



School Readiness in First Nations, Inuit & Métis Children

Simcoe County
2005-2006

Cycle 1: 2005-2006 EDI Implementation

For more information on School Readiness in Simcoe County go to ww1.e3.ca or email edi@e3.ca

FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS

SCHOOL READINESS AS ASSESSED BY THE EDI, SIMCOE COUNTY 2006

EDI Completion for those Identified as Aboriginal

The Early Development Instrument was implemented in both 2002 and 2006 in Simcoe County. It looks at children's readiness to learn in five domains: Physical health and well-being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language and Cognition, Communication and General Knowledge. The following information explains the results of children who were identified as aboriginal and some of its limitations. Census data has also been provided to further explain the distribution of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations in Simcoe County.

Table 1: EDI Testing of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children in Simcoe County

EDI Implementation Year	Aboriginal Children	Non-Aboriginal Children
2002 (All aboriginal children tested lived On-Reserve)	52 (26%)	142 (73%)
2006 (All aboriginal children tested lived Off-Reserve)	60 (1.5%)	4034 (98.5%)

The percentage of children identified as aboriginal in 2006 was comparable to that of the Ontario EDI cohort.

EDI Results for Aboriginal Children

Simcoe 2002 – The EDI in 2002 included children attending schools at the two First Nations Reserves in Simcoe County. With only three classes total the sample size remains too small for firm conclusions. However, the aboriginal children did score significantly lower than the non-aboriginal children tested from the French schools.

Ontario 2002 – In 2002 aboriginal children were significantly lower in all domains except emotional Health and Maturity.

Simcoe 2006 – In 2006 the Aboriginal children on reserve were not included in the EDI testing. Sixty children out of the 4407 total children were identified by their teachers as aboriginal. These children overall did not have scores that were significantly different from other children. Again broad conclusions can still not be drawn due to the limitations regarding self identification, sample size, and inclusion of both the aboriginal children both on and off reserve.

Ontario 2006 – In 2006, Aboriginal children across Ontario were found to score significantly lower than non-aboriginal children across the province.

Issues Detracting from EDI Data Quality

Teacher vs. Self Identification - Currently schools in Simcoe do not ask about First Nations, Inuit or Métis Identity with Kindergarten Registration. Recently both the Simcoe County District School Board and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board have started initiatives to encourage families to self identify. Until these initiatives have seen some success this will continue to be an issue. In the meantime it is proposed that the EDI be accompanied by a parent completed form which asks about First Nations, Inuit or Métis identity and explains the importance of response to the results and community planning efforts.

Inclusion of Children On and Off-Reserve - Due to the separate jurisdictions of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal children being allocated to the federal and provincial governments respectively. Funding and inclusion in the EDI becomes problematic. Representatives of the Ministry of Children and Youth services are currently advocating for the inclusion of Aboriginal children in EDI testing. Until this occurs it is difficult to collaborate in the planning of children's programs or outcomes among the aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities. It is hoped that this problem will be remedied in an upcoming year.

Sample Size - At present time, there are an insufficient number of aboriginal students included in EDI testing in Simcoe County to make any differences in EDI results statistically significant. This issue is likely closely related to both the issues around self identification and inclusion of children both on and off reserve. Simcoe County's 2005 Census data (which is also affected by issues regarding self-reporting) indicates that 3.13% of the total population identifies as aboriginal. If the on and off reserve children were combined to make 4458 children approximately, then it would follow that at least 140 of these would be aboriginal. Since younger families are more likely to self identify this is thought to be quite conservative.

Mapping of the Population

Neighbourhood Analysis - Since the sample of Aboriginal students who took part the EDI was very small in 2006 (n=60) a review of their results by our 61 neighbourhoods is not possible and would be unreliable. However, Census data has been included through an overview table and map to provide further insight about planning programs targeted to specific neighbourhoods.

Socio-Demographic Analysis - Like the EDI, which is based on reporting by teachers, the Census has a history of underreporting the Aboriginal population as a result of issues potentially associated with self-reporting. Although efforts have been made to educate the public on the importance of self-reporting, and Aboriginal self-identification has increased in Canada as a result, underreporting remains an issue.

The following table shows the number of people within the neighbourhoods established for the EDI who identify themselves as Aboriginal¹ as reported in the 2006 Census. This table can provide information that could be useful in planning the provision of aboriginal programming. First three variables indicate the potential demand for programming within a neighbourhood and should be considered conjointly. These include the number of individuals in a neighbourhood, and the proportion of the neighbourhood that the aboriginal community represents. Also, a+ notation may be included in the first column. This symbol represents whether the neighbourhood has more than the median number of aboriginal people for neighbourhoods in Simcoe. Therefore there are + for the half of neighbourhoods that have a relatively larger number or those reporting an Aboriginal Identity.

Aboriginal Identity according to the 2006 Census

The following table and map depicts the Simcoe Aboriginal population in two different ways. The table shows numbers and therefore distribution of the numbers of Aboriginal people across the County. The map provides a picture of which areas have the highest concentration of Aboriginal people. Therefore we can see both distribution (table) as well as concentration (map). This information can provide planners with the overview needed to target resources in the neighbourhoods where it is assumed that they would be most frequently in demand.

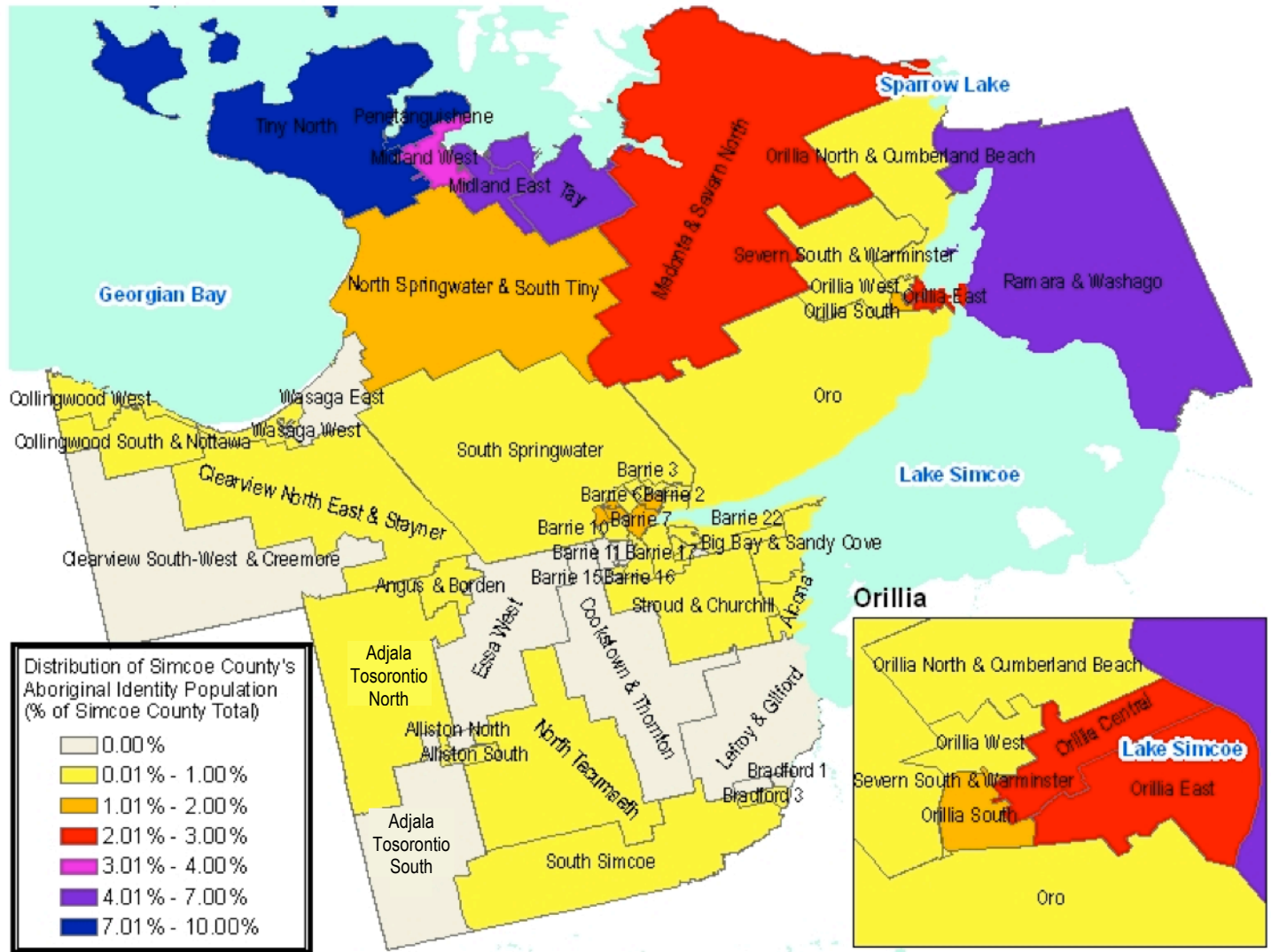
Table 2: Distribution of Aboriginal Population by Neighbourhood

Neighbourhood	# Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Aboriginal Identity as % total Population	Aboriginal Identity Breakdown				
			North American Indian Only	Métis Only	Inuit Only	Multi Aboriginal Identity	Other Aboriginal Identity
Simcoe County Total	13,040	3.13%	6,220	6,405	45	85	285
Adjala-Tosorontio North	135 +	1.64%	50	80	0	0	0
Adjala-Tosorontio South	10	0.27%	20	10	0	0	0
Alcona	170 +	1.28%	105	40	0	0	10
Alliston North	65	1.56%	15	20	0	10	0
Alliston South	85	1.50%	45	25	0	0	10
Angus & Borden	150 +	2.36%	100	65	0	0	0
Barrie 1	100	1.62%	60	45	0	0	0
Barrie 2	110	1.38%	25	65	0	0	0

¹ Aboriginal Identity is not to be confused with the separate Census variable of Aboriginal Status. Aboriginal identity was used as a means of capturing a larger proportion of the community who would be interested in Aboriginal targeted services with the goal of preserving this aboriginal identity as opposed to using aboriginal status which as a variable that is more formalized and would likely capture a smaller segment of the Aboriginal community.

Neighbourhood	# Reporting Aboriginal Identity	Aboriginal Identity as % total Population	Aboriginal Identity Breakdown				
			North American Indian Only	Métis Only	Inuit Only	Multi Aboriginal Identity	Other Aboriginal Identity
Barrie 3	160 +	2.48%	130	30	0	0	0
Barrie 4	145 +	2.57%	120	55	0	0	0
Barrie 5	200 +	2.72%	115	95	0	0	10
Barrie 6	110	1.19%	65	55	0	0	0
Barrie 7	245 +	3.14%	205	65	0	0	0
Barrie 8	210 +	4.34%	115	85	0	0	10
Barrie 9	220 +	3.04%	160	55	0	0	0
Barrie 10	110	2.60%	35	40	0	0	0
Barrie 11	40	1.15%	10	30	0	0	0
Barrie 12	45	0.63%	35	20	10	0	10
Barrie 13	40	1.75%	40	10	0	0	0
Barrie 14	80	1.49%	45	25	0	0	0
Barrie 15	30	0.70%	0	20	0	0	0
Barrie 16	110	2.69%	60	70	0	0	0
Barrie 17	170 +	2.15%	95	65	0	10	10
Barrie 18	190 +	2.64%	60	130	0	0	0
Barrie 19	75	1.41%	50	20	0	0	0
Barrie 20	75	2.02%	45	35	0	0	0
Barrie 21	10	0.36%	0	10	0	0	0
Barrie 22	85	1.29%	20	60	0	0	0
Big Bay & Sandy Cove	120 +	1.84%	60	55	0	0	15
Bradford 1	55	0.96%	45	10	0	0	0
Bradford 2	25	0.76%	0	15	0	0	0
Bradford 3	100	1.09%	55	10	0	0	25
Clearview North East & Stayner	80	1.20%	40	60	0	0	10
Clearview South-West & Creemore	55	1.13%	45	15	0	0	0
Collingwood East	85	1.79%	45	30	0	0	0
Collingwood South & Nottawa	70	1.05%	50	20	0	0	0
Collingwood West	95	1.22%	100	0	0	0	0
Cookstown & Thornton	60	1.03%	25	20	0	0	0
Essa West	55	1.20%	30	30	0	10	0
Lefroy & Gilford	35	0.62%	30	10	0	0	0
Medonte & Severn North	370 +	3.13%	100	245	0	0	10
Midland East	900 +	10.68%	165	700	0	0	10
Midland West	535 +	6.84%	80	380	0	25	0
North Springwater & South Tiny	260 +	2.55%	40	180	0	0	0
North Tecumseth	110	1.13%	60	30	10	0	10
Orillia Central	390 +	5.16%	295	55	10	0	20
Orillia East	395 +	5.73%	310	55	0	0	25
Orillia North & Cumberland Beach	95	1.62%	40	35	0	10	0
Orillia South	290 +	4.89%	170	100	0	0	10
Orillia West	135 +	2.77%	100	50	0	0	0
Oro	165 +	1.43%	95	65	10	0	0
Penetanguishene	1,255 +	15.06%	155	1,045	0	20	0
Ramara & Washago	970 +	7.85%	880	60	0	0	30
Severn South & Warminster	110	2.21%	25	80	0	0	0
South Simcoe	140 +	1.16%	100	30	0	0	0
South Springwater	130 +	1.10%	60	80	0	0	20
Stroud & Churchill	80	1.73%	60	30	0	0	0
Tay	855 +	11.08%	175	650	0	10	10
Tiny North	1,350 +	16.79%	625	710	15	0	10
Wasaga East	20	0.28%	0	10	0	0	20
Wasaga West	90	1.14%	60	35	0	0	0

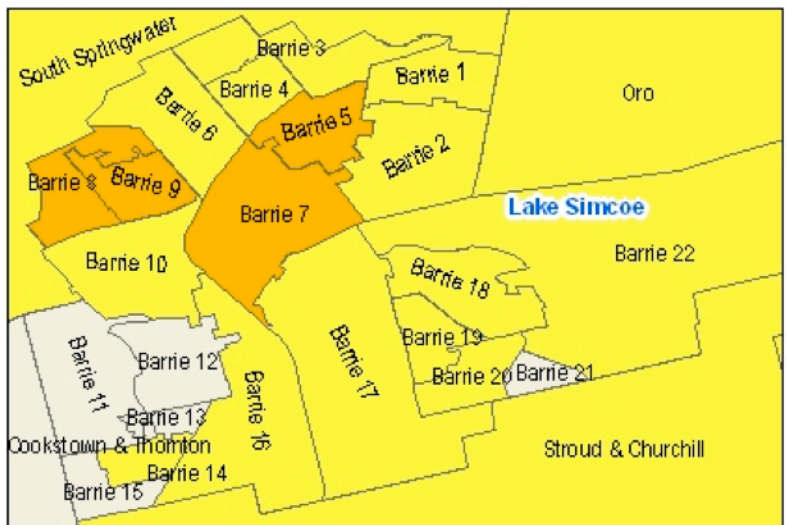
Map 1: Distribution of Simcoe County's Aboriginal Population



Midland/Penetang



Barrie



Collingwood/Wasaga Beach



Alliston



Bradford

