strategy into action.

4.4 POPULATION INFORMATION 0 – 19 Years of Age

City of Ottawa

Age and Gender			
Age	Ottawa		
	Total	Male	Female
Age 0-4	44,585	22,620	21,965
Age 5-14	101,565	52,075	49,490
Age 15-19	49,445	25,345	24,095
Source: Statistics Canada 2001 census			

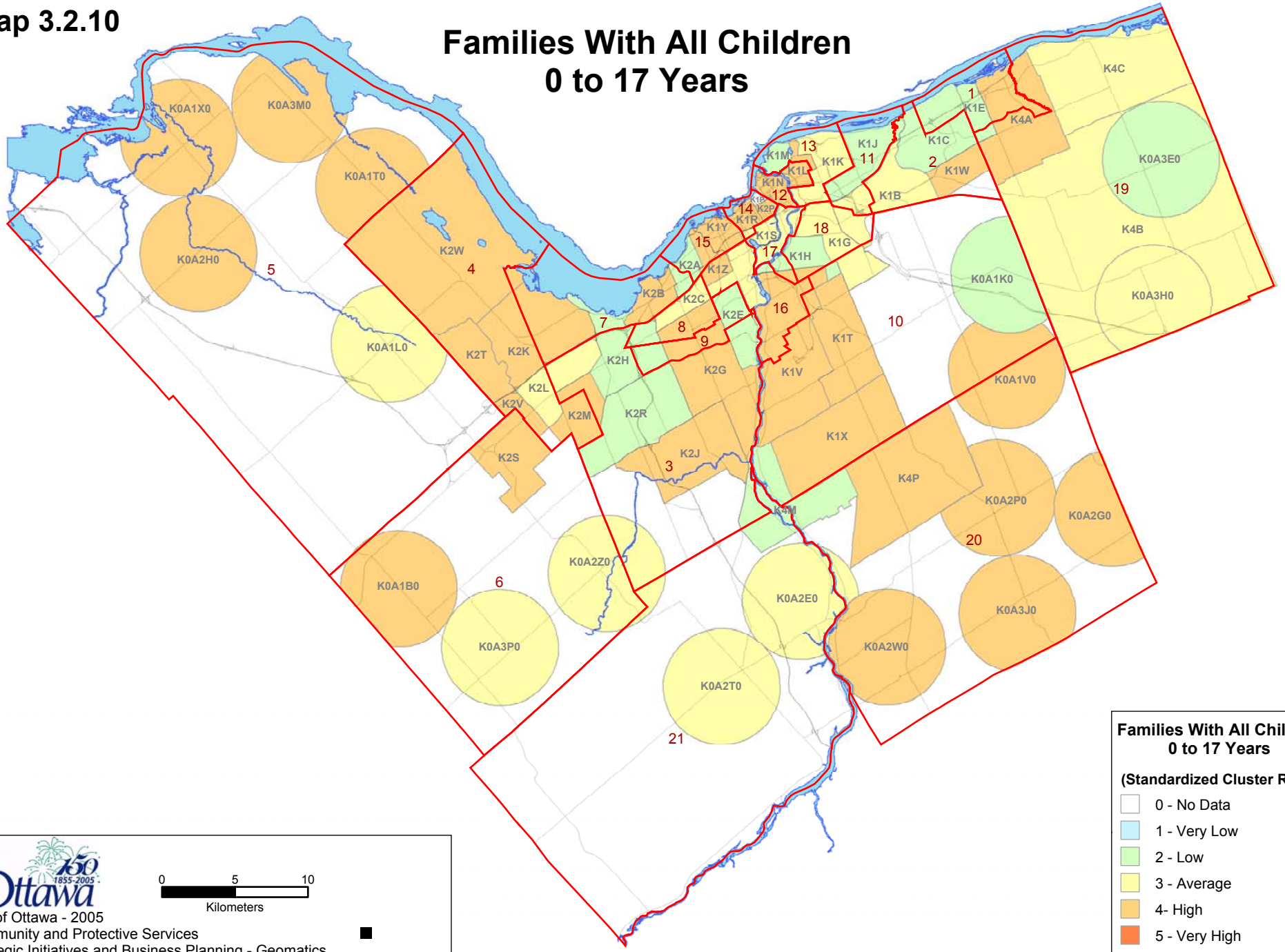
Total Population by Age Group -- Growth Projections -- City-Wide City of Ottawa			
	2001	2006	2011
0-4	44,200	46,800	52,000
5-9	51,500	50,200	54,200
10-14	52,400	57,000	56,900
15-19	49,800	57,900	63,600
Source: City of Ottawa			

4.5 Mapping of Key Characteristics by Neighbourhoods in Ottawa – next 4 pages

- 4.4.1 Families with all children 0 to 17
- 4.4.2 Lone-parent families
- 4.4.3 Low-income lone-parent families
- 4.4.4 Low-income children (under 18 years)

Map 3.2.10

Families With All Children 0 to 17 Years



Families With All Children 0 to 17 Years
(Standardized Cluster Rank)

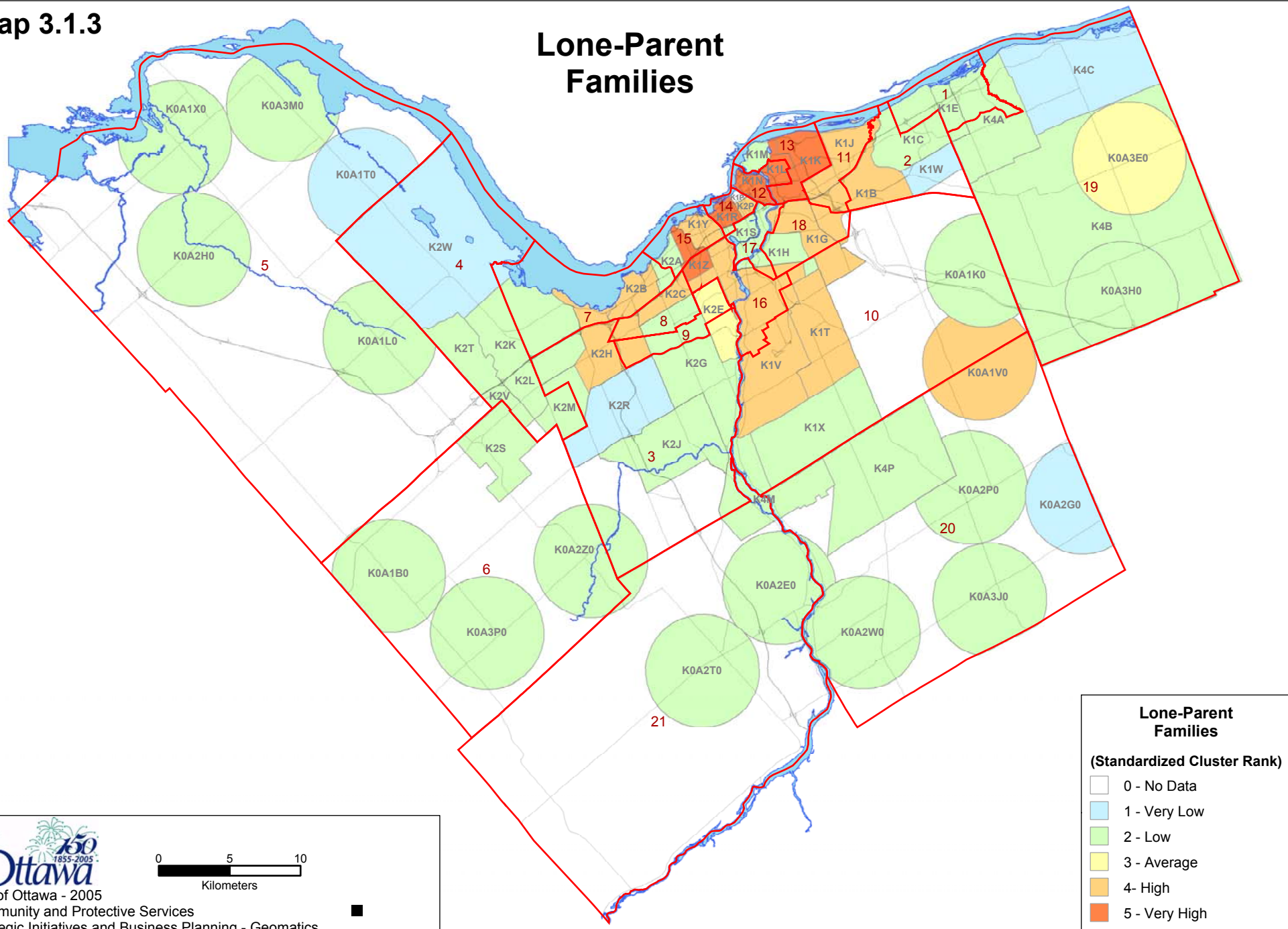
- 0 - No Data
- 1 - Very Low
- 2 - Low
- 3 - Average
- 4 - High
- 5 - Very High

City of Ottawa - 2005
 Community and Protective Services
 Strategic Initiatives and Business Planning - Geomatics

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2003 Family Tables
Data Analysis by: CPS/SIBP/PBS/FK

Map 3.1.3

Lone-Parent Families




City of Ottawa - 2005
Community and Protective Services
Strategic Initiatives and Business Planning - Geomatics

0 5 10
Kilometers

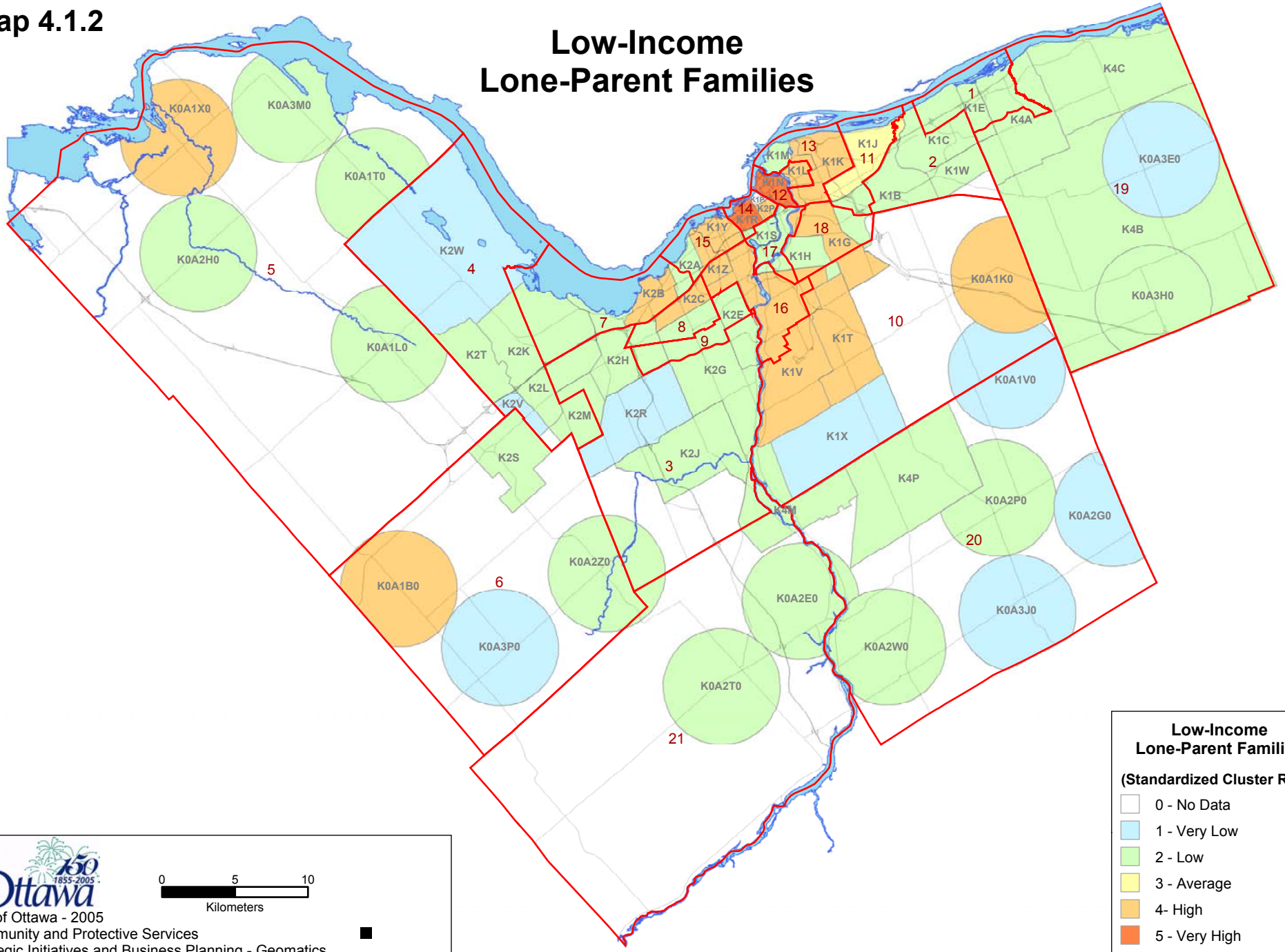
Lone-Parent Families
(Standardized Cluster Rank)

- 0 - No Data
- 1 - Very Low
- 2 - Low
- 3 - Average
- 4 - High
- 5 - Very High

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2003 Family Tables
Data Analysis by: CPS/SIBP/PBS/FK

Map 4.1.2

Low-Income Lone-Parent Families



Low-Income Lone-Parent Families
(Standardized Cluster Rank)

- 0 - No Data
- 1 - Very Low
- 2 - Low
- 3 - Average
- 4 - High
- 5 - Very High

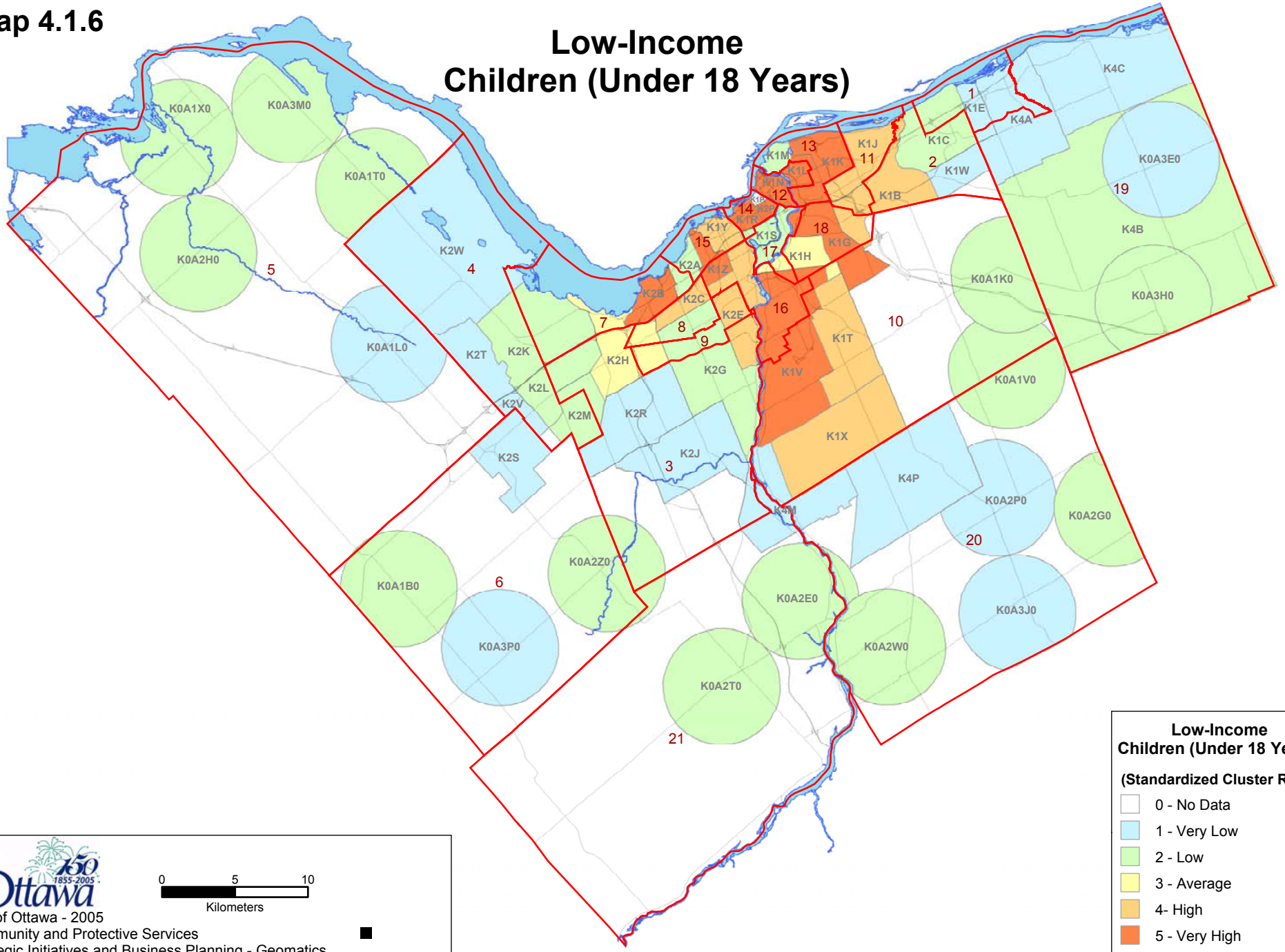
City of Ottawa - 2005
Community and Protective Services
Strategic Initiatives and Business Planning - Geomatics

0 5 10
Kilometers

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2003 Family Tables
Data Analysis by: CPS/SIBP/PBS/FK

Map 4.1.6

Low-Income Children (Under 18 Years)



Low-Income Children (Under 18 Years)
(Standardized Cluster Rank)

- 0 - No Data
- 1 - Very Low
- 2 - Low
- 3 - Average
- 4 - High
- 5 - Very High

City of Ottawa - 2005
 Community and Protective Services
 Strategic Initiatives and Business Planning - Geomatics

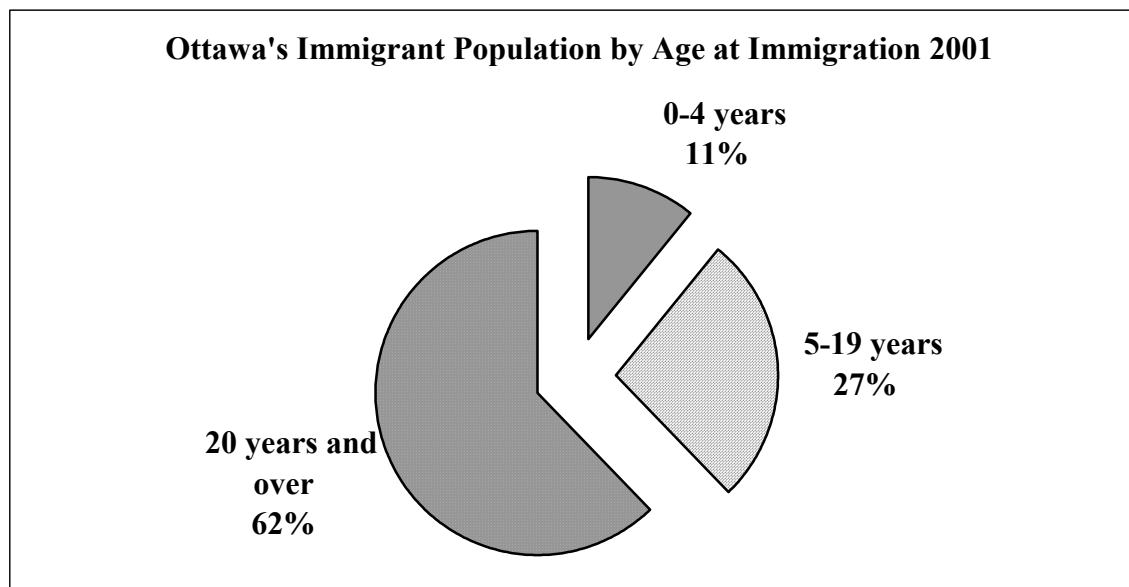
0 5 10
 Kilometers

Data Source: Statistics Canada, 2003 Family Tables
 Data Analysis by: CPS/SIBP/PBS/FK

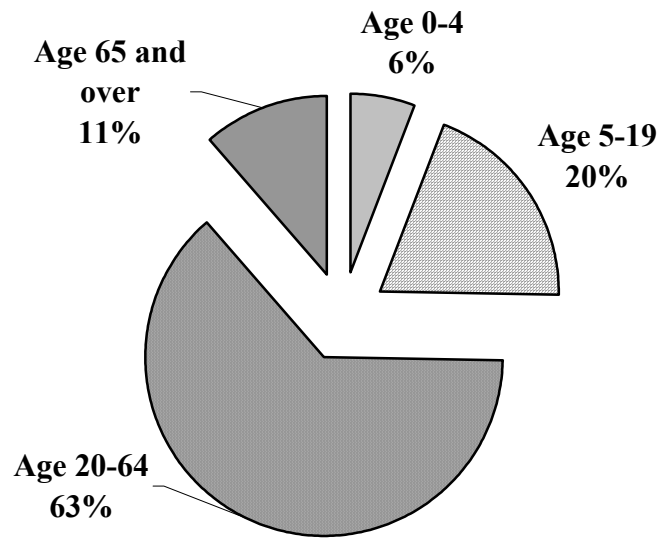
4.6 Data Relating to Ethno-cultural Diversity in Ottawa

Currently, Ottawa is the second largest recipient of immigrants and refugees in Ontario after Toronto.

Summary Profile of Ottawa's Diverse Population	
• Total Immigrant Populations as a percentage of Total Population in Ottawa	21.8%
• Visible minority residents as a percentage of total population in Ottawa	17.9%
• Francophones in Ottawa not born in Canada as a percentage of Total Francophone (Home Language = French) Population	14.4%
• Francophones who are visible minority residents in Ottawa	12.5%
• Number of ethnic groups in Ottawa	28
• Percentage of Ottawa population belonging to more than one ethnic group	45.7%
Source: 2001 Census, Statistics Canada (20% Sample)	



Age of Ottawa's Total Population 2001



Source: Statistics Canada Census Dictionary 2001

4.7 Data Relating to People with Disabilities in Ottawa

(Source for both Tables, "Living in Ottawa with a Disability", The Social Planning Council of Ottawa in collaboration with People with disabilities: A Community Coalition, December 2006, pg 12, 13, 27)

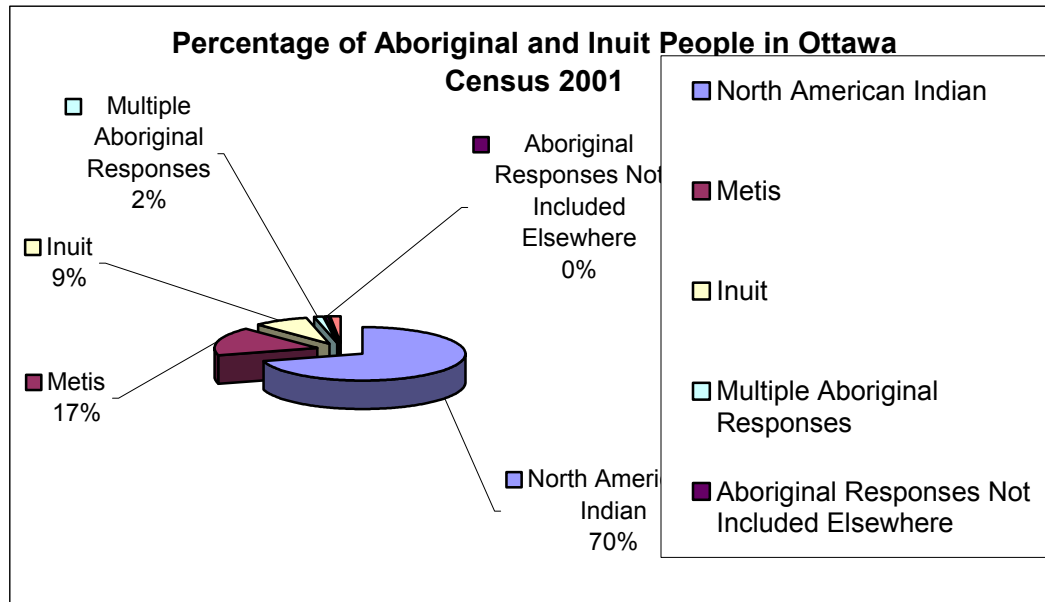
Percent of General Population in Ottawa with Activity Limitation by Age, 2001		
Age	Individuals with Activity Limitation	Percent of General Population with Activity Limitation
0 – 4	1,645	3.7
5 – 14	6,460	6.4
15 - 24	6,940	6.7

Percent of the Population in Ottawa Aged 15+ By the Highest Educational Attainment, 2001		
	Percent of General Population	Percent With Activity Limitation
Grade 13 or less without secondary school graduation certificate (including less than grade 9)	20.2	32.1
Secondary school graduation certificate	11.9	13
Trades certificate or diploma	7	2.9
College certificate or diploma	16.8	16.9
University with bachelor's degree or higher	29.4	18.7

4.8 Data on Aboriginal and Inuit Population in Ottawa

Source for table and pie chart – 2001 Census

Total population	Total Aboriginal Population	North American Indian	Metis	Inuit	Multiple Aboriginal Responses	Aboriginal Responses Not Included Elsewhere
758,410	20,650	5,065	2,500	460	135	480



4.9 Languages Spoken in Ottawa

Source for pie chart – 2001
Census

